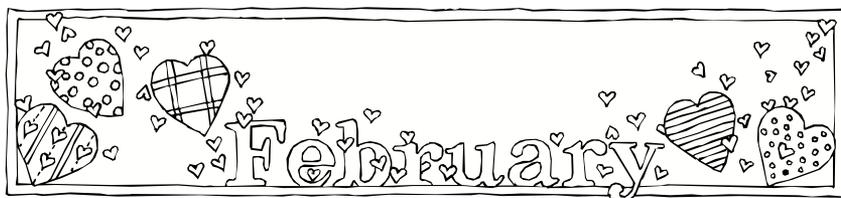


# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2019

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Church Office 210-824-8748

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[www.mtcsa.org](http://www.mtcsa.org)



See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

Dear Friends in Christ,

February is described as the “love” month. For at least one day, Valentine’s day, people are encouraged to focus on and communicate with the people they are closest to, which of course is a good thing for God says His commandments center around love. First to love God and second to love our neighbors as ourselves. Indeed, for the church, there isn’t just one month dedicated to love but every month.

The Church year starts in December. It was the love of God that motivated the Father to send His only Begotten Son. We move into Epiphany in January where we see the love that Jesus has for us begin to pour out as He heals the sick, gives sight to the blind, comforts the afflicted and raises the dead. Then into Lent and Holy Week where we see the true depth of His love and commitment for us, so great that He was willing to die for us. And then comes the glorious Sunday of Easter when love triumphs over sin and death and all that would divide us from God and from one another. Then into Pentecost where the focus is on the Church loving on others to reveal the love that God has for them.

Love informs who we are as a congregation and it informs our ministry. Word and Sacrament ministry, the most visible ministry in our church, is about pouring the love and grace of Christ into people through God’s chosen means. But every ministry is about love.

The elders and their ministry to members is about providing an additional level of care for our membership. The evangelism board is about helping us show the love of Christ to those not yet part of our community. Our trustees in caring for our facilities provide the necessary tools for all our ministries. Our Stewardship board reminds us that God gives gifts in time, talents, and treasure to be used in services that communicate God’s love. The Board of Education is not just about building knowledge but about building knowledge of

Christ and enhancing our relationship with Christ; for to know Christ is to know love.

So whatever we do: caring for one another, praying for one another, going to Bible class together, leading, serving, praying, fellowshiping, worshipping, giving, participating, receiving; all the things we do together are about love. Seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. We are here because God loves us and all whom He would call to Himself.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

*Pastor Carol Rogers*



## **THE MUSIC MINISTRY**

Thinking about joining the Choir? This is a perfect time as we start preparing Lent and Easter music – even a few Messiah selections! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:15. Please, contact me if you have

questions or need more information. With the departure of the Hansons in June, we will have several openings in our Handbell Choir which we will need to fill for the 2019-2020 season – please prayerfully consider how you may be able to serve in this group or within the music ministry in general.

## **HYMN OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY**

**“Speak, O Lord”** *Text & Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, B. 1963*

This beautiful hymn – which is actually a prayer, was written and composed in 2005. Getty and Townend sought to communicate in this hymn the amazing truth that we have a God who speaks. God spoke creation into being, He spoke through His Son, Jesus Christ, He speaks through the Holy Spirit in both written and proclaimed words,

and He speaks to us through the sacraments. The active and living power of God's Word does not rely on us the recipients for its efficacy, but rather its power lies within its source and Creator. This hymn was intended to be sung before or after a sermon or the reading of the Word, to put us in a posture of humility and expectation. This hymn is found in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod hymnal supplement.

## **YOUTH MINSITRY**

The Youth Ministry continues to grow as we are averaging 12-15 kids every Sunday evening!

Sarah Paseur and I are very grateful to the parents for the help and support we have received and the priority they have given to make our weekly gatherings consistently well attended.

We have nine students registered for the Higher Things Conference on June 24-27 at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. As of this writing we are close to the top of the waiting list as the conference reached the maximum participant level of 400 before the registration deadline. The organizers are confident that Concordia University will be able to open another block of rooms to house those on the waiting list as well as additional participants. It is our hope to be able to host a smaller Higher Things regional conference in the near future. For more information on Higher Things go to [higherthings.org](http://higherthings.org)

Blessings,  
Pastor Meissler

## **Memorials**

### **In memory of:**

Carl Roberts  
Pastor Kim DeVries  
John Grieshaber

### **Given by:**

Janyce Walker  
M/M Don Morris  
M/M Marshall Leiber, Harriet Fischer, Beth Wood

# **FAMILY Matters: A Matter of HEART**

by Wanda Laxson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, hearts abound during the month of February because of Valentine's Day and American Heart Month. It's a good time to examine not only the health of our relationships and bodies, but also the health of our spiritual hearts. I invite you to join me this month in devoting some time for a heart check. The goal is to improve our relationships with God and the people in our lives by improving the quality of our hearts. Let's get started!

First, there is a fact we have to face. We all have a heart disease that is going to kill us. It is called "sin". The good news is that the Bible has both the cure and a LOT to say about the heart. In fact, the ESV version contains "heart" 763 times in 707 verses and "hearts" 148 times in 143 verses ([www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)). The sick, unbelieving hearts lack good qualities. They are evil, impenitent, proud, envious, bitter, cruel, and hard. The healthy, believing hearts are tender, sincere, clean, contrite, pure, humble, and compassionate. As Christian believers we are double-hearted, both sinners and saints. We have a daily battle with the disease of our hearts and, because we cannot cure ourselves, we must pray like King David, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

I believe that getting our hearts right with God is an important first step and a tremendous help in getting our hearts right with others. This heart month, why not begin the habit of a daily heart check by using the concordance in your Bible, or a Bible app, to read some of the "heart" verses and reflect on how they might apply to your own life and relationships. Where are you doing well and where are you struggling? Think of some concrete steps you can take to improve the quality of your spiritual heart and write down a plan.

As a second step, I have a **FREE** resource that I came across in one of my courses. It is a very helpful 12-page workbook, titled ***Getting Our Hearts Right: Three Keys to Better Relationships***, and it discusses the qualities of humility, compassion, and positivity. I encourage you to check it out and share it with family and friends. It is available through the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension website at

**www.uaex.edu/hearts.** On the webpage, scroll down below the three keys and you will find the place to click on the English and Spanish versions of the publication. **If you don't have access via computer, I will have a copy for you to see and a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall for you to request a copy.**

God bless you until next time. Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Heart Month!



**(all services at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted; Wednesday services preceded by a meal beginning at 5:30pm)**

- March 6 – Ash Wednesday – Blessed are You
- March 13 – Lent 1 – Salt and Light
- March 21 – Lent 2 – Prayer and Fasting
- March 27 – Lent 3 – Do Not Worry
- April 3 – Lent 4 – Judge Not
- April 10 – Lent 5 – Build on Rock
- April 18 – Maundy Thursday
- April 19 – Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows)
- April 21 – Easter Sunday

Dear Members of Mount Calvary,

I find it hard to believe that this summer will mark seventeen years since I left home for college. Much has transpired in those intervening years. I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the world; I have been able to worship our Triune God with Christians of multiple languages; I have had the privilege to study in numerous institutions of higher education; I was called and ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry; and now I have honor of returning to my undergraduate alma mater, but on the other side of the lectern. Throughout all of these years, amid countless change and growth, your support has been unfailing. Your love, kindness, support, and prayers have known no end. As I have travelled the country—and some parts of the world—to pursue my theological degrees, Mount Calvary has shown no end or limit in her generosity. It is not hyperbole or exaggeration when I say that I could not have accomplished these things without you. Thank you for your love, for your words of strength and encouragement, for your conversation and smiles, for your generous giving, and, most of all, thank you for your prayers. Every time I wear my academic regalia or look at the statue of Martin Luther, I will be reminded of you—my home, my mother in the faith. As we are one in Christ, also remember that we are friends. So, I wish to end with these lovely words on friendship from St. Aelred of Rievaulx (110–1167): “to the rich, friendship is like glory; to exiles, it is like a homeland; to the poor, it is like a family fortune; to the sick, it is like medicine; to the dead, it is like life; to the healthy, it is like grace; to the weak, it is like strength; to the strong, it is like a prize. . . Friendship is a path that leads very close to the perfection which consists of the enjoyment and knowledge of God, such that a man who is a friend of man is made into a friend of God, according to what the Savior said in the gospel: ‘Now I will not call you servants, but my friends.’”

Peace and joy,  
Pr. James Lee

## **ELDERS FOR FEBRUARY**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
February 3 (communion)	Bill Stolhandske Russell Maxwell	Jim Koenig Spencer Hasch
February 10	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
February 17 (communion)	Charles Koch John Smetzer	Marshall Leiber Mike Wille
February 24	Brad Boeckner	Gary Franzen

## **USHERS FOR FEBRUARY**

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Steve Melancon	Richard Miyauchi
Jeff Harwood	David Timmons
Phil Glaspay	Nathaniel Aguilar LJ Cott

## **ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY**

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

## **GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
February 3	Sarah Hanson Leslie Smetzer	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson
February 10	Denise LaBonté Bonnie Haumann	Judy Hanson Judy Ganoza
February 17	Kim Hendrix Virginia Axtell	Mary Marks Carolyn Friedle
February 24	Rita Storms Carol Wilson	Rexann George Sarah Paseur

## 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.

## **Plant Sale**

Mount Calvary will have a plant sale on Saturday, May 4, with proceeds going to the organ fund. It's more like an All Things Garden Sale, though, because although we aspire to sell a really huge number of plants, we are also interested in selling other garden-related items, like gardening tools, handcrafted stepping stones, garden art, the quarter of a bag of crushed granite collecting dust in your garage, outdoor furniture, etc. Basically, if it goes in or on the yard or vegetable garden, or if you use an item there, we'll try to sell it.

This will be a big undertaking! There will be something for every age and physical ability level to do. We'll have some sign-up sheets later on. Right now is the time to plan ahead.

### **Plants**

On February 15, it is time to trim most shrubs, geraniums, hibiscus, and roses *that flower on new growth*, and other plants. For those plants which would root from cuttings, please consider making pots of cuttings for sale. Many flower bulbs and tubers don't like cramped conditions, and winter is a prime time to divide them. You can literally cut vertical sections out of Boston fern and many grass bushes (roots included) to propagate them. Birds and squirrels may have left seeds and nuts in your yard to sprout. Very young oak, pecan, and other trees sell surprisingly well (but don't plant them in small pots, which would stunt their growth). If you're a vegetable gardener who grows plants from seed, make a few spare pots of vegetables while you are planting your own, and they'll be sizable by the time the sale comes. Maybe your best friend is frustrated that her rubber plant has outgrown her living room, and she's ready to give it away. Yes, we'll gladly take indoor plants, too!

### **Other Garden Donations**

If you're a welder who makes garden art, consider a new project for us. If you're a woodworker, maybe a hose reel box would interest you. If you can bend rebar into a very nice 2' diameter spiral, I very much want to talk to you! If you would like to donate your old outdoor furniture so that you can have a reason to buy new stuff,

we'll try to sell the old. If you find yourself inundated with empty plastic pots in your garage and want to get rid of them, someone else at church may be happy to get some for all their cuttings. We'd even like broken clay pots you've delayed throwing away, provided that they aren't broken in more than 4 pieces, and you have all the pieces.

**Plan Today!**

Now is the time to plan for little ways you can contribute to the sale. An IMPORTANT thing to keep in mind is that we don't want you buying new things to donate, because we will likely not be able to resell them for the same price that you spent. Instead, this sale is a way to turn things that you already have and don't need into money for the church.

More information will follow in the weeks ahead. You can be a very valuable helper before and on the day of the sale without knowing anything about plants. Please mark Saturday, May 4 on your calendar. Also, please tell your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors about the sale! You just never know who is longing to get rid of a plant, who is itching to buy a few more plants, or who is looking for some last-minute bargains for their Mother's Day shopping.

Karen Twiefel



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