

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



Train up your children onto the right path, and
when they are older, they will not leave it.

Proverbs 22:6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer has come. For many that means VACATION! Some of you have been off on cruises, others to Disney World, others to the beach and so forth. It may feel like things slow down a bit at Mount Calvary in the summer, as many of our friends are not with us on a particular Sunday, as they are out traveling to other places. But there is much happening, and I am excited to share some of this with you.

Our youth just returned from their Higher Things Conference. Higher Things: Dare to Be Lutheran (<https://higherthings.org>) has been around for a several years now and is doing excellent ministry with our young people. Rather than utilizing a model based on entertainment and cultural adoption for youth ministry, Higher Things is unapologetically Lutheran and conservative. Our youth have returned fired up about being Lutheran but there is even better news.

In previous years, ministerial staff from Mount Calvary have been instrumental in spring and summer youth ministry events with what was then called "Spring Serve and Summer Serve". These events have been very well attended in the past, normally with over 100 San Antonio youth present. However, with most of the DCE's in the area having received calls in the past 12 months and moved, there is now a vacuum of corporate youth ministry, one we are once again stepping in to fill. Pastor Goodman is working closely with the leadership of Higher Things to bring two regional retreats to Mount Calvary that will be a blessing to hundreds of young Lutherans and their friends, youth not just from San Antonio, but from all over Texas. Higher Things celebrates sound catechetical training and liturgical worship, values that are exceedingly useful in preparing young Lutherans to go forth into a world increasing hostile to Christian values.

In addition, Mount Calvary finds herself with a number of professional educators who have experience in providing care to students with

special needs across a broad spectrum, including children with ADHD all the way to autism to the deaf. These professional members of our congregation would like us, as a congregation, to consider how we might be a benefit to families with children who have these special needs. To that end, our Church Council is forming a committee, first to explore how we can meet the needs of families that may come to us and, secondly, whether it is viable for us to expand such a ministerial concept into an intentional outreach program seeking to grow a community of special needs families. Rest assured, these will be professional recommendations, and they will be vetted through the appropriate committees and, if the Council's recommendation is to initiate a broad scope program, to the Voters. No large scope program that would include adding worship services and ministerial services would be initiated without the approval of appropriate boards, the Church Council, and Voters' Assembly. And, I assure you, that as the leaders of your church give consideration to this possibility, the existing needs of our members and ministries will not be disregarded.

Soon, we will be starting a new adult information class surveying the key teachings of Lutheran theology, which can lead to adult confirmation. And here is the key: New people to the faith, whether young or old, children or adults, people who have some exposure to the Christian faith, and those who have little or just misunderstandings – they are brought to the faith by exposure to God's Word. We have members who were exposed through Lutheran radio. We have members who were so exposed by friends and family, by parents and grandparents. We have some students who will be coming because three years ago they saw a documentary on Luther. But most people, by far, the vast majority, are exposed by family and friends, by people they trust. In September, we will celebrate Friendship Sunday. It is not too early to consider: who trusts you? Who could you invite to church and therefore expose them to God's Word through the public proclamation of that Word through liturgy and preaching? Who can you bless?

We are called by God to make disciples. That means caring for those we have and providing for them, nurturing them until God brings

them (and us) home. As we focused on recently from the pulpit – “As we have opportunity do good to all, especially those of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10) But how can we also be a blessing to others? I am excited we are reaching out to our youth in San Antonio and beyond in a time when the world sends so many crazy and confusing and anti-Christian messages. And I will be interested to hear how our professional teachers think Mount Calvary may be a blessing to families with special needs. “As we have opportunity... let us do good...”

Mount Calvary has been a blessing in the past to generations of Lutherans. There is certainly no reason for this to not continue.

Christ bless you richly and abundantly; family of God.

Pastor Carol Roesz



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

LADIES OF MT. CALVARY - SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Retreat - November 1st - 3rd @ Camp Lone Star

Early Registration will open September 1st!!

Please contact Jennifer Pate for additional info!

210-601-5402



the whispers don't change, but neither does the gospel

Everywhere I go, I still hear the same little whispers in the church. Different voices. Same concern. "Pastor, when I was growing up the Sunday School had so many more children."

"Pastor, I remember when the church was full on Christmas." "Pastor, there's way more gray hair than not in here. What's going to happen in 20 years when we're all gone?"

I've heard those whispers for years. I still hate them. I heard them in the fields of rural Nebraska. Downtown San Antonio couldn't look more different, but some things sound the same wherever you go. Especially fear.

It's fear that whispers these questions. It's fear that makes the same mistakes over and over when it comes to our kids. Control them and treat church like a bad thing they are forced to endure because we say so even though we can't come up with compelling reasons why. Or try to trick them into thinking church is fun because secretly we think it isn't. Let them bat around a beach ball during something we'd never call "worship" except for the fact that we want them to like it enough to stick around in a few years. Look at the empty pews that have you so afraid. Neither of those things worked on us. Neither work on them. But the fear makes us forget.

We know this stuff is important. Somewhere we just lost the words to explain why. So we go through the motions because we used to go through the motions. We carry around worry even though we know better than to talk about it. That would let on to the kids that we're afraid. Which means we're not in control, and we're not having all the fun we're desperate to convey. Worry that whispers about our future shows just how little we can control our kids and make them stick around, and how foolish we really think trying to trick them is. You know what's great though? They agree. We're doing it wrong.

I've had the privilege of helping out with Higher Things for a few years now. I'll tell you a comforting secret. We have the same worries. I sat, probably blocking the fire exit, in an over-capacity classroom listening to the executive director of Higher Things teach a breakaway explaining Gen Z. She's a smart cookie. So I went to steal stuff from her to teach you. It was aimed at parents. The kids outnumbered us 4 to 1. She laid out the statistics. It was sobering. The kids nodded along to the rising trends of depression, anxiety, and loneliness. They laughed when the adults tried to get their heads around slang that doesn't translate well to speaking out loud. Then the Executive Director, a public school Spanish teacher, broke the rules. She told the kids she was worried. She confessed there were times she wished she could have shared more, but was afraid to lose her job. That she wished there was more she could do for and say to transgender students. And I only heard the same whispers again.

She said she needed a pastor for the next part. I shouldn't have sat in the fire lane. Goodman. Stand up. Preach a one-minute sermon on the text on the board. I asked the kids to reread the text because I wasn't listening to it. I hate those whispers so much I was half out of my seat already. First things first. Her conscience. "In the stead and by the command of my Lord and savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you this and all your sins." Of course we all should do more. Of course we're sinners. That's why God gives us the church in the first place. We're afraid together, and it's wonderful, because God drags us along together. Forgives us together. Sustains us together. We have a place for that fear now. We have God given words to answer it.

She likes to say she's not a theologian, but she's brilliant. The kids read the text she picked, and I knew what she was driving at all along.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

She had all the same fears everyone else does. The same ones I harbor too. She knew exactly where to look for hope. The light set on the hill. Not in your heart. Jesus, the light of the world, hanging on the cross set on a hill called Calvary. He died there for us.

This is what Higher things does. Jesus for sinners. Hope for the hopeless. We answer the whispers. We speak to the fear and remember the words that explain why this stuff is important? It's the gospel. We just give it to kids.

She tells me "Stand up. Preach a one-minute sermon." Fine. The church doesn't stand on your shoulders. It stands on God's. The light set on the hill cannot be hidden. It can't. There, God was crucified for you and for me and for all the world. It's His church where He gives His gifts. The church is built on Him, not us. Remember the ancient church that hid in catacombs afraid to speak what we believe too. If this was our church, we would have died out thousands of years ago. But this is God's church. He fills it with sinners struggling with depression and anxiety and sin and loneliness. He dies for them. Rises for them. Forgives them. That's us. Gen Z and every other generation. We were sinners in the ancient church and we're sinners today, but the light still shone on the hill for us all. Until someone sins in such a profound way that Christ is put back in the tomb, relax. Your sins are forgiven you, and the light will continue to shine, and it will even shine through you. Who do you think you are that you can take from Jesus someone He loves by being afraid? Your fear is not as powerful as you think, and your God already conquered darkness and death. Look to the hill and see the light. That's what we gather around. Hope. And there's plenty to go around. Hope rooted in Christ and not our works. That against everything wrong in the world, Christ has died and for everyone struggling in fear and darkness He is risen. Do not be afraid.

Then we went to church for the third time that day, and the kids were louder than the adults again. They have the same fears we do, but they hear the gospel and they sing it back. These kids don't hold the church up anymore than we do. The church holds them. They heard the promise and believe it. So they sang. My heart still almost stops

when I hear them. We live stream it. You can listen on the internet, but it's not as loud through your phone. This is what the church sounds like. This is what the church is. I watched 900 Christians who happened to be teenagers hear the word of God, receive His body and blood, cling to His promises, and sing them back. This isn't a bunch of kids who are at a church service against their will so they can go play laser tag later. Those kids sit quietly and roll their eyes. I didn't see any of those kids. I only heard the church. Our kids sang.

I hate the whispers. They assume a lie that comes right from the devil. It's not our job to keep the Church going one more generation. It's God's job. I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. He's doing a pretty good job.

In Christ,
Pastor Goodman

Memorials

In memory of:

Don Morris

Given by:

Marilyn Biedermann, M/M Charles Koch,
Gerald Smetzer, Elaine Ward, Jeri Lara

THANK YOU

Dear Mt. Calvary,

We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, visits, and prayers.

We are very much blessed to have such a loving and kind church family. God bless you all.

The Don Morris family

ELDERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
August 4 (Communion)	John Smetzer	Bill Stolhandske
August 11	Jim McNeel	Gary Franzen
August 18 (Communion)	R. Maxwell	Spencer Hasch
August 25	John Gilg	Walter Marks

USHERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Chuck Samuel	David Cobb	
Charles Koch	Jim Roberts	
David Thompson	Trey Roberts	
John Haumann	Nick Hartman	

GREETERS FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
August 4	Linda Dietz Jo Ann Koehn	Sarah Paseur Mary Marks
August 11	Brenda Hoffmann Carol Wilson	Judy Hanson Bonnie Koenig
August 18	Brenda Hoffmann Virginia Axtell	Carolyn Friedle Judy Hanson
August 25	Linda Ontiveros Jo Ann Koehn	Judy Ganoza Lisa Gerlich

ACOLYTES FOR AUGUST

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
August 4	Corben Perankovich	Joe Morrison
August 11	Isaiah Casas	Daniel Morrison
August 18	David Meissler	Jake Wille
August 25	Isaiah Casas	Wyatt Wilson

FAMILY *Matters*: A Matter of TRAINING

by Wanda Laxson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, August is back-to-school month here in Texas and that leads my thoughts not just to formal education, but also to **TRAINING**. We all undergo many types of training throughout the various stages of life. What are some things that you recall having trained for over the course of your life? Which types of training had the biggest impact on you and/or your life course? What motivated you in your training? Were you thankful for the training and the trainers? Was there any training you thought was not worthwhile that later proved beneficial? Was there training that you abandoned for some reason? Was there training that you would have liked to undertake but were unable due to circumstances in your life? Are you currently undergoing some type of training? Besides thinking about these questions individually, you might want to use them to start a family conversation. You could try discussing them at the dinner table over a number of days or on a road trip. It may be interesting, surprising, and even funny!

As I thought about some of my past training, I recalled how sometimes what started out as minor became major. For instance, when I was an elementary school teacher and a computer lab was installed at my school, I received some basic computer training. That motivated me to seek some additional training, which then resulted in an unexpected second career as a computer programmer. Another example I thought of was my physical exercise routine. I was motivated 17 years ago to start physical training as a means of losing a few pounds. I have kept it up in order to control weight gain. Many additional benefits have resulted from this training, among them improved strength and some great friendships. The benefits keep me motivated to continue exercising. I didn't know just how important my physical strength would be until this past year when I have needed it a number of times to lift up my 93-year-old neighbor after non-injury falls. Her inability to get up after a fall motivates me to stay physically strong as I age.

Unquestionably, though, the most influential and enduring training of my life is my Christian training. I don't even want to imagine where I would be today without it. It began when my parents brought me to the baptismal font at Mt. Calvary as an infant and I received the gift of the Holy Spirit. My spiritual training continued throughout my childhood and adolescence at home and at church and did not end there. It continues to this day and, I hope, will continue the rest of my life. Although I took it for granted as a child, as an adult I appreciate it and understand its importance. I thank God, my parents, my pastors, and all who have spiritually mentored me over the years. That training has given me a strong, mature faith that continues to benefit me and motivate me to grow in my relationship with God and grow as a Christian person. It has given me the strength to get through some really tough times in my life, including the death of my first husband.

This month, I encourage you to think about and evaluate the past, present, and future of your own Christian training and that of your family. Pray individually and as a family, asking the Holy Spirit to give you discernment to see both your strengths and weaknesses in this area. Seek His guidance for you in your spiritual training. If you are motivated to step it up, there are many Bible study opportunities at church and many resources available for individual home and family use. Just ask one of our pastors or me. We'll be glad to assist you. Until next time, God's blessings on your Christian training endeavors!

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 August 7th.
- **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.

“Eat your vegetables!” Reflections on my first Higher Things Conference *Pastor Craig Meissler*
Concordia University Wisconsin

- 780 Youth, 180 Chaperones, 80 Pastors
- Ten chapel services in four days –
DivineServiceThreeEveningPrayerMatinsVespersEveningPrayerMatinsVespersEveningPrayerMatinsDivineServiceOne
- Lines waiting to get into the Chapel of Christ Triumphant that at times matched queue lines at Six Flags.
- Individual group Compline every evening at 11pm.

Clearly something special was going on here, and my first Higher Things Conference didn't disappoint! It would be disingenuous to conclude that every single student attending this conference was there voluntarily, however it seemed that the theme of the conference "Concordia" – which means, "with one heart" was a descriptive and appropriate description of what I observed and that in which I participated.

As children, most of us often heard, "eat your vegetables!"when inquiring as to why, we always heard, "because they are good for you". It doesn't take us long in life to realize that what we put into our bodies with regards to food is critically important to our health, and yes, vegetables are good for us.... and while we may not embrace their consumption as kids, as we grow, we begin to appreciate the value that vegetables provide for the nourishment of our bodies and our overall well-being. I couldn't help but think of this analogy as I participated in the worship services. These young people, some timid and ambivalent at first, were witnessing and joining hundreds of their peers in patterns of worship that has sustained the church for 2000 years and will continue to provide foundational sustenance to each one of them in the future. Enthusiastic and robust participation in the Divine Services and the daily office services indicated an innate awareness of what was being received and not just merely a preservation of a worship style. If you have ever spoken with Pastor Goodman about Higher Things , he has undoubtedly said at some point that one of the goals of Higher Things is to give our young

people worship practices and theological substance that they will continue to grow in to not grow out of.

We continue to live in a time and culture where many churches, even some within our own synod, have chosen to cloak worship in "relevant" music, technology, and gimmickry which aptly provides a reflection of the here and now of our culture, but often falls short in substance and sustainability. In some circles we have been led to believe that in order to reach our young people we need to lower the bar of Scriptural substance and craft our worship services into something that is more "palatable" and in conformance with the world around us. Nothing new here.... Paul in his letter to the church in Rome clearly warns of cultural creep back then... *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* Romans 12:2

One of the most frequent comments I heard from many chaperones, as well as thinking it myself this past week, was, "I wish they had a Higher Things for adults! As we move forward at Mount Calvary, as a pastoral staff and congregation, we will continue to reinforce what our youth experienced at Higher Things through our weekly worship services, education, and youth group activities.

Wednesday Evening Worship & Education

Beginning Wednesday, September 11th, Mount Calvary will offer a weekly Wednesday evening worship service and education hour. The first service will be a service of thanksgiving and praise for God's providence and protection as we remember the events of 9/11/2001. Except during the seasons of Advent and Lent, the Wednesday services after the 9/11 service will follow one of the evening office services of Vespers, Evening Prayer, or Compline and will include a short homily. Since these are office services, Holy Communion will not be offered at these services. Following the service there will be an education hour ending at 8:30pm.

- First service: Wednesday, September 11, 2019
- Time: 7:00pm
- Education time until 8:30pm
- Meals will still be provided during Advent and Lent.

HYMN OF THE MONTH – AUGUST

LSB 808 “Oh, Sing to the Lord” *Cantad al Señor*

Text: Psalm 98 & 150 anonymous

Tune: Brazilian Traditional English & Spanish Tr. Gerhard
Cartford 1923-2016

This vibrant, Brazilian hymn of praise made its entry into LCMS hymnody in 1998 with its inclusion in Hymnal Supplement '98. Since then it has been used in choral settings, handbell arrangements, and festival hymn settings in the LCMS and across many denominations.

Gerhard Cartford served for three years in WWII and then received music degrees from St. Olaf College and Union Theological Seminary. He earned a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Minnesota, then taught at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, from 1961 to 1974. He went on to teach at Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul from 1974 to 1977. In 1977 Gerhard and his wife, Polly, moved to South America, where he had been invited by the American Lutheran Church in Colombia to help the people in their congregations to develop worship and hymnody that made use of their own cultural resources while staying true to Lutheran doctrine. Cartford also worked closely with the national liturgical commissions in Brazil and Argentina, helping to produce provisional worship books in each of the countries. He then organized the first Latin American Lutheran Liturgical Consultation, which took place in 1986 and in 1990 retired from church work and moved back to Minnesota.

Cartford, as well as Lutheran and other Christian Missionaries have broadened the corpus of an already diverse library of Lutheran hymnody. In most hymns that originate out of other than a European context, such as this month's selection, you will notice texts that are a bit more colloquial and use cultural imagery and repetition that provides an ease of accessibility and singability to the worshippers.

MUSIC MINISTRY 2019

THURSDAYS ARE OUR NEW REHEARSAL NIGHT!

Thursday Evening – Donnerstag Abend – Jueves Noche – Torsdag Kväll – Thursday Evening

Mount Calvary Choir - Is for you... and is open to all - from high school age on up. We continue to grow and need your voice! The primary purpose of this group is to enhance our Sunday morning worship services by helping to lead the singing of hymns, liturgy, Psalm settings, as well as presenting anthems and special music. The choir presents music two Sundays per month and for most Festival Services. Director: Pastor Meissler

Rehearsals

When/Where: Thursday evenings in the Music Room located in the Ministry Building.

Time: 7:00-8:15 PM *Childcare available*

JOIN US FOR A CHOIR & MUSIC MINISTRY



OPEN HOUSE!



Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 PM

La Fonda Alamo Heights

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Here's a great opportunity for those of you who might be interested in participating in the Music Ministry to stick your toe in the water! Come meet and mingle with the folks who participate in the music of our church and enjoy an enchilada or two.

Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, September 3.

Food & Beverage Provided - Adult Beverages \$\$

Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir - The Handbell Choir is open to anyone high school age and above. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. The bell choir participates in worship services once or twice a month and on most festival Sundays. Please contact Pam Dodson if you are interested in ringing.

Director: Pamela Dodson

Rehearsals

When: Thursday Evenings

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Where: The church sanctuary. Childcare is also available.

Mount Calvary Brass and Instrumentalists – Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion. If you can proficiently and confidently play an instrument, either as a soloist or within an ensemble, I would love to talk to you to discuss the possibilities of presenting music in our worship services. The brass ensemble will play for most Festival Services and approximately once a month and will play special hymn arrangements as well as preludes and postludes. Rehearsal dates and times would be scheduled as needed. Contact Dan Loudenback or Pastor Meissler if you are interested or have questions.

Calvary Gospel Ensemble – If you sing, play the acoustic guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, drums, flute/penny whistle, accordion, or fiddle, I am interested in finding out what is in our “box of chocolates” to put together an acoustic Gospel Ensemble to play for congregational social events. Please let me know if you might be interested - and we'll see what we come up with!

CHURCH PICNIC

The Church Picnic will be held Sunday, August 25th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hamburger, hot dogs, and beverages will be provided. You are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert of your choice. There will be entertainment and games. Everyone is invited.

