



We are grateful to all who participated in the Grow With Us, Go With Us campaign with Lutheran Family Service. Thank you! The Human Care Committee has selected Lutheran Family Service for our third quarter ministry. Delegates to the LCMS ND District Convention voted to welcome the ministry of LFS to North Dakota in hopes of bringing two licensed Lutheran counselors to ND. You can help this become reality by prayerfully supporting this effort with a special gift. Pastor Wolfgram would appreciate the opportunity to visit with you if you would like to more about this ministry expansion.

We walk with people who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been there for us.

Lutheran Family Service is a place of hope. We live in a time in which the church - those who love God and love people - has an incredible opportunity to share its hope and passion for healthy living with those who are struggling to make life work. Through Lutheran Family Service, the church is actively engaged with people who need a word of hope and a little help along the way. Every day, the men and women of Lutheran Family Service bring the good news of the Savior and His love to the world, one hurting or needful person at a time.

We are here to help. We want to show you that nothing is impossible with God.

—Pastor Max Phillips, Executive Director



* Please join us for the annual church picnic pot bless July 20 after Sunday church service at Sertoma Community Center. Board of Youth will purchase Amusement Park tickets for the children. Sign up sheet in narthex so we can determine how much chicken to purchase. See you there. - stewardship board



The Elders are looking for volunteers to help with the streaming on Sunday mornings. If you have an interest in helping with this please talk with Rob Burkhardtsmeier. Thank you.



Happy Birthday!

Marion S	7/1
Colleen B	7/10
Daisy A	7/11
Susan B	7/12
Reese D	7/12
Audrey H	7/14
Mark N	7/14
Abby Z	7/17
Brad K	7/18
Sharon S	7/18
Tom S	7/18
Korrine L	7/21
Judy O	7/21
Craig H	7/25
Carey B	7/28
Olivia D	7/31
Marilyn S	7/31



July 6	Julia D.
July 13	Sylvia D.
July 20	Sam N.
July 27	Evan P.



Pat Bitz	7/1
Shirley Cook	7/1
Denise Walker	7/3
Madison Gildea	7/8
MacKenzie Gildea	7/8
Evan Purdy	7/14
Nolan Purdy	7/14
Dale Kitzman	7/14
Todd Schwagler	7/18
Lisa Miller	7/19
Craig Helm	7/25
Julia Dever	7/27
Julia Hausauer	7/28
Loren Strum	7/29



Tom & Cathy Sitter	07/26
Christopher & Adalie Rosalez	07/09



July 2025

- 1-15 Martin Bjergaard
- 16-31 Ken Purdy

Remembering “Dutch” Te Slaa: Almighty God in his good and wise providence called our brother in Christ, Arlen “Dutch” Te Slaa, to Himself in Heaven on Good Friday, April 18th. He passed peacefully, surrounded by family, at Dougherty Hospice Home in Sioux Falls, SD. While Dutch spent most of his working career in sales, the position that gave him the most satisfaction was Main Street Living. He was one of the founding members in 2001, and a driving force in the ministry during its first 20 years. “Dutch” had a passion for sharing Jesus with the world, and the unique ability to motivate people to action. All involved in Main Street Living are indebted to his vision and drive to share the Gospel with the Upper Midwest and beyond. We commend Dutch’s family, and the congregation of Zion Lutheran in Sioux Falls where Main Street began, to God’s rich grace in Christ. May you find comfort in the sure and certain hope in the resurrection through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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 blessings in Christ!

-Ken Koehler / MSL North Volunteer Coordinator



“MSL North” Programs for July 2025:

July 6th: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: “**Help Wanted**” based on Luke 10:2. *This Is the Life Program: “To the End of Time” - A physicist is confronted with the reality of his weapon, the utility of radiation, and the blessing of Christian hope.*

July 13th: Rev. Matthew Meyer, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Callaway, MN, presents a message: “**The Best ‘Good Samaritan’**” based on Luke 10:25-31. *This Is the Life Program: “A Face from the Past” - A man struggles to come to terms with the memory and feelings of guilt with his estranged father.*

July 20th: Rev. David Suelzle, Crosspointe Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: “**God’s Promises Are No Laughing Matter!**” based on Genesis 18:10-14. *This Is the Life program: “Love Is Not Enough” - A young couple struggles mightily with the decision to marry, exploring what truly is important.*

July 27th: Rev. Justin Whitmore, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, presents the message: “**Baptism: God’s Gift of Grace**” based on Colossians 2:11-12. *This Is the Life program: “A Different Way” - In this Fisher family episode, Cousin Stanley visits and creates a difficult situation with a neighbor.*

“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 **9:00am Central** time on the following **FOX stations:** Far go-Moorhead: KVRN Channel 15.1, Thief River Falls-Grand Forks: KBRR Channel 10.1, Jamestown: KJRR Channel 7.1, Pembina: KNRR Channel 12.1

Scripture

So let’s look at scripture.

In Mark 10 we read this: account:“

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ **And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me *good*? No one is *good* except God alone.** ¹⁹ **You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”** ²⁰ **And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”** (Mark 10:17-20, ESV)

If you want to know what God expects of a person morally, look no further than the 10 Commandments! These Com-mandments are a description of the righteous person. Here we have a guy who, from an outward perspective, was *good* person. He knew and tried, at least, to keep God’s commandments. And yet, when he approaches Jesus, Jesus tells him that “No one is good except God alone.” Why is it that no one is good but God alone? Because no one keeps all of the commandments. God keeps them. He not only keeps them, but they are a description of what He is like. He is the only one who is truly *good*.

In Romans, Paul writes:

**“None is righteous, no, not one;
“ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
¹²All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does *good*
not even one.”** (Rom 3:10b-12, ESV)

The fact is that all have sinned. Sure, you may be a *good* person *compared* with your neighbor. There are, no doubt, some people who are, on account of nature or upbringing, more kind and caring than others. But this is not the standard for goodness before a Holy God. **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** (Rom 3:23, ESV) If you have sinned at any point (and you have), then you are accountable to the whole law. (James 2:10)

Returning to the account of the rich young man:

²⁰ **And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth** ²¹ **And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”** ²² **Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great posses-sions.** (Mark 10:20-22, ESV)

Sure, on the outside this man may have appeared holy, but he had an idol: money.

Recall the prophet Isaiah when he was confronted with the majesty of God, what was his response? ⁵ **And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”** (Isa 6:5, ESV)

No, dear friends, there is no one who is truly good but God alone! Jesus, the only truly good and righteous man to ever walk this planet, was unjustly murdered; crucified for you. In order to save us from our lack of true goodness, the very embodiment of goodness itself was killed. In this act He won salvation for all who believe in His name.

We cannot be saved by any of our own good works because, without Christ, none of them are even truly good! This is because we all have the fatal flaw of original sin, in which we are, at the core, not good. But in Christ we are born-again; declared righteous; declared truly good! We are new creations!

Paul writes, we were **“created in Christ Jesus for *good* works.”** (Eph 2:10) In our next article we will look at the concept of good works in the Christian’s life. If we are not saved by works, why should we do them? Are good works necessary? (The answer, of course, is “Yes”, but we will get to that next month.)

In Christ,

Pastor Woodside



Our human care focus for the second quarter of 2025 is North Dakota Crisis Chaplains. North Dakota Crisis Chaplains, Inc. (NDCC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting first responders in rural North Dakota. Building on 45 years of Crisis Care Chaplaincy in the Bismarck area, NDCC was established to bring emotional, spiritual, and mental health support to first responders in rural communities facing unique challenges.



Summer 2025 Midweek Summer Service Schedule
Wednesday 6:00 PM
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

If you plan to be out of town for the weekend, plan to join us for our midweek worship services at Shepherd of the Valley held each Wednesday night at 6:00 PM. Come and hear other LCMS pas-tors from our community proclaim the wonders of God’s love for us in Christ.

July 2	Voss
July 9	Wolfgram
July 16	Marcis
July 23	Otto
July 30	Zellers

August 6	Walla
August 13	Woodside
August 20	Wolfgram
August 27	Voss



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

“A church family that shares, nurtures, and lives our faith in Christ”

God Words Part 10: The Word “Good”

In the last article we looked at the word “heaven”: what it is and what it is not. But how does one get there? The answer, of course, is by faith in Jesus. It is not on account of our works or *good* deeds, but solely on account of Jesus’ death on the cross. This is the Gospel! This is the *good* news.

But then we think about people we know who have died, but who were really nice people, but not Christians. We may even find ourselves thinking that maybe *God ought to make an exception in these cases!* Why? Because they were such *good* people!

Good. This is the word we will be looking at for the next few articles. Notice above that I have italicized the word “good” several times.

- Good deeds.
- Good news.
- Good person.

Let’s add:

- Good ice cream.
- Good morning.
- God is good!
- Good grief?

What does “good” even mean? Something that is not *bad*? It seems that the word can be used to refer to something as trivial as ice cream to someone as important as God Himself! Obviously, when we say that ice cream is *good* we do not mean the same thing as when we say that God is *good*. It seems likely that we also mean something different when we say that so-and-so is a *good* person. So what exactly does the word mean?

An Example

In this world, typically when we say that a person is a good person, what we mean by that is that he is a kind, trustworthy, law-abiding person. Now suppose this individual (we will call him Mr. Niceguy) is *not* a Christian. Would it be inappropriate to call him *good*? I think that it is appropriate in one sense. On a worldly level it is obviously better to be a kind, trustworthy, law-abiding person, than to be a vile, ruthless murderer. It would be true to say that Mr. Niceguy is *good*, especially compared with the vile, ruthless murderer.

But Mr. Niceguy may not be so good compared with Mr. Excellent next door.

In our fallen world we tend to measure goodness by comparing one thing with another. When I say that ice cream is good, I really mean that it is good in comparison with (fill in the blank with something you think is worse than ice cream.) On the other hand, I think that pizza is good too, but *better* than ice cream! So ice cream is *less good* than pizza.

So what is “good?” It is actually a more difficult question than it may at first appear. The ancient Greeks struggled with the concept of what they called “The Good,” trying very hard, using human reason alone, to determine a definition. The closest they got was to say that there is something called “The Good”. This “Good”, whatever it is, is the ultimate good. It is not an *example* of goodness, it is goodness itself, and everything that we see that we call good is only good insofar as it is reflecting the true good. Okay, well that’s a mouthful. But needless to say, this is the closest anyone has really got to defining good using just human reason.

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study	2 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship Service (Voss)	3	4	5
6 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour	7	8 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study <u>11:00am</u> Human Care <u>2:30pm</u> Stewardship	9 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship Service (Wolfgram)	10 <u>6:30pm</u> Elders	11	12
13 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour	14 <u>6:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	15 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study	16 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Marcis)	17	18	19 <u>10:00am</u> Trustees <u>4:30pm</u> Hang Out
20 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour <u>1:00pm</u> Middle School Youth	21	22 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study	23 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship (Otto)	24	25	26
27 <u>9:00am</u> Divine Service <u>10:30am</u> Education Hour <u>1:00pm</u> Senior High Youth	28 <u>6:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	29 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study	30 <u>6:00pm</u> Worship Service (Zellers)	31	Aug. 1	2