# Augustana Lutheran Church

102 Jonathan Blvd. N., Chaska, Minnesota 55318 Worship: 9:30 AM with Bible Class following the service

**Trinity 15** 

August 31, 2008

Volume 4, Number 40

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**Scripture Lessons** 

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Elijah and the Widow

Epistle Galatians 5:25 - 6:10

Let Us not Be Weary in Well Doing

Gospel Matthew 6:24-34

Ye Cannot Serve God and Mammon

Sermon Isaiah 56:8–57:1

Seek Not the Moldy Bread, But the Bread of Heaven, Which Only Jesus Gives

Welcome to our guests in the name of Jesus Christ! Augustana Lutheran Church confesses and practices the full truth of God's Word, a heritage passed down to us by Luther, and confirmed in the public confessions of our church. We believe that the Bible in all its parts is inspired by the Holy Spirit, error-free, and the only source of divine revelation and absolute truth. If you have any questions about such Bible doctrine, or about our congregation, please direct them to Pastor Diers.

# **General Prayer**

O living God, in whose providence even the smallest creatures find their needs met, we draw nigh unto thee seeking the same for ourselves.

We thank and praise thee for all thy goodness and mercy, but most earnestly do we glorify thee for the gift of thy Son Jesus, whom thou didst send to deliver us from the due reward of our transgressions, and by whose resurrection thou hast reserved for us the unfading crown of life.

Grant unto us faith in thy power and goodness, that we may ever trust thee for all our daily needs and fulfill the duties of each day without fear and anxiety for tomorrow, knowing that thou orderest all things according to thy Word, and carest for all thy children.

Bestow thy grace upon us so that we seek not the vanities of this world, nor the deceitfulness of riches, but ever set our hearts on the treasures of thy kingdom and to the righteousness which is by faith.

Let thy Word dwell in us richly so that in love we may assist one another in our trials and infirmities. Grant that we may especially be inclined to do good for the household of faith. Endow thy church with humility and compassion, that the love of Christ may shine upon the fallen, the wayward, and the heavy laden. Strengthen thy servants everywhere that they may not grow weary in well-doing.

Shed thy light upon the nations, that they might turn unto thee, and that all kindreds and peoples may worship thee. Bless also our own land, that thy reverence and truth may prevail in government and in the halls of commerce, industry, research, and education.

Through life's short day, bless our families. Be with them in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, disappointment or success, and preserve them with thy grace.

Forgive us our sins, O Lord, and teach us that thou art a God who in righteousness and mercy rulest the world and governest all men. And since we can do no good thing without thee, quicken us by thy Spirit, that we may remember the loving kindness which thou hast shown us in thy Son, and so perform works of faith, love, and hope, until we join the saints above in blessed, joyful, and abundant life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Announcements**

At our past pastoral conference, it was agreed that we should change our direction regarding the holding of free conferences, and redirect our attention to independent Lutheran congregations, of which there are many. To that end, we will be starting a new web site, on which we will be posting a series of essays on a number of topics. All of our pastors have agreed to write the articles. The first batch will be presented at the first annual Reformation Colloquium, to be held in Glenwood, MN, on November 5th and 6th. These will be less lectures and more discussions, as the essays will only be around 1000 words each. More details will follow. After the Colloquium, the website will go live, and be promoted in the Christian News, and other Lutheran venues.

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# Augustana Lutheran Church

Pastor Martin Diers

Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone

The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity August 31, 2008



## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Kings 17:8-16**

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

## EPISTLE LESSON Galatians 5:25 — 6:10

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something,

when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

### GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6:24-34

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we

be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

### SERMON TEXT Isaiah 56:8 — 57:1

The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him *Others* besides those who are gathered to him." All you beasts of the field, come to devour, All you beasts in the forest. His watchmen *are* blind, They are all ignorant; They *are* all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are greedy dogs *Which* never have enough. And they are shepherds Who cannot understand; They all look to their own way, Every one for his own gain, From his own territory. "Come," one says, "I will bring wine, And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; Tomorrow will be as today, *And* much more abundant." The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil. (NKJV)