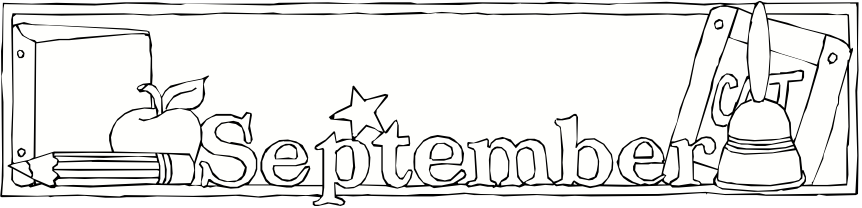


FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2017

Church Office 210-824-8748

mtcalvary@mtcsa.org

www.mtcsa.org



“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
--Galatians 6:10

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is great devastation in our home state of Texas. I encourage you as you are able to support relief efforts through donation to Texas District Disaster Relief. 100% of all donations will be used for relief efforts. More information and donation link: <https://txlcms.org/how-can-i-help-hurricane-harvey/>



I encourage you to come out and support our installation service for Rev. Craig Meissler and Celebration Sunday on the 10th of September (postponed due to the Tropical Storm) and to come out as we celebrate our 95th on the 17th of September.

I'm keeping this short this month as we are including a pamphlet on the theology of our Divine Service and need to keep the size of the newsletter within limits for mailing purposes.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Reetz



Dear Friends in Christ,

My name is Craig Meissler, and I am the new Associate Pastor and Minister of Music here at Mount Calvary. I am thrilled to be at Mount Calvary and feel abundantly blessed to be able to serve our Lord by serving you. In the coming months one of my primary goals is to get to know you and develop relationships with those to whom I serve. Please be patient with me as my ever so slightly ADD brain works feverishly to remember names and faces. Please don't hesitate to remind me often of who you are, I am eager to get to know all of you and learn your stories.

A little bit about me; I grew up in Hales Corners, Wisconsin which is a small community southwest of Milwaukee. I attended Hales Corners Lutheran School and then Martin Luther High School. After doing a four year enlistment in the United States Air Force, I remained in Ogden, Utah and attended Weber State College and served as the music director at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ogden. After working in the private sector and serving as a music director at churches in Utah and Wisconsin, I moved from Appleton, Wisconsin to Mesa, Arizona to help care for my father who had, and succumbed to prostate cancer in 1994. I met my wife Nia while in Arizona, and we were married at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. We have been married for twenty-one years and are blessed with five children; Ella who is 19, graduated from Lutheran High School San Antonio, and is scheduled for her physical in early September for enlistment in the USAF. Natalie who is 16 and a Junior, and Grace who is 14, and a freshman, are both attending Lutheran High School. David, who is 12, and Claire, who is 10, are both homeschooled by my wife Nia, who also works for the City of San Antonio at the Parmann Library. We absolutely love San Antonio and are extraordinarily blessed to be able to stay in a community which we consider our home. In the spirit of full disclosure, we still maintain an unwavering allegiance to the Green Bay Packers, bratwurst, and most cheeses!

It is truly a privilege and high honor to serve at Mount Calvary, where the highest value is placed on receiving the living Jesus through His gifts given through Word and Sacrament. I firmly believe that the purpose of the Music Ministry of Mount Calvary is to "wrap" those gifts in the best presentation of liturgy, hymnody, and sacred music.

Dr. Norman Nagel, Professor Emeritus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, perhaps conveyed this most eloquently in his introduction in the 1982 hymnal, *Lutheran Worship*. "The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them." I take seriously the responsibility of perpetuating and enhancing the traditional and liturgical worship to which this congregation is so deeply committed. To quote Dr. Nagel again; "We are heirs of an astonishingly rich tradition. Each generation receives from those who went before and, in making that tradition of the Divine Service its own, adds what best may serve in its own day – the living heritage and something new." Going forward, I look eagerly to adding the gifts that God has given me to those abundantly inherent in the people at Mount Calvary, to make "the astonishingly rich tradition" of our Lutheran worship the best it can be as we respond to Christ's gifts of forgiveness, mercy, and strength. It is my goal to marshal the resources present within our congregation to further enhance the reputation of Mount Calvary as a regional, destination church for folks who are looking for excellence in the transcendent majesty of traditional, liturgical worship.

How can you help?

CHOIR - Everyone is invited!

The first group in which I would like to place my initial emphasis is the Mount Calvary Choir. First and foremost, the choir is not a performance group, rather, it exists primarily to lead congregational singing in hymnody, liturgy, and chant. The church choir in Lutheran tradition evolved out of a need for leadership in congregational singing, and that will be the primary focus for this group as well. Again, all are welcome – whether you are a trained vocalist or novice shower singer, your voice is needed. Please join us for a Choir open house to see if this might be a an opportunity to serve in a ministry that will enliven and enhance our musical offerings in the Divine Services.

What: Choir Open House

When: Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM

Where: Choir Room in Ministry Building

Food: Provided!

MUSICIANS

If you can confidently play a brass, woodwind, or stringed instrument, I would love to talk to you about ways we can put your talents to use within the music ministry. There are numerous opportunities to use various instruments within the confines of our worship services and having a variety of in-house musicians affords us a great deal of musical options.

Again, I am thrilled and proud to be part of this vibrant and welcoming congregation, and I ask for your continued prayers and support as I transition into my roles here.

In His Service,
Pastor Craig Meissler

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Dear Mount Calvary Family,

Recreation Sports Camp was a success! The theme for Recreation Camp this year was **Victorious**, based on 1 Corinthians 15:57, *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The participants and volunteers had endless fun learning about and playing Soccer, Basketball, Frisbee, Volleyball, and Hockey. Most importantly, **38 children** had the opportunity to daily hear about how God Gives Us Victory. Pastor Mark, Lacey Hanson, Avery Foster, and I used different Bible stories to illustrate how God Gives Us Victory Over Sin, Death, Fear, Challenges, and Bad Choices. Of the 38 children that attended Recreation Camp, **34 children** were visitors to Mount Calvary. The most exciting fact is that we shared the Love of Jesus with **23 children** who were new to Mount Calvary!

Thank you so much for supporting Mount Calvary's Recreation Sports Camp! We would not have been able to share God's Victories with these 38 children without your support. I especially want to thank the volunteers who made Recreation Camp happen!

Thank you!
Lauren Hannemann

The Volunteers are:

Cheryl Cobb, Lacey Hanson, Sarah Hanson, Kacey Foss, Avery Foster, Kiley Hasch, Terry Hasch, Pat Leiber, Wally Mencke



Memorials

In memory of:

Rev. Harold Schroeter
Rudy Biedermann
Robert Quintana
Bill McGlothing

Given by:

Marlene Walker
Peter Heide
Muriel England
Olga Mcglothin

Helping Hands - Cleaning out your closets? I'm collecting OLD BLUE JEANS for a project. Prefer children's, juniors' and women's sizes in any condition. Happy to pick-up weekly after church, and thank you in advance. Marlene Walker (210) 316-7377

ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
September 3 (communion)	John Smetzer	Jim Koenig
September 10	Jim McNeel	Alex Hansmann
September 17 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Jim Koenig
	Marshall Leiber	Alex Hansmann
September 24	Brad Boeckner	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Robert Axtell	Roy Stepan
Winstor Curry	Gary Cobb
Robert Wieding	Walter Marks
Charles Koch	Isaiah Sefton

ACOLYTES FOR SEPTEMBER

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
September 3	Corben Perankovich	Joe Morrison
September 10	Josh Smetzer	Daniel Morrison
September 17	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
September 24	Josh Smetzer	Jacob Wille

GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
September 3	Carol Wilson Leslie Smetzer	Jill Cott L.J. Cott
September 10	Kim Hendrix Jo Ann Koehn	Bonnie Koenig Judy Ganoza
September 17	Olga McGlothing Grace Morris	Carolyn Friedle Eunice Stepan
September 24	Elaine Ward Brenda Hoffmann	Clara Cobb Sue Weller

MORNING CLASSES

- **Adult Bible Class** | This large, lecture-style class meets in the gym and is taught by Pastor Reedy. On September 3rd, this class will look at the next chapter in the book of Romans. Upon conclusion, this class will begin a study of *The Theology of Martin Luther* (by Paul Althaus).
- **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. Join us on September 3rd with the LHM DVD series "A Man Named Martin: The Movement."
- **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), Special Education (room 112), and Nursery (room 117)

MIDWEEK CLASSES

- **Adult Information Class (AIC)** | *Every Wednesday beginning August 23rd | 7:00-8:30pm | 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 for class start information.
- **Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Morning)** | *Every Tuesday | 10:00-11:30 am | Room 212 (upstairs)*
Beginning September 5th, this class will study *Lifelight: Isaiah Part II*. Sign up in the Parish Hall lobby. Childcare available.
- **Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Evening)** | *Every Wednesday | 6:30-7:30 pm | Room 212 (upstairs)*
Beginning September 6th this class will study "The Weird and Wonderful Ways God Worked through the Judges of Israel." Sign up in the Parish Hall lobby. Childcare available.
- **Men's Bible Study** | *1st & 3rd Saturdays | 8:00-9:30 am | Parish Hall*
Nothing starts the weekend off right like breakfast tacos, coffee, and Christian fellowship! This group is led by Jeff Harwood and will be continuing their study of the intertestamental books of the Apocrypha. On September 2nd this class will look at the wit and wisdom of Ecclesiasticus.
- **Triple F Men's Bible Study** | *Mondays beginning September 11th | 6:30-pm | Cheddar's, IH35 in Selma*
A new men's Bible study followed by fellowship/food.
- **Women's Bible Study** | *3rd Mondays | 7:30-8:30 pm | Meets at members' homes*
Talk to Shirley Wille for more information. The class will meet next on October 16th and will determine what topic to study then.

● **Mothers' ChristCare Small Group** | *2nd & 4th Mondays | 6:30-8:00 pm | Room 218 (upstairs)*

This group is led by Wanda Laxson and is a great way for moms to get to know one another and be encouraged for the coming week! This class resumes September 11th. We will be completing "The Vine Speaks."

● **Night ChristCare Small Group** | *1st Thursdays | 7:00-8:30 pm | Miyauchi Home*

This group is led by Jan Miyauchi and meets at 2219 Peach Blossom. Join us on September 7th as we determine what we will study.

● **Theological Pub** | *1st Wednesdays beginning Sept. 6th | 7:30-8:30 pm | Nosh Restaurant*

Less like a Bible study and more like a gathering of C.S. Lewis's famous "Inklings," adults of all ages are invited to join us for an evening of digging into participants' topics of choice. Bring your deep thoughts—this is an opportunity to ponder theology, the Bible, and what it means to be Christian in a casual atmosphere.

● **Other** | *TBA*

Would you like to participate in a study but don't know where to begin? Contact the church office for more details about any of these classes or to let us know if a class at another time or in another location might be beneficial to you and a few friends. We'd love to provide support for starting a Bible study in your workplace, neighborhood, or school!

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

I'll Never Be a Rockstar

This month's "Parent to Parent" will be a little different. It's not specifically geared toward parents. Instead, it offers some ponderings on life, its twists and turns, and on the ramifications and blessings of the choices we make.

Have you ever sat and contemplated life...I mean REALLY stopped to consider where you have been, where you are now, and where you're headed? I have, many times. Usually these musings happen in the quiet hours of the night when I can't sleep, but sometimes thoughts come to the forefront by means of a simple question or comment tossed my way. "Had you ever thought of going into the decorating business?" "Didn't you ever want to go back to band directing?" "What about starting a vintage wedding rental...or hosting tea parties in your home?" "An Etsy shop!!"

Sometimes...I wonder, "Should I?...Could I have?" What would life look like for me today if I had chosen differently? Perhaps we've all pondered that question at one time or another, for we have each stood at a crossroads a few times in life. Choosing one road over another means leaving a whole set of possibilities behind. The gnawing question, which I fully believe Satan plants deep into our psyches to mess with both us *and* our faith is,"Did I choose wisely?"

Whether the choice is where to go to college, whom to marry, how many children to have, or what career to pursue, we are at times faced with weighty decisions that influence the direction of our lives and ultimately the outcome. So, we make a choice, move down the road a bit, make another choice, move farther down, etc. Where we end up can actually look quite different from any of our initial choices. That's because life happens, and life is fluid, not stagnant.

I wonder whether the sum of those individual choices doesn't help each of us to be exactly where God needs us to be in the moment. I am who I am today because of what God taught me and brought me through yesterday. What I am experiencing today is seed for what may be harvested tomorrow. God gave me freedom...freedom to choose, and that means freedom to make wise choices as well as mistakes. The thing is, God is working through all of it to use my life for His purpose and for His glory. God can and will use both my victories **and** my defeats not only to guide **my** path, but also to offer hope and direction for those coming after me.

If you have ever wondered if "the grass is really greener" ... My(non-professional) two cent's worth is, "It's not." Where you're standing right now...your little patch of sod...is where God is meeting you today. Even when our current circumstances are less than ideal, we mustn't give up hope, for we have to remember that life is fluid. This moment is shaping us, or perhaps it's shaping someone we care about, and it is all under God's control. He has purpose in the mundane as well as the extraordinary, and He has purpose in both our joy and our pain.

So we choose. We pray, and we make a choice. Then we move forward in faith, and we trust.

One of the biggest crossroads for me came when I made the choice to quit band directing in order to stay home with my babies. A few years later, I decided to continue at home in order to homeschool my children rather than to resume teaching in the public sector. Those choices meant that I left other options behind. No one was forcing me or coercing me. I simply chose, and the choice -though not right for everyone- was a good one for me. There would be no more climbing of the career ladder, nor education past my Master's. Things that had been long-term goals of mine in the beginning began to fade away. I came to the realization that I would never be a "Rockstar," at least not to anyone but my husband (who is ALWAYS my biggest fan), but that was o.k. It still is. I love my life. I thank God each day for my incredibly supportive husband, for my beautiful family, and for the opportunity to just get to do life with them. We are not all called to greatness, but we **are** all called to allow **God's greatness** to shine through us.

Most of us will never know fame past the walls of our everyday existence. We will be held in esteem not by the masses, but rather by a loving family, an appreciative boss, grateful neighbors. We will leave our mark on the world not by the broad strokes we paint, but by the fine lines we walk in our conduct and character. We may not build a dynasty or live as kings, but we **will** inherit the kingdom and will leave a legacy of faithful, committed Christians to carry on when we are gone. **These** are our life goals. **This** is what we hope to attain when we stand at the crossroads and choose. We pray to make the right choice. We pray that our life would be useful, purposeful, edifying to others and glorifying to God. We step out in faith believing that God has called us to this place, and we trust Him to help us continue to choose wisely and to redeem those decisions where we have chosen otherwise.

God has a plan for each of us. I believe that. I also believe that God's plans cannot possibly be thwarted by my fallible choices. God is waaaaay bigger than my decision-making capability, and since He has the master map for my life, He's going to keep re-routing me to get me safely home no matter how many detours I take in the process. So, I stand and I choose. I put my hand in His, and I take a step forward, and then another, and another...I don't look back and I don't retrace my steps. God is on the path with me, so it will end up being the right one, for He will make it so.

Every once in awhile, in those quiet, contemplative moments, I find myself wondering about the road not taken, but I don't let Satan get his way on this one. Regrets? Not a one. Honestly, nothing could beat what I've got now. I wouldn't trade any of it for the world. My choices back then gave me my life now. God has made that choice useful, purposeful, and beautiful. I'm thankful, and I am blessed beyond measure.

If, however, God ever decides that I **should be** a slightly older than middle-aged (ahem) "Rockstar"...I say, "Bring it on!"

*"Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way.
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without Your grace and favor, I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way."*

LSB #722

Greetings to my Mount Calvary family,

Thank you so much for your donation to my Haiti mission trip. Haiti changed my life and I would not have had the opportunity to go without your help. In Haiti, I got to help with physical therapy provided at no charge to children with special needs from Neply and the surrounding villages. I also participated in a daily feeding program that gave the most needy children of the village one hot meal a day. I also taught VBS and got to share God's word with hundreds of kiddos. My favorite part of the trip was putting together the dance recital at the end of the dance camp provided by the rest of my team. It was so special to see the joy in the dancers' eyes and the pride on the faces of the hundreds of people who came to support the dancers. Haiti changed my perspective on the life I am blessed enough to live and inspired me to use every gift I have been given to glorify God.

The biggest impact that Haiti had on me was on my relationship with God. When I traveled to Haiti, I planned to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the people of Neply. As soon as I got there, I quickly realized that God had different plans for my trip. Instead of showing God to the Haitians, the Haitians showed God to me. From the babies I worked with in physical therapy, to the dozens of people in the village we prayed with, to the joy in the glittery faces of beautiful dancers, God was everywhere. I was challenged by one of the staff in Haiti to see God work in America as much as I saw Him work in Haiti. Since I have been home, I have seen God in everything around me and am closer to Him than I have ever been. Haiti changed the way I view life and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity.

Thank you for your prayers and support during my trip and in every aspect of my life. I am blessed to have a church family as great as you all are.

God Bless,
Sarah Paseur

Thank you

Dear Mt. Calvary family,

We send our heartfelt thanks for your concerns, prayers, phone calls, and cards during our recent illnesses and health challenges. Raymond is recovering well from his lung cancer surgery and is improving daily. I'm doing fine – just have to watch what I eat. Our youngest great-grandson, Kalei Raymond Miller, is active, gaining weight and progressing nicely even with the effects and treatments for cystic fibrosis. We ask for your continued prayers for him.

Thank you to Pastor Reedy for his phone calls, encouragement, and visits. Thanks, also, to Pastor Mark for his many calls, especially concerning Kalei, his visits, and reassurances. Thank you to Mr. Watson for his hospital visits, calls, and faithful visits to our home sharing the word of God with us and giving communion.

We have had many challenges since January but our gracious God has been with us throughout. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family.

With love and gratitude,
Raymond and Sue Robel

Dear Mt. Calvary,

Thanks so much for the nice retirement breakfast with prayers, presentations, and the very generous "purse"! I felt very honored and overwhelmed by all the attention. Mt. Calvary was very good and welcoming to me; and I will cherish the memories of my time in this congregation. Best wishes to the congregation as you continue in both word and deed to proclaim Christ to the neighborhood and to the world, as well.

Donald Sebesta

A Letter to My Sponsor

Dear sponsor, how are you? I'm well. I am attending university. I am about to complete this school year. I got your gift of money. I bought a blanket and a bowl. I really appreciate what you did for me. Pray for me to succeed at school.

Bye for now,

Asalif Wondimagegn

Compassion International



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