

# AUGUSTANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

335 Main St S • Hutchinson, MN 55350 • 320.587.2093



“No” in our household we do not read any sort of daily devotion ... we do not often sit together to pray.

I have wondered for some time now if we have been going about this the wrong way entirely. Perhaps my reflection though is just the result of my own upbringing, or never maintaining a daily devotional myself. Maybe I just enjoy being the contrarian. Yet, I have observed a problem in our doing of devotions. Our approach for centuries has been anthropocentric. That is we have put humans with all our effort and work at the center. How devoted are you? How many hours a day do you pray? Have you read your entire Bible? How many times?

My wife once came home and told me a well known name, one that has probably led plenty of your women's bible studies, required her children each morning to read the passage of scripture she picked for them. Following they were to pray according to what was read, and finally sign their name to affirm they had done what was required. This led my wife to share an experience from high school she will never forget. In all their piety the leadership of this institution pushed for students to do a devotional of some sort everyday in the same way. So, in the spirit of this, a

teacher asked one day for each student who had completed this obligation to raise their hand. You can see every problem that can be caused by this.

For whatever reason, my wife, this day of all days had not done her due diligence. She had done it every day before and even felt like her hand should ascend... Though, with integrity her hand stayed in the depths and she felt despair. Her failure brought public shame and she immediately felt inferior. Not to mention all the false hands that went up around her to merely avoid the same conviction she felt.

To be honest with you, “No” in our household we do not read any sort of daily devotion, and we do not often sit together to pray.

Rather, we pray without ceasing and speak of the only name that will save us constantly. The Word of God pours out from our mouths in every moment so that not only will our children hear over and over again the promises of Jesus Christ, but they, with us, will realize that their devotion will not save them and this is not our work. For each of us a preacher is required to proclaim in a way that kills us and

***“I believe I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”***

***From Luther's explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed.***

makes us alive each day, and none of this is done by our own power so we will never take the credit. Look to Luther's Small Catechism. I should not need to repeat to you the explanation to the 3rd Article of the Creed because we all should have it memorized, yet here I copy and paste the first part of it again: "I believe I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

If we are to speak of any sort of devotional, we need to proclaim only His devotion to us. We do not immerse ourselves in the Word. It is the Holy Spirit that causes us to suffer every iota of the Father's truth for us. It is Jesus Christ, proclaimed by those called and sent, who delivers the Good News of salvation to us. This Word has to be heard, not just read to merely make us feel holy and good about

ourselves. Rather, we boldly announce that Christ has already set us apart by His life and sacrifice bringing us into His Kingdom and perfection. All any devotion can and should ever do is make the fact we are saved by grace alone through faith apparent through the proclaimed Word. So in the Spirit of this I pray you read this article to someone audibly. Then in the end you will see where each of us falls short and needs to be lifted up. Announce to your neighbor that God loves and forgives them out loud. Say with all confidence, "You, with me, are forgiven and washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. God has promised to stay with us always because He is eternally devoted to us, despite all the ways we rebel and fall short. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. Amen."

In Christ,  
Rev. Drew Nelson

## All India Masihi Jamat (AIMJ)

What's Happening with our Partners in India

Our Report from Pastor Asad Masih in New Delhi, India shares stories and testimonies of what the Good News of Jesus Christ is doing for our new brothers and sisters in India.

In April AIMJ held 11 "Seekers" meetings, attended by 228 people total. They also had 11 Baptism camps and baptized 151 people! The camps were held in eight different locations. In addition, in some of the same locations, seven meetings for women welcomed 109 ladies. Five meetings designed for youth were attended by 74 young people. Most of these meetings were in West Bengal and New Delhi.

Seven places held Good Friday services. The main service was in



West Bengal from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for 370 people. The Topic was "The Meaning of the Cross and Why People Say it's 'Good' Friday."

At a different location in West Bengal 300 people worshiped at the Easter Celebration.





Augustana supports four of the over 90 pastors that are sharing the Gospel in India. You can see the powerful effect the Word has as it changes lives and offers hope and salvation to many. We send \$125/mo. for each of the four pastors. Our donations are sent quarterly. If you would like to contribute to this tremendous ministry please send your donation to:

Augustana District,  
335 Main St. S.,  
Hutchinson, MN 55350,

please note "AIMJ" on the memo line, or contribute online at [augustanadistrict.org](http://augustanadistrict.org). And remember to lift this ministry in your prayers that God continues to make a way for the Gospel to be preached and received.

## Prayers Around the World for our fellow heirs in Christ:

\*Thank the Lord for the pastors in India that are sharing the Gospel and for the people being introduced to Jesus Christ.

\*Pray for peace and protection for people in Ethiopia that are suffering and dying due to civil unrest.



## Registration is now open for the 2019 Annual Gathering Women of the Word

When: September 21, 2019 from 8a.m. - 3 p.m

Registration deadline is Saturday, September 14, 2019

Visit [www.augustanadistrict.org](http://www.augustanadistrict.org) for the registration form & printable postcards



The monthly "E-newsletter" needs an update... a new name. What should we call the AD Newsletter? Submit your ideas to [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org) by JULY 20. The winner will be announced in the August Newly Named Newsletter!

Note: A committee of highly qualified newsletter aficionados will judge the competition. Good luck to you!

P.S. The winner will get a free convention pass for the 10th Annual Convention in 2020 as well as a free lifetime supply of Augustana District Newsletters to share with your friends and family! Send your suggestions in TODAY!

## Now Available... Lutheran Quarterly Book Series

Released July 2, 2019 in the Lutheran Quarterly Books series, *The Essential Forde: Distinguishing Law and Gospel*. It is basically Forde's greatest hits. The difference from the previous two Lutheran Quarterly Books collections of Forde's work is that this volume largely contains excerpts from his books. The first chapter is from *The Law-Gospel Debate*. Then *On Being a Theologian of the Cross* and *Theology Is for Proclamation* play a starring role, with *The Captivation of the Will* also making an appearance.

I would recommend *Where God Meets Man: Luther's Down-to-Earth Ap-proach to the Gospel* as an introduction to Forde for lay people and *The Essential Forde* for college/ seminary students (and for quite interested lay people). The latter has a short preface by James Nestingen and a Forde biography in nuce. Then Mark Mattes introduces the excerpts in the book and Steven Paulson gives 20 pages of his usual explosions, including a couple of great lines from Forde's teaching. "The editors have produced a helpful sample of significant studies from the pen of the most insightful North American interpreter of

Luther in the latter decades of the twentieth century. Readers experience the master of the phrase well-turned on Luther's lathe from a number of Forde's writings. The personal reflections and ruminations

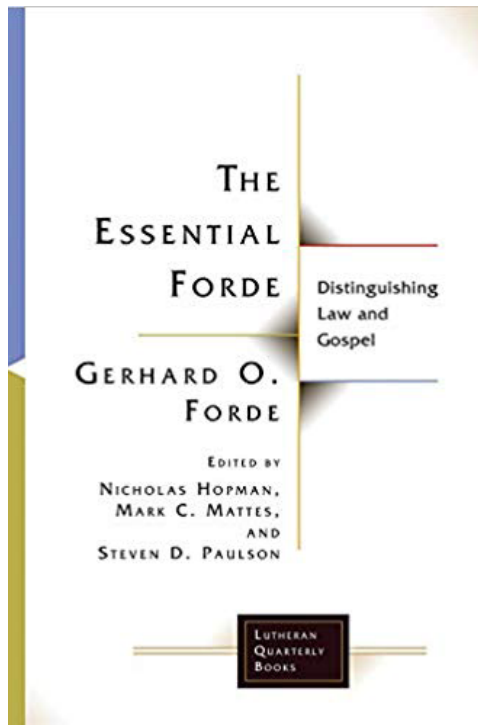
of the editors prepare readers for venturing into the depths of Forde's imaginative contemporary translation of the heart of the proclamation of Christ in the works of the Wittenberg Reformer. Here, readers learn how the law kills both nomian and antinomian attempts to turn away from the crucified and risen Christ's freely given gift of new life and what it means to live as a righteous child of God through daily repentance and the forgiveness of sins." Robert Kolb—Concordia Seminary

You can preview and order the book here: <https://fortresspress.com/theessentialforde>

Thanks,

Nick Hopman

P.S. Steve Paulson's second book in his trilogy is coming out this fall. You can check it out and pre-order a copy today <https://fortresspress.com/luthersoutlawgodvolume2>



## Annual Convention Videos Are Now Live

Hey Everyone! The videos for the 2019 Annual Convention are now live and in our Video Channel!

[Visit our Video Library](#) to see the video selection



# TAKE THE CHALLENGE

In order to encourage the development of Augustana District Chapters, the Augustana District Council has authorized three (3) grants, up to \$5,000 each, to establish Augustana's first Chapters. Each grant will be authorized and granted by the District Council upon review of the completed application. The District Council welcomes all chapter ideas that will help further the ministry and mission of

the Augustana District. Chapter leader applicants are asked to describe their chapter idea on the form provided. **The only stipulation is that chapter development focus on at least one (if not all three) of Augustana's main tenets (described below):**

**Theology. Church. Mission.**

## Apply Now

To successfully fill out this application, you must download it and save it to your computer FIRST; then open the application and fill it out and save the changes you have made. Once completed return it to [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org) or snail mail it to:

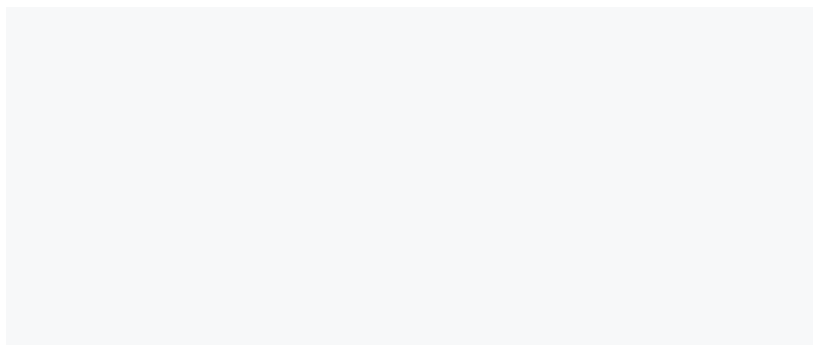
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335 Main St S  
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New this year - a retreat weekend for High School Students.

This retreat will be held December 6-8 at Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN.

Registration will be available beginning in August.



Address Service Requested

  
AUGUSTANA DISTRICT  
335 Main Street S.  
Hutchinson MN 55350

# THEOLOGY • CHURCH • MISSION



Augustana District WOW (Women of the Word) Annual  
Gathering

Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8a.m. - 3 p.m.

LCMC 19th Annual Gathering and Convention

September 29 – October 2, 2019

First Annual Augustana District High School Retreat

December 6-8, 2019

2020 Annual Convention "10:10"

Saturday, May 2, 2020

**SAVE THE DATES!!!**