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Devotional

“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”

- John 6:28

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” - Hebrews 2:3a In the Law there are very many works—they are all external—but in the Gospel there is only one work—it is internal—which is faith. Therefore the works of the Law bring about external righteousness; the works of faith bring about righteousness that is hidden in God. Consequently, when the Jews asked in John 6:28: ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ Christ draws them away from a large number of works and reduces the works to one. He says: ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent’ (John 6:29). Therefore, the whole substance of the new law and its righteousness is that one and only faith in Christ.

Yet it is not so one-and-only and so sterile as human opinions are, for Christ lives. Not only lives but works, and not only works but reigns. Therefore it is impossible for faith in Him to be idle. It is alive, and in itself works and triumphs, and in this way works flow forth spontaneously from faith.

For in this way our patience flows from the patience of Christ, and our humility from His, and the other good works in like manner, provided that we believe firmly that He has done all these things for us, not only for us but also before our eyes, that is as St. Augustine is wont to say, not only as a sacrament but also as an example.”

In Christ,
 Pastor Becky Hand

“Lectures on Hebrews” (1517-18)
 Luther’s Works 29, 123



Mission Minute: World Mission Prayer League

TOGETHER IN CHRIST, PRAYER & GLOBAL MISSION

We had a wonderful time in the Democratic Republic of Congo for six weeks in April and May of this year. We spent eight days teaching the Discovery Bible Study method at the seminary in Tshela, DRC.



We also had the opportunity to introduce the students to a few copies of the Lutheran Confessional Writings found in the French version of the

Book of Concord, *La Foi des Eglises Luthériennes*.

Eunice was able to use her Bible knowledge and training to present to a group of women from the *Community of Confessional Lutheran Churches in Congo* (CELCCO) a Bible study on Proverbs 31. All the Congolese people fell in love with Eunice. The district pastor in Tshela gave her the term of endearment “Yaya,” which means “beloved big sister.” Since the pastor began calling Eunice Yaya, he started calling Tom “Beau Frère,” which means “brother-in-law.” We were surprised how our names were so widely accepted by people. When they saw us walking down the street many would greet us as Yaya and Beau Frère!

We look forward to returning to serve the church in DRC in early January 2023. We will be serving through May. Tom has been able to find 100 copies of the French translation of the Book of Concord that are being shipped over to Congo. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation provided these as well as a few hundred copies of Luther’s Small Catechism in French and Kikongo. We anticipate putting these to good use upon our return.

Eunice will continue her work with women and children. She plans on helping women develop small income-generating activities such

as gardening, farming, sewing, soap making, crocheting, etc.

We have a unique call with the WMPL. We serve six months out of the year with CELCCO and six months with Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Atonement has welcomed a new Congolese congregation in partnership in ministry in Fargo.

This congregation is the Pentecost Holiness Church of Grace (PHCG). PHCG has signed a long-term lease with Atonement, and they worship every Sunday at Atonement from 11:30am – 3pm. Atonement is gracious enough to let this young growing congregation also use their facility for various ministry activities throughout the week. Our role is to act as liaisons between the two congregations. We are coming up on a year in this partnership and both congregations have been blessed by each other. We plan on reaching out together to the new immigrant population in the Fargo/Moorhead community.



PHCG recently hosted the local bishop of their denomination, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC). Their bishop hails from Mexico. He oversees 26 congregations from

Kansas to Minnesota and North Dakota. The majority are Hispanic but 9 of the congregations are immigrants from Congo! The bishop thanked Atonement for partnering with this young immigrant congregation whose long-range vision is to continue growing and eventually to purchase their own facility.

After the church service and a great sermon by the bishop, the congregation hosted a potluck dinner with all kinds of Congolese delicacies. There



was everything there but lefse and Rømmegrøt!

It is truly an honor to serve God in our new hybrid call of half-time in Africa

and half-time in the States. Eunice has been blessed by having Concordia call her back to work while we are in the States. Tom has been busy taking three continuing education courses: a 15-week college level class called *PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT*; a 7-week course *MOBILIZING HOPE: helping people heal from trauma using the biblical narrative in orality*; and an 8-week course he is taking with other WMPL workers, called *WE ARE NOT THE HERO – A Missionary’s Guide For Sharing Christ Not a Culture of Dependency*.

On October 15 Atonement hosted an event by the WMPL Prayer Mobilization Team. This event was called Prayer Praxis. The WMPL team led the 26 participants in an interactive time of Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer. We gathered for three hours to pray for the Sea Gypsies of the Philippines. The Sea Gypsies, also known as the

Sama people, are an unreached people group, which means they have had little or no access to the gospel. WMPL has a missionary family reaching out to these people. All who attended this event were greatly moved and enriched.

We encourage you to go to the WMPL website at www.wmpl.org to learn more about our faith-based mission and our work throughout the world. To become a part of our praying community, visit us at www.wmpl.org/praying-community. We covet your prayers!

More information concerning our fielding costs, and how to support us financially can be found on the WMPL website at www.wmpl.org/fellow-worker/tom-eunice/. May the Lord richly bless you as we continue to serve Him in His Vineyard around the world!



Thank you for your prayers and support!
Tom & Eunice Olson



Board of World Missions Survey for AD Members

AD Endorsed Clergy & Member Congregations, Did you receive the Board of World Missions survey in the past week or two via USPS or email? Have you filled it out and returned it yet? If not please do so today. If you did not receive a copy you can find the information on our website at augustanadistrict.org/board-of-world-missions-2022-survey/

Please complete and return the survey as soon as possible. Thank you so much in advance for helping us discern how to best help you to serve through Mission.



Introducing Faith Greenhouse

MORE THAN AN INTERNSHIP, A COMMUNITY FOR LEADERSHIP FORMATION!

By Pastor Dave Wollan, Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson

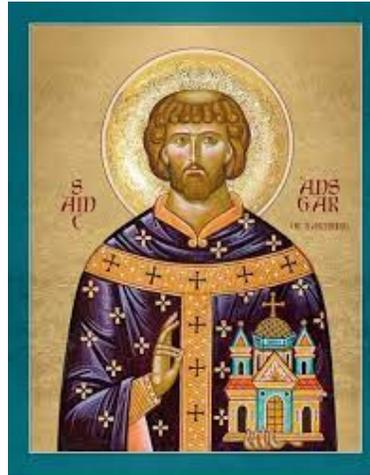
Faith Lutheran Church, in Hutchinson, MN, is excited to be launching a new initiative to address the need for future leaders of the Lutheran church. Because our old leadership-training institutions can no longer be trusted, and because many of the new online institutions are not as ideal for young interested leaders, Faith Lutheran is cultivating an environment and community for learning and formation.



I have a gifted daughter who is about to graduate from college and is interested in pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. But where can she go to get that degree? Our old Lutheran

institutions are no longer truly Lutheran, and while the new online seminaries are great, she hardly wants to get her M-Div while living in her parent's basement! We need to cultivate quality learning environments, opportunities, and communities that will attract and accommodate young seminary students and other young adults interested in congregational ministry. Our friend, Pastor Nathan Hoff, has one such intern community in Los Angeles, and Faith Lutheran is now creating another in a little-big-town in rural Minnesota.

Faith Lutheran began to aggressively pursue this vision in the summer of 2021. We challenged the congregation to give towards the initiative and received \$75,000! Then, after a Sunday morning update on the vision, a member was so inspired that he and his wife donated \$100,000 to help secure housing. The Lord continued to move this last summer, when an old home a block and a half



SAINT ANSGAR

away from the church came up for sale. We presented our vision to the sellers and were able to purchase the house for \$20,000 less than the list price! We have named the house "The Ansgar House," after the Apostle to the North and the patron saint of Denmark.

Recently, a group of young adults have started gathering there every Thursday night for growth and fun.

We have a house. We have a young adult community. We have a plethora of opportunities for aspiring young adult leaders to plug into! Now we are praying for the Lord to call some interns!

Faith Greenhouse is an intentional intern community. An opportunity for young adults to enjoy intentional Christian community with one another, plug into a thriving confessional Lutheran congregation with a large variety of ministries, and explore how they are gifted for ministry. Interns receive free housing for 20-25 hours/week of church engagement. Interns will be mentored in theology and ministry, and will gain valuable experience and guidance in pastoral, children's, youth, seniors, and worship ministry plus much more. The internship is designed to run September through May, with a summer option.

Are you, or someone you know, interested, or have questions? Please contact me at davidw@faithlc.com. You can also support this ministry financially by sending designated gifts to Faith Lutheran Church, 335 Main St S., Hutchinson, MN, 55350.





Augustana District is firmly grounded in the function of the law being to order society and convict us of sin, showing our need for a Savior. Within the Christian body and our Lutheran heritage, there are differing views about the law's function, while others have no idea what the conflict is or why it matters today.

This year's Convocation of the Cross topic "Living in the Promise" does not offer a resolution to this centuries-old debate, but rather a healthy and theologically rich conversation about law and gospel. We invite you to witness Dr. Robert Kolb and Dr. Steven Paulson discuss the topic and join the conversation as we live in Christ's promise together!

Guest Speakers



Dr. Robert Kolb is an emeritus professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, the co-editor with Timothy Wengert of the translation of *The Book of Concord* (Fortress Press 2000) and the author of

several books on Luther and on the Lutheran confessions, including *Martin Luther and the Enduring Word of God*, *The Wittenberg School and its Scripture-Centered Proclamation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016) and *Luther's Treatise On Christian Freedom and Its Legacy* (Lanham, MD: Fortress Academic/Lexington, 2019).



Professor Steven Paulson has been teaching and preaching for over thirty years and is chair of Lutheran Theology at LHOS. He holds degrees in theology from St. Olaf College, the Master

of Divinity from Luther Seminary and the Theological Doctorate from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He has taught at Concordia College, Moorhead, and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, before coming to Sioux Falls. He is the author of many books and articles, including *Luther's Outlaw God, Volume 1 and 2*.

To register and for more event details, visit www.augustanadistrict.org/2023-theological-conference/

Women of the Word

The WOW Board wanted to share a little more information with all of you on the mission project they chose for the annual gathering this year.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD-SAMARITAN'S PURSE

"Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

- Mark 10:14

Women of the Augustana District have been busy purchasing items to fill shoe-boxes and send off to reach children by Christmas. The large box in the picture, which was half the size of a refrigerator box, was filled with items for the shoe-boxes as the "Love Offering" at the WOW Gathering at New Hope Lutheran in Comfrey, MN in September. The Women at New Hope will be packing these items and more in shoe-boxes the first week in November. Last year their church, with the help of other churches in Comfrey, packed 188 boxes.

The shoe-boxes are sent to drop-off locations by the third week in November each year to be prepared to be shipped overseas. Money is also needed for the shipping of these boxes. The offering at the Fall Gathering was given to Samaritan's Purse to meet some of their mission needs which includes the shipping of shoe-boxes.

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan's Purse president, Franklin Graham, received a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoe-boxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed but forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts. Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte who was a friend of Franklin's agreed to help him. Within a few weeks that church had 11,000 shoe-boxes

filled and ready to send. With additional gifts from Canada 28,000 shoe-boxes were sent to the Balkans that first year of the project. Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoe-box gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. The outside of the box is marked with the sex and age of the child that it is to be given to. This enables the person packing to box to have age-appropriate items in the box. Since 1993, more than 198 million children have learned what the shepherds heard from the angels about Jesus' birth. *"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."* - Luke 2:10



The need is great, and the Word of God and love of Jesus is spread as these boxes are distributed. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church

worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciple of the nations. Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoe-boxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes. Long before shoe-boxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events and to share the love of Jesus as they distribute the boxes.

For more information on this worthwhile mission, go to the website – Operation Christmas Child at samaritanpurse.org.





You and your congregation are invited to join the district in praying for:

- ✝ The new Faith Greenhouse, that God will bless this ministry and prepare the hearts of students to come and learn through the mentorship provided by Faith Lutheran and that God will work through the mentors and leaders involved in this project.
- ✝ Operation Christmas Child - this is a mission supported by many of our churches and the gift that these children receive is not just the things

packaged in the boxes but the gift of the Gospel. Please pray that many young hearts are prepared to receive these gifts and thank the Lord for those who donate, pack, transport and deliver these gifts and the Gospel.

- ✝ Support for the district as we approach the end of the year. Prayer support, financial support, creative support (through organizations like Thrivent and Amazon Smile), and through service.
- ✝ Congregations and clergy who are considering switching from current denominations to LCMC. Pray for them as they walk through difficult conversations and decisions. Ask the Lord to show you how you can help our brothers and sisters in these walks.

thrivent®

Did you know that if you are a Thrivent policy holder that you can support your favorite non-profits, like the Augustana District in two ways?

First, you are allotted a certain number of *Choice Dollars* each year, depending on the number and type of policies you have. Those *Choice Dollars* can

be directed to your favorite non-profit or can be split between different organizations.

Second, policy holders are eligible for two \$250 Thrivent grants each year. That money can be used for a variety of uses. One thing that the district could use grants for is to help with the cost of the confirmation retreat.

If you, or someone you know would like more information on how you can support the district via these Thrivent opportunities, please reach out to your Thrivent representative or the AD Office.

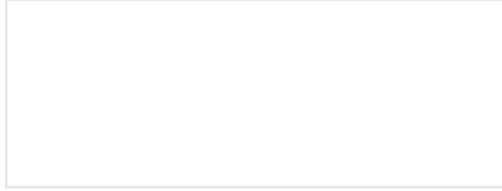
Church Staff Openings

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 how to apply.

- » Pastor (Full-time) | Carrington ND
- » Senior Pastor | Slayton MN
- » Director of Worship & Connection Ministry | Marshall MN
- » Pastor or Interim Pastor | Maynard MN
- » Church Secretary | Springfield MN
- » Organist | Lamberton MN
- » Lead Pastor | Hutchinson MN
- » Pastor | Lamberton MN

- » Pastor | Montecello MN
- » Solo Pastor | Kerrville TX
- » Interim Pastor | St. Cloud MN
- » Full-time Pastor | Gonvick MN
- » Pastor | Buffalo Lake MN
- » Part-time/Half-time Pastor | White SD
- » Lead Pastor | Comfrey MN
- » Part-time Pastor | Badger MN
- » FT Senior Pastor | McGregor MN

If you have a leadership position vacancy for your congregation, please consider listing it on the Augustana District website.



Address Service Requested

Hutchinson Mn 55350

335 Main St S.

Augustana District



REGISTRATION OPENING SOON

Confirmation Retreat

Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN

March 3-5, 2023

SAVE THE DATES

May 5 - 6, 2023

Annual Convention

Mount Carmel in Alexandria, MN

September 16, 2023

WOW Gathering

Springfield, MN