

# Devotional



**AUGUSTANA  
WITNESS**  
newsletter

## In This Issue...

Devotional .....	1
Mission Minute.....	2
Prayers .....	2
Confirmation Retreat .....	3
Church Staff Openings .....	3
Educational Opportunities .....	4
Did You Know? .....	4
WOW .....	5
Save the Dates .....	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

### Psalm 40

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. <sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.*

*"I waited patiently..." "Happy are those who make the Lord their trust..." Does this sound like you? Do you wait "patiently for the Lord?" Is your trust in the Lord alone? Maybe the answer is both yes and no. Yes, you wait upon the Lord (it's not like you can hurry him anyway) and yes, you trust God. In the words of Dr. Suess, "except when you don't, because sometimes you won't." Sometimes we are too impatient to wait on God to move, sometimes we trust ourselves or even someone else more than we trust the Creator and Sustainer of all things seen and unseen. Let's face it, we tend to be a fickle lot.*

The good news, the Great News, is that God doesn't depend upon our patience or our trust for him to act in our defense. The psalmist said that he waited patiently. He waited. He did not set out to fix everything, he waited. He waited and he cried out to God. What did God do? God, drew him up from the pit, set his feet on solid ground, made his steps secure, put a song in his mouth. God was busy in all this. The psalmist was patient and cried out, but God drew, set, made, and put. One waited and cried; the Other was on the move. God moved to deliver his child and moved so that many others would see and trust God. In God's saving moments, he was not just saving one, but many.

Does this sound like God? Does it sound like One in whom you can trust? For whom you can wait patiently? Most of us struggle with patience and trusting God. The Good News is that God doesn't struggle with you. He became the sacrificial lamb to save you, and he will continue to pull you up from the pit and out of the miry bog. He will set your feet on solid ground and make your steps secure. He will put a song of praise in your heart.

Even in our distrusting impatience, God saves. What a God we have!

Pastor Becky Hand  
Faith Fellowship Church, Odessa, TX

# Mission Minute: All India Masihi Jamat (AIMJ) Ministry Report

In December the pastors of AIMJ baptized 68 people. They held baptism, seekers, women's, youth, and children's camps. Among four meetings 841 women attended, 2,331 total youth attended among nine camps, and 164 children attended camps during December. God continues to spread his word in India!

I am Seikh Akbar Hossain. I used to serve in the Indian Army, serving there for 30 years, retiring a few years ago. We don't come from a big orthodox Muslim family but the faith of everyone in my family was always strong. I got some literature from Brother Jahurul Islam who met me at a tea stall. We were talking about Islam and Christianity and that is when I got to know about Jesus and the love that God has for us. The books were - *Did God appear in the flesh?* and *What do you think about Jesus Christ?* Out of curiosity I began reading the books and read for the next 11 months. After reading the books I thought that the teachings given by Jesus and His life are the truth and the teachings in Islam are not true. Brother



Jahurul came to my house once or twice a week to clarify my doubts.

After reading the books I began to believe in Jesus. So, Brother Jahurul gave me a Bible and asked us to join him in his Sunday service every week. I began reading the Bible and also joined the Sunday fellowship.

The Bible verse which we liked the most is Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Slowly, after some time, my faith in Christ grew more and I accepted Christ in January 2017. My neighbors, relatives and people in the village came to know about our faith

and they criticized me and began hating me. But all this criticism and hate never stopped my faith and it just increased every day. On December 11, 2022 I was baptized. Please pray that my children would also continue to grow in their faith and be baptized.



This month the district asks you to prayer for the following congregations. You can learn more about each one by clicking on the name which will take you to their website or Facebook page.

- ✝ [Christus Lutheran Church, Clintonville, WI](#)
- ✝ [Conrad Lutheran Parish, Pondera Valley, Conrad, MT](#)
- ✝ [Conrad Lutheran Parish, Golden West Lutheran, Conrad, MT](#)
- ✝ [Crossroads Lutheran Congregation, Dawson, MN](#)
- ✝ [Deep Creek Lutheran Church, Hayes, SD](#)
- ✝ [Denny Park Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA](#)
- ✝ [Fahlun Lutheran Church, Nelson, MN](#)
- ✝ [Faith Community Lutheran Church, Slayton, MN](#)



## 2023 Confirmation Retreat

# Life of Faith

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.

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.



## Church Staff Openings

Here are the current staff openings we have listed at the Augustana District website. Please visit [www.augustanadistrict.org/church/staff-openings/](http://www.augustanadistrict.org/church/staff-openings/) to learn more about each listed position, and how to apply.

- ◆ Director of Connection Ministry | Living Word Lutheran Church | Marshall MN
- ◆ Pastor | Living Word Lutheran Church | Milbank SD
- ◆ Full Time/Lead Pastor | Hope Lutheran Church | Fosston MN
- ◆ Pastor (full-time) | Trinity Lutheran Church | Carrington ND
- ◆ Senior Pastor | Faith Community Lutheran Church | Slayton MN
- ◆ Director of Worship Ministry | Living Word Lutheran Church | Marshall 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
- ◆ Full-time Pastor | Samhold Lutheran Church | Gonvick 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

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

# Educational Opportunities

## UPCOMING LAY PREACHING CLASS

On Thursday evenings, February 23 through March 30, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. CT, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary will be offering an online course on preaching taught by Rev. Julie Smith. This six-class session is part one of two lay preaching courses designed for people who may be interested in occasional pulpit supply, as well as those who may be sensing a call to ministry and want to explore a bit. Indeed, this class may be just the thing for those who may sense a call into the ministry. In addition to the sessions, students are invited to attend a weekly online text study. Classes will be recorded so making up a missed class will be easy. Contact Jon at [jjensen@semlc.org](mailto:jjensen@semlc.org) for more info!

## CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

April 11 & 12, 2023

**Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

303 North Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329  
(North Suburban Savannah)

Sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Seminary and the SEC LCMC Fellowship this Lutheran Retreat offers refreshing, faith-enriching experiences for pastors, lay leaders and spouses by offering Christian discussions, rewarding comradery and outdoor relaxation. There will be speakers, discussions, thanks and praise. You won't want to miss this event.

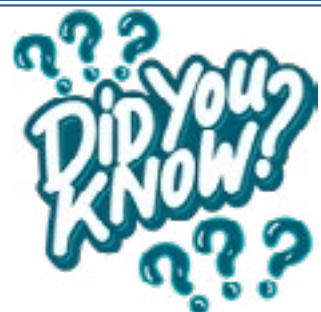
## RENEWING THE LOCAL CHURCH

Our retreat this year will offer many helpful ideas to bring life back into congregations. Pastors cannot do it alone ... A congregation-wide effort using biblical principles is needed.

Pr. Bradley Hales and Rev. Julie Smith will lead the presentations and discussion. Pr. Hales is the pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, Culpeper, VA; the Director for Renewal for the North American Lutheran Church, and author of *"Reviving the Aging Church."* Rev. Julie Smith is the Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships of the LCMC.

Be prepared to delve into the root causes of congregational stagnancy and decline and learn about biblical ways that the church can be revived for His purposes.

We can learn together and don't forget to bring your Bible! Come a few days before...Stay for the conference...perhaps stay longer!



- ◆ The Augustana District offers an annual theological conference. Every year between 100-125 pastors, lay leaders and seminarians gather for this event in person and via Zoom. Watch for pictures and updates from the 2023 conference in the March newsletter.

# Women of the Word

Happy February to all!! As I write this I am hoping that we are seeing a little more sunshine and a little less snow.

My name is Linda Anderson, and I am a Member-At-Large on the Women of the Word (WOW) Board for the Augustana District (AD). We are all so good at using acronyms that we sometimes forget that others may not know what they mean.

I was voted in as a board member at the WOW Gathering in September 2022. This is not my first time as a board member. I am a member of St Johns Lutheran Church in Springfield, Minnesota. I am married to my husband, Gilbert. We have three children and six grandchildren. I work a full-time job away from home and keep myself busy with many activities in church and in our community. We enjoy camping and traveling to see our children and grandchildren, who all live quite a distance away from us.

I have been a member of WOW since it began, and we are trying to make this an organization that covers your faith interests as women. We are always looking for things, activities, Bible studies and speakers to include in our September

Gatherings and to be inclusive for all those who are interested in expressing and sharing their faith. I always thought that I would be involved in some way, but sometimes you must step out of your comfort zone and step into a place to share your faith. We all have ideas and are sometimes afraid to share them, but we need to remember to let God lead us.

Make plans now to attend the September Gathering this year at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Springfield, Minnesota, on September 16, 2023. Come with ideas to share, become a board member, maybe even your church would be willing to host this annual event in the near future. Every September we are looking for those who may be interested in being a part of the board and would like to have you consider this. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any of our board members to share your thoughts and/or suggestions.

You can find the board member names and congregations on the Augustana District website at [www.augustanadistrict.org/church/women-of-the-word/](http://www.augustanadistrict.org/church/women-of-the-word/)

**2023 AD WOW LEADERS** who would love to hear your suggestions, questions or feedback:

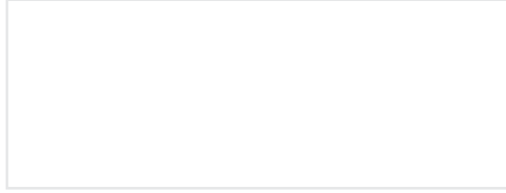
Coordinator: Jodi Dalsgaard – [jodidalsgaard@gmail.com](mailto:jodidalsgaard@gmail.com); 507-766-2323

Secretary: Marcia Heinje – [mhheinje@tnics.com](mailto:mhheinje@tnics.com); 605-237-0373

Member at Large: Linda Anderson – [lindaanderson46@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaanderson46@yahoo.com); 507-381-0761

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





Address Service Requested

Hutchinson Mn 55350

335 Main St S.

Augustana District

