

As I write this article, it's the day after our Adult Information Class read through chapters 1 and 2 in Genesis. We were talking about the Doctrine of Man and considering how God designed mankind uniquely from all of the rest of Creation. In Genesis 1:27 we're told that "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." In a culture today where some medical groups recognize up to 72 different genders, saying that a person can now move back and forth on a gender "spectrum"¹, this word from the Creator Himself really stands out as different. Yet God's creation of Adam from the ground and Eve from one of Adam's "sides" (šēlā in the Hebrew) cannot be more clear. Mankind consists of two and only two "sides" – "male" and "female". Both are equally created in "the image of God" and only when we have both do we have the fullness of God's intention for mankind as the only species created to be His representatives/ caretakers of Creation.

Here at the beginning of June, we are also equally situated in between two significant family holidays. We just celebrated God's feminine gift to us in our mothers and we are about to celebrate His masculine gift to us in our fathers. So, it occurred to me, there might be no better time than this to at least touch base on what God has revealed to us in the Bible regarding His intended design for true femininity and masculinity. Why would I do such a risky thing in this gender-confused world? Because now it is more common to hear people talk about these two concepts in a negative – even harmful light, rather than the beautiful gift God has given to us as a blessing; as a healthy distinction between the two "complimentary" genders, intended for our joy and benefit in this life.

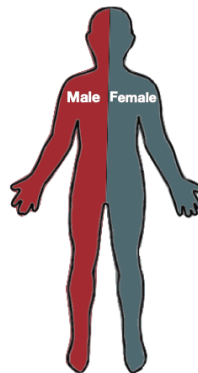
So, ladies first! It's becoming more popular now to hear people talk of "toxic femininity", most commonly understood of women "restricting oneself to stereotypically 'feminine' behaviors to appeal to men."² At the heart of this "toxic" or harmful way of

viewing femininity is when any and all of us allow the world, our culture and our own sinful nature to dictate how we view and define our identity instead of the Creator Himself. God's design of women from the start has been beautiful, healthy and beneficial for both sides of mankind. Adam's first reaction to Eve says it all, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh...." (Gen. 2:23).

Healthy femininity among women is when each lady looks in the mirror; seeing all of her beautiful internal/ external gifts and qualities that she has received from God and is just as excited and appreciative of what she sees, as Adam was with Eve. Yes, God did intentionally create women with distinctly different capabilities and strengths that men cannot possibly possess. Only their bodies, for example, are able to conceive and give birth, as well as feed and nurture children. Their disposition is generally more compassionate toward others, women typically have an easier time (if we are healthy) displaying affection and intimately connecting with others than the average male does. BUT for the most part, each woman's feminine expression is as varied as there are women in the world. A great example is the description of

"an excellent wife" in Proverbs 31:10-31. She is an entrepreneur, mother, farmer, craftsman, encourager and more. She is known for her wisdom, initiative, strength, teaching ability, style, humor, etc. In God's design of true femininity, worldly stereotypes are thrown out of the window. The instruction that Paul gives to older women in Titus 2:3-5 for how they are to teach the young women is very helpful in highlighting the characteristics that God desires among the women He has created. "Older women... are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home (which as Proverbs 31 says is much more than

Genesis 1:27



Genesis 2:22

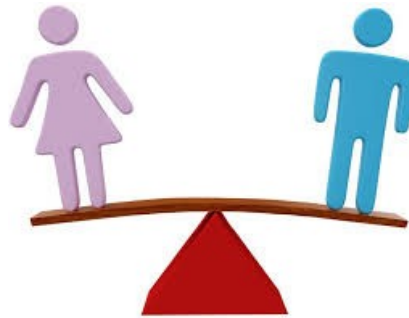
¹https://www.medicinenet.com/what_are_the_72_other_genders/article.htm

²<https://www.healthline.com/health/mental-health/toxic-femininity>

just a housewife), kind, and place themselves under Gods' order of authority (healthy humility) in regards to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled."

The majority of those characteristics (8 of 10) apply equally to men in Scripture as God leaves a lot of room in His design and expectations for each individual to have and pursue a whole variety of interests and characteristics.

Which leads us now to consider true, biblical masculinity as opposed to "toxic masculinity", which speaks of when men are pressured to believe that "being a real man" must be characterized by a set of rigidly traditional features such as being physically strong, tough, emotionally callous, aggressive and domineering by nature.³ As with the women, yes, God designed the male body to be able to do certain things, especially around size and physical strength that the female body cannot typically match. Beyond that though, God shows us in Scripture, for example, that true masculinity includes being open to one's individual weaknesses and need, just as with women, to submit to God in all things. Paul famously acknowledged this when he said, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). A common, unhealthy (toxic) mindset among men, which is learned through toxic societal pressure, is for them to think, "a true man does not admit he has any problems" or "needs any



(psychological or emotional) therapy."

To say or think that way is very unbiblical. After David fell prey to his passions with Bathsheba, he needed a direct "therapy" session (i.e. confession/absolution) with Nathan the prophet to lead him to say, "I have sinned against Yahweh", so that Nathan could then declare, "Yahweh also has put away your sin; you shall not die" (2 Sam. 12:13). And Paul, in Romans 7:17-25, opens up transparently about his personal, internal battle between "the good I want" and "the evil I do not want" (v.19). He admits, "I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. ... Wretched man that I am!" (vv.18, 24). Yet, I've heard men tell me, "A man should never admit to these kinds of things." Both David and Paul display in these passages a couple of the best examples of true, godly masculinity; showing great humility and a strength of faith in God alone!

This has barely begun to scratch the surface of biblical femininity and masculinity. But I pray it will help all of us begin to celebrate the beauty of God's intended gender differences and freedoms as we "love one another" and ourselves as Jesus has loved us and calls us to be His disciples (Jn. 13:34-35).

In the joy of His service,

Pastor Keith Beed

³<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-toxic-masculinity-5075107>




An engaging Children's Sermon May 24th



DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH

As you take your trips and vacations throughout the 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.



Russell M. Nelson


CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ Everyone who volunteered for the Plant Sale, especially Sylvia A., Elizabeth D., and Tracy T. and the janitor who “chased the petals and dirt” until the plants were gone.
- ✦ The weekly opportunity to have God fill up our “bags”, that have been depleted by the cares of this world, in Sunday Worship.
- ✦ Those who have served us and our country in the military.
- ✦ Faithful parents.
- ✦ Spring flowers.
- ✦ Medical options to address allergies that didn't exist in the past.
- ✦ Technology that allows us to connect to loved ones far away.
- ✦ Pets that keep us company and are always glad to see us.
- ✦ The moisture that has reduced our drought levels.

**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

Confirmation BBQ & Questioning

11:00 am **Saturday, June 13th at 11am,**
 everyone is invited to the Confirmation BBQ and Questioning. Come show your support for all the work that Trent Gabel has done.

The Elders ask that you please bring a dessert. Then join us on **June 14th for Confirmation** during the 9am service, followed by a reception. (No Adult Bible Study/Sunday School).



Discover Germany and the Reformation! Join us to discuss a proposed trip to Germany to explore the life and legacy of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. The trip would be in September 2027, and we would visit some of the most significant Reformation sites, including Worms, Erfurt, the Wartburg Castle, Eisleben, and Wittenberg. The trip will include Lutheran history, music/concerts, important cultural landmarks, beautiful German cities, and much more.

Interest Meeting - Google Meets
 Trip to Germany to See Reformation Sites
Monday, June 15th · 7:00 – 8:00pm
 Google Meet joining info
 Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ziu-aemb-cpj>

Interest Meeting - in Person
Tuesday, June 16th, 7pm @
 Summit of Peace Lutheran Church,
 4661 East 136th Thornton
 If you have any questions, call 720-985-8783 or email erika.armistead@gmail.com

Thank you, Erika Armistead

Board of Spiritual Outreach

The Board of Spiritual Outreach is still collecting items for Soul Dog. They can use bedspreads, mattress pads, sheets, old towels (bath and kitchen) and t-shirts. They need to be washed and fabric should be mostly cotton. They can also use unopened cat or dog food, as well as any pet supplies such as leashes, collars and harnesses.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

We handed out bookmarks on Mother's Day to the ladies of the church. They had an inspirational message and we give thanks to Tracy for preparing them.

Please remember while you are traveling and socializing this summer to **be bold in your faith and share the love of Jesus!**

In Christ's service, Mary Ann Merritt





The Board of Education

Thank you to everyone who attended the fishing outing on May 23rd at the Gabel pond! The

fish ate our worms but didn't let us catch them! Better luck next time, I suppose. We still had a good time! (See photos below).

The Macho Man Auction has been postponed so that more of our youth may participate (several are busy on Father's Day).



VBS is quickly approaching **July 9th – 12th and it is not just for kids!** We will watch a movie in parts and discuss the worldview messages it is sending and what the Bible has to say on the topics. We will also be having themed snacks and crafts!

July 9th and 10th we will meet from 6 - 8pm and Saturday the 11th from 5 – 7pm. We will do a wrap up on **Sunday, July 12th,** during Bible class/Sunday school time. Please join us as we explore the movie **Zootopia!** (This movie is rated PG.)

Also mark your calendar for **July 25th for a BBQ, potluck and kickball game** at the Ft. Lupton Rec Center park.

- Corinne Gabel

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!



Some of the fishermen who came out were Nathan, Jessica and Natalie Deepe with some friends, Kathy Heitschmidt, her daughter, and grandkids, and Schaefer's. Landon and Corinne were in charge. For a total of 14 people! If you get a chance, look at the newsletter on-line, these pics are great in color!





Greetings,

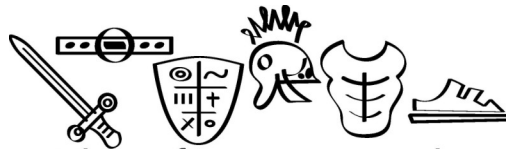
Witness, get out there and share God's Word.

And as we do come together in worship, we come in reverence into His presence as poor, needy, undeserved, pitiful sinners. Christ comes to us and as each is needing, He provides. As some come into His presence unaware or prepared to receive, but willing in heart and spirit, to hear His Word and receive His gifts let them do so unreservedly and be aided by those of us willing to do so. A stranger in our midst needing the Word shared, but not knowing what to do, or where to turn, has only to be seen to be helped. The most effective witness is witnessing

a brother or sister in need of Christ. And brothers and sisters, that is everyone.

Easier said than done, right? We all know the Holy Spirit is with us guiding our steps as we walk with the Lord. And all the people we interact with on this walk, on any given day, totally know we are Christians just by the way we walk, talk, dress, act, and interact with them. Or do they? Chances are pretty good they do not. Truth of the matter is quite simple really. Just tell them. Yep, it's that simple. Jesus loves you brother or sister. I'm trying to, but Jesus truly does. So much so that He died for you. There isn't anything on this planet that can take you away from Him. You are His. I have had some very startling conversations with people whom I considered like-minded, only to find, we were not. Begin slowly; in today's age you never know where they are in their personal walk. But begin nonetheless.

Whenever we come together, and this is tricky, we come together as He has provided us people to come together with. Don't just waste this opportunity to witness His divinity. There is a reason why this person is put before you. You may be the only one to actually acknowledge them today. As sad as that sounds, it is a real possibility. Personal eye to eye exchanges are becoming more rare as technology grows. Let us never go back to the Covid days of non-contact with our brothers and sisters. It would be tragic to not tell someone that they are loved by the Creator of the universe who knows them by name and wants them to know Him when they may need to hear it the most.



Therefore put on the
full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV

Witnessing for Christ is easier than you think. The Holy Spirit has given us the full armor of God to help us. Belt of Truth: Represents integrity, sincerity, and holding onto the truth of God's Word to counter deception. Breastplate of Righteousness: Represents living a righteous life and recognizing your identity and protection in Christ. Shoes of Peace: Symbolizes the readiness to Spread the "Good News" and remain steadfast during conflict. Shield of Faith: Used to deflect the arrows of the evil ones and extinguish doubt, fears, and the trials that test your beliefs. Helmet of Salvation: Protects your mind and serves as a constant reminder of your eternal hope and security in God. And my personal favorite, the only offensive weapon, the Sword of the Spirit: Represents the Word of God used to discern truth and (defensively) refute lies. We Christians have the honor of daily *Sharing God's Word, and Serving All.*

May His Peace be with you all, always.

Elder Mark O. Pilson



Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Church Council update

One of the Church Council's roles in Mt. Calvary Lutheran is to oversee and encourage the five Target Groups that are designed to help all of Mt. Calvary's members serve together in Christ's mission of *Sharing God's Word and Serving All*.

Each one of our Target Groups are tasked with uniquely specific areas and groups in our community and congregation, seeking, with God's help, to fulfill our Defining Statement of "Living out our faith by our actions and by spreading the Gospel...; serving others with love and respect as God directs" and desires of us.

We have been meeting with representatives of the different groups and monitoring progress posted on the Google Doc. If you or your group needs assistance with your target, a goal, Google Doc usage, or other items, please reach out to a Council member.

We have also done the work of transferring the Church's building and liability insurance back to Brotherhood Mutual and also begun the implementation of our Emergency Preparedness plan and thank everyone who participated in our first shelter drill.



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

Ft. Lupton
Independence Day Booth
July 4th
3:00 – 8:00 pm



Fair booth ministries around the country are a perfect example of **"Bringing Christ to the Nations"** 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.

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



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Introducing Muslims to the Savior \$100,000 Grant

This grant to **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** (LHF) will fund over 20,000 Lutheran books in Arabic, Farsi, Bahasa Indonesian, and Kazakh, including the *Small Catechism* and *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*.

For many former Muslims and searching Christians, life can be very lonely and isolating. Through your gracious giving, many people will be provided with numerous resources without having to take this journey alone.

Thank you for your mighty mites!

