

(In full transparency, the article that follows was inspired by, and significantly adapted by me from a daily email that I received from a friend, a week or so ago.)

The earliest any of you should be able to see this article would be December 28th; the 4th Day of Christmas. And so, we are only still at the beginning of the Christmas season for this year. I'm sure some of you might have already heard someone say; or perhaps you have been thinking yourselves, "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day"



Why would someone have that wish? Well, because for many people (I know, not all), Christmas has a way of bringing out the best in us. We smile a little bit more. We forgive faster. We hold doors open longer and say things like, "Oh no, you go first." Strangers wave and greet each other, "Have a blessed Christmas". Families make a special effort to gather. And even people who never sing, suddenly know all the words to "Joy to the World" or "Away in a Manger."

But if we're honest – part of what makes Christmas so special is that it doesn't last forever. Eventually the tree dries out, the ornaments go back in the box labeled "Fragile," and the world returns to its normal pace. Credit card bills arrive. Diets resume. And the radio stops playing carols every seven minutes. Still, that wish lingers among many: If only we could keep this feeling.

Maybe that's because Christmas isn't really about the decorations or the cookies or even the presents. It's about Emmanuel – God with us. That there is the wonderful truth, even we Christians, can too easily and too quickly forget. Though the baby in the manger did not remain a baby, but grew into a toddler, a young boy and eventually a grown man, He never did stop being Emmanuel. He did not pack up and leave us on December 26th regardless of what happens with the store decorations or even our weary feelings of "good cheer."

The angel didn't say to the shepherds, "Unto you is born this day a Savior... available through Christmas only." No, Jesus came to stay. The peace we feel at Christmas – it's still available in January. The season name simply changes to Epiphany, where – Ah Hah! we see Jesus baptized and turning water into wine, etc. – still the Son of God and Savior for us all.

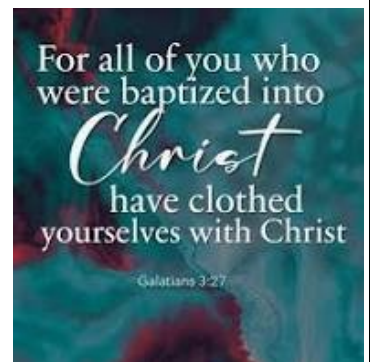
The generosity we practice in December? Yes, we still need it in the spring when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and in the weeks that follow, as He strengthens and nurtures and sustains us in His gift of faith every day.

And the kindness we show to strangers in line at the store? It is just as holy on Ash Wednesday and through the season of Lent and Easter, when we learn again of the Savior's sacrificial kindness and love on the cross and in His resurrection victory for us all.

In fact, as Jesus told His disciples (and us) just before He ascended to prepare our eternal home before the heavenly throne of God, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mat. 28:20).

You know, when we wish it could be Christmas every day, maybe what we're really wishing for is that we could live every day in the glory and joy and awareness of Jesus' presence; understanding and living in the peace; in the reality that He is watching, guiding, loving, and inviting us to live differently.

And the good news is...we can. Because the same one whose birth we celebrate now in Christmas is the Savior who is with us always and into eternity because He



has wrapped us in His own Christmas gift – the robe of His righteousness in baptism. We are, every day, clothed in His presence as long as we haven't closed the eyes of our faith to it.

So go ahead – sing the carols a little longer. Keep the joy and good will up well into the New Year, and share Christ's grace like every morning is Christmas morning, because, while the season changes, the Savior never does.

And when you find yourself thinking, "I wish it could be Christmas every day", know with all certainty that with Jesus, it already is!

Living every day in the joy and glory of Jesus becoming man for us,



Pastor Keith Beed

Board of Spiritual Outreach

We have treat bags left from the Meet our Farm Friends. We have added some additional items to the bags and handed them out to children who attended the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services, and to children visiting. Mary Ann will contact the Methodist church to find out how many children are being housed at Miracle House and we will provide bags for those children, as well.



We mailed out Christmas cards that our members signed for our shut-ins. Those who can't attend appreciate your thoughts and prayers.



We continue to collect prescription bottle caps and milk bottle lids from the Longmont Dairy. The Methodist Church is impressed at how dedicated we are to helping support the Miracle House with the collection of the medicine caps. Please remember they should only be from Dale's, or not have a pharmacy name.

We now have welcome folders available for guests – If the ushers see a visitor, please hand them one. It has some good information about Mt. Calvary and a magnet with our address, phone and email so they can contact us.

Thank you to all those who have helped and supported us this past year. We are reaching out to our members and the surrounding communities.

To God be all the glory!

Mary Ann Merritt

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
He sends you flowers every Spring, and a sunrise every morning.
Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.
What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem;
not to mention that Friday at Calvary.
Face it, He's crazy about you.



CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

**It's easy for us to find
things to gripe about, but
God's blessings abound!**

- ✦ Elizabeth Dreher and all her volunteers who helped with Bob McWilliams funeral.
- ✦ 12 days of Christmas light display on Ft. Lupton streetlights.
- ✦ Elders, Altar Guild and Pastor for hours of dedication to give us communion each week. Can you imagine life without them?
- ✦ Nona Schaefer for her many years of service to MCLC (and continuing!)
- ✦ Jean Farrer whom God has blessed to play the organ for us and many others for over 52 years.
- ✦ Good weather for travel.
- ✦ Time with loved ones/family.
- ✦ No damage to the church property from the wind.
- ✦ God's gifting of our musicians and their willingness to share those gifts.
- ✦ That we can celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior without persecution.
- ✦ The faithful writers of our cherished Christmas hymns.

Count Your Blessings

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



If you use offering envelopes, your new ones are in your box! If you wish to offset the cost of the envelopes, you are welcome to put a donation in the "Initial Offering" envelope in the new box. Please recycle unused envelopes.

Join us for some New Year's Eve FUN from 5-9 pm! Bring snacks to share and games to play.



On Saturday, January 11th at **8:30 am.**, come help "undecorate" the church! Many hands make light work!



A new Altar flower chart is posted!

Altar Flowers

If you are interested in dedicating altar

flowers for a special occasion, sign up on the chart on the bulletin board and make out a check to: MCLC for \$25/vase, with "altar flowers" in the memo. Then, let the secretary know so she remembers to put it in the bulletin! You can take home your flowers after the service, but please return the vase to the secretary's desk.

Please watch the bulletin board for the rough draft of our 2026 directory.

Please make any changes necessary and put a checkmark so we know the info we have for you is correct. –Tracy T.



Leadership Welcome
For ALL Council and Board members
5:30 pm

On Jan 17th is our Leadership Welcome. This is for EVERY Council and Board Member to attend. We will meet at **5:30pm.** **Make sure it is on your calendar!**



Remember – Confirmands this includes YOU!
Please remember that we cannot be a
Youth Group without YOU!
All school age kids are welcome:

This article will just have the basics, since Nona had to resign and we don't yet have a new chairman for the Youth. Please speak with her if you are interested in helping out.

Thank you for purchasing our 2026 Calendars! We have sold out!

The Youth hosted the Advent meal on Wednesday, December 17th. We served spaghetti and meatballs with salad and garlic bread and desserts were provided by the congregation.



Youth
ADVENT  **sponsored:**
EVENT
for ALL ages 5-8pm

On Sunday, December 21st we hosted our Advent Event. Chili, hot dogs, and drinks were provided and we had a cookie exchange. The kids made Christmas cards for shut-ins and we watched "A Charlie Brown Christmas" movie. We even offered a "reward" to the youth who brought the most people. Although we had a tie between Isaiah and Owen. (Nona and I thought Nathan should get it since his car was the fullest!) Unfortunately, due to the Bronco game and illness, it was not well attended (5 adults with no children and 2 families). Hopefully next year will be more successful.

Yours In Christ's Service, Tracy Tiscareño



On Sunday, January 4th we will have a combined Sunday School/Bible Study. During that time, we will have an Epiphany Melodrama. These are group participation skits and everyone gets a chance to participate. Please stick around!



We are still in need of a few substitute teachers for Sunday School...we don't often have any students, but if we don't provide for when they do show up, they won't come back. Please see Tracy T. or Corinne if you can fill in.

As the New Year approaches, I would encourage you to make a New Year's resolution to join a Bible Study this year. Remember that we have several opportunities for you to do so—every Sunday for Adult Bible class after Worship, the second and fourth Thursday of the month Divine Bible Study and the first Saturday of the month Men's or Women's Bible Study.
- Tracy Tiscareño

January means new server schedules and we need some new volunteers!



The more "teams" we have, the less often you will have to serve. If you are willing to **usher** or serve on the **Altar Guild**, please speak to Tracy T. in the office and she can get that information to the right people.

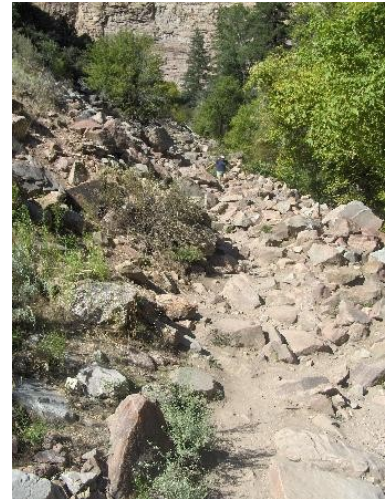


Thoughts *from your* Elder



Does anybody else have that one person in their life who causes you to stumble in your walk with Christ? And just when you think the

Holy Spirit has made a breakthrough for your path to become smooth, a landslide appears out of nowhere? Each boulder a hurtful word crushing hope for any further reconciliation or progress towards salvation. Those boulders are just what Christ uses to strengthen our resolve and to refine us as His. I know that does not feel like the case at the time, believe me. As we remove each rock from the path our Lord shows us, He is working through us to share His Gospel with others. Do not be dismayed, for He is with us. Trying to divulge the secrets of the Gospel's saving grace to those who still have not heard it is a huge boulder. Thank God for His WORD.



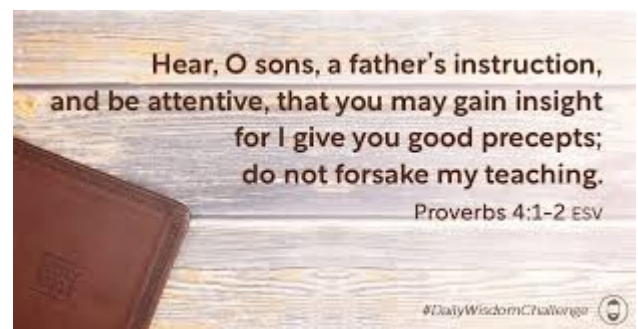
Proverbs 4 shows us the wisdom of God being bestowed on the children from a father. In Old Testament times the head of the household taught his family, including small children, in the ways of the Lord. Through this instruction, they came to understand their identity as Israel, God's chosen people; to know His saving love and promises, and to anticipate the coming of the Savior. Godly parents warn their children of the temporal and eternal consequences of wickedness. I can honestly say there is a certain amount of anxiety in the world today. Nobody wants to admit they made a mistake or heaven forbid were flat out wrong about something. Well folks, I have made mistakes. I am a sinful man that rightly deserves nothing but death and hell. My unrighteous anger that comes from old Adam will labor tirelessly to prove my point; no matter how offensive I get stubbornly pointing out how ignorant someone may be or how right I am. I have often asked for forgiveness because of my arrogance. I reference this because, as a loving father instructs the children, so, as a seasoned Christian, I need to instruct or educate a non-Christian, in a loving father-like way. I'm not going to love a non-believer to hell, nor am I capable of arguing that individual into Paradise.

As capable as the apostles were, Jesus still instructed them in Matthew 10:14: "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your word, when you depart that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet". (Also in Mark 6:11 and Luke 9:5.) I am not saying this lightly. When you are out there "Sharing God's Word", do so boldly and with as much love as humanly possible. (More so with prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit). Do not shy away as most are prone to do. When the challenge is too great, the heads too hard, the flesh grows weak, and love turns to anger or despair, shake off your sandals and share the Lord with someone else. By doing so, your spirit is spared from the rejection of those who reject Christ. When He is rejected, we do not stop. We continue sharing the Gospel because our time on earth is short, and the Kingdom of God is near. So, sow sow sow. The apostles, when rejected, didn't give up. No, they continued on, Luke 9:6: "So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing EVERYWHERE".

I'm still working on the "loving" part, and with the Spirit's help, I can continue to love my neighbor out of hell and toward the light that illumines the nations.

By God's grace we go. May His peace be with you all.

- Mark O. Pilson





Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #1 combines both the Youth and the Education Boards. (For this Target, the term “youth” is used to reflect all school-aged students.)



Our Target: **Mount Calvary is actively involved with the youth in our community.**

We have two goals and our tasks are listed below each:

Goal #1: Goal: Have three youth activities in 2026

- ✦ **Task:** Fishing Outing?
- ✦ **Task:** Movie at the Church?
- ✦ **Task:** Activity with other churches?

Goal #2: Participate in two community based activities in 2026.

- ✦ **Task:** National Night Out?
- ✦ **Task:** Trapper Days?
- ✦ **Task:** Outdoor games

In December we worked as a Target to host an “Advent Event for All Ages”, where we encouraged people to bring friends from outside the church (more details in the Youth article).



Mt Calvary Online Giving
Our church does offer the ability to give online—
see instructions below



Anyone can use the church website or this QR code and link to access the Mt. Calvary Online Giving Site.

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/mt-calvary-lutheran-church>

You will need your **email address** and banking or credit card information to continue.

****Also note if your email address is NOT in your church record, this will not work. Check with Tracy - before you begin - if you are not sure.**

1. Go to the site.
2. Enter your email address and click “Sign-up”.
3. Search for your email address and if it is in your church record, it will be found and you can continue the set up.
4. ***If not, stop the process and update your church record with Tracy before trying again.**
5. Next, you will be asked for your giving information.

It's that simple and safe. Please let RyAnna know if you need help.