

**D**reams – How many times have you awoken in the middle of the night, or in the morning and thought to yourself, or even shared with others, “I had the strangest/coolest/most disturbing dream last night.” Perhaps you’ve had the same reoccurring dream that makes you wonder if it’s “supposed to mean something significant”. Maybe you’ve even wondered if God is trying to tell you something or give you some kind of warning or direction.

What are we Christians supposed to think and believe about dreams? Can God speak to us through them? Should we strive, like Pharaoh did with Joseph (Gen. 40-41) or King Belshazzar did with Daniel (Dan. 5) to find someone to interpret the strange dreams or visions that our minds might conjure up?

After all, there are numerous examples where Holy Scripture clearly says that God, or one of His messengers, declared a crucial message to one or more of His people in a dream. Joseph had a dream that foretold his brothers bowing down before him (Gen. 37ff); Gideon learned of God’s victory over Israel’s enemies when he overheard the enemy’s dream (Jdg. 7); Jesus’ father, Joseph learned of Jesus’ conception in a dream (Mt. 1); and was warned in a dream to flee from Herod (Mt. 2); and God even caused Pilate’s wife to “suffer much...in a dream” (Mt. 27:19) regarding the suffering and abuse and crucifixion of Jesus.

Do these and the many other references to dreams in the Bible mean that you and I should expect to receive important messages; guidance or warnings from God in our dreams? And if we don’t, is that an indication that our faith is weak or that we are somehow lacking in our connection to God?

So many people from Theologians to scientists to doctors and psychologists have studied and shared their findings and opinions about what dreams are and why we have them. Some recent studies speculate that dreams are nothing more than our brain’s way of “keeping the lights on” while our body is resting and recouping. Others think it’s the way that

our brain works through the thoughts and issues that our subconscious has not been able to let go of yet. I’ll let you do your own research on these topics.

But the more important topic for us Christians to make sure we have a handle on is what God wants us to do with those dreams that we can remember or that might cause us to question whether or not they might be some kind of message that He means to give to us. Because there are some religious traditions, denominations and so-called Christians who encourage us to think and believe things like this: 1)

that dreams are where “God meets us honestly”; 2) “dreams are more spiritual than Scripture because they come from within humans”; 3) “dreams are where our subconscious expresses itself”; 4) and “where our imagination truly comes to life.” Often these kinds of beliefs incorrectly attach the things in our dreams to the work of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because they aren’t physical or audible

occurrences and so “it just seems to make sense that anything we can’t see, touch or hear must be connected to the Holy Spirit.”

But that is neither fair to the Holy Spirit nor accurate according to God’s Word. Remember, the Holy Spirit is God; the third person in the Holy Triune God. And so, to just attach anything that “seems spiritual” to the Holy Spirit would be just as dangerous as if we were to say that God causes demon possession or some other kind of spiritual evil just “because we are unable to see, touch or hear” it.

You see, there’s a good reason that Lutherans generally try not to overemphasize the Holy Spirit, because the Bible clearly teaches that one of the Spirit’s primary roles is to turn our attention away from Him and always more firmly upon Jesus! And just as neither the Father nor Jesus can ever contradict themselves and the truth that they have revealed to us in the Bible, neither can the Holy Spirit.

So, if you or I have a dream that is hard to understand or can lead us to very different, or even contradictory interpretations, then we must be quick to realize that it



cannot then be a message from God. For example, one person's "Spirit-given" intuition or feeling about a dream may totally contradict another person's intuition or even stand in direct opposition to Scripture. This is why 1 John 4:1-3 tells us, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already." Many people have allowed themselves to be led away from Jesus just because they had a dream or a feeling that "God told them" it was okay to do something that they really "wanted to do" even though a quick look in Scripture would reveal that it is clearly against God's will and desire.

Yes, that must always be the first and most conclusive source for determining whether some kind of message we have received is from God or not. Jesus Himself said on the night of His arrest when He was praying that the Father would protect His followers after His death, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). Likewise Psalm 119:105 directs our feet and path in life to the same perfect source of truth and guidance, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Can God speak to someone in a dream? Yes, we

see it happen in Scripture and "with God all things are possible" (Mt. 19:26). But whether it is a dream, a feeling, a desire or a piece of advice from someone else, as Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians

5:21, "test everything; hold fast what is good." And where do we "test everything?" Just as the believers in Berea did even with the teaching they were hearing from Paul in Acts 17:11 which says that they "were more noble than those in Thessalonica" because "they received the Word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things (from Paul) were so."

That's the bottom line regarding all that you and I are to be about in this life as believers in Christ. "Is this what the Bible says" I should be thinking, doing or saying? If not, then we must avoid it all costs. But if so, then go for it in confidence and "Serve the LORD in gladness!" (Ps. 100:2)

Your fellow servant in Christ,

*Pastor Keith Beed*



## Spring Plant & Bake Sale Saturday, May 9th, from 9am-2pm.

**We need YOUR help to make this happen!!** Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. The proceeds will 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.

**Everyone can advertise!** Spread the word among neighbors and friends, as well as share any of our posts on social media.

### **Strong people needed:**

- ✦ Set up ladders and 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.
- ✦ Put signs out and take down.

### **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:**

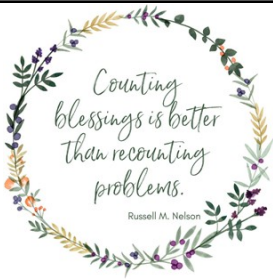
- ✦ Bake sale & Plant sale cashiers

### **Bake Sale (run by Human Care):**

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

Thank you for your Time & Talent! - The Board of Stewardship & Plant Sale Committee





## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ Dede and Doug who ran the Easter Breakfast. They did a marvelous job!
- ✦ The blessing of education as students complete the school year, graduate or move on to the next grade level.
- ✦ Cathy N. and Mark P. who helped Helen Miskimen with getting her large tree trimmed back for a good price, and for Meals-on-Wheels who made the church aware of the situation.
- ✦ For those who have been led to be church workers who recently received their first calls to serve as pastors and deaconesses, and for the congregations to whom they will be serving.
- ✦ Everyone who donated their "mites" to LWML.
- ✦ Guest Pastors willing to fill in so our Pastor is able to attend family occasions.
- ✦ For everything that is in bloom, despite the lack of moisture.
- ✦ Everyone who volunteers their time to help and participate in the various activities at church.
- ✦ That we have been blessed with another full Adult information class.

**These are just a few of the MANY blessings bestowed on us at Mt. Calvary. Instead of counting our complaints, let's try counting our blessings from God!**

*Count Your Blessings*

## Altar Guild



The altar guild is a group of dedicated members who prepare the altar area (chancel and nave) for services by cleaning and preparing for communion.

Anyone who has been confirmed, male or female, can be a member. You will work in teams of two.

It takes an average of 45 minutes to an hour each week to clean and prepare the communion elements and do the clean up after each service. With the number of members we have currently, the rotation is every four weeks.

Training is provided.

We would gladly welcome new members. It is a privilege to serve in the house of the Lord.

Christ's humble servant.  
Mary Ann Merritt

"God of all grace and mercy, bless those who serve as members of the altar guild that they may be faithful in their service. Grant them steadfast devotion and strong faith. By their loving service to your house of prayer and your altar of worship may your church be built up to the praise and honor of your most holy name; through Jesus Christ, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen"

Altar Guild and friends cleaning for Easter.



## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**Lutheran Mission in Honduras  
\$6,500 Grant**

A Lutheran mission in Honduras was established in 2006. There are currently six lay leaders (2 men and 4 women) who are enrolled in a training program, which takes three years to complete. The mission needs approximately \$15,000 per year to complete the training. The mission will be equipped to expand their Gospel outreach to their communities through Christian education and community outreach projects.



## Board of Education REPORT

### Happy Spring from the Board of Education!

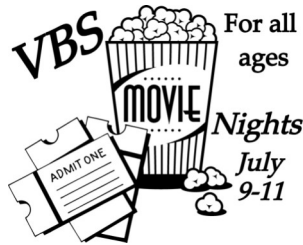
Thank you to the children of all ages who participated in the Easter Egg Hunt! A special thank you to the youth who helped hide the eggs and Ms. Tracy for telling the Resurrection story!

Please join the Boards of Youth and Ed. for fishing on **Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm**. Invite your neighbors, your friends, and your grandkids! This is a private pond, so no fishing licenses needed. Please meet at the church at 1:00pm and we will caravan to the fishing hole. The terrain is a bit rocky and hilly and plan for mud.

Let's go



**Another reminder:** mark your calendars for VBS. We will be having evening **VBS on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>**, with a **wrap up on Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>** during Bible Study/ Sunday School. Watch your June and July newsletters for more details!



- Corinne Gabel

### Board of Human Care

We are looking for someone to fill out the cards that our congregation sends to members on their birthdays, anniversaries and baptismal anniversaries. We have a box of cards and stamps that we would give you along with a calendar with all the dates. This can be done from your home and is a great way to serve and care for our church family. Please pray about this and if it is a good fit for you and let us know!



Also, the proceeds of this year's Spring Bake Sale will be going to the Youth's upcoming gathering! We will need baked goods, people to man the tables, and cashiers.

Thank you and best regards,  
Board of Human Care  
Cathy Newell, Jan Hagan, Christina Kraemer

“that the members may have the same care for one another...” I Corinthians 12:25b

Please remember that we cannot be a Youth Group without YOU! All school age kids are welcome:



Currently we have at least 12 kids in Middle and High School that need both leadership and guidance. What are we doing to encourage them to continue coming to church? Unfortunately, **we need Adults** to plan everything. Presently there are only 2 Youth Board members (one—a parent of 2) Please prayerfully consider joining them in planning activities and meetings!

Yours In Christ's Service, Tracy Tiscareño



### A Compelling Truth

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison wrote an article in the Sept. 2023 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*, that focused on making a defense for the hope that is in us (*1 Peter 3:15*).

We are not just trying to win a debate or turn the tide of the culture in our favor. We are saying to the world, “**We have something good and true and beautiful.**”

We have recently witnessed the particular intensity with which our culture rejects God the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. The **culture pours out vitriol** on those who confess Christ as God and Lord. And into this morass of **wickedness** and **ugliness**, the church has an opportunity to speak of eternal **truth** and **beauty**.

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)



## Sharing the Hope We Have

Easter has just passed. Once again, we heard the good news that Christ is risen. He has conquered sin and death. That message is at the center of everything we believe. But Easter is not something we simply celebrate and move on from. It shapes what comes next.

Because Christ is risen, we have something to say to the world around us.

For many Christians, that idea brings some hesitation. We know we are called to speak about our faith, but it can feel uncomfortable. There is a real fear of being rejected or saying the wrong thing. Sometimes it is easier to stay quiet than to risk an awkward conversation or a negative reaction. That struggle is not new. The first disciples knew fear well. Before the resurrection, they hid. Even after, they had questions and doubts. Yet over time, they spoke. Not because they suddenly had every answer, but because they had seen the risen Lord. That is still true for us. We are not called to have a perfect response ready for every question. We are called to point to Christ.

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” - *1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)*

Being prepared does not mean knowing everything. It means knowing where your hope comes from. It means being ready to speak about what Christ has done. Sometimes that is as simple as saying what you believe and why it matters to you. There will be times when you do not know how to answer a question. That is alright. You can say so. You can admit that you are still learning. That kind of honesty often opens the door for a better conversation than trying to sound certain about everything. The same is true when it comes to our own lives. We do not witness as people who have it all together. We speak as sinners who have been forgiven.



CHRIST IS RISEN  
TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

- *1 John 1:8 (ESV)*

That truth keeps us grounded. Our message is not about our goodness. It is about God’s mercy. When we are honest about our sin, we are also able to speak clearly about grace. Christ did not come for the perfect. He came for sinners. That is what makes our witness real. We are not presenting an ideal version of ourselves. We are pointing to a Savior who meets us in our need and does what we cannot do for ourselves. And we do not go on our own.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...’”

- *Matthew 28:18–19 (ESV)*

He is the one with all authority. He is the one who works through His Word. Faith does not depend on our skill, but on His promise. So as we move forward from Easter, we do so with a simple confidence. Christ is alive. Our sins are forgiven. That hope is meant to be shared. You do not need to have all the answers. You do not need to be without fear. You simply need to be willing to speak, trusting that God will use His Word as He sees fit.

Christ is risen. That is reason enough to begin.

Scott Heusinkveld

**This article ties in with the theme for the 2026–2029 LCMS National Offering, focusing on younger people.**

“Christ Is Risen! Tell the Next Generation,” will support the work of congregations, districts and RSOs vigorously to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ among families, young people and children. Watch the bulletin for more info. or use the QR code.





# Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #5– Spiritual Outreach



**Our Target: Our church members care for the needs of the Community.**

**Goal:** Launch new community events in coordination with other Boards to reach out to other communities.

**Task #1: Identify an effective way or event that we could reach out to the local community-not just Ft. Lupton.**

- ✦ Looking at setting up a booth for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Ft. Lupton.
- ✦ We are looking at events scheduled for Platteville and Keenesburg that we could set up a booth to spread the word about Mt. Calvary.

**Task #2: Continue to Support Butler Elementary School and other local entities.**

- ✦ We are collecting Longmont Dairy Milk caps and donating them to Butler Elementary School.
- ✦ We are collecting medicine bottle caps for Miracle House.

**Completed Tasks:** Helped with the Ft. Lupton Easter Egg Hunt by providing baskets and volunteering at the event.

## Board of Spiritual Outreach

We sincerely appreciate everyone donating the milk bottle caps from the Longmont Dairy and the medicine bottle caps. Butler elementary and the Miracle House of Fort Lupton are very happy with our continued support.



We had a nice group of members who came to help us fill the eggs with candy on March 14th for the Fort Lupton Easter Egg Hunt that was held on March 28th. Special thanks to Judy Kimball for taking the Easter baskets we made to the hunt and staying to hand them out.



We are trying something a little different for the cards for members who have not been in church recently. We are providing some note sheets so if anyone wants to write a personal message; they can do that and place it in the envelope.

We heard about a need for the local no kill animal shelter. They are asking for donations of good used wash cloths, towels, cotton linens, kitchen towels or even blankets, mattress pads or bedspreads. Please make sure they have been laundered. They use them during surgeries and for bedding. We will deliver them when the large box in the narthex gets filled. We will provide them with our contact information so they can let us know if/when they need more supplies.

A goal for this summer is to go to a neighboring town and participate in an event and take information about Mt Calvary to share our mission of *Sharing God's Word and Serving All*.



We are blessed to serve Mt. Calvary and the Lord with our activities.

In Christ's service,  
Mary Ann Merritt