

I'm confident that none of us remember our lives when we were newborn babies. Yet, try for a moment to think about what it must have been like: unable to walk, to talk, to reason, to reach things and generally function with what we now would consider the "fullness of life". Would any of us actually want to return to that newborn life? Of course not. Through God's gracious provision and care, using our parents, teachers, coaches, family and others, He has lovingly nurtured and caused you to grow into the person that you are today. Yes, certain foundational characteristics remained the same throughout your growth – your name, your gender, dominant facial features that look the same in your childhood pictures as they do today. But in order for growth to occur, certain changes had to take place and be endured as well. Your body grew taller, your feet larger, your muscles stronger and your intellect greater. That meant you couldn't wear your favorite tennis shoes from the 4th grade forever (too bad, *Keds* were great), you had to learn to get by without that security blanket or favorite toy, and you couldn't stay in the same school for the rest of your life. Those changes meant difficulty, sacrifice and challenges. But in the end, they were essential for you to mature and grow.

It's much the same, but far more necessary, for us to understand this concept in our spiritual lives, both as individuals and as a congregation in Christ's Church. There are certain foundational truths and beliefs that cannot and will not change – whose you are (Christ's); in Whom you believe (the Triune God); by Whom you are saved (Jesus alone); and God's source of truth and guidance for life and maturity (the Bible), just to name a few. These are the foundations; the building blocks for every Christian life. All of them were already in place at the time you were born into that Christian faith (rebirth) and they must continue to exist into eternity. Yes it's true, that foundational faith above is all a person absolutely needs to be saved. But it is not all that God intends or desires that you be during the entire span of your earthly life! It's also not what a person who has Jesus at the center of his/her life is going to want for him/herself. Just as it was with

your physical life, so it is with your spiritual life. Surely, you don't want to remain a mere "infant" or even a "toddler" Christian forever, do you? Neither should a congregation want to remain only at a "childish" stage.

But too often that is exactly what happens in Christ's Church. Individuals get "comfortable" and "lazy" in their spiritual lives. They continue to hang on to their "security blankets", sit in their protective "cribs" and then they wonder why things don't seem "right" or "fulfilling." A Congregation whose members aren't willing to make the sacrifices or face the challenges needed in order to continue maturing and growing in their relationship with Jesus will also become "stagnant" and unable to grow in their service to Christ. And it can happen for the pastor and leaders of a congregation just as much as with the rest of the membership.

Now, here's the hard part. In all sincerity, my beloved believers, I

believe we at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church are in need of growing and maturing even more than we already have in our spiritual lives. A Christian or a Church that doesn't ache to be challenged and grow is one that will regress backward in his/her/their spiritual lives. There is no such thing as just staying the same! (See Jesus' warning to the church in Laodicea in Rev. 3:16)

So, to grow in our faith and faith-walk with Jesus there are two important parts. First, there are certain things that must remain constant and foundational. And it's those core components that then motivate and push us all to grow and mature. In 2 Timothy 3:14-16 Paul tells us that the food upon which we must continuously feed is God's Holy Word. He said to the young pastor Timothy, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from infancy you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." Notice, Paul says that it's a continual feeding, growing and learning in the



Word that moves us to mature.

The writer to the Hebrews confronted his readers and condemned them and their congregation for their lack of growth. He tells them (and us) that it's not just enough to do the bare minimum; to show up and sit in a pew every once in a while; hang around the coffee pot and then believe that we are living as God desires us to live. No, he says, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk (like infants), not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice (in the Word) to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity...."

Are you ready to grow in your faith? Where you are at right now is not what matters, only that you want to grow. And we have opportunities for you to do just that here at Mt. Calvary. Our Sunday School is eager to welcome children of all ages: from

preschool through High School, beginning September 13th with Rally Day. The adults are continuing to learn and discuss the teachings of Scripture in what proves to always be an interesting and lively manner during the Bible Study hour every Sunday and in our Divine Bible Study every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning September 8th, at 9am. All members should be receiving a *Portals of Prayer* devotional book in your mail, to lead your daily time in the Bible and to feed your faith as well. (If not, talk with Tracy T.)



Growing in your *Faith*

The more of us who take advantage of these gifts, the more we can mature and challenge and encourage each other, and our entire congregation, to wrestle with and explore ideas for us to invite and attract more souls in our communities to join us in the fun and fellowship of Jesus and His family of believers in this place. So come! Come and let's grow; let's mature together in Jesus!

Your "wanting-to-be-a-more-mature" servant,

Pastor Keith Beal



**At Mt. Calvary we have many opportunities to grow your faith...
Daily, Weekly and Monthly!**

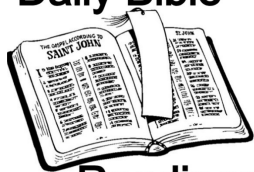
Join us at
10:45am



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
&
Adult Bible Study**



Daily Bible



Readings
(Listed in the bulletin)

**Divine
BIBLE
Study**



9:00am
2nd and 4th Tuesday
of the month



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

1st Saturday of the month 7:30 am



LWML BIBLE STUDY
1st Saturday of the month 9:30am



CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ Air conditioning!
- ✦ Pastor Besel's study on Revelation.
- ✦ Everyone who contributed their mites to LWML!
- ✦ The rain showers we have been getting:)
- ✦ Medical advancements that help us to be diagnosed and treated faster and easier than ever before.
- ✦ Members who truly desire to help and care for those with needs.
- ✦ Great meals provided after surgery.
- ✦ The joy of children/grandchildren.
- ✦ Elderly (more seasoned) folks to learn from.

**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

From the Trustees:



Once again, the Trustees facilitated the spring workday. Having our members assist in cleaning and repairing our property was a great blessing to the trustees.

This fall the Trustees will paint our sign alongside Denver Ave. and have new graphics applied. We will also have new graphics applied to the sign on the west side of the church near the mailbox.

We continue to have members volunteer to maintain our property serving by taking care of our flower beds, spray weeds, maintain our swamp coolers, mow the lawn and in many other ways.

- Doug Haiar



We are collecting clothing for Harbor Light in Denver!

- ✦ Men's shirts (T-shirts, polos, and button-downs)
- ✦ Jeans and pants
- ✦ Jackets and coats
- ✦ Hoodies and sweatshirts
- ✦ Shoes and boots
- ✦ Belts
- ✦ Dress clothes for job interviews
- ✦ Work boots and workwear
- ✦ Hats, gloves, and other seasonal clothing



DONATION GUIDELINES

- ✦ Please donate clean, gently used, or new items that are free of stains, tears, and excessive wear.
- ✦ New socks and underwear are especially appreciated.

Collection boxes are under the Narthex table. See Cathy Newell with questions.

Board of Education REPORT

The Board of Education

It's back to school time!

We pray that all the students and staff have had a good start to the new school year! It is time to resume Sunday School!

Please mark your calendars for Rally Day Sunday, September 13th! The Board of

Education needs your help in presenting an action-packed melodrama! Please bring yourselves and any school aged children. Regular Sunday School will resume the following week on September 20th for grades Pre-K through 12th. We can't wait to see all our students!

RALLY DAY
Melodrama
10:45 am



The youth will be selling calendars again this year. The cost will be \$8. Watch for them at the Craft Bazaar in October and for the remainder of the year until they are gone. Last year they went fast! The Boards of Ed and Youth are also planning some fun events to invite friends to in the 4th quarter. Watch for more info on a "Paint and Praise" session in November (there will be a small fee for this event) and a fun Advent event in December.

- Corinne Gabel

Please remember that we cannot be a Youth Group without YOU!

All school age kids are welcome:

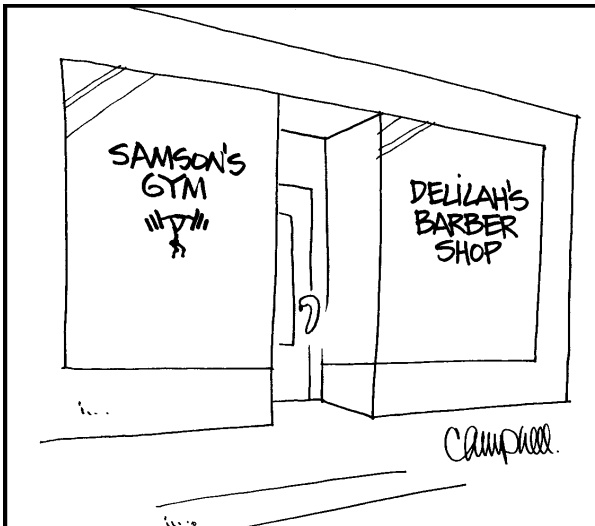


Currently we have at least 12 kids in Middle and High School that need both leadership and guidance. What are we doing to encourage them to continue coming to church? Unfortunately, **we need Adults** to plan everything. Presently there are only 2 Youth Board members (one—a parent of 2). Please prayerfully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



The LORD
lifts up
those who are
bowed down:
the LORD
loves
the righteous.

Psalms 146:3





There are several idioms about seeing things clearly after the fact: “hindsight

is 20/20” and “Monday morning quarterback,” for example. It can be easy to get caught up in the evidence once the cards are on the table and, if things go poorly, get trapped in overanalyzing things and worrying about all the “what ifs.” Certainly, in most situations, there are lessons to be learned, but there are few instances that can be changed once the outcome has been realized.

It can be easy to hang on to and reminisce about the past. It can be comfortable and easy to get into routines and just go with the flow. In some instances, this can increase productivity, reliability, and efficiency. In others, however, it can become a well-dug rut that is not as beneficial; the longer it is stuck to, the more difficult it is to get out of. Each situation is unique and needs to be looked at on its own.

There are certain times when what was always done in the past may not be the best way to continue moving forward. It’s easy to complain and gripe about the technological advances that we don’t like, value, or even understand. It is also easy to overlook all the ones that we take for granted and don’t think about the improvements that they have made to our lives.

It’s also important to recognize what can be changed and improved upon and what is perfect just as it is, without any changes

needed. The Jewish leaders at the time of Jesus were living and continuing their traditions that had been inappropriately instituted and passed down through many generations. They had changed and were not following the God-given Law of Moses as it was intended. Jesus proclaimed the truth and was rejected by many, but thankfully His truth has survived and we now have it to know and share with those who don’t. While not the same, Martin Luther also dealt with those who were falling away from the one perfect truth that has been revealed to us in Holy Scripture. Thankfully again, his conviction and work has been fruitful in

spreading and sharing the Word of God.

The school buses return to their routes, and the crisp and cool of the nights arrive soon. The store shelves and commercials change their look and approach as the seasons begin their change from summer to fall.

Similarly to hanging onto the

past, it’s also easy to overlook what you’ve got until it’s gone. It won’t be long until the roads are frozen and our breath will billow out from our mouths, when many people will be longing for a 90° day. Thankfully for us, we have the most solid, constant, and consistent joy and hope that we could ever need. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8). I hope that you can remain open and willing to learn and try new things and ideas while still remaining strong in the foundation and truth of the faith that you have been so graciously given.

- Nathan Deepe, Elder



***JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY
AND FOREVER.***

HEBREWS 13:8





Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #3: Boards of Elders &
Stewardship



Our Target: **Every member of Mt. Calvary is participating in the ministry of Mt. Calvary.**

The Elders and Board of Stewardship have been working on our Communication Guidebook. We know that there is no silver bullet answer to get involvement and participation in your activities but if “location, location, location!” is a main point for real estate then we believe proper communication is a foundational aspect of involvement. We have learned that there is no single method of communication that will reach and impact all possible participants. We have tried to compile a list of the various options and their implementation to cover as many bases as possible. We plan to present this document at the next Administration Meeting to the current board chairs. We are also currently monitoring the digital message board by the library. A big thank you to Tracy for developing and preparing the weekly slides. If you have information that you'd like to share there, please let us know. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please let any of the Target 3 members know.

We will next be reaching out to the board members, primarily chairs, to discuss the status of their expected staffing and vacancies within their board as we approach the elections for the upcoming year. We would like to help the boards think about possible additions to their roster as well as delegating tasks to other members that are not a part of their board. We look forward to the upcoming and ongoing collaboration and growing together, all as members and indispensable individuals of Christ's church.

Board of Human Care

We still need someone to send get well cards and sympathy cards only. We have a box of cards and stamps that we would give you. 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 let us know if you are willing to help.

Thank you and best regards,

Board of Human Care - Cathy Newell, Jan Hagan, Christina Kraemer

Board of Spiritual Outreach

The Board of Spiritual Outreach continues to collect medicine bottle caps, Longmont Dairy caps and we are now collecting stretchable plastics. The rule of thumb is that the plastic must stretch and not break.



We sincerely appreciate your support.

We will be meeting soon to plan our goal for the fourth quarter. One idea is to sponsor a free meal and invite the community to join us. We will discuss the potential dates, menu and community outreach.

We pray that each of you will take opportunities to reach out to friends or others you meet to witness the love of Jesus. Together we can make a difference!

In Christ's service,
Mary Ann Merritt