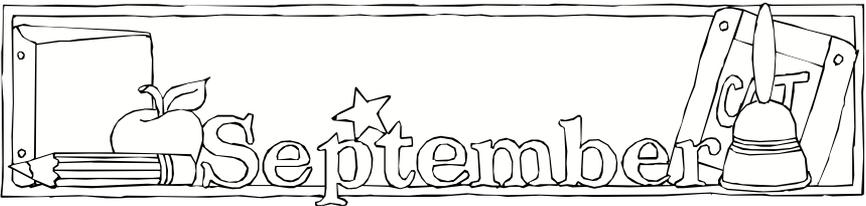


# FROM THE MOUNT



## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



2019

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Church Office 210-824-8748

[mtcalvary@mtcsa.org](mailto:mtcalvary@mtcsa.org)

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



...the word of the Lord remains forever." And  
this word is the good news that was preached to

you.

1 Pe 1:25

Dear Friends in Christ,

***Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum.*** This is the Latin motto of the Lutheran reformation and translates "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever". It first shows up in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522, five years after the nailing of the 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. But the roots for this come much earlier. And 1519, five hundred years ago, Luther debated Johann Eck in Leipzig arguing that the scripture alone should be the basis for the Christian faith. The movement that we know as the Lutheran Reformation was picking up momentum. It would still be some time before it was truly established as an enduring movement. As various German princes began to come on board not only did Luther's fame spread, but also the abuses of the Roman Catholic church began to be rolled back and the truth of the Gospel proclaimed. Luther would produce an order for worship retaining traditional worship forms but cleansed of false doctrine and everything that reinforced the errors of Roman theology. As the reformation settled and the German lands subscribed to the Lutheran confession of faith, a visitation was conducted to assess the understanding of theology among the lands.

These were formal visitation teams sent out with instructions based on Luther's suggestions. They investigated 18 different areas including: doctrine, prayer, baptism, the Lord's Supper, free will, and ironically enough the presence of Muslims in the area (as the Turks were pushing on the eastern frontiers of Europe and were sending spies throughout). Finding much confusion still ten years later, not much among the laity, but also among the pastors themselves, Luther wrote a teaching instrument known as the Large Catechism followed soon by a Small Catechism to be used in the home. Worship and education became two pillars of the time period of the reformation as the Lutheran church was formed and solidified. Luther believed very

strongly in the priesthood of all believers to call their own pastors and judge the doctrine of the church, but he was dismayed at the ability of believers because of the confusion that reigned through generations of incorrect teaching. Faithful worship, focusing on the preaching of Law and Gospel, combined with a robust education program in home and school were his tools of choice for empowering the priesthood to faithfully carry out the responsibilities of their priesthood. For Luther it was not enough for pastors to know theology, but all people need to know what God says in His Word. To this end in his introduction to the Large Catechism, he encouraged people to be daily in this catechism “until they have proved by experience and are certain that they have taught the devil to death.”

This might sound like a tall order, but it was for this express purpose that Luther put together the Large Catechism. Indeed, the entire Book of Concord is a treasure of resources for learning and solidifying your Christian faith. And you do not have to be a rocket scientist (or a pastor) to read and understand these tools yourself. If you have not read the Large Catechism, or it has been some time, I would encourage you to start there. Remember, the Small Catechism, which is a great tool, is an introduction, a shorthand version of the Larger. What better way to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation than to make use of worship and education to solidify your understanding of the Gospel?

Christ bless you richly and abundantly; family of God.

*Pastor David Reetz*



**Lutheran High School is looking for Substitute Teachers.** Teaching degree is helpful but not necessary Background check will be required. If interested, please call Khristi Moritz in the front office at 210-694-4962



What are we here for?

That's the question on everyone's mind. We're a little church in a little town in a world that's moved on. The kids move out. The morals keep changing. We don't fit. We're the grumpy church in town. What are we here for? And really, how much longer will it last?

We all want our church to endure. The problem is, it's so easy to lose sight of why. When we forget what we're here for, the only thing left to talk about is what we're here against. We're the church that won't commune your Methodist son-in-law. We're the church that won't marry your lesbian cousin and her partner. We're the church that even has a problem with that stirring and totally-not-for-profit movie "God Exists And You're A Dumb Meany 2: Electric Boogaloo".

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, if you hate what we hate please join us. It doesn't quite have the ring we're looking for.

I understand the temptation to loosen the standards. Ease off the law just a little bit. Stop being so picky about things like worship. Or doctrine. Or truth. You can empty the church of everything offensive, but that just leaves an empty room. Not being offensive isn't the same thing as having something to offer. It still doesn't answer the question. What are we here for?

Paul understands the frustration. A law that he himself falls short of. A people unsatisfied. A church on the brink of extinction even in its infancy. Corinth was a city that struggled with all of the same issues we know today. A declining morality. A people divided. A suffering congregation. What were they here for? He answers.

*"For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."* - 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

We preach Christ crucified. We're here to give Jesus to sinners. That's why we maintain the law. That's why we don't bend on it one iota or dot. We give Jesus to sinners who suffer under the burden of the law because the law isn't the thing that's killing us, it's just the

name for it. It diagnoses the disease God calls sin. We have the answer. The cure. The life. Christ crucified for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. We're here to give that to you.

We're the grumpy church who maintains the law, even when we fall short of it and look like hypocrites, because that's the whole point. Jesus died for us to forgive us every sin. Jesus died for all. This is more than what we're here against. This is what we're here for. We're here to give that gift to every last sinner in need.

What are we here for? When that awful little thought crosses into your mind, answer it. We give Jesus to sinners. That doesn't always seem like much, but it's the answer to every single murmured question and secret fear and stupid insecurity we carry around with us whether we're willing to admit it or not. We can speak openly about every evil and every pain because we know that our God gave His life to give us the answer, the hope, the victory. We're here because Jesus is actually here to help you. He stands in Word and Sacrament between you and every bit of guilt and shame, every sleepless night, every unanswered question, and death and hell themselves. He's here to help. We're here because we need Him.

This is what Catechesis is about. This is why we teach our kids. This is what they learn here. Sunday school, confirmation, youth group. These aren't just chances to lament what's wrong. This is where we teach our kids what hope looks like. As for the worry about them, for how much longer, we'll let God worry about that. Right now all I see is a need for salvation met by the hope of a God who died to make us live. I see Jesus given to sinners. We have open doors and plenty of room for more to stumble and crawl in with no other choice. Sometimes we even invite them. We're the "Jesus for sinners" church. We're here for sinners. We're here for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Goodman

## **ELDERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
September 1 (Communion)	Jason Strawn	Jim Koenig
September 8	Jim McNeel	Walter Marks
September 15 (Communion)	B. Stolhandske	Mike Wille
September 22	Brad Boeckner	Marshall Leiber
September 29 (Communion)	Charles Koch	Spencer Hasch

## **USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
Ralph Domel	Rex Rheiner
Don Lundy	John Rheiner
Jon Fruendt	Jeff Rheiner
Ed Lingg	Bev Kokos

## **GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
September 1	Deidra Thompson Carol Wilson	Judy Hanson Bonnie Koenig
September 8	Leslie Smetzer Rita Storms	Mary Marks Lisa Gerlich
September 15	Carol Gilg Bonnie Haumann	Sarah Paseur Mary Marks
September 22	Brenda Hoffmann Linda Dietz	Sarah Paseur Carolyn Friedle
September 29	Deidra Thompson Rita Storms	Judy Ganoza Judy Hanson

## **ACOLYTES FOR SEPTEMBER**

	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
September 1	Corben Perankovich	Joe Morrison
September 8	Isaiah Casas	Daniel Morrison
September 15	David Meissler	Jake Wille
September 22	Isaiah Casas	Daniel Morrison
September 29	Corben Perankovich	Wyatt Wilson

## **Memorials**

### **In memory of:**

Don Morris

### **Given by:**

M/M Winstor Curry, Linda Ontiveros, Anna Meadows, Linda Dietz, M/M Lamar Gillian, M/M Jim Koenig, Art Wendt, Mary Ann Beckman, M/M Doug Ramming, Marti Merkens, Miriam Solis, Carol Wilson, Eunice Gernander, M/M Steven Camp, Peter Heide, Esther Mae Lundy, M/M John Smetzer, Carolyn Julius

**Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes** has maintained a public cemetery for over 100 years. The Zion Lutheran Cemetery Board is aware that many churches do not have cemeteries, nor have the space for one. Our by-laws require membership in a Lutheran congregation for burial; thus, we would like to make our sites available to our fellow Lutheran congregations in the San Antonio area.

All burial come with a written deed and an agreement for perpetual card. Full-size burial plots can accommodate single casket, stacking of two caskets, or cremations, and are priced at \$3,000 per plot. Smaller sites, available for cremations only, are also available for \$1,500. Both prices are generally below other comparable cemeteries, at least in the San Antonio area.

If any of you are interested in pursuing the purchase of a burial plot, please contact Zion Cemetery Board member, Dave Newman, at 210-859-7860 or the Zion church office at 210-688-3090.

**Armed Forces Breakfast** will be Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We are asking all who were or are currently in the military to stop by the table in the gym this Sunday so Tracy Paseur can take your picture for the slide show presented during the breakfast. We are also asking you to bring memorabilia from your military careers for the display tables. If you are widowed, we encourage you to bring your spouse's memorabilia. Please label anything you bring and drop off in the church office no later than Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Tracy Paseur at 210-488-6501.

**Join us Wednesday evenings, beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-7:30pm** for the service of Evening Prayer and a short homily. At 7:45pm, Pr. Reedy will continue his adult instruction class, and Pr. Goodman will begin a bible study on Lutheran Identity. Why do Lutherans do the things they do? What do we believe that shapes how we see everything else? What do Lutherans have to say about today's issues? Christ crucified is at the center of everything. Come learn how the cross connects to everything else as we live out lives of faith in a fallen world. A special service will be held on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, in remembrance of 9/11.

**Friendship Sunday** will be Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, in both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. A Get-Acquainted Breakfast will be served in the gym between services. Invite someone to join us for this special day.

### **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

## 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 7<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.

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

by Wanda Laxson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, recently I asked a group of Christian women to tell me the first thing that popped into their heads when I said the word discipline. An interesting discussion ensued as we talked about their responses along with dictionary definitions, emotions connected with it, positive/negative examples from our own lives, and self-discipline. What about you? What pops into your head when you think about discipline?

Discipline (and the lack thereof) is a hot topic. If you don't believe me, just do an internet search for books on the subject. Amazon gave me over 50,000 results on discipline and over 30,000 on self-discipline! Many of the books about self-discipline tout that as the key to personal success and mastering your life and destiny. To help you sort through the overabundance of these books, there are websites that will give you their opinion of the best ones. Do you know what I thought when I saw some of those lists? I thought about how fantastic it would be if the Bible was listed first! Sadly, although the Bible contains the greatest success story ever written and has a great deal to say about all kinds of discipline, it wasn't listed among successstory.com's "10 Best Books to Develop Self Discipline."

As Christians, we know that we are NOT the masters of our lives and destinies. GOD IS. So, it makes sense to turn to God's book first to learn about discipline, including self-discipline. Using a concordance or [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) to look up discipline, self-control, and other discipline-related words (e.g., teach, instruction, rebuke, warn, admonish, punish, etc.) you will come across over 400 verses! Take some time this month to read some of them. Before doing that, though, read Galatians 5:16-26. It reminds us of the need to be led by the Holy Spirit if we want to lead more disciplined lives. I also invite you to read 2 Peter 1:3-11. If you like Bible trivia, just for fun, you might want to see if you can find out which one of the following Bible translations only contains one verse with the word discipline: KJV, NKJV, RSV, NIV, ESV.

I have a set of nine little books that I picked up about a year ago at Dollar Tree. Each book covers one of the fruits of the Spirit in a devotional/Bible study manner. The series was written by Robert Strand, a retired pastor, and published in 1999 by New Leaf Press. They are all good, but I especially like the one on self-control. It contains a lot of food for thought, including sections on self-control relating to the tongue, the body and its passions, and our possessions. Another section, using the story of Samson, warns about the need for constant vigilance against the temptations of the world, the devil, and the flesh. Then there is the positive example of Daniel. The book also includes some assignments and I'd like to share one with you. It is two questions: (1) "What are the aspects of your own Christian walk which need to be more disciplined?" and (2) "What specific steps do you plan to take to ensure that they come under more discipline?"

As you consider those questions, I leave you to also ponder the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and encourage you to stay in the race for that imperishable prize!!

### **Thank you**

Dear staff and members of Mt. Calvary,

I must send many thanks to you for the tremendous prayer support you have shown to me since my fall in January. Your cards, calls, and visits have given me great strength. Pastor Reedy's visits while I was in rehab and his administration of communion kept me close to God and my faith, and to all of you. I continue to get stronger every day. My journey with God continues.

Your fellow Christian,  
Sonya Rupp

# **HYMN OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER**

## **LSB 726 “Evening & Morning”**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76

Tune: Johann Ebeling, 1637-76

This beautiful hymn by Paul Gerhardt first appeared in a collection of Gerhardt’s hymns by the composer of this tune in 1667. This hymn, originally in twelve stanzas, was translated into English in the 1800’s and first appeared in the American Lutheran Hymnal in 1930. For whatever reason this hymn was not included in the LCMS Lutheran Hymnal of 1941 but was included in Lutheran Worship in 1982.

Paul Gerhardt attended the University of Wittenberg was a Lutheran Pastor and Theologian and is probably best known for his hymnody. Though Gerhardt had a difficult life, living through the Thirty Year War, losing four of his five children, and experiencing disappointments and frustration in his pastoral vocation, nonetheless crafted some of the finest Lutheran hymns ever written. This month’s hymn is no exception invoking the dawn of God’s creation in Genesis 1 and beautiful glimmers of Psalm 33 and 145. I encourage you to read the words and see how through his great faith in God, Gerhardt responds to the difficulties of his life.

*Evening and morning, Sunset and dawning,  
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:  
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!  
Times without number Awake or in slumber,  
Thine eye observes us, from danger preserves us,  
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.*

*Father, O hear me, pardon and spare me:  
Calm all my terrors, blot out my errors  
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.  
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;  
As it may please Thee, retain or release me;  
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.*

*Ills that still grieve me soon are to leave me;  
Though billows tower, and winds gain power,  
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.  
Joys e'er increasing and peace never ceasing:  
These shall I treasure and share in full measure  
When in His mansions God grants me a place.*

*To God in heaven all praise be given!  
Come, let us offer and gladly profer  
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.  
He well receiveth a heart that believeth;  
Hymns that adore Him are precious before Him.  
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.*

Paul Gerhardt prepared his "testament" to his faith on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the last year of his life, for his son. It is poignant and compelling and provides a great insight into the great chorales and hymnody that he has given the Church.

Now that I have reached the 70th year of my life and also have the joyful hope that my dear, holy God will soon rescue me out of this world and lead me into a better life than I have had until now on earth, I thank Him especially for all His kindness and faithfulness which, from my mother's womb until the present hour, He has shown me in body and soul and in all that He has given me. Besides this, I ask Him from the bottom of my heart that when my hour comes He would grant me a happy departure, take my soul into His fatherly hands, and give my body a peaceful rest in the ground until the dear Last Day, when I, with all of my [family] who have been before me and also may remain after me, will reawake and behold my dear Lord Jesus Christ face to face, in whom I have believed but have not yet seen. To my only son whom I am leaving behind I leave few earthly goods, but with them I leave him an honorable name of which he will not have to be ashamed.

My son knows that from his tender childhood I have given him to the Lord my God as His possession, that he is to become a servant and preacher of His holy Word. He is to remain now in this and not turn away from it, even if he has only few good days in it. For the good

Lord knows how to handle it and how sufficiently to replace external troubles with internal happiness of the heart and joy of the spirit.

Study holy theologiam in pure schools and at unfalsified universities and beware of the syncretists [those who mix religions or confessions], for they seek what is temporal and are faithful to neither God nor men. In your common life do not follow evil company but rather the will and command of your God. Especially: (1) Do nothing evil in the hope that it will remain secret, for nothing is spun so small that it is not seen in the light of day. (2) Outside of your office and vocation do not become angry. If you notice that anger has heated you up, remain still and speak not so much as a word until you have first prayed the Ten Commandments and the Christian Creed silently. (3) Be ashamed of the lusts of the flesh, and when you one day come to the years in which you can marry, then marry with God and with the good advice of pious, faithful, and sensible people. (4) Do good to people even if they have nothing with which to repay you, for the Creator of heaven and earth has long since repaid what humans cannot repay: when He created you, when He gave you His beloved Son, and when He accepted you in Holy Baptism as His child and heir. (5) Flee from greed as from hell. Be satisfied with what you have earned with honor and a good conscience, even if it is not all too much. But if the good Lord gives you something more, ask Him to preserve you from the burdensome misuse of temporal goods.

In summary: Pray diligently, study something honorable, live peacefully, serve honestly, and remain unmoved in your faith and confessing. If you do this, you too will one day die and depart from this world willingly, joyfully, and blessedly. Amen.

# 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*

**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!

## **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 \$\$

# Prioritizing God

finding intimacy with God  
in the busyness of life

A Study on Mary and Martha

Mount Calvary Women's Retreat  
November 1-3, 2019

We'll delve into the story of sisters with two different methods of serving. Was Mary being lazy (as Martha probably thought) or was she serving a higher purpose?

Early Bird Registration - \$75

September 1 - October 6

Regular Registration - \$100

October 7 - October 27

For more information, contact Jennifer Pate - 210.601.5402  
Full and partial scholarships available.