

Board of Lay Ministry

My name is Lee Roath the incoming Chair of The Board of Lay Ministry, replacing Kevin Olson. I have been with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church since 2021. I came from Great Falls MT after retiring in 2020 after 42 years as the Director of Healthcare Financial Statistics, among many other responsibilities over my career in healthcare. I am a former Marine Corp aviator for 8 years and a Viet Nam veteran. We moved to Bismarck in June 2020 to be closer to our family here in Bismarck and Rochester MN. I was a convert to LCMS from LCMC, ELCA, and ALC; because I was so disappointed in the direction they were going. I am very happy to be with LCMS as it stands on the true written word of God and the Sacraments. These are the means of grace through which the Holy Spirit gives the gift of God's grace that creates faith in the hearts of individuals, and forgives of our sins because of Christ's death on the cross and grants us eternal life and salvation. I also am on the Board of Trustees, and assist in setting up communion on a rotating cycle.

As a member of the Board of Lay Ministry we are to serve the congregation in its temporal affairs and to assist the pastor in administrative tasks. My vision as the Chair of the Board of Lay Ministries is to work closely with the Pastors and other Lay Ministry members and the congregation to continue to ensure that we adhere to the LCMS mission and purpose. So our church continues to accept and preach the Bible based teaching of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phases: Grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone. I am a committed lifelong learner and will continue to read and study the scripture, pray fervently for myself and all in need of prayers. I post a daily devotion and try to reach out to people to encourage them in their faith. I am a sinner who is in need of forgiveness and prayers like we all are, so I would always appreciate prayers and support as we complete our mission. Please stop or call me if you have concerns about the church operations and I will try to get answers or refer you to someone that can. I want to thank the other members of the board, the council and leaders of the church and you all for your support to help me as I continue to learn the position. In the glory of God the Father. Lee Roath



Joy & Wayne D	08/04
Pat & Doug H	08/07
Michelle & Justin D	08/10
Laura & Bill P	08/13
Vicki & Lee R	8/15
Lanna & Jamie R	8/19
Sara & Mike N	08/30
Julie & Roger L	08/31
Jean & Jim L	08/31

Summer Midweek Worship

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

6:00 PM

August 2	Wolfgram
August 9	Marcis
August 16	Voss
August 23	Marcis
	(Vicar Meyers)
August 30	Wolfgram



YOU MAY ONLY BE ONE PERSON,  
BUT YOU CAN BE THE ONE PERSON  
WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Calling individuals and families to become part of

**SOTV's GREETING MINISTRY!**

All that is required is that you bring your friendliest smile to stand at the front door, open the door and welcome people to our amazing church. After service, thank them and provide words of blessing for a wonderful week as they leave. You will need to come 15 minutes early to service and stay 10 minutes after service. The ministry will resume in August. You will be able to choose the date you prefer on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Save the date: Congregational picnic at the Community Center at Sertoma Park on Sunday, August 13. Serving starts at 12:00. The Board of Stewardship will provide fried chicken. Bring a dish to pass and share. Please sign up in the narthex indicating what you plan to provide for the picnic.



# Happy Birthday!

Lily D	8/2
Heather Z	8/2
Kurt H	8/5
Lyn K	8/7
Leslie W	8/17
Brandy P	8/21
Everly S	8/21
Molly F	8/22
Erika T	8/23
Andrew K	8/24
Shelia K	8/24
Eldon U	8/25
Don B	8/26
Carla U	8/27
Seth H	8/28
Doris L	8/28
Bernice R	8/28
Sophie B	8/29
Sherry H	8/29
Wayne D	8/31
Max G	8/31

## Baptism BIRTHDAYS

Don B	8/1
Mark N	8/2
Daisy A	8/10
Patrick W	8/10
Jacob F	8/11
Jerry L	8/11
Gage R	8/11
Reese D	8/17
Marilyn S	8/17
Lily D	8/18
Colleen B	8/20
Gabriel L	8/21
Carrie H	8/23
Audrey H	8/24
Vicki R	8/27
Curt K	8/28
Samantha H	8/29



Aug 6	Abby Z.
Aug 13	Olivia D.
Aug 20	Hudson H.
Aug 27	David A.

### August 2023

1-15 Craig Helm  
16-31 Lee Roath



### Main Street Living

(From the mailbag recently) Dennis & Sylvia write: *“Thank you for Main Street Living church services. We really appreciated worship services on Sundays when we were snowed in and when we were sick. Thank you for sharing God’s Word.”* Jean wrote: *“Please find enclosed a check ... to help continue the Broadcast on Sundays. I’ve been unable to go to church most of March because of the weather and bad roads.”* And one more writer shared: *“Thank you for the wonderful programming on Sunday mornings! I love listening to all the wonderful clergy each Sunday as I recover from medical issues the past months.”*

-Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator

### “MSL North” Programs for August 2023:

**August 6<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Thomas Marcis, Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, presents the message: **“Don’t Just Send Them Away”**, based on Matthew 14:13-21. *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.

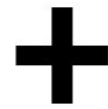
**August 13<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Christopher Lieske, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN, presents the message: **“The Lord Who Saves”** based on Matthew 14:22-23. *This Is the Life* program: **“My Husband, My Sorrow”** – A man and woman must deal with whether they should consummate an adulterous affair.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Daniel Larsen, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Henning, MN, presents the message: **“Jealous”**, based on Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32. *This Is the Life* program: **“The Cup”** – The dilemma a trucker must face when a good friend dies trying to protect him.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, Grace Lutheran Church, Sebeka, MN, Zion Lutheran Church, Sebeka, MN, and Nimrod Lutheran Church, Nimrod, MN, presents the message: **“Back To Basics”** based on Matthew 16:13-20. *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 9:00 am Mountain time on the following WDAY XTRA Channel: Bismarck/Dickinson: KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 and MIDCO Channel 594.



**Dr. Mark Vande Braak will be in Bismarck on Sunday, October 15 for a special presentation at 1:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church. He will also be at SOTV for Education Hour on Sunday morning, October 15th. He will also attend "Take Heart In Your Grief" session that evening.**



**There is hope. There is help.**

**Dr. Mark Vande Braak, Ph.D., FT, MT-BC. is ready to serve North Dakota!**

Dr. Mark is a lifelong Christian and LCMS member with 30+ years of mental healthcare experience. He helps people who have suffered traumatic loss and complicated or prolonged grief through individual sessions provided in-person in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or via telehealth in North Dakota and anywhere in the US, using private pay to cover the cost of each session instead of insurance.

In addition to working with individuals, Dr. Mark serves people experiencing a wide variety of losses through virtual and in-person groups. Topics addressed include supporting parents following loss of a child due to illness, suicide, trauma, miscarriage or stillbirth; and spouses or families of those suffering traumatic brain injury or life-changing illnesses such as ALS, Huntington's, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Dr. Mark works with families, congregations, and communities in the face of tragedy from accidents, shootings, natural disasters, and suicide. He is available for speaking engagements at universities, educational events, and community settings. He provides consultation to physicians, attorneys, pastors, teachers, and church workers as they support their people through loss and grief.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) Newsletter Article – August 2023

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

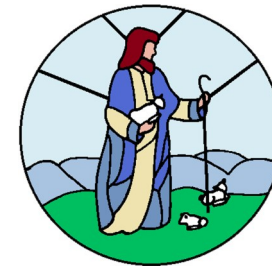


**You are Needed!**

- Do you like people?
- Maybe you like cooking?
- Or, you have a knack for decorating?

If so, we need you! Plans are underway for the LWML District Convention to be held next June (2024) in Bismarck. You do not need to be in LWML to participate. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. As the saying goes - “Many hands make light work!” – we would love working with you. Watch for more information in the coming months or call or text either Kim Kuhlmann or Sue Hartley-Wolfgram.

# August 2023



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

August 2023, Newsletter

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1 <u>2:00pm</u> Stewardship <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	2 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Wolfgram)	3	4	5
6 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour	7	8 <u>4:00pm</u> Evangelism <u>4:30pm</u> Human Care <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	9 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Marcis)	10 <u>7:30pm</u> Trustees	11	12 <u>8:30am</u> Board of Education
13 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour <u>12:00pm</u> Congregational Picnic	14	15 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	16 <u>6:00pm</u> Catechism Orientation <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Voss)	17 <u>7:30pm</u> Elders	18	19 <u>4:30pm</u> Hangout
20 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour <u>1:00pm</u> Middle & Senior High Youth	21	22 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	23 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Marcis/Vicar Meyers)	24	25	26 <u>9:00am</u> Confirmation Retreat
27 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:15am</u> Education Hour <u>7:00pm</u> Council	28	29 <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	30 <u>6:00pm</u> Confirmation Instruction <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Wolfgram)	31		

## Tiny Deviations - Part V: "Accepting" Christ

\*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 month's article we are going to look at a very popular deviation that violates Christ alone (+/- nothing): the idea that one can “accept Jesus as Savior.” This is an important one on account of the fact that it is so prevalent in American Churches. You may ask yourself why this is a bad teaching. It doesn't *sound* wrong. So, what's the big deal?

First of all, let's look at what scripture says about how one is saved. We begin in the first chapter of John's Gospel. There we read: **“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”** (John 1:12, ESV) At first this sounds as though one must “accept Christ”; as though *receiving* Jesus is the same as *making a decision* for Jesus. Not so fast! Look at the next verse.

**“who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”** (John 1:13, ESV) Who is saved? Who has the right to be reborn a child of God? How does it happen? Not by the will of man! You do not come to Jesus, He comes to you! We are born dead in our sins. Lost! Without hope! Scripture tells us **“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.”** (Rom 3:10b-11, ESV) Did you catch that? *No one* seeks for God. In our utter sinfulness, we could *never* accept Jesus. We would *never* want to. Being dead in our sins, it would be *impossible*! Dead men can't lift a finger to save themselves. So how is one to be saved? We read in Ephesians: **<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.** (Eph 2:4-5, ESV)

Yes. God made us alive! He adopted US as His children. HE is the savior and HE alone gets all the credit. As Luther wrote in the Small Catechism *“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.”* (CPH, SC II.3)

We dare not take credit for any part of our salvation. Remember how angry Paul was when the Galatians tried to add circumcision to the Gospel? He said **“You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (Gal 5:4, ESV)** Indeed, salvation is Christ (+/- NOTHING).

But what about those people who actually *remember* deciding for Jesus? In that case, it is clear that the Holy Spirit was, as Luther put it, calling them by the Gospel. They never could have decided if God had not *already* given them the gift of faith. The thing is, we must not take any credit for our faith. If my salvation rests on a decision I made, then I can never have certainty. What if *I* was not *sincere* enough when I asked Jesus into my heart? What if *I* said the prayer wrong? It is only through the Biblical understanding that salvation is through Jesus (+/- NOTHING) that we can have any certainty about these matters.

In Christ,  
Pastor Woodside