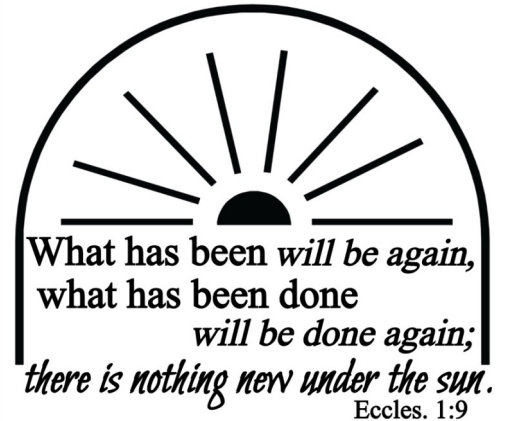


The month of May for many of us is a very busy month. Here in Colorado it's viewed as the first real month of spring – preparing and planting gardens, cleaning things up both inside and outside of the house, planning and implementing projects that have been on hold for the winter, not to mention the opportunity to more confidently engage in all manner of outdoor recreational activities (hikes, picnics, trips to the mountains, softball and little league sign-ups and practices, etc.). But that's only the tip of the iceberg for all of the May "busyness" opportunities and commitments. May is also the month for College and High School graduations, and one of the most common months for weddings – and of course, we must make our plans early for Mother's Day.



With all of these things grabbing for our attention in the month of May, though, something has to give, right? There's only so much energy; so much time in a day. So, sadly the month of May each year is also the beginning of the annual "spring and summer exodus" from the Church. Now, before the devil gets ahold of your mind and tempts you to think something like, "See, all Pastor is worried about is the attendance and/or offering numbers", let me assure you that those things – as important as they actually are to Christ more than they are to me, those are not my biggest concern. My reason for bringing this up is because the "May exodus" is only a symptom of a far greater concern that is steadily tightening its grip upon us Christians as a whole.

We, in our current time and culture, are falling more and more under the demonic spell of what has been more formally labeled as *Moral Nihilism*. I know that's not a term that the average person in America walks around using at the store or at work or with your family and friends. But let me assure you, whether you use the term or not, the concern is very real because it is dragging our country, our families and our very souls farther and farther away from that which God and His Word in Scripture says we all must be about in this life.

So, what is *Moral Nihilism*? First of all, though our current culture is ripe for this false way of thinking, it is as old as the human race. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." When the devil tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden he tempted her to reconsider what God gave to mankind as His perfect guidelines for life. That is that God, as the Creator, is the One who sets the rules; who defines what is right and what is wrong. That's what the word "moral" means: "the principals of right and wrong behavior". But the devil challenged Eve to question God's authority and His rules saying, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And then he lied to her, telling her that "when you eat of [the fruit] you will be like God" (Gen. 3:1, 5). That leads to the word "Nihilism", which comes from the Latin word "nihil" that means "nothing". *Nihilism* is the philosophy or thinking that there is no truth; that everything is useless, so there are no reasons to be concerned about moral principles (right or wrong) for yourself or anyone else. Everything is meaningless.

This way of thinking is what Hitler and the Nazis promoted among the German Christians in the 1940s to lull them into a state of spiritual laziness and thereby get the church and its leaders to "fall in line" with the Nazi agenda.

No, I'm not equating the people who are part of the "May exodus" from the Church today with Nazis. I'm merely calling all of us to open our eyes to the seriousness of where things can lead when we allow the temptations of this world's "busyness" to tear away and degrade God's established place of importance in our lives and in His Creation. I've heard more than once from Christians that we shouldn't "make such a big deal" about those issues or agendas or mindsets in the world that differ from God's Word; that we shouldn't be so concerned about what is "right" and what is "wrong"; that "God doesn't care if I'm in worship on Sunday or if I'm involved in His Church". That's *Moral Nihilism* and it is just blatantly false according to God.

The reason God gave us His Word is because of His extreme love for us. The reason He established His Church is because He wants to protect us from the sneaky schemes of the devil; because He wants us to be blessed instead by His truth and stay connected to Him into eternity. So He gave us His moral law (The Ten Commandments) which very clearly say, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (including any and all of the temptations I mentioned at the beginning that pull us away into setting up our own rights and wrongs). The Third Commandment also says, "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy". And Hebrews 10:24-25 agrees saying, "...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." These are not God's "suggestions" but commands; given to us as His gifts so that we will not fall under Satan's control.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV



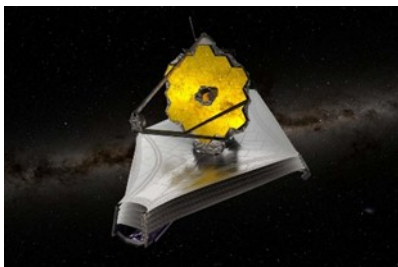
So, it does matter greatly what we believe and how we live as God's people every day. It matters that Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life." And that "No one comes to the Father except through [Him]" (Jn. 14:6). It does matter that we believe Jesus died in our place – to pay for our sin on the cross and that Jesus rose from the dead in victory over sin and Satan. It matters that we know these to be right and true, and conversely that anything against God's Word is wrong and harmful. These things are not "nothing" (nihil). They are absolutely crucial for us to learn about, to encourage each other in and to gather together in Worship weekly (at least) and to study God's truths together so that we can stay protected from going down the same path that others have gone before us who have fallen out of salvation.

So, enjoy God's wonderful blessing of the season of spring. See how it points us to the new and resurrected life that Jesus gives to us in His saving work. Go out and embrace God's gifts in this world that He created for us. But do so, always keeping Him and His life for us as His people as your first priority; as the one non-negotiable when you are planning your schedules, setting your budgets and using your talents and the gifts He has given to you; all the while celebrating that *Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Serving in His name to His glory,

*Pastor Keith Beed*

P.S. As you make your summer plans, remember there are LCMS churches around the country. Let us know if you need help finding one where you will be traveling.



**Denver Society of Creation**  
Thursday, May 2, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

**Exploring the findings of the Webb Space Telescope**

*presentation by Dr. Jason Lisle (Christian Astrophysicist)*  
<https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com>

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
500 Drake St. Denver

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

See Elizabeth for carpooling.



## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ For everyone working on the Plant & Bake Sale.
- ✦ For dedicated Sunday School teachers who donate their time and talents *every week* to be prepared for students.
- ✦ For the moisture we have received.
- ✦ Our new custodian, Krystal DeGross.
- ✦ The beauty of fruit tree blossoms.
- ✦ Those who help with maintaining the unseen issues in the church (i.e. lightbulbs, toilet repairs, cobwebs in corners, etc.).
- ✦ Electricity so we can see and hear the organ, etc. in worship.
- ✦ God's protection as we drive to and from our various destinations: graduations, weddings, etc.
- ✦ For everyone who attended the CO March for Life and those who organized it.

*Count Your Blessings*

The Board of Human Care is unveiling the "Blessings Box".

Our hope is that it will help us to be aware of upcoming challenges for our members; where some extra blessings might be needed whether public or private. Some examples would be: help before or after an upcoming surgery, if you need a ride somewhere, or if there are other special challenges. We will be placing our "Blessings Box" on the table in the Narthex. Simply fill out the information on the index card provided and we will try to fulfill your need.



**Are you willing to provide Coffee & Snacks one time?**



**We all enjoy snacks when they are there, but without people signing up, there will be none.** There is a sign up sheet on the counter if you would like to host Coffee & Snacks. We do ask that you stay and clean up afterwards. There is also a list of set up/clean-up details for your convenience. Remember—we have a dishwasher! **Thank you for signing up!** And thank you to those who have already been stepping in!



**PLANET GREEN RECYCLE**

RAISE FUNDS BY RECYCLING INK CARTRIDGES



Now, not only can Mt. Calvary earn money by recycling cartridges, but the church can earn 10% on all purchases from Planet Green by using this referral code! By purchasing refilled cartridges through them, you are also helping create less waste. Even if you don't have a printer, remember to share the referral

<https://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/?ref=mtcalvarylutheranchurch>

We are still collecting namebrand ink cartridges for cash! Please place them in the box on the table near the restrooms.



## Thoughts *from your* Elder



As an Elder here at Mt. Calvary, I would like to make readers aware of and consider their motives and actions toward their salvation.

My personal favorite passage of Scripture is Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Much of my resources come from a book found within our church library on the bookshelves near the restrooms titled: *What Luther Says*. My selections are currently from the discussions of Truth. (The number is the exact reference point in the book.)

### 4501 Personal Certainty at Death Indispensable

Luther says, "See to it that you are well armed and fortified so that you are able to stand before God and the world when you are assailed, and especially when the devil attacks you at the hour of death... Everyone must stand on his own feet and be prepared to give battle to the devil. You must ground yourself on a strong and clear passage of Scripture with which you may stand the test. If you do not possess it, you cannot pass the trial. Then the devil will pluck you like a withered leaf."

### 4508 Man Does Not Love the Truth

"Truth is the most intolerable thing on earth."

### 4511 The World Hates the Saving Truth

"Our sin [in the world's eyes] is that we tell people the truth: that they are to rely on nothing either in heaven or on earth except the merit and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This teaching is our sin" (according to the world).

Dear members of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church LCMS, as Christians, I sincerely hope and pray that each and every one of you knows and understands Ephesians 2:8-9 and why we are saved as v.10 speaks to the application of our salvation in this life.

Thank you everyone for your membership.

In Christian love, Sincerely, Greg Seltzer

*FOR BY GRACE* you have  
been *SAVED* through faith.  
And this is **NOT** your own  
doing;  
it is the *GIFT OF GOD*,  
**NOT** a result of works,  
so that **NO MAN** may boast.  
Ephesians 2:8

**FOR WE ARE HIS  
WORKMANSHIP.  
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS  
FOR GOOD WORKS.  
WHICH GOD PREPARED  
BEFOREHAND. THAT WE  
SHOULD WALK IN THEM.  
EPHESIANS 2:10 (ESV)**

## MEAL PRAYERS



"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing."

Nourish our bodies with these gifts you give us now. Amen.  
- Psalm 145:15-16

This last meal prayer may look familiar; it is one we say here at church and is written on the poster boards we use. It is Psalm 145:15-16 with one line added. It is also recommended by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism for "How the head of the family should teach his household to ask a blessing..." The Psalms are full of prayers and songs of praise, not just meal prayers. I hope you have enjoyed learning the origins of and maybe some new meal prayers. Please continue to pray, praise, and give thanks for all the Lord provides for us. – written by Tracy T.

## Board of Spiritual Outreach

Members of the Board met and reviewed past goals and decided on future goals. We then made a list and submitted it to the Council for review and approval.

One of our completed goals was to identify an effective way or event that we could reach out to the local community ...not just Ft. Lupton. We contacted the newspaper for the Carbon Valley area (Consumer Report) about having Mt. Calvary's information placed in the "Area Churches" section of the paper and in the April issue, Mt. Calvary was included.

Another goal that we completed was to identify a specific organization, group or individuals that we could help. The Board of Spiritual Outreach was contacted by the Ft. Lupton Rec Center about being a sponsor for the Easter Egg Hunt which was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> and we agreed to do it. Eggs were filled on March 23 with the help of members of the congregation as well as Youth group members. We filled 10 Easter baskets and donated them for the Egg Hunt. The board was present at the hunt and helped place eggs as well as monitored the children.

We sent out Easter Greeting cards to various members of the congregation and they were well received.



Keep sending in your Longmont Dairy Milk caps for Butler Elementary School. There is a box to place them in on the table by the restrooms in the fellowship hall.

By, Judy Kimball, Board Chair



### Lutheran Women's Missionary League RMD Convention -- Gifts from the Heart

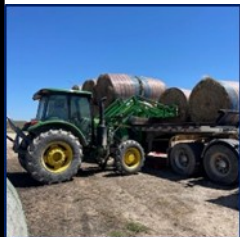
#### Ingathering for Orphan Grain Train

- ✦ New socks and underwear  
*Please put in the bin for Orphan Grain Train under the Narthex table.*
- ✦ Cash  
*Please see Elizabeth.*

Items due by June 2. **Thank you** for supporting the LWML!



### *Orphan Grain Train Hay Relief Efforts*



In April, six semi-trucks loaded with hay were delivered to ranches in Texas and Oklahoma which sustained long term damage from fires in March.

***Thank you, OGT supporters for helping to make these hay deliveries possible!***



Orphan Grain Train gives relief for human need worldwide, including our own backyard.



*For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you because I am  
fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; my soul  
knows it very well.* Psalm 149:13-14

Image: Kevin Carden via Lightstock

### 3rd month/7-8 weeks of Jesus' earthly existence

**May 15** – Now in His seventh week – when most mothers are first becoming certain of being with child – Jesus exhibits a complete skeleton (we can count all ten fingers and toes), electrical brain wave patterns, pain and pressure receptors, and muscle reflexes.



**May 21** – All of our Savior's organs are operating, and His sensory cells are sending messages along the nervous system network. About this time, we may accurately refer to Him as fetus.



#### **Baby at 8 Weeks**

- ✦ All major organs and external body structures have begun to form.
- ✦ Baby's heart beats with a regular rhythm.
- ✦ The arms and legs grow longer, and fingers and toes have begun to form.
- ✦ The sex organs begin to form.
- ✦ The eyes have moved forward on the face and eyelids have formed.
- ✦ The umbilical cord is clearly visible.
- ✦ At the end of 8 weeks, baby is a fetus and looks more like a human. Baby is nearly 1 inch long and weighs less than 1/8 of an ounce.

**Watch our monthly newsletter for the growth of baby Jesus!**

Taken from the Lutherans for Life posters we have displayed in the fellowship hall.



### **The Colorado March for Life**

On April 12, Kent, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann attended the March for Life at the Colorado State Capitol. The LCMS Rocky Mountain district provided a tour bus to the site.

We listened to interesting speakers. One stated that there is current legislation trying to pass a law that would make the reversal pill for chemical abortion illegal in Colorado.

They also stated that there is a petition (that has enough signatures to get on the ballot) to enshrine the right to abortion into the Colorado constitution. Colorado is one of seven most permissive states on abortion.



The speakers encouraged us to pray for our culture to be enlightened by God's Word. Please contact your representatives at the State Capitol and let them know your desired outcome on these vital issues.

The LCMS reported over 120 LCMS attendees. A Catholic news website reported nearly 4,000 total attendees.

<https://denvercatholic.org/thousands-march-for-truth-and-love-at-inaugural-march-for-life-colorado/>



All High school kids are welcome!  
Remember – Confirmands this includes you!



At our April meeting, we discussed our next events. We are planning on helping the Stewardship Board and Board of Human Care with the annual Plant and Bake Sales on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the Plant and Bake Sale are going to the Youth Group for the National Youth Gathering expenses in July of 2025. We also discussed helping a congregational member with a spring clean-up event as well as the Board of Trustees church work day on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie Deepe received her “God & Family” Scout award during the worship service on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Wyatt Herring’s school, Valley High School in Gilcrest, performed *The Sound of Music* April 19-21. Many congregational members ventured out in the snow on Friday night to support Wyatt in his role as Captain Von Trapp. During the same time, Levi Kirschenman was playing Clumsy at Fort Lupton High School in the play, *Snow White and the Seven Endings*. Several of us were able to attend as well. We are certain Levi has sustained several bruises during his performance.



The Youth **Board** is sending out a plea for new members. As many of you now know, the Kirschenmen Family are leaving for new jobs in Texas either in June or July. That will leave the roles of President of the Congregation and President of the Board of Youth vacant. Currently the Board of Youth has only one member, me, Nona, which leaves TWO vacancies on the Board. Please give prayerful consideration in serving your Savior in any of these positions.

Our next meeting is May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will share our prayer journals, do future planning of events, and have food and fellowship. Count your blessings and say your prayers. Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

Yours in Christ’s Service,  
Nona Schaefer, Secretary for Board of Youth

**YOUTH**  
Our next Meeting is:  
**May 19th**  
**After Sunday School**

### Board of Education

Please remember to continue to “Grow in Christ” and what better setting than a class where you can ask questions! We have Sunday School and Adult Bible Study every Sunday at 10:45 am. The adults are doing a study on Revelation. Downstairs we now have the confirmand class joining the Youth with Scott Heusinkveld and Nona Schaefer has the grade school kids.



Keep an eye out for **Vacation Sunday School** dates for this summer.

-Tracy Tiscareño, Board of Ed

**Spring Plant & Bake Sale**  
**Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 – 2:00**

We need YOUR help to make this happen!!



The proceeds will go to help pay for our youth to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Let's support our Youth and show the importance of attending the Youth Gathering.

Sign-up sheets are on the table at the base of the stairs in the "Fellowship Hall".

We have ordered vegetables/flowers from Kiyota Greenhouse to be delivered at 8:00 a.m.

**Men needed:**

- ✦ Set up heavy, wooden tables in the parking lot from the conex storage before the plants arrive.
- ✦ Take down tables and return them to the conex after the sale.

**Helpers and Youth needed:**

- ✦ Arrive by **8:30** to arrange plants on the tables.
- ✦ Arrive at **2:00** to bring in any unsold plants into the "Fellowship Hall".
- ✦ Help customers shop and load plants to their car.

**Cashiers needed:**

- ✦ Morning and afternoon shifts

**Bake Sale:**

- ✦ The bake sale proceeds will also be put towards the Youth attending the National Youth Gathering.
- ✦ Bring baked goods—whole and individually wrapped.
- ✦ Bakers, please put a price on your item in whole numbers... \$1, \$2, \$3...



**Spread the word among neighbors and friends.**

Thank you for your Time & Talent!

The Board of Stewardship & Plant Sale Committee

