



February Men's Network

Men's Network will return on February 15 as we meet at Bethel Lutheran Church at 8:00 am for breakfast, fellowship, and study of Romans 7. Plan to join us!

LCMS ND District Convention Highlights

"Clothed in Christ's Righteousness" was the theme for the ND District 60th regular convention held in Minot, January 19-22, 2025.

LCMS Synod President, Rev. Matthew Harrison preached at the opening worship service and reported on the happenings in the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod.

Rev. Mark Chepulis, pastor at Our Savior, Cavilier, St. Paul, St. Thomas, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Langdon was elected District President on the fourth ballot with 52% of the vote defeated incumbent president, Rev. Arie Bertsch.

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Jason Paradis, Oakes, ND

Resolutions

"To encourage the use of ND District Pastors at Youth Gatherings in the North Dakota District", "To continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile," and "To support Christ's Care for Children, Kenya" were adopted.

"To partner with Lutheran Family Service" was adopted without matching funds from the District.

"To condemn the delivery of children's sermons in the Divine Service by Laity" and "To condemn the use of women as lectors" were also adopted.

Please consider signing up for Sunday Fellowship treats/coffee.

Thank you

-stewardship



"Join us Sunday, February 16 for a Pot Bless meal after service.

A sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Thank you.

-stewardship"

Happy Birthday!

Reagan D	2/3
Judy P	2/9
Dick D	2/11
Candace H	2/12
Anita N	2/12
Bill P	2/13
Zeva B	2/21
Henry H	2/21
Larry O	2/21
Pam D	2/22
Cindy O	2/22
Nancy K	2/23



Norm S	2/16
Max N	2/20
Luella R	2/26



Larry & Judy O	2/13
Mark & Anita N	2/14
Jeremy & Becky G	2/20
Norm & Clair S	2/21



February 2025

1-15 Lee Roath

16-31 Dick Dever



Feb. 2	Abby Z.
Feb. 9	Sylvia D.
Feb. 16	Sam N.
Feb. 23	Evan P.



“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 blessings in Christ!

-Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator

“MSL North” Programs for February 2025:

Feb. 2nd: ND District President, Rev. Arie Bertsch, Minot, ND, presents the message: “Depart in Peace”, based on Luke 2:22-32. *This Is The Life Program: “The Measure Of A Man” - A newspaper editor learns forgiveness.*

Feb. 9th: Rev. Christopher Neuendorf, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Bottineau, ND, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rugby, ND, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willow City, ND, presents the message: “Jesus Makes Us Fishers of Men” based on Luke 5:1-11. *This Is The Life program: “Shepherd of Main Street” - The challenges of an Inner-City church.*

Feb. 16th: ND District President, Rev. Arie Bertsch, Minot, ND, presents the message: “Bodies Will Rise”, based I Corinthians 15:12-20. *This Is The Life program: “The True Abundance” - A tale of misunderstanding and forgiveness.*

Feb. 23rd: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN., presents the message: “Undeserved Love” based on Luke 6:27-38. *This Is The Life program: “Richest Man in the World” - A gardener reminds a town what’s most important in life.*




“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).
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Food from the Heart Food Drive

Food Theme Days



For the month of February, MLS students in grades 5-8 are organizing a food pantry drive for our LCMS churches that have Free Little Pantries at their locations. As a school, our goal is to fill the "heart" near the south door entrance with all the donated items provided by students, their families, and LCMS church members. Be sure to stop by and watch our heart grow during the month! The students have created some fun theme days for the month—pick and choose which to do OR bring an item every day...we appreciate all donations!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Mac & Cheese Mon.  Bring pasta, mac & cheese cups/boxes.	4 Pay It Forward Tues. Bring Bibles & a highlighter to share God's Word with others.	5 Worcestershire Wed.  Bring any kind of condiment.	8 Green Thursday Bring a canned vegetable & wear green today!	9 We "CANNED" the first week!  Bring any canned item today!
10 Meal Monday Bring items to create a small meal Ex: canned tuna & crackers	11 Tuesday Juice Day! Bring in an individual drink item.	12 Warm Wednesday Keep a friend warm by donating a pair of socks, winter gloves, hat.	13 Happy Hairbrush Thursday Bring in items for personal care.	14 Fruity Friday  Bring individual fruit cups, dried fruit, or a can of fruit
17 No School Happy Presidents' Day! 	18 No School 	19 Boxed-In Wednesday Bring an item that comes in a box!	20 "Meat-eater" Thurs. Bring in canned meat, jerky, tuna packets.	21 Free Dentist Friday Bring in oral hygiene items. 
24 Start off with a POWERFUL Monday! Bring in any protein packed items: drink, powder, bars	25 Pick Your Color Day! Match your donated item today! Ex: You bring something red, then wear red!	26 Wash Up Wednesday Bring in soap, shampoo, dish soap, wipes. 	27 "Ketchup" Thursday Bring items that are made from a tomato! Ex: salsa, ketchup, pasta sauces	28 Fun Friday! It's our final day—bring what you like! 😊

During the month of February, Martin Luther School students in grades 5-8 are organizing a food drive for the Little Free Pantries that are offered at two of our LCMS churches: Zion Lutheran Church and Shepherd of the Valley Church. Students have created a month's worth of fun collection days, and would love to invite YOU to donate any items that you would like to contribute! If you have a donation item, you can either place it in the collection box at your church, visit with a MLS Student from your parish, or you can drop it by Martin Luther School and we will add it to our "growing" heart by the school entrance. Thank you in advance for your support of our food drive!

We have all heard a friend or close acquaintance say "I believe in you!" Obviously the person does not mean this in the sense that he believes that the other person *exists*. *But merely believing that God exists is not the same as faith.* "Even the demons believe—and shudder!" (James 2:19, ESV) What is intended is not a statement of just belief, but of faith. Another word for this would be trust.

Consider Abraham's obedience as he moved from Haran to a foreign land. It would be untrue to say that Abraham did *not* believe God. He does believe in God. However, at the bottom of it was *trust* that God would guide and take care of him on this journey. Thus we read that "by faith Abraham obeyed." This is also true of Noah. God told Noah that He was going to flood the world, and Noah trusted God. The fruit of this trust, or faith, was that he went on to build a giant Ark. This faith is a gift. This trust and belief in God is a gift!

This is what James means when he writes that faith without works is dead.
14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good^[b] is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:14-17, ESV)

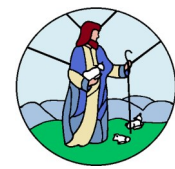
James is not saying that salvation is by works. Faith in Christ is the ground and foundation of salvation. However, trust, belief, and faith in Christ will result in works. Just as in the case of Abraham, Noah, and the friend who opens the box. Faith leads to action.

Luther wrote in his introduction to the Epistle to the Romans "Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever."¹³

There is a pitfall that some fall into. That pitfall is a generic faith in "faith", as though one is saved from condemnation by simply having faith in something. The truth is, it not "faith in faith" that saves. The critical issue is: In *whom* do you have faith? In *whom* do you trust? Your faith is only as good as the object of that faith. We must always remember that salvation itself is the result of faith in Christ alone and the salvation He won on the cross. When it comes to good deeds and works, these are just a symptom, evidence of this faith. An orange tree does not become an orange tree because it produces oranges, but produces oranges because it is an orange tree. Similarly, I am not a Christian because of my works. Rather, I produce good works because I am a Christian.

So this leads us to the next question: How does one receive this saving faith? It is to this question that we will turn in the next article.

In Christ,
 Pastor Woodside
 951-217-3385



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

God Words: Part 7

The Word "Faith" – What is it? Is it the Same as Belief?

It has been awhile since the last article. This is now the 7th article in a series called "God Words." The goal of the series is to examine certain words that we, as Christians, commonly use.

Words like:

1. God
2. Love
3. Faith
4. Heaven
5. Good
6. Truth
7. Sin

The problem with these words is that they are so overused that, in many cases, people have forgotten their Biblical meanings. As a result, telling someone that he is "saved by **faith**" may actually be difficult to understand. What do we mean by "faith?" In the 1980s George Michael sang "You gotta have faith." We also say "you gotta have faith", but we mean *very* different things. What is faith?

In our last article we discussed what faith is not. This month I want to examine what faith is, and what it looks like.

So what is faith, and how is it different than just belief? Let's consider an example of faith in action from Hebrews 11: Abram.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10, ESV)

In Genesis we read that Abraham was called to leave his family behind in Haran and go to a place that God would show him. This is a major move! To pack up and take one's wife and belongings and venture out into the unknown is clearly an act of faith. Certainly there is also an aspect of belief involved here as well, but I would rather call it *trust* than belief.

Consider this scenario: Imagine that a friend offers you a box with a cupcake in it. You trust him and open the box to eat it. Now suppose that the next day the same friend offers another box to you with the assurance that there is, in fact, a cupcake in the box and **not a bomb**. *The box with the bomb is still at home. He made sure he grabbed the cupcake box!* You believe the friend; or one could say that you have *faith* in your friend's trustworthiness, and you open the box.

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour	3	4 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study <u>2:30pm</u> Stewardship <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	5 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship	6	7	8
9 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour	10 <u>6:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	11 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	12 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship	13 <u>10:00am</u> People Matter	14	15 <u>8:00am</u> Men's Network <u>4:30pm</u> Hang Out
16 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour Pot Blessed Meal <u>1:00pm</u> Middle School Youth	17	18 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	19 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship <u>7:00pm</u> Human Care	20 <u>6:30pm</u> Elders	21	22
23 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour <u>1:00pm</u> Senior High Youth <u>7:00pm</u>	24 <u>6:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	25 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study <u>6:00pm</u> Bible Study	26 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship	27	28	