



September 2026

Poor, Captive, and Needing Rescue

(Senkbeil, Harold L. *Where in the World Is God?*

Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1999. pages 93-94.)

**The LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.
(Isaiah 61:1,2)**

One day Jesus worshiped at a synagogue in Nazareth. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him, and he read the words recorded above. Then he did the unexpected. He said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

"How could he?" they must have thought. What gall! Who does he think he is?

We've gotten over the shock, but we still have a question. "Who are these tragic and needy people?" we ask. The down and out? The addicted maybe? The scum of the earth or the dregs of society perhaps, but surely not us.

In all of God's Word, we need to hear both the good news and the bad news. The bad news is this: YOU are the one of whom Jesus speaks. You are both poor and captive. Yet the good news is that God has come for such as you.

The truth is that we are all poor, indeed, when it comes to God. We have wandered, every one of us, to his own way. We are captives as well to the wild impulses of our sinful nature. Despite our best intentions, we often relish the very thoughts and actions of which we ought to be ashamed. We find a way to yield to the temptations of the devil. We allow the dictates of a sinful heart to take over, and we cave in to the lusts of our sinful nature. Yet we enjoy it so. At times we even pretend that we are good and holy, when in fact there is nothing good that dwells within us, that is, in our sinful nature. We are captive to our sin, even if we deny it.

We need to confess our sin and to hear Christ's word of absolution. The Spirit breathes life into the likes of us, lost in sin and death as we are. We have nothing to bring him, except our empty hands and our shattered hearts. But in such he delights. For the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart. When we are nothing, then he is everything. In the very midst of our nothingness, he is our everything. As long as we remain smug, complacent, and proud in our sin—as long as we remain full of ourselves—we cannot be full of him. But when we are empty and come to him, crushed and desolate with contrite hearts, then he is faithful and fills us to overflowing with his forgiving love.

For this Christ came into the world so long ago. The Lord Jesus was born in a stable and nailed upon a cross so that he might be the life of all of the living and the death of death. He absorbs into his holy body all the sin and death that dwells within us and abolishes the whole rotten mess of our captivity to sin by his cross and death. His great gift to us is his healing, his freedom, and the richness of his grace.

**Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling
That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race! Amen.**

Paul Gerhardt

Voters' Meeting on Sunday, September 27, 2026

Our next quarterly voter's meeting is scheduled for after next Sunday's worship/fellowship (at about noon). Physical attendance is highly encouraged. Please let me (pastor) know before the meeting if you need to attend via Google Meet so I can set it up.

Sunday Bible Class

What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian? Martin Luther sparked the Reformation when he nailed his protest to the door of the Castle Church in 1517. That protest had one goal: to bring the church back to the foundation of the Bible. To be a Lutheran Christian means to base our teaching and practice on the Bible alone. Our new study, **Reformation: Grace, Faith, Scripture**, presents 12 important biblical principles that are still important to us and all Bible-believing Christians today. Join us as we explore these important and enduring Biblical truths from now until Christmas.

Friday Fellowship Bible Class

We'd love for you to join us for supper and Bible Study at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of the month as we study the book of Leviticus – seeing how the regulations and sacrifices of God provided in that book prepared God's people for the coming Christ. We hope you can join us.

Bible Information Class

We have an ongoing Bible Information Class on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to come, and we are a little over half-way through the course.

I am hoping to start another Bible information class soon. If you are interested, please let me (pastor) know what times would work best for you.

In-person Worship Attendance

June – An average of 46 for Sunday worship and 38 for communion

July - An average of 38 for Sunday worship and 40 for communion

(Note: July's two communion Sundays communion had high attendance)

August – An average of 43 for Sunday worship and 33 for communion

Light for My Path

I continue sending out daily devotions, links to other devotional sites (included in Monday's messages), Bible classes, Communion registration reminders, and announcements.

If you or someone you know is not receiving the daily prayers and would like them, please let me know their email address, and I will add them to our email list.

Note: Please let me know before unsubscribing if you do not wish to receive the Daily Prayer. The 'Unsubscribe' feature at the bottom of the daily email would remove your name from all congregational emails, including urgent ones.

Evangelism Notes

By: Jordan Alves

A one day VBS was held on August 8th about 7 kids were in attendance. The church picnic was held on August 9th with lots of food, ice cream and game prizes available for everyone, in total around 60 attended including several visitors. The food drive donations were dropped off at the food bank on September 21st, a big thank you to everyone who donated, 5 boxes were gathered during the drive.

Planning for the Christmas parade has begun with an anticipated date of November 15th, more details to follow in the next month. Christmas for kids will be held on Saturday December 12th from 10am-12pm.

The next Evangelism meeting will be held on October 25th following the service.

Trustee Notes

By: Doug Morton

No report.

Youth Education Report

By: Jason Pfothhauer

Sunday school began on September 13th with some fun games, a nature walk, the viewing of the WELS Kids Connection video and the closing of the time capsule. There were 5 children in attendance.

A big thank you to all the teachers who make the youth education program possible throughout the year. The teachers were installed during the September 13th service.

Please reach out to Jason Pfothhauer or the Pastor with any questions about enrollment or Sunday School in general.

Elders' Notes
By: Jeremy Doherty

Program for delinquent members: Restored by Grace is still being written however the structure remains the same. List of individuals that have not been seen over a quarter elicit a response from Elders and/or Pastor with the ultimate goal of having someone return to church and an active faith. We are trialing a software to track specific attendance to assist with the program.

We will be celebrating the church's anniversary on Nov. 1, this aligns with first fellowship and the Fall time change.

November 29th will be a lay led service as Pastor is away for US Thanksgiving. Paul Reepschlager will lead us in worship that Sunday.

New Business:

The ladies would like to honour the life of long term member Adeline Gadde by either planting a tree on the property or a bench for the front of the church. Either option would include a commemorative plaque.

Updates from the Board of Stewardship and Treasurer / Financial Secretary.
By: Jim Neubauer

I. E-Transfer Process

We continue to use the e-transfer process in 2026. More than 15 people use the etransfer process and send offerings weekly or monthly. Let me know if you would like to use this process. The etransfer email is divinewordetransfer@gmail.com

II. Regular Offerings and Budgets

Regular Offerings: Please find below the financial summary as of Sept 20, 2026 of all regular offerings collected to date being applied toward our Current Church Offering Income budget requirement of \$140,000 for 2026 decreased from \$142,500 for 2025.

As of September 20, 2026
Offerings Received – \$109,377
Offerings Budgeted - \$104,086

As of June 21, 2026
Offerings Received – \$68,700
Offerings Budgeted - \$68,461

As of March 15, 2026
Offerings Received – \$24,150
Offerings Budgeted - \$30,096

After 38 weeks we are slightly ahead of our weekly budget projection. This is good news but all members need to continue to make their regular offerings.

It is important to note as well, that we have received over \$22,500 in offerings designated for "Special Projects", to be used as the Council and Voters decide. This is great news for our Long-Term Planning – accessibility initiatives.

So overall, I am giving us an A rating for the first 38 weeks. Good job everyone. God is good.

Investments:

Sunlife - Value \$355,954 (1 yr growth 5.68%) – **Funds 100% available**

(Note: these are funds and dropped by about \$5,000 since June)

Scotiabank - \$70 K – High Interest Savings – approx. 2.5% - **Funds 100% available**

Scotiabank Chequing - \$54 K - **Funds 100% available**

Scotiabank – US Account - \$24.6 K (approx. \$34,600 CDN) - **Funds 100% available**

Scotiabank - \$60 K – 2 year GIC @ 3.85% (Funds available Nov 25, 2026)

Scotiabank - \$110 k – 2 year GIC @ 3.05% (Funds available March 24, 2027)

Scotiabank - \$62 K – 4 year GIC @ 3.2% (Funds available November, 27 2029)

Overall Scotiabank – Approx. \$391 K

As always if you have any questions – don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

I want to thank all the volunteers quietly working in the background at church by doing things like helping with the social media, setting up the altar, watching over our finances and member offerings, keeping on top of administrative paperwork, teaching our children, providing dinners and snacks, making necessary facility repairs, maintaining the property in order, beautifying the sanctuary, helping me organize for services, giving fellow members an encouraging note or call, inviting people to worship, and upholding DW's ministry in prayer. Know that your work is not in vain. I thank God for all of you and all that you do.

Are You Struggling?

Are you or someone you know struggling spiritually? If so, do not hesitate to contact me (Pastor). *Our conversation will be kept confidential.*

Pastor Sullivan's Contact Information

Home address: 81 Upminster Way, Ottawa, ON, K2J5G2

Email: pastor@divinewordottawa.ca

Primary (Mobile) Phone Number: (613) 255-2317

May the LORD continue to bless you.

In Christian love,

Pastor Michael Sullivan