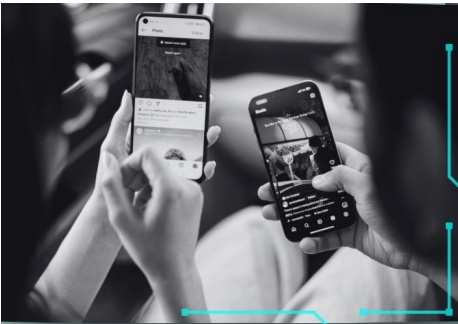




Fall Clean Up (Volunteers needed) is
Saturday, October 11th @ 10:00am.



THE LCMS ND DISTRICT + LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTS


BECOMING SCREEN WISE:

UNDERSTANDING
THE SEEN & UNSEEN
AND WHAT YOU
CAN DO ABOUT IT

A presentation led by LFS Educational Specialist Rev. Jonathan Conner designed for parents of children of all ages, and anyone who senses that screens and screen time are creating unwanted consequences in life.

BISMARCK: MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL
413 East Avenue D, Bismarck, ND
Monday, October 20, 2025
Dinner: 5-6pm • Presentation: 6-8pm

FARGO: GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
1025 14th Avenue South, Fargo, ND
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Dinner: 5-6pm • Presentation: 6-8pm





Nofa
AND
Luke

REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT THEIR WEDDING CELEBRATION

AT 2:00PM, 25TH OCTOBER 2025

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
615 E TURNPIKE AVE. BISMARCK, ND

Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn’t sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base

line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn’t rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn’t rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn’t always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow’s mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

Happy Birthday!

Deb B	10/1
Jean L	10/1
Jerry L	10/5
Leona M	10/7
Sylvia D	10/14
Blake N	10/16
LaRae K	10/17
Sandy H	10/21
Duaine D	10/23
Kim R	10/25



Olivia D	10/4
David A	10/11
Sharon S	10/14
Lyn Kr	10/16
Deb B	10/21



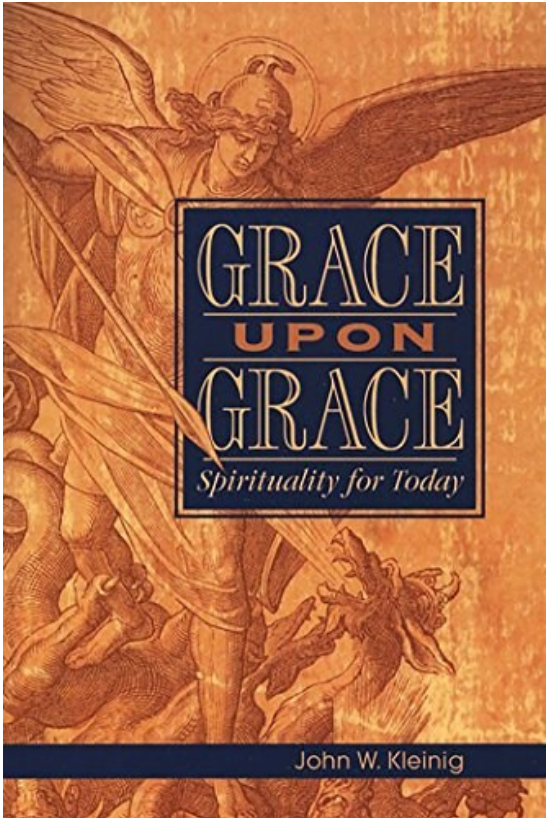
Oct. 5	Nolan P.
Oct. 12	Madison G.
Oct. 19	Mackenzie G.
Oct. 26	Daniel A.



Don & Pat B	10/07
Brent & Lyric P	10/10



October 2025
1-15 Rob Burkhardsmeyer
16-31 Martin Bjergaard



Women’s Bible Study

The women’s Bible study will read and discuss “Grace Upon Grace” by Rev. Dr. John Kleinig at our Monday evening gatherings starting on October 13 at 6:00 pm. Please join other woman of the congregation as we discuss Spirituality for today. Contact the church office if you would like us to order a copy for you.

“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).



Main Street Living KVRr & WDAY viewing area bulletin blurbs for October 2025

“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life”. Both can be viewed on KVRr (FOX) and WDAY Xtra (ABC). Visit www.mainstreetliving.com/ to view current and past episodes

Oct 5, 2025 9:00am KVRr & 10:00am WDAY Xtra
This is the Life - “One Hour to Live” - Divine forgiveness for the truly penitent assures a man...and in the nick of time.

Main Street Living - Rev. Matthew Meyer, pastor at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Callaway, MN, presents a message titled “What do you Know about Jesus“. The sermon is based on 2 Timothy 1:1-14. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Oct 12, 2025 9:00am KVRr & 10:00am WDAY Xtra “Trial by Fire” - When an unexpected tragedy strikes...pray, forgive and move forward. When one door closes, another will open.

Main Street Living - Rev. Jonathan Walla, pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church in Bismarck, ND, presents a message titled “Healing for All, Thanks from One“. The sermon is based on Luke 17:11-19. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Oct 19, 2025 9:00am KVRr & 10:00am WDAY Xtra “Red Trap” - A loving father’s son became conflicted and lost. Fortunately, he was surrounded by people who cared.

Main Street Living - Rev. Justin Woodside, pastor at Bethel & Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches in Bismarck, ND, presents a message titled “Just a Bunch of Babies“. The sermon is based on Luke 18:1-8. For more information visit: www.mainstreetliving.com

Oct 26, 2025 9:00am KVRr & 10:00am WDAY Xtra “The Sexton”
- A pastor and a sexton (church caretaker) with magical powers fight an eerie duel in a church.

Main Street Living - TBA

So what do we do? Hide under a bushel? No. What does Jesus say in Matthew 5? “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” (Matt 5:14-15, ESV) We must speak all the louder!

The ancient Church father Tertullian once wrote “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Indeed, it is a great witness to the world when it sees the love of Christians for Christ and one another even to the point of death! Maybe we *are* entering an age of martyrdom, but if we are, stand strong, for Christ is greater than the world! We have triumphed in Him.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39, ESV)

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.



“ Pastor Appreciation Sunday” is on October 19 during fellowship. Join the celebration with cake and treats.

Fall 2025

Who: All Youth Grades 5-12
Where: 2020 3rd St. SE Mandan Building B Unit 3
When: Nov 2nd 1:00-3:00
RSVP: Pastor Woodside
TEXT: 951-217-3385

Bible Study & Costume Party

"Halloween" by greger.ravik is licensed under CC BY 2.0 adapted. cropped



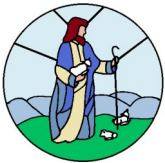
Take Heart In Your Grief

Grief can bring unexpected emotions that are difficult to carry alone. In *Take Heart in Your Grief*, you will explore practical tools for navigating loss while drawing strength from God’s promises. Walking alongside others with similar experiences provides mutual care, healing, and encouragement. Join us for 8 consecutive Sundays, starting October 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Shepherd of the Valley as Pastor Marcis and Pastor Wolfgram lead the Christ-centered sessions and walk with you on your journey of grief. Contact Pastor Wolfgram at 701-400-0646 or email pastor.wolfgram@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

*Please join us for Bunco on October 10 at 6:00. Sign up sheet is in narthex so we know how many are joining us. Bring a snack to share.



S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1 5:30pm Catechism 6:00pm Worship	2	3	4
5 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Education Hour 3:00pm Kuchenfest 6:30pm Take Heart in Your Grief	6	7 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm Stewardship 6:00pm Bible Study	8 5:30pm Catechism 6:00pm Worship	9	10	11 9:00am Trustees 10:00am Fall Clean Up
12 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Education Hour 6:30pm Take Heart in Your Grief	13 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	14 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study	15 5:30pm Catechism 6:00pm Worship	16	17	18 8:00am Men's Network 4:30pm Hangout
19 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Education Hour 1:00pm Middle School Youth 6:30pm Take Heart in Your Grief	20 5:00pm Becoming Screen Wise Supper 6:00pm Becoming Screen Wise	21 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study	22 5:30pm Catechism 6:00pm Worship 7:00pm Human Care	23 6:30pm Elders	24	25
26 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Education Hour 1:00pm Senior High Youth 6:30pm Take Heart in Your Grief 7:00PM Council	27 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	28 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study	29 5:30pm Catechism 6:00pm Worship	30 6:30pm MLS Band Concert	31	



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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

The Blood of the Martyrs is the Seed of the Church: Part I

The Martyrdom of Charlie Kirk?

Martyrdom is not something we typically like to think about. In American history it really has not been something that e have even *had* to think about. This is because, by and large, the United States has been very friendly and accepting of Christianity, if not outright supportive at times. However, this acceptance and tolerance toward Christianity is waning, and I think it is safe to say that our culture is headed in a direction in which persecution and martyrdom is rearing its ugly head.

But what is martyrdom? Typically, we think of martyrdom as though it always implies death for one’s beliefs. However, the word martyr comes from the Greek word μάρτυς, which means to witness. A Christian martyr, therefore, is one who is a witness to the truth of salvation in Christ. Death, of course, is the ultimate witness.

This past few weeks, the news has been flooded with stories regarding the assassination of the conservative political figure, Charlie Kirk. In the midst of this there has been a lot of talk about whether or not we ought to consider Charlie Kirk a martyr. This is a good question.

Let’s take this first in light of the greek meaning of the word martyr: witness of the faith. Did he witness and publicly proclaim salvation in Christ? Yes, he did. In a recent interview he was asked this question: *"If you could be associated with one thing, how would you want to be remembered?"* His answer? *"I want to be remembered for courage for my faith,"* Kirk said. *"That would be the most important thing; most important thing is my faith."* (<https://www.foxnews.com/us/charlie-kirk-answered-how-do-you-want-remembered-less-than-3-months-before-killing>) So is he a martyr? In the sense that he publicly proclaimed Christ, yes.

Was he killed for his faith? Now some may argue that his assassin killed him, not on account of his faith, but for political reasons, particularly his stance against abortion, homosexual marriage, and trans ideology. However, there is no doubt that his so-called political views directly stemmed from his faith in Christ and his belief in scripture. (For scripture clearly condemns these very things!) I would, in light of this, consider Charlie Kirk a modern-day martyr.

So what is my point? My point is not hero-worship of Mr. Kirk. However, his brutal public assassination ought to be a wake-up call to all Bible believing Christians. Make no mistake about it: Charlie Kirk was silenced on account of his faith in Christ. He believes very much the same things that you do; that I do. So we must draw the conclusion that the murder and silencing of Charlie Kirk represents a murder and silencing of you and me! When we read the heartless and evil comments commending Tyler Robinson as a hero, we must realize that those people are wishing death on all of us!

We are hated. This should be no surprise. Jesus said, **“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.** ¹⁹ **If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** ²⁰ **Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.”** (John 15:18-20, ESV)