



## AUGUSTANA WITNESS newsletter

### In This Issue...

Devotional .....	1
Prayers .....	2
Financial Update.....	2
Church Staff Openings .....	3
Thrivent .....	3
Amazon Smile .....	3
Mission Minute.....	4
LCMC Opportunities .....	4
AD Update .....	5
Confirmation Retreat .....	5
COTC .....	6
WOW .....	7
Save the Dates .....	cover
Welcome .....	cover

### Staff Stuff

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

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

Wendy Magruder..... Office Assistant  
office@augustanadistrict.org

Mailling Address  
Augustana District  
335 Main St. S.  
Hutchinson MN 55350

Phone..... 320.234.8403

Web ..... www.augustanadistrict.org

## Devotional by Pr. Brad Soenksen

### THE GOD IN THE STORM

In the dark days of Germany during World War II, a German pastor's home was destroyed by the Allied bombing campaign. Even though he opposed Hitler's Third Reich, there was no way for the high-altitude bombers to know that, so he too felt the nightly terror of the falling bombs. He and his family took shelter away from the ruined city in a rural farming village. One night, as he walked through the peaceful streets of the little hamlet, he noticed how everything was so peaceful there. It was as ideal as he had imagined it could be – cows on the hills, people talking about the upcoming harvest, cozy lights peeking out between the curtains of the houses. It was completely different from the world he had just come from.

However, and much to his surprise, was the unexpected lack of peace he felt inside himself. What he experienced was an inner turmoil, and a feeling that he didn't belong there. He wrote this,

*"In the next few days, it drove me back to the ruined city and the people whose faces were still marked by the terror of the bombings. Oddly, it was here where I felt at home. These people understood what I had gone through because they had suffered it themselves. The people of the village did not understand me. To them I was a disquieting apparition from another frightening world. There is nothing more comforting than to have people who understand who you are and what you have been through..."*

(Helmut Thielicke, Christ and the Meaning of Life)

As a Christian who faces the storms and troubles of life, I can take comfort and courage from a Savior who came into my world, experienced its troubles, and who understands my storms. He is my Friend in the storm. He not only has the compassion, but also the power to help me. I'm not alone and I'm not cut off from help.

It's like the story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4. A number of things pop out at us in this account: first, it was Jesus' idea to get in the boat that day; and second, the storm produced this fear driven rebuke of Jesus from His disciples, *"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"*

I can relate to this! Many times, my storms make me forget who God is, because of what I fear. I can actually make an idol out of any storm by forgetting that along with the storm, the Lord gives me the gift of Himself. Like the disciples, I too forget that He is in the boat with me, in the storm! And who He is makes all the difference in the world! First, by His incarnation, He is a Man who understands my suffering; He's been there. Second, as the Son of God, He is the almighty God who has the power to speak peace into my storm; He is my Rock and Fortress. And finally, as my God-Man Savior, Jesus has conquered the storm's power to condemn me – for by His death on the cross for my sins, He has removed any barrier between God and myself. In Him, I now live

beneath an open heaven, in Him God relates to me ONLY from His love for me.

Though I may be tempted to interpret my storms as God's judgment, God points me to Jesus' death upon the cross for me and assures me that His judgment for my sin is completely and forever satisfied! As He promises in Romans 8:1, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

As we encounter the storms in this life, may God grant us faith to see that He is in the boat with us as our Friend and our Savior. May we hear His words, "Peace, be still." Float our boats dear Lord! Give us Your peace. To God be the glory!



- ✚ Please prayerfully consider, what does your congregation have to offer to the district? We do ministry better together and when we invest in each other.
- ✚ Please pray for your congregation's ambassador. They are reaching out to congregations to share some year-end district updates and check in with your congregation.
- ✚ Please pray for those congregations and staff listed on page 5 under *The Augustana District Update*.



## Financial update

Since its inception the Augustana District has not sought out funding, but as we continue to grow and provide more services, the financial needs also grow.

The District Council asks that:

- ✚ If possible, send financial gifts to the district before its fiscal year-end on March 31.
- ✚ If AD is not yet in your congregational or personal budget please consider placing it in your 2023 budget.
- ✚ If the AD is already in your budget, we THANK YOU, and ask that you please prayerfully consider raising the level of your support.

Thank you to all of you who have generously supported the district this past year. As a reminder, the district runs on a fiscal year from April 1 – March 31. As of today the district is at 79% of it's budget for 2022-2023 and still needs \$29,800 by March 31, 2023.

You can support the district with online contributions at [augustanadistrict.org/product/donate-now/](https://augustanadistrict.org/product/donate-now/) or via USPS at:  
Augustana District  
335 Main St. S.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Niki Pokornowski, Augustana District Financial Coordinator

# 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.

- \*Senior Pastor | Slayton MN
- \*Director of Worship & Connection Ministry | Marshall 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 | Conveck 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.



## 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.

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.



## amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know that the Augustana District is a non-profit that is eligible for Amazon Smile dollars? If you are shopping through Amazon please set the Augustana District as your favored non-profit and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the district.



# Mission Minute: South African Cultural Immersion Trip For Young Adults

In July of 2023 Awakening Lives to World Missions (ALWM) will be hosting a two-week cross-cultural immersion trip for young adults (18-25) in the Republic of South Africa. This trip will be led by Pastor Matt Shields (LCMC and AD certified).

While many mission trips focus on service projects, this trip will be different. Traveling to another country can be a truly eye-opening experience that can help a person grow and see the world differently. This trip is focused on providing young adults an opportunity to learn about and experience the culture of South Africa through in-depth experiences.

The first week of the trip will be a road trip that begins in the city of Johannesburg and finishes in Cape Town. Along the way, the group will visit important cultural sites, such as the Apartheid Museum, as well as fun excursions, like a drive through Addo Elephant National Park. This road trip will provide a glimpse of the vast beauty and diversity of the country of South Africa.

The second week will be centered in the city and surrounding areas of Cape Town. ALWM has

partnered with the Bible Institute of South Africa in the city of Kalk Bay where the groups will stay for the week. Through this partnership with BISA the young adults will be set up in a “home stay” for a few nights where they will get a truly personal and intimate experience of life in South Africa. During the “home stay” the young adults will have to live just like their host family.

Pastor Matt has several years of experience living and working in South Africa, including helping to plant a church in the northern Limpopo region. He is excited to share his missions experience with young adults and help guide them as they process what they will learn about and be exposed to. This trip is part of the ministry of ALWM, an Augustana District vetted mission organization led by Rev. Bill Moberly.

The dates for the trip will be July 9-25 (dates subject to change due to flight availability). Please contact Pastor Matt Shields if you, or someone you know, would like to participate in this trip at: [matthew.shields07@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.shields07@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Opportunities by LCMC IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE LCMC BY THE WORD

Jan 16-19 Intentional Interim Ministry Advanced Training  
Peace Lutheran Church in Gulf Shores, AL  
Steven Abend: [misea2018@outlook.com](mailto:misea2018@outlook.com) or 989-202-5301

Something to check out, a podcast titled “*Preaching the Text*” which examines the weekly Bible Readings from the three-year lectionary. Dr. Steven Paulson and pastor John Hoyum present these Scripture readings with a particular emphasis on how the Gospel is proclaimed and heard in weekly preaching. You can find this podcast at <https://www.1517.org/podcasts/preaching-the-text>

# Augustana District Update

(Please share this information in your congregational bulletin)

Did you know??...That people often ask, "What is the Augustana District?"

Similar to the way the Augsburg Confession\* defines the church, one could answer that the Augustana District is best described as the 95 congregations in 14 states who form it. The Augustana District is therefore congregations of every size and filled with people of varied gifts and personalities.

Who are these congregations and people that define us? How could we be in a relationship with each other? There are a number of ways this could happen. For purposes of congregational newsletters, I am encouraging two ways. Beginning in January, I will list eight of our congregations each month. I would encourage you to go to each website and note its leaders and the congregation's gifts. Along with this, either in congregational prayers on Sunday and/or in your individual prayer life, pray for these congregations during each month of the year.

In Christ,  
Pastor Randy Freund

\*Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession succinctly states that the church is "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel."

Please pray for these Augustana churches, their pastors, and their leaders:

- \*Abounding Joy Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN  
[www.aboundingjoy.org](http://www.aboundingjoy.org)
- \*Albion Lutheran Church, St. James, MN  
[www.facebook.com/AlbionLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/AlbionLutheranChurch)
- \*Bethany Lutheran, Covington, MI  
[www.bethanylutherancovington.wordpress.com](http://www.bethanylutherancovington.wordpress.com)
- \*Bethany Lutheran Church, Storden, MN  
[www.trinity-bethany.com](http://www.trinity-bethany.com)
- \*Bethesda Lutheran Church, Dresser, WI  
[www.bethesdalutheran.ws](http://www.bethesdalutheran.ws)
- \*Christ Lutheran Church-Blair, NE  
[www.christlutheranblair.org](http://www.christlutheranblair.org)
- \*Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN  
[www.ctkhutch.com/](http://www.ctkhutch.com/)
- \*Christ's Victory Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN  
[www.christsvictorylutheran.biz/](http://www.christsvictorylutheran.biz/)



## Life of Faith

### 2023 Confirmation Retreat

The Augustana District will provide its annual Confirmation Retreat Friday, March 3, until noon on Sunday, March 5, 2023. The retreat will be held at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Meant to augment confirmation instruction in our local churches, the retreat will also offer the opportunity for our youth to experience fellowship with youth from other churches. The retreat is open to any LCMC and NALC congregation.



Pause



Play



Refresh

There will, of course, also be plenty of opportunities for fun, recreation, worship, and fellowship to accompany the learning sessions.

Please visit <https://augustanadistrict.org/2023-confirmation-retreat/> to register online or download the brochure & form.



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/](http://www.augustanadistrict.org/2023-theological-conference/)**

# Women of the Word

## PAST, PRESENT, AND WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

About twelve years ago we were at a new beginning. I have a copy of the first AD WOW newsletter that was written in March of 2011. Since that time, I ask: how have we changed, and have we improved? What does God have in store for us as leaders of the Augustana Women of the Word? First, just a quick reminder that if your congregation belongs to the Lutheran Church in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Augustana District, and you are a woman, you are a member of the AD WOW.

Now, I would like to ask you to ponder, “What is the future of WOW?”

We don’t know the future, but we do know and trust who holds the future. We know that women will continue to be active and doing God’s will in our congregations. Here are some ideas and suggestions to help you have a positive impact:

- ✳ Read and study the Bible personally and together.
- ✳ Hear the word preached at worship.
- ✳ Think about how you can witness.
- ✳ How can you continue to learn and grow after

confirmation? Confirmation classes are not the graduation’ point – they are an affirmation of baptism, which is daily renewed.

- ✳ Embrace means of gathering and studying with new technology – perhaps a zoom Bible Study that meets later in the evening.
- ✳ Lastly, enable your church to have a healing, spiritual ministry – one that encourages witnessing, prayer, and salvation.

And, finally, I would ask you, on behalf of the AD WOW leaders: “How can we (as the AD WOW leaders) support and encourage your local women’s groups?”

We would love to hear from you! A listing of the current AD WOW officers follows this article. Being a Christian gives us so much joy. As Christians and WOW let’s come together and spread the Lord’s spirit. We may not see immediate results, but we must put our best foot forward through Bible reading and active response, God will do the rest. Thank you for sharing the Gospel. “Go spread the word.”

Your Sister in Christ,  
Carreen Pierson, Vice-Coordinator

**2023 AD WOW LEADERS** who would love to hear your suggestions/feedback:

Coordinator: Jodi Dalsgaard – jodidalsgaard@gmail.com; 507-766-2323

Secretary: Marcia Heinje – mhheinje@tnics.com; 605-237-0373

Member at Large: Linda Anderson – lindaanderson46@yahoo.com; 507-381-0761

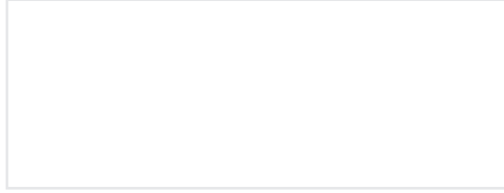
Member at Large: Jan Kreie – jkreie@mediacombb.net; phone (no texts) 320-510-1942



## Upcoming Lay Preaching Class

St. Paul Lutheran Seminary is planning a Lay Preaching class beginning February 23, 2023, that will last for approximately six weeks. If you know of someone who may be interested in this class please watch our Facebook page or website, and semlc.org for more information as it becomes available.



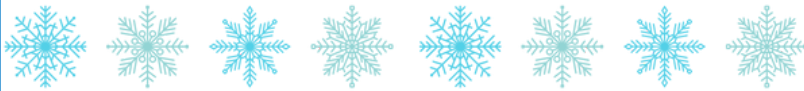


Address Service Requested

Hutchinson Mn 55350

335 Main St S.

Augustana District



## SAVE THE DATES 2023

**May 6, 2023**

Annual Convention  
Mount Carmel in Alexandria, MN

**September 16, 2023**

WOW Gathering  
Springfield, MN



## Welcome New Congregations

❄️ **Bethlehem Lutheran Church in  
Willow Lake, SD**

❄️ **Grace Lutheran Church in Willow  
Lake, SD**

