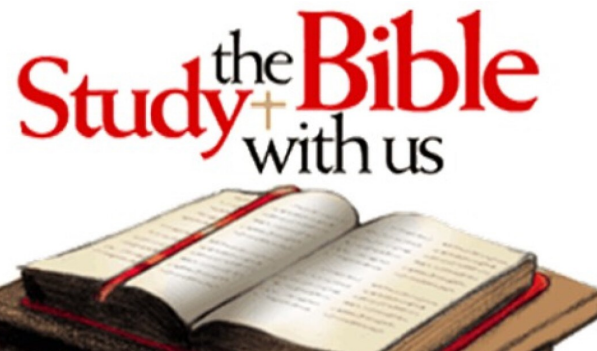




**ELECTION DAY WILL SOON BE HERE**, and because God has established Civil Government for the good of our fallen world (see Romans 13), it is very important that we as Christians actively participate in the structure of government under which we live. We are therefore to work for laws, and to elect civil representatives that will best represent God's revealed will and the good of our neighbor. While there are hundreds of issues to consider, let us remember that a person needs to be alive in order to enjoy any of the

benefits of civil government's laws and provisions. Therefore, the sanctity of human life naturally rises to the top of issues – both from a biblical view, and as declared in the Declaration of Independence, which rightly lists "life" first among the unalienable rights endowed by our Creator! We therefore have a high responsibility to know the positions held by the various candidates for civil government before we vote. Let us do our homework carefully.

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

Bethel Lutheran Church will host the September Men's Network on Saturday, October 15th at 8:00 am. Join us for Bible Study, breakfast, and fellowship.



The human care focus for the fourth quarter will be the Joint Seminary Fund. Support students attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO as they are formed and shaped to serve the Lord as pastors and deaconesses in Christ's Church. One percent of our offerings during the fourth quarter will go to support the Joint Seminary Fund.



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 October 2022:

**October 2:** Rev. Brett Hartwig, Trinity Lutheran Church, Sabin, MN, presents the message: **"Increase Our Faith"** based on Luke 17:1-10. *This Is The Life* program: **"The Sound of Closing Doors"** – A man in mid-life crisis and the effect it has on his family.

**October 9:** Rev. Rick Jones, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Minot, ND, presents the message: **"Word Unbound, Life Unbroken"** based on 2 Timothy 2:1-13. *This Is The Life* program: "Oct 9, 2022 - **"Tina"** - Two lonely people, a woman and a child, come together through Jesus.

**October 16:** Rev. Arie Bertsch, ND District President, presents the message: **"God Listens to You"** based on Luke 18:1-8. *This Is The Life* program: **"Look to the Mountain"** - A hopeless situation becomes more hopeless when a down and out man kidnaps a young girl for ransom money.

**October 23:** Rev. Brian Dole, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, presents the message: (to be announced) based on Luke 18:9-17. *This Is The Life* program: **"Home Free"** - A family learns the real meaning of love, and that it comes free.

**October 30:** Rev. Mark Moss, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, presents a Reformation message: **"Hang in there baby!"** based on John 8:31-36. *This Is The Life* program: **"The Sexton"** - A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church.

Programs are broadcast starting **at 10:00 am Central Time** on KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Midco Ch 594

# Birthday Blessings

Oct 2	Abby Z.	815am
	Keaton H.	1045am
Oct 9	David A.	815am
	Olivia D.	1045am
Oct 16	Daisy A.	815am
	Jensen H.	1045am
Oct 23	Gavin V.	815am
	Jason C.	1045am
Oct 30	Hudson H.	815am
	Abby Z.	1045am



Andrew K	10/1
Olivia D	10/4
Brianna A	10/6
Brittany M	10/7
David A	10/11
Sharon S	10/14
Lyn K	10/16
Deb B	10/21
Carol M	10/29



Don & Pat B	10/07
Brent & Lyric P	10/10
John & Connie H	10/13
Dan & Linda H	10/20



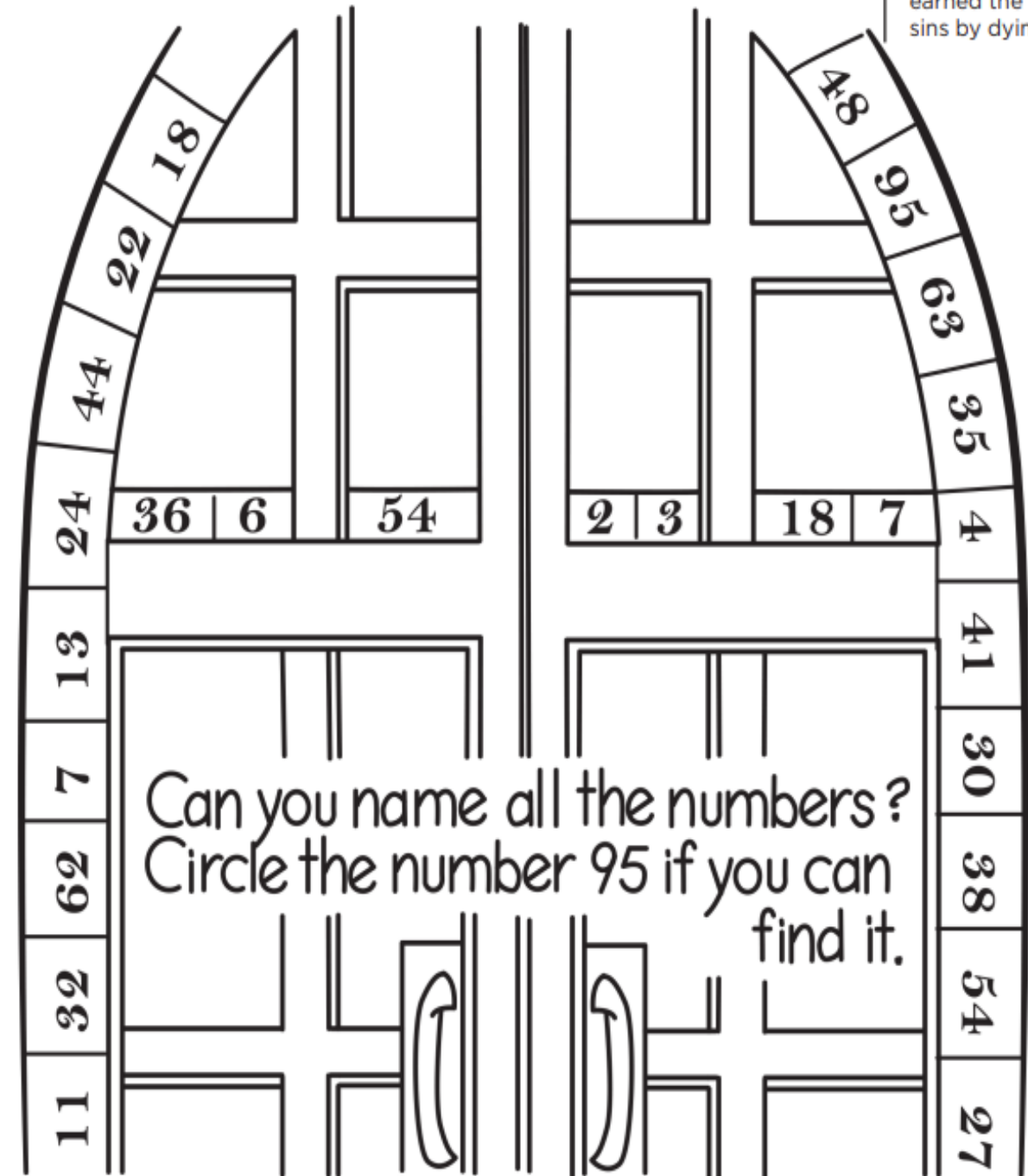
## October 2022

**1-15 Lee R**

## 16-31 Dick D

Nn Ninety-five

Ninety-five is a pretty big number! On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 sentences on the church door for everyone to read. These sentences were about things the church was doing wrong. Luther wanted everyone to know the truth. Because Luther studied the Bible, he came to learn that Jesus earned the forgiveness for sins by dying on the cross.



**“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).**



## October Sunday Morning Bible Study Hour:

**Sunday, October 2nd** : “A Seminary and Synod in Crisis Part One”: We look back to the turbulent late 1960’s and 1970’s in our church’s history at events that lead up to the walkout of 45 Seminary Professors and most of the students in 1974 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. What was the catalyst for this event? What meaning does it have for us as the church today? We take a close look at Biblical Inerrancy versus Historical Criticism/Gospel Reductionism.

**Sunday, October 9th** : “A Seminary and Synod in Crisis Part Two”: In the second part of our study, we look at the events of the Seminary Walkout and the Synodical Constitutional Crisis which began after. We will also explore groups like ELIM and the AELC. We will take a close look at Biblical Conflict Resolution and Forgiveness.

**Sunday, October 16th** : “All these Lutherans in America”: Where did they come from where did they go? We will go through some the major Lutheran church bodies in the USA/Canada from LCMS, WELS, ELS, ELCA, LCMC, AFLC, AALC, CLC, and Lutheran Brethren. What are the differences? Why can’t we all get along? We will also look at the Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms.

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Toni Larson, Director of Church Worker Wellness with Lutheran Family Service in Iowa, will lead a discussion about the work of Lutheran Family Service and her care for church workers.

**Sunday, October 30th** : “The Lutheran Reformation in a Secular Society”: We look back to the events of 1517 and the years following. In the words of Martin Luther “What does this Mean?” We will explore the Doctrine of Justification, a brief look at the Sacraments, the 5 SOLAs.

***Love Abounds*** is almost here! The family convocation takes place Friday and Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bismarck. Friday activities will take place at the Ramada Inn and include packing Mercy Meals in the afternoon and a worship service and Bear making service project with youth attending the LCMS ND District Middle School Gathering. Rev. Max Phillips, director of Lutheran Family Service in Iowa, will preach at the 7:00 pm worship service at the Ramada. All events on Saturday take place at Bethel Lutheran Church and begin at 8:00 am with registration and includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. You’ll meet Comfort Dog Gideon, hear from representatives from Lutheran Family Services and Rev. Mark Wood with the LCMS Office of National Mission. The youth track on Saturday includes Comfort Dog Gideon, Toni Larson from Lutheran Family Services as she addresses coping with trauma for youth, and Deaconess Kelly Bristow from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot. You’ll enjoy spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ from LCMS congregations across North Dakota as you share joys and concerns and encourage one another in your faith walk with the Lord Jesus. “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Go to <http://www.nodaklcms.org/blog/love-abounds> for more information and to register or scan the QR code on your phone.



## “We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Irony, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

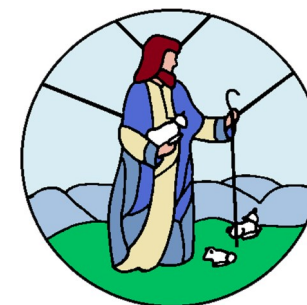
If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.



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

Sun	M	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>9:30am:</b>
2 <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Education Hour <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>6:30pm:</b> Take Heart in your Greif	3	4	5 <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Catechism Instruction @	6 <b>7:30pm:</b> Trustees	7	8 <b>8:30am:</b> Board of Education
9 <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Education Hour <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>6:30pm:</b> Take Heart in your Greif	10	11 <b>6:00pm</b> Bible Study	12 <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Catechism Instruction @	13 <b>10:00am:</b> People Matter	14	15 <b>8:00am:</b> Men's Network <b>4:30pm:</b> Young Adult Hangout
16 <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Education Hour <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>12:00pm:</b> Middle School Youth	17	18 <b>6:00pm</b> Bible Study	19 <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Catechism Instruction @	20 Middle School Youth Gathering	21	22 <b>5:00pm:</b> Family Convocation
23 <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Education Hour <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service <b>12:00pm:</b> Senior High Youth <b>6:30pm:</b> Take Heart in your Greif	24	25 <b>6:00pm</b> Bible Study	26 <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship <b>6:00pm:</b> Catechism Instruction @ Bethel	27	28	29
30 <b>8:15am:</b> Divine Service <b>9:30am:</b> Education Hour <b>10:45am:</b> Divine Service	31					

**A Problem and a Divine Solution**

In last month's article we considered the idea that the world is, in fact, broken. It seems as though we can imagine a perfect world, but we cannot seem to actually pull it off. Death just *feels* unnatural. It seems as though we should be able to live on forever, but we do not. In fact, everything wears down and falls apart. The Christian answer is that we broke it when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. This is how and when it happened.

Now someone might try and claim that there is no dilemma; that there is no problem begging to be solved. Maybe I have just concocted a false dilemma and now I am trying to trick you into looking for a solution. "The world is not broken" they say. "This is nature. It's just how things are and always have been! Death is natural! War and disease and poverty are just the way the of the world!" But then you've got to wonder, if the world is *not* broken, why are we constantly *trying* so hard to fix it? Why do we *try* so hard to "be good people"? Why do we *try* to build a Utopia (think Democracy, Republics, Socialism, Fascism)? And why do they never quite work? Why do we *try* so hard to reverse aging; to hide it behind make-up and cosmetic surgery? Why do we *try* and postpone death? If we believe nothing is broken, why do we try and fix it? If the world is supposed to be this way, why do we even care?

If one acknowledges that there is a problem, what then? The reader might consider the question of whether or not he or she believes that the creator has spoken to humanity, and if so, when? What record do we have in the archives of human learning that has stood the test of time over millennia which claims to be direct communication from the divine?

There are, in the end, not many. There is the Baghavad Gita, the Koran (which is relatively recent), ancient mythologies (Homer, the Odyssey), and the Hebrew scriptures. My purpose in these musings is not to analyze each of these, but rather to suggest that the Hebrew scriptures are the only one that actually nails down and provides an answer to this dilemma of the brokenness of the world. Regardless of what one thinks about that answer, one will try in vain to find another viable origin of this dilemma (and if one points out the Greek Pandora, you'll find that it bears a striking resemblance to the explanation for evil found in Genesis.)

The point being that, if God has spoken, the ancient Christian writings do actually propose an answer to the problem that just happens to coincide with the brokenness problem outlined in these meditations. Not only that, but the scriptures also provide a solution to that problem: God incarnate! Indeed, the only way to fix the universe was for God Himself to take on human flesh and submit to death. When Jesus died, it is theologically accurate to say that God died. This death is far more unnatural than the death of any other person. In fact, it should be impossible! But yes, God did the impossible to save the world; to save you; to save me.

Pastor Woodside