

The Crossroads of Faith and Life
Augustana Campus Chaplaincy, U of A, Camrose

As part of a “field trip” illustrating Augustana’s annual academic theme of Resiliency, Don Ruzicka of Sunrise Farm near Killam is showing a group of Augustana students escorted by Chaplain Craig Wentland his “Five Star” hog accommodation. The mobile pens feature twice daily moves to fresh pasture, organic feed, opportunities for the hogs to root in the dirt and wallow in the mud – all the things a happy hog needs! In explaining why he provides such fine accommodation for his hogs, Don freely and at length points to the faith motivation behind his farming techniques. “We have an awesome responsibility to be stewards of creation,” states Don.

We live in a society that encourages us to sever our faith from most of life. Faith, it is suggested, is a private matter that should be practiced only in the home or with like-minded people in places of worship. As an alternative to this way of thinking, Augustana has a long history of asserting that there needs to be an ongoing conversation between faith and learning.

When Augustana became part of the University of Alberta nine years ago, it was determined that this heritage of upholding the spiritual dimension of what it means to be human in the university needed to endure. The Church and the University formed a partnership for the ongoing support of Chaplaincy. The Church would hire the Chaplain but the University would pay for two thirds of Chaplain’s salary in exchange for teaching and serving a diverse campus community.

Through Chaplaincy we in the Synod of Alberta & the Territories are privileged to walk with students during their formative time at university bringing faith into conversation with life and learning.

Rev. Craig Wentland

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