

September 2019

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# Devotional: Of God

Dear AD Family,

What a wonderful and unique district God has brought together! I am amazed at the beloved and gifted congregations God has gathered to serve His Kingdom together. Large and small, urban and rural, young and mature, offering ministries and going out in mission all over the world! Each one of our church homes is distinct, yet we all work together toward the same goal. How can such a diverse group of churches stay united and motivated in this mission? Knowing, teaching, and preaching God's Word faithfully is essential to this goal.

The Augsburg confession offers a treasure trove of foundations summarized from God's Word. In the first article, we read that our churches consent and teach:

*"There is one Divine Essence which is called and which is God: eternal, without body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, the Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and yet there are three Persons, of the same essence and power, who also are coeternal, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."*

(Augsburg Confession, article I)

All that we are, and do, is grounded in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He gathers us in His name to worship. He teaches us to pray in His name. Songs are sung in His name. Jesus commands us to be baptized and baptize others in His name. We believe and live confident that God is faithful to His promise that "all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." (Joel 2:32) Although the word "triune" is never used in the Bible, God clearly proclaims Himself to us in numerous places to be one God in three persons, who came to the earth in the fully human person of Jesus Christ, died on the cross, rose from the dead, so all who believe in him will never perish but have eternal life.

I may be preaching to the choir here! I can't tell you enough how important this basic tenant of our faith is. It cannot be altered, changed, or compromised in any way. Yet, compromise is much closer than we realize.

Today, the temptation looks most commonly like a "many ways to heaven" worldview. This worldview states that there is one God, but many ways to get there. It has become increasingly mainstream in the TV shows we watch, articles we read, and songs we listen to. Our entire culture is so saturated with this worldview, that we hardly realize how tempting it is to consume it hook, line, and sinker. On the surface, this belief seems to show an open, loving, tolerant view that allows us to believe what we want while giving others the space to believe what they want. The greatest sin in this worldview is to be in any way, offensive or exclusive.

The biggest problems with this worldview are two-fold: one, it is not consistent with what the Bible says about Christ and two, this causes Christians to compromise that Christ Alone is the way to salvation. In doing so, the Triune God we so fundamentally believe in is stripped away. Jesus clearly speaks to us that he is "the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through him." (John 14:6) The Christian message is an exclusive one of salvation being offered only through Jesus Christ. It is a challenge to be a person of faith in this culture.

With all of this stacked against us, it is easy to lose hope and feel defeated. I encourage you with this truth: Jesus won the war against these falsehoods on the cross. His Word will not come

back empty or void. He completes the good work begun in you. Here are some ways he is doing it:

### ***Hear the Promise!***

The Lord is putting you in places to spend time in his Word. Whether it be through a church family, a Bible study, a prayer group, a friend, a family member, a radio station, a devotional book, a mentor, or a stranger – the Lord is speaking to you. In times of doubt, ask for the faith to hear. As a father once exclaimed when his son was in need of healing: "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24) The Lord opens your ears to hear his promise and keep you grounded in Christ.

### ***Pray!***

God is building his Kingdom. We pray because we want to be a part of what He is doing. In prayer, we say: "Lord, build your kingdom and start with me." Ask the Lord who He is calling you to speak to, and the words he wants you to use. Raise up your concerns and thank Him for what he is doing – even when you can't see the work being done.

### ***Speak boldly!***

God placed you in a specific place and in a particular time with unique relationships for a reason. The Lord gives you the opportunity to speak to your neighbor. He or she needs to hear God's Word from you. Listen for the Holy Spirit's leading. Tune in to what your neighbor is saying, and discern the Word your neighbor needs to hear from the Lord. Don't miss the opportunity! Open your mouth to speak boldly!

### ***Trust the Lord!***

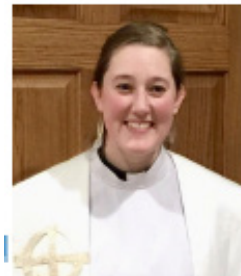
Thankfully, it is not our responsibility to change

people's minds and hearts. That's God's job! Our part is planting the seed or putting a pebble in their shoe. We need not fear the message not being received or the questions without answers. The Lord will lead you in all of that. Sometimes a truthful "I don't know, can I get back to you?" goes a whole lot further than a well-prepared speech anyway. Trust the Lord. He's got you, and your neighbor.

Above all, never forget that you were marked with the sign of the cross and saved in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in your Baptism. You belong to HIM – not because of

what you have done, but because of what has been done for you on the cross. There can be no other foundation upon which we are united and propelled in mission.

***To God alone be the glory forever and ever. Amen.***



Your sister in Christ,  
Pr. Sarah Carlstrom  
Crossroads Lutheran  
Congregation,  
Dawson, MN

✝ *Pastor Eddy Perez, His Light Ministries, radio program broadcasting in Cuba. Prayer for God's provision for the program.*

✝ *Pastor Asad Masih, All India Masihi Jamat (AIMJ), New Delhi, India. Prayer for his work to spread the Gospel and assisting flood victims.*

✝ *Rev. Amenu Arsie, Head of Mission & Evangelism Dept, Tabor, Ethiopia. Prayer for his gifts to lead evangelism in his country.*

✝ *Pastor Matt Shields, Young Adult Missions Internship Program. Prayer for the development and implementation of the mission opportunities.*

✝ *AD Council, Prayer for guidance and discernment of God's will for the district.*

# PRAYERS AROUND THE WORLD



for Our Fellow Heirs in Christ

# Mission Minute from the Board of World Missions

Meet Pastor Eddy Perez. He studied both theology and medicine in Cuba. There he served as a doctor and then became a preacher of the gospel. Due to persecution he fled to the U.S. in 2000 but his family could not join him until a year later. He began serving at His Light Ministries - Ministerio SU Luz, in Miami, FL in 2008. The church's proximity to Cuba offers a unique ministry opportunity. The congregation's radio ministry, broadcasts into Cuba on Sunday mornings via a station called Radio Luz, 1080 on your AM dial. This program shares the gospel with the south Florida community as well as with listeners in



Cuba. Often, when people move to Miami from Cuba their home church is His Light Ministries - Ministerio SU Luz because of the connection through the radio program.

Recently the program has lost several major contributors. If you or your congregation would like to donate to this ministry that reaches beyond our boarder over the airways, please contact Pr. Eddy at [pastoredyperez@gmail.com](mailto:pastoredyperez@gmail.com). Please lift this ministry in prayer. God's blessings on Radio Luz!

**Embrace Everything...?**  
**Judge nothing...?**



**CONFUSED?**  
**SORTING IT OUT!**

**2019**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**RETREAT**

**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 is open on augustanadistrict.org](http://augustanadistrict.org)

All interested parties may subscribe to receive this newsletter at home via E-mail. You can register online at [augustanadistrict.org](http://augustanadistrict.org) by scrolling to the bottom of the page. Submit your name and e-mail address. You can also send an e-mail to [office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org) and request a color e-mail copy of the newsletter or a black and white USPS mailed version. Each will be sent on a monthly basis.



**Pastors and churches, please share this newsletter with your congregation.**



# How to Join The Augustana District

## Member Congregation

The Augustana District is an association of congregations belonging to Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). LCMC churches wishing to join Augustana may do so with a majority vote of their Church Council, by way of adopting a resolution expressing their desire to join and their subscription to Augustana's constitution, bylaws, and Statement of Faith. Such a resolution should be signed by the president and/or pastor of the congregation and mailed to the Augustana District offices (335 Main St S, Hutchinson, MN. 55350). Upon approval by the District Council, such congregations are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Augustana District. Contact us for more information.

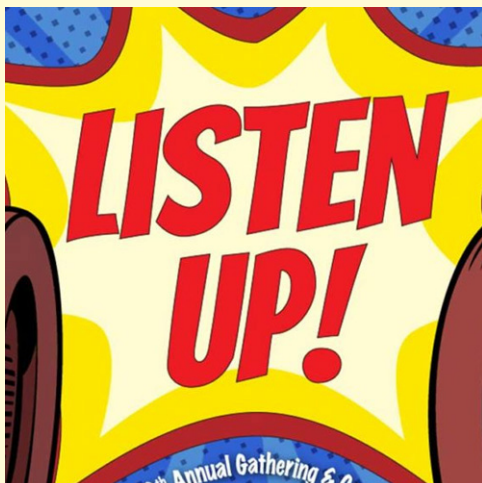


## Associate Member



Congregations which have not yet taken a formal congregational vote to join LCMC but wish to share in the mission and fellowship of the Augustana District may do by becoming an Associate Member Congregation. Taking this step does not result in so-called 'dual-affiliation', but associates your church in a way that connects it to the purpose and benefits of Augustana without [yet] severing ties from its current denomination. This is similar to joining a Bible Camp association or a mission society. The process is the same as above, by a majority vote of the Church Council, and a signed subscription to

Augustana's constitution, bylaws, and Statement of Faith (send to Augustana District 335 Main St S Hutchinson, MN 55350). Associate Member Congregations have "voice but not vote" at district conventions. Individuals of Associate Member Congregations may fully participate in the boards, committees, and programs of the district. Contact us for more information.

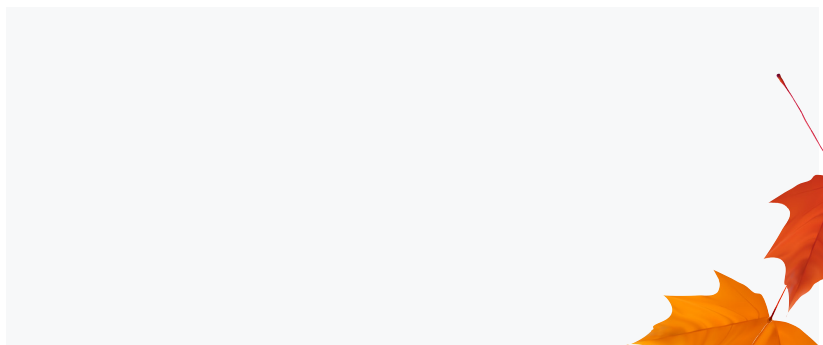


### REMINDER: LCMC GATHERING ATTENDEES

District Night Gathering is Monday night but even if you did not sign up for the meal, please attend the meeting in room 213 at approx. 7:00pm

Our caucus area is electing someone to the Board of Trustees so please be in attendance for that meeting.

Visit [www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering) for details



Address Service Requested

**AUGUSTANA DISTRICT**  
335 Main Street S.  
Hutchinson MN 55350

**Save the Dates 2020**

**Confirmation  
Retreat**  
March 6-7  
Luther Crest  
Alexandria, MN

**Theological  
Conference**  
February 3-4  
Best Western  
Bloomington, MN

**District Convention  
Anniversary Banquet**  
Friday, May 1  
Christ the King, Hutchinson MN  
**Convention**  
Saturday, May 2  
Faith Lutheran,  
Hutchinson, MN



Augustana District WOW  
(Women of the Word)  
**Annual Gathering**

**DEADLINE to register is September 14!!!**

See full details on the website.