



**“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God endures forever”  
Isaiah 40:8.**

**“The Word of the Lord endures forever. And this Word is the good news that was  
preached to you” 1 Peter 1:25.**

God's Word stands alone as the only thing that lasts forever. The sinful world around us scoffs at the Word as though it is worthless, a thing of the past. Many clamor for something new, something that will change their lives, offer security, give comfort and an easier life. Some look to philosophy, politics or so-called “new belief systems,” which are actually the same heresies of ancient history brought back to life in a different era. One reason people do not recognize these recycled false teachings is a lack of knowledge of history and failure to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest God's Word.

God's Word was passed down from our first parents to their children, then Moses writes the first five books of the Bible with the other writers of Scripture (*inspired by the Holy Spirit*) to give us the Scriptures we have today. God's Word stands forever by His will that generation after generation would hear His Word which delivers Christ our Savior, rescuing people from the kingdom of darkness bringing them into Christ's Church.

From the establishing of the foundation of our churches, St. Paul Lutheran in Beach and St. Peter Lutheran in Belfield, God's Word has been taught according to the will of God as Scripture teaches in **Isaiah 55:10-11**, **“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”** God's precious Word gives life and salvation, forgiveness of sins and God's rich mercy through Christ. The Word delivers to us the blessings of the cross earned by Christ and given to us through pure grace. We are connected to the cross through Holy Baptism, God's Means of Grace that delivers to us personally the benefits Christ earns on His cross.

Through God's Word and Sacraments, He gathers His people bestowing grace, forgiveness and His peace that comes through Christ. By the Word, which endures forever, generations are given mercy and made God's own in Holy Baptism and nurtured in their faith, nourished by His blessed life-giving meal of Christ's body and blood given for the forgiveness of our sins. Through the merits of Christ our sins are forgiven and God declares us righteous and holy in His sight and makes us heirs of His promises. The robe of righteousness given by Christ is placed on us in Baptism and God sees holy and righteous people who are covered by the blood of Jesus that covers all of our sin. Thus we are received into Christ's Church and will enter into eternal joy one day with our Savior.

Life changes, the things we remember from the past fade as the world around us changes. Sometimes we embrace change and sometimes we resist. Our problem is always the unknown which gives us fear. Yet, the one thing we can always count on is **“The Word of our God endures forever.”** This is the great comfort we have that God never abandons His promises to us in Christ. We have eternal life to look forward to being with our Savior, the One who has given His all for us. That's what the passage from **Isaiah 40:8** teaches, that while the temporary things of this life will pass, God's Word and the promises made, delivered and continued through His Word will not pass away but will come to fruition according to His will in His time and all who believe will be forever with the Lord.

Pastors come and go; **“but the Word of the Lord endures forever.”** God sends His workers into His kingdom to particular places for particular times to accomplish His will for the proclamation of the Gospel for Word and Sacrament ministry to nourish His saints with the gifts He alone gives in Christ our Savior.

The great blessings of the ministry are the joy of bringing God's Word to His people to nourish and strengthen their faith; administer the Sacraments according to His institution; to share the joys and sorrows of God's people as all grow in faith by **“the Word of the Lord that endures forever.”**

Donna and I thank all of you very much for you have been and will continue to be a great joy in our lives, fellow saints belonging to Christ by His blood; serving our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. God promises never to leave you nor forsake you and He will provide for Word and Sacrament ministry for you by His grace because of His love for all of you in Christ your Savior. The sacred writer repeats the Old Testament passage speaking about the everlasting nature of God's Word, then adds what the Word gives to all who believe as written in;

**1 Peter 1:25: “The Word of the Lord endures forever. And this Word is the good news that was preached to you”**

Yes indeed God's Word, His Good News in Christ, has been preached to you! And by His will it will continue to be preached to you again and again because **“The Word of the Lord endures forever!” Because, “it is still about Jesus!”**

**To God be all the glory!**

**O Word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging O Light of our dark sky-  
We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.**

**TLH 294 “O Word of God Incarnate” stanza 1**

God's Blessings to all of you in Christ our Savior!  
Pastor Ahrendt