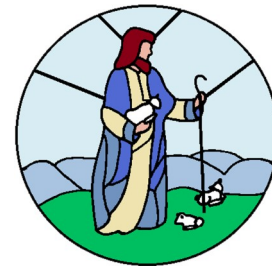


May 2023



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

May 2023, Newsletter

Tiny Deviations - Part II: Adding to the Gospel

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2 <u>No Bible Study</u>	3	4 <u>7:30pm:</u> Trustees	5	6
	<—ND Pastoral Conference—>					
7 <u>8:15am:</u> Divine Service Confirmation <u>9:30am:</u> Education Hour <u>10:45am:</u> Divine Service <u>3:00pm:</u> MVCO	8	9 <u>4:00pm:</u> Evangelism <u>4:30pm:</u> Human Care <u>5:30pm:</u> Stewardship <u>6:00pm:</u> Bible Study	10 <u>6:00pm:</u> Worship	11	12	13 <u>8:30am:</u> Board of Education <u>11:00am:</u> Community Carnival
14 <u>8:15am:</u> Divine Service <u>9:30am:</u> Education Hour <u>10:45am:</u> Divine Service Sunday School Leads Service	15	16 <u>6:00pm:</u> Bible Study	17 <u>6:00pm:</u> Worship	18	19	20 <u>8:00am:</u> Men's Network <u>4:30pm:</u> Hangout
21 <u>8:15am:</u> Divine Service <u>9:30am:</u> Education Hour <u>10:45am:</u> Divine Service <u>1:00pm:</u> Middle School Youth	22	23 <u>6:00pm:</u> Bible Study	24 <u>5:30pm:</u> Hayden Rensner <u>6:00pm:</u> Worship	25	26	27
28 <u>8:15am:</u> Divine Service <u>9:30am:</u> Education Hour <u>10:45am:</u> Divine Service <u>1:00pm:</u> Senior High Youth	29	30 <u>6:00pm:</u> Bible Study	31 <u>6:00pm:</u> Worship			

Last month I introduced the topic of tiny deviations from the truth; that even a small error in doctrine can lead to major consequences later on. This is most readily seen when people violate the truth that salvation is through faith in Christ alone (+/- nothing) and that knowledge about God and salvation comes from scripture alone (+/- nothing.) Adding or subtracting the tiniest thing to/from Christ and scripture is like a 1 degree error in a rocket launch to the moon. It may appear like "only a degree", but you will miss the moon entirely!

Back in new testament times, the church in Galatia had fallen for a tiny deviation from the truth. The Apostle Paul was so distressed that he wrote the entire Epistle to the Galatians in order to undo this false teaching.

What was the deviation? False teachers were coming into the Galatian church and telling the Gentile Christians that in order to be Christians, the males had to be circumcised! This was tricky, because in the Old Testament, God does command the Israelites to be circumcised! So what's the problem?

The problem is that they were adding to the gospel! Paul writes in Romans, "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Rom 3:28, ESV) To say that one must be circumcised is to add a work of the law to the gospel, as though Christ's death were not sufficient; as though when He said, "It is Finished!" from the cross, what He actually meant was, "It is finished, except all males must be circumcised!"

Paul is so adamant about this that he tells the Galatians: Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified[a] by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (Gal 5:2-6, ESV)

Why is he so adamant? It's ONLY circumcision. It's a tiny deviation. What's the big deal? He is adamant because once you add anything to the gospel it is no longer gospel. Once you add one thing, more will follow. All that matters is Christ and Christ alone. This why he writes

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness[c] were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. (Gal 2:21, ESV)

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Woodside

Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation will take place on May 7 at the 8:15 Divine Service. Candidates for the Rite of Confirmation include: Shaylee Cameron, Jensen Hintz, and Gavin Vannett. We pray God's rich blessing upon these students as they confirm the faith into which they were baptized.

We are seeking volunteers to help host our Shepherd booth at the Community Carnival as well as volunteers willing to help with registration. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



Beginning on Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, Shepherd of the Valley will transition to one Sunday morning service at 9:00 am. Education Hour will begin at 10:15 am.

Men's Network for May will take place at Messiah Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 20th, beginning at 8:00 am.



The Spring Voters' Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21st between services from 9:30-10:30. This will be our election voters' meeting where we will select leaders for the coming year. Please join us!



"If you or someone you know is in need of Christ-centered individual, marriage, or family counseling, please consider reaching out to Lutheran Family Service for help. You can contact them by calling 515-573-3138 or email LFS at info@lutheranfamilyservice.org/contact. And remember, all things are possible with God."

Missionary Update and Presentation

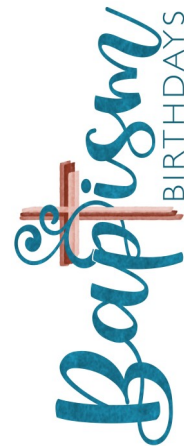
Hayden Rensner has been serving God's people in Poland during the past year. She has been selected to serve as a full-time missionary. She will be with us at Shepherd on Wednesday, May 24. We will have a light supper at 5:15 followed by a service and presentation as Hayden reports on her experiences and tells us about her plans to serve the Lord in the future.

"Does the snow have you looking forward to warmer, sunnier days? Then mark your calendars for **June 6-8, 2023** for Shepherd of the Valley's Vacation Bible school "God's Living Water."



Happy Birthday!

Pat Bitz
Rebecca Reiman
Cameron Dever
Lyla Dockter
Margaret Ensz
Laith Hintz
Michelle Dever
Bridget Roll
Dane Wolfgram
Becky Gildea
Kevin Brockel
Madison Gildea
MacKenzie Gildea
Julia Dever
Sara Nelson
Melvin Sutheimer
Lydia Hauf
Terry Urness



Andrew Wolfgram	5/5
Cindy Olson	5/7
Brad Nottestad	5/10
Norman Mohl	5/11
Kevin Olson	5/15
Rebecca Reiman	5/16
Marion Meske	5/17
Hunter Peterson	5/17
Sherrald Kostek	5/18
Lowell Fahrni	5/20
Don Gienger	5/22
Eldon Unrath	5/25
Leon Lippert	5/31

May 7	Abby Z. Olivia D.	815am 1045am
May 14	Hudson H. David A.	815am 1045am
May 21	Sam N. Keaton H.	815am 1045am
May 28	Madison G.	900am



May 2023

1-15 Lee Roath

16-31 Dick Dever



MAIN STREET LIVING

“Mass shootings, floods and other natural disasters, a decaying moral culture – these are evidences of the fallen creation *“groaning in travel”* all around us!” These are the same words I used four years ago for the introduction to that month’s MSLN article - and they continue and even accelerate today. And yet, those whose trust is in Jesus can live with a *“peace that passes all understanding”* and a sure hope in

the sure promise of the resurrection! This is the message broadcast weekly by our MSL Media Ministry.

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**”. Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as weekly *This Is the Life* programs, are also available for viewing on the website.

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 May 2023:

May 7: Rev. Ronald Hobbie, Zion & St. John Lutheran Churches, Ada, MN, presents the message: “**The Way**” based on John 14:6. *This Is the Life* program: “**Break up**” - A divorced couple struggles with direction in their lives after meeting again.

May 14: Rev. Brian Shane, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “**The Unknown God**” based on Acts 17:16-31. *This Is the Life* program: “**Alibi**” - A father tries to reconnect with his estranged son after the death of his mother.

May 21: Rev. Kirk Lee, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, ND, presents the message: “**Under the Mighty Hand of God**” based on I Peter 5:6-11. “*This Is the Life*” program: “**No Place to Hide**” - A pastor, who has to face the death of his wife, cannot find comfort.

May 28: Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President of the North Wisconsin District LCMS, presents a Pentecost Sunday message. Visit www.mainstreetliving.com for more information. “*This Is the Life*” program: “**The Main Event**” - A boxer who is hit by a car becomes embittered until he meets a cheerful 8-year old girl.

“**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).

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



**SHEPHERD'S HILL
AT THE
CROSSROADS**
ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA

Camps, Retreats,
Camping, Cabin Rentals
and Outdoor Adventures.

AND THE ROCK WAS CHRIST SUMMER 2023

1 Corinthians 10:4
and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Campers at each of our summer camps will enjoy God’s wonderful creation through outdoor activities, including swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boats, softball, volleyball, and hiking. Horse-back lead rides and trail rides are available for an additional charge.

Kinder Camp I June 18-19 \$135

Discovery Camp I June 18-20 \$175

Wrangler Week June 18-23 \$200

Kids Camp June 25-29 \$305

Beginner Horse I June 25-30 \$445

Adventure Camp I June 25-30 \$335

Backpacking weekend June 30-July 2

\$175/camper and parent team

Kinder Camp II July 5-6 \$135

Discovery Camp II July 5-7 \$175

Fishing for Memories July 9-14 \$335

Beginner Horse II July 9-14 \$445

Adventure Camp II July 9-14 \$335

Jr. High Encounter Camp July 9-14 \$335

Craftsmanship Camp July 16-21 \$355

Saddle Club July 16-21 \$445

Expedition Camp July 16-21 \$335

Advanced Horse July 23-28 \$445

High School Encounter Camp July 23-28 \$335

502 Shepherd's Hill Drive, St. John, ND 58369
701.389.9033 | 701.244.5225 | SHRetreat.org
facebook.com/shretreat | director@shretreat.org