

# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

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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 10:15-17

Dear Friends in Christ,

**S**oon we shall pass from the penitential season of Lent into the glorious celebration of Easter. It seems like it was only yesterday when we were celebrating Christmas. Each season of the church year reinforces for us a particular remembrance of an aspect of the Gospel, either in retelling the story of Jesus or speaking to the life of the church in the world. Consistent through all these seasons are the gifts of God, present in Word and Sacrament.

Take a moment to reflect on the incredible gift that is Holy Communion. The first Lutherans spoke to this in the Augsburg Confession (Article X), "It is taught among us that the true body and blood of Christ are really present in the Supper of our Lord under the form of bread and wine and are distributed and received." The very body and blood of our Savior, crucified for us to secure our forgiveness, is given us in this sacrament. We can do nothing to add to it. We cannot earn it. When we come to the altar of the Lord, we are there empty handed, with no merit; only need. And we find there the greatest gift of all, forgiveness, for our Lord Jesus is there with His body and blood, the very one broken for our sin.

The Augsburg Confession goes on to say in Article XIII, "It is taught among us that the sacraments were instituted not only to be signs by which people might be identified outwardly as Christians, but that they are signs and testimonies of God's will toward us for the purpose of awakening and strengthening our faith." Holy Communion is the Gospel given to each of us directly into our very mouths for the forgiveness of sins. It is indeed "for you". When we receive it coming so very directly to us, you can say "for me". It is God exposing His very heart to us revealing His inmost desires and intention toward us. It is His choice to love us. It is His choice to forgive us and to do so

unconditionally. How can we not trust such a God who loves us to such an extent?

This love of God is constant and consistent through all the seasons, all the seasons of the church year, all the seasons of the calendar year, and all the seasons of our lives. Holy Communion is our constant companion, God's constant gift ever available for us so that our faith may never grow weak as we make our way in a fallen, sinful, and sometimes difficult world. The truly amazing thing about the promise of Holy Communion is not the miraculous presence of Christ's body and blood, for God can do whatever He wants. The truly amazing thing is that God forgives us without condition, without merit simply out of love. This is His body. This is His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

*Pastor David Reed*



What do you do to prepare for a party? The house might need to be freshened up. The food might need to be planned and purchased. We would probably spend a little time thinking about what activities we would offer to engage the people who are attending. Oh yeah, and don't forget the invitations!

There are lots of ways to make the things around us ready for a big celebration. Lately, however, I've been learning the importance of looking forward to something. I love surprises, but I think that surprise parties might be missing a key component of enjoying the celebration: anticipation.

Think about it. If your birthday is coming up and nobody seems to care, feelings can easily get hurt. When you arrive at the darkened room, and the lights flip on, and everybody yells "Surprise!"

everybody's strange behavior starts to make sense. But I wonder if you would have enjoyed that party more if you had had time to look forward to the celebration?

In a little less than a month, we will celebrate Easter. If there was ever a celebration in the church world, Easter is it! This is the time when we throw a party because Jesus came back from the dead. He rose from the dead to proclaim victory over sin, Satan, and death forever! Because He died and rose again, all who believe in Him share in His victory. Not even death will overcome us because of this gift. So let's celebrate!

Our house of worship might need to be freshened up, and we have a time to do that on Saturday, March 10th from 8-11:59am. The food will need to be planned and prepared by our youth and some loving adults on Saturday, March 31st from 3-5pm. Our Board of Education and some incredible volunteers are thinking about the activities we'll be having that day to bring the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to us and the people we bring with us on Easter Sunday. Oh yeah, and don't forget the invitations, because every one of us has the opportunity to invite our neighbor, coworker, cashier, waitress, grandkids, and friends to come with us.

Whew! There's a pretty big list of preparations to be made. And lately, I've been learning the importance of looking forward to something. Don't miss a key component of enjoying the celebration: anticipation. As a church family, we gather in the season of Lent twice weekly to pray, read the Bible, hear the story of Jesus' ministry and His journey to the cross, and tangibly experience the forgiveness He won for us.

Making preparations for Easter is good. Preparing ourselves by anticipating the celebration of Easter is even better!

In Christ,  
Rev. Mark T. Pulliam

# PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

## Ending on a High Note

It hit me the other day. I don't know why I never made the connection before, but I just realized how much this part of our church year is like...well, like life. We've just finished celebrating the Transfiguration of our Lord, a high point for sure, and then days later, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Our gaze is now shifted downward, inward, toward reflection and repentance. This is a somber time. For forty days we head toward Golgotha and the cross, but before we get there, we experience the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and there is rejoicing. Hosannas are sung. Palms are waved, cloaks are strewn ...and yet, at week's end we find ourselves once again in the midst of sorrow, darkness, death.

What got me thinking about all of this was our Lutheran Service Book. I recently began practicing my trumpet again for the possibility of playing on Easter Sunday. In order to get my lips back into shape after a few months off, I did what I usually do. I started with the hymns. This time I began with the Lenten hymns. There is a kind of sober weightiness to the music of this season. Many of the standards appear in minor keys, which add greatly to the feeling of the season and to the solemn nature of what we are professing through the words. The music reflects the mood. It heightens our awareness of what Lent is all about.

As I worked my way through to the Palm Sunday selections, the music returned to the uplifting major keys...the quickening tempos. Here the melodies make it clear that hearts are glad once more. There is hope and joyful anticipation with every note, but mere pages away the tunes turn to the dark tones again...the tones of "A Sacred Head Now Wounded" and "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted."

This is why I feel like this time in the church year is a lot like life. Life is full of ups and downs too, isn't it? We seem to vacillate with near

regularity between the two. Some years are good, bringing prosperity and peace. Some years are lean or peppered with conflict. Some seasons bring joy, others pain. For that matter, sometimes even the events of a single day can feel like a roller coaster ride. Our spirits can easily become frazzled and our patience worn thin by the back-and-forth of it all, until we remember that we are not alone. Jesus has been there. He experienced the emotional to and fro himself of everything from fickle crowds, to arrogant church leadership and wayward followers. He lived what we now sing...major chords, minor chords, and everything in-between. Though upheaval was all around Him, Jesus remained unshaken. His resolve, firm. What He finished at the cross is the reason the music of Easter ends on a high note.

You know, it always amazes me how God finds just the perfect way to drive a point, His point, home in my life. A couple of days after I began paying more attention to the hymns of this season, God hit me with a song that echoed the same sentiment. It's not a Lenten hymn...but in a way it could be. I was driving in the car listening to the radio when the song "Hills and Valleys" by Tauren Wells began playing on K-LOVE. The song is gorgeous in both its melody and lyrics. If you get the chance, check it out on YouTube. The chorus is what really got me. Permit me to share a bit of it here:

*On the mountains, I will bow my life to the One who set me there  
In the valley, I will lift my eyes to the One who sees me there.  
When I'm standing on the mountain, I didn't get there on my own  
When I'm walking through the valley, I know I am not alone.  
You're God of the hills and valleys, and I am not alone.  
God of the hills and valleys, and I am not alone.*

Does any of this hit home for you too? My life has surely been full of both hills and valleys. I also know that I'm not done traversing between the two. In this fallen world, the back and forth between them is inevitable. There will be difficulties. There will be unwelcome diagnoses, unanticipated tragedies, funerals to plan. We have sin to thank for that, but there will also be joys.... the joy of a new life entering the world, celebrations of birthdays, graduations, weddings. Sometimes there will be joy in the midst of sorrow, like when a

believer leaves this earthly home and moves heavenward, and we have Jesus to thank for that.

This season is a season of repentance, yes, but it is also a season of comfort. There is nothing, nothing we could go through in this life to which Jesus can't relate. He has experienced all of it, for our sake. He knows joy. He understands pain. He has felt both friendship and betrayal. He has been lifted up and has allowed Himself to be brought low. He has felt the sting of death and the glory of resurrection. He has been where we are, or where we will eventually be...in both the major keys and the minor ones, and no matter which, we are not alone. He is indeed God of both the hills and the valleys.

Believers are not exempt from the difficulties of this world. We are Christians, followers of Christ, and as such, we can't possibly hope to endure less than He did. We can depend on the reality that there will be sorrow amidst joy, that there will be some minor chords mixed in with the majors once in a while. Yet, and here's the really cool thing, the true beauty of the season, even of our lives, is in the contrast. Without the contrast between dark and light, major and minor, things lose focus for us. We need the Law to help us appreciate the Gospel fully. We need the sorrow of Good Friday to appreciate the jubilation of Easter Sunday, and we need the finality of the cross to emphasize the eternal life that the empty tomb represents.

Though our lives might be a mixture of highs and lows, of hills and valleys, we can be sure of this. Jesus' suffering and death won for us once and for all forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. We can endure the darkest days, we can experience the deepest griefs this world and the devil can throw at us and still rejoice. We can rejoice because darkness always gives way to light. We can rejoice that because of Jesus, the empty tomb assures that when our life comes to a close, it will end as well as those glorious hymns of Easter do...on a high note.

## **ELDERS FOR MARCH**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
March 4 (communion)	John Smetzer	Mike Wille
March 11	Jim McNeel	Spencer Hasch
March 18 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Jim Koenig
March 25	Brad Boeckner	Marshall Leiber
Special Services @ 7:00PM		
Wednesday, March 7	John Smetzer	
Wednesday, March 14	Bill Stolhandske	
Wednesday, March 21	Toby Elbert	

## **USHERS FOR MARCH**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Al Lariosa	Sid Greehey	
Kevin Rabenaldt	Madison Marceau	
Wally Mencke	Karl Johnson	
John Smetzer	Matt Johnson	
Special Services @ 7:00PM		
Wednesday, March 7	R. Axtell, B. Boeckner, C. Gross, J. Harwood	
Wednesday, March 14	J. Hanson, L. Gillian, W. Mencke, C. Gross	
Wednesday, March 21	R. Axtell, L. Gillian, J. Harwood, D. Potter	
Maundy Thursday	J. Hanson, R. Miyauchi, B. Boeckner, M. Klein	
Good Friday	J. Harwood	

## **ACOLYTES FOR MARCH**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
March 4	Josh Smetzer	Jake Wille
March 11	David Meissler	Daniel Morrison
March 18	Corben Perankovich	Wyatt Wilson
March 25	Josh Smetzer	Joe Morrison
Special Services @ 7:00PM		
Wednesday, March 7 & 21	Daniel Morrison	
Wednesday, March 14	Joe Morrison	
Maundy Thursday	C. Perankovich, J. Morrison, D. Morrison	
Good Friday	Josh Smetzer	

## GREETERS FOR MARCH

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
March 4	Olga McGlothing Elaine Ward	Clara Cobb Carolyn Friedle
March 11	Grace Morris Leslie Smetzer	Rexann George Bonnie Koenig
March 18	Kim Hendrix Virginia Axtell	Eunice Stepan Judy Hanson
March 25	Jo Ann Koehn Brenda Hoffmann	Jill Cott Sue Weller



**2018 Lenten Series:  
Walking Through 1 Peter  
(all services at 7:00 pm unless otherwise  
noted)**

- March 7 – Lent 4 (dinner at 5:30 pm)  
A Holy Priesthood – 1 Peter 2:2-12
- March 14 – Lent 5 (dinner at 5:30 pm)  
Suffer for Christ – 1 Peter 3:8-18
- March 21 – Lent 6 (dinner at 5:30 pm)  
Resist the Devil – 1 Peter 5:6-11
- March 29 – Maundy Thursday
- March 30 – Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows)
- April 1 – Easter Sunday

# Music News

## Pipe Organ Update

Last week Monday and Wednesday about thirty-five volunteers helped form a human chain to move many of the pipes of the back Swell Division, upper Pedal division, and some of the Great division into place. This comprises a little less than half the pipes. The remainder of the pipes will be moved in with volunteers this week, with the crew from Bobsin Organ hoisting the larger pedal pipes, some weighing up to 350lbs., up to the organ loft. The console should be in place in approximately two weeks as well as the completion of the finishing work required in the balcony.



## **Chimes**

One of the electronically produced sounds from our previous organ was that of the chimes. Our new pipe organ did not have a set of chimes included in its stop list when it was built in 1945, nor were there any installed thereafter. Space has been allocated in our organ for the future installation of chimes if the congregation so desires. To purchase and install a set of tuned organ chimes would be about \$8000.

## **Organ Dedication Service and Dinner**

The Organ Dedication Hymn Festival/Service and Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

## **Visiting Choir**

The choir from Lake Country Lutheran High School in Hartland, Wisconsin will be presenting a concert at Mount Calvary on **Saturday evening, March 17, 2018, at 7:00 PM**, and will be presenting music in our 11:00 AM worship service on March 18. Host families are needed for the students on that Saturday evening. If you are able to host, please fill out one of the bulletin inserts or host forms in the narthex.

Also, we encourage everyone to make an effort to support the students of our Lutheran Schools by attending this concert. Many of these students go on to serve in God's Kingdom as pastors, teachers, musicians, and other Church workers within the Missouri Synod. Our prayers and support can help make the difference as they decide their calling and vocation.

## **Sanctuary Piano**

Due to the extraordinary generosity of a couple here at Mount Calvary, we are extremely blessed to have received the generous gift of a grand piano for our sanctuary. The piano is a top of the line Yamaha C2, Conservatory Grand, and has been in the private residence of doctor here in San Antonio since its purchase in 2005. This ebony black piano is in pristine condition and is the perfect size for our sanctuary. Please feel free to come up and take a look!

In His Service,  
Pastor Craig Meissler

## MORNING CLASSES

- **Adult Bible Class** | This large, lecture-style class meets in the gym and is taught by Pastor Reedy. We will begin *Hebrews* March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.
- **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)** | *Wed* | 7:00pm | *Church library*  
New to Lutheranism? Just want to brush up on the basics? This is the class for you! Each course is 10 sessions. This class will begin January 24th at 7:00pm. Classes will be at 8:00pm during Lent. Speak to Pastor Reedy if interested.
- **Pastor Mark's Bible Study (Morning)** | *Every Tuesday* | 10:00-11:30 am | *Room 212 (upstairs)*
- **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.
- **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.
- **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!
- **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. 0
- **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!

## Memorials

### In memory of:

Eva Glaspy  
Ruth Faubion  
Mona Preuss

Lou Feaster

Betsy Harrell  
Florence Winkler

### Given by:

Marlene Walker, M/M Arthur Wendt  
Evelyn Brendenuhl, M/M Art Wendt  
M/M Tom Pulliam, M/M Winstor Curry, Esther  
Mae Lundy, Juan Buerschinger, Louise Roach,  
M/M Art Wendt, Carol Wilson

Marlene Walker, M/M Kenneth Linscott, Linda  
Turner & family, Carol Zeinker-Estes & family,  
M/M Charles Herbella, M/M Charles Koch,  
M/M Art Wendt

M/M Charles Koch, Barbara Wood  
M/M Charles Koch, M/M Arthur Wendt

## Youth Notes

- Sunday, March 4th | 12-3pm | SNL Fun: Burger Fi & Hiking at Eisenhower Park | Students should dress comfortably with comfortable shoes and bring water bottles. However, there will be some water bottles available if someone forgets.
- Sunday, March 18th | 12-3pm | SNL Serve: Chipotle & Center for Refugee Services | Refugee families have many needs and one that is not being met is diapers. We get to help these young families by packaging diapers that the Center for Refugee Services will give away to those in need. Wear shoes you wouldn't mind standing in for the afternoon.
- Saturday, March 31st | 3-5pm | SNL Serve: Easter Breakfast Tacos Preparation | Let's get cracking on the food prep!
- Sunday, April 1st | 6:30-11:30am | SNL Serve: Easter Breakfast Tacos | Like in years past, we'll have three shifts: 6:30-8am, 7-10am, and 9:30-11:30am to prepare, serve, and clean up. If you have an idea for which charity we should donate the funds to let Pastor Mark know so we can vote.

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