

Mt. Calvary Messenger



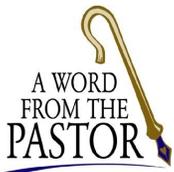
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PASTOR'S COLUMN

So, between illnesses and other distractions, we've only just gotten through the Sixth Commandment ("Thou shalt not commit adultery.") in our confirmation classes this year. And as we've been teaching and discussing the issue of marriage, it seemed to me time share some observations about this holy "estate" (or "condition of life") with you all. I should add that our Fall Pastors' Conference was focused on defending "natural marriage" (a problematic way to refer to the community approved and supported union of one man and one woman - problematic because "natural" is such a wobbly term these days... but I digress...). The conference was fairly depressing from a worldly perspective, for if we look at the cultural landscape, it would seem that we've lost the battle for upholding the created order of marriage over against the forces of those who want to make marriage into anything that people want. Indeed, a survey from last Summer's LCMS youth gathering just came out showing that of the 1500 respondents, only about 48% agreed what Scripture teaches about marriage and sexuality. So, we have our work cut out for us, but we forge on with the confidence that God's created order still has a vitality to it that the world, the devil, and our sinful flesh, cannot extinguish. Another thing that has put me in mind to share this with you is a proposed change to our "official" catechism in the Missouri Synod - and the suggestion that they return to a more "marriage centered" explanation of the Sixth

Commandment. What is meant by that is simply this: the current questions and answers for the Sixth Commandment are very clear on what we should and shouldn't do with our bodies outside of or within marriage. However, by focusing narrowly on the sexual sins (understandable in this world awash in every kind of sexual misbehavior), it misses "why" these behaviors are problems (beyond the obvious, "God said, 'No!'"). But if we return to the foundation of marriage, we might be able to embrace a more compelling argument for why some behaviors are not given to us in Christ - that is, what helps us to live out marriage faithfully, and what diminishes the gift of marriage?

So, let's start here: The Church is all for wedded love and faithfulness - and rejoices with all men and women when they are given to pledge their lives to one another until *death do them part*. Yet, for all the joy we have in marriage as it is instituted by God, we know that we are no longer in Eden. So, as much as romantic love may inspire men and women to wonderful flights of selflessness and compassion (C. S. Lewis claimed that romantic love had a close relation to God's love for us, as it inspired people to *leap over the wall of self-interest and place the concerns and needs of another at the very center of their lives*), we understand that this love also needs to be ruled and chastened by the Law so that we do not use "love" as an excuse to violate the care and duty we owe to all people in Christ.

How then is marriage to be ordered? Let's start with those familiar words from the beginning of the traditional wedding service:

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and

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mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Here you see laid out the three chief purposes of marriage as God established it in this world: mutual joy, help and comfort, and procreation. And when these purposes for marriage are seen in the light of the Gospel, by men and women redeemed in Christ, it is hard to see how one could not want to be married if granted a husband or wife with whom to live out these gifts in faith.

Consider for a moment Adam's creation. God formed him out of the dust of the ground, breathed the breath of life into him, and God gave Adam language and the ability to name the animals and recognize all things for what they were. Yet, among all the creatures – angels and animals – there was not found a companion suitable for Adam. Had God simply forgotten to make such a companion? I don't think so – what we have here is part of Adam's education. And the first thing that Adam learned, after seeing all the creatures of the world, after knowing communion with God and the angels, the first thing he learned was that he needed another – and not someone just like himself, but someone who was similar yet different. Scripture says Adam failed to find a "companion suitable for himself." Some of you may remember the older translation "helpmeet" (not *helpmate* – the original word is built from the old English word "meet" which means "proper" or "suitable"). The Hebrew points to two needs that Adam came to know in not finding this proper companion. First, he did not receive the particular kind of help God desired him to know in having such a companion, or literally, "helper." Yet the help being pointed to here was not a matter of household chores, or common sense advice, or assistance in making a livelihood. The word for "help" used in Genesis 2 speaks of the divine help that God gives for His creatures to find grace and joy. And the word for "suitable" points to one who stands over against, who completes, who makes up for what is lack-

ing or weak. In other words, Adam discovered that he needed a person, a human like himself, who was also not like himself so that in *that* relationship he would know God's grace more fully and be built up and completed (even as it would be given to him to build up and complete that "other").

Here then is the cause of the mutual joy. When God brought Adam and Eve together, Adam exclaimed, "here is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." Moses then explained that in men and women discovering in each other that "suitable companion" lies the reason that sons and daughters leave home, leave father and mother, leave the cushy – if sometimes strained – role of being taken care of, in order to cling to husband or wife, become one flesh, and establish a new household. It is joy to know oneself fully at last; it is joy to know that God has provided this one to you; it is joy to be helped even as one also is given to help. This is why poets love to gush about romantic love – for in the fires of such love, in such commitments, we feel as if we are at last made whole, and are finally given to live not as exiled royalty, but as the kings and queens of this world we were created to be. In love and marriage, there is a window opened back to Eden and the stunned wonder with which Adam and Eve beheld each other.

Then, as husband and wife, they are given to help and comfort one another in both adversity and prosperity. Marriage has joy in love – but it also finds that love calls for service. And that's the point of helping and comforting one another. Here the help really does refer to the common every day chores that make up keeping a household. Whether it is pulling weeds in the yard, doing laundry, cooking, washing the dishes, or whatever, men and women are given to help each other in carrying the weight of these responsibilities within the marriage. While they may divide up duties, there is no absolute "I'll do mine and you do yours." Each is given to share and carry the other's load. And when trouble comes – whether illness, finances, deaths of friends or family, or the hundred other mishaps of this fallen world, husband and wife are given to comfort and support each other. And here's the hard thing of it: that comfort can't be truly

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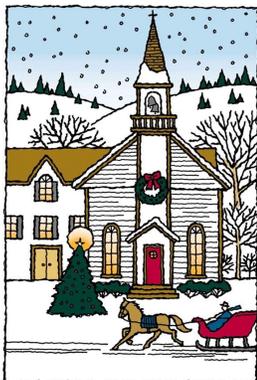
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1.
2. Matt Morrow
3. Harm Klokkena
- 4.
5. Delcie Lane
Jenna Taseff
- 6.
7. Jason Benne
8. Tess Ruskusky
- 9.
10. Jarrett Khattar
Andrea Shanks
11. Alexander Kroenke
12. Lary Traub
Harriet Caughey
- 13.
14. Daniel Keehner
Susan Vogt
15. Maggie Cornelius
Brianna Laredo
- 16.
17. James Henderson
18. Gordon Hoffman
Carey Moore
19. Kent Watkins
Scott Grinslade,
20. Emery Halverson
- 21.
22. Destinee Miller
23. Brandon Bell-Lampton
Darian Wilson
24. Michael Leon
Ryder Norman
- 25.
- 26.
27. Tyler Crosiar
- 28.
- 29.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gordon & Esther Hoffman
- 9 Dave & Jenny Hamilton



Worship Notes

LESSONS FOR THE SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 5th – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 58:3-9a;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12th – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:15-20;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19th – 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 119:33-40; Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18;
1 Corinthians 3:10-23; Matthew 5:38-48

February 26th – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm 2:6-12; Exodus 24:8-18;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



PRIVATE CONFESSION

Pastor Long will be available by appointment and **between 1 and 2 pm on the Saturdays before services of Holy Communion for private confession.** Come in through the front door and find him in his office or the sanctuary.

Confessions are sealed by a vow of absolute confidentiality, and all ministers of the Gospel in the Lutheran Church are sworn to suffer harm rather than ever reveal anything brought to them in private confession. Questions? Please speak with Pastor Long.

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USHERS

- 8:00 Paul Kroenke
10:45 Dale Brinkmann

ELDERS

- February 5
8:00 Paul Kroenke
10:45 Tom Brosowski

- February 12
8:00 Jim Henderson
10:45 Daniel Keehner

- February 19
8:00 Paul Kroenke
10:45 Tom Brosowski

- February 26
8:00 Daniel Keehner
10:45 Tom Brosowski

ALTAR FLOWERS

- February 5
Eileen Benne

- February 12
Ruskusky Family

- February 19
Ray & Linda Khattar

- February 26
This Sunday is Open

NURSERY STAFF

- February 5

- February 12

- February 19

- February 26

GREETERS

- 8:00 Theresa Johnston
10:45

COUNTERS

- LaVelle Borders & Carol Loughridge



(Pastor's Column continued from page 2)

given or received until there is trust that it will *always* be there. I may be grateful when a friend or neighbor helps me in a tight spot – but I have no guarantee that that person will always be there. My joy must always be tentative in that case. Not so with husband and wife – when the vows have been made, when two believers really trust the solemn oaths they make to each other before God and their witnesses, then they know and are committed to always standing by each other – no matter how rough it gets. They are always committed to excluding any intruders into their love – no matter how appealing it may seem in the short run. They are always committed to suffering what needs to be endured for each other. No thought is given to running off in hard times or in good times. And in that commitment, there is confidence, there is stability, there is hope.

Finally, there is secular evidence out there that supports what the Church has always maintained: that there is no better environment in which to raise healthy, confident, and content children than in a home overseen by a stable and loving husband and wife. In fact there is evidence to suggest that even when a marriage isn't perfect, a home with a committed husband and wife still offers the most nurturing environment to the young. For one of the purposes of marriage is procreation – the having and nurturing of children. Now here, I need to make all sorts of qualifications: yes, we recognize that couples can have children outside of marriage and still love and nurture them – but what we want to look at is what is *best*, not simply what *can* happen. Also, under the general brokenness of creation since the Fall, we know that not all married couples are able to have children, and for them adoption may be the way to answer this call. Furthermore, in this world, not all men are suited to fatherhood, and not all women to motherhood – in which case clear honesty about one's character is needed. Finally, we recognize that in the Church, some men and women really are called to the single life – in which they are set apart for devotion to the Church over the creation of their own family units.

However, with all that noted, procreation re-

mains one of the general purposes of marriage: it exists for the sake of the young. And for that reason, faithful marriages are never finally just about the husband and wife – they are pointed outside themselves to others. In the case of children, husband and wife, as father and mother, are called to provide for their children, clean them, feed them, change them, dress them, support them, guide them, teach them, and lead them to the proper knowledge of God. It is the solemn calling of parents to raise children who will be prepared to serve the church and society at large, who are decent men and women, who know right from wrong, and who worship God for His gifts to us in Christ. What a blessing, and what an onerous task! This is one of the reasons I tell folks of marrying age (when they ask me), that they must not simply seek the love of their life for marriage, but also must ask whether that man or woman who has caught their fancy will be a good father or mother to their children.

Marriage is given for mutual joy, for help and comfort, and for procreation. In Christ, what is lacking is covered over and forgiven, and all are called to be more than what they ever imagined they could be on their own. So you who are married – rejoice in the gift. You who are preparing to be married – be anxious for the day to arrive! And for any who are thinking about marriage – pray that God grant you a companion suitable for you – and then marry quickly (but not lightly or inadvisedly, but reverently and deliberately)! And avoid those sins that take away from the gift that marriage is.

Will the world be convinced by all this? Probably not – but we need to begin with convincing ourselves in the church that marriage is a gift to be cherished, and that the call to be a husband or wife is a good reason to avoid the temptations that would weaken that bond. Then, as we live in God's order, with grace and mercy and peace in Christ, we might have something to show a world that is lost in thinking that the only thing that counts in life is being happy right now.....

Peace to you all,

✠ Prayer List ✠

Prayer Notes: Folks have asked from time to time “who all are we praying for?” Here’s a partial list with reference to their relation to the congregation. **If you know of anyone who needs to be added, or who can be removed, please let Pr. Long or Judy know. Help us keep the list manageable!**



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Jacob Achterberg – grandson to Ron, nephew to Linda Khattar ✠ Elwin & Phyllis Basquin – parents to Luann Claudin ✠ Mary Bonesteel – friend to Long family ✠ Ethan Saunders – friend to Roger and Carol Hoffman ✠ Gail and Jonathan von Holten – friends of Jarrod & Jessica Horman ✠ Sharon Wenger – daughter to Sally Taylor ✠ Kathy Hafley – daughter to Sally Taylor ✠ Sandy Kissner – relative to Connie Kissner & family ✠ Joel Hoffmann – son to Cheris Hoffmann ✠ Gerald Hull – brother to Sally Taylor ✠ Pr. Hoech & family (Ivy, Noah and Kayla) – our “TIM” missionaries ✠ Gary Smith – brother-in-law to Rick Laredo ✠ Shirley Poole – mother to Luann Cooper ✠ Grace Burdett – mother to Rick Laredo ✠ Lloyd Burdett – step-father to Rick Laredo ✠ Gordon Adams – Lynn Laredo’s father ✠ Dave Maxwell – husband to Tina ✠ Larry Bentz – member ✠ Joan Waldron – member ✠ Pr. Glenn Niemann – former associate at St. John’s, Pekin ✠ James Gibler – uncle to Leann Sturtevant & DJ Gibler ✠ Rick Laredo – member ✠ Jonathan Stutz – grandson to Conley & Donna ✠ Mark Stutz – son to Conley & Donna ✠ Dolores Hoffmann – sister-in-law to Cheris Hoffmann ✠ Maureen Leuba – Concordia parent ✠ Ken Couri – brother-in-law to Linda Khattar ✠ “Babe” Culp – member | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Rev. Don Garvue – friend of Pr. Goetz ✠ Bruce Tagge – member ✠ Sherry Emberton – sister to Vonnie Brinkmann ✠ James Maughn – child at Redeemer ✠ Edward and Dolores Bohne – parents of Katie Tagge ✠ Roy Lewis – grandfather to Jen Hamilton ✠ Loretta Horst – Gerry Horst’s mother ✠ Anne Bolwerk (nee Heien) – member, teaching in Surinam ✠ Sandy Jolliff – daughter of Phyllis Knebel ✠ Rachel King – Concordia student ✠ Virginia Williams – member ✠ Phyllis Knebel – member ✠ Christiane Ramahi – member ✠ Ann Jungck – member ✠ Gayle & Paul Smick – grandparents to Jenny Hamilton ✠ Debbie Pfeiffer – relative of Dave Hamilton ✠ Ruth Leibel – friend to Mark Manthey ✠ Yasmin Ramahi – daughter to Christiane ✠ Aurelia Fisher – member ✠ Carol Warren – member ✠ Phyllis Larson – sister to Marilyn Miller ✠ Dreieinigkeits (Holy Trinity) Lutheran Church (Berlin-Steglitz, Germany) – a ministry we have contributed to as it reaches out to Afghan and Iranian refugees ✠ Kathy Gruben – sister to Jan Heien ✠ James Nora – husband to Harriet ✠ Robert Wilcoxon – member ✠ Gloria Carter – friend of Nancy Meyer ✠ Harm Klokkenga – member ✠ Eric Puterbaugh – friend of a member ✠ Patty Reck – sister-in-law to Carole Hoffman ✠ Michael Teeter – friend to Long Family ✠ Dale Warren – ✠ Dianne & Wally – aunt & uncle to Jenny Hamilton ✠ Steve & Gerry – family of Jenny Hamilton ✠ Ward Lenz – brother-in-law to Paula Horst ✠ Esther Hoffman – member ✠ Patty Stevens – member |
|---|---|

(Prayer List continued on page 6)

Mt. Calvary News and Announcements

(Prayer List continued from page 5)

- † Nora Moeller – serving in the Peace Corps, granddaughter to Harold & Carolyn Pauli
- † Eddie Alvarez – friend to Jennifer Johnson
- † Joshua Muse – member, studying in South Korea
- † Shannon Wilson – friend of Maxwell family
- † Norm Sarver – friend of Maxwell family
- † Shirley Salazar – mother to Concordia Strings teacher, friend to Wesslers
- † Rudy Brewer – father to Genie Frank
- † Alex Zook – military, grandson of Barb Zook
- † Faith Zook – granddaughter of Barb Zook
- † Jenna Zook – military, granddaughter of Barb Zook
- † Joshua Zook – military, grandson to Barb Zook
- † Derrick Foote – husband to Wendy (nee Crook), stationed overseas with family
- † Linda Miller – member
- † Gabby Smit – friend to LaVelle Borders
- † Josh Crosiar – member
- † Anne Maske – member
- † Steve Brinkmann – son to Dale & Vonnie
- † Carole Hoffman – member
- † Braylynn Davis – friend to Brill family
- † Steve Brown – family to Josh and Michelle Joseph
- † Frank Uhl – friend to Ron & Ginger Abel
- † Shirley Steckmann – mother to Linda Crook
- † Della Ricketts – mother to Ginger Abel
- † Robin Tompkins – sister David Maxwell
- † Killian McLaughlin – nephew to Robert Muse
- † Gordon Dupres – family to the Tagges
- † Shane Cremeens – brother to Brande Ruskusky
- † Jan Kiesgen – friend to many
- † Paul & Valerie Litten – family to the Paulis
- † Lil Mulvaney – friend to Pauli family
- † Rachel Myers – grand-daughter to Penny Voss
- † “Rocko” Johnson – husband to Jennifer

- Johnson
- † Bill Hoffmann – son to Cheris Hoffmann
- † Scott Stevens – Patty Stevens’ husband
- † Harriet Nora – member
- † Ginny Preston – friend to LaVelle Borders
- † Larry Frank – member
- † Debi Heinz – niece to Barb Zook
- † Paula Horst – member
- † Carter Tompkins – great-nephew of Maxwells
- † John Costello – visitor
- † Jim Evans, Larry Fordham – friends to John Costello
- † Virginia Tackmann – mother to Michelle Keehner
- † Wynona Adams – visitor
- † Jennifer Wohletz – daughter to Ardeane & Gary Ruckle

A NOTE ON PASTOR LONG’S RECOVERY

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your prayers and accommodations to the schedule changes during Sherri’s and my recent bout with pneumonia. The doctors tell me that this is a four to five week recovery, and that I need to “pace myself” at work. While I’ve been able to get back to teaching confirmation, the Thursday and Sunday services, and Sunday morning Bible Class, it’s going to be a few weeks yet before we can get the Wednesday and Thursday Bible Studies up and running again. Just watch weekly news for the announcement of their resumption.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Watch the weekly News and Announcements and your snail mail for information on an ice skating outing to be held on a Sunday afternoon in February, yet to be determined.



FROM WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY –

Valentine Packages for Our College Youth and Military – During their February meeting on Monday, February 6th, Women of Mt. Calvary will be packing boxes for our young people who are in college or serving in the military. In this endeavor we need your help: 1) Please get the names of your college youth to Dawn Henderson (691-5547); and 2) Consider contributing candy, microwave popcorn, individually wrapped snacks, tissue packages, pencils, pens, hotel samples (no bar soap, please), or anything a young person away from home might need. Your items can be placed on the kitchen counter, but please mark them for Women of Mt. Calvary College Student Project.

Bake Sale -- The Women of Mt. Calvary are going to be having a bake sale on **February 12th between services.** **We are looking for bakers and buyers.**

Treats for Family House – Family House offers a home away from home for the families of patients receiving medical treatment in Peoria. Women of Mt. Calvary have signed up to sponsor treats on the 4th Monday of each month. These treats may be store bought or homemade, and do not have to be individually wrapped. Family House is also in need of laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. If you would like to donate, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office and bring your treats to church, leaving them in the kitchen marked "*Family House.*" Questions? Call LaVelle Borders, 681-9414.

Postage Stamps – The Women of Mt. Calvary are saving postage stamps for LWML. Please cut out your postage stamps from envelopes and place them in the striped box on the table in the parish hall. We will trim the stamps and send them to LWML to sup-

port their mission work. Thank you.

Downstairs Nursery Staffing – Women of Mt. Calvary are organizing the staffing of the downstairs nursery during the 10:45 am service. Anyone who would like to help staff the nursery (we need two people per Sunday) please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office **Sign-Up sheets are up through March.**

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

We are still looking for at least two people to step forward each Sunday to serve as greeters before each service. All you have to do is shake people's hands and make sure they have a service folder.

Be a "Greeter Getter." All you have to do is make a few phone calls each month asking people to greet and then call the office with the information. Talk to Pastor or Judy and let them know that you are willing to take on this task.

For the present time, and until we find a "Greeter Getter," there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please select a Sunday and sign-up to be a greeter.



Youthful Minds Types

Deaconess Gillian is planning to be here on **Sunday, February 12th.**

She would like to have lunch with you and suggests that you all meet at the ***Flat Top Grill at the Shoppes at Grand Prairie***, at **12:30 pm** for an hour or two of good food and good conversation.

Remember, you have to eat and we foot the bill, so grab a friend or two and join the group.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of



- † Jane Harmon-Linn, sister of Carol Warren, who was called to her eternal home on Monday, January 2, 2017. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.
- † Lilliann Acterberg, who was called to her eternal rest on Wednesday evening, January 4, 2017. A memorial service was held at Mt. Calvary on Saturday, January 14, 2017.
- † Shirley Manning-Myers, who was called to her eternal rest on Saturday evening, January 7, 2017, and given Christian burial on Friday, January 13, 2017.
- † James Ingersoll, grandfather of Michael Gavic, who was called to his eternal home on Saturday, January 7, 2017, and given Christian burial on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.
- † Phyllis Wartick, aunt to Michele Keehner, who was called home on January 17, 2017, and given Christian burial on Saturday, January 21, 2017.
- † Harold Benne, father-in-law of Eileen Benne, who was called to his eternal home on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, and given Christian burial on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

May their families find comfort, hope, and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all consolation, Who comforts us in all our sorrows.

CONGRATULATIONS

One of the many things that slipped by the radar these last few weeks is this bit of news: The Reverend Jacob Corzine passed the oral defense of his doctoral thesis, and has been granted the title "Doctor Designatus" - which is a German tradition by which the full honor of the title "Doctor" is not granted until the thesis is officially published. But at this point, it is a mere formality. So

- Blessings to the Reverend Doctor Designatus Jacob Corzine!



REFORMATION BULLETIN BOARD

Check out the mini-bulletin board in the Parish Hall titled, "Tidbits of the Reformation." The 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be October 31, 2017. Each week will feature a Luther quote based on the Three Year Lectionary, the Reformation timeline, along with symbols, people, or Luther's hymns. So remember each Sunday to stop by and check it out!

MEN'S RETREAT: AT CAMP CILCA

Camp Cilca's Men's Woodcutters Retreat will take place **February 3-5, 2017**. Bring your ax, log splitter, and Bible for a weekend of cutting up firewood and hearing the Word of God. Men will stay in the Christian Growth Center. The cost is \$30 each. To register go to www.cilca.org or call the camp office at 217-487-7497."



A THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Just a note from my thankful heart for your strong support of your food pantry. You provided in 2016 over 3000 pounds of food products as well as other items our patrons have found useful. The help you provide at Can-A-Thon and Crop Walk and any other time the pantry has needed help is exceptional.

Thanks be to our God for you all!

Love in Him,
LaVelle

Christian Education at Mt. Calvary



SUNDAY:

YOUTH:

Sunday School:

Age 3 through Grade 8 meet downstairs. The lessons during February focus on some of Jesus' miracles: Calming the Storm, Healing Jairus' Daughter, Walking on Water, and Giving Sight to a Blind Man.

ADULTS:

Adult Class - "Called to Vote: We're a little late on this, but there's still time to consider our vocations as voters coming up to the November elections. This four part study by Prof Ken Schurb is not a "voters' guide" as much as it is an examination of how we, as Christians, can faithfully use the privilege of voting to serve our neighbor.

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study:

Job: Why do even the faithful suffer in this world? Come and explore the book of Job with us Wednesday mornings as we learn the mystery of God's work and will even in the midst of hardship. **We meet at the IHOP on Big Hollow Rd. (across from Target), Wednesdays at 6:30 am.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Galatians: On hiatus until further notice. Join us as we sprint through Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Ever wonder where Lutherans came up with all this "Law-Gospel" stuff, or wonder why we're so insistent that justification by faith is absolutely essential for a proper understanding of Christ and His work? It's all here. Turns out St. Paul was a Lutheran....**We meet at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.**

THURSDAY:

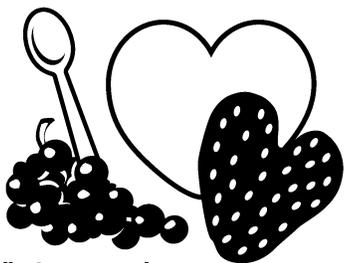
Afternoon Bible Study:

Leviticus: On hiatus until further notice. Far from being a handbook for priests or manual on holiness, the book of Leviticus gives a powerful witness to how the Holy God gives His people access to His grace and blessing. Join us as we journey through an unfamiliar world to find its wisdom for our own day. Turns out, the same God still comes to us as we gather for worship. We meet at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.



Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

(1) You really like ice cream! _____

(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and



_____, and _____ your

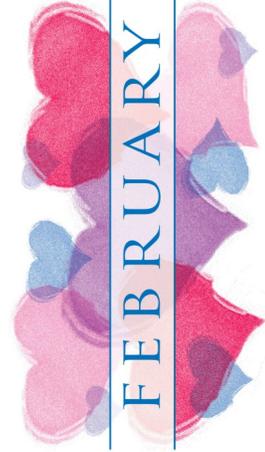
_____."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV



January 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>5 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 a Divine Service 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>6 6:30 p Women of Mt. Calvary</p>	<p>7 9-11:00 a Food Pantry 4:15 p Youth Confirmation 6:30 p Board Meetings 7:30 p Administrative Council</p>	<p>8 6:30 a Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>9 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p Neighborhood Watch 7:45 p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p Neighborhood Watch 7:45 p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 1-2:00 p Private Confession</p>
<p>12 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:15 a Anchoermen Rehearsal 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 a Worship 12:00 p Worship & Music Committee 12:30 p Youthful Minds Lunch 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>13 11:30 p Pastor at Circuit Conf. 4:15 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>14 4:15 p Youth Confirmation 5:45 p Board of Elders</p>	<p>15 6:30 a Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>16 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 1-2:00 p Private Confession 1-5:00 p Parish Hall Reserved</p>
<p>19 <i>7th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 a Divine Service 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>20  Presidents' Day</p>	<p>21 4:15 p Youth Confirmation 5:45 p Board of Elders</p>	<p>22 6:30 a Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>23 6:00 p Divine Service 6:45 p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 <i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a Fellowship Coffee 9:15 a Anchoermen Rehearsal 9:30 a Sunday School/Bible Class 10:45 a Worship 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>27 6:30 p Lutherans for Life</p>	<p>28 4:15 p Youth Confirmation 5:45 p Board of Long Range Planning</p>				



**The LORD
is my
strength
and my
song;
he has
become
my
salvation.**

Exodus 15:2, NIV