

Board of Lay Ministry

After five years as Chairman of the Board of Lay Ministry, it was time for a change. Lee Roath graciously accepted the nomination as Chairman and was voted in by the Board. Craig Helm has agreed to stay in his role as Vice-Chair. I will continue as an Elder and have found that serving the Lord is difficult to retire from.

I would like to thank all the Elders (Ken Purdy, Craig Helm, Martin Bjergaard, Dick Dever, Rob Burkhardtmeier and Lee Roath) for all their help and support over the years. Pastor Wolfgram and Pastor Woodside deserve a special thank you for their work and dedication to the Shepherd of the Valley ministry, which makes the job of Elder a rewarding one.

Serving as Chairman of the Board of Lay Ministry also includes being a member of the Church Council. This was a great opportunity to learn how the Church Council operates. The Council is made up of the Chair and Vice Chair of each of the elected boards, along with the Past President, President, Vice President and Treasurer. It was rewarding serving on the Council, as everyone is truly dedicated in their service to the Lord and His Church.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the entire Congregation for your patience and love for the Lord that makes SOTV a caring place to worship the Triune God with abounding faith in His Word.

During COVID, the Leadership team met regularly and had to make some difficult decisions. It was our primary concern to ensure the safety of the congregation during this challenging time. Consequently, we had to make a very difficult decision to temporarily cancel in person services, with the ultimate goal of getting people back to church as soon as possible. We are still working to return attendance numbers to their pre-Covid levels.

Pastor Wolfgram and Pastor Woodside are truly a blessing with their knowledge of preaching and teaching God's Word and caring for us all. God has promised He will feed you with His Word and bless you through the Body and Blood of His Son Jesus Christ given in Holy Communion.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all,

Kevin Olson, Elder in His service



Brad & Anne-Marie Christensen	07/12
Jacob & Dori Fetzer	07/19
Tom & Cathy Sitter	07/26
Don & Dawn Albrecht	07/28
Greg & Shari Zeis	07/29

Summer Midweek Worship
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

6:00 PM

July 5	Walla
July 12	Walla
July 19	Woodside
July 26	Marcis
August 2	Zellers
August 9	Marcis
August 16	Voss
August 23	Marcis (Vicar Meyers)
August 30	Wolfgram



Martin Luther Schools is taking applications for the position of 3rd grade teacher. Consider teaching in a Christ-centered, family friendly atmosphere with smaller class sizes! Enjoy the opportunity to grow with us as we expand our emphasis in the classical model of education. Applicants will need a current ND teaching license. Interested candidates should contact Denise Wolfgram at the school office at 701 224-9070.



Happy Birthday!

Gage R	7/1
Marion S	7/1
Dori N	7/4
Colleen B	7/10
Daisy A	7/11
Susan B	7/12
Reese D	7/12
Audrey H	7/14
Mark N	7/14
Logan P	7/15
Brad K	7/18
Sharon S	7/18
Tom S	7/18
Korrine L	7/21
Jody O	7/21
Rosecea K	7/24
Craig H	7/25
Gabriel L	7/26
Brittany S	7/26
Patrick W	7/27
Carey B	7/28
Olivia D	7/31
Marilyn S	7/31

Baptism BIRTHDAYS

Pat B	7/1
Shirley C	7/1
Denise W	7/3
Madison G	7/8
MacKenzie G	7/8
Jesse S	7/12
Evan P	7/14
Nolan P	7/14
Todd S	7/18
Lisa M	7/19
Craig H	7/25
Julia D	7/27
Loren S	7/29



July 2	David A.
July 9	Sam N.
July 16	Keaton H.
July 23	Madison G.
July 30	Makenzie G.

July 2023

1-15 Ken Purdy

16-31 Kevin Olson



The 4th of July brings thoughts of our nation's freedom - and that's a good thing. Yet another freedom that is ever so much greater is being "set free from sin" (Romans 6:18) and its bondage! "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2). Now that's something that every Christian can celebrate every day!

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/Bismarck". Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the 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 July 2023:

July 2nd: Rev. Matt Thompson, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "Strength and Faith" based on Jeremiah 28:5-9. *This Is the Life* program: "Some People Need Help" - An amputee from a Veteran's hospital must learn that hurting others will not help him.

July 9th: Rev. Dennis Voss, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND, presents the message: "Blind or Wise" based on Matthew 11:25-26. *This Is the Life* program: "Jeremy" – Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.

July 16th: Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "God's Amazing Harvest" based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. *This Is the Life* program: "Flight Plan" - A man has to deal with the death of a young boy with a terminal illness. Will it strengthen his faith or destroy it?

July 23rd: Rev. Toby Heller, Concordia Lutheran Church, Beulah, ND, presents the message: "Weeds Among the Wheat" based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. *This Is the Life* program: "Amazing Grace" - A man who has come from a poor beginning to a rich and full life must learn not to forsake his Christian faith.

July 30th: Rev. Justin Woodside, Bethel & Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: "Giving All for the Treasure" *This Is the Life* program: "The Selling Price" - A father and son face the issue of ethics, and how it relates to God's law.





When a tragedy strikes, pastors are there to help those dealing with grief and loss. But who helps the pastor when tragedy strikes his family? Lutheran Family Service is focused on serving the Church and her workers, walking with pastors through personal and professional hardship. Physical, spiritual, emotional, relational, and vocational health are vital to keeping pastors well in our congregations and schools.

Through our years of experience serving church workers in LCMS congregations and schools, Lutheran Family Service knows the importance of proactive wellness. Rather than a sign of weakness, prioritizing mental health just as much as physical health – and seeking help when needed – enables workers to continue in their vocation.

Lutheran Family Service is the focus for our Human Care effort during the third quarter of 2023 as we donate one percent of our offerings to various charities and ministries that serve God's people. Go to <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/> to learn more about the ministry of Lutheran Family Service.

They are ready to receive church worker only clients beginning July 1. They expect to have their counselors licensed in North Dakota by September 1. Once they are licensed they will begin figuring out how to take congregational members and other clients for counseling. Please keep this process in your prayers as partner with Lutheran Family Service to assist in the care of the emotional and mental health of our members in a Christ-centered manner.

Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul

Caymon Islands Missionaries

Presenting at Shepherd of the Valley

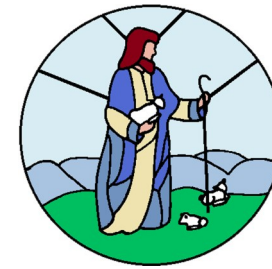
Thursday, July 20

The Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as career missionaries in the Cayman Islands. As a pastor and church planter, Gerald works with local church leaders at Safe Harbour Lutheran Church to reach out to the people of the Cayman Islands — both locals and expats — with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gerald also seeks to serve the transient Cuban refugee population on Grand Cayman. He is an adjunct professor at Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic.

Heidi supports these mission efforts and has been using her background in early childhood education to explore the possibility of starting an early childhood center for children in the community. Recently, an education committee has been formed. Conversations with the LCMS Latin America and the Caribbean region leadership and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund have forged a solid start to make this dream a reality. They are currently in the process of finding property for a church, an early childhood center, a parsonage and accommodations for future teachers.

Gerald and Heidi both hail from South Africa. Gerald's home congregation is the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wittenberg near Piet Retief, Mpumalanga, and Heidi's is St. John's Lutheran Parish in Shelly Beach, Kwa-Zulu Natal. Gerald graduated with his Master of Divinity and doctorate in missiology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Heidi earned her teaching degree in South Africa and master's degree in early childhood education in Montana. They grew up speaking four languages (German, Afrikaans, English and Zulu), and now speak Spanish, which they started studying in 2021. This greatly benefits their mission work in the multi-cultural, multi-lingual population on the island. Gerald has served as parish pastor in South Africa, Wyoming and Montana prior to serving on Grand Cayman.

July 2023



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

July 2023, Newsletter

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
2 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour	3	4	5 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Walla)	6 <u>2:00pm</u> Stewardship	7	8
9 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour	10	11 <u>4:00pm</u> Evangelism <u>4:30pm</u> Human Care <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	12 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Walla)	13 <u>7:30pm</u> Trustees	14	15
16 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour <u>1:00pm</u> Middle & Senior High Youth	17	18 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	19 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Woodside) <u>7:00pm</u> Elders	20 <u>6:00pm</u> Rev. Gerald Paul	21	22
23 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour <u>7:00pm</u> Council	24	25 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	26 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Marcis)	27	28	29
30 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour	31	Aug. 1 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	Aug. 2 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Zellers)	Aug. 3	Aug. 4	Aug. 5

Tiny Deviations - Part IV: Scripture Alone is Sufficient

These past couple months we have been looking at the topic of tiny deviations from the truth; that even a small error in doctrine can lead to major consequences later on. Two common deviations occur when people attempt to alter the teachings that salvation is through faith in Christ alone (+/- nothing) or that knowledge about God and salvation comes from scripture alone (+/- nothing.)

In this article I want to examine the issue of *adding* to the Word of God. As we saw last month, Deuteronomy contains a strict command forbidding adding or subtracting from Holy Scripture. **"Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it."** (Deut 12:32, ESV; see also Rev 22: 18-19) Scripture is the living and active Word of God. We dare not alter it in any way.

Now of course there are the obvious examples of this, such as the Muslim Quran or the heretical Book of Mormon. These, however, are so egregious that I would hardly call them "tiny" deviations.

Probably one of the most common ways that people add to God's word is through what theologians call *enthusiasm*. By enthusiasm, we don't mean simply that people are excited about God's Word, as if we are saying that it is bad to be enthusiastic about reading the Bible. *That kind of enthusiasm is good.* Enthusiasm, as I mean it here has to do with looking for the voice of God *outside* of Holy Scripture.

We see this in many ways. I have dealt with this in a previous article, but it is such a common error that it is worth mentioning again. We see this when people look for the voice of God in feelings and emotions, as though *feeling* good about something indicates God's approval. We also see this when people look for signs and omens to indicate the will of God.

For example, suppose someone is trying to make a major life decision. After praying about it, the individual has a strong feeling of peace, which he or she then interprets as the Holy Spirit giving the "go ahead." This may seem innocent enough, but what about a person who wants to know whether God approves of an adulterous or homosexual relationship? What if that person also prays, and *also* has peace about the decision? There are many people out there who make poor, or even sinful choices on the basis of feelings alone. Enthusiasm like this is dangerous. It is adding to scripture.

The Bible tells us that scripture is sufficient. In Luke 16, Jesus tells a parable about a rich man who dies, and is in torment. He looks and sees Lazarus, a man who had been poor in the world, now resting in the bosom of Abraham. He calls out to Abraham, **"Then I beg you, father," he said, 'send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also end up in this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let your brothers listen to them.'**" (Luke 16:27-29, ESV) He asks for a sign to be given to his brothers who are still alive, but notice where the man is directed. He is pointed to scripture. The brothers have scripture, and it is sufficient to find all that one needs in this body and life.

Looking outside of scripture is a dangerous, unstable road of uncertainty. This is why we stand firm on scripture. As we read last month, **"16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God[h] may be complete, equipped for every good work."** (2 Tm 3: 16-17, ESV) Scripture is sufficient! It is profitable that we **"may be complete, equipped for every good work."** When we look for truth outside of scripture, we find ourselves slaves to our own whims, feelings, and imaginations. When we look to signs and omens, we flirt with astrology and idolatry of a different kind.

In Christ,
 Pastor Woodside