



Why Chaplaincy?

The question "Why Chaplaincy?" was asked of me as a member of the Augustana Chaplaincy Council. As I pondered this I chose to ask this question of someone who served as a student chaplain, graduated from Augustana and went on to develop a career as a servant leader.

Why Chaplaincy?

- because we are spiritual beings and if we are to treat students as whole people we must also help them to grow and learn about spirituality in a learning environment
- because there needs to be a place where people are not graded, but rather where failings become an opening for grace
- because there needs to be a place where some of the most profound questions of life can be wrestled with
- because awe and wonder must be cultivated along

with critical thinking and from this comes profound curiosity

- because learning to love and be compassionate are the most important courses in life and will help to determine our success in life
- because life is difficult and we need people who will walk alongside of us when we set out to shape our lives.

These are some reasons why Chaplaincy lends itself to the life of university students and brings value to the students and their community.

It is a privilege to work with Augustana Chaplaincy Council and contribute to Chaplaincy at Augustana.

Carolyn Andersen, member of Chaplaincy Council

What's Cookin'? Soup Supper: "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

What an amazing evening! We could hardly keep from singing. Dr. Ardelle Ries, our guest presenter, brought out the singer in each of us. We sang throughout the evening culminating in the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer. The Silent Auction was the best ever, creative gifts generously donated for our bidding. The Silent Auction and donations raised over \$13,500 for Chaplaincy. Thank you for all you do to support this ministry on the Augustana Campus.

You are invited next year to... What's Cookin'? Soup Supper

Sunday, March 6, 2016
5:00 p.m.
The Chapel, Augustana Campus

Come and share in a simple meal, an evening of entertainment, pictures and music, celebrating Chaplaincy on the Augustana Campus

Your gifts can truly make a difference

There are many ways to support Chaplaincy at Augustana, one of which is making a gift of financial support. Augustana Chaplaincy has two funds:

- the Chaplaincy Annual Fund supports the day to day expenses of Chaplaincy;
- the Augustana Chaplaincy Endowment fund (~ \$325,000) generates interest to support Chaplaincy in perpetuity.

If you would like to give a gift to either of these funds please make your cheque payable to the University of Alberta.

(Augustana Chaplaincy, 4901 46 Ave. Camrose, AB T4V 2R3), noting Augustana Chaplaincy in the memo line. If you would like to donate on-line, please go to the Augustana home page www.augustana.ualberta.ca/giving/ and click on "Make a Gift." Direct your donation to Augustana Chaplaincy Annual Fund. Gifts to Augustana Chaplaincy Endowment Fund may be made online or contact Augustana's Development office 780-679-2558.

If you would like to give a significant gift but are not able to do so at the present time, please consider leaving Augustana Chaplaincy a bequest or planned gift in your estate. For more information please contact: Augustana Campus Development Office 780-679-1558.



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Heads up! Fall Fundraising Dinner

By Pastor Craig Wentland



"I would be willing to donate some of my organic, free range turkeys and produce. Would you be interested in having a Fall Fundraising Dinner for Chaplaincy featuring local food?" inquired Don Ruzicka of Sunrise Farm near Killam, AB. He leaned over the table towards me at the Haus Falkenstein restaurant, the Guinness World Record establishment for the most ways to serve schnitzel located in Loughheed, AB.

Augustana Chaplaincy has had a long relationship with Don and other local farmers who are motivated out of their faith and values to produce good food in a way that exhibits genuine care for creation. Students are curious about folks like Don who are integrating faith, life and learning. Don went on to share his vision of a supper featuring local sustainably produced food from small farmers. Who could resist an offer like that?

Other farmers have since jumped on board donating produce. A committee is generating amazing vision for how this supper can become a memorable event. A *chef de cuisine* has been secured. Details are starting to fall in place and a date will be announced later in the summer.

At Augustana Chaplaincy we are thankful for the many people in our community who are excited and supportive of the work we do together. We are thankful for your financial donations, your practical donations of time and service and even gifts of garden veggies and free range turkeys. These gifts enable us to influence the faith and the deep character of Augustana students.

Contact Us

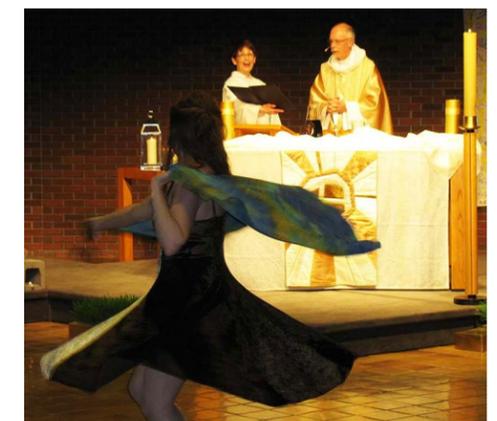
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services/chaplaincy/](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/services/chaplaincy/)

Facebook page:
U of A Augustana Chaplaincy



During the winter term of 2015, several graduating students spoke during our Friday Chapel services on the theme *Faith 2.0*. These students wanted the opportunity to share publicly what they have observed about the interaction between faith, life and learning in their time at Augustana. Many have had significant encounters which are reorienting how they live and their plans for the future. The following is a brief synopsis of what they had to say.



Sarah McCrae

Physical Education, Vermillion, AB

I really suck at trusting God. 2014 was a rough year for me. I went to Cambodia through a great program with the U of A. In Cambodia I was slapped in the face with the reality of suffering in our world from poverty to the sex trade to brokenness. It broke my heart.

I was having a conversation with a friend about our “safe places” that we run to in life. I realized that my safe place was this sense of overwhelming brokenness that was crippling me. My friend suggested, “Ask God how he sees you?” So I asked, “God show me how you see me?” I saw myself and I was walking along the street. I was radiating life and I was laughing. I had so much joy and an overwhelming sense of fulfillment washing over me.

I realized that God did not create me for darkness. He created me to walk in the light. There is a reason to experience suffering because it helps us to identify with those who are suffering but suffering does not mean that God is not with us.

We can trust God. God has better things planned for us than we could ever think of. We need to see ourselves as God sees us and not in our brokenness.



Ryan Lindsay

Physical Education, Wainwright, AB

In John 1, Peter invites a sceptical Nathanael to “come and see” Jesus. Because of this invitation, Nathanael realizes his own faith in a pretty ordinary, everyday interaction with Jesus.

In falling in love with nature, I knew that I wanted to have this connection be a regular part of my life. Tromping around the bush did not align with some of my other values like becoming rich, getting a professional job and being successful. I have had to realign my values and I have decided to live a more direct life.

One day on a canoe trip in the arctic, a wolf stopped about ten feet away from where I was sitting. I locked eyes with him for a second, although it felt like ten minutes, and it was like we had this understanding, this connection. In reflecting on this magical moment later, I realized that a wolf lives a life of feast and famine; that is the natural way. In my life too, I go through some struggles but I have learned that embracing the natural way allows me to experience true happiness. Often we try to avoid the discomfort of nature and we have this fancy technology that allows us to do so. If we use these things to avoid the natural way and escape, we will never experience true contentment. I believe it is better to live a direct life so that we can have moments of mystery and discover the faith that is within us. Or as Peter said, “Come and see.”



Geordie Nelson

Environmental Studies Major, Wainwright, AB

I believe that being a steward of the planet brings you closer to God. I have always been fairly concerned about the planet. Even as a kid I knew that littering was bad, I loved animals and I loved playing in the forest. As I got older I noticed that nobody in my church really seemed to care about God’s creation.

We sang all these songs while we looked at all these beautiful background images of waterfalls and forests and sky. While the people in my church admired these creation images on the screen, they were not all that concerned about creation in real life. At Augustana I learned that there are actually other Christians who are concerned about issues of environmental and social justice.

When Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, gave a lecture sponsored by the Chester Ronning Centre entitled *On Earth As In Heaven*, I asked him what he thought about the word “dominion” in the first chapter of Genesis. My observation has been that in Westernized societies we have the understanding that dominion means that we can dominate over creation, can treat animals as we like and we can take all the resources. Father Chryssavgis said that the Greek word for dominion actually means stewardship. As humans we have the freedom to take care of the planet that God has given us reflecting the compassion and mercy that God has first shown to us. When we live a simpler life, a way that is more harmonious with creation and we show mercy to other creatures, we come to know more of the love that



Erin Specht

Environmental Science Major, Millet, AB

As a way to discover my own faith in my fourth year at Augustana, I stopped going to church with my friends. Instead I started going to churches by myself. I would sit at the back and ask myself “What is meaningful to me?” When I went to church alone, there were no expectations about what I was

and how I should act. I could be myself and I have been making changes to make my faith my own.

One aspect of my faith that I have come to claim as my own is the social gospel. As an Environmental Science student, there is a huge focus on what can we do to make the world better and that is the same rhetoric that is carried through the church. How do we as Christians make the world a better place? How do we serve others? How do we work for justice? This is something that I have really incorporated in my faith. I have become very action oriented and am focussed on how I can live out my faith in a real way in community.



Taylor Bulger

Physical Education and Drama, Camrose, AB

As someone with Asperger’s Syndrome, when I came to Augustana, especially in my first year, I often felt quite lonely. It was hard for me to initiate friendships or even initiate a conversation.

As a Christian, I wanted to be able to reach out to others but I didn’t know how. In a Bible study [on I Cor. 13:13], I had a mind-blowing, lightbulb kind of a moment. Love is the answer! I realized I may have trouble initiating things but I can still make an effort to be loving. I’d ask, “OK God, who can I love today? How can I be loving today?” Even though I have a hard time initiating, I can still be loving and I can still help others to the best of my ability. I’ll miss Chapel and Augustana when I leave.

Hans Asfeldt

Global and Development Studies, Athabasca, AB

In my first year at Augustana, I was pretty busy with classes and practices and particularly the climbing wall but I seldom had time for anybody on my way to the climbing wall. I was also really keen to understand myself, my beliefs, my faith and even to discover truth.

In the past few months of my final year, I have not become less busy but I have become more laid back in the sense that I now have time to talk to everyone. I have let go of some different things but I have remained keen about discovering truth, about understanding myself and being a part of community. One of the differences I have noticed is that before I sought to understand things and to articulate what I saw to be truthful by putting them into words. Words and ideas are powerful and useful but they are not the source of truth. I have gone from a place where I sought to discover truth with my head to a place where I have sought to discover truth from my heart. What is eternal is that which is within us, the spirit, the Living Word. That is in each of us as we find in Jeremiah 33. It is written on our hearts. While ideas can bring us apart, our hearts can bring us together.

