

ADULT FORUM

Fall 2019

Forums 9:45 – 10:45 AM & 10:50 -11:50 AM **Jerusalem Room**

This season you will be challenged by looking at Scripture and Jesus in some very unexpected ways!

September 15 Welcome our New Intern, Teleen Saunders!

Augustana is again blessed to have another intern. Come learn more about Teleen and welcome her to the Augustana family.

September 22 Prayer Principles – Pastor Megan Torgerson

We sometimes focus so much on how to pray that we forget why we pray. Using Biblical stories and examples, Pastor Torgerson will teach us about some of the many reasons why prayer remains a central part of where faith meets life for us.

September 29 – No Forum Confirmation Sunday

October 6 – The Unexpected Jesus: The Time Someone Changed His Mind

Matt Skinner – Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary

An unusual thing occurs in Mark 7:24-30, when a non-Jewish and probably influential woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter and he declines. After a brief exchange, in which he seems to compare her and her daughter to dogs, she convinces him to change his mind. This is one of the most disturbing and challenging passages in the gospels. The image of an uncompassionate Jesus who eventually gives in to someone's argument can be shocking. But this passage also offers encouraging insights into the life of faith. We are often contending with God, urging God to keep promises. And sometimes our faith expands when we glimpse how far-reaching the good news is supposed to be.

October 13 Expecting the Unexpected in the Old Testament

Pastor Megan Torgerson

What do you expect when you read a bible story? Do you realize your own life story is the lens through which you read and hear God's story.

Using a familiar story from Genesis Pastor Torgerson will help us better understand how our personal lives play an important part in discovering unexpected truths in scripture that shape our life of faith.

October 20 Expecting the Unexpected in the Old Testament

Pastor Mark Aune

Using another familiar story from Genesis we will take a deeper look at our own personal interpretive lens that we apply to the reading and understanding of God's Word. What is God telling you in this story? It may be a different word than someone else hears. What is God asking you to do based on this particular story that is unique to your life and experience?

October 27 & November 3 Jesus Needs Love, Too

Karoline Lewis, Professor New Testament, Luther Seminary

We are used to Jesus loving us and thinking about how Jesus loves us, but do we ever think about the fact that Jesus needed to experience love as well? These two sessions will focus on two women in the Gospel of John, Jesus' mother (John 2:1-11) and Mary, the sister of Martha (12:1-8), who show Jesus abundant love. It is their love that makes it possible for Jesus to take the first step into his public ministry and to walk into the last week of his life.

November 10 The Unexpected Jesus: The Time He Showed That God Doesn't Play Favorites

Matt Skinner – Professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary

After Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, his followers got the point that everything had changed and a new world was dawning. But they didn't quite see the full extent of what was going on. That changed, according to the book of Acts (chapters 10-11), when members of the church discover that the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Jesus himself—dwells in non-Jews as well as Jews, even in non-Jews who are not living according to the law of Moses. The story that Acts tells describes one of the most monumental developments in the early church. Law obedience is not required. No one is a second-class citizen in this new society called "the church." This development wasn't the result of the church's strategic planning but its belief that God was doing something new through Jesus, even though Jesus was no longer visibly present among them. Christian faith still must expect the unexpected from God, as we continue to discover—sometimes slowly and with difficulty—how widely God throws open the doors.

November 17 & 24– *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe*

Richard Rohr's new and possibly last book, **The Universal Christ** is filled with challenging concepts and insights. We will look at the book's major themes: the difference between Christ and Jesus, why Jesus died, God in Us, and going beyond theology. There will be plenty of time for discussion. Bring an open mind and a willingness to share your thoughts!

