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Mission Update: From Pr. Becky Hand All India Masihi Jamat (AIMJ) Ministry



All India Masihi Jamat conducted 11 baptism camps in which 154 people were baptized. They also held seekers meetings, women, youth and children's meetings and through these shared the Gospel with 521 people.

AD supports four of the pastors in the AIMJ network with a salary of \$125/month. Each quarter we send \$1,500 to Pastor Asad for this ministry. If you would like to help, please designate AIMJ on your donation. God is doing a mighty work in India where conditions are harsh and the government and other religions persecute Christians.



Happy Labor Day!

Did you know Labor Day was declared a national holiday in 1894 and is observed on the first Monday in September?



The roots of Labor Day grew out of violent clashes between labor and police during the Haymarket Riot in 1886, when thousands of workers in Chicago took to the streets to demand an eight-hour workday.



SPECIAL PRAYERS NEEDED

Please pray for the flood affected people of the state of Assam. They are in a bad situation as they do not even have fresh drinking water or medicine and are currently living in camps. The flood has taken away all their belongings and many have lost their lives. Please pray so that they could overcome this and may the Lord work among them and give them His peace.



LCMC Annual Gathering

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

You can find all the details and registration information on the LCMC website at <https://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering>



GATHERING

On Monday, October 3, at the LCMC Gathering the Augustana District will have a space to gather and network with other district members or for people to come and learn about the district. **All are welcome!**

ATTENTION ALL CLERGY & CONGREGATIONS

Please review your information!

Congregation and Clergy Information on the AD website should be reviewed and updated regularly at augustanadistrict.org.

Endorsed Clergy information is under the Theology Tab and Church information is under the Church>>Roster of Churches Tab.

Please send all updates or changes to office@augustanadistrict.org

Out of the Ashes: Tahoma Lutheran Church

by Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts

About a year ago, my husband and I resigned our respective calls. Like many pastors who have resigned or retired, or simply left the ministry altogether in the past two or three years, this was partly having to do with the pandemic and the way in which we responded to it. However, there were also unacknowledged internal church troubles, particular to our congregation, for which the pandemic provided an opportune time for matters to fester and flourish. We met our limit. We are not God, after all, but hired hands. We resigned without a call-in-hand to any other church. We had no real plan or idea of what would be next. Immediately, though, as we knew would be the case, we were also without a regular congregation with whom we could worship weekly.

We spent the next couple of months watching online worship services administered and aired by a couple different Augustana District pastors. The online mechanisms to deliver the word to those of the church while at home for a variety of reasons during the pandemic, served a good purpose. It was beneficial for our family, but only briefly. Since we are not “sick and homebound,” and longed to be gathered under the proclamation and around the Lord’s Table, we did not expect that the online form of worship was going to suffice long term for our family of four.

We then began to visit another local church, in person. The pastor of the church is a long-time friend and a faithful preacher of Christ. The difference in being present to hear the preaching of the forgiveness of sins amongst other sinners and to receive the sacrament made all the difference in healing us and raising us to new life in Christ on a regular basis. While this church was most certainly a gift from God, to deliver us in a time of great need, we knew that this would not be a good fit for us in the long run as membership would likely bring our good standing with LCMC to an end.

Meanwhile, during late fall and winter of last year, we had been meeting with another family a couple times a month for dinner at each other’s homes or at our neighborhood pub. They, too, had become Lutherans without a church. We met to talk theology, read Forde, and to hear each other’s confessions and give each other the absolution. I can’t recommend this activity highly enough: beer, burgers, Forde, friends, and forgiveness is utter heaven on earth. This is the gospel through the conversation and consolation of Christians that Luther’s Smalcald Articles mention.

Over a couple conversations in early January, it became clear to us that the Holy Spirit had started an embryonic house church amongst our families, in our neighborhoods in the city of Maple Valley, WA. This is a city of more than 30,000 souls and is rapidly growing in population and industry. There is a WELS church and a LCMS church just down the road from us, and an ELCA congregation on the edge of town. However, there are no LCMC churches in Maple Valley. That was, until late January, when Tahoma Lutheran Church was raised out of the ashes. I am called as the pastor of TLC and with great joy and anticipation we held our first service of the Word and Sacrament in our friend’s house on March 20, 2022, with 11 people from three families in attendance.

Our families are rooted in a densely populated neighborhood filled with sinners of all ages in need of hearing of the forgiveness of their sins in Christ Jesus. TLC meets on Sunday mornings, in a house from where Mt. Rainier is visible to the south. Where the cloak of clouds unfurls from its granite dome for a few months of the year. Mt. Rainier previously bore the Native American Indian name, Tahoma, which means “*that frozen water*,” and is a name used commonly in our city. For example, Tahoma High School is the city’s sole and very large (2,600 students) high school where the church’s children either already attend or will in a few short years. Our school district is also called Tahoma. It seemed more than appropriate to name this new congregation Tahoma Lutheran Church.

We have much to be thankful for and much to pray for at Tahoma Lutheran Church, but we have the main thing: the pure preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the right administration of the sacraments by which the Holy Spirit is calling, gathering, enlightening, and sanctifying sinners to our Lord and Savior in Maple Valley. Soli Deo Gloria.

In Christ alone,

Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts
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P.O. Box 827
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Church Staff Openings

Here are the current staff openings we have listed at the Augustana District website. Please visit <https://augustanadistrict.org/staff-openings/> to learn more about each listed position and additional details.

- ◆ Church Secretary | St. John's Lutheran Church | Springfield MN
- ◆ Organist | Our Savior's Lutheran Church | Lamberton MN
- ◆ Lead Pastor | Christ the King Lutheran Church | Hutchinson MN
- ◆ Pastor | Our Savior's Lutheran Church | Lamberton MN
- ◆ Pastor | Faith Lutheran Church | Montecello MN
- ◆ Solo Pastor | Zion Lutheran Church | Kerrville TX
- ◆ Interim Pastor | Abounding Joy Lutheran | St. Cloud MN
- ◆ Full-time Pastor | Samhold Lutheran Church | Gonvick MN
- ◆ Pastor | Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church | Buffalo Lake MN
- ◆ Associate Pastor | Shepherd of the Hills | Hubertus WI
- ◆ Director of Music (Part-time) | St. John's Lutheran Church | Howard Lake MN
- ◆ Part-time/Half-time Pastor | Pioneer Lutheran Church | White SD
- ◆ Lead Pastor | New Hope Lutheran Church | Comfrey MN
- ◆ Part-time Pastor | Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Badger MN
- ◆ FT Senior Pastor | Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Big Sandy | McGregor MN

Do you have a leadership position in your congregation, clergy or lay, that you need to have filled? Is your church a member of Augustana District? Does your congregation have an internship opportunity available for a seminarian? If so, visit <https://augustanadistrict.org/staff-openings/> to list your staffing need.



Update From WOMEN OF THE WORD

This is the last call for you to register for the Women of the Word annual gathering on September 17 in Comfrey, MN. Please contact Diane Anderson at dkrisdahl@gmail.com to find out if there is still space available for a late registration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The WOW board is looking for someone to take on the role of Vice Chair for 2022-2023. This person will then serve as the Chair in 2023-2024. The ideal candidate will be willing to work with

her church or another local church to host the 2024 annual gathering.

They will also be looking for a member-at-large to sit on the board.

Please prayerfully consider hosting and serving your organization in this way and we hope to see you on the 17th!

LAST CALL!! 2022 Fall Gathering

Women of the Word



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 _____



NEW CALL ORIENTATION WORKSHOP – FOR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS!

What our conflict coaches have experienced during these past years of working in congregations is that there are several crucial areas that can lead to conflict in a congregation. Decisions surrounding worship, pastoral styles of leadership, visitation of members, use of social media, and relationship between pastor and church council are just a few of the numerous areas of concern for both pastor and lay leaders. But the question is how do we have fruitful conversations regarding these and other issues?

At this New Call Orientation workshop we will discuss Blueprinting and the powerful role it plays in developing healthy relational habits during the first months and years of ministering together as pastor and congregation. We'll delve into typical arguing types and how to overcome them with focus on relationship and collaboration. We'll look at generational differences, the continuum of self and its effect on interpersonal relationships, and of course, systems at work and their function in the pastor-congregation dialectic.

Our hope is for many of our LCMC congregations and pastors in a new call relationship to take the proactive step of working together to resolve conflicts in hot button areas by learning some basic steps in having healthy conversations. We invite you to join us either on September 17 or October 20 for this first of its kind LCMC offering. To register or for more information, please contact Rev. Perry Fruhling, Coordinator for Pastoral Ministry for LCMC (perry@lcmc.net or 319-575-8849), or LCMC Conflict Coach, Pat Hogg (pkhogg@yahoo.com or 717-309-3756).



AD Ambassador Update



The AD Ambassadors exist to serve as personal connections with congregations in order to link them with District resources and pray for their needs, as well as communicate how those congregations can support the District.

The ambassadors are changing their ways so that they can better communicate with the district congregations. All ambassadors are asked to meet via zoom on Dec. 7th for a district update and a reach-out-to-your-congregation informational review. If you are an ambassador, please mark your calendar. If you're not an ambassador, look forward to your congregation hearing from your ambassador in December or January.

Have questions? Contact Pastor Becky Hand at b.hand@augustanadistrict.org.

Who is the Augustana District Council & What Do They Do?

2022-2023 Council Members are:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Chair, Pr. Craig Werling | Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown, SD |
| Vice Chair, Bruce Shear | Faith Fellowship in Odessa, TX |
| Treasurer, Sara Wegner | Faith Lutheran in Hutchinson, MN |
| Secretary, Jan Ferguson | Living Word in Alexandria, MN |
| Melissa Burns | New Creation in Perham, MN |
| Debbie Flatau | New Creation in Perham, MN |
| Russ Goeseke | St. Peter's Lutheran in Sanborn, NY |
| Pr. Nathan Hanson | Living Word in Alexandria, MN |
| Connie Klemz | Holy Cross Lutheran in Maple Lake, MN |
| Pr. Steve Olcott | Christ the King in Hutchinson, MN |
| Pr. Julie Smith, LCMC Coordinator of Districts and Fellowships | Springfield, MN |

The business and affairs of the Augustana District are conducted by the District Council.

Council members are elected at the Annual Convention of the Augustana District.

Their responsibilities include ensuring and verifying that the district operates according to its constitution, bylaws, and Statement of Faith. To this end, the District Council oversees the Boards and District staff. The District Council functions as the Board of Trustees and is responsible to the District Convention for all fiscal matters, including the district budget, revenues, and expenditures. From among its own membership, the District Council elects a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, and deploys its members to the four Boards.



AD Prayer Warriors

Did you know that you can submit your personal or congregational prayers to the district and they will be shared with the AD prayer warriors? Would you like to be a prayer warrior for the district?

³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on." -Mark 2:3-4

As the men in scripture helped get the paralyzed man to Jesus for some personal attention, we will lift your prayer requests to Him.

The mission of our prayer support includes:

- ✠ Praying for our congregations
- ✠ Praying for our pastors, staff, and leaders
- ✠ Lifting up events, current activities, and mission focuses in prayer

If you wish to be added as a prayer warrior or want to submit a prayer please go to:
<https://augustanadistrict.org/prayer-warriors/>
 to submit your information.



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

HELLO
September



Save the Dates

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