

D e v o t i o n a l

THE MYSTERIES OF GOD REVEALED

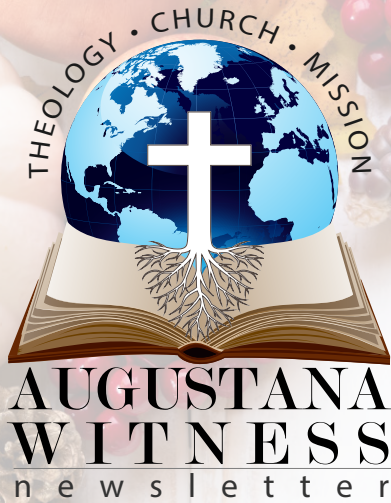


Table of Contents

Devotional	1
Mission Minute.	2
Welcome	2
WoW	3
Confirmation Retreat	3
Congregational Services	4
Prayers	4
Hidden Treasures	5
Did You Know?	6
AD Sunday	6
Financial Recap	6
Small Acts of Faith	7
Save the Dates	Cover

Contact Us

Pr. Randy Freund Service Coord.
director@augustanadistrict.org

Pr. Becky Hand. Program Coord.
b.hand@augustanadistrict.org

Wendy Magruder Office Assistant
office@augustanadistrict.org

Augustana District
335 Main St. S.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350

Phone 320.234.8403

Web www.augustanadistrict.org

There are deep mysteries of God that will not be revealed on this side of the grave. There are things about God that humans cannot and will not know. This is one thing that distinguishes us from God. However, God has not left us in the dark. There is much we can and do know. It is enough. Primarily, we have the clear Word of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ reveals all we need to know about who God is. And from this, we derive all kinds of analogies from human relationships. There are examples from nature, like seed time and harvest, the miracle of life itself, our amazing brains, the human body, human blood, etc. It is this last one that has recently captured my attention.

In August, my sister was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). She is engaged in an internal war between cancerous leukemia cells and toxic chemotherapy. Recently, we discovered that I was a perfect match as a stem cell donor. This is not all that common. Thanks be to God! This discovery led her to go for the cure instead of hoping for remission. All of this has led me down a trail of reviewing some biology, my college major. I don't intend to put you down that same path and discuss the role of bone marrow, hematopoietic stem cells, red and white blood cells and platelets through this devotion. However, there are some theological analogies that apply as I think about the complexities and power and mystery of human blood. There is a connection one can make to our Lord's shed blood. On the day of transplant, my sister will be both passive and defenseless. Newly created stem cells will rush into her body and find their way to her bone marrow. By God's power and grace, life will be restored.

As I think of the wonder of this, it occurs to me that we are all like a passive and defenseless stem cell recipient. We wait for our Lord, His body and blood, to rush into our very bodies to meet us at the points of our deepest need. And what does He bring as he rushes in? He brings the forgiveness of sins, and where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.

That ought to be enough mystery, clearly revealed, to sustain us and give us life until that day when all mysteries are revealed.

In Christ,

Pastor Randy Freund

M i s s i o n M i n u t e

Tom T. on Myanmar

On behalf of the Lutheran Church of Myanmar, we are thankful for all your prayers during the past six months. With a Military Coup and the struggles of COVID19, it has been a year of challenges. One of the LCM's church members live in the area where the tension between the Military and People Defense Force (PDF) are high. Ethnic Arms group are also helping the PDF and many people had to leave the area and take refuge in border areas. It is safe in the Yangon City, but church leaders have to be careful going out for work or getting supplies.

In addition, the security of local people is more and more at risk as the war between the military soldiers and PDF is more intense in many different parts of the country including major cities. The PDF recently announced not to use the national highways from Yangon to Mandalay, Bago and other states. And for emergencies, put a white

flag on the car so that they will know the civilians are aboard, or else they won't take the security of the car. Rev. Martin's cousin, who is from Falam township, Chin state, passed away in Yangon and the family tried to take her back to her home village. But their car landed on landmines twice on the way and couldn't continue their trip so they had to bury her at the town nearby where they had the car accident.

The challenges facing the Lutheran Church of Myanmar during this time is something we here in the U.S.A. are not use to during our daily life. So please keep them all in your prayers. If you are interested in supporting the Lutheran Church of Myanmar, you are welcome to contact Rev. Thomas Thorstad at 716-990-6244 or **tomt. lel@gmail.com**. Or you may contact Rev. Martin directly at **LCMyanmar@gmail.com**



Myanmar, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and formerly known as Burma, is a country in Southeast Asia. Myanmar is bordered by Bangladesh and India to its northwest, China to its northeast, Laos and Thailand to its east and southeast, and the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal to its south and southwest. Myanmar is the largest country in Mainland Southeast Asia and the 10th largest in Asia by area. As of 2017, the population was about 54 million. Its capital city is Naypyidaw, and its largest city is Yangon (Rangoon).

Welcome
NEW CONGREGATIONS & PASTOR

New Congregations:

Trinity Lutheran in Carrington, ND
(Church Plant) The Table Ministry, Sioux Falls, SD
Grace Lutheran Church in McGregor, MN

New Endorsed Clergy:

Pr. Cody Mills - Hazel Run Lutheran Church of Hazel Run, MN

Women of the Word

WOW 2021 offering was given to Grace Christian Outreach Ministries lead by Kevin and Sylvia Rosendahl. Crossroads Lutheran Church in Dawson, MN was already financially and prayerfully supporting these missionaries, so it seemed appropriate to have them as the beneficiaries for the WOW



Joshua, Sylvia and Kevin Rosendahl
Picture from their website

gathering. According to their website “the mission of Grace Christian Outreach Ministries is to work with the national church and pastors to build up the evangelical church in Mexico through evangelistic outreaches and compassion ministry.” Monetary gifts that were collected in Dawson, MN on September 18, 2021, were to support their ministry all together and specifically for women’s prison ministry. The total offering given was \$1,363.00.

Women in Mexico, when imprisoned, are required to buy, or provide all of their hygiene products and many women sit in prison going without monthly care. The funds will help provide sanitary products to these women and provide Spanish Bibles and other evangelical materials. To learn more about

how Grace Christian began, what they’ve done, and how to support them you can go to their website, www.gracechristianoutreach.com. If you desire to send a note of encouragement or support you may send that to 205 Wildwood Ave., Madison, MN 56256. Blessings from the Lord as Kevin and Sylvia allow God to lead and they to follow.

– Written by: Mia Mills, WOW ex-officio

2022 Confirmation Retreat


 Pause
 
 Play
 
 Refresh

Is your congregation getting your confirmation schedule in place? Would you like to bring your students to the district confirmation retreat along with other students from the district?

This year the retreat will be March 4 - 6, 2022, at Luther Crest camp in Alexandria, MN. The retreat is led by Augustana District pastors, but

each congregation is asked to send their own chaperone’s to stay for the entire weekend.

The planning team is still working out all of the details but they wanted you to get the dates to your staff members that do the confirmation planning so you can get it on your schedule.



Congregational Services

There are Staff Openings on the AD website so if you know someone who is seeking a position, please share this information. Don't forget that if your congregation has an opening you can easily post it directly to the AD website on the Church Staff Openings page (under the Church tab) by filling out a simple form.

- CURRENT** • Pastor | New Creation Lutheran Church | Perham MN
- OPENINGS:** • Part-time Pastor | Our Redeemer Lutheran, Church, Badger MN
 • Full-time Pastor | St. John's Lutheran Church | Springfield MN
 • Pastor | Hope Lutheran Church | Huron SD

Please Pray For ...

- ✠ Give us the wisdom to accept the many mysteries of our faith and contentment in the truths that are in scripture.
- ✠ We give thanks for the WOW gathering offering to Grace Christian Outreach in Mexico; may your Spirit guide, bless, and multiply the supplies that will be provided; may the Bibles get to the hands of those who need You; grant good health and strength to all who lead and supply that ministry; may those receiving supplies know that we are God's agents and be invited to know Christ.
- ✠ Thank you for the transition to the next season. Your glory is shouted in the many displays of color we have seen as your creation changes. May our holiday seasons draw us closer to You.
- ✠ Be with your church in Myanmar – keep them safe, grant them discernment as they navigate the complexity of Covid and the warring factions (Military, People Defense Force, and Ethnic Arms groups); may church leaders provide Your guidance to all who are displaced and in despair; may those fighting feel no threat or spite against Christians and allow them to continue sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ; and, help the churches to find opportunities to witness and serve You in these fearful and unsettling times.
- ✠ Bless the preparations for the confirmation retreat in March: gather many different congregations; prepare the speakers with Your Word; use the event to build strong teaching times; generate fellowship and play within the churches that come; pause the lives of the youth in a way that gives them focus on You, and refresh the foundations of relationships with You.



Hidden Treasure

2022 Convocation & Convention Combined Meetings

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."
~2 Corinthians 4:7

May 5 - 7, 2022 at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria, MN.

THE WORD ALONE

Thursday, May 5, 2022

"Where's the Truth"

Retreat/conversation with Dr. Steven Paulson (Supper on your own)

6:00PM Registration*/Check-In

7:00PM Reception

7:30PM Presentation by Dr. Paulson

*While the emphasis for this event focuses on raising up the next generation of ministry leaders, all pastors are encouraged to invite ANYONE interested in parish ministry.

THE PREACHED WORD

Friday, May 6, 2022

"Luther's Outlaw God"

Annual Convocation of the Cross

Dr. Steve Paulson

Schedule TBD



THE SENT WORD

Saturday, May 7, 2022

"Jesus' Life/Our Bodies"

Annual District Convention

Speakers

Pr. Julie Smith, LCMC

Coordinator

Pr. Mike Bradley, LCMC Service Coordinator



REGISTRATION
Opening soon!
Watch Your Inbox for more information!

NEEDED!! YOUNG ADULTS!

~ Pastors & Congregations ~

If you know young adults with a passion for ministry, please contact

Randy Freund at



director@augustanadistrict.org

- or -

(320)583.3648





-  Did you know that the Augustana District has five paid staff? The Service Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Financial Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, and Webmaster/Graphics Designer.
-  All of our staff positions are currently part-time and are supported by your generous giving.

The district can only do what we do for the greater church with your support. As you begin to look at your congregations (or your individual) budget for 2022 please keep the district in mind. Your prayers and financial support are vital to the continued mission and ministry of the Augustana District.

If you would like to financially support the district:

DONATE ONLINE

Please visit the website at
www.augustanadistrict.org/about-us/help-support-us/

DONATE VIA SNAIL-MAIL

Or you can mail a check made payable to:
 Augustana District
 335 Main St. S.
 Hutchinson, MN 55350

Please note any special giving in the memo line of the check.

Augustana District Sunday

Do you have an AD Sunday story that you can share? We would love to hear how your AD Sunday went. Send your story or pictures to Wendy at office@augustanadistrict.org

If your congregation has not had a chance to have an "Augustana District Sunday" yet it is not too late. Please do take some time to share the information with your congregation leadership and members. You can find a brief video and handout on the Augustana District website at <https://augustanadistrict.org/augustana-district-sunday/> If you have any questions or we can help you in anyway with this presentation please feel free to reach out to the district at office@augustanadistrict.org or 320-234-8403.

Financial Update

\$27,730 has been wired for the NCES crisis as of 10/18/21.

Total received for this mission is \$38,000.

It was the hope of the Mission's board that we would raise \$10,000.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Small Acts of Faith

by Keri Wyatt Kent Posted in Devotions for Inspiration, Feb 27, 2013

“What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” Mark 4:30–32 NIV

Today, on a cold day in late winter, I acted on faith by planting poppies. While it's way too early to plant anything else, this is prime planting time for poppies. The seeds are tiny—like the poppy seeds you'd find on a bakery roll.

If I hadn't seen it happen every year, I'd find it hard to believe that by late June, those tiny seeds will become bright pink puffy flowers the size of my fist, blooming on stalks two feet tall or more. I harvested these seeds last year from plants. I've done this for years, starting with some seeds given me by gardening mentors.

To plant poppies requires faith. And action. You simply scatter them on the soil (in some years, I've put them right on top of snow). The seeds need cold to germinate, so I'm hoping I haven't planted too late. Optimally, I should have planted them last month. But if I leave them in the plastic bag on the shelf, they'll never be flowers. They'll just be good intentions.

Jesus often used seeds as a picture of the kingdom of heaven. He was not talking about a someday, somewhere-else kingdom, but rather, a present reality. Even when it's still winter, I trust spring will come. I trust God will provide, and help the seeds I'm planting to bloom. He'll take my small acts of faith, and grow them into something beautiful.

Faith Step: What seeds do you need to plant today, even if you are skeptical that they will ever result in beauty or fruit?

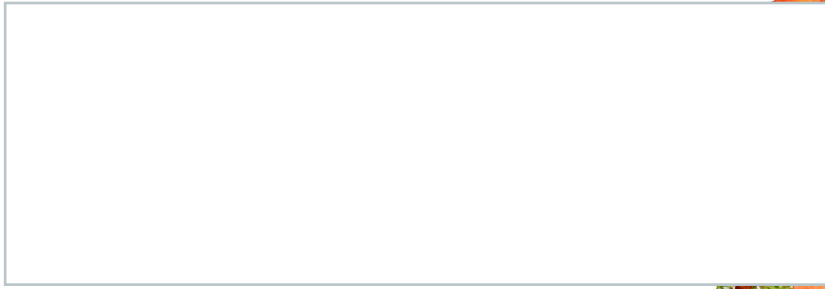
Keri Wyatt Kent is the author of many devotionals, including Simple Compassion and Oxygen. She writes and speaks to help people slow down, simplify, and rest so that they can listen to God. Keri is a member of Willow Creek Community Church, where she has taught, led groups and volunteered in a variety of ministries for more than two decades. She and her husband, Scot, live with their teenage son and daughter in Illinois. (source: <https://www.guideposts.org/daily-devotionals/inspirational-devotions/small-acts-of-faith>)

ENDORSED CLERGY



If you are rostered on the Augustana District website, we are requesting all Endorsed Clergy to please check your credentials and send any changes to office@augustanadistrict.org. Thank you!

Please visit <https://augustanadistrict.org/endorsed-clergy/>



AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
335 Main Street S.
Hutchinson MN 55350
Address Service Requested



Happy Thanksgiving

Save The Dates

Confirmation Retreat March 4 - 6, 2022
2022 Convocation/ AD Convention May 5 - 7, 2022
2022 WoW Gathering September 17, 2022

