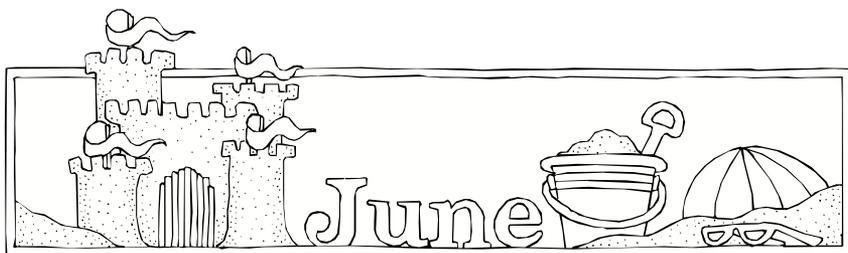


FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

Church Office 210-824-8748

mtcalvary@mtcsa.org

www.mtcsa.org



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, – Hebrews 11: 1

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hot, that is what I kept thinking to myself when I went hiking in Government Canyon a few weeks back. About half way through a 9-mile hike in 95 degree weather (one degree for each of Luther's Theses ☺) I started to run low on water. For some reason the memory of how the pastor of my youth would usually preach a good fire and brimstone sermon during the first heat wave of the year kept coming to mind. "You think it is hot here..."

It was hot, but there wasn't much to be done except to continue to put one foot in front of another and pace myself. I was glad to see the parking lot again (and the water fountain) and to have a chance to rest that night and to prove to Debbie that I would indeed be able to walk the next day. But rest was good.

Rest is a good concept. We all need it. Indeed, even Scripture describes our relationship with Christ as having entered into His rest. Life can sometimes feel like a race that never ends. And Scripture uses this as a metaphor as well to describe our life with Christ. On one hand our life with Christ is about rest (as it is no longer about our works to earn heaven) but also about a life-long race, a marathon of sorts. To be a Christian is to be in it for the long haul.

But we do not run alone, indeed we run together. Some things do slow down a bit around Mount Calvary and spin back up again as school resumes, but not everything. Ministry is still being done every day. VBS is around the corner. Sunday school continues. Word and Sacrament continues. People still get sick and face challenges even in the summer time. Life never takes a vacation. And the truth is that Mount Calvary cannot do what we do for the folks in our family and the folks who are yet to know Christ as rest without you. So this summer I would encourage you in the following:

First, take some time to rest... your eyes upon God's Word. Every day if possible, but on a regular basis at least to study and hear all that God does for you.

Second, remain active (or become active) in attending Bible class and certainly worship. It is here that we indeed find rest and healing for our souls and all that we are.

Third, rest indeed, but then pick up the baton once again. I encourage all those who are able to continue to serve in support of one of our mission areas. If you are not yet involved in some way, ask yourself what small way could I begin, in what way can I serve my church family and the poor souls who don't yet know Christ's rest.

Each of us has his or her own unique race. When I was younger and running races (never winning by the way), some days I had sore knees, some days I felt really good. There were folks running around me that were built for it and others like myself who were looking for the finish line. But we ran together. There would build a comradery, especially in the longer races, where each runner would encourage the other to be better and to cross that finish line. Together, we are stronger, more effective in the ministry that Christ has called us to.

Thank you for all you do, whether it is prayer, or the giving of time, however you use your talents for our common ministry, for your financial gifts that make it possible for Mount Calvary to be. Thank you for all you do.

I'll see you out there at the starting line.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Reez



Dear Friends,

I have a personal announcement to make and a request for your prayers. On Pentecost, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Spring, TX voted to extend a call to me to serve as their church planter in collaboration with several other LCMS churches in the north Houston area.

If you are unfamiliar with the call process, at any point any church worker may be extended another call. Every call should be considered seriously and prayerfully. Just because a call has been extended does not necessarily mean that the worker is accepting it. However, it does mean that I now have two calls (one to Mount Calvary and one to Resurrection) and will be prayerfully seeking the Lord's will on how I should proceed.

Laura and I request your prayers in these next few weeks. If the Holy Spirit leads you, please feel free to share your thoughts, and insights. The Lord is at work in every call process and uses this time to clarify His wishes both for Mount Calvary and for this church plant.

As He always has been, the Lord is in control and He will make His will known. God's blessings to us all, and thank you in advance for your prayers!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Dear Christian Friends,

I want to take a moment and thank everyone who kept my friend, Ted, in your prayers as he battled cancer these last two years. He was healed in the most complete way possible by going home to be with Jesus on May 25th.

Ted was my best friend in seminary. He and I started and graduated from the Cross-cultural Ministry Center at the same time. We were roommates for almost all of the summer mini-mesters at Concordia, Irvine and shared the joys and struggles of life and ministry with each other.

My favorite memories of him include the time he literally saved my life. One night, several classmates gathered in our room for snacks and refreshments. As I took a bite of a pita chip someone told a joke, and the next thing I knew, that chip was stuck blocking my windpipe and I couldn't dislodge it. Ted noticed my predicament and did a one-armed version of the abdominal thrust. When I had caught my breath, the party continued!

Ted was genuinely the nicest person I ever met and embodied the love of Jesus in everything he did. I am so grateful for the gift of faith in Jesus, because it means that in our last conversation, I got to tell Ted we loved him and would see him again. I'll have to wait for heaven to give him a hug in person, but I know that today he is cancer-free and having a blast!

Thank you again for all the prayers and I ask that you keep Ted's wife, Barb, and his family in your prayers.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Memorials

In memory of:

Gaither Walker

Doris Hensley

Col. Thomas Perry

Lea Koehler

Earl & Marian Koehler

Given by:

Carolyn Friedle

Doris Malmberg-Long

Muriel England

Peter Heide

Bonnie K. Roberts



cam
christian
assistance
ministry

Who Is CAM?

CAM is considered “The Emergency Room of Social Services” – “a faith based organization that welcomes all people in crisis and provides them with immediate help. A client can walk in or be referred to CAM and have their basic needs met

that day. Often this is enough to help a client through the crisis they are facing.”

What does CAM provide?

- Food (groceries for families) or daily sack lunches
- Clothing
- Bus tickets to medical appointments & bus passes to start a new job
- Financial assistance for utilities, birth certificate/ID recovery & prescriptions
- Free mail box service
- Personal 1-to-1 consultation & referrals to other agencies

How has Mt. Calvary responded to the needs of CAM?

Mt. Calvary members have been and continue to bring articles of clothing for men (especially jeans), women and children. The “shoe drive” earlier this year brought an abundant number of shoes for donation. Gently used work boots, tennis shoes and women’s flats are needed on a daily basis. Our yearly food drive in November brought two car loads of non-perishable food to the doors of CAM. CAM also works with Threads, a non-profit, providing formal prom clothes for students in need. We have had several members donate prom/bridesmaids dresses to this organization. The generosity continues as members bring non-perishable food, clothing and shoes to the CAM box located in the foyer of the Parish Hall. Should you have any questions or have a large donation of clothing/food, please feel free to contact Cathy DeVries or Muriel England, your CAM representatives. With our gratitude – Muriel & Cathy

PARENT-TO-PARENT

GAYLE PULLIAM | STUDENT MINISTRY MENTOR TEAM : PARENT SUPPORT

An Open "Thank You"

Dear Friends,

Last month we celebrated Mother's Day. This month we'll be honoring dads. It seems only appropriate to take a moment to say, "thank you," to all you parents out there who work tirelessly and sacrifice willingly for the well-being of your children. This letter is for you, the sometimes unsung heroes, who are making this world a better place by your instruction, your nurture, your wisdom...your dedication. If your children haven't already thanked you for your efforts, be patient, one day they will. For now, take encouragement from these words. Though perhaps yet unspoken, I assure you the sentiment behind them is nonetheless real.

Thank you, Mom, for walking the halls with me in the middle of the night when you didn't have a clue what was making me cry so. Thank you for just holding me and kissing my cheek amidst all that wailing. You thought your efforts were futile. They weren't. Your tender touch and the warmth of your embrace made me feel secure, loved. I am a more confident person today because of your sleepless nights, for what you gave me in the wee hours of all those mornings was the assurance that I was valued, that I mattered.

Thank you, Dad, for playing "catch" with me. I'm sure there were plenty of other things you'd have liked to be doing besides pitching balls, especially when most of them got past me, but you were always up for it. Thank you for your patience in telling me not to give up when I got discouraged. I remember you faithfully sitting in the stands at each of my Little League games, cheering me on. I recall the advice you gave: "Plant your feet firmly." "Keep your eye on the ball." "Swing like you mean it." You may not think I was listening, but I was. That advice has served me well, even now that I'm grown. Thanks for teaching me how to be gracious in winning and to be a good sport in losing.

Thank you, Mom, for all the times you read to me, even when I got old enough to read on my own. You always picked the best stories. My favorite part of all was how you made the words come to life in my head by using different voices for all the characters. It was your enthusiasm for good books that instilled in me a love of reading as well. Some of my best friends growing up were Pippi Longstocking, Laura Ingalls, Anne Shirley, and Jo March. You gave me that. You also taught me never to spoil the story by jumping ahead to the ending. The value, you said, was in the journey.

Thank you, Dad, for teaching me about integrity. Etched in my mind is the time you marched me back into the supermarket, half-melted candy bar in my sweaty little palm. You asked to speak with the manager, and when he arrived you told him I had something to say to him. I could barely squeak out the apology with the huge lump in my throat and tears running down my cheeks, but you said it was important for a man to own up to his mistakes, to take responsibility for his actions. You were right. What I learned that day wasn't just that stealing was wrong, (even my six year old self knew that) but that a man's character and integrity are too precious to compromise for anything...even a fifty cent candy bar.

Thanks, Mom, for not minding the times I woke you from peaceful slumber to tell you how my date went with the cute, dreamy-eyed boy. I knew you'd be waiting with bated breath to hear all about it. Of course, the news had to come over a cup of hot tea and cookies, so out of the bed and into the kitchen you went. I never gave much thought to whether or not I was inconveniencing you. Maybe that's because you always acted so interested in what I had to say. Thanks for listening (and not rolling your eyes) to each of the umpteenth times I asked if you thought this could be the one! Thanks for reassuring me that when the "right one" came along, I wouldn't need to ask, I'd just know....and I did.

Thanks, Dad, for all the trips we took riding in the truck together. Those always seemed to be the times we had the best conversations. The front seat of that old truck was the place you taught me about girls and dating, about chivalry not being dead, about how opening

the door for a woman was a sign of respect, about being a good listener, about always carrying a handkerchief in my pocket, about the importance of saying "yes ma'am and no sir," and about looking a man in the eye and giving a firm handshake. You were my first hero, Dad. Thanks for teaching me by your example how to be a real man.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for everything you did for me. Thanks for the times you encouraged me to do my best and reassured me that failing was only failure if I quit trying. Thanks for supporting me and being there through all the ballet recitals, school plays, band concerts and football games. Thank you for saying how much you adored the macaroni necklace I made you for Mother's Day and for proudly tacking up on your office wall the family portrait I drew of us. Thank you for the slumber parties and the carpooling. Thank you for the high fives and the hugs. Thanks for never giving up on me when I gave you every reason to do so. Thanks for the braces I always complained about and for my beautiful smile. Thank you for my education and for always telling me how proud you are of me. Thank you for all the times you sat by my bed when I was sick and prayed. Thanks for teaching me how to drive. Thank you for your words. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your unconditional love. Most of all, thank you for introducing me to Jesus.

Parents, you matter. You matter so very much. Your job is one of the toughest out there, but what you do as moms and dads day after day is incredibly important. Don't become discouraged when the going gets tough. You are raising up future leaders, not just of this state or of this country, but of this world. You are imparting wisdom and modeling integrity. You are encouraging your kids to be givers, to think of others before self. Your hard work and dedication will reap rewards for generations to come as we see good and godly men and women becoming future teachers, politicians, pastors, doctors, philanthropists, pioneers, missionaries,....and yes, parents raising their own children. Most of all, pray for your kids. Talk with them often about Jesus. Go to church. Have family devotions. Teach your precious kids that success in this life, no matter how great, means nothing if they are not prepared for the next. Thank you, truly and

sincerely, for all you do. Rest assured your efforts are not in vain. Have a wonderful Mother's and Father's Day!

On a personal note: I would be remiss in not acknowledging my own parents, Jim and Mercile Bell, for everything they taught me and did for me. Mom and Dad, I learned your lessons well, and I have tried to pass on to the next generation the wisdom and values you instilled in me. To my children: Mark, Rachel, Elizabeth, and Sarah... I was certainly not a perfect parent, as you well know, but I did my best. I hope I have apologized enough for my shortcomings and have given credit to the Lord where credit is due for any successes. Most of all, I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you, and I will love you always.



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.

ELDERS FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
June 3 (Communion)	Bill Stolhandske	Spencer Hasch
June 10	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
June 17 (Communion)	Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig
	Charles Koch	Bill Stolhandske
June 24	Russell Maxwell	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR JUNE

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Ralph Domel	Rex Rheiner
Don Lundy	John Rheiner
Jon Fruendt	Jeffrey Rheiner
Ed Lingg	Carl Gross

ACOLYTES FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
June 3	Corben Perankovich	Wyatt Wilson
June 10	Josh Smetzer	Joe Morrison
June 17	David Meissler	Jake Wille
June 24	Corben Perankovich	Daniel Morrison

GREETERS FOR JUNE

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
June 3	Denise LaBonte	Jill Cott
	JoAnn Koehn	LJ Cott
June 10	Brenda Hoffmann	Rexann George
	Elaine Ward	Eunice Stepan
June 17	Kim Hendrix	Deidra Thompson
	Sarah Hanson	Randall Thompson
June 24	Virginia Axtell	Judy Ganoza
	Bonnie Haumann	Carolyn Friedle

From our Director of Music, Pastor Meissler

In the Moment

From around the age of four, I knew that I was interested in the music of the Church. I was baptized into the faith at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Munster, Indiana where we had two English services and one German service each Sunday. My Dad, while not a musician himself not only had an obsession with the Chicago Cubs, but with church music as well, and especially the organ. Intermingled with records by Elvis, Trini Lopez, Johnny Cash, and Al Hirt, were the likes of great organists such as E. Power Biggs, Virgil Fox, and Paul Manz. I've been told that when I was very young, I would sit in front of a green, upholstered chair in our living room and pretend that I was playing the organ as records were played. My mom who now lives in Florida, and was influential in my early music education probably had the hardest job in instilling practice habits into a highly reluctant child.

In many ways I believe that God gave me the love for the music of His Church in order to keep me close to Him. We had two organists at St. Paul's, and I knew immediately after the first few measures of the first hymn, who was on the bench. Waldemar Heinrich Beckmann was one of the organists and was the principal of our school. When Mr. Beckmann played the organ it seemed like each hymn and piece of liturgy was a chore to him, a task to complete (very s l o w l y) and move on. David Brandt was the other organist and was also the choir director. When Mr. Brandt played, it sounded like he was giving life to the service and to each individual hymn stanza and liturgy selection he played. After hearing him, I was hooked, and I knew somewhat instinctively that music would play some sort of role in my future. As a pastor and church musician, there is a combination of theological grounding and performance art. As pastors we are tasked with communicating the Law and Gospel of God's Word in a way that will convey those truths to the hearers. Likewise, as a pastoral musician, we who lead the music of the Church are tasked with conveying the words and texts of hymns and liturgy through the musical resources at our disposal. My first organ teacher, John Folkening, very early on, said that to be a good organist you must

learn to “play the words”. While there are hours of practice involved, to me what occurs in our Divine Service through, Word, Sacrament, and music, is truly in the moment. That is, it’s difficult for me to listen to a recording or watch a video of a worship service especially if I have been there. Even if it’s to listen to choir pieces or other musical selections to make future adjustments or correction, I find it difficult to do.

For me, participating in worship is the moment we are together as God’s called and gathered people, and the indwelling of the Spirit in our midst draws us together through our most important common denominator, our faith. The shared experience of receiving God’s gifts, lifting our voices together, and being blessed and sent out into the world together is difficult to capture in a recording. Often we hear people who’ve had a shared experience in a concert or event, saying; “you had to be there!” God’s Word is what has the power to convict, convert, console, and to heal. He gives us the gifts and talents in our lives and vocations to convey and live out that Word as we our nourished, energized and strengthened to build His kingdom, in our worship, in this place, in the moment!

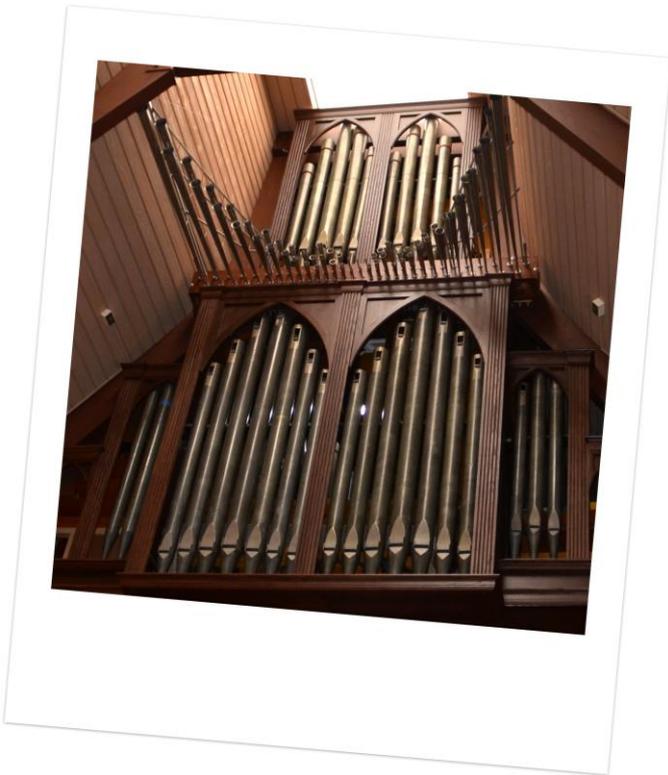
Thank you!

Thanks so much for the amazing congregational support we experienced for the organ dedication and concert. The positive and affirming comments that I received from visitors about the hospitality, the people, and the facilities, here at Mount Calvary are too numerous to recount. Benjamin Kolodziej who played the concert portion of the dedication commented quite publicly that he has never seen such enthusiasm and support for an organ dedication and was overwhelmed by the response. I heard several comments stating that “that organ just seems like it was meant to be here all along.” I want to thank all the members of the choir, the brass and percussion players, Dan Loudenback for helping keep things together in the balcony, and for all the folks who helped prepare for the service. Susan Melancon’s efforts were absolutely critical in this endeavor as she generated invitations, bulletins, answered RSVP’s, organized food service, and kept the pastors on task. Personally, I am so proud, and beyond blessed to be part of this congregation. Thank you for your

prayers, support, and encouragement, that lead up to this wonderful milestone in our Church's history. May we continue to use the momentum here at Mount Calvary of preaching, teaching, and music, to lead people to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Organ Update

Work continues on the organ to bring it to completion in the next few weeks. The remaining facade pipes will be placed in the two outside arches of the façade. There is one, large, remaining rank of pipes to be installed in the pedal division. Windchests and bellows are being constructed for those pipes to fit in our space to facilitate the installation. The chimes will be transported from New York towards the end of June and be rebuilt and refurbished here in San Antonio. Installation for those will be during the end of August.



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. Begins July 11th.
- **Pastor Mark's Bible Study** | *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 |
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!

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