



EXPECT<sup>the</sup>  
unexpected

*Stewardship 2019-2020*



Stewardship Sundays: October 6, 13, 20, & 27

Augustana  
Lutheran Church



Faith provides a firm foundation so we will not be shaken when the unexpected happens. Because of this foundation, we are free to be generous and grateful in all things.

Therefore, as God's people, we understand that:

- Stewardship is an expression of faith and a way of life.
- We are stewards of God's gifts, not owners. God expects us to wisely manage and joyfully share what is given to us.
- All things come from a good and gracious God who is the source of our ideas, energy, efforts, and results.

### Consider...

What might happen if you viewed giving to God as an opportunity rather than an obligation?

Might you discover possibilities you didn't know existed?



## How Can We Practice Generosity Together?

### Anticipate God's Goodness

God gives us all good gifts. In joy and generosity, we abundantly share God's goodness.

### Live With Expectancy Rather Than Expectation

Generosity moves us from focusing on our wants and needs to participating in God's work and purpose.

### Rise With Resilience From Life's Setbacks

We all experience hard times, but we are still called to serve others. Continuing to give and serve provides purpose and meaning even when we're struggling.

### Trust God in the Midst of Chaos

Our finances often feel chaotic and unpredictable. Still, we trust God to provide in all circumstances.

### Embrace Change and Uncertainty

Life circumstances will always change. We can still make a commitment to God's work no matter what the next year may bring.

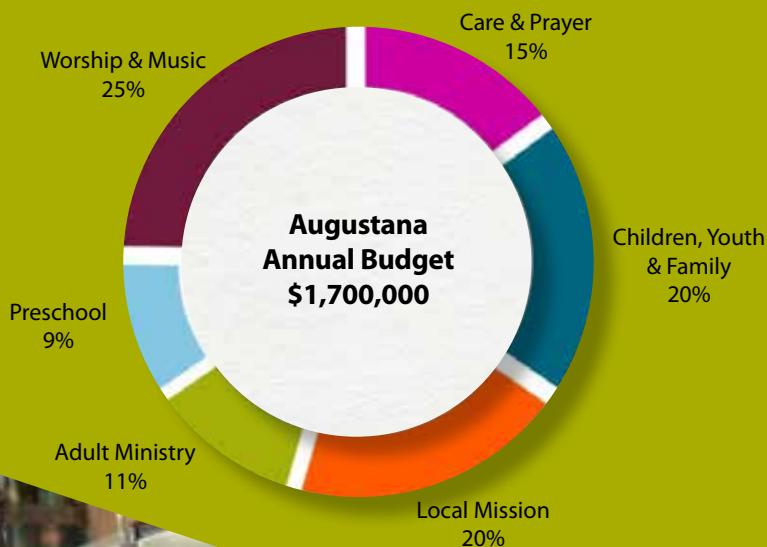
### Choose Hope Over Fear

Your generous gifts enable Augustana and our mission partners to be the hope for people in life's hardest places.

## God's Goodness at Work

Your generosity sustains the life and mission of the Augustana faith community. It ensures that future generations will hear God's promises and experience Jesus' love.

Whether it is worship and music, adult education and fellowship, children and youth faith formation, or care and prayer ministry, your gifts benefit and support thousands of people in this faith community and beyond our doors.



## Augustana shares 20% of total Giving Plan dollars with local mission partners

360 Communities .....	\$4,200
Camp Wapogasset .....	5,000
ELCA World Hunger .....	8,500
Feed My Starving Children .....	3,000
Habitat for Humanity .....	15,000
Humble Walk .....	3,000
Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul .....	2,200
Loaves and Fishes .....	7,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry .....	4,600
Lutheran Social Service (LSS).....	12,500
LSS-Rezek Teen Housing .....	10,000
Lyngblomsten .....	5,000
Missionary - Mark Jacobson .....	10,000
Neighbors Inc. ....	10,000
Preschool Scholarships .....	10,000
Seminary Student .....	6,000
St. Paul Area Synod .....	145,000
Union Gospel Mission .....	7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$268,000</b>



## God Shows Up at Unexpected Times and in Unexpected Ways



When the unexpected happens, Augustana and our local mission partners will be ready to provide the necessary care and support.

God will creatively use and precisely connect your gifts to those in need. Being a caring faith community only happens with your financial support.

### When the unexpected happens, your generosity provides hope.

**1,170** Number of hospital and home visits made by the pastoral care team in 2018.

**685** Number of hours the Augustana Care Team and Befrienders dedicated to caring for Augustana members.

**4,465** Number of meals Augustana volunteers served in the community with mission partners Boys and Girls Club and Loaves and Fishes in 2018.

**11,548** Number of safe shelter bed nights for families provided by local mission partner Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul.

**500** Number of families served each month from the foodshelf at local mission partner Neighbors Inc.

## Together we accomplish God's work in the world



**Augustana**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Where Faith Meets Life*

... this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living.

~ Hebrews 11:1

Partners in ministry,

Why do we act so surprised when unexpected things happen? Much of life is beyond our control. Life is full of heartaches and joys alike, but faith makes all of life worth it. It anchors us in God's promises and provides a firm foundation so we will not be shaken when the unexpected happens.

A strong, curious faith empowers us to respond to all of life's circumstances. This kind of dynamic faith helps gratitude and generosity to grow. This year, we want to help you build a faith so strong and resilient that you will be able to respond joyfully no matter what life sends your way.

How might you use and share your time and finances in 2020?

First, focus on building and practicing your faith. Our text from Hebrews reminds us that this is the starting point when we live as followers of Jesus. Commit to regular reading of your Bible or a devotional book. Prioritize prayer as part of your daily routine. Share your unique gifts and talents

with a meaningful organization or ministry. Nourish your faith through weekly worship. It takes intentionality to continually build your faith relationship with Jesus.

Second, consider what it means to be a steward of God's gifts in your life. How do you manage and joyfully share the gifts God has given you? Do you know what percentage of your income you give away to support the work of the church? If your income has risen over the past few years, has your giving reflected this change? What keeps you from making your offering based on faith instead of playing it safe or giving what's left over?

I realize these questions are challenging. They should be. I've wrestled with them my whole life. But only when we answer them honestly can we determine whether we're doing God's work in the world. While I can't answer these questions for you, I can engage you in conversation as you reach your own conclusion.

This brochure tells the story of hope provided by Augustana and our local mission partners. No matter how challenging our own lives are, God calls us to love and serve those in life's hardest places. This only happens with your financial support, prayers, and participation.

I'm glad that you're part of Augustana's mission and ministry. I invite you to complete your giving plan and bring it to worship on October 27. I'm excited about the expected and unexpected ways God will work through Augustana as we worship, learn, and serve together.

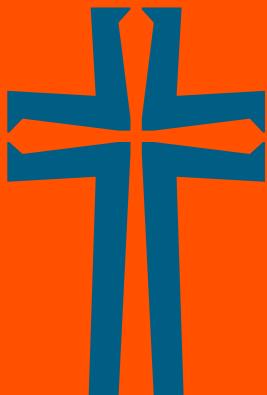
With gratitude,

*Pastor Anne*

## **Generosity Prayer**

*God, use me and challenge me to do your work in the world in unexpected ways.*

# Your ridiculous generosity at work in expected, and perhaps, some unexpected ways.



**\$400,000** Amount invested to provide 161 worship services in 2018.



**700** Number of safe-shelter bed nights provided at Augustana in partnership with Matrix.



**900** Number of Augustana families who have the opportunity to be generous stewards.



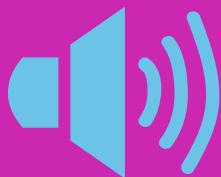
**\$24,000** Amount invested over 24 months to be energy efficient and good stewards of the earth.



**33,496** Number of pounds/dollars Augustana members donated during MN FoodShare month to Neighbors, Inc. Foodshelf – feeding 300 families.



**\$1,700,000** Augustana Annual Budget



**\$17,000** Amount invested in audio visual upgrades in the Jerusalem room to enrich educational events.



**20%** Total Giving Plan dollars Augustana shares with local mission partners.

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## Your Giving Plan

**47** Percentage of Augustana families that completed a Giving Plan in 2018.

**\$1,180** Amount invested to provide the 72 Bibles given out at First Communion and Confirmation.

HOLY BIBLE



**3,420** Number of cups of apple juice poured in the Augustana preschool classrooms.