

The Fourth Quarter focus for Human Care at Shepherd of the Valley is to support the ministry of Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel on the campus at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. This will also be the convention offering at the ND District LC-MS Convention in Fargo in January. Pastor Dan Suelzle currently serves as campus pastor at Wittenberg Chapel.



December Special Services

Wednesday, December 8—No service at Shepherd as Bethel hosts their Christmas Cantata at 6:00 pm. Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord with music!

Wednesday, December 15—Children’s Christmas Service at 6:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 22—NO service at Shepherd.

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 pm.

Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day Service at 9:00 am.



The Board of Youth will be packing Christmas Care Bags for Wachter Middle School students in transition. It is our goal to provide packages for 30 to 40 students consisting of personal care products, hats/gloves, fleece blankets, games, and snacks. A display board and collection location are setup in the narthex and we will be packaging all items received Sunday December 19th after the late service. Cash will also be accepted and can be given to Laith Hintz, Justin Dever, Tamara Dallmann-Holeton, Adam Dever, or Pastor Woodside. Please consider supporting this important service project for our community!

The next Men’s Network will take place on

December 18, 8-10 AM at

Holy Cross

Lutheran Church.



LET US HELP YOU GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

Hate to bake, but know that your Christmas company is expecting goodies?

Love to bake, but tend to make too many goodies?

Looking for an opportunity to enjoy a slice of pie, some good fellowship, and soaking in the Christmas spirit?

Look no further that the Martin Luther School Christmas Craft and Bake Sale!

Mark your calendars for Martin Luther's Christmas Craft and Bake Sale,

Sunday, December 5th!

Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan 2:00-4:00

Parents, school families, church families, you are invited to **donate** some baked goods or handmade craft items for the sale.

What to expect:

A Gingerbread Manger building center!

Warm cider! (as well as COFFEE!)

Christmas carols, provided by our MLS Students

Tasty baked goods

Pie

Kuchen

Cookies

Fun Fellowship!



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter and calendar by email, please contact me. I will update my newsletter email list to include you. This cuts down on the paper being used and the number of prints that is coming from our printer. Thank you, Dorrie

Lieutenant Colonel Ann Willoughby-Reiman

Ann Willoughby-Reiman was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with the North Dakota National Guard during a ceremony on November 24 at the RJB Armory. Congratulations, Ann!



As winter approaches, we have decided to make dried soup mixes in a bag to put in the LFP. We will soon have a list of ingredients to share with you. We will also have a day that we will be putting the bags together. We have a few recipes that we are using that requires only dried goods. The Human Care Committee would like to thank you for your continued support in our effort to help feed those in need.



Free Little Pantry



Address Update: Rev. Andrew and Cassie Wolfgram moved to Bordentown, NJ in October where Andrew serves as pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.



December BIRTHDAYS

Nate H	12/2
Kennedy W	12/2
Norman S	12/4
Paul P	12/4
Jeremy K	12/5
Clair S	12/7
Pat H	12/8
Doris W	12/8
Lonny L	12/9
Dwight C	12/14
Jesse K	12/14
Kristin V	12/18
Shirley C	12/19
Don A	12/24
Adam D	12/24
Tammy U	12/27
Samantha B	12/29
Patrick R	12/31



*Dec 5	Brekken Z.	815am
	Gavin V.	1045am
Dec 12	Olivia D.	815am
	David A.	1045am
*Dec 19	Daisy A.	815am
	Ella C.	1045am
Dec 26	Taylor B.	815am
	Jensen H.	1045am



Baptism BIRTHDAYS

Robert K	12/1
Jason K	12/1
Blake N	12/3
Hudson H	12/5
Keaton H	12/5
Logan P	12/5
Susan B	12/10
Roger L	12/10
Arlan K	12/13
Becky G	12/14
Shari Z	12/14
Clair S	12/15
Darlene K	12/21
Emma L	12/24
Adam D	12/25
Jordon K	12/25
Jaden A	12/27
Jeremy K	12/27

December ANNIVERSARIES

Jacob & Jayne F	12/12
Dennis & Gloria D	12/19
Melvin & Marilyn S	12/28
Brad & Darlene K	12/30
Dale & LaDonna K	12/30

December 2021

1-15	Kevin Olson	301-7194
16-30	Craig Helm	391-0203

The Most Wonderful (and Busiest?) Time of the Year

As we come upon the holiday season of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, it's so very easy to become single-minded in an effort to balance the barrage of work, family gatherings, present-buying, food planning, travel arranging and still deal with the everyday demands that require our attention. It can become overwhelming, and I for one have often fallen into the abyss of the holiday time crunch.

One of the neat things about being president of the congregation is that I get to attend many of the meetings that are held with the leadership and boards. I get a copy of Shepherd of the Valley's schedule of upcoming events multiple times a month. Not surprisingly, December is full of opportunities to attend events at not only our church, but with our sister congregations as well. I'm going to list a few that impact our congregation:

- November 28th: Set up Christmas tree in SOTV sanctuary @ 9:30 am
- December 5th: Martin Luther School Craft and Bake Event at Messiah from 2:00-4:00 pm
- December 5th: November/December Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- December 8th: Christmas Cantata @ Bethel 6:00 pm
- December 15th: Children's Christmas Service @ 6:00 pm
- December 19th: Youth to pack Wachter Christmas Bags @ 12:30 PM
- December 22nd: No Wednesday Service
- December 24th: Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00 pm
- December 25th: Christmas Day Service @ 9:00 am

So, did I just add to the way too busy, incredibly hectic holiday season? On the contrary. In fact, I hope you look at these activities at our church and sister churches as times to step away from the abyss, if only for an hour or so. I have never said to myself, "Wow! I regret going to church today." Compare that to the several times I've spent four or more hours on Black Friday fighting my way through the deluge of people trying to purchase some random great deal...and looking back, my regrets for those wasted hours have been real.

My hope for this holiday season is that we are able to focus on the birth of our Savior, and not just on December 25th, but for the entire season. God Bless.

Steven Reiman
President, SOTV



"MAIN STREET LIVING" MEDIA MINISTRY

DECEMBER UPDATE

"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). On December 25th, we will once again celebrate the birth of the incarnated Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the World! May we increasingly recognize, appreciate, and herald this best news of all to our neighbors and the world!

Thank you for your much-needed financial support! Checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH", 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website. God's blessing in Christ! -Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator

"MSL North" Programs for December 2021:

Dec 5th: **Rev. Matthew Meyer**, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN, presents the message: **"Jesus is coming, Hurry up and Look Busy,"** based on Luke 3:1-14. *Lutheran Television episode: "Stable Boy" - A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.*

Dec 12th: **Rev. Thomas Clark**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hankinson, ND, presents the message: **"A Country in Trouble,"** based on Zephaniah 3:14-20. *Lutheran Television Special: "Red Boots for Christmas" - A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.*

Dec 19th: **Rev. Kent Borglum**, St. John's Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: **"According to Plan,"** based on Micah 5:2-5a. *Lutheran Television Special: "Christmas Is" - The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.*

Dec 26th: **Rev. Richard Snow**, President, Nebraska District LCMS, presents this year's **"Christmas Message."** *Lutheran Television Special: "Puzzle Club Christmas" The Puzzle Club must solve a missing person mystery before Christmas.*

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally- produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally **"This Is The Life,"** along with occasional church-season specials).

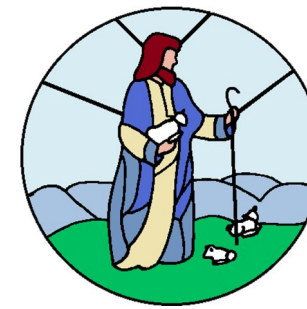
Programs are broadcast starting **at 10:00 am Central Time / 9:00 am Mountain time on WDAY XTRA Channels:**

Bismarck/Dickinson

KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Mid Co Cable Channel 594

Please check your cable and satellite providers for the corresponding channel on your system. MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on **"(Fargo)"**.

DECEMBER



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
 "A church family that shares, nurtures, and
 lives our faith in Christ"
 December, 2021 Newsletter

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm: Worship 6:00pm: Confirmation @ Bethel 7:30pm:	2	3	4
5 *8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour *10:45am: Divine Service 7:00pm: Council	6 8:15am: Circuit Winkle @ Bethel 7:30pm: Board of Youth 8:00pm: NA	7 6:00pm: Galatians Bible Study	8 6:00pm: Christmas Cantata @ Bethel	9	10	11 8:00am: Christ Care 8:30am Board of Ed
12 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour 10:45am: Divine Service	13 8:00pm: NA	14 10:00am: People Matter	15 6:00pm Worship/ Children's Christmas Program 6:00pm Confirmation @	16 6:00pm: Sun- day School Planning Meet- ing 6:30pm: MLS Christmas	17	18 8:00am: Men's Net- work @ Holy Cross
19 *8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour *10:45am: Divine Service 1:00pm: Middle School Youth	20 8:00pm: NA	21	22 No Worship Service	23	24 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Service	25 9:00am: Christmas Day Service
26 *8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour *10:45am: Divine Service 1:00pm: High School Youth	27 8:00pm: NA	28	29 6:00pm: Worship	30	31	

Y.O.L.O., Dostoevsky and the Woke

In the last several articles we have looked at Christianity and what scripture has to say about so-called "woke" ideas. In this final article I want to examine one of the underlying roots of the movement. I believe that at the heart of popular American thought there is an insidious lie. It is what fuels much of our current "woke" culture. The lie is that there is no God, and if there is no God, then there is no afterlife. This is the lonely life you get.

In his classic work, the Brothers Karamazov, Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky (who did believe in God) confronts the topic of God's existence head-on. One of the characters makes the following statement, "It's God that's worrying me. That's the only thing that's worrying me. What if He doesn't exist . . . If He doesn't exist, man is the chief of the earth, of the universe...! **Only how is he going to be good without God?** That's the question. I always come back to that. For whom is man going to love then? To whom will he be thankful?" (Dostoevsky, 541) Dostoevsky concludes that without God there is no afterlife, and without an afterlife there is no right and wrong; no morals! What are we left with?

You may remember the catch phrase Y.O.L.O. from about 10 years back. It is an acronym that means You Only Live Once. This, I would argue, is the dominant general attitude toward life! We are an agnostic culture comprised of masses who do not believe in God (or at least live as though they do not.) The logic is this: If I only get one life then I had better live the best life I can. I must live "My Best Life Now!" If there is no afterlife, then morality is irrelevant and all that matters is the answer to the following question: *What will make me happy and comfortable?* After all, Y.O.L.O.!

I think that we can see the effects of this in many of the trends in contemporary woke culture. Take the abortion issue. If a young woman becomes pregnant, it will be a major disruption to her plans and dreams. It may derail her schooling or career! If unmarried, then having a child will seriously diminish her potential future marriage options. In a culture that believes there is no morality or afterlife, why *not* have an abortion! *Her happiness is all that matters!* This is her only life, right? If this one gets messed up, there's nothing else! And how dare anyone question her right to do this horrible thing.

The same goes for any number of issues (the fragility of marriages evidenced by high divorce rates, support for same-sex marriages, transgenderism, etc.) The logic being, once again, that if this is my only life, I will live it the way I want to live it (the way that makes me happy), and how dare anyone try and tell me that I am *wrong!*

For Christians this is a very foreign way of thinking, which is why many Christians simply cannot understand woke thinking. It is approaching life from a completely alien concept of the world! We are truly aliens and pilgrims in a foreign land. As those who believe in the resurrection and life everlasting, we understand that this life will not always make us happy. In fact, it will often make us quite sad. Peter writes, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you." (1 Pet 4:12) But we have hope. We have a moral compass by which we live! We have the promises of Christ: forgiveness, life, and salvation through His sacrificial death on the cross! We know that this is not our only life! This isn't all there is! So we can say alongside the Apostle Paul: "18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Rom 8:18)

Grace and Peace to You in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Woodside