

# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2019

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12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month's address is going to be different from what I normally focus upon. As you know, our congregation has extended a call to Rev. Harrison Goodman to serve as our Associate Pastor, and he has accepted. We praise God that He has lead us through this process and revealed His will to us and Pastor Goodman.

This process of considering and voting for a person to whom to extend a call opened another question for many people in our congregation. That question concerns why women are not voting members of our voters' assembly. I know that some people, including men and women, have spoken with some of the elders regarding this and other church leaders. And, I had more than a few families, including men and women, speak to me either in short conversations or in longer appointments. To be honest, in the past I have avoided this topic because of my concern for potential division in the congregation. Through these conversations I have learned there are people who are very much in favor of the status quo, there are those who are rather ambivalent about the status quo, and there are some who are not happy with the status quo. In fact, there were many people, and not just new people, who were not aware that women are not participant voters in our congregation.

First of all, I would ask you to not jump to conclusions about people who may, or may not, have a differing opinion from you on this issue, either about what they think, or why, or what their motivations might be. For example, those who like the status quo may not necessarily be adequately characterized as not liking women or being male chauvinists. Nor may those who would like to see a change necessary be accurately described as newcomers (as I have spoken with many

long-time members of Mount Calvary), liberals, or those who desire to usurp authority.

What I say next is from my limited experience talking to some of you. But it is limited. There are two reasons I have heard from those who like the status quo most of the time. 1. A fear that men will become less involved. 2. A desire to uphold the Biblical teaching of male headship of the family. From those would like to see a change, I have heard mostly not any disregard for traditional Lutheran theology or disputation of Holy Scripture, but rather a reflection that they don't feel that women are fully included in all the various dimensions of what we do, that some of our ladies have gifts and talents that are not being utilized.

Circumstances being what they are, the time has come for us to have a conversation. Why? First, there are enough families who have shared with me that if we cannot at least have a family conversation about this, they will likely go elsewhere where they can feel fully incorporated into the church. This is not a conversation we will rush. I personally plan after Easter to devote the necessary time to an in-depth theological study of the issue. That said, it is the formal policy of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, after careful theological review approved in 1968 and never recanted, that who holds voting rights in a congregation is a matter of adiaphoron, that is something the Bible does not say yes or no about. That does not mean that theological principles do not apply. It merely means there is no "Thus says the Lord this person may or may not vote." As we look at this, study this, talk to one another, please remember we are one family.

Five years ago, I was facing a serious and career changing illness. I licensed and was trained to go serve as a chaplain at the VA and had a job at Audie Murphy. Then I met Mount Calvary. I came to help you. But then I got to know you. You are nice people. You are kind people. You love each other like no church I've ever seen before. It wasn't just that you were conservative, liturgical, hungry for God's Word; it was that you cared deeply and sincerely for one another that lead me to want to be part of Mount Calvary for the long haul. Please do not lose this as we have this conversation.

I don't know exactly where the conversation will take us. But in the end, our church family will decide to maintain the status quo or change it. Whatever that decision looks like, it needs to be faithful to God Word, it needs to say something about who we are that we want together to say. Take our liturgy for example. We don't have to use liturgy. We could use some other form. But we have adopted a worship approach from those available, from a host of adiaphora, because it communicates something. When it comes to the things in which Christ allows us freedom, who are we? What do we want to communicate to one another and to those who visit us, and to the world? How do we most faithfully communicate the truth of Christ in what we do?

I have other thoughts, but I want to study this issue first. So, I'll leave this topic with this. You are family. Every single person in this church matters, male or female, young or old. Every single one of you is bright and gifted, not all at the same things, but all at something. This is your church, well it is Christ's, but He has entrusted it to you. It's not just the building, it is you. The church is you, each one of you. You are valuable in His eyes and in mine and in one another. We need each other. In our absolute dependency in Christ, it is He who calls us to form into community, into family. "The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you..." (Cor 12:21)

I want to tell you a beautiful story. This week one of our lovely ladies who suffered a stroke came up for communion. And all the ladies here for quilting dropped what they were doing to join in service of communion with her. It was for the first time in years the closest she has been to what her life used to be. The ladies did this. It was a gift. It was family. This is who we are. This is who Christ has made us to be.

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it...and I will show you a still more excellent way....Love never ends".  
(1 Corinthians 12-13)

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

*Pastor David Reetz*



## **Memorials**

### **In memory of:**

Col. Ben Meadows  
Buzz Loeschman  
Roy Lehrmann  
Herman Hitzfeld

### **Given by:**

M/M Don Morris  
Millie Sunstrom  
Frances Koester, Donald E. Mills  
Muriel England

## **2020 Germany Passion Play**

Hi everyone! Our 2020 Germany Passion Play Trip is on and we still have room. Don't miss out on this TRIP OF A LIFETIME! If you've considered it and thought time had passed, it hasn't. Why not just sign up on a Waiting List, if nothing else. You will have an entire year now to save as no further monies are due until next May 2020. If you are interested or know of anyone interested, please have them contact me at 210-240-5044. Thank you! Debbie Nitsche



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

by Wanda Laxson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, have you heard this little prayer for patience? God, give me patience and give it to me NOW! While you might chuckle at the irony of it, maybe you've actually prayed something like it or experienced a time when you felt like you needed God's gift of immediate patience. We all encounter people and situations in our daily lives that try our patience to the point of losing it. Perhaps pausing to pray that simple prayer may even keep you from losing your patience in that moment, because it gives you some time to think before acting or speaking in anger. As James 1:19-20 (ESV) says, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." I have found in my own life that being slow to anger is the most important aspect of patience when dealing with people.

If you do a Bible search for the words "patient", "patience", and "slow to anger" using [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) to check different translations, you will find many verses that deal with God's patience for humankind, patience during times of trial, patience in waiting, and patience in dealing with others. I was curious about the words used in the original languages of the Bible for patience. I found it interesting that in the New Testament one of the Greek words for patience, *makrothymia*, is made up of the root words *makros* (long) and *thumos* (temper). You could describe a patient person as long-tempered in contrast to an impatient person who is short-tempered!

Patience is a desirable trait, a fruit of the Spirit, and the first characteristic listed regarding love (1 Cor. 13:4). So, how can we cultivate and grow patience to improve our lives and our relationships in the fast-paced technological culture of instant gratification that we live in? I discovered that there is an abundance of material out there from Christian, secular, and other religious sources. All seem to agree that if you want to develop patience as a habit, it will require purposeful practice and persistence on your part. The benefits, however, will definitely be worth the effort.

I came up with the acrostic **STOP** to offer you some easy tips for practicing patience.

**S** – slow down and stop yourself from reacting and speaking in anger

**T** – think things through before you talk or take action

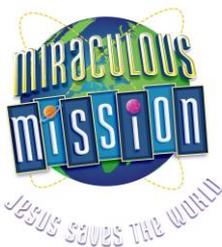
**O** – oxygenate (take several deep breaths)

**P** – pause for prayer and picture yourself putting on patience (see Colossians 3:12)

If you do lose your temper in a situation, don't forget to apologize and ask for forgiveness if appropriate. Also, review the situation and think about how you could have handled it differently. You may discover a pattern that can help you develop a plan to avoid losing your temper in the future. I close by leaving you with this prayer from Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV) and wishing you a blessed Easter.

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

## SAVE THE DATE!!



Vacation Bible School

June 17-21, 2019

Registration opens soon!



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 14<sup>th</sup>

Palm Sunday - 8:30 & 11:00am

April 18<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion

April 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)

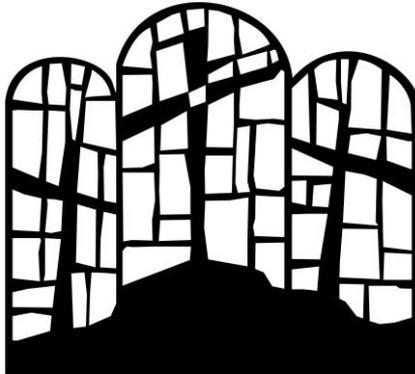
April 21<sup>st</sup>

Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion - 7:00am

Easter Worship with Holy Communion - 8:30 & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast 8:45-10:45am

Journey to the Cross 9:45-10:45am



## **ELDERS FOR APRIL**

	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
April 7 (Communion)		Toby Elbert Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig Mike Wille
April 14		Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
April 21 (Communion)	B. Stolhandske	R Maxwell	Spencer Hasch
Easter Sunday	B. Boeckner	Toby Elbert	Mike Wille
April 28		John Gilg	Walter Marks

### Special Services @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 3	Marshall Leiber
Wednesday, April 10	John Gilg
Maundy Thursday, April 18	Bill Stolhandske, Mike Wille
Good Friday, April 19	John Smetzer

## **USHERS FOR APRIL**

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

### Special Services – 7:00pm

April 3
April 10
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday

## **GREETERS FOR APRIL**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
April 7	Bonnie Haumann Rita Storms	Lisa Gerlich Judy Ganoza
April 14	Linda Dietz Rexann George	Mary Marks Sarah Paseur
April 21	JoAnn Koehn Carol Gilg	Judy Hanson Carolyn Friedle
April 28	Carol Wilson Linda Ontiveros	Sarah Paseur Bonnie Koenig

## ACOLYTES FOR APRIL

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

### Special Services – 7:00pm

April 3	Joe Morrison
April 10	Daniel Morrison
Maundy Thursday	Joe Morrison, Daniel Morrison, Wyatt Wilson
Good Friday	Josh Smetzer



## SUNDAY 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*  
This group is studying the book *The Formula of Concord*. Contact Spencer Hasch at 210-535-2973 for details.
- **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 Update

We are in the final phase of preparing for the plant sale.

**Here are the critical things to keep in mind this month:**

- **Sign up ASAP if you can volunteer**, because we need to plan lunch for the volunteers, and with some volunteer positions, we'll need to discuss duties in advance of the sale.
- **Plants will be accepted at church on Friday, May 3, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM. PLANT DONATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED THE DAY OF THE SALE!** The reason for this is that we need to price plants comparably to other like plants at the sale, and we need to provide each plant with a detailed care label (which will cause them to sell more quickly and for higher prices). If you have more than one load of plants to bring to the church, or if you won't be available to bring your plants on Friday due to your work schedule, or if your plants are too heavy or too large for you to get here by yourself, please sign up for a pick-up.
- **Would you consider loaning an item to the sale?** We could use:
  - Portable canopies
  - Wagons to move plants
  - 5-gallon buckets
  - 3' to 5' stakes, rebar, or portable posts (like a stake in a bucket of cement)
  - Traffic cones
  - Cash boxes
  - Calculators



Please sign up in advance for the loaner items, so that we know what to expect and what gaps we need to fill before the day of the sale. If you would like us to pick these item(s) up at your house, please sign up for a pickup on Friday, May 3.



- **The plastic pot exchange bin will be closed down on April 14.** Please take all the pots you want before then, even if you don't need them for this plant sale!

### **Remaining Volunteer Opportunities**

#### *Friday, May 3:*

- People to pick up plants at members' homes and deliver to church
- People to help receive plants at church

#### *Saturday, May 4:*

- A few men to provide a security detail
- A few ladies or men to leisurely sit around the perimeter and phone the security detail with any concerns
- Outgoing folks to wear a fern costume (a sleeveless vest) & hold a "plant sale" sign near Austin Hwy. or in the shopping center
- People to accept payments
- People to answer plant questions
- People to answer questions about the church
- People to lug plants here and there
- People to heat lunch and clean up afterward
- Errand runner