

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

Church Office 210-824-8748

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www.mtcsa.org



Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

--1Th 5:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who filled out our recent Ministerial Assessment survey and those of you who submitted names to the call committee for the position of Associate Pastor. The elders are carefully considering all the information as they approach the next step of reaching out to the Texas District to build a list of candidates for the position. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some highlights from the survey. We had 150 people take the survey.

The first question asked you to rate various broad areas of ministry as to their importance to you. Preaching, worship, and teaching topped the list closely followed by youth, evangelism, and visitation ministries.

The second question asked about the importance of a couple of things that Pastor Craig and myself have been considering, specifically restarting the evening service, maybe having a daytime mid-week service, and restarting music camp. Many people did not have a strong preference in this area one way or the other. A few folks like the idea of a midweek daytime service especially around Lent/Advent and a few folks were interested in a potential evening service during the week. As for the Evening Sunday service this received a fairly low overall score of 1.7 and a scale of 1-5 but it was notable that 16 people did indicate an interest. So, take-aways from this for long-term planning include once the call is filled to look at restarting the Sunday evening service at least 2x a month and adding a daytime service at least for Ash Wednesday and possibly more if the interest is there.

The third question was more detailed and asked you to evaluate how well you think we as a congregation are doing in a specific area. Not every single area of ministry was surveyed but only those areas that would be touched the associate pastor we are hoping to call. However, this still provides an overall assessment of the ministry at

Mount Calvary. In general, our membership is pleased with the performance in ministry at Mount Calvary.

Questions were rated on a scale of 1-5. Average (or baseline) is 3.0. A higher score denotes above average performance and a lower score would suggest needing improvement. 9 of 30 areas scored 3.5 or higher; 27 scored between 3.0 and 3.5 and only 3 areas scored below 3.0

One area that most suggested a need for improvement was ministry to high school aged youth. We have already begun to take steps to enhance these areas with a Sunday morning Sunday school class now just for high school aged youth. In addition, Pastor Craig and Sarah Paseur have started weekly youth meetings rather than twice per month and we are happy to report that attendance has doubled at the events. We are planning to host our first lock-in in years at Mount Calvary in the near future. And we are giving careful consideration to how we can continue this new momentum and increase effectiveness toward our youth. Certainly this area is being considered as part of our calling process.

The survey also suggested we could do more to minister to couples, especially young couples, and younger adults (in their 20s) and especially young women. These will be areas that we will be looking at to explore how we can enhance ministry here.

Visitation was also an area that suggested a need for improvement. While crisis care and visitation for our homebound members rated high, general visitation and new member visitation demonstrated a need for improvement. This will be an area that we will be looking into especially as we augment our pastoral staff with an additional associate. In addition, the Board of Elders and the Board of Evangelism is aware of these areas and are looking at how they can be more active in reaching out to members.

Another area that the survey suggested for improvement was in the area of evangelism. Now on one hand, Mount Calvary is a bit above the curve compared to other congregations in that we do tend to confirm a number of adults, but we probably are not reaching our potential in evangelism. The fact that out of 150 people, 21

suggested this area does need improvement and that 41 said they had no experience in this area suggests that we as a church could do better in evangelism awareness, motivating, and training. This is something very dear to my heart because I would not be Lutheran, nor a Lutheran pastor, had a friend not invited me to church. This will certainly be an area we look into more, especially as we look to call an additional Associate Pastor.

The following were the highest rated areas:

- Christmas and Easter 3.94
- Preaching 3.84
- Sunday Morning Group Class in gym 3.82
- Adult Information Class 3.80
- Sunday Worship 3.72

Questions four and five were an opportunity for you to provide some direction to the call committee regarding your preference either in calling an established pastor or from the seminary. Both options were acceptable to people but there was a clear indication that most people prefer to call an experienced pastor (69%) versus calling a new pastor from the seminary (36%). The survey did indicate a preference for a younger pastor with a family if possible.

Once again thank you for taking the time to provide feedback to us regarding ministry and the future call to come here at Mount Calvary. And thank you for all that you do to help Mount Calvary faithfully serve our call to be Christ's light in the world as we continue to "Prosper in the Lord"

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor Carol Roesch



Memorials

In memory of:

Donna Dickert

Given by:

M/M Robert Axtell, M/M Winstor Curry, M/M John Gilg, Brenda Hoffmann, M/M Marshall Leiber, Barbara Rablee, Kambi Deuel, Linda Dietz, M/M Victor Van Dyke, Elaine Ward



Crafts for Christ's Work - The date is coming soon! It will be fun! The Hand Crafter's Fair will be open to all in the church gym on Saturday, October 20th, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. On Sunday, October 21st the fair will be open to

parishioners from 8:15-9:30am and 10:45am-1pm. We will be accepting craft donation items on Friday, October 19th in the gym from 9:00am-1:00pm. For questions or to donate crafts earlier please call Eunice Morris 210-655-2103 or Inke Gillian 210-732-0971. All proceeds will be given to the mission work in Haiti. Thank you.

Mount Calvary Women' s Retreat
November 2-4-, 2018



Retreat Cost:

Mount Calvary member/friend—\$100 regular registration

All other participants—\$150

Registration forms and payment must be received by October 28th

See Jennifer Pate for details.

ELDERS FOR OCTOBER

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
October 7 (Communion)	Toby Elbert John Smetzer	Bill Stolhandske Marshall Leiber
October 14	Brad Boeckner	Mike Wille
October 21 (Communion)	Charles Koch Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig Spencer Hasch
October 28	Jim McNeel	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

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

ACOLYTES FOR OCTOBER

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
October 7	Corben Perankovich	Jacob Wille
October 14	Josh Smetzer	Daniel Morrison
October 21	David Meissler	Joe Morrison
October 28	Corben Perankovich	Wyatt Wilson

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
October 7	Brenda Hoffmann Sarah Hanson	Eunice Stepan Rexann George
October 14	Bonnie Haumann Denise LaBonté	Bonnie Koenig Judy Hanson
October 21	JoAnn Koehn Leslie Smetzer	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson
October 28	Carol Wilson Virginia Axtell	Sarah Paseur Judy Ganoza

Hymn of the Month

Beginning this month we will be introducing a new, or unfamiliar hymn, and singing it once per service for the entire month. Our current hymnal, Lutheran Service Book, released in 2006, was put in to use here at Mount Calvary in April of 2010. The Music Director at the time, Jon Eifert, began a similar program to help introduce some of the new hymns to the congregation. This past summer I compiled a spreadsheet of all the hymns we have sung since that time. While Dr. Eifert made a good start in the short time he was here, there are still many good hymns that we have not yet been introduced to or have sung. Some of the hymns of the month will be new hymns all together, and some, like the hymn for October, will have familiar words with a new or different tune.

The Hymn of the Month for October is: **LSB 699 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”**. This hymn appeared previously in LCMS hymnals, both in “The Lutheran Hymnal” (1941) and “Lutheran Worship” (1982), each with a different tune. The hymn tune found in “The Lutheran Hymnal” was somewhat unique in that it was the only hymn that changed from a minor key to a major key halfway through the hymn. The words of the hymn were written in 1846 by Horatius Bonar, a minister in the Church of Scotland, who was serving a parish in Kelso, Scotland. Bonar’s original name for the hymn was “The Voice from Galilee” with Matthew 11:28, John 4:11, and John 1:9 being the Scriptural reference for the words. At this time in the Church, most if not all hymn singing was restricted to the metered singing of Psalms and Pastor Bonar’s Sunday school class showed a total lack of interest in this type of singing. Bonar’s response was to write his own hymns for the sake of his students.

In my opinion the current tune has done the best job of conveying the text and bringing out the beauty of Bonar’s poetry. The tune was written specifically for this hymn by LCMS church musician and composer Amanda Husberg, b. 1940. Mrs. Husberg graduated from Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska in 1962 and has served for over fifty years as the Director of Music at St. John’s the Evangelist Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York. She has composed

many other anthems, psalm settings, and hymn tunes, of which three others accompany hymn texts in our hymnal.

Organ Concert

As part of the 2018-2019 Concert Series presented by the Alamo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church is proud to host an organ concert on Sunday, November 11, at 4:00 PM. The concert titled, "The French Connection" will feature concert organist Dr. Leon Couch. Dr. Couch presents organ recitals, masterclasses, and lecture-recitals throughout the United States. In August 2007, the respected label *Pro Organo* released his solo recording whose selections have been featured on NPR's Pipedreams (public radio) and on Alabama Public Radio (APR) several times. Each year, he performs in numerous states and has played in major venues, such as the Spoleto Festival, Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, the Old Salem Museum in NC, Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester NY, St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta, St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham AL, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Calgary, the University of Florida, the University of Louisville, Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, and Pingtung Concert Hall in Taiwan.

Pastor Craig Meissler

A Luther Lands Tour with the Oberammergau Passion Play – Join Pastor Mark & Connie Barz on a trip to Germany in July 2020 to visit sites and cities in the life of Martin Luther and of the Reformation and to attend the world-renown Passion Play (only presented every ten years). This 11-day tour will be a time to learn, to discover, to worship, and to enjoy fellowship and friendship in Christ. We invite you to a Presentation and Conversation on Friday, October 26, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm or from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We'll meet at Crown of Life Lutheran Church (19291 Stone Oak Parkway, 78258). To request a brochure with full itinerary, details, and cost, call or e-mail us at 210-413-8077 or pastor@crownoflifesa.org.

MORNING CLASSES

- **Adult Bible Class** | This large, lecture-style class meets in the gym and is taught by Pastor Reedy.
- **Men's Bible Class** | lecture & discussion style | Led by 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.
- **Tuesday Morning 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 | *Pompeii Italian Grill*
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!