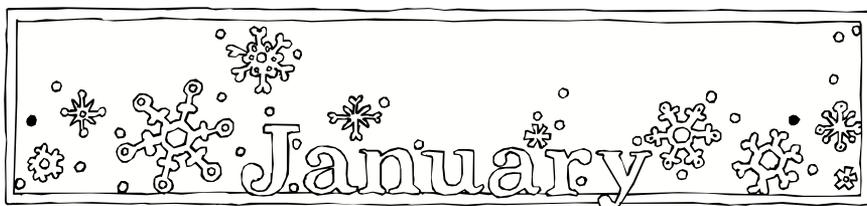


FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2019

Church Office 210-824-8748

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www.mtcsa.org



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
1Pe 1:3-4

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is your favorite story? Is it from a movie, or a book, or a childhood storybook, or a story from the Bible, or maybe even a real life story? Every person has a story, their life unfolding with significant events that are written into memory with characters that are real people who stand out to us. And we have sense of what is coming and we have a sense of how we hope our story ends up.

Every year about this time we have this human-created reset button we call a New Year. In a way it is a tool to archive the past and begin to work once again for the future, sort of like coming to the end of chapter in book and starting another. But like a book, no chapter starts with a blank slate. The story continues.

As a pastor over the years I've gotten to hear and see many different stories for every person has their own story. Hopes realized. Hopes dashed. Joys celebrated. Grievs carried. Every story is unique to the person who is living it.

It is a privilege to be invited to hear and know the stories of others and even to participate in those stories in some way. When I look out over our congregation on Sunday mornings and see each face and remember those who are not present with us for various reasons, often not for lack of desire but for inabilities beyond their control, I remember the stories, your stories. For some, 2018 was an excellent year to be celebrated and treasured. For others, it was mixed, some good and some things that were unwelcome. And for others, for some, it was miserable, even heartbreaking.

For some, 2019 comes and flows through their life and nothing much is expected to be different or desired to be different. Others pray and

hope that 2019 is different as they hope for better things. And there are some who know almost certainly that 2019 will be different and different from what they want it to be. For some, there will be joy and happiness. For others, there will be a focus on putting one foot in front of another. For some, the year starts adjusting to coming changes that are almost certain.

These are the stories we remember when we pray for one another. The hopes, the realizations, the dreams, the losses, the griefs, the disappointments, the potentialities, and the realities, we remember each person and pray for God to bless their story.

As a pastor, I cannot predict how the story will go for each person in 2019 in its earthly setting. But we can know how it shall conclude, for our stories are caught up into a majestic grand story where we become characters in the eternal epic of a mighty hero and our stories become chapters in His story. How can one predict such a future with certainty? "According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."

God has allowed us to jump to the end and read the last words of the final chapter and see how it all turns out. The future holds blessings for you. No matter what 2019 holds for you, your future is written in eternal words for Christ has redeemed your story and folded your life into His own and promised you an inheritance marvelous, wondrous, joyous, knowing no defilement, knowing no decay or weakness, no illness, no sickness, no death, no sin, no grief... nothing but love and life and all the good things that God has created for His children.

I hope this is your favorite story for it is truly the eternal story because of Christ for all of you.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor David Rees



The Season for Singing

As I write this on the fourth day of Christmas (4 calling birds) the songs of Advent and Christmas are still singing fresh in our hearts and minds. One of the beauties of the Church's adherence to its own clock and calendar of the liturgical year is the variety of hymnody and music that conveys the message of each season. The hymns and music of Advent set the tone of longing, yet joyous expectation of the celebration we partake of on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As Pastor Reedy so wonderfully illustrated in his Christmas Eve message, the hymns and carols we sing is an integral part of how we express our joy in the celebration of the birth of Christ. In our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service we sang twelve Christmas carols, and heard readings from Scripture which shared the prophecies and telling of the birth of Christ. On Christmas Day we sang nine carols and heard the telling of the birth of Christ through the words of John 1. There are very venues in our world and culture where we sing as a collective voice. Outside of singing "Happy Birthday" or the national anthem at sporting events, worship services are one of the last vestiges in our world where we come together and sing!

The Lutheran Church is called the singing church for a reason; we are immensely blessed to have a vast resource of hymns, songs, liturgies, and other music that has been handed down to us over the centuries. Combined with what has been added by our own generation's contributions – the music of the Church is like a slow-moving glacier that continually adds to and increases, bringing with it the best of every generation.

One of the goals I have for Mount Calvary, is that we prepare, provide, and present the absolute best in worship and sacred music. I have shared with the choir the "fatted calf" analogy, that with whatever resources we have, whether it's three voices or fifty voices, that we present the very best we have to offer. As we enter the second half of our music season and prepare for the seasons of

Epiphany, Lent, and Easter it is a great time to join the choir, share your voice or other musical talent within the music ministry here at Mount Calvary! Please contact me if you have questions or would like more details.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

As I wrote in September, the purpose of the Hymn of the Month is to teach. Very often the hymn of the month will be a hymn out of our Lutheran Service Book that we haven't sung very often or at all, or perhaps a familiar hymn with a different setting or tune. The Hymn of the Month for January is LSB 533 "Jesus Has Comes and Brings Pleasure." This hymn that was not in the Lutheran Hymnal but was in "Epiphany" section of our previous LCMS hymnal, Lutheran Worship.

Text: This hymn was written by Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf (1693-1773) who was a Lutheran Pastor in churches in Liefbrau and Halle, Germany. The hymn was translated in the late 1960's and was included in Lutheran Worship in 1982.

Tune: *JESUS IST FOMMEN< GRUND EWIGER FREUDE* The tune cannot be attributed to anyone but was paired with the hymn in 1733.

While this hymn rightly appears in the "REDEEMER" section of our hymnal, it is a wonderful Epiphany hymn with a very powerful and visual text. It is in my favorite list of top ten hymns! Interestingly enough, this hymn only appears in Missouri Synod and Wisconsin Synod hymnals.

Pastor Craig Meissler

Men's Retreat – January 25th-27th – The theme this year is "Accountability." Registration forms are available in the narthex. The cost for this retreat for Mount Calvary members/friends is \$40 if planning to sleep in the Selah House or \$25 if planning to sleep in the Cabins....plus shooting costs!

FAMILY Matters: A Matter of TIME

by Wanda Laxson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I have a question for you. It's a question you can ask all day long and get completely different but correct answers. What is the question? (STOP a moment and think about it). You are correct if you said, "What TIME is it?" This is a simple riddle, but yet it is rather profound when you think about it. As I am writing this article, it is one week before Christmas. When you read the article, it will be a New Year. If you stayed up to welcome in 2019, you may have counted down the last seconds of 2018. Think about that. In just one second it was not just a new day, but a new year. Remember New Year's Eve 1999? In just one second it was suddenly a new day, year, decade, century AND millennium! WOW! What a difference one tiny little moment made!! Remember the celebrations all over the world and the scary predictions about Y2K that had some people in a panic? It was just a moment in TIME and now here we are 18 years later. Where has the TIME gone?!

At this TIME of year, TIME is very much on our minds as we reflect on the past and wonder what the future holds for us in the New Year that lies ahead. We may decide that it is a good TIME to make some changes in our lives—exercise more, lose weight, eat healthier, get organized, etc. We might even decide that we need to devote more of our TIME to our spiritual life (faith), family, and friends. We usually start the year with good intentions, but then all kinds of things happen and those good intentions fall by the wayside. Our lives are busy, we just don't seem to have enough TIME. That seems to be the situation for many of us, but for others TIME drags. Maybe you are in poor health and cannot do much, so it feels like each day is an eternity. Instead of needing more TIME, you need to find something to fill the TIME. Whatever the situation, remember that *your* TIME is in God's hands. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...." The rest of that chapter goes on to describe the matters of this earth that occupy our TIME. The Christian Standard Bible (CSB) refers to Ecclesiastes 3 as "The Mystery of Time." Depending on your situation, I invite you as

an individual or as a family to read that chapter in your Bible and then pray for God's guidance as you ask these questions: (1) What season is it in my life?; (2) How am I using this season to serve God, my family, and my neighbors?; (3) What are my strengths and weaknesses?; (4) What changes, if any, do I need to make in how I spend my TIME? If you do need to make changes, don't try a huge overhaul all at once. Start out by making small, doable changes that build on your strengths. Then tackle those weaknesses. Remember that tiny second I mentioned earlier? It's a small *Matter of TIME*, but even just a few seconds of your TIME can matter to those around you. God bless you until next TIME and Happy New Year!

Memorials

In memory of:

Carl Roberts

Karl Mittwede

Gaither Walker

Nick Rossi

Donna Dickert

Natha Lee Smetzer

Pastor Kim DeVries

Given by:

Linda Dietz, M/M Charles Koch, M/M Marshall Leiber, Linda Ontiveros, Carolyn Friedle, M/M Boyd Kempf, M/M Glenn Asfeld, M/M Shawn Asfeld, M/M Van Delden, M/M Jerry Fields & family, Barbara Rablee, Craig Franklin, Marlene Walker, M/M Larry Laxson

Marlene Walker, M/M Larry Laxson

M/M Larry Laxson

M/M Larry Laxson

M/M Larry Laxson

Gerald Smetzer

M/M Victor Van Dyke

ELDERS FOR JANUARY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
January 6 (communion)	Jason Strawn Charles Koch	Jim Koenig Spencer Hasch
January 13	Jim McNeel	Mike Wille
January 20 (communion)	Toby Elbert Russell Maxwell	Bill Stolhandske Spencer Hasch
January 27	Marshall Leiber	Gary Franzen

USHERS FOR JANUARY

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Al Lariosa	Sid Greehey
Wally Mencke	Madison Marceau
John Smetzer	Karl Johnson
Kevin Rabenaldt	Alex Hansmann

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

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

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
January 6	Brenda Hoffmann Sarah Hanson	Judy Ganoza Rexann George
January 13	Rita Storms Denise LaBonté	Carolyn Friedle Judy Hanson
January 20	JoAnn Koehn Leslie Smetzer	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson
January 27	Carol Wilson Virginia Axtell	Sarah Paseur Bonnie Koenig

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.