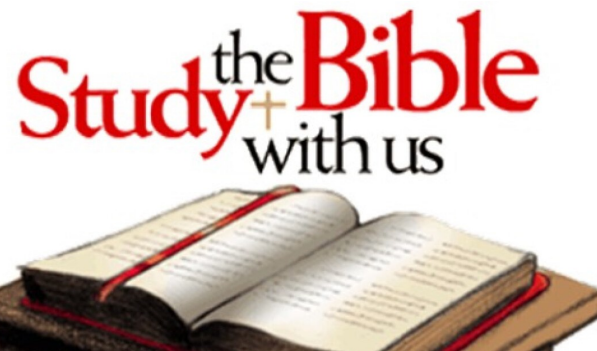


Special Voters Meeting

A special voters meeting will take place on September 25 during the education hour to select our lay representative for the Southwest Circuit Forum. The purpose of the forum is to elect the pastoral and lay delegates from our circuit to the LCMS Convention in Milwaukee in July 2023. The convocation will take place on October 15.



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.



Men's Network

Shepherd of the Valley will host the September Men's Network on Saturday, September 17 at 8:00 am. Join us for Bible Study, breakfast, and fellowship.



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.



Main Street Living North

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

WHAT AN IMPORTANT THING it is that we may sometimes take for granted! I am referring to the study, prayer, effort, and time that our pastors put in week after week (and several times a week during certain times of the church year) to craft a sermon message for us! As I

prepare these monthly newsletter articles, I see the various sermon titles listed by the pastors. This causes me to anticipate what the message will be; but should also cause us all to remember to continually lift our pastors up in prayer, with thanksgiving!

Thank you for your 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 September 2022:

September 4: Rev. Karl Webber, St. John Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: **"Consider the Cost"** based on Luke 14:25-35. *This Is The Life* program: **"The Fathering Kind"** - The story of a single father who is down and out trying to raise a son alone.

September 11: Rev. Clark Jahnke, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo, ND, presents the message: **"Behind Enemy Lines"** based on Psalm 119:169-176. *This Is The Life* program: **"A Nice Girl Like You"** - A widowed pastor dates a middle aged single woman in his parish, but when she professes her love he tells her he cannot return it.

September 18: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: **"Like Father, Like Son"**. *This Is The Life* program: **"But Not For Lunch"** - A man has difficulty adjusting to retirement until he turns his time over to the Lord.

September 25: Rev. David Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: **"Rich in Good Works?"** based on 1 Timothy 6:17-19. *This Is The Life* program: **"Candidate for Father"** - A unwed daughter is not forgiven by her candidate for city council father.

"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 the following WDAY XTRA Channel: Bismarck KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Midco Channel 594

MSLN programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on **"(Fargo)"**.



Birthday Blessings

Steven R	9/2
Emma V	9/2
Kim J	9/3
David A	9/4
Leland M	9/9
Ann W	9/26
Jeremy G	9/27
Adam V	9/28
James B	9/28
Jensen H	9/30



Marion R	9/6
Wayne D	9/7
Heather D	9/15
Mikayla Z	9/16
Sheila K	9/20
Sherry H	9/25
Bernice R	9/25

Sept 4	Olivia D. David A.	815am 1045am
Sept 11	Daisy A. Shaylee C.	815am 1045am
Sept 18	Gavin V. Jensen H.	815am 1045am
Sept 25	Hudson H. Jason C.	815am 1045am



Joe & Sheila K	09/07
Mike & Kari K	09/14
Adam & Sonja D	09/15
Todd & Sharon S	09/20
Walter & Bernice R	09/21
Craig & Cindy H	09/25
Ted & LaRae K	09/28
Michael & Dori N	09/29



September 2022

1-15 Kevin O./Ken P.

16-31 Craig H



BETTER WINGS FOR A BETTER SCHOOL

Wings& Rings—Skyline Crossing next to North Walmart is a proud supporter of the local community. Come support Martin Luther School by coming in on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 and when you show this flyer, we will donate 25% of your check back to Martin Luther School

WHEN: Tuesday, September 20th 2022 from 11am-10pm

WHERE: Wings & Rings Skyline Crossing (next to North Walmart)

4424 N 15th Street Bismarck 222-4297



Take Heart In Your Grief Take Heart In Your Grief

Shepherd Of The Valley Lutheran Church

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Whether you are mourning the death of a loved one who died several years ago or the more recent loss of a family member, you are invited to *Take Heart In Your Grief*. Sessions will take place on six Sunday evenings at Shepherd of the Valley from 6:30-8:00 PM beginning October 2. *Take Heart In Your Grief* will give you the opportunity to connect with others who share your experience even as you are given hope in Christ. Pastor Marcis and Pastor Wolfgram will lead the discussion based on the booklet, *Take Heart In Your Grief*, authored by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann. Contact Pastor Wolfgram at 701-400-0646 or pastor.wolfgram@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to attend.





The *Love Abounds* Family Convocation is fast approaching. The event is scheduled October 21 and 22 in Bismarck. There will be activities for everyone in the family! *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.

Events on Friday, October 21 include packing meals for Mercy Meals at the Middle School Gathering, an opening worship service with Rev. Max Phillips preaching, and a service project with youth. These events take place at the Ramada in Bismarck. Saturday events take place at Bethel Lutheran Church.

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.

A youth track will include time spent with Comfort Dog Gideon and a special session on coping with trauma and stress for youth with Toni Larson of Lutheran Family Services. Refreshments and lunch will also be served on Saturday. Child care is available upon request for younger children. 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 October 7. CODE: ND District Lutheran Church. OR Ramada Inn 1400 E Interchange Ave. 701-258-7000.

What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

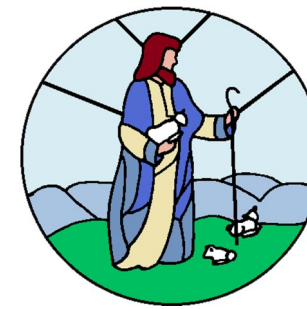
How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into the God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

SEPTEMBER



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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Divine Service	5	6 3:15pm: Stewardship 6:00pm Bible Study	7 6:00pm Worship	8 11:00am: University of Mary Community Fair 7:30pm:	9	10 8:30am: Board of Education
11 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Rally Day 10:45am:	12 9:00am: SW Circuit Pastors Conference @ Messiah	13 4:15pm: Human Care Committee 6:00pm Bible Study	14 6:00pm Worship	15	16	17 8:00am: Men's Network @ Shepherd
18 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Divine Service 1:00pm: Middle School	19	20 6:00pm Bible Study	21 6:00pm Worship	22 7:30pm: Elders	23	24
25 8:15am: Divine Service 9:30am: Education Hour 10:45am: Divine Service 1:00pm: Senior High Youth @ Shepherd	26	27 6:00pm Bible Study	28 6:00pm Worship	29	30	

Consequences of the Fall

In spite of the fact that God made everything very good in Genesis 1, things do not seem to be very good anymore. This is because of the fall of mankind into sin, a topic we will look at more next month. But for today I want to examine two consequences of that fall.

First Consequence

What is the cause of any broken relationship? I suppose we might want to consider what a relationship actually is, and what constitutes a *good* relationship. To begin with, human beings seem to be hardwired for relationships. There seems to be no reason why our relationships with others *couldn't* be harmonious, and yet they clearly are not. I can imagine a world in which everyone gets along. I can, as John Lennon wrote, *"imagine all the people sharing all the world."* I can *imagine* it. I can conceive it, but it does not seem to actually exist in *reality*.

Who is to blame? Is it other people? Is it always the *other guy*? We often tend to blame others for the problems in the world. *"Perhaps if everyone were just as I am, there would be harmony."* Upon trying this thought experiment one would no doubt quickly discover that each of us has internal tendencies that, if applied to everyone, would lead to broken relationships. It turns out not to be the big things that ruin society, leading to violence and war. Those are only symptoms of a deeper condition in each one of us. We say *"nobody's perfect"* and that is true. But even if each of us only had one seemingly innocent flaw (and I know I've got more than one!), being otherwise perfect, that tiny imperfection, multiplied by billions of people across the world, adds up to a lot of imperfections.

And yet, I can imagine perfection. Why can I not be that kind of person?

Second Consequence

Why do we get older? At conception we begin to develop. We grow and mature as our coded DNA somehow maps out that development, bringing order out of chaos. But then, at some point in our lives, something happens. We begin to fall apart. That orderliness becomes disorderly, and reverts back to chaos. Why does this happen? What switch was flipped to begin this reversal? Everything wears down, going from orderliness to disorder. But it seems as though it shouldn't *have* to be that way.

It seems as though something is broken. Whenever tragedy strikes, whether it be a natural disaster or a man-made one, people are almost always drawn to ask the question *"Why?"* But these things happen all the time! Death happens all the time. Go to a crowded place and look around. In 100 years, every single person you see around you now will be dead and gone. In just 100 years, billions of people will die. Billions! It is commonplace. And yet, when it happens to us we ask *"Why?"* as though something *unnatural* has happened. Why do we treat death as unnatural when we know that it is going to happen to *every one of us*? Death is fair! It does not favor the rich and famous any more than the poor and destitute. Yet we treat it as unfair.

Perhaps the reason we think it so unfair is because it is, after all, *unnatural* to die! Why do we die? Why do our bodies wear down. I think it is because something is broken. Something important about the fabric of existence has been broken. But what is broken and who broke it?

It is certain that something is broken; that sin is here; that we have fallen. We need someone to come and fix it. We need a Savior. It is clear that we need Jesus.

-Pastor Woodside