

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

Church Office 210-824-8748

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He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come,
see the place where he lay.

– Matthew 28:6

Dear Friends in Christ,

He is Risen! Holy Week is a special time. It is a time for serious and sober reflection and remembrance building to joyous Easter celebration. I have celebrated this festival season with fellow Christians where I was born, in the prairies of our land, in lands far across the seas, in desert places and very foreign places. But the message remains the same, He is risen! And it makes all the difference; it makes all the joy.

This month finds me reflecting on just how thankful I am for our God and His love. Since I first heard the clear proclamation of the Gospel from a Lutheran pastor, now at home with our Lord, life has been very different and full of anticipation of the good things that God brings because He loves us. Indeed, as I have shared before, I feel very thankful to be a pastor, to be able to share this same good news with others. Indeed, what makes ministry so wonderful is our loving God and His Gospel, but there is more and I was reminded of that just recently.

The more is the privilege of sharing a common story and hope with so many other special people. There is a mother who was part of our fellowship in England who is entering middle age but suffering. She fought a long, hard, difficult fight against a very deadly breast cancer and won, but not without scars and lasting consequences. She continually fights infection. Her poor body is so damaged. But her spirit is so very strong. Right now as I write this, she is lying in pain, following a meticulous surgery to attempt to repair very damaged tissues throughout her torso fighting yet again an infection. And yet, her faith shines like a beacon fire on top of a mountain in a raging storm that just can't put it out.

There is a brother Lutheran in Christ, back in the hills of Tennessee, whose lungs are full of cancer who is fighting with all he has. The outcome is still to be determined. He has good days and bad days. There are days he is happy and he spends them joyfully with his wife.

Then there are days that he is sad and discouraged and sick. He reached out to me in the middle of a difficult night clinging to the one thing that had never let him down, his faith in Christ. He wanted to express his thankfulness for his faith. You see, my brother and I had something in common. We were both raised in a Christian faith confused about the Gospel and had learned as adults the real meaning of what Christ did for us. He is so very thankful for being Lutheran as he faces what he must now face.

There are amazing Christians in our congregation. People who are going through tough times right now or who in the past have weathered tough times and the faith shines as a beacon fire that no storm can put out.

It looked like a raging storm has engulfed Christ. The entire leadership of the Jewish nation combined with the Roman empire had swallowed Jesus and His movement. He was swept up, carried away, beaten behind strong walls where no one could defend Him. He was paraded naked, bleeding, dying through the town and no one dared try to stop it. He was crucified as a weak, powerless, eliminated threat. The storm had fallen on Him in its fury and appeared to have consumed Him.

But there was much more going on. Jesus is the Lord of the storms. It could happen because He humbled Himself and allowed it to happen. He did it because there was power in His death and hope in His resurrection. It is very real that Jesus took each and every single sin that could have kept us out of heaven and sent us to hell away from us. He took each one and their punishment. All that is left is His grace, His mercy, and His love.

Life may one day take everything we hold dear from us. But no storm, no enemy, no sin can take away the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the truth and promise of His resurrection. As Luther penned it in His hymn "A Mighty Fortress"

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,

Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Reetz



What's the last movie you watched? For some reason, movies have the ability to connect with us. There is something in our brain that is hardwired for stories, and movies have become the great storytellers of our culture. In fact, one of my professors from college - Dr. Jake Youmans - wrote a book about this very subject! I've included an excerpt from his book *Talking Pictures* below with an example of how to connect movies to our Christian faith.

If you would like to expand your movie repertoire and get to know some of our neighbors in the Terrell Heights Neighborhood, there are several opportunities coming up on the calendar. The movies are projected on an outdoor screen at Scates Park (434 N Meadowlane Dr, San Antonio, TX 78209). The Board of Evangelism attends these events and sometimes even supplies popcorn! Here's a list of the upcoming movies and times. Hope to see you there!

- April 14th, 8pm - *Lego: Ninjago*
- May 11th, 8:15pm - *Wonder Woman*
- July 8th, 8:30pm - *Jumanji*
- October 26th, 7pm - *Coco*
- December 1st, 5:30pm - *Nightmare Before Christmas*

"Talking Pictures Example #1"

As we left the darkened theater after seeing *The Dark Knight*, one thought was consuming my mind and I just had to say it, "Heath Ledger was incredible! The Joker stole the show!"

"Yeah!" agreed my friend Steve "He was pure evil. I've actually read that it was this role that made him take the medication that eventually killed him. He was having nightmares from this role! Scary!"

"And the Joker didn't really have any reason to be evil," I added. "Nothing really motivated him to be that way - he just was."

"No kidding! Good thing that's just a movie. In real life, there's always a reason someone turns out bad."

"You really think so?" I wondered aloud, encouraging him to explain.

"Oh, yeah," Steve replied. "Human beings are naturally good, and it takes a bad experience or a tragedy to turn them evil."

"Huh," I said thoughtfully, as if I was pondering what he had said. After a pause, I continued. "Well, I wish that was true, but I know plenty of people who just do evil stuff for no real reason. I wish people were naturally good, but when I see wars, abuse of power, enslavement, and poverty consuming the world, I'm not convinced that people are naturally good."

"What do you mean?" Steve turned toward me, clearly interested in my statement. I began to realize that a window of opportunity was starting to open up. You see, Steve wasn't a Christian, and I had always wanted to find a good time to work the topic of my faith into one of our conversations. I knew this might be the opportunity I had been waiting for.

"Well," I said, taking a deep breath and saying a silent prayer, "Everyone has evil thoughts. Everyone has a natural desire to do bad things. This guy, Paul, who wrote a bunch of books - well, more like letters; he was frustrated by this whole issue too. In fact, he put it this way: 'The good I want to do, I don't do, but the bad I don't want to do, this I do.'"

Paul sounds like an evil guy!" Steve said quickly, and then asked, "So what bad stuff did he do?"

"He was evil!" I agreed. "In fact, he was a sort of hit man for an ancient Mafia-type group. He was a pretty bad dude. But something crazy and unexpected happened to him." I knew that I had Steve's interest now.

"What happened?" he asked eagerly. "Did he get whacked?"

"He got whacked off his donkey!" I smiled, knowing that he wouldn't quite get the joke. "He had an encounter that forced him to change."

"He got arrested? Did he go into the witness protection program? Was he a rat?" Steve was anxious to find out more.

"No, he wasn't arrested. But he was convicted," I said. "He was shown the evil of his ways and given a second chance."

"Huh?" Steve said, not really sure what to say next. He was quiet as we walked back to the car and got inside. As we started driving away, I wondered if I had lost the conversation. But then he said thoughtfully, "Well, you gotta love a second chance. So, what happened to him after that?"

Relieved that I still had his interest and curiosity, I knew that I could keep going with the topic. "Well, Paul took full advantage of that second chance. His life turned completely around. In fact, many consider him to be one of the most important people who ever lived! He took this news about a second chance to the whole world. We all need a second chance."

"What news about a second chance?" he asked.

"Jesus." I paused for a minute and saw him nodding thoughtfully. I continued to explain. "Paul developed a relationship with Jesus, and Jesus gave him a second chance. It's not that Paul became perfect, but he did take full advantage of that second chance. He was so grateful he had the opportunity to see the light, and he spent the rest of his life doing great things. He traveled all over the place and told everyone they also could have a second chance in Jesus. He was even thrown in jail for telling everyone about Jesus, but God broke the locks and chains off of him and set him free!"

"Hey, you said he wrote letters about it, right?" Steve asked. "Can I read those sometime? That's quite a story."

"Talking Pictures Example #1", Talking Pictures, 2010, Dr. Jacob Youmans, pp 20-22

In Christ,
Rev. Mark T. Pulliam

Music News

Easter Sunday

A special thanks to all the choir members and musicians who made the musical offerings of our Easter morning festival services special. The depth and quality of our church's music ministry is largely determined by the gifts and talents found within the people of our congregation. If you are musically inclined in any way and would like to participate, please contact me!

Pipe Organ Update

The finishing work on the organ continues and includes the voicing, tonal finishing and tuning of all the pipes, the erecting of the façade, and the installation of the reed pipes and the trompette en chamade, which are the horizontal trumpet pipes that will extend out from the façade. Reed pipes, as with all the different ranks of pipes in our organ, were developed in the 16th and 17th century and mimic the sounds of oboes, clarinets, trumpets, and other instruments by the wind being blown through a thin metal reed called a shallot. Conversely, all the other pipes in an organ called flue pipes, create sound by the wind blowing through a restricted space, much like a recorder or whistle. With both types of pipes the height and width of the pipe dictate the pitch of the note played. Reed pipes are usually the last pipes installed as the organ builder normally tunes all of the flue pipes first and uses those as the tuning template for the reed pipes.

During the remainder of the installation, we will continue to use the piano for worship services, until the dedication Sunday.

Chimes

Chimes will once again sound here at Mount Calvary due to the wonderful generosity of Art and June Wendt who provided funding for the purchase and installation of chimes for our organ. Our organ builder found a set of Aeolian-Skinner chimes from another pipe organ (Opus 1048) which was originally installed at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, PA. The chimes will be rebuilt and refurbished and installed in our organ by the end of this summer.

Organ Dedication Service and Dinner

The Organ Dedication Service, Concert, and Dinner will now be held on Sunday, June 3, at 3:00 PM. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

In His Service,
Pastor Craig Meissler

Memorials

In memory of:

Randy Fowler
Delvin Beutnagel
Florence Winkler

Lou Feaster
Gaither Walker

Vivian Bryant
Mona Preuss

Given by:

M/M Jim Koenig
M/M Jim Koenig
M/M Lawrence Roy, Broadway Bank, M/M
Larry Laxson
Linda Hess, M/M Larry Laxson
Marylin Marshall, Linda Ontiveros, Linda Dietz,
Carol Wilson, Marilyn Biedermann, M/M Henry
Holder, M/M Charles Koch, Dori Malmberg-
Long
M/M Jim Koenig
M/M Larry Laxson, Dori Malmberg-Long

The following volunteers from the Mt. Calvary Braille Center will receive anniversary pins in recognition of their service to the Braille ministry for the visually impaired. These pins, given in 5-year increments, are presented to the individuals during the month they began their service.

Name	Years of Service	Service Date
Brenz, Martha	35	December 1983
Breon Max	10	July 2008
Gross, Virginia	5	January 2013
Hanson, Judy	5	February 2013
Haumann, Bonnie	10	October 2008
Kennedy, Deborah	10	October 2008
Lariosa, Connie	10	October 2008
Laxson, Wanda	10	July 2008
Lundy, Esther	5	January 2013
Maxwell, Russell	10	October 2008
Maxwell, Vivian	10	October 2008
Miyauchi, Richard	10	September 2008
Samuel, Chuck	10	October 2008
Samuel, Willard	10	October 2008
Sefton, Linda	10	October 2008
Voss, Russell	10	May 2008
Walker, Janyce	5	April 2013

Congratulations to these volunteers and thank you to all our Lutheran Braille Workers for their continued dedication in "Helping People Touch, and Be Touched, by the Promises of Jesus."

For various reasons, these volunteers no longer serve the Braille ministry; however, their support and commitment during their years of service is sincerely appreciated: Karen Price, nearly 20 years; Sandy McNamara and Tim and Shelley Specht, nearly 10 years.

If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact Connie Lariosa (210-656-8044) for additional information.

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

Power Tools

With a title like that, I'll bet you're wondering what this installment of Parent to Parent could possibly have to do with "parenting," am I right? Though a discourse in the types and uses of various power tools by someone like *moi* could provide a few good belly laughs to those of you who **do** actually know a thing or two in that department, that's not the subject I wish to discuss. I know, try to contain your disappointment. No, this month I figured we'd talk about a parenting tool that has real power. Prayer.

Last evening I lay awake staring intermittently between the alarm clock and the ceiling. I don't know what it was exactly that woke me, perhaps the raccoons arguing in the front yard, but I knew what I could do about it in the meantime. I could put my wakefulness to good use and pray for my family....specifically for my kids. You might think now that my children are all adults living independently, three married, two with children of their own, that I would have less need for lifting them up to the Lord in intercession, but such is not the case. No matter how old our children are, whether they're still at home or have long since flown the nest, they continue to need our prayers. As parents, that remains our job and our privilege as long as God gives us breath.

I have a long history of praying for my children, as I know each of you has too. I have prayed for them through tough illnesses and in good health. I have prayed long and fervently at times, and I have shot up "popcorn prayers" on the go as situations demanded. I have lifted up to the Lord the hopes and dreams of my children and the hopes and dreams I have had for them as well. I have prayed for good and faithful friends to come into my kids' lives, and I have also prayed for protection from dark forces that could have easily ensnared them. I have lifted them up while on my knees and while lying in my bed. I've prayer-walked around the neighborhood and prayer-driven in the car (yes, it's a thing), and I've spent plenty of time both singing praises to the Lord and shouting frustrations at Him....ALL in prayer to my Father for my children. And you know what? God has heard them all just as He has heard the prayers you have uttered for your precious ones too.

Prayer is a miraculous tool. It connects us to a source of power much greater than we possess alone. The work of parenting remains ours to do, but, like a power tool, prayer and partnership with the Lord helps our feeble efforts to be tremendously more effective. Please don't misunderstand me. By no means am I saying that prayer will do away with every difficulty. There will be trials as long as we are this side of heaven, but prayer can most certainly equip us to better handle those difficulties. For example, God has given me healing words to speak to my kids when I was at a loss to come up with anything comforting. He has spoken wisdom through my lips when my heart wanted nothing but to strike out in anger at an injustice perpetrated against them. Sometimes the Lord has had to get me up to second and third bats before I got it right. There were plenty of times I still got it wrong, but God knows me, and He knows the hearts of my children. He picks up the slack when I am weak. He succeeds where I fail. That. That is the power of prayer.

A couple of years ago here at Mt. Calvary we put on a Mother's Night Out event to celebrate moms on Mother's Day. We served dinner and showed a movie (Mom's Night Out) as well as had a short devotional. This week I got a call from my daughter Sarah who is on her DCE internship in Denison. She was wanting to do something similar for the moms up there and was asking if I still had my notes from that

evening. After some hunting, I found them and was looking them over again before sending them to her. One of the notes caught my eye. It was from the portion of the devotional that talked about mothers having a heart for the Lord and for their children. I was mentioning the importance of praying daily for our kids, and I said that as much as we'd like to be there for our children every day, to protect them from hurtful or harmful things...being bullied on the playground, being away from home for the first time, going on their first date or heading off to college, we can't. What we **can** do is turn them over to the One who *is* with them every moment, in every circumstance. That kind of peace is priceless, and it is a direct result of prayer.

There is a sign hanging over the head of our bed. It reads: "Worry ends where faith begins." I should really pay more attention to that sign! I am a self-confessed worrier, and life is only getting tougher for our children. The things we worry about as parents today for our kids are almost unthinkable, unfathomable. If it were not for prayer and for God's power and peace behind it, I might feel like barricading my kids with me behind locked doors and never letting them out of my sight. Thing is. God is there. He's there where we can't go. He's there 24-7. His eye never leaves our precious kids, because they are **His** precious kids. Perhaps instead of the sentiment: "Worry ends where faith begins," my sign should read: "Peace results when prayer persists."

Have you ever heard someone say in regards to prayer, "It's the least we can do,"? It's often- times in response to some tragedy or illness...like it's a last resort when all other human intervention has failed. I hate that. I mean, I get it. It's something I used to say myself. However, as Christians, prayer should always be our *first* response, and it's definitely not the least we can do. It is the absolute **best** we can do. I've said it before and it bears repeating. Parenthood is a calling. It's also tough, and not for the faint of heart. Thank God, we don't have to go it alone. He is with us every step of the way. He hears our cries, our intercession, and He has already known what to do about it before we have even spoken. He welcomes our petitions still. He loves for us to go to Him with our needs, our concerns,

because He's a dad too. He understands the desires of our heart. He feels our angst. He too has been there.

As parents it is our job to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We are also to help "build their character house" as my husband loves to say (thanks to a story his fifth grade English teacher read them in elementary school.) With a culture ever at odds with our God-given mandate, this is a mammoth task. Yet, God only asks that we be faithful. He is the ultimate architect of our children's lives. He has plans for each of our dear kiddos, wonderful plans. He has entrusted us, their parents, with the blueprints of His Word and the materials of His church to help them become the masterpiece He designed them to be. He hasn't forgotten that we need some good ol' tools in our chest to help us as well. That's why He has given us prayer...the most powerful tool of all to help us tap into the kind of wisdom, energy, and peace that can come only from reliance on *our* dear Father. "Worry Less, Pray More" That sentiment makes a pretty great inspirational T-shirt. It makes an even greater parenting philosophy.

"...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

ELDERS FOR APRIL

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
April 1 (communion)	Marshall Leiber	Mike Wille
April 8	Jim McNeel	Gary Franzen
April 15 (communion)	Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig
April 22	Brad Boeckner	Spencer Hasch
April 29	John Gilg	Walter Marks

USHERS FOR APRIL

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

ACOLYTES FOR APRIL

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
April 1	Josh Smetzer Jose Carmona	Jacob Wille Wyatt Wilson Josh Kelly
April 8	Corben Perankovich	Daniel Morrison
April 15	Josh Smetzer	Wyatt Wilson
April 22	David Meissler	Joe Morrison
April 29	Corben Perankovich	Jake Wille

GREETERS FOR APRIL

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
April 1	Brenda Hoffmann Leslie Smetzer	Carolyn Friedle Judy Hanson
April 8	Sarah Hanson Kim Hendrix	Jill Cott L. J. Cott
April 15	Denise LaBonte JoAnn Koehn	Sarah Paseur Eunice Stepan
April 22	Olga McGlothing Mary Marks	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson
April 29	Elaine Ward Carol Wilson	Rexann George Bonnie Koenig

MORNING CLASSES

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

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