

**New Study begins Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> !**

# Christianity in a World of Ideas

How do we understand other religions?  
How do they compare to faith in Christ?

**When: Tuesday Nights from 6:00 to 7:00**

**Where: Shepherd of the Valley**



## News from Martin Luther School!

Let us make a JOYFUL NOISE to the Lord! Psalm 98:4

What a GREAT theme for our 25-26 school year! I do have to remind our students that yes, we do want to make a joyful noise to the Lord, just not in the hallways. But we DO make noise!

We sing God's praise in chapel, we sing or chant our weekly recitations, we share ideas in class. We even give a boisterous shout when we are out at recess letting someone know "I'm open" or "Touchdown!" We use our voices to give glory to God in whatever we do, and that is a joyful noise!

We also learn that joyful noise can also be the sound of a repentant heart seeking forgiveness. As our students run into conflicts and disagreements, they learn how to give glory to God. When we see our own sin and confess that to our neighbor, we get to hear an even more joyful noise, the sound of forgiveness. This forgiveness comes from Christ's death and resurrection for our sake.

Soon we will hear the joyful noise of water in a splashing in a baptismal font and the words "In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit," during one of our chapel services as one of our students will receive the wonderful gift of Holy Baptism. It doesn't get much better than that!

We celebrate the partnership we have with you and invite you to our chapel services, 8:20-9:00 each Wednesday morning. We also live stream the services on Zion Lutheran Church's Facebook page, so you can watch online. Make a JOYFUL NOISE!!

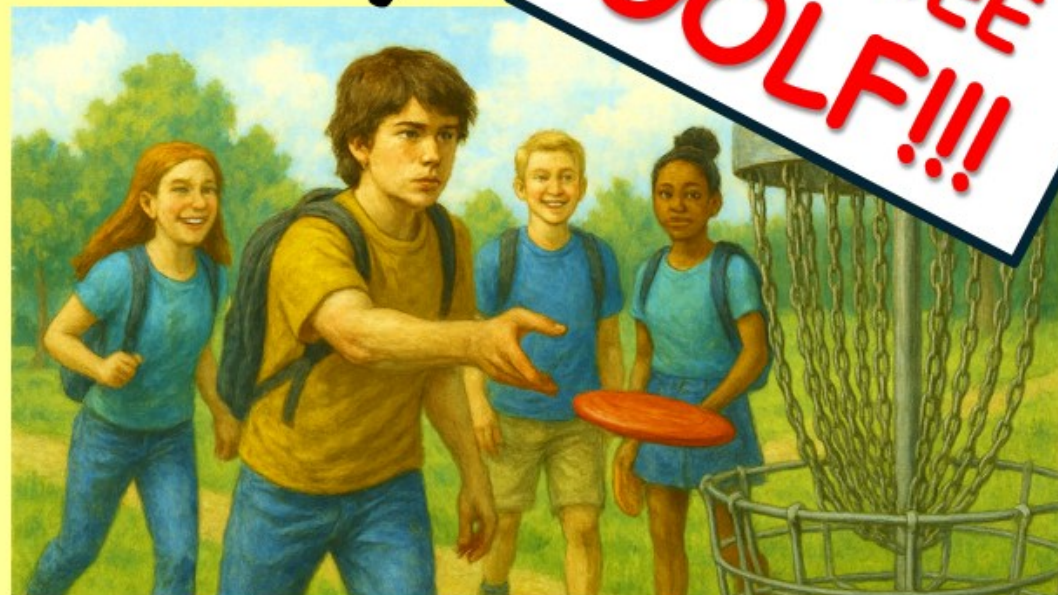
In His service,

Denise Wolfgram

## Middle/High School Bible Study

All school Age  
students grade 5-12

- Where: Sibley Park
- When: Sunday 9/21 1:00-2:45
- Bring your Bible and a Friend!
- Lunch is provided!
- RSVP: Pastor Woodside text: 951-217-3385





Happy Birthday!

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Steven R | 9/2  |
| David A  | 9/4  |
| Leland M | 9/9  |
| Rowan W  | 9/13 |
| Hadley W | 9/17 |
| Ann W    | 9/26 |
| Jeremy G | 9/27 |
| James B  | 9/28 |



|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Kurt H    | 9/1  |
| Wayne D   | 9/7  |
| Leslie W  | 9/9  |
| Heather D | 9/15 |
| Sheila K  | 9/20 |



|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Sept. 7  | Julia D.  |
| Sept. 14 | Sylvia D. |
| Sept. 21 | Sam N.    |
| Sept. 28 | Evan P.   |



|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Joe & Sheila K  | 09/07 |
| Mike & Kari K   | 09/14 |
| Adam & Sonja D  | 09/15 |
| Todd & Sharon S | 09/20 |
| Craig & Cindy H | 09/25 |



September 2025

- 1-15 Lee Roath
- 16-31 Dick Dever

Men's Network



The September Men's Network gathering will take place at Bethel Lutheran Church on September 20 at 8:00 am. Plan to join us!

Watching the news reports of the recent floods in Texas and other places around the world is a vivid reminder of the tremendous power of out-of-control raging waters - such as those that must have also carved out the Grand Canyon during the time of the Genesis flood. This is but one of the many evidences of a fallen world, where even the created earth itself is "groaning in travail" as we await the end of the age and restoration of all things by our resurrected and returning 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](http://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 September 2025:

**September 7th:** Rev. David Suelzle, Crosspointe Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "The Hidden Blessings" based on Philemon 15-16. *This Is the Life Program: "Harriett's Wedding Day" - A groom nearly cancels wedding plans due to fear of the unknown.*

**September 14th:** Rev. Tom Eckstein, Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Adrian, ND, presents the message: "Jesus Seeks and Saves the Lost!" based on Luke 15:1-32. *This Is the Life Program: "Tragedy Near a Small Town" - Tragedy in a small town results in a loving father holding a grudge instead of forgiving as our Father has forgiven us.*

**September 21st:** Rev. Karl Weber, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents the message: "The Unrighteous or Dishonest Manager" based on Luke 16:1-15. *This Is the Life program: "Spite" - Negative emotions and grudges are destructive, but forgiveness allows people to move forward.*

**September 28th:** Rev. Bill Aufdenkamp, Christ Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hoffman, MN, presents the message: "What Do You See?" based on I Timothy 3:13. *This Is the Life program: "The Visit" – A Christian's response to tragedy becomes a witness to others during wartime.*

"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).

Consider the following points:

1. If all beliefs are equally true, a question immediately poses itself. What if one person believes in only 1 God, and another believes in 12? How can these both be true? Both cannot be true. If there is only 1 God, then there are not 12, and if there are 12, then there are more than one. They cannot both be right. They could both be wrong. There could, perhaps, be 3 or 1000 or no god at all, but they cannot all be right.
2. Consider the relativists statement that “*There is no absolute truth that is true for everyone.*” This is essentially the core creed of the adherents of the relativistic religion. It is the one commandment of the false god of relativism. The problem is that this very statement contradicts itself! If there is no absolute truth that is true for everyone, then *relativism itself is also not true for everyone.* Relativism is a god which destroys itself. The problem is that relativism doesn’t care about logical arguments like this because it has rejected logic and reason.
3. There must be a *true truth*. Do not let anyone fool you with slick arguments. There *can only be one truth* about the universe. Where did we come from? There is an answer. Were we created or did we evolve? There is an answer. This is not bigotry or intolerance. It just is. Truth *is* intolerant in that it doesn’t allow anything else to be true in its place. Truth doesn’t care about feelings or personal tastes. It doesn’t care if you like it or not. It doesn’t, and cannot, change for you. It just is.

So What are We to Do?

“What is truth?” Jesus says in John 14: 6 “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.**” Indeed, Jesus claims to be the truth incarnate. He is the living, walking, talking, truth. There is no way to the Father but by Jesus! If this makes you uncomfortable, or of someone calls you intolerant unaccepting of other’s beliefs, remember that this hogwash. This is not about tolerance or intolerance. It is about truth.

If Jesus *is* actually the only way, then he *is* the only way and all others are wrong. If He is *not* the only way, then He’s *not*. Your opinion doesn’t matter. Now we can be tolerant of one another and agree to disagree about Jesus, but we cannot make the silly statement that both ideas are equally valuable. One of them is wrong, and wrong is inferior to right.

Obviously, as Christians we do believe that Jesus is the only way. It is faith in Christ and His death and resurrection that saves us. He is the only hope for fallen mankind. That being the case, the Gospel is also *the most important message* that can be communicated to the world. Unfortunately, the devil has done his homework. So much of the vocabulary of the Gospel has been obscured by so many differing meanings that it has become difficult to properly communicate the gospel. The purpose of these articles has been to try and clear the air on these “God words.” And why? We want to *clearly* communicate the gospel because the Gospel is the world’s only hope. Jesus is our only hope! *This is most certainly true!*

In Christ,  
Pastor Woodside  
951-217-3385



Human Care Focus

The human care focus for the third quarter of 2025 is Lutheran Family Service as we look to support the effort to bring licensed Lutheran Counselors to North Dakota in support of the resolution passed at the LCMS ND District Convention.

Sunday School Rally Day

The Sunday School Rally Day will occur on September 7 as we install our Sunday School staff and elected officers of the congregation during the Divine Service. Thank you for the devoted service to the Lord and His Church.



CHEESECAKE CHAT

Get the sweet details about Lutheran Family Service while enjoying free cheesecake!



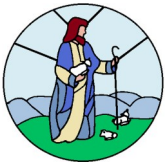
Special Voters Meeting

A special voter’s meeting will occur on September 7 following the Divine Service to select a representative for the Circuit forum scheduled to take place on September 27. The purpose of the circuit forum is to elect pastoral and lay delegates to the 2026 LCMS National Convention in St. Louis. We will also discuss a bylaw change necessary to establish an endowment for Shepherd of the Valley.

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|--|--|
| <b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b><br>1710 Cherry Street, Grand Forks<br>Saturday, September 20<br>3:00pm | <b>St. Mark’s Lutheran Church</b><br>2209 4th Avenue NW, Minot<br>Sunday, September 21<br>3:00pm |
|--|--|



| S  | M  | T   | W   | TH                            | F  | S   |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|----|---|
|  | 1  | 2<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Bible Study<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Bible Study                                  | 3<br><u>5:30pm</u><br>Catechism<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Worship                                 | 4                             | 5  | 6   |
| 7<br><u>9:00am</u><br>Divine Service<br><u>10:30am</u><br>Voter's Meeting<br><u>10:30am</u><br>Rally Day   | 8<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Women's Bible Study  | 9<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Bible Study<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Bible Study                                  | 10<br><u>5:30pm</u><br>Catechism<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Worship<br><u>7:00pm</u><br>Human Care | 11                            | 12 | 13<br><u>9:00am</u><br>Trustees   |
| 14<br><u>9:00am</u><br>Divine Service<br><u>10:30am</u><br>Education Hour  | 15   | 16<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Bible Study<br><u>2:30pm</u><br>Stewardship<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Bible Study | 17<br><u>5:30pm</u><br>Catechism<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Worship                                | 18<br><u>6:30pm</u><br>Elders | 19 | 20<br><u>8:00am</u><br>Men's Network<br><u>4:30pm</u><br>Hangout                      |
| 21<br><u>9:00am</u><br>Divine Service<br><u>10:30am</u><br>Education Hour<br><u>1:00pm</u><br>Middle School Youth  | 22<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Women's Bible Study | 23<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Bible Study<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Bible Study                                 | 24<br><u>5:30pm</u><br>Catechism<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Worship                                | 25                            | 26 | 27<br><u>9:30am</u><br>MVCO Rehearsal<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Circuit Forum<br>Zoom Call |
| 28<br><u>9:00am</u><br>Divine Service<br><u>10:30am</u><br>Education Hour<br><u>1:00pm</u><br>Senior High Youth<br><u>3:00pm</u><br>MVCO<br><u>7:00PM</u><br>Council | 29   | 30<br><u>10:00am</u><br>Bible Study<br><u>6:00pm</u><br>Bible Study                                 |   |                               |    |   |



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

God Words Part 12: The Word “Truth”

Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus “What is truth?” So far in this series we have looked at five different words:

- God
- Love
- Faith
- Heaven
- Good

We have examined how the definitions of each of these words have been twisted and clouded to the point where conversations using these words have become difficult to understand. It is possible for two people to have a lengthy conversation in which they talk about God, love, faith, being a good person and going to heaven, and even though they may appear to be in agreement about these matters, because they are operating with different definitions of these words, they actually do not *really* agree. The devil, as has been said, loves to cause disruption and confusion, and by encouraging fuzzy definitions of these words he has attempted to make the gospel of Jesus Christ fuzzy and non-descript as well (for further discussion on this see previous articles.) He tries to obscure the truth.

Relativism

The final word I want to discuss in this series is the word “truth.” So, what is the truth? In our day and age people are very uncomfortable declaring anything as absolutely true. If I were to go to school and say that the Bible is absolutely true, while some would agree with me, others would say:

“I’m following my own truth.”

“Everybody’s truth is just as good as anyone else’s”

“Well, maybe its true for you, but not for me.”

We hear these kinds of things all the time. They sound so nice in a way. It seems like a way that we can all get along. But are these statements legitimate? Can something be true for me and not for you? Isn’t *truth* true? This way of looking at truth is often called *relativism*. Relativism is, spiritually a very dangerous way of looking at truth.

Relativism sound so nice in a way. It seems like a way that we can all get along. But are these statements legitimate? Can something be true for me and not for you? Isn’t truth true? This way of looking at truth is often called relativism. Relativism is, spiritually a very dangerous way of looking at truth.

Relativism is a false god because it elevates *all* truths to the same level. Relativism is essentially polytheism. Polytheism says that there are many gods and *all* are equally powerful. Therefore, we ought to respect them all as the ancient Greeks respected their Pantheon. The god of relativism demands that we respect all truths as equal. If I were to say that Jesus is the only way, relativists would say that I am being arrogant, divisive, and bigoted. Relativism may appear to be a nice way to get along, but the problem is that it is a lie.