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# AUGUSTANA NEWSLETTER

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October 2019

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## Pastor's Ponderings:

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Our Council issued a request to the people of Augustana because of a deficit we were facing in our budget and the congregation responded wonderfully! You have given and raised money to cover almost 80% of the deficit so far! Praise the Lord for your faithfulness and sacrifice. Peace be with you. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord in his sanctuary... Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Psalm 150:1,6

Recently I attended a training for becoming a coach in the ELCA. The training was thorough and sometimes intense. With nine other people we discovered a world in which we can help others move towards goals and meet them. All of us had gifts coming into the training and received much to add to them when we were finished.

I left the sessions with an acronym that helps me help others to get closer to their goal. It is **CHAIN**.

**C** is for **connecting**, which means building a relationship with the person or persons one is coaching. *Connecting describes the relationship we have in our church, and our desire to connect with others!*

**H** stands for **hearing**, which is emptying oneself of judgement or a distracting inner voice. We were taught to begin coaching with a blank slate and no perceived solution. *As we as a church move forward with ideas and pursue opportunities, it is important that we start fresh in looking at all possibilities and perspectives and see where God is calling us new.*

**A** is for **articulating** a direction in which to proceed. We were taught that a coach can't coach if the client or the coached doesn't say it. *As we the church move forward towards future goals, we must say them out loud and reiterate them in different ways, again and again. A vision articulated is one that can be pursued and achieved!* (con't in column 2)

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Augustana is a Christian family in faith that prays together to KNOW CHRIST and works to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN throughout the community.**

(continued from column 1)

**I** stands for **implementing**. This involves developing action steps and a timeline to reach the goals set. **In the future when we the church set goals, much of our time will be to develop the steps it takes to move deliberately towards those goals.**

**N** is used to remind us to **notice**. In the journey, as we move towards a goal, challenges and successes must get noticed and as one recognizes the movement towards a goal, all can celebrate!

**I want to challenge us to celebrate and recognize when we have moved towards a healthier, timely, Godly and purposeful direction in our church!**

**Today I celebrate our response to a challenge set before us to meet our budget! WELL DONE GOOD and FAITHFUL SERVANTS! I can't wait to see what challenges we overcome to meet the future goals set before us!**

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Fred**

**Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3143 Eggert Road  
Tonawanda, New York 14150  
716-832-5720  
<http://WWW.augustanaonline.org>  
Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM  
Weekly Communion  
Pastor Fred Kopp 984-8541**

## **Financial Shortfall Update**

Augustana is blessed to have congregation members and friends with many individual gifts. With everyone's help our projected financial deficit is being reduced. If we continue making donations, the deficit could be eliminated by the end of the year.

\$9825 projected deficit

\$6725 donations and fund raisers

\$3100 balance as of September 15th

A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

## **Outreach/Missions-Evangelical School in Sierra Leone**

Thanks to everyone who donated \$146 for the Evangelical Model Primary School in Sierra Leone at the September 15th Coffee Hour. We added funds from the other Outreach/Missions monthly coffee hour donations and forwarded \$650 to the School to cover lunch and supplies cost.

## **Sociable Events- Church members and friends are welcome at all events**

**October 6th** - In the Woods musical by Theatre in the Mist at Stella Niagara, 4421 Lower River Road, Lewiston. 12:30pm lunch at Apple Granny, 433 Center St., Lewiston. Leaving church parking lot at Noon. Tickets \$16.

**October 12th**- Chicken & Biscuit Dinner for outreach programs at St Mark's Lutheran Church, Delaware Road. Gift cards auction during dinner and grand prize lottery board at 7:30pm Leaving church parking lot at 5pm. Dinner \$8 adults, \$5 for children 5-12.

**October 22 - Trip to Jell-O Museum at Leroy, NY**. Lunch will be at the D & R Depot restaurant. Museum is \$5.00. Meet in Church Parking lot at 11:00am.

Contact Joan Heath 694-3908 or Paul Kennedy 228-3091 if you have any questions.

**Sunday School News:** . Sunday School has resumed . The kids have a lot of fun while learning about the bible and what it means to be a child of God. We invite you to tell others about Sunday School at Augustana: It is for ages 3 and up, at 10:30 weekly for 30 minutes. Ask Donna Bartkowski if you have additional questions.

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**Human Sexuality Study:** A few years ago, the Synod conducted a training program for church leaders, using the ELCA study guide for congregational programs. Charlie Schmidtke received this training and will lead discussions at TOL on **Wednesday evenings** in the Fall. All are welcome to join us on **Oct. 2, 9, 16, and 23**. Each session starts at **6:30 pm**. Come to any or all sessions, and bring a friend or spouse if you'd like!

**Adult Ed:** There were many gospels and other writings not included in the Bible, but were familiar to Jesus' followers in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. This fall we'll continue examining these and what they mean for us today. Join us on the following **Mondays at 1 pm** in the Fireside Lounge:

**Oct. 7 and 28** The Gospel According to Mary

**Nov. 4** The Book of Q

**Dec. 2** The Gospel of Truth