



## ***November 2017***

*"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'" Psalm 91:1-2*

The 91<sup>st</sup> psalm reminds us of God's deliverance and protection. He delivers us, covers us, commands his angels concerning us, and he answers us in our trouble. God promises to always be with us.

We understand that we are God's. Under all circumstances, we are his, and he is ours. He doesn't leave us nor forsake us. And yet, we worry. We experience fear. We become distressed and anxious. Our humanity tends, sometimes, to override our trust in God. Our peace can dissipate and we are ravished with concern and apprehension. It's at odds: to be at peace in God knowing that he is always here for us, and to be overcome with worry or fear. The two extremes seem unlikely partners.

On the other hand, the two extremes—overwhelming fear and complete trust in God—actually fall hand in hand. I believe it is our fear that reminds us of our trust in God. Faith and doubt serve together. Faith overcomes doubt and is strengthened. In the same manner, fear and trust battle against each other and rise together. But trust is strengthened in fear.

When we are faced with the great unknown and fear sweeps in, we only have two choices. Cave in to the fear, or rely on God alone. Fear and doubt do not roll over and play dead when we decide to follow where God leads confident of the Lord's presence and good plans. Our human emotion puts up a good fight, even when our soul is resting in God. The two extremes exist at the same time. Our spirit and our humanity can, and often do, clash. This is our plight, our struggle.

God specially designed each of us. We are human. We are children of God. We struggle, we lose, we conquer, we rest, work and play. And through all this God is a constant. He is constantly here, constantly loving and constantly taking care of us. This is life. This is life in God's complete care.

Sing praises to God for his goodness and his steadfast presence. Thank the Lord for his deliverance and plan. Bless him for his constant love and guidance. He is good and he is with you forever. Amen.

*Pastor Becky Hand*





# Theology, Church, Mission



## The Extra Mile

You all know her. She sends you a card in the mail at the time you needed encouragement. She brings a meal to someone who has just had surgery. She calls on the phone just to see how today is going.

She pushes on into the realm of the extra mile, giving to those who do not expect any pay back. Perhaps giving to those who cannot pay back.

That extra something - showing the love, care, and compassion of Christ for the neighbor is evident in the fruit of her actions.

This is what I call a WOW woman. At our Women of the Word board meeting in September, I asked each board member to introduce themselves and then to share with us a woman in their congregation that was a "WOW woman". In listening to each of the women spoken of, I could only give thanks to God for the wonderful ministry that women provide in each of their churches.

With that, I invite each of you reading this article to send a card to a woman you know who does go that extra mile. Thank her for what she does often without any expectation of thanks or acknowledgment. And then in prayer, give thanks to God for her service and her life.

Please join us next September 15, 2018 in Watertown, Minnesota for the ninth annual Women of the Word gathering!

In Christ,  
Stephanie Freund  
2018 Women of the Word Coordinator



# Theology, Church, Mission

## Save the Date

### **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE 2018**

*"Lutheran Pastors for Changing Times"*

Monday, February 5 - Tuesday, February 6, 2018

This coming year's event will be held at the Sioux Falls Seminary, 2100 Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD.

A block of rooms have been set aside at the ClubHouse Hotel and Suites 2320 S. Louise Ave.

Call 866-534-8700 and refer to the Augustana District to receive the blocked room rate of \$119/night

Block rooms not booked by January 4, 2018 will be released.

*Registration information went out in the mail two weeks ago. **You can also download a copy from this email and registration will be available on the website soon!***

### **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2018**

Friday, March 2 - Sunday, March 4

Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN

*Registration information will be out soon!*

### **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION 2018**

**Saturday, May 5, 2018 (Please note the change in date)**

Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN

### **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT WOW (Women of the Word) ANNUAL GATHERING**

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Peace Lutheran Church, Watertown, MN

***Go to the Augustana District Website or Facebook page for registration information on these events as it becomes available. You can sign-up for regular e-mails from the AD by sending an e-mail to: [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org) and requesting to be included.***

***You can support the Augustana District financially via the website. Just look for the Multiply x2 Magnify Logo.***



**Multiply x2**  
**AD Magnify**

Acts 12:24 "The Word of the Lord continued to grow and be multiplied"

# IN OTHER A.D. NEWS

## **“Resources for Pastors and Congregations”....**

Looking for Luther resources? Lutheran Quarterly has interesting and helpful resources available for pastors wanting to teach something about the Reformation and Lutheran history. There is free access to 50 LQ articles.

Here's the link: [https://timeline.press.jhu.edu/lut\\_reformation/](https://timeline.press.jhu.edu/lut_reformation/)

## **Flood Relief Assistance ...**

The Augustana District has sent financial support to flood ravaged areas in three different places in the past couple of months.

First of all to Northern India to Asad Masih who sent a letter of thanks and a very detailed account of how all funds were used to provide emergency medical services, food, and emergency shelter to over 300 families.

Secondly, money was sent directly to an LCMC church in Texas to assist with repairs after hurricane Harvey

Finally, donations were made to an LCMC church in Florida after Maria hit. Pastor Eddy Perez was very grateful for the money that will help to replace the roof on their church.

A couple of ways that you and your congregation can help with relief efforts are listed on the LCMC website and the Thrivent Financial website. Thrivent is matching up to 3 million dollars donated to hurricane relief.

“God does not need your good deeds, your neighbor does.”

*Martin Luther*

