

# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2017

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Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

John 18:36

Inauguration day I had an experience that I just have to share with you. I was looking for some random reading material. So I randomly picked a book from the shelf in the library that had the author "Maier" on it and randomly opened it to this reading of all readings. Maybe it was coincidence or maybe God had something to say, so I share it.

These words from Dr. Walter Maier of the Lutheran Hour:

When, on Wednesday of this week, President Roosevelt rests his hand on the Holy Bible to conclude his oath of office with the pledge and prayer, "So help me God," on hundred and thirty million hearts throughout our nation should echo, "Oh, help him, God!". This new administration will be assailed by problems that demand more than statesmanship, by difficulties too overwhelming even for a capable Congress. The crime wave..., the labor conflicts..., the mountains of public and private debt..., the masses of idle and discontented workers..., the gathering war clouds..., these are only a few of the alarming issues for which our public officials and our nation's head need the light and the power of divine guidance.

Do not jump to the mistaken conclusion, now that the warm, softening rays of better times seem to shine upon us, that we can get along without God and thrive in opposition to His Word. America can be plunged into more agonizing sorrows than we have ever known...Unless God is with us as he was with our fathers; unless there is a reawakening of courageous, red-blooded Christian faith throughout this land, the worst may yet await us. And when on Wednesday, by the marvel of radio, you hear our President declare: "So help me God!" pause for a moment and ask your heavenly Father to be with him during the four years of his second term, so that he may be guided in every public and private policy by that righteousness which "exalteth a nation".

We must do more than utter a brief prayer on inauguration day. Since the welfare of our nation rests, under God, on the Christian home, we must earnestly seek to meet our closest responsibilities,

those in our own families. Let us not worry too much about what Hitler or Mussolini may do in Europe; let us not center our keenest concern in the Japanese and China situation; right here in America, without our homes, we have problems, deep-rooted and decisive, which far outweigh any international issue – the task of making the American home a mighty part of the spiritual and moral foundation of a God-fearing, healthy, and happy nation.

(excerpted from *Forth Lutheran Hour*, by Dr. Walter A. Maier)

I've pondered these words several times since I first read them on inauguration day. Written originally for January 20, 1937 I first read them January 20<sup>th</sup> 2017, eighty years later.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly, family of God.

*Pastor Carol Roesz*



## **Youth and Culture**

Dear Christian friends,

I'm so thankful for the work of Mount Calvary in raising up Christian servant-leaders among the young members of our congregation. I myself was a recipient of the caring concern of this church for my spiritual well-being. What a blessing it has been for me to come full-circle and actually be called by Mount Calvary to "assist with the youth program, provide spiritual guidance and counsel to the youth seeking to create a special relationship with them, and develop a plan for youth outreach," as your job description for me indicates. How wonderful to serve a church that prioritizes families and youth as vital ministries of the church! What a joy it was in January to see our youth serving during the worship services on Youth Sunday, and what a reminder of the importance of the family of God receiving His gifts and living out our faith.

Recently an article was published from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod revealing the poll numbers from a survey taken at the National

Youth Gathering last summer. The following information comes from that poll and its interpretation by Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer and Rev. Mark Kiessler, the synod's youth ministry directors. The article can be read in full by typing the following address into your internet search bar: <http://blogs.lcms.org/2017/lyf-youth-poll-results>. I hope you find this article enlightening and thought provoking as we continue to serve the Lord together going forward mightily and victoriously into the future.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark

From: "LYF Youth Poll Results Reflect Headlines, Scriptural Stance"

"For Dittmer, one of the more surprising responses came to the second-to-last survey question, for which participants were asked to identify three top concerns from a list of 26 topics.

"Particularly matching the headlines at the time of last year's Gathering, the No. 1 response regarding issues of concern to youth was 'Terrorism,' among 27.7 percent of youth taking the poll. For the seven polls prior to 2016, terrorism had never made the top five issues. For the seven polls that preceded 2016 and included terrorism, that topic averaged a 5.1 percent response rate. 'Environment' was No. 3 in 2013, at 26.5 percent, but fell to 23rd in 2016. Rounding out the top responses in 2016, second was 'The Future,' at 25.8 percent; third was 'College,' at 25.3 percent; 'Abortion' was fourth, at 17.1 percent; and 'My Faith,' at 15.7 percent, was fifth.

"'My Faith' has surfaced as a concern on eight of the 10 polls that included this issue as an option,' Dittmer explained. 'Over the years, our youth seem to be facing or predicting spiritual challenge. While they celebrate the faith at events like the Gathering, they know there will be temptation as they age, go to college, leave home and enlarge their circle of friends outside faith and church. A significant percentage seem to fear compromising their faith in some way.'

"'Not surprisingly, the future and transitions like heading to college consistently show up in the poll as concerns for young people,'" commented Kiessler. 'We give thanks for parents and churches

which make special effort to connect young people to Jesus and the Church when discussing and going through these changes.'

"Dittmer also noted the continued positive care LCMS young people have for life. 'Abortion has never before reached the top five concerns but surfaced at number 4 in 2016,' he said. 'LCMS teens indicate a strong proclivity to being pro-life — 76.2 percent in 2016. This strong pro-life trend agrees with trends in secular settings where young adults are less pro-choice.'

"Kiessling and Dittmer both mentioned the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of LCMS youth, regarding life issues.

...

"One of my favorite tidbits is to observe the historical tracking of the pro-life questions on the poll,' Kiessling also noted. I think it speaks to the work of the Holy Spirit through the Body of Christ when [the Church] focuses and 'finds her voice' on a topic or teaching. Reaching back to poll data in the early 1980's, LCMS youth were about 50 percent 'pro-life', specifically seen as being against abortion. Some of the life issues were pretty new to our social and church culture. As the Church learned to respond and educate to these issues, young people have become more 'pro-life.' The numbers range around 75 percent now being pro-life and having an understanding of what that means. It's a joy to see and encouragement to keep teaching the faith in love.'

...

"Having been responsible for the first 13 polls, I can tell you we are never done,' Dittmer concluded. 'Christian young people will continue to face challenges to their Christian faith, their stance on moral issues and the truth of Christ's Word,' said Kiessling. 'We give thanks for their faith in Christ and for being in a Christian community where they can be nurtured in their life in Christ. LCMS congregations are on the front-line of forming current and future leaders of the Church as young people learn to live as "light and salt" in the world. Thanks be to God for life and His forgiveness given in our baptism and through our faith.'"

## 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* | 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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> studying *Christianity and the Competition* by Dr. Paul Maier.

**Men's Bible Study** | 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> *Saturdays* | 8:00-9:30 am

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

**Women's Bible Study** | 3<sup>rd</sup> *Mondays* | 7:30-8:30 pm Talk to Shirley

Wille for more information {Meets at members' homes}.

**Mothers' ChristCare** | 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> *Mon* | 6:30-8:00 pm

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

**Night ChristCare** | 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> *Thurs* | 7:00-8:30 pm

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

**Theological Pub** | 1<sup>st</sup> *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 FEBRUARY**

|                         | <u>8:30am</u>    | <u>11:00am</u>  |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| February 5 (communion)  | Bill Stolhandske | Jim Koenig      |
| February 12             | Jim McNeel       | Marshall Leiber |
| February 19 (communion) | Will Liebmann    | Walter Marks    |
| February 26             | Don Cummings     | Gary Franzen    |

## **USHERS FOR FEBRUARY**

|                | <u>8:30am</u> | <u>11:00am</u> |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Chuck Samuel   | David O. Cobb |                |
| Steve Melancon | Jim Roberts   |                |
| Jeff Jones     | Trey Roberts  |                |
| Gary Palmer    | Nick Hartman  |                |

## **ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY**

|             | <u>8:30 a.m.</u>   | <u>11:00 a.m.</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| February 5  | Joshua Smetzer     | Jake Wille        |
| February 12 | Corben Perankovich | Colton Roberts    |
| February 19 | Jose Carmona       | Joe Morrison      |
| February 26 | Sammy LaRue        | Jake Wille        |

## **GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY**

|             | <u>8:30 a.m.</u>                   | <u>11:00 a.m.</u>               |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| February 5  | Kim Hendrix<br>Elaine Ward         | Judy Hanson<br>Sarah Passeur    |
| February 12 | Leslie Smetzer<br>Sarah Hanson     | Eunice Stepan<br>Irene Roberts  |
| February 19 | Carol Wilson<br>Jo Ann Koehn       | Arlene Nitsche<br>Rexann George |
| February 26 | Brenda Hoffmann<br>Denise La Bonté | Carolyn Friedle<br>Judy Ganoza  |

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

**Save the date for VBS!** June 19-23, 2017

**The Reformation Note is** a LIMITED TIME OFFER to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. [Click here to download an application](#) or pick one up in the Parish Hall lobby.

Note terms:

- \$500 investment amount
- 9.5% interest rate, interest will accumulate 7 month term
- At maturity investor may withdraw funds, switch to another investment type or investment will automatically switch to a one-year term at then current rates
- Limit of one \$500 investment per household
- Promotion will be for a limited time
- Penalty for early redemption of the note will be 90 day's interest



**REFORMATION  
2017 It's *Still* All About  
Jesus**



**Lenten Schedule**  
*An Evening with Martin Luther*  
**(all services at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted)**

- March 1 – Ash Wednesday (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- March 8 – Lent 1 (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- March 15 – Lent 2 (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- March 22 – Lent 3 (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- March 29 – Lent 4 (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- April 5 – Lent 5 (dinner at 5:30 pm)
- April 13 – Maundy Thursday
- April 14 – Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows)
- April 16 – Easter Sunday w /Holy Communion at 7:00 am  
Non-Communion at 8:30 am and 11:00 am

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We are requesting contact information for Mt. Calvary's military.  
Please email [mtcalvary@mtcsa.org](mailto:mtcalvary@mtcsa.org) with the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Active \_\_\_\_ Guard \_\_\_\_ Reserve \_\_\_\_

## **Congregational Update on Organ Project**

As previously reported to the congregation, shortly before Thanksgiving a donor approached Mount Calvary with the offer of the donation of a pipe organ (Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1053). The Church Council met with the donor and Mr. Curtis Bobsin who is the organ engineer who would be responsible for refurbishment and installation of the instrument. After hearing their presentation, the council voted to present this donation to the Voters' Assembly for consideration. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, after hearing a presentation by Mr. Bobsin, the Voters directed the Church Council to proceed as long as total installation costs did not exceed \$500,000.

Jim Koenig and our Facility Manager, Chuck Jackola, worked with Mr. Jim Heck (architect), a structural engineer, and the Koehler contracting company in conjunction with Mr. Bobsin, to develop a plan with cost estimates for necessary structural upgrades to our existing space to accommodate the organ. Final cost estimates for the space adjustment, and refurbishment/installation of the organ are \$450,000.

The Church Council has authorized the project to move forward. Development of the space is not expected to begin until late summer with the hope that the instrument installation would be complete by Christmas 2017.

## **Memorials/Honorariums**

### **In memory of:**

Karen Roberts  
Rev. Kim DeVries  
Jim Beal  
Lee Smetzer

### **Given by:**

Helen Crews  
Helen Crews  
M/M Strausberg  
Gerald Smetzer

### **In honor of:**

Jim Roberts

### **Given by:**

Helen Crews

# PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

## Everything Christian for Less

This past Christmas I put together a gift package from Christian Book Distributors for my little grandson Benjamin. I had purchased a Jesus Storybook Bible, The Crippled Lamb DVD by Max Lucado, and a Wee Sings Bible Songs CD as part of Ben's "getting to know Jesus better" gift. The merchandise arrived well-packed in a decently-sized box, so I saved the packaging to use when putting my Christmas decorations away. Just the other day, I happened to catch a glimpse of the advertising slogan printed on the side of said box. I guess in the midst of the Christmas hustle and bustle I hadn't noticed it before, but that day it **really** got my attention. It read as follows: "Everything Christian for Less." It got me thinking...

It got me thinking about how the postmodern culture views Christianity today. It got me thinking about how faith in God and His inerrant Word have become at odds with cultural morality, or should I say... the lack thereof. It got me pondering the dilemma of teaching our precious kids to believe in and value the kind of lifestyle that God has called them to, yet that society not only dismisses, but often openly ridicules. It got me wondering why so many Christian young people who have sincerely given their hearts to the Lord have relinquished the rest of their lives, their bodies, their morality to the acceptance of a cultural context that is in direct conflict with God's desire and plan for their lives.

I know this is not a popular subject, and that this article may ruffle some feathers... but this is my heart. And, **NO**, I cannot say that **I** have always handled this subject with the kind of godly compassion and grace my Father expects of me, even within the context of my interaction with my own kids... but it is **still** my heart... and it is still **their** hearts... the hearts of our sons and daughters... the hearts of God's own... that are worth fighting for.

It makes me desperately sad to hear of young women being derided by their friends for reaching the ripe old age of twenty without having had sex. It makes me angry to know that so many sweet, innocent young men are made to feel like losers by their peers if they are still a virgin by the time they graduate high school. Our Christian kids face this kind of persecution and pressure to conform day in and day out. They need a survival guide... a helpline to encourage them to hold fast to their beliefs, their convictions... and it has to be more than simply slipping a purity ring onto their finger or getting them to sign a "True Love Waits" pledge.

In the days of my youth group attendance I don't ever recall a time when we talked about the subject of sex or even how it pertained to God's beautiful creation of and plan for it. It was understood that you were to save sex for marriage, but there was little discussed about **why**. What was the beauty and benefit of saving yourself for marriage? What were the consequences and dangers of premarital sex? \* **crickets... crickets**\* The best conversation some of my friends and I ever had about sex within the context of the Bible was a candid discussion with one of our young, married, female sponsors during a car ride to a retreat. She was open and honest with her answers to our flood of questions, and I found myself wondering why we couldn't have more dialogue like this at our regular Bible studies. Hers were the most helpful words I would receive while in high school.

Then came college... and, wow... was that a whole other world!! I'm not going to go into all of that here, but suffice it to say it was a **real eye-opener**. If that is the way it was back in the late 70s and early 80s, you can only imagine how things have escalated today. Even at "Christian" colleges among Christian young people there seems to be a growing disconnect between a faith that believes in Jesus as the one true way to salvation and eternal life... and a lifestyle that reflects that Christ-called way of living. How can we as believers confess a faith firm enough to ensure heaven, yet also exhibit a lesser belief in the kind of living Christ has called us to? We're not called to compromise, we're called to conviction. We are to be **in** the world without being **of** the world. That's hard... really hard, and we have **all**

failed in one way or another. The really good news is that God keeps lifting us up, dusting us off, and setting us aright on the correct path over and over again. That is grace. That is love... true love.

In order to help our kids hold on to their faith and to keep their convictions intact... to experience God's love and grace even if they've already stumbled, we need to have dialogue. It begins and ends with God's Word on the subject, that's a fact, but in the middle... there must be conversation with you as godly parents, with our pastors, with our DCE, and with our adult youth sponsors. Big questions need good answers... deep, real, raw, truthful answers. When casting out a lifeline, it does no good if it fails to reach the mark. We need to do more for our kids than to simply skim the surface.

February is the traditional month for "The Sex Series" put on by Laura (our DCE), and Pastor Mark. I encourage you to do everything you can to make it possible for your teens and tweens to attend. The conversations will be **real**, yes, but isn't that what young people are most looking for today? Real answers to address real-life concerns. The dialogue will also be biblical and truthful, "Everything Christian," but for **more** – so much more – not less.

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."  
Galatians 2:20*

**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](mailto:mike@willebuilt.com) or 210-570-9472.

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**