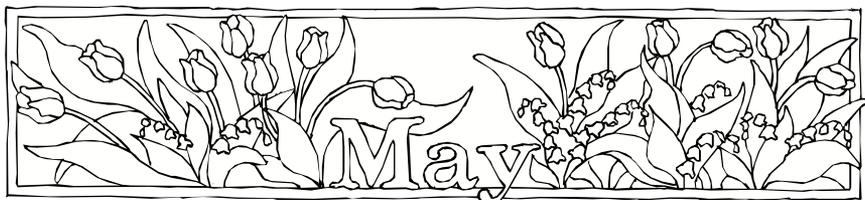


FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

Church Office 210-824-8748

mtcalvary@mtcsa.org

www.mtcsa.org



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

– Matthew 28:19-20

Dear Friends in Christ,

May 20th will be the Sunday of Pentecost and we will enter the longer green season of the church where our focus will shift to our Christian life in this world as we wait for Christ to return at the conclusion of this age. Pentecost holds a special meaning for me personally as this was the day I was confirmed into the Lutheran faith back in 1984 as a young adult. I had a friend in high school who invited me to church with him and I am so very thankful I accepted that invitation. I found a church that not only was warm and welcoming but was like a breath of fresh air. My family was somewhat active in our home church in town (Church of God – Anderson, sort of like a Baptist church) but immediately this Lutheran experience was different. The worship was engaging with personal involvement rather than feeling like one was a spectator. And more importantly the Gospel was clear and sweet. For the first time I began to hear and understand who Jesus was and why His death on the cross made heaven possible.

It was not an easy transition to be honest. There were no Lutherans in my family. My father was adamantly opposed. I myself struggled with the teaching of infant baptism as this was definitely forbidden in the church I grew up in. But under the tutelage of a wonderful pastor, I studied, for over a year. I even had to take a Greek class so I could decide for myself if the word for baptism in the Greek had to mean immersion or whether it meant washing with water. In the end the faithfulness of the Lutheran confession of belief to Holy Scripture was clear and apparent. I studied our view of the sacraments, the ministry, the church and all the rest. I studied and I found a belief that was the same as Holy Scripture. I was Lutheran to my core.

It was so wonderful. I felt free. Free of fear of God, fear of death, and fear of hell. The Gospel was clear in the Lutheran faith. That's why I first began to entertain becoming a pastor. I had so many friends and even family who though very religious did not really understand who

Jesus was and what His death did for us. My father even argued me once over whether Jesus was God or not. I felt the call to teach and preach this same liberating Gospel to others because it is so wonderful.

I had an opportunity after college to attend Oxford in England but for various reasons I declined the offer. One of those reasons was I wanted to attend an LCMS seminary. One of my professors was an Episcopal deaconess who had me teach some of her classes during my senior year. She worked hard to try to convince me to either go to an Episcopalian seminary or at the least an ELCA seminary. But I knew where the church was, whose confession and teaching aligned with the Holy Scripture. There was no other seminary for me than an LCMS seminary.

Why this long story? As I reflect on my confirmation thirty-four years ago nothing has changed. The Cross of Christ is central to the Gospel. And that Gospel continues to be put into people to create faith through Word and Sacrament. God uses the Word (teaching/preaching) and the sacraments (baptism and communion) to create faith in people.

For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake.

(Augsburg Confession Article 5)

As we approach Pentecost, the confirmation of our junior confirmands, and as you remember your own confirmation and your own faith walk in Christ in this long green season of the church, I hope you take moment to give thanks to God that He brought you to a Lutheran church. What church you belong to does matter. The church I had belonged to had me believing baptism was an empty symbol and the only way I could get to heaven was to be good and earn it. The church, the teaching, the message that is proclaimed matters. Being Lutheran matters. This is why I would not attend a non-LCMS seminary. This why we would never call a pastor from a

different church body to serve as a pastor in a Lutheran church. The content, the doctrine, the public confession, and teaching matter. It matters that the Gospel is accurate, clear, and in conformity with Scripture, for in truth there is no other Gospel. I thank God that God lead me to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. And I certainly thank God that He lead me to Mount Calvary.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Reetz



From the Board of Elders

A recent review of our church membership rolls by our Board of Elders has revealed a number of people who have not been active at Mount Calvary in some time, many of whom have moved away. We will be contacting all members who have not been in worship for over a year and a half to encourage them to either return to regular worship, transfer their membership if they have moved from the local area, or are attending elsewhere, or request in home pastoral care if they are unable to attend worship. Should our inactive members continue to remain inactive after an additional period of time, their names may be removed from our active membership rolls. Those who are not active at this time but for whom we have some indication that they may return to Mount Calvary at some point in the future or have extenuating circumstances may be placed on our inactive rolls instead on a case by case basis as determined by the Board of Elders in consultation with the pastoral staff. The Board of Elders wishes to assure any of our active members who may have family who are members but have not attended in some time that they will certainly be welcome to return to Mount Calvary at any future date and we will work carefully to help anyone removed from membership rolls to once again become a member of our congregation. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to your elder.

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

The Importance of Being Earnest...ly Content

A few weeks back Tom and I attended a funeral for one of my husband's dear friends. They had worked together for twelve years or so at Tom's old company. Terry was a wonderful guy, someone Tom thought of highly and admired. During the service, Terry's son got up to say a few words about his dad. Of all he mentioned, the thing that stuck with me most was the phrase he said his dad voiced repeatedly, "Every day is a good day." You might think with that kind of sentiment this guy led a charmed life, but you'd be wrong. He had just as many challenges as the rest of us, including having his first child born with severe deformities due to the possibility of Terry's exposure to Agent Orange when he was serving in Vietnam. Terry wasn't one to get caught in the "what-ifs" or "if-onlys." Instead, he saw every sunrise as a blessing, an opportunity, and he made the most of each one.

Attending funerals is the kind of thing that gives a person reason to pause, to take stock of one's life, to count blessings. At least it is for me. It would be wonderful if we would live every day maintaining that renewed appreciation and gratitude for all we have, but Satan just loves to mess with us, doesn't he...and he takes every opportunity to make waves in our placid pools of contentment.

One of the devil's most subtle and effective means to wreak havoc in our lives doesn't even involve much work on his part. All he has to do is cast one little pebble of discontent our way, and tiny ripples begin to bubble outward. Funny thing...left unchecked and unaddressed, those minor ripples can become major tsunamis in no time if we're not careful.

Let's talk social media for a moment. Satan can really have a field day with that one. If you happen to have a facebook, twitter, or instagram account, and who doesn't these days, then you likely know what I mean. We joined facebook a number of years ago with the intent of

keeping up with our kids as they left home for college. It was a good thing at the onset, at least that's what we thought. Soon enough, however, we were spending more and more time scrolling through the lives of countless "friends" we'd accepted and requested and...well, it wasn't long before we began to be just a tad envious of some of the fantastic trips and cruises that seemed to be popping up all over the place on our friends' pages. Satan was doing what he does best, casting pebbles...creating ripples...and it's silly to admit, but I think we were beginning to let it rock our boat a bit.

Why do we do that? Why do we so easily go there...to discontent? We have been given so much more than we deserve, namely forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. Most of us have blessings upon blessings beyond: health, family, purpose, productive work, food, shelter... We've been handed riches eternal, yet we quibble over meaningless trifles of the temporal. When we spend valuable time wanting what we don't have, that desire obscures the blessings of today and wastes the time we *do* have. We can easily end up going through life looking for that next best thing and never fully "seeing" and appreciating what we've already got. Allowing tomorrow's "maybes" (or even yesterday's regrets) to dominate today's sureties would be tragic.

This doesn't just apply to "stuff" either. There are plenty of times in our lives when we can be so focused on making it to -and through- the next major milestone that we don't bother marking the moments we're actually living, but life is short and it is unpredictable, isn't it? All we have is today. If, as a young newlywed, I focus too intently on the "someday" when I'm blessed to have children, I might miss out on the precious time I have to make memories with my spouse today. Setting my sights on the time my baby finally sleeps through the night or my toddler is at last potty-trained could cloud my appreciation for these fleeting, "cuddly" moments I will never get back. Longing singularly for the day my kids are the other side of the tumultuous teen years might cause me to miss out on some of the fragile, teachable moments that could bring a present harmony and strength to our relationship. There is beauty in contentment, especially when we are content in the Lord. There is also peace.

I am reminded of what Jesus said in his "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7). For me these words are not only about teaching us to trust the Lord for our everyday needs, but to trust Him "every day" for our *greatest* need, for that is where we find our real and true contentment.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ...Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear?'" Jesus goes on to say, *"your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

Satan has got to try his best to hit us in the here and now, because he can't touch us in the everlasting. As long as we keep our focus on the things *not of this world*, we can be content. You want to know something ironic? The last part of that quote, Matthew 6:33, was my Confirmation verse. I should know better.

So, I'm back to counting my blessings. I still do a fair bit of scrolling on facebook, but these days I do a much better job of keeping on the lookout for flying pebbles. One thing this whole process did for me was to get me thinking about all the wonder I let slip by each day simply because I fail to take notice. So the other night I poured myself a hot cup of coffee and headed outside just as it was beginning to turn dusk. The sun was bathing a neighbor's pecan tree out back in a faint, golden glow. I settled myself into a lawn chair and looked up. It couldn't have been more than a few minutes before I saw a hawk silently skimming the top of the Queen's Crown vines at the side of the garage. I looked up and saw my blessings. Up is where I should have been looking all along. I thought about the birds of the air, about my Father's provision, about all of which I have to give thanks. It was another good day, and I was earnestly content.

Pipe Organ Update

The work on the organ continues as we push towards the finish line! The Trompette en chamade (horizontal trumpet) pipes were installed this past week, as were lower sections of the façade. The enchamade pipes are made of tin and nickel and are held in place by an overhead frame and steel cables – much like a suspension bridge. The façade itself will house about 100 speaking pipes and will resemble the early organ architecture of northern Europe.

The last rank of non-facade pipes to be installed is the 16' Posaune (reed stop) which is located in the pedal division. This stop gives the pedal division that low snarl which is unique to the sound of a pipe organ. Once installed, this will complete the pipe installation and the tuning process will begin. The organ will be tuned in its entirety three to four times before the dedication on June 3rd.

Organ Dedication Service and Dinner

The Organ Dedication Service, Concert, and Dinner will now be held on Sunday, June 3, at 3:00 PM. The dedication service will begin at 3:00pm with the concert program beginning at 4:00pm, and the dinner following.

I am pleased to announce that **Benjamin Kolodziej** will be the guest organist for the concert portion of the organ dedication. Benjamin is a member of Faith Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Plano, Texas and serves as Chapel Organist at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, where he has been an adjunct lecturer in sacred music at Perkins School of Theology. He recently assumed the position of Organist and Choirmaster at St John's Episcopal Church in Dallas. Benjamin has presented concerts and seminars at our Missouri Synod triennial worship conferences and has hosted several sacred music conferences in the Texas District.

Benjamin holds an undergraduate degree in organ performance, and Master of Sacred Music and Master of Theological Studies degrees from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He won first place in the Dallas AGO Young Organist Competition and was awarded the hymn playing prize at the William B Hall Organ Competition. He is a frequent organist for hymn festivals and organ concerts, having

performed many times in the UK as well as in Germany, Austria, Norway, Italy and Switzerland. He has performed throughout the USA including at historic Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, VA, Washington National Cathedral, St Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta, St Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, and St Patrick's Cathedral and St Thomas Church in New York City.

Mr. Kolodziej has published articles in *The Chorister*, *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, *The Hymn*, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*, *The American Organist*, *Theatre Organ*, *The Diapason*, *Methodist History*, and the *Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*. As a lecturer on topics of church music he has presented to AGO chapters and universities, maintaining an interest in liturgical, hymnological, and theological history and practices. In addition to having contributed to the forthcoming *Lutheran Service Book Hymnal Companion*, his chapter entitled "Organ Music in the Liturgy in the Twentieth Century" was published by Routledge in 2011. He has music published by Concordia Publishing House, GIA Publishing, and Augsburg Fortress. Active in the American Guild of Organists, he served as Dean of the Dallas Chapter from 2011-2014.

Memorials

In memory of:

Lea Koehler

Gaither Walker

Brittany DeLoach

Jim Beckman

Given by:

M/M Don Morris, Cathy DeVries, M/M Charles Koch, M/M Jim Koenig, Linda Ontiveros, M/M Art Wendt, Elaine Ward, Louise Welch, Marlene Walker, Carol Wilson

M/M Carl Roberts, M/M Roland Schneider, M/M Marshall Leiber, M/M Art Wendt, Marlene Walker

M/M Charles Koch

M/M Don Morris

ELDERS FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 6 (Communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Marshall Leiber
May 13	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
May 20 (Communion)	Toby Elbert	Mike Wille
May 27	Russell Maxwell	Gary Franzen
Special Services (Ascension)		
Thursday May 10, 7:00 p.m.	Spencer Hasch	

USHERS FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Chuck Samuel	David Cobb	
Jeff Jones	Jim Roberts	
Gary Palmer	Trey Roberts	
Mike Klein	Nick Hartman	

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 6	David Meissler	Jacob Wille
May 13	Corben Perankovich	Daniel Morrison
May 20	Josh Smetzer	Corben Perankovich Wyatt Wilson, Joe Morrison
May 27	David Meissler	Daniel Morrison

Ascension Service, May 10th, 7:00pm – Joe Morrison

GREETERS FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 6	Virginia Axtell Brenda Hoffmann	Judy Ganoza Mary Marks
May 13	Carol Wilson Bonnie Haumann	Sue Weller Carolyn Friedle
May 20	Elaine Ward Leslie Smetzer	Judy Hanson Mary Marks
May 27	Sarah Hanson Olga McGlothing	Sarah Paseur Bonnie Koenig



Join us for Babylon VBS at
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church!

June 18-22

9:30am-12:00pm

**Free pre-registration at
MTCSA.org/signup**

VBS is for children who have completed
Pre-K through 6th grade (young children must be
potty-trained). Questions? Call 210-824-8748 or
email lpulliam@mtcsa.org.

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!

Dear Mt. Calvary,

Thank you so very much for broadcasting your Sunday services! No matter where I am, I am able to ATTEND CHURCH!! I love your services and wonderful sermons, etc. I am even beginning to recognize some of the parishoners.

God bless all of you!

Love,

Virginia Landeck (Livingston, TX)

IN THE MAIL



Dear members of Mt. Calvary,

It is with a profound feeling of thanksgiving to God that I thank you for the gift of 25 *Luther's Small Catechism* to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. These catechisms will help as I teach new people, and people who are members of the Church of Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Your Christian love will always be appreciated.

I pray for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as the Lord helps you to shepherd the people of Mt. Calvary.

God's peace to you!

Pastor Elder McCants

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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