

# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2018

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For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.  
—Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends in Christ,

**“God has plans.** Our theme for the next year is captured in the verse above, that through God’s grace we shall continue to prosper and grow in His grace. This is truly a very Christmas flavored verse. In the midst of evidence to contrary is proclaimed this bold promise: “I have plans for you...” It is a promise captured by Jeremiah but older than Jeremiah. It is a promise given to Adam and Eve. When they fell into sin God told them He had a plan. A seed would come. When God talked to Noah and told Noah what He was planning to purify the earth, He also promised to save Noah and his family. Why? Because God has promised that salvation would come and if God eradicated humanity because of sin He would have broken His promise. This God will never do.

He gathered Abraham to His side and informed him that He had a plan to bless all nations. Mary was approached by an angel and told God had a plan to use her to fulfill His grand plan. And grand it was, for here was the child promised that would save the world. And those first touched by the first fulfillment of God’s plan burst into song. Zechariah sang. Mary sang. Simeon sang. God was fulfilling His plan.

With God all things go according to His plan and that plan is centered on a promise to save us. 2019 may be a very important year for us at Mount Calvary. Some things have changed at Mount Calvary. Just a few years ago God called your beloved Pastor, Kim DeVries, homeward to His own presence. God sent myself and Pastor Craig here for the purpose of ministry. Then God called Pastor Mark and DCE Laura to expand the Gospel ministry in Houston that many more might be added to His kingdom.

In 2019 it is our hope to call a new Associate Pastor. Some have asked if we need to. It is true that with the help of a number of several of our members who have stepped up to assist to keep various ministries flowing, that Pastor Craig and I are covering the responsibilities of ministry. But I have advocated for calling another pastor because I believe we have untapped potential that can be opened for ministry with a third person in place. Another pastor also gives us a broader flexibility for ministry as a pastor can provide ministry across all spectrums of the church. I believe we can augment our ministry to young people and families, free up Pastor Craig to truly invest in our music ministries, increase our educational opportunities, enhance our visitation ministries and so forth.

I believe Mount Calvary is a very special congregation, a light shining in the darkness. Yes we are all sinners and no we are not perfect. But I believe based on what I have seen in these past four years that God has gathered here a family of dedicated and gifted people who God desires to use to make difference in the lives of people. I believe God has plans for us.

Adam and Eve had to move forward in faith. Noah, losing his friends, his community, everything but what he could carry in an Arc and his small family, had to move forward in faith. Abraham had to migrate to a new land and move forward in faith. Mary had to watch her Son die and move forward that day from the cross in faith. God has a plan for us. For us as individuals. For us as a congregation. I'm excited to see what the next years will bring.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

*Pastor Carol Roes*



**The following is a short extrapolation  
from an article in the American  
Conservative. Author: Gracy Olmstead.  
“Why Millennials Long for Liturgy”**

Lee Nelson, Co-Chair of the Catechesis Taskforce of the Anglican Church of North America, believes a sacramental hunger lies at the heart of what many millennials feel. “We are highly wired to be experiential,” he says. In the midst of our consumer culture, young people “ache for sacramentality.”

“If you ask me why kids are going high church, I’d say it’s because the single greatest threat to our generation and to young people nowadays is the deprivation of meaning in our lives,” Cone says. “In the liturgical space, everything becomes meaningful. In the offering up of the bread and wine, we see the offering up of the wheat and grain and fruits of the earth, and God gives them back in a sanctified form. . . . We’re so thirsty for meaning that goes deeper, that can speak to our entire lives, hearts, and wallets, that we’re really thirsty to be attached to the earth and to each other and to God. The liturgy is a historical way in which that happens.”

The millennial generation is seeking a holistic, honest, yet mysterious truth that their current churches cannot provide. Where they search will have large implications for the future of Christianity. Protestant churches that want to preserve their youth membership may have to develop a greater openness toward the treasures of the past. One thing seems certain: this “sacramental yearning” will not go away.

[https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/why-millennials-long-for-liturgy/?fbclid=IwAR0CKP4\\_nvUz5L058-27KV35SfF-YBOuucFZ-5fvDRkQzs-AIDnyKAx83fc](https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/why-millennials-long-for-liturgy/?fbclid=IwAR0CKP4_nvUz5L058-27KV35SfF-YBOuucFZ-5fvDRkQzs-AIDnyKAx83fc)

## Remembering our ABC's - Advent Before Christmas

If you have searched in vain for that perfect Advent cookie recipe, ....or have scoured the aisles at Hobby Lobby looking for festive Advent decorations, ....or maybe you've scrolled through the "Holiday" menus of Netflix and Hulu looking for that perfect, family, Advent movie, ....or if you have searched the radio dial or music services for that favorite Advent music playlist, ...or if you have found it quite effortless to find a parking spot on a Wednesday evening at your favorite house of worship, well.... you certainly are not alone. It seems that by the world's calendar the Christmas season is turned on and off like a switch. Depending on the retailer, "on" as early as September or October, and for most of the world, "off" at 12:01 AM on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our society and culture, for which the acknowledgement that the birth of Christ IS the reason for Christmas has all but been ignored, has certainly embraced this Christian holiday with full-throated, over the top exuberance. The calendar of the Church tells a different story, for in this "New Year" of the Church's calendar we must first begin this new year in the season of Advent. Through the longing and anticipation, we, through Scripture, preaching, and hymnody immerse ourselves in the hearts and minds of God's Old Testament people longing for the promised Messiah.

While it is hard to escape the consumerism and marginalization of Christ in our society, as Christians we always have been counter-cultural. Therefore, as we take part in the traditions and preparations for the joy of Christmas, let us not fail to reflect on our continued need for a Savior, and the beauty of the Scriptural prophesy's that foretold His arrival. We really don't have to use too much imagination to capture the longing and expectation of God's Old Testament people for the coming of the Messiah, as we too await His return to reclaim and restore a fallen world.

Advent (from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming”) was established and in place on the Church calendar by AD 550. Originally Advent was observed over a six-week period leading up to Christmas. The current four-week season was established by Pope Gregory the Great during his tenure from 590-604 AD and was considered a joyful festival season during which time vestments and altar paraments were white. About 100 years later the emphasis of Advent shifted toward an anticipation of Christ’s second coming, and the theme of preparation and penitence became the dominant theme in Scripture, liturgy, and hymnody. The Church then moved to the violet/purple paraments and vestments of Lent to reflect the more reflective and penitential nature of the season. While most Catholic churches still retain the purple liturgical color for Advent, most Lutheran churches have adopted the use of royal blue as the liturgical color so as to distinguish the season from Lent and to convey the royalty of the coming King.

### **Hymns of the Month - November**

You all did a great job with the November Hymn of the Month which was “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God” This hymn has quickly become a favorite among LCMS churches over the past twelve years since it was introduced. It is a paraphrase and hymn setting of the Te Deum Laudamus which is a 4<sup>th</sup> century Latin Hymn that was used throughout the Church’s history particularly in the order of Matins. The text paraphrase was written by Rev. Steven Starke, b. 1955 who is the pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Bay City, Michigan. Rev. Starke has written many hymns, thirty-two which appear in our current hymnal. The tune is a beautiful piece of classical music written by Gustav Holst, 1874-1934, and appeared as the theme for Jupiter in his work “The Planets”

### **Hymns of the Month – December**

One of my favorite seasons of the Church Year is Advent and to a large extent the reason for that is the beautiful Advent hymns that are part of our worship. Since it is such a short season it is sometimes difficult to adequately learn a new or unfamiliar Advent hymn. The same is quite true with Christmas hymns and carols, the season is so

short and there is no shortage of well-known carols and hymns. So... this month we will have two hymns of the month, one Advent, and one Christmas.

**Advent Hymn:** LSB 339 "Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors"

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; Tune: Paul Liljestrand, 1931-2011

This is a relatively new Advent hymn that debuted in Lutheran Service Book in 2006.

**Christmas Hymn:** LSB 373 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Text: Edward Caswall. 1814-1878 Tune: John Goss, 1800-1880

This Christmas hymn has been quite popular in other denominations for several generations. The text is truly poignant, and the tune, written by English hymn writer John Goss, carries and conveys the text beautifully.



MERRY

Christmas

**Wednesday Advent Services**

December 5, 12, 19

7:00pm

**Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 16

9:45am

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Monday, December 24

5:00pm & 7:00pm

**Christmas Day Service (Holy Communion)**

Tuesday, December 25

10:30am

**New Year's Eve Service (Holy Communion)**

Monday, December 31

7:00pm

Meals will be served prior to the Advent services from 5:30 - 6:30pm.

Cookies, punch, and coffee will be served in the gym after the Advent services.

A special reception is being planned for after the New Year's Eve service.



## **FAMILY *Matters*** by Wanda Laxson

Hello dear brothers and sisters in Christ! I'm excited to announce that in January I will be writing a regular monthly article for YOU, the Family of God. The articles will be designed to present information to you on a variety of family matters that are important to the physical, spiritual, and emotional health and well-being of your family.

Many of you know me because I've been around Mount Calvary for a long time. Others of you know me because I'm the wife of the notorious Larry Laxson. What you may not know is that I began a two-year online Master's program in Family Science at Concordia University – St. Paul in September. This degree program is right up my alley because family matters to me and I am very passionate about helping my own family and all families be the best that they can be. My goal in pursuing this degree is to become a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE). I am particularly interested in parent education and parent and family coaching.

***So, what exactly is family science and what do CFLEs do?*** I get that question a lot when I tell people what I am doing. No one I've talked to about it has heard of either one. I didn't know myself until about five months ago. There is no short, simple answer because family science is an emerging discipline. Since my space is limited, let me point you to a website to check out what family science is and let me tell you that family life education involves working with families through all stages of life (birth to death) using an applied educational, preventive, and strengths-based approach. The work is relationship-focused, evidence-based, and multi-disciplinary. A family life educator is not a counselor/therapist, although some CFLEs are also licensed as counselors/therapists. If you're interested in learning more, I'd love to talk with you.

<https://family.science/what-is-family-science>.

I would like to know what matters to your family. I'll be conducting some surveys in the next couple of months to find out what classes, seminars, and/or resources would be of interest or help to you with your family matters.

I wish each and every one of your families a blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year and I look forward to hearing from you about *your*

**FAMILY *Matters***.

## **ELDERS FOR DECEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
December 2 (Communion)	Bill Stolhandske John Smetzer	Mike Wille Jim Koenig
December 9	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
December 16 (Communion)	Charles Koch Jason Strawn	Marshall Leiber Brad Boeckner
December 23	John Gilg	Gary Franzen
December 30	Marshall Leiber	Spencer Hasch

### *Special Services*

Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.

December 5 – Toby Elbert

December 12 – Jim Koenig

December 19 – Brad Boeckner

### Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Bill Stolhandske, Jim McNeel

7:00 p.m. – Marshall Leiber, Gary Franzen

Christmas Day (communion) - 10:30am – B. Boeckner, B. Stolhandske

New Year's Eve (communion) - 7:00pm – Toby Elbert, Jim Koenig

## **USHERS FOR DECEMBER**

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Robert Axtell	Roy Stepan
Robert Wieding	Troy Wilson
Charles Koch	Walter Marks

Lamar Gillian

### Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. –S. Melancon, J. Harwood, A. Lariosa, (NEED ONE MORE)

7:00 p.m. – (NEED 4)

### Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. –M. Klein, (NEED 3 MORE)

### New Year's Eve

7:00 p.m. – k. Rabenaldt, E. Lingg, (NEED 2 MORE)

## **ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
December 2	David Meissler	Daniel Morrison
December 9	Corben Perankovich	Joe Morrison
December 16	Josh Smetzer	Wyatt Wilson
December 23	David Meissler	Daniel Morrison
December 30	Corben Perankovich	Jake Wille

Wednesday – 7:00pm

December 5, 12, 19 – Joe/Daniel Morrison

### Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Wyatt Wilson, Josh Smetzer, Jake Wille

7:00pm – Corben Perankovich, Joe Morrison, Daniel Morrison

### Christmas Day

10:30am – David Meissler, Daniel Morrison, David Meissler

New Year's Eve - 7:00pm – Joe Morrison

## **GREETERS FOR DECEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
December 2	Bonnie Haumann Joann Koehn	Mary Marks Judy Hanson
December 9	Virginia Axtell Kim Hendrix	Eunice Stepan Sarah Paseur
December 16	Sarah Hanson Denise LaBonté	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson
December 23	Leslie Smetzer Carol Wilson	Bonnie Koenig Carolyn Friedle
December 30	Brenda Hoffman Kim Hendrix	Jill Cott LJ Cott

## **Memorials**

### **In memory of:**

Viola Kaddatz

Carl Roberts

Walter Marks, Sr.

### **Given by:**

M/M Charles Koch

M/M Jim Koenig

Carolyn Friedle

## 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 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.



**cam**  
christian  
assistance  
ministry

**DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING**, the members of Mt. Calvary continue to be a blessing to CAM. The collection box in the Parish Hall Foyer has been brimming with donations of clothing, food, and toiletries! Several car loads have been taken

to the CAM Campus on McCullough in the past few months. Members have inquired what the needs of CAM are as they provide emergency care to 50,000 people annually.

Here is a basic list of needs:

- Men's clothing – especially jeans and tennis shoes
- Children's clothing
- Women's clothing
- Jackets for all ages
- Hygiene items
- New socks & underwear
- Food items such as canned: vegetables, meats, fruits and soups

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