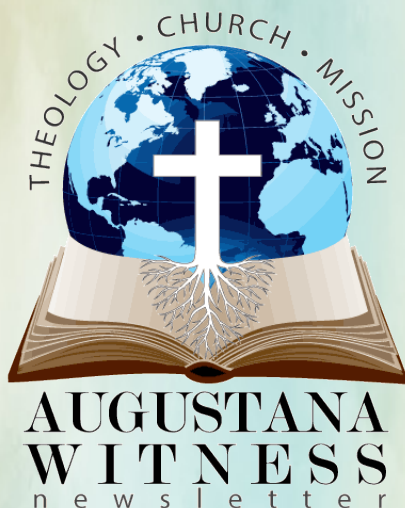


DEVOTIONAL

Light for your Darkness from God's Word, Martin Luther and M.D. Babcock (It.)



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God has created me and all that exists.

God has given me, and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

"This is my Father's world,"

God provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work & all I need from day to day.

"God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse to separate the day from the night...let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.'"
[Genesis 1:14]

"And to my listening ears all nature sings and 'round me rings the music of the spheres."

Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* [Matt. 11:29-30]

"God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters to separate the waters from the waters.' And God made the expanse... and God called the expanse Heaven." [Genesis 1:8]

"This is my Father's world, I rest in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,"

"God saw everything God had made, and behold, it was very good."
[Genesis 1:31]

"His hand the wonders wrought."

"God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm... and every winged bird..."
[Genesis 1:21]

"This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,"

"And God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit, in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.'" [Genesis 1:11]

"This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair."

God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all people, though sinful...Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, and orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors.

"The morning light, the lily white declare their Maker's praise."

The Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith.

[Jesus said] *"If these [people] were silent, the very stones would cry out."* [Luke 19:40]

"In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere."

God also protects me in time of danger, and guards me from every evil.

"This is my Father's world; O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet."

God's will is done when God hinders and defeats every evil scheme and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful self, which would prevent us from keeping God's name holy and would oppose the coming of His kingdom.

"This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King!"

The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

All this God does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.

"Let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad."

"Jesus said, '...your sins are forgiven.'" [Mark 2:5]

Hallelujah!

Pastor Nathan Hanson



Mission Minute: AIMJ - Becky All India Misihi Jamat

Two Children's programs were held in February. One taught from Romans 8:1-39 entitled, Be Sure We Are His and the other from Colossians 2:8-15, *What Christ has Done for Us*.

In February AIMJ conducted a total of 13 Baptism Camps and 196 people were baptized! In addition, Seeker's meetings, Women's Meetings, Youth meetings, and Children's meetings were held. In total 365 people attended these meetings.



Mission Minute: Habra Church Building Inauguration

We are so grateful to God for helping AIMJ to complete a church building at Habra, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. It was inaugurated on 13th Feb. 2021 by AIMJ Chairman, Rev. Sanjoy Kumar Nath and Rev. Depender Sarkar, pastor from CNI church was specially invited.



Also, about 206 of our believers attended the inauguration program. The program started with a reading from Psalms 24: 1-10 by Rev. Sanjoy Kumar Nath with an opening prayer. After this several pastors read several verses from the Bible. Jahirul Islan Sarkar- Phil. 3:17, 4:1; Azizul Islam- Jer. 25:5-6; Hasan Ali- Psalms 72: 11-19; Mahasin Mondal- Mark 10: 35-45; Wahid Biswas - Romans 13:1-7; Sahadat Gazi- Isaiah- 9: 6-7; Subrat Mondal- 1 Timothy 2:1-6; Jaidul Islam - Psalms 75: 1-7 and Rekha Perveen- John 14:27-31.

The main topic for the message was taken from John 2: 1-10 that Christ turned water into wine as we read in these verses. It was the very first miracle that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. Just like this we hope and pray that Jesus will change all the Muslims in the community and they will all follow Christ

as their saviour just like how Jesus changed water into wine. It took a lot of time and there were many road blocks ahead of us with the biggest one being COVID-19. But our Lord has been taking care of us and fulfilling all our needs. We praise God that everything went well. Please continue to pray for us so that AIMJ will bring more and more Muslims to Christ so that this building remains not only a church building but God's pillar for the entire community.

THE AUGUSTANA DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT

It is exciting to see the seeds that were planted as part of the Augustana District 2020 Initiative begin to bear fruit. I'm happy to report that \$15,350 has been raised so far to fund the various projects that are part of this initiative. Despite all of the craziness this year, our district will end its fiscal year on a solid financial footing. The final numbers will be available for your review at our Annual Meeting on May 1st. Thank you, as always, for your prayers and financial support!



Warm Regards,
Eric Knutson,
AD Treasurer

Welcome
Pastor Rodney Ford
from Florence, Kentucky
& Associate Individual Member
Pastor Erica Varcoe

Are you looking for a creative way to use some of your stimulus money? How about helping the Augsutana District to STIMULATE the 2020 Initiative with an extra contribution? Just note in the Memo section of your check that you want to designate your giving to the 2020 Initiative or alternatively you can donate online at our website augustanadistrict.org/#2020

2020 INITIATIVE

“Youth Leadership, Campus Ministry, Church Plants”

Last night, week two of Church in a Bar. Wow! We had around 80 people there! We served 70+ people dinner. AMAZING! There were people that had heard it on the radio, some that saw it on social media, others who haven't been filled or reached out to since the pandemic began. One couple heard it from



their hairdresser and, while they have been church “shopping” had no idea that what they were looking for was so out of the box. We were moving in tables, people were joining tables with strangers (who became fast friends) – it was beautiful!

One incredible story...

There were a couple of families that brought a table of

high school kids. It was awesome! They were singing and laughing. When it came time for communion, a boy (Jaxson) waited until the end to come and tell me he had not been to church since he was in elementary school and he would like to take communion. Oh my goodness...

We stopped worship and, at that moment, had the opportunity to catechize him – and the entire place. People were crying and cheering. And then Jaxson received his first communion. It was really special.

Thanks again for your support of this crazy adventure.

The bar owner was there last night. He was already brainstorming ways to allow this to continue to grow.

In other news: I met with a group of families (the core group) on Wednesday evening. We talked about our hopes and dreams, what it will mean to become a church and “call a pastor”, etc. Based on the past couple of weeks, conversations with them, etc. it was decided that it is a top priority to find space for Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday.)

Erica A. Varcoe

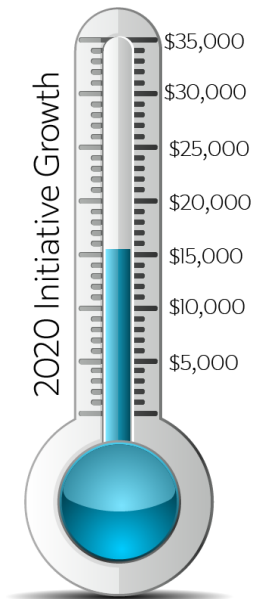
✉ ericavarcoe@gmail.com

☎ 605.929.2065

f Search for The Table Ministry

🌐 <https://thetableministry.org>

📄 Bulletin Flyer <https://bit.ly/3dmNbvK>



AD Ambassadors will return to meeting every other Wednesday again starting April 14th at 10:00 a.m. CST. Email Becky for the Zoom link. All pastors and interested persons are welcome to join in a variety of topics. We share LCMC and District updates as well. If there is a topic you'd like to discuss, please email Becky at b.hand@augustanadistrict.org.

PRAYERS



Heavenly Father, prepare us for the May 1st Convention – May we hear Your Word through scripture, the speakers, our leaders, and how we work through the initiatives that we support. It is exciting to see the seeds we planted begin to bear fruit. May we continue to help with resources as the missions develop. We seek God's direction in making long term plans.

We give thanks for the technology that allows us to gather – may everyone who has need with using it find helpful support. We thank you that COVID-19 has amplified our need to trust in You, strengthened our use of technology, and that You created us to be flexible. Amen

Prayer requests:

- ✠ All India Misihi Jamat – AIMJ - God's blessings on the Habra Church building. May it give witness to the community and may it be a place of worship, fellowship, and a pillar of Christian witness. Keep those worshiping in peace and always inviting. May Muslims be drawn here – may they come to know Jesus as their Savior.
- ✠ May Muslims clearly hear and understand the gospel; may they overcome false Islamic teachings; and may they believe and trust Jesus.
- ✠ Bless the children's teaching programs, baptismal camps, women's gatherings, Seeker's meeting ... and all the ministries being offered. Grant strength and endurance for all who bring God's Word to AIMJ, protect them from distractions and those who seek to do them harm.
- ✠ After the deep regret and harshness of the passion week, may we walk through the Easter season with the joy of the resurrection.

WOW GATHERING 2021

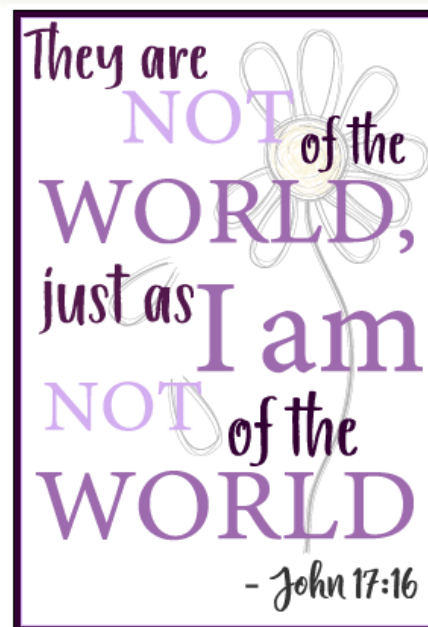
We are gathering September 18th, 2021!

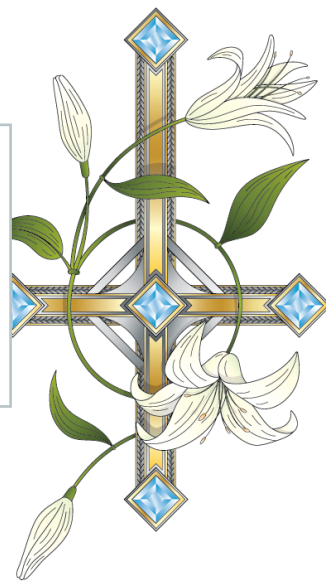
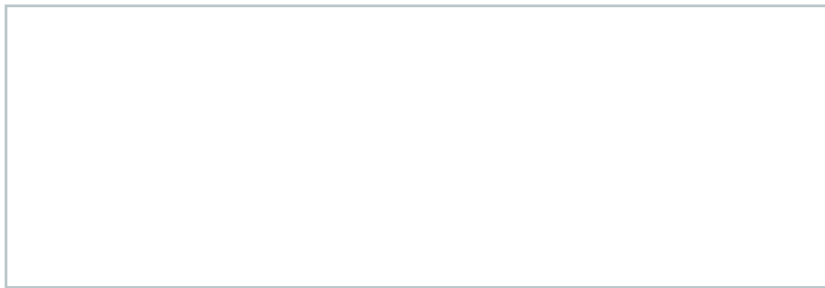
Crossroads Lutheran Church
2948 180th Street Dawson, MN 56232

NEW Theme: Women of the ~~World~~ *WORD!*

All women welcome! Registration forms will become available May 1st on the A.D. website under Women of the Word. We look forward to serving you with fellowship, worship, sacraments, food and more!

For More Details, Please Visit
www.augustanadistrict.org/women-of-the-word/





AUGUSTANA DISTRICT
AD
335 Main Street S.
Hutchinson MN 55350
Address Service Requested

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church in
Hutchinson, MN (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
and via Zoom (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)



REGISTER BY APRIL 23, 2021

Late registrants are not guaranteed
a meal or informational packet so
please register before
April 23, 2021.

Featured topics include:

- Raising up new leaders for a new time
- What does the church look like in a Post-Covid World?
- Augustana District – The Long-Range Vision
- Meet the new LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships – Implications for the Augustana District
- A brief business meeting
- Presentation of the Augustana District Distinguished Service Award
- Plus time to network and catch up with your brothers and sisters in ministry

For online registration, and additional event information, or to download the brochure, please visit the Augustana District website at www.augustanadistrict.org/2021-district-convention/