

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

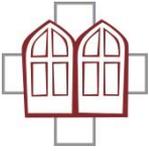


2017

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Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
(1 Co 12:27)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I was taking some time over the summer to think about the future and where the Lord is taking Mount Calvary in that future. To understand the Future, one must understand the past and the present and so, I was reflecting on what it is that makes Mount Calvary “tick” so to speak. So, I wanted to share with you what I came up with.



To the right is a graphic that illustrates what I think makes Mount Calvary unique and vital in our community. First of all, we are “Traditional and Liturgical”. Secondly, we have a major focus on “Teaching and Learning” and finally, I believe we are a congregation where we “care” deeply for one another. These three characteristics are vital to who we are.

It is readily apparent that Mount Calvary has embraced and is fully committed to being “traditional and liturgical”. Now the word “traditional” is not a word one might think to apply to a Lutheran church, especially given the strong witness critical of tradition during the Reformation. But one learns through studying church history, that there are two ways to hear tradition. One is to hear it as a summation term for those human beliefs and practices that have become part of church life that are not grounded in Scripture. But the other way to hear it is in keeping with Matthew 28:20 “...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” The word in the Greek for “obey” is taeyrn, which translates to obey, follow, treasure and preserve. Here the Reformers, including Luther, were very clear that they were not seeking to deviate or do new things in the Reformation, but rather old things, going all the way back to the early church and the Apostles. They were seeking to do the things that are part and parcel with who we are as God’s people in the world that transcend a particular time or culture. Hence, the Reformers went to

great pains to connect to the main doctrinal statements of the early church that were faithful to Scripture (the Creeds for example) and to maintain a unity with worship practice (the liturgy). And so, through our worship using liturgy and indeed in all that we do, we seek to treasure and preserve what was given us through Christ in Word and Sacrament.

One does not have to be at Mount Calvary long to discover that we are a church focused on “teaching and learning”, as we should be. Lutherans believe in the Word as a means of grace. Indeed we are 100% dependent on this Word for our salvation. “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith...” (Martin Luther, Small Catechism, Explanation of the Third Article) From young to old, we take God’s command to make disciples by teaching (Matthew 28:20) very seriously.

And finally, I don’t believe one has to be at Mount Calvary very long to realize that Mount Calvary is the family of God, not just in name, but in practice. God has given us to one another; to speak God’s Word to one another, to pray for one another, to be with one another, to help carry each other’s burdens, indeed to love one another.

Now I’m not telling you anything new here. Rather, this is what I have learned from the folks at Mount Calvary in my time here. Indeed, many of you have expressly communicated that you attend here because of these factors to our corporate church identity.

So, how might we continue to leverage these strengths in our congregation? For example, how can we leverage our Sunday morning worship, not just so it remains liturgical, but how do we reach out to one another with caring. How do we offer and take advantage of educational opportunities on Sundays?

How can we leverage these three characteristics for outreach to those in the community who do not yet believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

How can we leverage our liturgical worship, our education focus, our caring for others in the making of new disciples for Jesus?

How can we leverage these things for support, for care for one another? For example, learned parts of the liturgy can be vital to performing pastoral care for older and dying members as they recite the Lord's prayer, Nunc Dimittis or other parts of the liturgy that are often among the last things forgotten as we age. How can we encourage one another to be in worship, to be in God's Word, and to bear one another's burdens with caring hearts?

How can we leverage these things for our own growth? Frequent attendance at worship plays a crucial role for each of us in our Christian discipleship. Also, attendance in Bible class. But also, personal time with the Word. And this is augmented by the personal element of caring and personal relationships as we take these opportunities to gather to care for one another.

All of you are involved in some aspect of our ministry to one another and to the world around us. From stewardship, to education, to taking care of our facilities, to service events and education events, to Bible class and Sunday school, from the elders watching over their people and each of us having friendships and relationships with one another... We can leverage these three strengths for ministry.

I encourage you, however you are plugged into the ministries of Mount Calvary, to reflect on these three things: We are "traditional and liturgical, we are a "teaching and learning" church and we are a "caring" church. Then put them to work, leverage them for ministry to one another and to those who are not yet part of our fellowship.



Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Reetz



Dear Christian friends,

It is that time of the year when parents and students alike begin preparing for the beginning of school! The summer break is drawing to a close and soon enough classes will begin again. Fall is a wonderfully exciting time for us at Mount Calvary, too! Be sure to keep up with the church calendar on the full list of special events.

Our Director of Christian Education (Laura) does a fantastic job of outlining the educational opportunities available for every person connected to Mount Calvary! We are still focused on our goal of having every member of the church involved in a Bible study opportunity, whether that be Sunday morning or mid-week. As our fall ministries kick off at the end of August, be considering today what study you might want to attend and bring a friend to as well!

Our Senior Pastor, David Reedy, has been working on various ways to emphasize the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including a variety of projects and special services. Be sure to put these events on your calendar to ensure that you don't miss out on an opportunity to celebrate the way God has led us to this point especially through the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther.

I love that Mount Calvary values education and our history so highly! And I also love that our church holds an equal value on evangelism. Sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ is the privilege of every Christian. Luther himself sought to bring the church of his time to a greater appreciation and emphasis of the Gospel. The reason is simple: Jesus changes lives.

He changes our eternal destination from the punishment in Hell that our sins rightly deserve to the gracious bliss of Heaven that we could never earn on our own. He changes our identity from selfish sinful men and women to children of God by grace through faith. This transformation affects every part of our lives from the way we speak, to the decisions we make, to how we spend our time, talent, and treasure. The more we spend time with Him in His Word and receive

His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through the Sacraments the more we begin to look like, speak like, and act like Him.

One of the beautiful things about the abundant grace of God is that there is an unlimited supply. So when it comes to receiving God's gifts to us there is no shortage of gifts to go around. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This love of God is meant for the whole world... everybody!

So, as we begin to look, speak, and act like Jesus connected to the abundant grace of God we can't help but want to share that gift with the people God has placed in our lives.

When we talk about how our weekend went at the office on Monday, we can boldly speak about going to church and receiving the gifts of God that strengthen us for everyday life the rest of the week. When we meet our friend for coffee to catch up and start sharing the latest happenings in our lives we can be confident as we speak of how God has been helping us through a recent challenge we've been facing. When we run into our neighbor during our evening walks or at the grocery store, we can invite them to come with us to church on Friendship Sunday so they too can receive the amazing gifts of God.

Friendship Sunday will be happening on October 8th this year. I realize that we are still over a month away from that date, but I'd like to encourage every reader of this article [that's right, you!] to begin praying about who God might want you to invite to church for this special day.

My prayer is that God will be working powerfully through His people at Mount Calvary to bring those who don't yet know Him to receive His incredible gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. May the Holy Spirit that you received in your baptism be strengthening you to share the message of Jesus and His love. God's blessings!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



ELDERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
August 6 (communion)	Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig
August 13	Jim McNeel	Alex Hansmann
August 20 (communion)	Will Liebmann	Jim Koenig
August 27	John Gilg	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Ralph Domel		Rex Rheiner
Don Lundy		John Rheiner
Jon Fruendt		Jeff Rheiner
Ed Lingg		Carol Gross

ACOLYTES FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
August 6	Sammy LaRue	Joe Morrison
August 13	Josh Smetzer	Daniel Morrison
August 20	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
August 27	Josh Smetzer	Joe Morrison

GREETERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
August 6	Donna Dickert Carol Wilson	Sue Weller Rexann George
August 13	Denise LaBonté Sarah Hanson	Eunice Stepan Judy Hanson
August 20	Leslie Smetzer Elaine Ward	Sarah Paseur Mary Marks
August 27	Olga McGlothing Brenda Hoffmann	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson

Memorials

In memory of:

Rudy Biedermann

Jim Ripke

Florene Hull

Rev. Harold Schroeter

Given by:

Marylin Marshall, Lucille Stremmel, Muriel England, Carolyn Friedle, M/M Charles Koch, M/M Marshall Leiber, Olga McGlothing, Barbara Rablee

Carolyn Friedle

M/M Charles Koch

Elaine Ward

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, August 20th - Retirement Breakfast for Donald Sebesta between services. His last Sunday will be August 27th.

Sunday, August 27th – Installation Service for our new Music Minister, Pastor Craig Meissler. The service is at 3:00pm followed by our Celebration Sunday picnic in the gym.



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

These classes will resume the first full week in September.

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}. Will resume late August or early September.

Night ChristCare | *1st 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

Blurry Lines

O.k. Here goes...confession time. I have a problem with lines. Not your average waiting at the supermarket version or sitting in traffic kinds of lines. No. I have a problem with lines that cordon off, that separate, that draw a distinction. There. I've said it, but I don't exactly feel better having admitted it. Lines are not bad in and of themselves. They can be necessary and useful, even life-saving when they're there to protect or to define expectations. No, where **I** have the most difficulty is in drawing lines where it involves my children...knowing when and where I should, when or where I should not.

As a parent, I've had to draw LOTS of lines over the years. The well-being of my children has depended upon it. Some lines are simple. No-brainers, really. "No, a six year old may NOT stay up 'til midnight." "Yes, you have to eat your vegetables" "No, you can't ride your unicycle without your helmet." "Yes, you **do** have to take a bath." Easy.

Lines for littles are a lot less complicated. At least they were for me. Mine tended to deal with rules of obedience regarding health and safety, manners and respect. Children seem to thrive when clear lines are in place. Trouble usually only creeps in when there is too much freedom or when expectations are not straightforward. However, as children age, lines that were once clear-cut begin to blur a little.

A number of years ago I read a book by Christian psychologist Dr. Kevin Leman titled: *Making Children Mind without Losing Yours*. It was an interesting book about using the concept of "reality discipline" to teach children there are natural consequences for disobedience. I still remember one of the examples Leman used in his book to drive this point home. He and his wife, Sande, had put their house on the market. One day the realtor called to say she was on her way over with a prospective buyer. Pressed for time, Dr. Leman asked one of his

children to go out to the backyard and pick up the “dog flops” before the realtor arrived. The child whined and complained for so long without action that the dad was forced to pick up the mess himself to avoid embarrassment at the showing. There was no immediate punishment for the child per se, only the reality of the offending child having his allowance docked for the privilege of paying someone else to do a job he was asked to do. Dr. Leman argued that this kind of discipline reflected a more “real-life” scenario, one that would translate in later life for the child as an adult. “If one chooses not to do a job that needs to get done, then he must pay for the privilege of having someone else do it for him.”

I get that, and it’s a concept that makes a good deal of sense to me. I’m totally willing to let “reality” do some of the line drawing for me with my kids in certain cases, but not in **every** case. You see, there are instances where reality and its consequences can be wickedly serious. There are times when letting reality discipline call the shots could literally endanger my child’s physical, emotional, or even spiritual well-being.

This is when I have to step up, armed, ready either to draw that line in the sand myself or to do battle on my child’s behalf. I’ll admit that I have often charged on, confident that this was what God was tasking me to do as a mother, as a protector, and as a prayer warrior for His kids. At least that always seemed clear when my children **were** little. But what about when our kids are grown, or nearly grown...moving into young adulthood? This is where I have trouble...where I have **always** had trouble. This, for me, is where the line gets blurry.

Is high school graduation the place where I let go and take a hands free approach, or is it more like Driver’s Ed. where the student has hands on the wheel, but the instructor has an extra set of brakes...just in case? Should that college acceptance letter also say, “Welcome to the school of hard knocks?” What do I do now...draw or withdraw? You see what I mean...blurry lines. Trying to enforce control with too much rigidity here can be dangerous for both the adulting progress of our children and for our relationships with them. I know whereof I speak; I am not proud of this fact. I have made my share of mistakes

in being unyielding with lines at this age. I have tried to exert influence in areas that were best left alone, and, even if no irreparable damage occurred, I have at the very least caused undue heartache on both our parts. There have also been times when I retracted lines once drawn, leaving things alone that would have been better served by a few good guidelines, and hurts were experienced by that decision too.

Blurry lines are not easy to navigate for parents or for kids, especially children entering adulthood. I suppose I could dispense with most of the lines I've felt compelled to draw and retrace ad nauseum now that my kids are older. I can dispense with the sage counsel that there is a direct correlation between number of hours spent studying and grade point average. I can also do away with the advice that staying healthy involves eating properly and getting enough sleep. Yes, I can dispense with all the lines I've drawn over the years except one. I will never stop caring, stop admonishing, or stop encouraging my children, even my **grown** children, when it comes to issues of their faith in Jesus Christ. That I cannot give up. That line I cannot let blur.

As a Christian parent, my job is to introduce my children to the Lord and to pray to be a faithful influence in my children's lives; but I acknowledge that I have no control over their faith....over their relationship with their Lord and Savior. That is a matter between them and the Holy Spirit. Though I have no control, I still have a responsibility to them and to the Lord to pray for them, to lift them up in their times of weakness and struggle and to give thanks in their times of victory and rejoicing.

Lines are life-saving when they're there to protect and to define. My obligation to the Lord and to my children continues for that. I will **always** have a responsibility for that. Try as I might, I can't keep my kids from everything that could cause them spiritual harm, but I can pray for them, entrust them to the Lord's care, and sound the alarm when and if I ever see that they are getting too close to crossing a line that would endanger their faith.

Parenting is tough. Enforcing guidelines and rules is tough, even when the lines drawn are good ones. Knowing how and when to let those lines fade is even tougher. Of all the lines we draw as parents for the instruction and guidance of our children, let us pray diligently that the one we draw boldest and best be that of the cross, our eternal **lifeline** and theirs.

*Jesus, lead me day by day
Ever in Thine own sweet way;
Teach me to be pure and true;
Show me what I ought to do.*

The Children's Hymnal, 1955, Concordia Publishing House - St. Louis, Mo.

Thank you

A most grateful thank you to all who remembered Rudy in their prayers, visits and cards during his illness and also during the time of his passing. Words cannot thank Pastor Reedy enough for the comfort he gave to myself and the whole family. Rudy enjoyed so much all his visits. What a shepherd we have at Mt. Calvary! Thanks to Pastor Pulliam for his visits also. The Mary-Martha Guild saved so much effort for me by the wonderful lunch they served. Rudy loved coming to church. Now he is with our Lord forever.

Marilyn Biedermann



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