

I recently had a conversation with a visitor who walked into the church office during the week where he and his companion were facing a very difficult situation during their trip here from out of state. Because of an unforeseen incident, they were stranded with no money to get home and no one that could send them money to do so.

This person had already had a conversation with Tracy before I came in that day and now, after exploring some additional options to get help, was back to visit with me about their situation. In the midst of our conversation, after listening and then finalizing a plan for how Mt. Calvary could lend assistance, this person said something to this effect: "You know, this world in which we live today is messed up in so many ways. You wouldn't believe the number of people and churches that weren't even willing to talk with us today. We are so grateful that you and Tracy did not just ignore us like the rest – even if you had not been able to help us as you are now."

What especially struck me with these folks was how, even in an extremely dire situation, they were still able to recognize God's blessings and have a grateful rather than hateful attitude. Because this world in which we live really is dominated by chaos, destruction, evil schemes and so many other things that the devil uses to distract us from seeing and acknowledging what is actually the truth about our situation in this earthly life. In John 16:33 Jesus laid it out in two short sentences. He said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

To which of those two sentences do most people direct their attention and efforts? Yes, the first sentence; upon all of the "tribulation" they face, which Jesus tells us point-blank is guaranteed to come our way. But that is not the sentence that Jesus wants us to have as our main focus, is it? The tribulation that comes because we live as sinners in a sin-fallen world is used by Jesus here in Scripture to highlight; to accentuate all of the far-greater gifts that He has for us, as His people, because He has "overcome the world"!

James 1:17 directs us to the same kind of attitude that I experienced with the visitor I was talking about earlier; to the outlook on life that Jesus not only desires all of us to have as Christians, but the outlook that He has won for us at the cross and empty tomb and freely gives to us now through His life-changing gifts of Word, Sacrament, Spirit and Holy Church. James says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (v.17).

These "good and perfect gifts" are everywhere; among all of us! They are not just the grand events or the once-in-a-lifetime milestones, but more often they're quiet glimpses of grace woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. It could be a smile from a stranger, the warmth of the sun on your face after days of rain, or the feeling of being completely understood by someone with a patient and listening ear. They are also in the countless things that God gives to us so often that we fail to even notice them anymore – a warm bed, a loving companion, a good meal, a clean toothbrush or a slice of shade on a hot day.

At the heart of every one of these experiences is a reminder that we are not alone, and life, despite its imperfections, holds loads of beauty and grace from God that is always worth noticing. So, for those of us with faith, these are properly seen by us each time as a slice of God's grace; as a reflection of God Himself "coming down" to us as our loving "Father of lights" who does not change. The more you and I are able to acknowledge and see these "good...and perfect gifts", the more we are then able to live in this



challenging world filled with contentment and true peace.

So, friends, allow me to encourage you today, tomorrow and every day to slow down, take an extra breath and look around you. Take an extra peek (or two or more) into God's Word as you begin your day or before you go to bed or during lunch and relish in the things God has already given to you as well as the gifts He has for you to discover in this life of wonders that we have with Jesus!

In the joy of living with Jesus,

Pastor Keith Beal



As you take your trips and vacations through this summer, take advantage of the fact that our LCMS churches are spread throughout the entire country. You can search for the congregation nearest where you are staying at www.lcms.org or ask Pastor or Tracy to look it up in the LCMS directory in the church office.

"Bringing Christ to the Nations — and the Nations to the Church"

**Ft. Lupton
Independence Day Booth**

**July 4
3:00 – 8:00 pm**

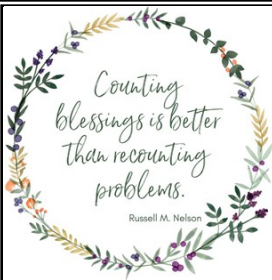


"Fair booth ministries around the country are a perfect example of **"Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church"** with thousands of fair goers that come by these booths each year.

Children's Bible story books, Bibles and fun trinkets are freely given, just like the love of Jesus."

Quote: Lutheran Hour Ministries December 2024

See Judy K. or Elizabeth if you might be interested in giving away free stuff for an hour!

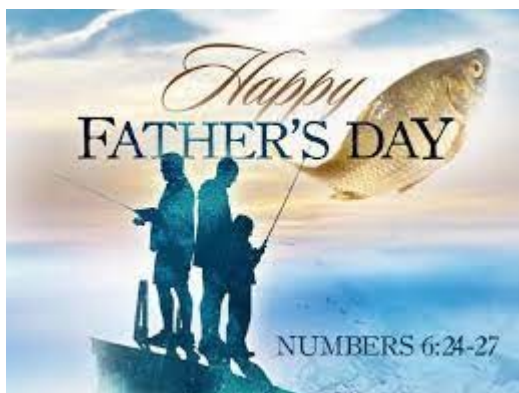


CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ The opportunity to travel and see God's beautiful creation in other places.
- ✦ New growing crops and flowers.
- ✦ Good neighbors.
- ✦ God's comfort during times of sorrow.
- ✦ A head Trustee willing to take care of a "stinky" situation.
- ✦ Sunshine and warm days.
- ✦ The smell of fresh rain.
- ✦ First responders and the stress they endure to serve and protect us.
- ✦ A growing community that still cares like a small community.
- ✦ All those who help individuals who have mobility and other challenges.
- ✦ Fans.
- ✦ Ice cold (and clean) water.
- ✦ For all the men and women who have given their lives for our freedom.

Count Your Blessings



Confirmation BBQ & Questioning



11:00 am

Saturday, June 14th at 11am, everyone is invited to the Confirmation BBQ and questioning. Come show your support for all the work these three young men have done.

The Elders ask that you please bring a dessert. Then join us on **June 15th for Confirmation** during the 9am service, followed by a reception and the Macho Man Bake Sale Auction. (No Adult Bible Study/Sunday School).

Encouragement for Today...

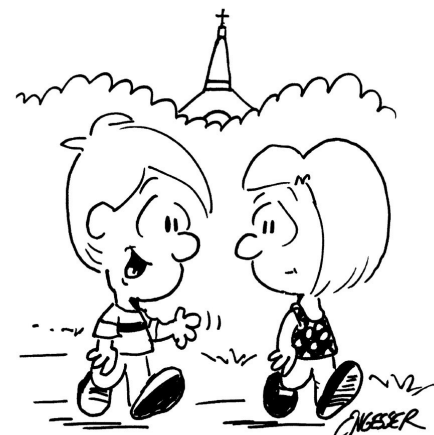
Be of good cheer for I am going to pour out abundant blessings upon your life. Stay focused on me. Let your worries go. I'm working on your behalf. I will make a way where there seems to be no way. All will be well. Just believe in me.
~Your Jesus



Don't forget that this month we have a 5th Sunday Potluck on June 29th! We will also be celebrating the end of VBS!



Bring your favorite dish and enjoy a meal with friends! The more people we have, the more variety will be available too!



"If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day."



Remember –
Confirmants this includes YOU!
Please remember that we cannot be a
Youth Group without YOU!



All school age kids are welcome:

The Plant & Bake Sale was a great success! ALL the baked goodies were gone before the end of the sale. There were some plants left, but not as many as last year or the year before. We raised over \$3000 profit for the Youth Group! A sincere thank you goes out to EVERYONE who helped make this sale such a success, especially Tracy T., Sylvia A., and Elizabeth D. Everyone I saw was doing a GREAT job *Sharing God's Word and Serving All*. Well done faithful servants!



On June 14th, at 11:00 am will be the confirmation questioning and BBQ for Jared and Jeffrey Jenkins and Isaiah Dux. On June 15th the boys will be confirmed during the 9am service, followed by a reception (No Sunday School/Adult Bible Study).

The Youth are asking the males of the congregation to get out their aprons and prepare some delicious goodies to be auctioned off at the Annual Macho Man's Bake Sale to be held after the confirmand's reception June 15th. The youth will have a meeting June 8th after Bible Study and Sunday school in preparation of this and other upcoming events. As a reminder, bring your calendar of events to this meeting. We are working on planning a day of fishing for kids and adults sometime in August.




Anna Babcock has a dance recital on June 18th and June 19th at Prairie View High School in Brighton. Times are to be determined.

VBS for **all ages** will be held in the evenings of June 26th, 27th, and 28th with a wrap up on Sunday, June 29th in conjunction with the 5th Sunday Potluck.

The National Youth Gathering group will have their last two meetings in preparation for the Gathering on June 1st from 12:00-2:00, and June 23rd at 6:30pm. Parents are requested to attend the June 23rd meeting. Jacob, Isaiah and Andrew are working on a t-shirt design for our group to wear at the gathering. More information to follow.

Yours In Christ's Service,
Nona Schaefer, Chairperson Board of Youth


Our next Meeting is:
June 8th
After Sunday School



June is here and so is Vacation Bible School!

Here are the dates and times for VBS:

Thursday June 26th from 6-8pm

Friday June 27th from 6-8pm

Saturday June 28th from 5-7pm

Sunday June 29th with the 5th Sunday Potluck and, possibly, a melodrama.

Vacation
Bible
School



All
ages

Movie
Nights
June
26-28

We will be watching a movie or two and discussing the different themes found in the movie. The movie will be appropriate for **all ages**; everyone is welcome to attend! Please invite friends and family! We are still trying to plan a day of fishing for all members. Please let Nona, Jessica, Landon, Tracy T. or Corinne know if you are interested in joining in the fun and possibly helping with tackle etc.

- Corinne Gabel



Planning and preparation for this year's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA are well on their way. I would first like to thank the congregation for your ongoing support and dedication to the youth that God has brought together in this special brotherhood that we have here at Mt.

Calvary. I am grateful for all the Sunday School and youth teachers that we have who selflessly work and strive to educate the young minds among us about God and what He has done for us. We are beyond lucky to have Pastor and his dedication, not only to the entire congregation, but especially to all the young confirmands who have attended his classes.

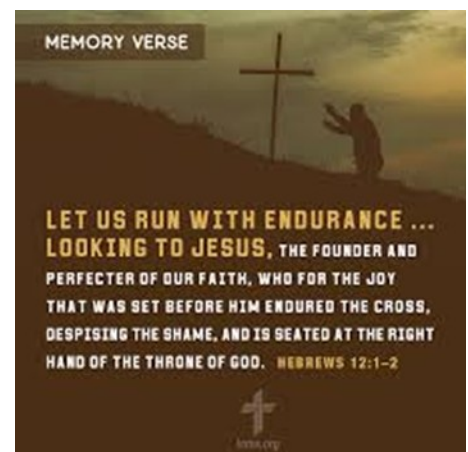
The theme of this year's gathering is Endure. The primary verse is, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." (Hebrews 12:1-3) Pastor had us think about the meaning of endure. We finalized two main properties: difficulty and long duration.



At the gathering, these three young men from our congregation will be worshipping with more people, and more of their peers, than I would wager they ever have before and possibly ever will again. If this is not something for them to take notice of and keep in mind for their daily lives I don't know what would be. Even as fantastic as the Superdome filled with fellow believers of Christ will be, it is just a drop in the bucket compared to the revelation the writer to the Hebrews has given us. We too are reminded that we are joined with all the believers in Christ from Abel through Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Moses, and many others who never lived to even know of Christ's birth let alone His sacrifice, with His death and resurrection for them, us, and all the world. Their faith allowed them to look forward to Christ's miraculous work as our faith allows us to look back and marvel at what He has already done and promises to finalize when He returns.

Of all you and I must endure in our daily lives I am relieved to know that it is the Triune God who has and continues to show what true endurance is. God the Father has endured pain as we cannot imagine as He watched His perfect and "very good" creation disobey Him and fall into sin. He watched as many fell away from His truth and searched elsewhere for answers. He probably had to endure the most when He had to send His only Son and forsake Him. Jesus similarly endured more than we can fathom watching His creation fall into sin; then reject and crucify Him. The Holy Spirit also shows great endurance, never abandoning hope that His message and gifts will not be rejected and all will know what Christ has done for them.

I pray that whatever you may be dealing with at this time, or in the future, you can always remember that you are not alone. You have your family here at Mt. Calvary and everyone throughout the entire world who knows, that you and they, are saved by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ. Even more comforting should be that you have your God caring for you in ways you may not understand or even recognize. No matter what, I urge you to, "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...". Peace, patience, and love to you all; to the glory of our Lord. Amen
Nathan Deepe





Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

By Church Council

Church council continues to see the progress our Target teams' submit each month in a Google Doc shared with the Boards and Council. Council is going to help reorganize the word docs to make them easier to navigate for the teams and Council. Training can be provided by contacting Jennifer Malwitz via text or calling.

Thank you to all the board members for working on our Strategic Ministry Planning. Keep up the good work.

The Board of Spiritual Outreach members are discussing various activities for the summer months that we can participate in. Volunteers are always needed to help make our plans successful. If you wish to volunteer or even just help with the planning, please let us know.



We are currently gathering materials to put into a Welcome Folder to give to guests and visitors. We are also looking for a few volunteers to act as greeters before and after church services. **If you are interested in becoming a greeter**, please talk to one of our board members.

We are also looking for a person or group to help coordinate the setup of a booth at National Night Out on August 5th. If you are willing, please talk to Judy Kimball.

We are still collecting **medicine bottle caps** for Miracle House who redeems them to support the ministry of providing shelter for people who are transitioning from homeless and jobless into a more stable environment. They will take caps that have Dales Pharmacy on them or just generic/plain caps. There is a container on the table by the restrooms to put the caps in.

We also collect **milk bottle caps** from the Longmont Dairy for Butler Elementary. There is a box on the table by the restroom to place the caps in. A big thank you to all those who have been donating!
- Judy Kimball

Take me out to the ballgame...

See Jeremy Camp in concert after the game at Coors Field for **Rockies Faith Day 1:10pm, Sunday, August 3rd** when the Rockies will host the Pittsburgh Pirates.

We have 40 tickets reserved in the **shade** in the upper most deck behind home plate—Section U332, rows 11-14. They are just \$22 each. Please sign-up if you are interested and so we can get a count. Final payments are **not** due until July 11th. Questions? See Tracy T.

