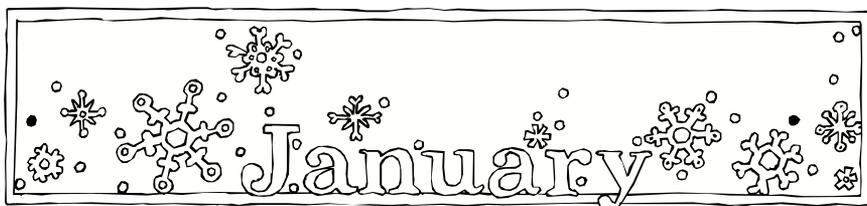


FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2017

Church Office 210-824-8748

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www.mtcsa.org

Dear Mount Calvary,

I came across the following article in the *Lutheran Reporter* for this month and was struck by the words of Martin Luther in this sermon. As we begin the new year in which we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I wanted to share them with you too. God's blessings in the new year as we serve Him together. May His gift of faith fill our lives with hope and love!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Faith, Hope and Love

At the beginning of this Reformation anniversary year, the following excerpt from a sermon by Martin Luther proclaims the role of faith, hope and love in the life of a Christian.

Faith You have all three, faith, hope and love, together in a single package. Faith considers God's promise and pledge. Faith holds this through the Word. So the heart holds firmly to God and believes His Word. That is the faith which you receive (*fidem uistificantern*—justifying faith) that makes you righteous and good. As faith acts, works and serves, it does so only considering God's promise which comes by grace. This faith is promised and pledge to us in God's Word.

St. Paul speaks of this faith when he quotes the prophet Joel (Joel 2) in the epistle to the Romans (Romans 10). "Whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved." But how can you call upon someone in whom you do not believe? How can you believe in someone of whom you have never heard? How can you hear without a preacher, etc? He concludes the matter when he says, so faith comes from preaching and preaching from the Word of God. He also says explicitly to the Galatians (Galatians 3) that we have received the Holy Ghost not from our works, but rather through the preaching of faith.

Hope From this kind of promise and pledge of God, promised and pledged over and above any of our service, out of pure grace and

mercy to us, springs hope. I am truly waiting for what was promised. Hope is nothing but being established steadfast in divine mercy to us and in nothing but what is promised purely out of grace. So I remain courageous and bold in this hope in order to await what He has promised. I do not let anything scare me away from it, whether sins, death, devil or hell, world or our own flesh. So now faith's task is only to pay attention to the promises of God. So hope attends solely to what God pledges to give us exclusively in His Word and promise through this pure and alien mercy of God. As the psalm says, "Your loving kindness is before my eyes and I walk in the truth." So faith's work and fruit is a happy conscience, a secure heart and a bold countenance before God. But hope holds still and waits for what God has promised, come what may. Hope guards us especially in times of adversity. St. Paul has bound these together when he so beautifully addresses the Romans (Romans 5). "So we are justified by faith so we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we also have access in faith to this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the coming glory which God shall give. Not only this, but we also rejoice in affliction. For affliction gives patience. Patience brings experience. But experience brings hope, and hope does not let itself be disappointed. That is all because the love of God is poured into our hearts through the Holy Ghost which is given us."

So hope is nothing but abandoning one's present self and awaiting that which is not yet seen. For if you saw it, you would not have to hope, as Saint Paul says (Romans 8). Hope cannot exist without faith. It is even accounted to faith in the epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11). Faith is the sure anticipation of what is coming in the future, what is hoped for. It judges things according to what is unseen. So that you can also distinguish between them, faith attends to the Word and the promise and believes that it is true. But hope attends to that which the Words and promises pledge. It waits upon those things and is sure that they will come.

Love The third part of the Christian life is love, which immediately flows out of faith and hope. Love hangs so near these that love also can never remain apart from faith or be found where there is no

rightly fashioned faith. So little as fire is dependent upon its heat and smoke, so little is faith dependent upon love.

For I have come to know through faith how God has loved me, that He has sent down His own Son from heaven for my good and salvation, let Him become a man, and let Him die for my sins. By that He wants to help me, who would be eternally damned. He has given me everything with His Son so that I am made like Him in every way. I can rejoice. Because of this I can defy and mock sins, death, devil and every trouble. If that is true it is only meet and right that I shall love Him back, cling to Him, keep His Commandments and desire everything that He desires, with ardent and active love. Such faith must win a person a friendly, sweet heart towards God, a heart which cannot remain only by itself, but must overflow and also make itself known freely in every act of thanksgiving and love.

But since God does not need our works, He has also not commanded us to do anything for Him but only to praise and thank Him. So such a man will go out and be completely devoted to his neighbor, serving him, helping and saving him, and doing it only from grace and mercy for him even if his neighbor is stuck in sins, an enemy of God and does not acknowledge God. He cannot leave him when he sees his neighbor stuck in anxiety or sins but he advises him in the right way, and leads him to God's help and comfort, even as he has found God's help and comfort. He preaches the Gospel to him and sees to it that he is freed from his sins. So if he sees him naked, he clothes him, hungry, he feeds him, thirsty, he gives him drink, etc.

Taken from Martin Luther, *Festival Sermons of Martin Luther: The Church Postils: Sermons for the Main Festivals and Saints Days of the Church Year; Winter and Summer Selections*, Trans. Joel R. Baseley (Dearborn, Mich.: Mark V Publications), 31-37. Used with permission.



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Adult Bible Class | This large, lecture-style class meets in the gym and is taught by Pastor Mark. Current study: the Smalcald Articles.

Bread of Life Adult Class | This class is smaller and meets in the Parish Hall, allowing for more discussion. This class is led by Wanda & Larry Laxson. Current study: ***The Gospel According to Paul***. This is a 4 session study on the life, faith and ministry of the apostle Paul.

PreK through College | Children and students in are divided into classes that teach the Bible in age-appropriate ways. We offer classes specific to: PreK-K (small gym classroom), 1st-2nd (room 210), 3rd-4th (room 206), 5th-6th (Pre-Confirmation, room 204), 7th-8th (Confirmation, room 208), High School & College (room 218)

MIDWEEK CLASSES

Adult Information Class (AIC) | *Wednesdays beginning January 11th* | 7:00-8:00 pm | Church library

New to Lutheranism? Just want to brush up on the basics? This is the class for you! Each course is 10 sessions. Taught by Pastor Reedy. If you are interested, speak to Pastor Reedy.

Pastor Mark's Bible Study | *Tues* | 10:00-11:30 am & | *Wed* | 6:30-7:30 pm This class is on break and will begin again January 3rd & 4th studying *Christianity and the Competition* by Dr. Paul Maier.

Men's Bible Study | 1st & 3rd Saturdays | 8:00-9:30 am

This group is led by Jeff Harwood {Parish Hall}.

Women's Bible Study | 3rd Mondays | 7:30-8:30 pm Talk to Shirley Wille for more information {Meets at members' homes}.

Mothers' ChristCare | 2nd & 4th Mon | 6:30-8:00 pm

This group is led by Wanda Laxson {Room 218 upstairs}.

Night ChristCare | 1st & 3rd Thurs | 7:00-8:30 pm

This group is led by Jan Miyauchi and meets at 2219 Peach Blossom {Miyauchi Home}.

Theological Pub | 1st Wed | 7:30-8:30 pm

For adults of all ages {Nosh Restaurant}.

College Bible Study | If you would be interested in joining us this spring, speak to DCE Laura.

ELDERS FOR JANUARY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
January 1 (communion)	John Smetzer	Jim Koenig
January 8	Jim McNeel	Mike Wille
January 15 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Jason Strawn
January 22	Russell Maxwell	Alex Hansmann
January 29	Brad Boeckner	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR JANUARY

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Don Cummings	Richard Miyauchi
David Potter	David Timmons
Max Breon	Nathaniel Aguilar
Jeff Harwood	L.J. Cott

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
January 1	Sammy LaRue	Jake Wille
January 8	Joshua Smetzer	Joshua Kelly
January 15	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
January 22	Jose Carmona	Joe Morrison
January 29	Sammy La Rue	Jake Wille

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
January 1	Grace Morris	Jill Cott
	Elaine Ward	L.J. Cott
January 8	Leslie Smetzer	Sarah Paseur
	Kim Hendrix	Clara Cobb
January 15	Carol Wilson	Arlene Nitsche
	Jo Ann Koehn	Debbie Nitsche
January 22	Brenda Hoffmann	Mary Marks
	Olga McGlothing	Judy Ganoza
January 29	Denise La Bonté	Bonnie Koenig
	Sarah Hanson	Rexann George

The annual Congregational Meeting will be February 12th during the Education Hour. A complimentary breakfast will be served. Come get an update on 2016 and what plans we have for 2017.

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

Old” is the New “New”

A number of years ago I happened to be at lunch with my mother and one of her cousins. As Mom and my “Aunt J” (as I called her) sat debating which entree to order...which had the highest salt content, the largest calorie count, etc., the topic naturally zeroed in on the subject of diet and exercise. My aunt recalled, in a rather curt and somewhat disgusted tone, how people **used** to eat a generation or two ago out on the farm. I can still hear her droll accent rolling out the dissertation: “Everybody is so concerned these days with every little thing that goes into their mouths...with their cholesterol and gaining weight. You know, if people would just get up of the couch and work around the house or the yard they wouldn’t have to worry so much about what they ate or about joining a gym. Granddaddy used to get up at four o’clock and head out to the barn for a good three hours work before coming in for breakfast where Grandma would have platters (not plates, mind you...**platters**) full of pork chops, bacon, sausage, eggs, homemade biscuits and gravy...and **gallons of coffee!** He never worried about going on a diet or about getting enough exercise. He worked every bit of that breakfast off and was ready for lunch that afternoon too!!”

Yeps. Well, sometimes the way we remember “the good ol’ days” isn’t the same as the way the good old days (and the **not** so good old days) really were. However, and this is a **BIG** however, some things about the way things were done in the past really **were** better. We’re a lot smarter these days about the dangers of too much cholesterol and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This article isn’t here to debate that issue. Rather, we’ll take a look at some current research concerning child development which suggests the following interesting findings:

Children need creative, imaginative play.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/.../the-need-pretend-play-in-child-development>

Infants and toddlers shouldn't be exposed to television before the age of two - and after age two, just sparingly.

www.urbanchildinstitute.org/articles/policy-briefs/infants-toddlers-and-television

Too much electronic exposure in young children interferes with frontal lobe brain development.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/.../what-screen-time-can-really-do-kids-braindevelopment>

Recess for school-aged children is both valuable and necessary.

www.parentingscience.com/benefits-of-play.html

Real books with paper pages are preferable to ebooks, especially for younger children.

www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/.../e-books-vs-print-what-parents-need-to-know

Children are happier and better adjusted both physically and emotionally when they have regular sit-down dinners at home where there is engaging conversation with their parents.

<http://thefamilydinnerproject.org/resources/faq/>

What I find most fascinating about these studies is how much they remind me of what life was like when I was growing up. These findings seem to indicate that "old" is the new "new." Researchers appear to have revisited my childhood and taken notes. You see, we really did play for hours on end in our back yards making mud pies, turning our improvised "sheet over the clothesline" into everything from palaces to makeshift hospitals. We didn't watch a lot of television, because, well, there was only one...prominently placed in the living room, and turned on only **after** our bedtime. There was the rare exception, of course, but it was certainly not the norm. We ran our little guts out at recess every day playing four square and chasing boys...or being chased by the boys. We read books...real ones...because there weren't any other kind, and it opened a magical world to us. *Brightly of the Grand Canyon* introduced me to

Marguerite Henry, only one of many authors whose books I'd come to know and treasure. We also ate dinners together around our kitchen table and talked about school and friends and upcoming birthday parties we'd been invited to. It wasn't a perfect world...far from it, but it **was** a nice way to grow up.

What does all of this have to do with us as Christian parents trying our best to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? This is a subject near and dear to my heart, as I know it is to yours. As parents and grandparents there is nothing so important and timely as teaching our little ones about Jesus. The faith of a child is so amazingly beautiful. They believe earnestly, completely...all-in. There is a window of time available to us to introduce them to the God who loves them intensely. That window is most widely open when they are young. This is the time. These are not my words, of course, this wisdom comes from God and His Word.

We read in **Proverbs 22:6**... *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

From **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**...*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

Also, **2 Timothy 3:14-15**...*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

God's Word is old, His wisdom ancient, but it is true, vibrant, and applicable... and never more new, more fresh, than when we are teaching it anew to our precious little ones. Time is of the essence. I can think of nothing more pertinent when it comes to this issue. Invest in the advice from the Ancient of Days. We should all take time while there is time to be had to reach for The Book...the good, old Book...to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it...and then **teach it** to the next generation. It's the greatest **old** treasure that has the biggest impact on a **new** life.

In conclusion, I leave this beautiful poem by John Greenleaf Whittier. We must never underestimate the power of God's Word or the influence of a Christian parent.

The Book Our Mothers Read

by John Greenleaf Whittier

We search the world for truth; we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll,
From all old flower-fields of the soul;
And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from the quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read.

Mt. Calvary is looking for volunteers to help run the sound system in the sanctuary during the various services. We are specifically looking for help during the 11:00am service (we are down to 1 person) but will take volunteers for the 8:30am and special services. If you can use Facebook or email you can easily provide this service to the church. Training provided. Contact Mike Wille at mike@willebuilt.com or 210-570-9472.

Men's Retreat – January 27th 29th – Bible, bullets, bacon – \$25 registration fee + range fees – See details on the registration form in the narthex or online at www.mtcsa.org/signup.

Memorials

In memory of:

Rudy Winkler
Lynwood Ward
Pastor DeVries
Lee Smetzer
Fran Domann

Given by:

Janell Winkler
Denise La Bonté
Denise La Bonté, M/M Victor Van Dyke
Denise La Bonté, Gerald Smetzer
M/M Mark Krugler

Dear Pastor Mark, the Evangelism Committee and Mt. Calvary,

It is with a profound feeling of Thanksgiving that I write to express appreciation to you for your gift to Holy Cross! This money will be used for the purpose for which it was given: reaching souls for God's Kingdom of Grace through the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Your partnership in ministry with us give encouragement to us at Holy Cross as we, under God's grace, tell the good news about Jesus in words and deeds. Once again, thank you! The grace of God is with you!

In the joy and peace of Christ,

Pastor Elder McCants, Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Dear Members of Mount Calvary,

I wanted to take this time to express my gratitude for all the love and support you have shown during my time studying at Concordia University Texas! I can't even begin to explain how much joy the care package that I received for finals week brought me! I had been sick the week before and the week of finals week. This care package really helped me make it through that stressful time.

I would also like to thank you once again for the scholarship that you provide for me to attend CTX! It is so helpful and is being put to good use! I am happy to report that I made the Dean's list again this fall and I hope to do the same for this next spring semester! My Concordia days will be drawing to a close this year with plans on graduating in December of 2017! This semester, I will be starting my interviewing process to find my placement for internship after graduation. I would greatly appreciate your prayers as I go through this process and determine where God would like to send me. I will also try to keep you updated as the process goes on. It means so much to me to have all of your prayers and support behind me as I peruse my degree as a Director of Christian Education. I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend such a wonderful school and to learn more about God and how to further His kingdom in today's world! Thank you again!

-In Him,

Sarah Pulliam!

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
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San Antonio, Texas 78209**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED