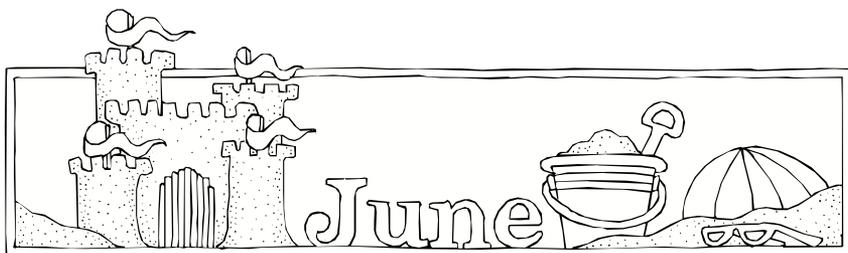


# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2017

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Church Office 210-824-8748

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[www.mtcsa.org](http://www.mtcsa.org)

Dear Christian Friends,

One of the things I love most about liturgy is that, like a fine wine, it has been aged to perfection. Do you remember the first time you wrote a research paper? Do you recall how many times you had to edit and rewrite the document over and over again until it was the best it could be? The liturgy has gone through a similar process throughout the ages of the church. Instead of being rewritten only a few times like our research papers were, the liturgy has gone through the refinement of literally thousands of years of use in the church. The best of the best is what remains.

Similarly, as we Christians study theology (the study of God) it is important that we be refined in light of God's Word. Martin Luther wrote about this process using the Latin words: *oratio*, *meditatio*, and *tentatio*. As you read his words below, you can be confident that you are receiving some of the best of the best. Enjoy!

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark

*Martin Luther was asked to write a preface to the publication of his German writings in 1539. In finally consenting, he advocated that people concentrate especially on reading the Bible. In this wonderful piece he tells us why. Do you want to become someone with a deep and sincere faith? Then follow the outline left by King David in Psalm 119! — Editor*

Moreover, I want to point out to you a correct way of studying theology, for I have had practice in that. ... This is the way taught by holy King David (and doubtlessly used also by all the patriarchs and prophets) in the one hundred nineteenth Psalm. There you will find three rules, amply presented throughout the whole Psalm. They are *Oratio*, *Meditatio*, *Tentatio*.

Firstly, you should know that the Holy Scriptures constitute a book which turns the wisdom of all other books into foolishness, because not one teaches about eternal life except this one alone. Therefore you should straightway despair of your reason and understanding. With them you will not attain eternal life, but, on the contrary, your presumptuousness will plunge you and others with you out of heaven (as happened to Lucifer) into the abyss of hell. But kneel down in your

little room [Matt. 6:6] and pray to God with real humility and earnestness, that he through his dear Son may give you his Holy Spirit, who will enlighten you, lead you, and give you understanding.

...

Secondly, you should meditate, that is, not only in your heart, but also externally, by actually repeating and comparing oral speech and literal words of the book, reading and rereading them with diligent attention and reflection, so that you may see what the Holy Spirit means by them. And take care that you do not grow weary or think that you have done enough when you have read, heard, and spoken them once or twice, and that you then have complete understanding. You will never be a particularly good theologian if you do that, for you will be like untimely fruit which falls to the ground before it is half ripe. ...

Thirdly, there is *tentatio, Anfechtung*. This is the touchstone which teaches you not only to know and understand, but also to experience how right, how true, how sweet, how lovely, how mighty, how comforting God's Word is, wisdom beyond all wisdom.

Thus you see how David, in the Psalm mentioned, complains so often about all kinds of enemies, arrogant princes or tyrants, false spirits and factions, whom he must tolerate because he meditates, that is, because he is occupied with God's Word (as has been said) in all manner of ways. For as soon as God's Word takes root and grows in you, the devil will harry you, and will make a real doctor of you, and by his assaults will teach you to seek and love God's Word. I myself (if you will permit me, mere mouse-dirt, to be mingled with pepper) am deeply indebted to my papists that through the devil's raging they have beaten, oppressed, and distressed me so much. That is to say, they have made a fairly good theologian of me, which I would not have become otherwise. And I heartily grant them what they have won in return for making this of me, honor, victory, and triumph, for that's the way they wanted it.

There now, with that you have David's rules. If you study hard in accord with his example, then you will also sing and boast with him in the Psalm, "The law of thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces" [Ps. 119:72]. Also, "Thy commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more

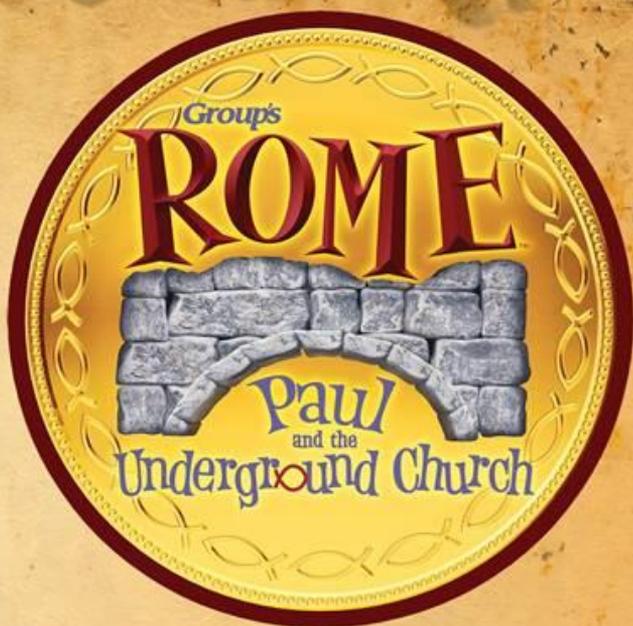
understanding than all my teachers, for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep thy precepts," etc. [Ps. 119:98-100]. And it will be your experience that the books of the fathers will taste stale and putrid to you in comparison. You will not only despise the books written by adversaries, but the longer you write and teach the less you will be pleased with yourself.

...

If, however, you feel and are inclined to think you have made it, flattering yourself with your own little books, teaching, or writing, because you have done it beautifully and preached excellently; if you are highly pleased when someone praises you in the presence of others; if you perhaps look for praise, and would sulk or quit what you are doing if you did not get it — if you are of that stripe, dear friend, then take yourself by the ears, and if you do this in the right way you will find a beautiful pair of big, long, shaggy donkey ears. Then do not spare any expense! Decorate them with golden bells, so that people will be able to hear you wherever you go, point their fingers at you, and say, "See, See! There goes that clever beast, who can write such exquisite books and preach so remarkably well." That very moment you will be blessed and blessed beyond measure in the kingdom of heaven. Yes, in that heaven where hellfire is ready for the devil and his angels. To sum up: Let us be proud and seek honor in the places where we can. But in this book the honor is God's alone, as it is said, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" [I Pet. 5:5]; to whom be glory, world without end, Amen.



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



**Join us for VBS!**

**June 19-23**

**For children completing  
PreK-6th Grade**

**Registration open at  
[MTCSA.org/signup](http://MTCSA.org/signup) or in the  
church lobby!**

## ELDERS FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
June 4 (communion)	Will Liebmann	Jim Koenig
June 11	Don Cummings	Marshall Leiber
June 18(communion)	Jason Strawn	Mike Wille
June 25	John Gilg	Walter Marks

## USHERS FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Steve Melancon	Richard Miyauchi	
David Potter	LJ Cott	
Max Breon	David Timmons	
Jeff Harwood	Nathaniel Aguilar	

## ACOLYTES FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
June 4	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
May 14	Sammy LaRue	Joe Morrison
June 18	Joshua Smetzer	Jake Wille
June 25	Corben Perankovich	Joe Morrison

## GREETERS FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
June 4	Kim Hendrix	Jill Cott
	Leslie Smetzer	L.J. Cott
June 11	Carol Wilson	Arlene Nitsche
	Jo Ann Koehn	Judy Ganoza
June 18	Sarah Hanson	Carolyn Friedle
	Olga McGlothing	Eunice Stepan
June 25	Grace Morris	Clara Cobb
	Brenda Hoffmann	Sue Weller

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

- Summer Serve (MS) – June 8-11
- VBS (PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade) – June 19-23
- Recreation Camp (ages 7-12) – August 7-11

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

**Adult Bible Class** | This large, lecture-style class meets in the gym and is taught by Pastor Mark.

**Bread of Life Adult Class** | This class is smaller and meets in the Parish Hall, allowing for more discussion. This class is not meeting until June. Jeff Harwood will lead the class.

**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

**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}. Will resume late August or early September.

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

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

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

For adults of all ages {Nosh Restaurant}. Resumes in September.



# PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

## Behind the Scenes

I follow a couple of home improvement blogs. O.k... maybe a couple more than a couple. What can I say? They fascinate me. It's like being invited into one "Open House" after another where cool ideas abound and inspiration is free for the taking. But sometimes those gorgeous pictures do more than simply provide me with a hefty dose of eye candy. Sometimes they cause me to look around **outside** the pages of blogland... at **my** home... where I begin having some serious concerns. "Man, this house really needs work!" "Look at this bathroom. It's so outdated!" "I just want BRICK, or SHIPLAP, or WHATEVER the current trendy catchphrase is!"

This is just one of the obvious pitfalls of venturing into the world of cyber-decorating, the discontent it breeds; but what's even worse is when I let those images cause me to become overly critical of myself, of my organizational skills, or of my homemaking or home management. Because, let me tell you, I can go down that road to self-condemnation and disparagement from zero to sixty in two seconds flat! The greater tragedy is that often the standards projected on the internet or within the glossy pages of those decorator magazines with which I compare myself AREN'T EVEN REAL!

I vividly recall the first time one of the popular DIY (do-it-yourself) bloggers set out to debunk the always "House Beautiful" myth. She invited several other bloggers to share a beautifully staged photo from their own website and then to reveal a "behind the scenes" look at the rest of the room that was just out of camera sight. It was eye-opening. It made me feel instantly better about my own house, and it gave me a healthy respect for both good lighting and Photo Editor! All manner of objects in various states of disarray were shoved here and stacked there in those honestly revealing pics. Everything from boxes and newspapers to kids' toys, dirty dishes, and baskets of unfolded laundry made an appearance. The "perfect" image that I had

convinced myself was the real deal was nothing more than an illusion, a skillful sleight-of-hand in photo cropping.

Last month we celebrated Mother's Day. Now we turn our attention to dads. We've been focusing on parents lately, so let me ask you a question, and please be honest with your answer. Have **you** ever felt like one of those people who thought you had the whole parenting thing down pretty well – or at least like you were somewhere in the ballpark – UNTIL you surfed the web and found a plethora of blogs, posts, and articles that had you second guessing your entire philosophy? Did the whole exercise leave you with the self-determined conclusion that, as a mom or dad, you were sorely lacking? I've been there. **In fact, I doubt there is anyone who can be more critical of me than I am of myself, so I don't really need any outside affirmation.** Here's the thing though. Just like those glowing newsletters we often receive from friends and relatives at Christmas that highlight accolades from the past year without mention of any difficulty the family might well have gone through, the things we see on the net or read in a blog post often involve some selective editing. After all, life is full of both ups AND downs. Everyone has them; the duality of positives and negatives is **true** reality not "virtual."

The same holds true for those little "snapshots" we see in our daily comings and goings... the brief glimpses of families in church, at the store, trekking through the Do-Seum, or wherever. They are not documentaries of life as it unfolds in the nitty gritty of everyday. They are moments in time. That's all. If we jump to the conclusion that what we are seeing is what we'd get at any given point in time, we may find ourselves discouraged on Sunday morning by the perfectly manicured bunch sitting in the pew in front of us. We may start looking around at our little beauties only to find that we've neglected to wipe the jelly smear off Susie's face and have somehow managed to get out the door with Sam's shirt on inside out. Other families have these issues too. They do! We certainly did... and more!!

Perhaps that long-anticipated outing to the zoo we envisioned as an opportunity for some great family bonding ended abruptly in a fighting match among the kids and a screaming duel between mom

and dad. We are forced to leave early, forfeiting both our hard-earned cash and our dignity! To add insult to injury, as we walk sullenly to the car, threatening corporal punishment to the first kid who dares utter a syllable, we are met with a crew of sickeningly well-behaved, angelic-looking creatures that would put even the VonTrapp family to shame. Ugh!! "What in the world are WE doing wrong," we ask ourselves dejectedly. Perhaps the answer lies in the simple fact that our expectations might be just a tad unrealistic or that we might be being a little too hard on ourselves. Maybe all we need do is widen the lens.

Perfection doesn't exist outside of heaven. **There is no perfect parent other than our Heavenly Father, and there are no perfect kids other than God's own Son, our Savior, Jesus.** As moms and dads struggling to do right by God in raising our children, it might do us well to remember that simple truth. There may be a time or two when we're able to manage a pretty good "snapshot," but the real deal is something to come, something we'll only be able to anticipate while here on this earth. Does that mean we shouldn't even try for perfection? Well, no... and... yes. We should always strive to do our best as Christians (first and foremost) and as parents as well, but we are faced with the stark reality that no matter how hard we try to get it all right, there will be times we fail... sometimes miserably. Yet, we can take comfort and strength through the second reality that Jesus was perfection **for us**. Our success in parenting lies less with our skills and more with what God can do with what He has given us. It lies less in **our** editing and more in **His** everyday.

Go ahead and peruse a few parenting blogs. Read some Facebook posts, and hit "Like." Gather inspiration wherever it is to be had, especially if it's coming from the perspective of a Christian parent who's been there, done that, or from one who is going through something just like you. Take the bits and pieces you see or read for what they are, however... bits and pieces. There has **never** been a parent out there who hasn't struggled at one time or another. That is the truth. The best advice is honest advice, so try to glean as much help, hope, and encouragement you can from the people who let you

take a peek at their “big” picture. You might be surprised at just how well you’re hanging in there!

So you may be wondering, “Will I still visit blogland for decorating inspiration?” Yeah, I probably will, but when I do, I’ll be sure to remind myself that it’s likely there’s a stack of dirty dishes somewhere just out of view.

*“Not that I have already obtained this (the life of Christ) or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”* Philippians 3:12





## *A STUDY OF THE CRUSADES*

*COMING JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> THRU AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>  
Bread of Life class meets in the Parish Hall  
9:45 AM*

*Taught by John Haumann  
Do you really know what it was all about?  
How were Christians and the Bible involved?  
How do the Crusades of old relate to the  
world today?*

Dear members of Mt. Calvary,

Words could never express my gratitude for the outpouring of love from my Christian family during my illness. The cards, visits, and prayers had a lot to do with my rapid recovery. Thanks to Mr. Watson for faithfully visiting and giving communion and the word of God. Thank you to Pastor Reedy for your many phone calls. God is good.

Irene Roberts

*Dear Mt. Calvary,*

*Thank you for the gift card to Target. I'm blessed to be part of a church that cares so much about its members.*

*Your friend in Christ,  
Isaiah Sefton*

Dear Mount Calvary Family,

Thank you so much for supporting Mount Calvary's Homeschool Co-op! In the past school year, the Homeschool Co-op has provided a Christ-centered learning environment for 9 families, both members and guests of Mount Calvary. The 30 children involved in the Homeschool Co-op participated in a variety of activities like Art Projects, Music Lessons, Science Experiments and more. Most importantly, we were able to learn about Jesus during our Friday morning Chapels. We also went on Field Trips to the Institute of Texan Cultures, Witte Museum, San Antonio Zoo, Mission San José, and Edwards Aquifer.

The ministry of Mount Calvary's Homeschool Co-op is made possible because of you, the members of Mount Calvary! Thank you so very much! I look forward to starting back up again in September!

Lauren Hannemann

Here are Thank Yous from some of the Homeschool Co-op's children:

Dear Mount Calvary,

Thank you for Co-op. My favorite thing was all of the Science experiments.

Written by,

Kayla, Age 8

Dear Mount Calvary,

Thank you for letting us use the class room and gym. My favorite project was the volcano, we used Mentos and Diet Coke. We put the Mentos in the Diet Coke and it exploded like a volcano. I also liked the Romero Britto. (Artist)

Thank you,

Ade, Age 11

Thank you, congregation of Mount Calvary, for hosting the Homeschool Co-op. I had plenty of fun while learning about the world around me. My favorite was when we went to the Witte. Another pleasant experience was when we visited the Institute of Texan Cultures. Thank you for enabling this to happen.

God Bless,

Lacey, Age 13

Thank you Mount Calvary for a Happy Easter Sunday and thank you for letting us learn about sound energy.

Maddie Watson, Age 7

Thank you for letting us use the gym and Mount Calvary for Co-op. My favorite day was going to the Zoo. My favorite project was creating goo. My favorite art project was the China paper. My favorite game is the China wall.

Thank you!!!!

Isaias, Age 9

Thank you for letting us come to church. I really liked playing outside with my friends. My favorite field trips were the Witte Museum and Mission San José.

Jubal, Age 5

Dear Mount Calvary,

Thank you for having Easter. My favorite thing was all of the Science experiments.

Written by,

Cassi, Age 6

Thank you for letting us use Mount Calvary's gym. I really liked when Pastor Mark taught Chapel. My favorite activity was Georgia O'Keefe flowers. I learned about Romero Britto. I made Chinese scroll paintings. I did the Rainforest layers.

From Lila, Age 7

All thanks to the congregation for letting us join Mount Calvary Lutheran Church for Co-op and Kids in Action. The parts I liked in Co-op were when we did the Georgia O'Keefe flowers and when we did the Romero Britto cats. Also, when we did the rainforest layers. Last Friday, we learned about sound and sound waves.

God's Blessings to you,

Abigail, Age 11

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**