

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2017

Church Office 210-824-8748

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www.mtcsa.org



And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. – Colossians 3:14

Dear Friends in Christ,

The anniversary of the Reformation has passed behind us and our 96th year as a congregation is beginning. The Reformation celebration was wonderful from the incredible music of the morning services, thanks to our music



director Craig Meissler and our many volunteer musicians. And the afternoon was just as amazing as we welcomed at our best estimate, between 300 and 350 people to our annual Trunk or Treat. Once again, thanks to the hard work of so many of our members who volunteered their time, this event was a rousing success. Volunteers created Lutherstadt in the walkway leading into the gym. Volunteers prepared food and many donated cakes. There was no food left over and every single donated baked good found a welcome home. Your hard work touched the lives of many folks in our neighborhood. I personally had two conversations with families who are looking for a church home and several folks who were curious to know more about what the Reformation was all about.

So, in the previous months, we have been focusing in on being thankful for how God has established and built Mount Calvary with a focus on who we are as a traditional liturgical congregation, committed to teaching the Word of God and learning that Word for our lives as we continue to love and care for one another. These celebrations are a manifestation of all these aspects of who we are, but one thing stood out to me. Not only was there a commitment to witnessing to the neighborhood, that is teaching, I noticed that there was an atmosphere of welcome for those who were present with us. And not only that but so many of you were invested in making this event successful, it demonstrated personal commitment and caring.

(This is not just true of this one event but is part of who we are.) You enjoyed being with one another and working together. You were demonstrating what it means to be a "caring congregation".

We are not a congregation of perfect people. We all have our faults and weaknesses. And I suspect we all carry some brokenness and the scars that accumulate as we make our lives through this sinful world. We know we are in this together. Mount Calvary is nothing more than what God enables us to do together. And so we make room for each other. We make room for each other's' gift and talents. We work together. We enjoy each other's' company. When one of us is sick or hurt we are there for one another. And should the day come, as they often do in any family where people are united together to share life, that we find a relationship strained for whatever reason, I pray that we will remember that love covers over a multitude of sins. Mount Calvary is a loving family and a spiritual home for so many. Love and caring is very much at the heart of who we are. Love and caring require constant nurture, investment into the lives of one another and even when necessary understanding and forgiveness. Scripture is full of passages encouraging Christians to love and care for one another. As Luther taught us in the small catechism, we pray together in worship "Thy Will be Done" which we know is done but we pray that it be done among us.

As we leave Reformation behind and draw into the season of Thanksgiving with Advent looming on the horizon, I am thankful for you are as children of God, that I have the privilege of walking through life with you at this time, and that you are a loving and caring congregation, indeed the family of God in this place.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Rogers



REFORMATION
2017 *It's Still* All About
Jesus

Dear Christian friends,

This month, I want to take the opportunity to thank you. Mount Calvary has been a part of my life for a long time and been a great influence in the formation of my relationship with the Lord. November being the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, it seemed only appropriate to let you know how much I appreciate you.

Thank you, Sunday School Teachers, VBS volunteers, and Bible Study Leaders. When I was growing up at Mount Calvary, you had a profound influence on me. I was blessed to have wonderful parents who taught me about Jesus and His love from a very early age. You reemphasized those lessons and revealed to me that there was a far greater tribe of Jesus-followers than just the members of my nuclear family. It was in your class/group/Bible study that I began to wonder at the incredibleness of God revealed through His Word.

Thank you, generous givers. You trusted the Lord to provide, took Him at His Word, and gave of your resources abundantly. Your gifts provided the salary for the church workers who had a profound impact on me, the church-work scholarship that paved the way for my education, and eventually provided my own salary to serve here at our church.

Thank you, visionaries. You looked into the projected future of our church body and saw a need for youth to be bolstered in their faith. You put that desire into action, encouraging me and other young believers in our walk with the Lord. You served on the vision-casting committees that Pastor DeVries crafted to challenge the status quo. I'm especially thankful for the "Forward Mount Calvary" committee that saw a need for Mount Calvary to reach young people and reach our community. As the result of your discussions, God led the church to call Laura Pulliam to serve as the Director of Christian Education and to call me as your vicar (pastor-in-training) through the Cross-cultural Ministry Center's pastoral formation program.

Thank you, Mount Calvary for the presence you have been in my life and the emphasis you always placed on the chief importance of the Gospel as it goes from the Mount to the world with God's love. You

were used by God to mold and shape me into who I am today, and I will be forever grateful!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark T. Pulliam
(son of the congregation)

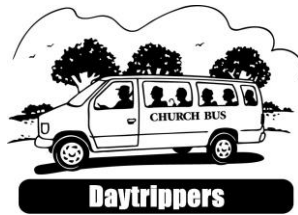
Memorials

In memory of:

Pastor DeVries
June Wells

Given by:

Van Dyke family
Carol Wilson



The DayTrippers have scheduled the following field trips:

- ~~September 14 – Witte Museum, San Antonio~~
- ~~October 12 – Bigfoot Wallace & Blacksmith Museums, Devine~~
- November 9 – El Mercado, San Antonio
- January 11 – Buggy Museum, Blanco
- February 8 – Fire & Railroad Museums, New Braunfels
- March 8 – Frontier Museum, Bandera
- April 12 – San Antonio River Barge, San Antonio
- May 10 – Shopping/Museum, Bastrop

STUDENT MINISTRY

MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2017

- SUN 5** **Daylight Savings Time ends** (*that is, the clocks "fall back!"*)
9:45am Education Hour + Youth Confirmation
3:00pm Return from Women's Retreat (approx.)
- SUN 12** 9:45am Education Hour + Youth Confirmation
11:00am Student Leadership Team + Mentor Team {library}
12:00-4:00pm SNL FUN
- SUN 19** **Annual Turkey Dinner**
9:45am Education Hour + Youth Confirmation
11:00am-1:00pm SNL SERVE
- SUN 26** 9:45am Education Hour
(Youth Confirmation attend combined MS/HS class in youth room)



NOV 12 SNL FUN

12:00-4:00pm

Take A Hike | Celebrate God's gift of changing seasons by enjoying an afternoon in nature! Join us for a hike at Eisenhower Park after late service (returning around 4:00). Families welcome. Lunch provided. Wear shoes/clothes for walking 2-3 miles. Bring a refillable water bottle.

NOV 19 SNL SERVE

11:00am-1:00pm

Annual Turkey Dinner | Give thanks through service! There will be two different seating times so you can help during one and eat with your family during the other. We will be running drinks, carrying trays, and clearing tables.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

YOUR STUDENT'S BRAIN

What do smoking, gambling, alcohol, and cell phones have in common?

They all cause a dopamine release that, unchecked, leads to addiction. Smoking, gambling, and alcohol have age restrictions because of the danger they pose to a person whose prefrontal cortex (the decision-making part of the brain) is not yet fully developed. Cell phones, on the other hand, are in the hands of 83% of middle schoolers in America. A 2012 Harvard study revealed that "talking about oneself through social media activates a pleasure sensation in the brain usually associated with food, money, and sex." Christian parents traditionally invest time talking with their children, at varying stages of development, about making smart choices in regards to eating in moderation, managing money, and cultivating a God-glorifying perspective on human sexuality. Studies are now showing that having these kinds of conversations about technology are also very important! Just like food, money, and sex are not in and of themselves bad, so technology & social media can be helpful when used appropriately. But, as speaker/author Simon Sinek suggests, if you are in the habit of checking your phone when you're hanging out with your friends, you are already addicted. So what is a parent to do? Just like any addiction, we bring it out into the light by talking about it!

Here are some helpful conversation starters for talking with your child about fostering a healthy relationship with technology:

- How do you think Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, texting, (etc.) have affected your friendships? (Studies have shown that technology has actually had a *negative* effect on the development of deep relationships and has, instead, increased depressive symptoms among teens.)
- How do you feel when your friends check their phones while they're hanging out with you? In what ways does having your phone on you *help* your relationships? In what ways does it *hinder*?
- Share with your student the addictive nature of cell phones & social media. Together, come up with some healthy limits on technology usage, especially at night. (This can even promote better sleep!)

For further study: Simon Sinek is an author, speaker, and marketing consultant. Some of his talks (which can be found on YouTube and Ted.com) have definite applications for parents of teens.

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. Sunday, November 5, the class will begin the video lecture series "The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity."
- **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!

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY NEWS

Our back-to-school signed up 325 children for the adopt-a-child school and backpack program this August.

Al Gangemi retired after 14 years of dedicated service to CAM.

CAM is forming a partnership with SA Thread 's and Earn-a-Bike at CAM to provide bicycles for clients without cars.

October 25th is our Gala and Auction at the Witte Museum.

Queso Meltdown at CAM is November 11th.

Mt. Calvary will have their annual Share Your Harvest Food Drive on Sunday, November 12th.

CAM will have their annual Christmas Store – details to come.

Muriel England (Membership Council to CAM)

Cathy DeVries (Co-Chair)

ELDERS FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
November 5 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Gary Franzen
November 12	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
November 19 (communion)	John Smetzer	Marshall Leiber
November 26	Brad Boeckner	Jim Koenig
<i>Special Services</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	
Wednesday November 22	Brad Boeckner	

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Steve Melancon	Richard Miyauchi
David Potter	David Timmons
Jeremy Hanson	Nathaniel Aguilar
Jeff Harwood	L. J. Cott

ACOLYTES FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
November 5	Josh Smetzer Corben Perankovich David Meissler	Wyatt Wilson Joe Meissler Daniel Meissler
November 12	Corben Perankovich	Jake Wille
November 19	Josh Smetzer	Joe Morrison
November 26	Corben Perankovich	Colton Roberts
<i>Special Services</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	
Wednesday November 22	Daniel Morrison	

GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
November 5	Donna Dickert Carol Wilson	Sue Weller Rexann George
November 12	Denise LaBonté Sarah Hanson	Eunice Stepan Judy Hanson
November 19	Virginia Axtell Elaine Ward	Sarah Paseur Mary Marks
November 26	Olga McGlothing Brenda Hoffmann	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

Giving Thanks the Other 364

I took the time a while back to take stock of my many blessings. I tried to make a mental note of everything I had to be thankful for that particular day from the moment I opened my eyes. Here is my facebook post from that morning nearly two years ago:

I woke up this morning...that's number 1! I got out of a warm bed and took a shower with hot running water #s 2 and 3. I drove my husband of 30 years to work at a job God provided him after his previous employment of 31 years with another company ended #s 4, 5, and 6. My car started and got me safely there and back home again #s 7 and 8. I had some awesome oven toast for breakfast, and ...score!!... the oven worked #s 9 and 10. I've spent the rest of my morning washing sheets and preparing a casserole for my daughter Sarah who is coming home from school today #s 11, 12, 13 and 14. It's only slightly past 11:00 in the morning. So many blessings in such a short period of time. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for them all, and may I never forget to be grateful.

I wish I were able to say that this was my attitude *every* day instead of the one time I thought to pay attention...**real** attention. Giving thanks for God's goodness is something we should all jump at the chance to do, isn't it, but we often fall into the trap of regarding our everyday blessings as commonplace - people, things, and circumstances we sometimes end up taking for granted. We wake up. "Thank you, God, for another day to live. Thank you that I still have a roof over my head, a family who loves me, and a reason to get up in the morning." That's what we **should** say, but instead we oftentimes roll over slapping at the alarm clock and muttering under our breath, "Another Monday...great. I'm already tired and I haven't even gotten out of bed yet."

We stumble to the kitchen groping for the coffee pot only to find that no one has bothered to make fresh...or the milk jug is empty, and despite the fact that our fridges and pantries are stocked full with all kinds of wonderful alternatives, our day has just gotten off to a really bad start, and we don't care **who** knows it! How did we become these people...these indifferent, ungrateful people? How did **I** become so laissez-faire about giving thanks? Is it that life is just too easy for us? Is it that we are **so** blessed that we are blinded by the enormity of it all?!

We live in one of the most prosperous countries in the world, and no matter your feelings toward the current administration or toward the social injustices you may feel are being perpetrated on some of its citizens, the truth is that even the poorest of those in this country have a great deal more of everything than the poor in impoverished third world countries around the globe. Is it possible the very fact that we have so much for which to be thankful...is the thing that is actually keeping us from a grateful heart toward our Heavenly Father for the blessings He so lavishly heaps upon us? Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate.

For me, personally, the times I have been the most grateful to the Lord have been those that came close on the heels of some personal hardship or tragedy. Reality, though it be even harsh, has an extraordinary way of bringing one's focus back to where it needs to be. When my first two babies were born with serious medical issues and their very lives hung in the balance, I quickly became grateful for each and every day the Lord gave me to spend with them. When Tom and I struggled under the weight of doctor's bills and hospital invoices, we didn't waste breath complaining. Instead, we gave thanks to God for His abundant grace, for the wonderful help of our parents, and for the knowledgeable medical staff and treatments that helped keep our babies alive and well. There have been numerous times in my life where God has "graced me" with the opportunity to be thankful even amidst the difficult and the challenging. Quite possibly the same has happened with you, but should it take such extremes as hardship and difficulty to remind us to be thankful for what we have?

Sometimes when I find myself grumbling about, honestly, some insignificant piffle, God reminds me of my blessings, or should I say "humbles" me in the most poignant of ways. One day, at the height of my complaining about I don't even remember what, God shut my mouth, yes, literally shut my mouth at seeing a neighbor lifting his little boy out of the car, carrying him into the house...because he can't walk. He can't run, or talk, or play like other kids. He never will....and shame crept over my ungrateful heart. About what do I have to complain? Food? Check. Clothing? Check. Home, family, income? Check, check, check. Even if those things were taken away or in jeopardy, I would **still** have much to be thankful for. One of my very favorite quotes on this subject comes from Christian pastor and author Max Lucado: "If all God ever gave us was salvation and eternal life, wouldn't that be enough?" Think about it. That's a pretty profound statement...and it is truth. Is there anything more undeserved? Is there anything more cherished?

I don't want to be a spoiled child. I don't want to muddle through my days trampling God's blessings underfoot, grumbling about all I don't have at the expense of all I do....have. I want to live my days with a grateful heart. I want that fact to shape my words and my actions. I want to dance in the sun, not wallow in the mud. I owe my Heavenly Father everything. My life, my health, my family, my home, my livelihood, my friends...but most of all, I owe Him my salvation and the promise of eternal life. All blessings. All undeserved. I can't speak for you, but I know **my** thanks should make an appearance at the banquet table more days than just one. This year I don't want to wait to return thanks until Thanksgiving grace. I want God's grace to shape in me a thankful heart today and every day.

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." - Psalm 9:1-2

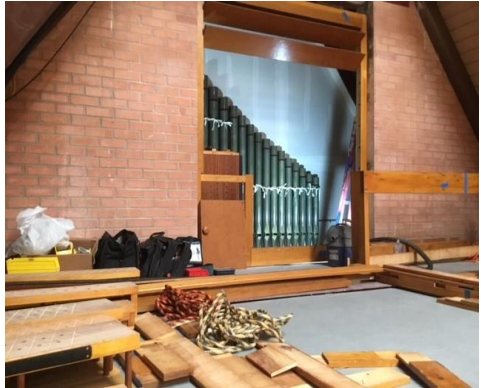


You are invited to a special Thanksgiving worship on Wednesday, November 22nd, at 7:00pm.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES – Pastor Craig Meissler

Pipe Organ Update

The organ installation is progressing well. With the infrastructure work completed, you will definitely see more weekly progress. Our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ has four divisions with 45 ranks of pipes. Each rank contains 61 pipes - this past week, the Swell Division with 732 pipes is being installed in the rear chamber of the balcony. As you can see in this photo, the first set of pipes have been installed. The pipes in this division are "under expression" which means the volume of this division can be increased or decreased by the organist opening or closing the swell shutters. For regular updates and photos, please check out the Mount Calvary Facebook page.



Introsits and Singing the Psalms

Beginning on Reformation Sunday the choir introduced the singing of the introit. I think a bit of history and context with regards to the Introit would be helpful in seeing its purpose in the Divine Service. The Introit of the Day actually marks the beginning of the Service of the Word and is

typically a sung Psalm or portion of a Psalm which designates the Scriptural theme of the day. The word Introit which derives its meaning from the Latin word "for he enters in" was actually a very practical part of the worship liturgy in the early church. The early

church, similar to how Mount Calvary is set up, had the vesting rooms for the clergy at the rear of the sanctuary. The Introit was sung by the choir as the clergy made their way from the rear of the nave to the chancel area. Luther much preferred utilizing the whole Psalm for the Introit. In the The Lutheran Hymnal (1941) the Introit was shortened to just one Psalm verse. In Lutheran Service Book longer portions of the Psalms were selected to more effectively highlight the theme of the day.

Lutheran Service Book has provided several "Psalm Tones" which are used in chanting the Introit and/or whole Psalms. For the first several Sundays, the choir will be leading the singing of the Psalms with the congregation whole verse by whole verse. Other options can include chanting the Introit antiphonally between clergy and congregation or by alternating pulpit side and lectern side. The Psalms were meant to be sung, and doing so seems to give them more "sticking power" in our memory as we go about our daily lives and activities in the week to come. It is yet another way that the Divine Service immerses us in Holy Scripture and equips us to be ambassadors of Christ in the daily worship of our lives.

Annual Turkey Dinner - Sunday, November 19th, from 11:00am-1:00pm in the gym. Tickets are available to help us know how many will be attending or need a home bound meal. Free-will offering. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, November 18th at 9:00am for prep and set-up. Sign-up sheets are in the gym kitchen and Parish Hall lobby bulletin board. Please sign-up for homemade pies also. Contact Judy Boeckner for information (210-979-9016).

LINC-SA Thanksgiving Concert featuring nationally acclaimed Christian singer-songwriter-guitarist-storyteller Bob Bennett will be Sunday, November 19th from 6:00-7:45pm in the Mt. Calvary gym. A dinner will be served at 4:30pm. Free-will offering. RSVP's appreciated to Greg Gremmer at 210-379-7887 or greggremmer@hotmail.com

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
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