

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
“A church family that shares, nurtures, and lives our faith in Christ”
 August, 2022, Newsletter

Our Relational God

The universe, at least our corner of it, seems to be highly relational. Relationships are fundamental to human existence. We love and hate. We laugh and cry. We are WHOs, not WHATs. But how could a universe which begins with only a WHAT then produce WHOs? Again, God must be a WHO. If God is personal and relational in His essence, then there result a number of consequences.

Whenever two persons interact, there is a communication. Even without speech, there is nonetheless facial expression and body language which conveys information and relationship between the two. Even if one ignores the other, this still communicates (nonacquaintance or even disdain.) Communication is essential to relationships. If God exists, and is a WHO, then communication is unavoidable. Even if we were deists, who believe that God created the world, wound it up, and left it like a pocket watch to run on its own, one cannot escape communication. For even if God ignored us this would still communicate, at best, apathy.

I must conclude that the Creator has indeed communicated with His creation, whether positively or negatively. But why create relational creatures only to abandon them? Is He just a cruel God? But I deny this as well, for a cruel God would not have designed the beauties of the world and given us eyes to see them and minds to admire them. He would not have made delicious foods and given us tongues to taste them. He would not have created a universe in which music can be composed and enjoyed. Why would a cruel God give us these wonderful things? Why would He create us to seek after meaning and truth, only to withhold the possibility of finding it? Would He then abandon them?

Rather, it seems reasonable to assume that relational beings were created by a relational God who intends to have a relationship with them. The problem is that it seems quite apparent that humanity does not appear to have any observable relationship with God (at least, not as a whole.) If God is relational, and created us to be likewise, how can anyone doubt His existence? Why do people disbelieve? It would seem that, either the deists are correct, and God is impersonal or apathetic, or something else has occurred. Something has severed the relationship. We call this the fall of man, and it will be covered in next month’s article.

Pastor Woodside

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00pm Bible Study	6:00pm Worship (Zellers)			
7 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Dedication Ceremony 10:45am:	8	9 6:00pm Bible Study	10 9:00am United Way Day of Caring 6:00pm Worship (Marcis)	11	12	13
14 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour 10:45am: Divine Service	15	16 6:00pm Bible Study	17 6:00pm Worship (Walla) 7:00pm Confirmation Orientation @	18 6:00pm Sunday School Meeting	19	20
21 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour 10:45am:	22	23 6:00pm Bible Study	24 6:00pm Worship (Zellers)	25	26 10:00am LCMS ND District Board of Directors @ Messiah	27 9:00am Confirmation Retreat
28 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Ed. Hour 10:45am: Divine Service 7:00pm	29	30 6:00pm Bible Study	31 6:00pm Worship (Wolfgram)			

August 3 Zellers
 August 10 Marcis
 August 17 Walla
 August 24 Zellers
 August 31 Wolfgram



“MAIN STREET LIVING” MEDIA MINISTRY

AUGUST UPDATE

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction” 2 Timothy 4:2 What a tremendously important directive for all times, and even the more-so in these days when the pressure is increasing to change and/or to totally disregard what God has revealed regarding the sanctity of human life

and His creation of male and female in the image of God!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS “Main Street Living” media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at www.mainstreetliving.com – then click on the link under the picture identified as **“Fargo.”**

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 August 2022:

August 7: Rev. Matthew Tooman, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wahpeton, ND, presents the message: **“Myopia Gives Way to Faith in Jesus”** based on Luke 12:22-40. *This Is The Life” program: “No Laughing Matter” - A woman must learn to deal with her past in order to help someone else in her present.*

August 14: Rev. Daniel Larsen, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Henning, MN, presents the message: **“Heresy”** based on Jeremiah 23:16-29. *This Is The Life” program: “My Husband, My Sorrow” - A man and woman must deal with whether they should consummate an adulterous affair.*

August 21: Rev. Christopher Brademeyer, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Oakes, ND, presents the message: **“The Offices Christ Bestows”** based on I Corinthians 12:1-11. *“This Is The Life” program: “The Cup” - The dilemma a trucker must face when a good friend dies trying to protect him.*

August 28: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: **“Angels Unaware”** based on Hebrews 13:1-2. *“This Is The Life” program: “Stranger at the Door” - Having given up a baby for adoption 22 years before, a man shows up on her steps saying he is looking for his mother.*

“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** on the following **WDAY XTRA Channels:** Bismarck/Dickinson KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Midco 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)”**.

Ken Koehler, Volunteer Coordinator for MSL North



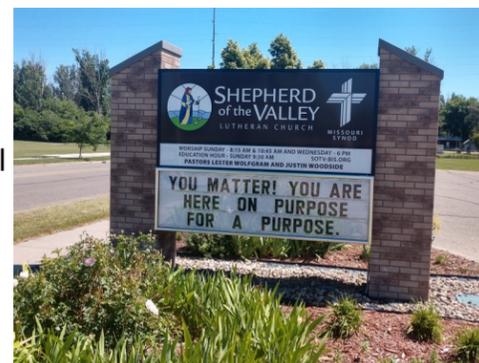
Orientation for students in grade 6-8 Catechism Instruction will take place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, August 17th. Parents and students are asked to attend this important meeting at Shepherd of the Valley. The Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, August 27.

Tuesday Night Bible Study continues at 6:00 PM at Shepherd of the Valley. Come on out and see what Pastor Woodside is teaching this week! You will grow in knowledge of God’s Word and in relationship with the Lord Jesus and with other Christians.

Study ^{the} Bible with us



On Sunday, August 7, we will dedicate the church sign as well as the memorial bench given in memory of Roger and Darline Bourn by their children. We will have the dedication ceremony for both of these at 9:30 am. Please join us for the dedication ceremony followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment.



The third quarter focus for human care offering is Ministry On The Margins. One percent of our congregation offerings will go to support them along with specified gifts.





Birthday Blessings

Lily D
Heather Z
Kurt H
Lyn K
Eliot R
Marion R
Andrea P
Leslie W
Brandy P
Molly F
Cindi B
Andrew K
Shelia K
Eldon U
Don B
Carla U
Doris L
Bernice R
Sophie B
Sherry H
Wayne D

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Don B 8/1
Amy S 8/2
Casey M 8/8
Daisy A 8/10
Jacob F 8/11
Reese D 8/17
Marilyn S 8/17
Gabriel L 8/21
Curt K 8/28
Dax L 8/30
Eliot R 8/30



Joy & Wayne D 08/04
Pat & Doug H 08/07
Michelle & Justin D 08/10
Laura & Bill P 08/13
Sara & Mike N 08/30
Julie & Roger L 08/31
Jean & Jim L 08/31

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY and BETHEL YOUTH EVENT

One of things we are called to do as Christians is to serve our neighbor! For this reason we have signed up for this year's United Way Day of Sharing.

WHEN and WHERE:

1. We will be meeting WED Aug 10 at the YMCA in Bismarck at 7:30 AM to give you a t-shirts for the event. There is going to be food there for breakfast.
2. Then we will go the detention center on 4000 Apple Creek Road in Bismarck for our project.

WHAT: We will be walking the outside of the grounds picking up any litter that we see. Latex free gloves will be provided for everyone, but if you want to bring something else that is no problem. I have all the trash bags we need.

HOW LONG: Last year this project took about 3 to 4 hours. We should be finished around lunchtime.

This is a great opportunity to reach out to our community and share the love of Christ with our neighbors!

RSVP to Pastor Woodside



August 2022

1-15 Martin Bjergaard

16-31 Ken Purdy



Aug 7	Shaylee C. Daisy A.	815am 1045am
Aug 14	Jensen H. Gavin V.	815am 1045am
Aug 21	Jason C. Hudson H.	815am 1045am
Aug 28	Keaton H. Abby Z.	815am 1045am



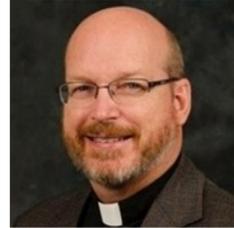


Love Abounds is the theme for the Family Convocation scheduled October 21 and 22 in Bismarck. *Love Abounds* will take place during the same weekend as the LCMS ND District Middle School Gathering at the Ramada Inn, Bismarck. The theme verse is from 1 John 3:18 “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from across North Dakota for this encouraging and inspiring **free** conference for encouragement and to gain insights regarding Christ-centered resources to cope with the struggles of daily life in a sin-filled world. Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, Director of Witness & Outreach and Revitalization for the LCMS, Rev. Max Phillips, executive director of Lutheran Family Service, Iowa, and Toni Larson, Director of Church Worker Wellness with Lutheran Family Services will be our presenters at Bethel Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 22nd. Refreshments and lunch will also be served on Saturday. Comfort Dog Gideon will also be present for the event. Go to <http://www.nodaklcms.org/blog/love-abounds> for more information and to register or scan the QR code on your phone.

Accommodations: LaQuinta Inn and Suites 2240 12th Street, Bismarck. (701)751-3313 Room block available until 10:7 CODE: ND District Lutheran Church. OR Ramada Inn 1400 E Interchange Ave. 701-258-7000.



Rev. Max Phillips



Rev. Mark Wood



Toni Larson

Positions available at Martin Luther School for the upcoming school year:

We would love to add to our Martin Luther School family!!

Teacher's aide in the M-F full-day preschool. Experience with preschool students preferred, but not required. Enjoy time with the "littles," as well as excellent teaching staff in a welcoming, Christ-centered atmosphere! Pay \$12/hour.

Bus Driver to help transport our students to PE to Bismarck Baptist Church in the afternoon 3-4 afternoons a week. Pay \$16.00

Morning ABC Care child caregiver

7:15-8:00. M-F Duties include supervising students as they arrive to school prior to the official school day.

Afternoon ABC Care Child Caregiver

3:15-5:15 Duties include supervising and engaging with preschool and elementary school students in our after school program. This is a GREAT after school job for a high school or college student looking for experience with students. Pay \$12/ hour. Flexibility can be taken into consideration is available with scheduling for the ABC care positions

The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.