

Augustana College  
Chapel of Reconciliation

**Sodium Chloride and Photons**  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

**Michael Wanous**

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This year I am president of the South Dakota Academy of Science. One of the duties of this position is to give a speech at the annual meeting. As I was thinking about a topic, I wanted to choose one where I could make a contribution. I knew what I had to talk about. Evolution and faith. I would like to share my speech with you: "Evolution and Faith: Complementary or Conflicting Visions?" But Pastor Paul told me I have six minutes and the speech is 21 minutes long. So, if you are interested, I hope you will check out my speech on the Augie web site. Just go to the biology department, click on faculty and staff, and then Michael Wanous. You will find a PDF of my speech there.

<http://www.augie.edu/dept/biology/Web/faculty/Wanous/EvolutionAndFaithSDAS.pdf>

What I want to talk about today is why I chose this topic.

After picking my topic, I said to myself, "Are you crazy? Why pick such a controversial topic?" I could have picked something on the status of science in South Dakota, or global warming, or biofuels. I am not the kind of person who likes being in the middle of conflict. But I remembered what Jesus calls us to be. He told us to be sodium chloride and photons. Also known as salt and light. As a Christian, geneticist, and professor of biology, I have thought a lot about the relationship between our faith and science. Jesus calls us to enter the fray, to make a difference in our world. This was an opportunity to be salt and light.

Let's look at the text again. "You are the salt of the earth....You are the light of the world." What does it mean to be salt? What are its properties? First of all, it is a preservative. Think beef jerky. Salt retards decay. You don't have to look very far to realize that our culture is in moral decay. Watch primetime TV or look on the World Wide Web. Just a little bit of salt sprinkled in goes a long way toward preventing further degradation of our society. Second, salt adds flavor. God is the source of creativity and beauty and these are welcome gifts when we bring them to our world. OK, I'm going to stretch the metaphor a little here. When you add salt to water, it raises its boiling point and lowers its freezing point. So, add a little salt and you can keep the world from boiling over, or from becoming too hard and cold.

What does it mean to be light? Light shines out in the darkness. It reveals the truth, it shows the way. Many people today are walking in darkness. They need to see the light of Jesus, shining through us. Interesting thing about light, sometimes it is observed as a particle, and at other times as a wave. Similarly, there are two ways the light of Jesus

can be observed in us—through words and through actions. When we share Christ's love through words, particles of truth penetrate people's hearts and set them free. When Christ's love shines through in the way we live our lives, waves of grace splash over those around us.

Jesus is calling you to be salt and light in your world. Maybe it's in reaching out to that new transfer student sitting next to you in class. Maybe it's speaking truth to your friend who needs to hear it. When you leave Augustana, you might be a musician and your music will lift someone's spirit. You might be a teacher who gives a student hope at just the right moment. You might be a businessperson who shows the world integrity. You might be a health care provider who touches people with competence and compassion. Whatever you do, be sodium chloride and photons!



## CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY** - Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to sign up to be on the Campus Ministry team. The sheet is on the Narthex table.

**SERVICE LEARNING** - Sign-ups have begun for the Service Learning trip to Pine Ridge, which will travel the over Fall Break. **Please sign up in the chapel office.** The cost is \$150 and includes transportation, lodging and most meals. Don't miss this amazing service opportunity!!

**ADVOCACY - Thursday, September 27 @ 9 PM - Siverson Lounge Advocacy Kick-off!** Come participate in the first meeting of Advocacy. We are a student-led group that seeks to address a variety of topics of global and local concern by educating the campus and creating opportunities for action. Email [lmhibma@ole.augie.edu](mailto:lmhibma@ole.augie.edu) or [kjlenander06@ole.augie.edu](mailto:kjlenander06@ole.augie.edu) with any questions!

**Augie GREEN** is initiating the green bike project again this year. This year we would like to start the project with a slightly higher caliber of bikes, and to do that we need your help. Donate your unused bikes to Augie GREEN. If they are broken that's ok. Spoke 'N Sport is teaching us how to repair them. Help students arrive to your class on time! Please, e-mail Tom Lynch ([tjlynch@ole.augie.edu](mailto:tjlynch@ole.augie.edu)) or Jeff Johnson ([jmjohnson4@ole.augie.edu](mailto:jmjohnson4@ole.augie.edu)).

**SERVE THE BANQUET** - Campus Ministry has the opportunity to serve at the local soup kitchen, The Banquet, on Monday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate by either preparing the food on the afternoon shift, or serving the food at supper time, please sign up on the Narthex table.

### CHAPEL CALENDAR

Fri. (28 <sup>th</sup> )	Worship, 10 am - Kari Kintner, Sr. Spkr.
Sun. (30 <sup>th</sup> )	Worship, 11 am - Meg Eide, '08; Ann Pederson, president
Mon. (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Worship, 10 am - Jesson Vogt, ASA Pres. - ASA Inauguration
Tues. (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	Catholic Mass, 10 am - Msgr. McPhee
Wed. (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Holy Communion, 10 am Pr. Paul
Fri. (5 <sup>th</sup> )	Worship, 10 am - Green Bike Dedication!