

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

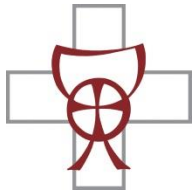


2017

Church Office 210-824-8748

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The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
(1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

Lent is a season in which we are called to reflect upon our lives in light of Christ's two-fold word to us. First there is the word that calls us to "repent, for the kingdom of God is near". Indeed the life of the Christian is a life-long period of repentance as we continually confess to God that we have sinned in "thought, word and deed." But this call to repentance is especially sharp as we draw ever closer to the events of Holy Week where we find our Lord dying upon a cross for the sin of the world.

But this word calling us to repentance is not Christ's only word to us this season. For following the call to repentance is the sweet word of forgiveness for Christ is indeed crucified and risen. When Christ stepped out of his tomb that Easter morning, it was not in anger, not in judgment, not even to bestow justice, but rather to bestow mercy, to proclaim forgiveness as a free gift.

On this 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as Lutherans we reaffirm our confession of faith informed by Scripture alone that Christ bestows His gift of forgiveness through His chosen means of grace, through the Word, through baptism (water + Word), and through Holy Communion in which His word proclaims that with the bread and the wine is present the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

This Easter season, in the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, we shall do something different in our Divine Services than in previous years. The elders and your pastors seriously considered a question that some of you have asked, why do we not have communion at the 8:30 and 11:00 Easter Services. We discussed this

at our most recent Board of Elders meeting and decided that we shall offer Holy Communion at all Easter services this year.

This being the case, it is important for us to discuss the potential impact for those who will have family and friends visiting with them on Easter Sunday who are not Missouri Synod Lutherans. As you know we practice "close communion" which means that normally we only commune those who are members of fellow LCMS churches and hence are in accord with us in our public confession of faith. Now Pastors do have some degree of latitude for granting admission to communion if certain conditions are met and are necessary for the spiritual care of an individual. But this is an exception to the rule, not the normal mode of operation. It would be important for you to explain to your family and friends who are not LCMS that our close communion practice is not intended to be offensive or harsh, but is born out of our respect for and understanding of the warnings associated with 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 that a common confession of faith is important for reception of Holy Communion. We do not want any of our visitors or friends who are not LCMS Lutherans to be surprised or misunderstand why we would practice close communion on Easter. Please share with your non-LCMS friends and family that as usual, we invite non LCMS friends and visitors to come forward to receive a blessing.

We understand this can be a complicated issue to understand. You will find in this newsletter a publication from the LCMS regarding fellowship and Holy Communion that does a fairly good job of explaining the theological necessities behind close communion. And of course Pastor Mark and myself are available to talk to you should you have a concern about this.

If you have a friend or family member who you think may warrant an exception to our close communion policy for purposes of pastoral care, I would ask that you please speak with me before Easter so an informed decision can be made. My greatest concern for our visitors and friends is that the sweet Gospel of Christ flows richly among all who are in the Divine Service as we celebrate the resurrection of our

Lord. Even in those cases where it may not be possible to communion someone, we may be able to explain it to them in such a way that they understand we mean this not in a harsh way but in a loving and caring way. Each case that may or may not warrant pastoral discretion is unique to the individual and his or her circumstances.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor Carol Reetz



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* | 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 MARCH

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
March 5 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Mike Wille
March 12	Jim McNeel	Marshall Leiber
March 19 (communion)	Will Liebmann	Alex Hansmann
March 26	Brad Boeckner	Gary Franzen
Special Services @ 7:00PM		
Wednesday, March 1		Jim Koenig
Wednesday, March 8		Bill Stolhandske
Wednesday, March 15		Don Cummings
Wednesday, March 22		Walter Marks
Wednesday, March 29		Alex Hansmann

USHERS FOR MARCH

<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Ralph Domel	Rex Rheiner
Don Lundy	Jeffrey Rheiner
Jon Fruendt	Carl Gross
Ed Lingg	
Special Services @ 7:00PM	
Wednesday, March 1 – W. Mencke, A. Lariosa, C. Koch, G. Smetzer	
Wednesday, March 8 – R. Axtell, C. Koch, R. Miyauchi, W. Curry	
Wednesday, March 15 – J. Hanson, R. Miyauchi, W. Curry, G. Smetzer	
Wednesday, March 22 – J. Harwood, C. Gross, W. Mencke, J. Hanson	
Wednesday, March 29 – R. Axtell, W. Curry, A. Lariosa, G. Smetzer	

ACOLYTES FOR MARCH

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
March 5	Joshua Smetzer	Joe Morrison
March 12	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
March 19	Jose Carmona	Joe Morrison
March 26	Sammy LaRue	Jake Wille
Special Services @ 7:00PM		
Wednesday, March 1	Corben Perankovich	
Wednesday, March 8, 15, 22, 29		Joe Morrison

GREETERS FOR MARCH

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
March 5	Grace Morris Carol Wilson	Jill Cott L.J. Cott
March 12	Brenda Hoffmann Leslie Smetzer	Clara Cobb Sue Weller
March 19	Olga McGlothing Elaine Ward	Carolyn Friedle Sarah Paseur
March 26	Denise La Bonté Sarah Hanson	Arlene Nitsche Judy Ganoza

Already making spring/summer plans for your kids? Be sure to save these important dates!

- Summer Serve (MS) – June 8-11
- VBS (PreK-6th grade) – June 19-23
- Recreation Camp – August 7-11

Memorials/Honorariums

In memory of:

Joe Ann Cornwell

Carolyn Hafterson

Given by:

M/M Charles Koch, M/M Winstor Curry, Keith Cornwell, Carolyn Friedle, Carol Wilson

M/M Charles Koch

2017 Lenten Series: Luther in Lent

Hear from the sermons of Martin Luther delivered to the faithful in Wittenberg following his return from sojourn at the Wartburg Castle as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

March 1: The First Sermon-March 9, 1522

March 8: The Second Sermon-March 10, 1522

March 15: The Third Sermon-March 11, 1522

March 22: The Sixth Sermon-March 14, 1522

March 29: The Seventh Sermon-March 15, 1522

April 5: The Eighth Sermon-March 16, 1522

Meals will be served in the gym from 5:30-6:30pm prior to the Lenten Service. Refreshments will follow the service in the gym.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

April 9

Palm Sunday- 8:30 & 11:00am

April 13

Maundy Thursday w/ Holy Communion - 7:00pm

April 14

Good Friday Tenebrae - 7:00pm

April 16

Easter Worship w/ Holy Communion - 7:00am, 8:30 & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast - 8:30 - 10:45am

Experiential Event (Intergenerational) - 9:45am

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

The Power of White Paint

If you're at all familiar with the HGTV sensation "Fixer Upper" with Chip and Joanna Gaines, then you're also intimately familiar with farmhouse style, shiplap, and the transformative power of white paint. I'll admit that I've become slightly obsessed with everything "Magnolia" and have added a trip to Waco and the Silos to my bucket list! There's something simply mesmerizing about witnessing a ramshackle dud of a house morph into a cottage cutie. If we're being honest, I think we all really love a rags-to-riches story, don't we?!

Recently, I have been tackling some long overdue painting projects in **my** kitchen. I guess it had been well over twenty years since the last time I had given my upper cabinets a good makeover. It was gratifying in a weird kind of way to scrape off and sand down all the loose paint and grime that had dulled their once pristine appearance, but nothing could have been more satisfying than swathing on that gorgeous, milk white gloss and seeing it instantly erase the dowdy, bringing them back to their former glory.

It never ceases to amaze me... the power of white paint. It can, in its basal simplicity, cover a host of imperfections and leave a previously flawed, lackluster piece looking beautiful and new. Plain and simple, there's just something wonderful about white. Perhaps it's because in defining the color "white" as light, we see that sunlight is white light composed of all the colors of the spectrum. In John 8:12, Jesus declares: *"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."* Light... white... transformative power... are we seeing the connection?

There is nothing more transformative than the power of Jesus to take our sin-sick souls and turn them into God's beloved children... heirs of the kingdom of heaven. Isaiah 1:18 states: *"Though your sins are as*

scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." Many years ago I had the privilege of teaching second grade Sunday school at Concordia Lutheran here in town under the leadership of Verena Moll. My goodness, what a faithful, God-fearing woman she was! I learned so much in our Wednesday night teachers' meetings with her. I still remember her telling us, in reference to the above mentioned Scripture passage, that red, of all the colors, is the hardest to get out when it stains. Often times, you have to either just give up and leave the stain or throw the garment out. That's not the case with Jesus though, is it? What can make me white as snow? "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." That's quite a paradox. Only the crimson blood of the spotless Lamb can make my scarlet sin as white as snow.

This month the thought of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent is heavy on my heart and mind. It's a time of reflection and repentance. As a sinner I always have much of which to repent, and as a mother the same holds true. I am a sinner. That makes me a sinful mother and grandmother too. Yep, it's true, and so are you... sinful, I mean. Though my heart is willing to do the right thing... the thing Jesus expects of me... my flesh is often weak. I find myself saying things I shouldn't and getting angry when I shouldn't. I give advice when I should hold my tongue, and I hold my tongue when I should speak. It's complicated. Really it is, and being a sinful, flawed individual only makes it more so. That's why every-so-often I need a new coat of white paint. Sin drags me down, dulls me up, and leaves me worse... **sooo** worse for wear. I **need** the power of white. I need Jesus to do a makeover on me. Sometimes the transformations are easy... when I get it... when I realize that I need it, but sometimes the transformations are hard... like when I've become so dulled to the error of my ways and so dirty that the scraper and sander are needed to get the job done. Either way, easy or hard, if I put myself into the hands of the Master painter, I'll emerge flawless and new.

The season of Lent is a dark one, for we are reminded at every turn how battered and dinged up we are by sin. We approach the darkest of all days on Good Friday when the altar paraments are black, when

the Christ candle is carried out. Darkness... black... death. Yes, we get the picture. It is all too real. **But then**, the Christ candle comes back, and Easter approaches. The light returns in all its glory, the paraments are white, and the lilies are in full bloom. The power of white... the power of Light... overcomes the darkness and guarantees **life**. How thankful and blessed we are that however damaged and forlorn we have become by sin, the Master makeover artist always has a can of white paint at the ready. And speaking of rags to riches.....

“Are you ready to see **your** ‘fixer-upper’?” I certainly am!

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow,
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

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.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED