

Devotional

*"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."
[1 Samuel 15:22]*

These days, the Church of God is starving for evangelists and pastors. The need is not for church leaders, but pastors with a heart for serving the needs of people. Where this dearth of devoted ministers began is hard to pin down. How much of this void comes from "devout" family members who diminish the call of God? The response of "You're not thinking of becoming a pastor, are you?" is a common barrier.

God's call to serve often encounters resistance: His "Yes!" to you meets your "No!" to Him. The resistance of what God wants, and what you want was depicted in the town of Bethany. Martha wanted Jesus to press Mary to participate in serving, but he refused enforcement. "Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her," He says. Martha gets a "No" response from Jesus, but what about a "No" from we, the people, to God?

"No, not me" is found in several places where God has an appointment ready. Moses was more "in your face" with God than anyone has ever been. His defiance was evident when he said to God "... send, I pray, some other person." (Ex.4:13) Don't you wonder if Aaron was put out with his brother volunteering him in his stead?

"No, not now" is present in Jesus' illustration of the refusal of the wedding guests. "I cannot come! I have bought a field... I have five yokes of oxen... I have married a wife..." In His parable, Jesus did not offer recourse, like "maybe later... you can come later."

"No, not here" is the response of the people whose pork futures disappeared. You recollect, Jesus had met with two people who suffered possession by demons. The demons knew Jesus' power and surrendered if He would allow them to occupy a herd of pigs. When Jesus says, "Go!", they went indeed, to enter the swine, who rushed into the sea and drown. "All the city came out to meet Jesus... and begged Him to leave their neighborhood."

"No, not there" was Jonah's response to God's call to warn the people of Ninevah. Jonah fled God's presence attempting to go to Tarshish, directly opposite the Lord's direction. When he was discharged from the great fish, he preached repentance to Ninevah. His personal humiliation was so great he couldn't rejoice in those people repenting!

"No, not that" is Peter's response to Jesus' instruction to the disciples in Mark 8. The Master's teaching began, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected..." "He said this plainly; and Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him."

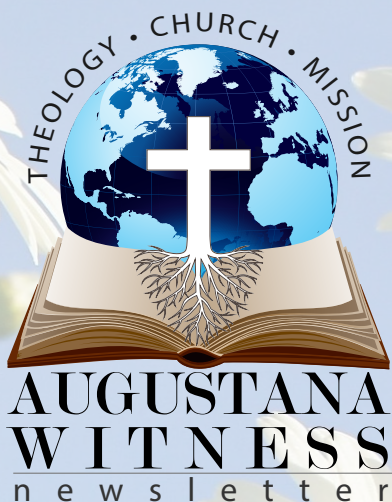


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"No, not You" is our chant as we join the parade to crucify the Lord of Life... (gulp.) These are all marks of the same rebellion that took place in the Garden of Eden, still in foment.

Encourage those you see living enlightened by God; beware of breaking or discouraging those He truly

summons. Why? Because the world needs to hear what you have heard: "Your sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake!"

Pastor Nate Hanson



GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE: TABOR PARTNERSHIP AND MORE by Pastor Paul Knudson

Ashenafi Wachamo, head of the elders, shares their profound gratitude for funds being sent to undergird their efforts in sending out 60 evangelists throughout the country of Ethiopia. Our partnership in difficult times for Tabor, its people, and the whole country of Ethiopia brings encouragement to them.

After the first quarter of 2023 the Augustana District sent \$7,700 and, for the second quarter we were able to send an additional \$19,800. They also contribute to their own support and their share of this witness is more than two to one to what we send. These members are people of modest means, living in poverty by our standards, and yet give sacrificially to make this all possible. Thank you, congregations of the AD for your continued outpouring of support. Our persistence in giving is furthering the Great Commission witness in powerful ways.

It is important to add the need for prayer for our brothers and sisters throughout the Mekane Yesus

church body. One of our other partnerships in Ethiopia are the contributions for the continuation of evangelism in one of their synods. The president of this synod spoke of the support and encouragement they receive through donations from Living Word Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, Washington. Many other congregations and members have also given support, bringing relief after a civil war broke out that did damage to congregations of that synod.

He shared one story of a pastor he recently ordained who is one of the pastors receiving monthly training. This pastor has suffered greatly for his leadership and witness. He planted a congregation in a very hostile environment and brought many to faith. The cost? He was stoned three times and nearly died.

If you and your congregation have not yet joined in this partnership, you are encouraged to join this blessed effort. It will inspire you and help others. Thank you all for your ongoing faithfulness.



Financial Update

As of June 30, 2022, Augustana District is operating at a net income of \$1,230.79. Contributions are up over \$9,000 more than this time in 2021. The generous giving in the first quarter is helping to keep our budget in line; this is especially important since the Service Coordinator's position is now a full-time position.

Thank you for your support!
Niki Pokornowski,
Augustana District Financial Coordinator

Augustana District Board Highlight

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education encourages, supports, and provides resources for the study of scriptures and religious education within the member congregations of the Augustana District. Additionally, it relates to, partners with, and lends support to three online seminaries, Sola Publishing, and encourages member congregations to utilize their resources and to support them financially.

Did you know that the Augustana District has a seminarian scholarship fund? If you know of someone that could benefit from this assistance, they can find an application form on the website at augustanadistrict.org/scholarship-application/ or under the Theology Tab. The Board of Christian Education reviews these applications.

This scholarship fund does need ongoing support to continue to provide this assistance. You can support this program by sending contributions to:

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

and noting “*Scholarship Fund*” in the memo line.

The current members of this board are:

- ◆ Julie (Ashbaugh) Bruni - AZ
- ◆ Pr. Rodney Ford - Florence, Kentucky
- ◆ Russ Goeseke (Council Rep) - St. Peter’s Church, Sanborn, NY
- ◆ Pr. Scott Grorud - Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN
- ◆ Pr. Steven King - SOLA Publishing
- ◆ Connie Klemz (Council Rep) - Holy Cross, Maple Lake, MN
- ◆ Gladys Nissen - Peace Lutheran Church, Watertown, MN
- ◆ Pr. Steve Olcott (Council Rep) - Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN
- ◆ Pr. Julie Smith (Chair) - LCMC, Springfield, MN
- ◆ Emilie Wildey - St. Matthews, Fernando, MN



NEWS FROM LCMC

The second quarter edition of the LCMC “*By the Word*” newsletter is now available. You can read and print out a copy by following the link below. Please share this quarterly newsletter with your congregations. <https://www.lcmc.net/files/newsletters/>



BY THE WORD | 2nd Quarter 2022



Ukrainian students with new laptops from SOLA.
For the story behind the photo, see pages 1 and 12.
Photo courtesy of David Brudekovich.

Ukraine Update

Mark Your Calendars:

Webinars for Youth Leaders

Make sure to check out the article from the Board “Why Does LCMC Matter?” as well as all the other great information.

LCMC Annual Gathering



The 22nd Annual Gathering & Convention takes place October 2-5, 2022, at Hosanna Church in Lakeville,

MN. The early bird discount is still available for those who register by August 15. You can find all the details and registration information on the LCMC website at <https://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering>

Monday evening, after the fellowship dinner, the districts and fellowships will have an opportunity to gather. Watch for information on where the Augustana District will meet and plan to spend some time with other AD members. Anyone interested in learning more about the Augustana District is welcome to stop in as well.

Creator, Savior, and Sustainer – You know all that we need. You provide all that is necessary. Your salvation gives us eternal life!! Yet, as we seek to bring your kingdom to all, we lay these petitions before you:

Bless the variety of ways that we try to prepare young people for ministry: return the focus of the seminaries to teaching about You and your Word; use the many youth programs that exist in congregations to build faith; create environments that encourage church involvement and servant attitudes; provide places, spaces, and opportunities for those who are uncertain about their calling; and, provide guides and leaders who encourage, counsel, develop and enable those you call to serve your people.

Praise and thanks to you, loving Father, for the work that is being done all over the world in the name of Christ. We thank you for the news about our Tabor partnership. Protect them during the harsh times of persecution. Grant them boldness to continue to

share Christ and help those in need. Give courage to the Mekane Yesus church to speak the truth of God's love and stand against the forces of evil.

Be with New Hope Lutheran Church in Comfrey, MN as they prepare to host the WOW (Women of the Word) gathering. May the theme of "Serve the Lord with gladness!" be an inspiration to all.

PRAYER

changes everything

Inspire and motivate the Augustana District leaders; may the groundwork and plans for upcoming events take focus. Praise and thanks for their willingness to serve. Praise and thanks

for the financial support that has been given to continue your work.

Use the LCMC annual gathering at Hosanna in Lakeview to give direction and encouragement to do your will and uphold your purpose.

We close our prayer as we live our lives – in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The 2022 Annual WOW Gathering is just around the corner!

Saturday, September 17, in Comfrey, MN

Have the ladies of YOUR congregation registered to attend this wonderful event yet? The deadline to register is September 1, so please share this information with the women of your congregations so that they can register TODAY!

The WOW Board will be looking for two new members this year. A vice-coordinator and a member at large. It is also time to start looking for a congregation that would be willing to host the 2024 event. (The 2023 one has already been spoken for.) Is this something your congregation would be willing to host? If so, please contact the district office or connect with the WOW officers at the Annual Meeting.

2022 Fall Gathering Featured Guest Speakers

Patricia Baglien is a retired Lutheran (LCMC) pastor. She has served as co-pastor with her husband, Tim Baglien, in Comfrey Lutheran Parish and Liberty, Missouri. She was also pastor of Danebod, Tyler, Minnesota. Patricia also served as chaplain in the senior care centers at St. John's, Springfield, and Knute Nelson, Alexandria. She currently resides in Carrollton, Missouri, near her only daughter, Rachel, son-in-law, Ian, and grandchildren- Maliyah and James.

Music is her passion. She plays guitar, piano, and writes her own songs which she's recorded on three CDs. She enjoys sharing music as music leader for a local children's midweek school and, along with Tim, at the Adult Camps held every August at Mount Carmel Camp in Alexandria. She loves to sing and share the Good News about Jesus!

Diane is a wife, mother, pastor, spiritual director, and retreat leader. She's married to Bill and has an adult daughter, Anneliese. She has been an ordained Lutheran pastor for 33 years. She and her husband currently co-pastor a small congregation of the North American Lutheran Church. She lost her mom at age 19 to cancer and is a two-time cancer survivor herself. She has spent much of her ministry specializing in pastoral care in diverse ministry settings.

As a spiritual director, she companions individuals on their faith walk, noticing where God is present. Diane and her husband Bill have been trained in healing prayer and biblical dream interpretation. She has led retreats for both of these passions. She has a love and passion for helping people hear Jesus through their numerous life changes. She also enjoys music, spending time with friends, and walks with her dog Bella. She lives in Austin, MN.

2022 Fall Gathering

Women of the Word

*Ministry through
Music*



*Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*
Psalms 100:2

September 17, 2022

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Hosted by

New Hope Lutheran Church
204 Court Street • Comfrey MN 56019

Email: newhopeluth@frontiernet.com
Phone: 507.877.2316

8:30AM Coffee/Registration
9:00AM Worship • 3:00PM Dismissal

Speakers: Pastors Patricia Baglien & Diane Odermann
Attendees please bring an item for Operation Christmas Child shoebox.
The offering is designated to go to Samaritan's Purse.

Registration Deadline: Before Sep 1, 2022. Please mail to the address below by Sep 1, 2022
Make checks payable to Women of the Word

Type of Registration

(Circle one & enclose check)

In Person/Individual Online (\$10/person)

Church/Online (\$50)

Mail to:

Dianne Anderson C/O WOW Treasurer
134 Detroit Avenue SE
Hutchinson, MN 55350

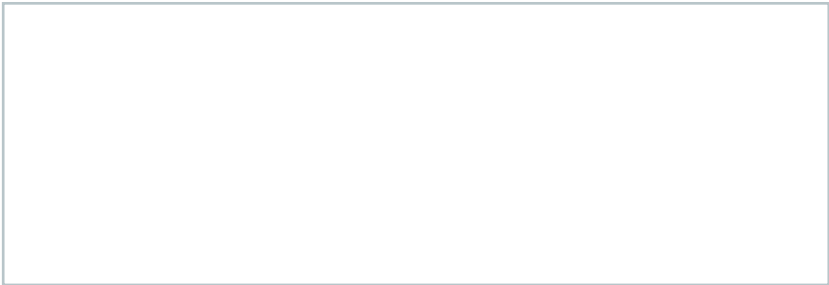
First & Last Name _____

Home Church _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Comments _____



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



February 5 - 7, 2023 Convocation of the Cross - Best Western in Bloomington, MN
March 3 - 5, 2023 Confirmation Retreat - Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN
May 5 - 6, 2023 Annual Convention - Mount Carmel in Alexandria, MN
September 16, 2023 WOW Gathering - Springfield, MN