

FROM THE MOUNT



Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2019

Church Office 210-824-8748

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So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” John 20:25

Dear Friends in Christ,

Perhaps Thomas the Apostle is mis-nicknamed when he is called “doubting Thomas”. Does Thomas have trust issues and doesn’t trust what the disciples are saying to him? Is Thomas over self-reliant upon his own understanding? But to be honest, knowing that Jesus had been brutally beaten, then nailed to a cross and had a spear put through His side, and that His dead body had been buried could reasonably lead someone to think a few days that Jesus was dead. To be honest, if someone came to me today and said someone I knew was alive and not dead, that I had seen buried, I would be skeptical.

Thomas will not discount the evidence without hard evidence to the contrary. Thomas is actually pretty normal. I don’t think the others in the story believed either without first seeing. Thomas was just being a normal person who happened to be late to the party.

In fact, being pretty certain about things and discounting evidence to the contrary that comes from other people outside our experience is pretty normal to us. There is even a term for this called “confirmation bias”. This refers to our tendency to listen to and even search out and interpret information that confirms our pre-existing beliefs or desires. The more we want a desired outcome and the more emotional energy that a particular issue generates for us, the stronger the effect becomes. It can impact not just the way we hear things but even the way we remember things. It can become so strong that evidence that is ambiguous or even suggestive of supporting the alternative position will be heard by us as confirming our prior belief.

“We have seen the Lord.” Are you serious? Nails were driven through His beaten body. He was suspended on a cross and then a Roman soldier drove a steel spear point through His side, deep into his body cavity and you expect me to believe you have seen the Lord? Dead is dead. We all know this. It is certain.

Truth is truth. Thomas was blessed by Jesus to be able to see Jesus face to face very much alive. And Thomas cried out "My Lord and My God!" This is the position we adopt before Christ and before Christ's Holy Word. Truth is truth. Sin wants to get in the way of our hearing, but Christ speaks, and the Holy Spirit creates faith and the church in faithful witness hears whatever God says and shouts Amen! "My Lord and My God!"

Christ bless you richly and abundantly family of God.

Pastor Carol Reed



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

Memorials

In memory of:

Bobby Jack Sanders
Natha Lee Smetzer
Ketty N. Bustos
Pastor DeVries

Given by:

Muriel England
Gerald Smetzer
Linda, Scott & Isaiah Sefton
The DeVries family

Save the date:

May 19th, 11:00am – Youth Confirmation

May 30th, 7:00pm – Ascension Service with a meal prior

June 2nd – Armed Forces Sunday/Breakfast

June 12th, 3:00pm – Jeremy Hanson Retirement Ceremony

June 17th-21st – Vacation Bible School

June 23rd, 3:00pm – Installation of Pastor Goodman followed by a BBQ



ELDERS FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 5 (Communion)	B. Stolhandske John Smetzer	Jim Koenig Spencer Hasch
May 12	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
May 19 (Communion)	Jason Strawn Brad Boeckner	Marshall Leiber Mike Wille
May 26	Toby Elbert	Gary Franzen

Ascension Service @ 7:00pm

May 30 John Gilg

USHERS FOR MAY

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Robert Axtell	Troy Wilson
Robert Wieding	Walter Marks
Charles Koch	Stan George
Lamar Gillian	Isaiah Sefton

Ascension Service – 7:00pm

May 30

GREETERS FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 5	Rita Storms Leslie Smetzer	Lisa Gerlich Judy Hanson
May 12	Deidra Thompson Randall Thompson	Leonard Zacek Walter Marks
May 19	Kim Hendrix Virginia Axtell	Mary Marks Carolyn Friedle
May 26	Brenda Hoffman	Judy Hanson

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
May 5	Josh Smetzer	Joe Morrison
May 12	Corben Perankovich	Daniel Morrison
May 19	David Meissler	Jake Wille
May 26	Josh Smetzer	Wyatt Wilson

Ascension Service – 7:00pm

May 30 Joe Morrison

HYMN OF THE MONTH MAY

The Resurrection of Jesus was the turning point for the Church and seven weeks of our liturgical calendar is dedicated to its importance and celebration! There are several great Easter hymns that we have not yet sung, and so it was difficult to choose just one. So many good hymns, so little time!

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free” LSB 473

Text: Martin H. Franzmann Tune: Walter Pelz b. 1923

This month’s selection is a great example of a hymn that truly is organically Missouri Synod. The author, Dr. Martin Franzmann, was Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary from 1946-1969 and is the author of several hymns in our hymnal, his most famous being “Thy Strong Word”. He has a great in using clear and vivid language to convey the truths of Scripture in hymnody.

The tune was written by Dr. Walter Pelz who is Concordia River Forest graduate and served several parishes before accepting a teaching position at Bethany College. He is part of an extraordinarily gifted group of Lutheran church musicians including Carl Schalk, Paul Manz, Richard Hillert, Paul Boumann, Jaroslav Vajda, and others, who made an indelible mark on the music and liturgy of the Lutheran Church

THE MUSIC MINISTRY

- Handbell ringers are needed for next season starting in August! With the departure of the Hanson family we are in need of at least four ringers. A very basic ability to read music is preferred, but not required. Please talk to Pam Dodson or myself if you are interested or have any questions.
- Choir members are needed for Pastor Goodman’s installation on June 23! Here is a perfect opportunity to try out choir for about a month as we prepare music for this very special Sunday. If you haven’t had an opportunity, this is your chance to sit in the balcony and make music together with brass, timpani, and organ! Give it try! Rehearsals begin this coming Wednesday at 7:00pm in the music room. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me.... Or just show up on Wednesday evening.

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 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*
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.

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
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