

Let's talk Politics! I know what you're thinking, "You can't do that Pastor Besel. This is the church." Well, you're only half right...ish! It is true that, in order for the church not to jeopardize our tax exempt status, we are not allowed to make any public endorsements of individual candidates that are running for office. But beyond that, churches and those speaking for any church do have the freedom to speak about "issues" such as constitutional amendments or propositions.

Historically, we Missouri Synod Lutherans have chosen to remain very selective about those political issues that we speak out on and/or take a stance. And the reason for that is just as you were thinking earlier, "we are the church."

This means our first and greatest priority must always be the proclamation of salvation in and through Jesus Christ alone; serving all people with His love and seeking to reconcile sinners back together with God through Jesus and His truth. This means there are two opposite dangers that must be avoided: 1) unqualified political activism where the church becomes preoccupied with political matters, and 2) unqualified quietism in which the church avoids all political matters as if our faith has no application at all to our lives in society.

To strike a godly balance between these two extremes we Christians need to properly understand that, until the time of our death or the Day of Christ's return, we all hold a dual citizenship. First and foremost, we are citizens of God's heavenly kingdom. Paul says in Philippians 3:20, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Secondly though, we also reside and actively participate here in this earthly kingdom as well. After all, this is where we work, go to school, have family and friends, get married, own homes, vehicles and more. Fortunately, the Bible speaks much about what it means for us to be good citizens in both of these kingdoms simultaneously.

To do so though, involves "politics", which literally comes from the Greek root word "*politikos*" (πολιτικός)

meaning "citizenship". So, if you want to think or say that you "don't want to get involved in politics", then you are actually saying that you don't want to be a "citizen," either in the kingdom of heaven or in the kingdom of earth. I do, however, understand the temptation among so many today who want to just "check out" and remain uninvolved. It is a great challenge today; trying to live and interact with others in a country that has become so divided with such significant political tension on all sides.

And it has even become a greater challenge to figure out how to relate with many of our fellow Christians with whom we have worshiped, served and even "potlucked" together; especially when we disagree politically. Yet, precisely because we are Christians, doing so is not only necessary, it very possible for us to respond faithfully and charitably when we understand properly the two-kingdom framework, because it helps to keep us from defaulting to either extreme of activism or quietism.



A major key in this is never forgetting that the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the absolute truth of God's Word is the ultimate purpose for which we "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). The civil government and political activity within it, while still very much a good gift of God, is and must always remain secondary to God's heavenly kingdom work. God intends that we have a responsibility and we live actively in both kingdoms but whenever earthly laws or demands directly contradict or undermine God's laws and commands, "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

That verse though must never be used as an easy "out" or excuse not to be involved in our local, state or federal government and politics. We should, in fact, be prepared to speak and act politically even when the civil government is being governed by sinful human beings, some of whom may even seek to persecute Christians and the church! Perhaps it is even more important that we do so as Christians when this is the case, so that God's principles of justice, care for

others, and truth can be brought to bear on the matters that impact our daily lives in this world where we have been placed to serve as His people.

In fact, there are times when, for the sake of its God-given mission and responsibilities, the church (and individual Christians) must speak regarding some particular social or political issue being debated in the civil realm. This is when we are blessed to interact with fellow believers, so that together, asking for the Spirit's discernment, we can understand the risks associated with 1) not speaking as well as the risks and dangers 2) of speaking (or acting) on public issues.

For this to happen though, it means that we need to acknowledge the reality that one person's political motivations for settling (or voting) on a particular position can differ – even when we have the same confession of faith. I don't know how many times I've heard believers say, "I don't know how you can be a Christian and vote for/against that issue." Or "How could he/she support that candidate and still be a Christian?" Well, the only way to find an honest and helpful answer to those question is to first of all treat each other as the Christ-followers that we are, and lovingly, respectfully ask questions and then listen to each other.

Paul gives us good counsel in Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of

you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Doing so, even as you converse about highly contested issues, both you and the other believer you are talking with will gain a better understanding of "why" you disagree; or maybe even how much you actually do agree with one another.

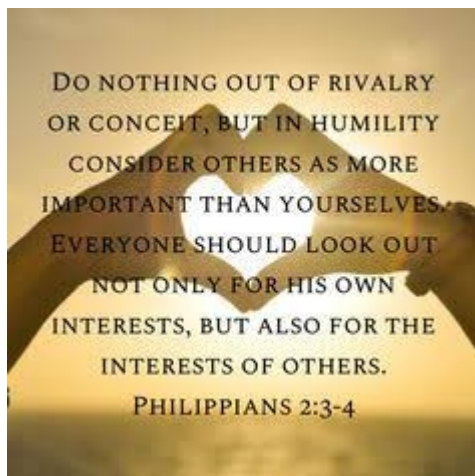
In all of this, if we keep our focus on Christ Jesus, who "humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" we will together be able

to "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil.2:8, 11).

So, let's talk politics together as Christians. Let us all be diligent in our responsibilities as dual citizens here in the earthly kingdom where God has placed us and forever in the heavenly kingdom as Christ's beloved and humble people.

Your fellow citizen of heaven and earth,

Pastor Keith Beed



The Board of Education

Fall greetings from the Board of Education!

We kicked off the Sunday School year with a melodrama about Samson. It was fun, entertaining and educational. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the actors and participants!

With that being said, Sunday school is in full swing for children ages 3 years through high school. Feel free to invite neighbors, friends, grandchildren to come learn about Jesus!

The Board of Ed and Board of Youth will be sponsoring a "Paint and Praise" session on November 14th at 2:00pm. We will do a Bible study and then create a masterpiece! Come out and make a Christmas gift for someone or a new decoration for yourself! Watch for a sign-up sheet that will have 3 project options to vote on. There will be a cost for the event which includes all the supplies, but it depends on the project we choose. However, the pricing appears to be between \$15 and \$30 total, per person. Watch for more info on a fun Advent Craft Night & Cookie Exchange event in December, as well.

The youth are 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!

- Corinne Gabel





CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ A Pastor who works hard to make sure his preaching and teaching is true to God's Word above all else.
- ✦ For cool weather that leads to beautiful fall colors.
- ✦ Advances in technology that we often take for granted.
- ✦ A brand new boiler/water heater and the generous donation of time and manpower by Tracy Malwitz and his employer.
- ✦ God's undeserved gift of inspiration, guidance, stamina, and countless beautiful saints throughout 30 years of serving as a pastor in Christ's Church.
- ✦ Smiles, hugs, handshakes, laughter, excitement, and REST!

**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

Our Fall Craft Bazaar, Chili Lunch and Bake Sale will be on October 17th, from 9-3pm! We still need volunteers to bake items for the Bake Sale, cashiers for the lunch, and people to help at both areas, as well as helpers to put out the signs the night before and, at the end, to reset the room for the next day. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Most of all, we need help advertising! Please like and share the event on Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram, Craig's List and tell everyone you know!! Flyers are available too. All Funds raised by the Bake sale, lunch, and the table fees will go to the church general fund.

If you have questions, please see Tracy T.



**Reformation
Potluck**



**Oktoberfest/
Reformation
Potluck**

Sunday, November 1st

Bring a favorite dish: German food or whatever...homemade or store bought.

To prevent an overabundance of cabbage or sauerkraut, please let us know what you are bringing on the signup sheet that is available on the bulletin board.



Happy Pastor
Appreciation
month!

Cards are
available in the
LWML card
display.



Mt. Calvary
Lutheran
Church

Cash preferred

Presents:

**Craft Bazaar,
Lunch, &
Bake Sale**
Oct. 17, 9-3pm

650 S. Park Ave.
Ft. Lupton, CO.
303-857-6827



The ONLY contact is Tracy T. by phone.



The Lost Sheep



On September 6th, our Gospel Reading was Matthew 18:1-20. Most of us are familiar with the story told by Jesus. The following is a summary:

There were 100 sheep, but one went missing. The shepherd left the flock to go find the one sheep. Though He still had His 99, He rejoiced at finding that one sheep.

I lately had my own experience that reminded me of this. Many of you know that I crochet animals. I generally have a different crochet bag for each animal and will often bring one to work on choir days or to someone's house to work on. I especially carry around the bags when I have a show coming up, such as the church Craft bazaar in October. So, recently, I was carrying around a bag with the various makings for sheep, including one completed sheep for reference. Unfortunately, somewhere between the house and a few car rides, I lost that sheep! I have looked everywhere! It's amazing the scenarios we can come up with when we are looking for something that is lost. Did it fall out of the bag and roll somewhere out of reach? Did it fall out of the car? In a rare moment of clarity, I can visualize putting it in the bag, so for once; I do not doubt that it made it in the bag. Even so, I did check the shelf where it was previously sitting. I am hoping I will eventually find it or maybe, out of frustration, I will quit looking and forget about it, and make a new one. But what happened to the lost sheep? I know someone didn't steal it. I did something that made it go missing. I lost it.

God didn't do anything to cause the "one" to go missing. Yet, rather than become frustrated and "stop looking", God continues to look for "the lost". Of course the Bible story is not about stuffed toys, but people. Jesus told us this story to emphasize the importance of each and every one of us to God. When one of our fellow Christians "strays" from the faith, God doesn't just say, "oh well, I'll make a new one!" He "looks" for them! He "rejoices" when they are "found"! We should take His example and try to restore "the lost"; the daughter or brother or best friend, etc., who we feel has strayed or is on the verge of straying from God. We should not just write them off like me with my lost sheep. God could have done that to all of us, but instead He sent Jesus to save us from our sins and welcomed us into His flock of believers in Christ. He did not give up on us and neither should we give up on trying to bring those who have strayed back into the flock.

Our Good Shepherd loves and cares for everyone and yearns to have His flock complete; for everyone to know and love Him. So, also, we can do our part in speaking to and praying for the "lost" to help restore their faith and return them to the flock.

...And, if in the process you find a stray crocheted sheep, please return him to my flock!

Go to mtcalvaryluth.org and click on 9/6/2026 to hear Pastor's sermon on this text.

Your fellow friend in the "flock",

Tracy Tiscareño

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. How many do you see at church regularly? What are we doing to encourage them to continue coming? **We need Adults** to plan youth activities. Presently there are only 2 Youth Board members (one—a parent of 2). **Please prayerfully consider joining the Youth Board in planning activities, meetings, and the National Youth Gathering!**





Making Room to Serve

As we enter the fall season and begin looking toward the end of another

year, it is a good time to pause and look back. The calendar seems to move faster every year and before long the holidays will be here and another year will be behind us.

It is also a good time to think about where our time has gone. What has received most of our attention this past year? How much time have we given to work, hobbies, entertainment, sports, household projects, and the many other “important” things that fill our calendars? None of these things are necessarily wrong, because God gives us many good things to enjoy and responsibilities that deserve our attention. But it is worth asking whether we have made room for the things that matter most. Our faith should not be something we fit into whatever time happens to be left over. Jesus tells us:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
Matthew 6:33, ESV

Part of seeking God's kingdom is serving others through the church He has given us. Our congregation depends on people who are willing to serve on boards and groups that care for our fellow members, maintain our property, coordinate various activities, and take care of the many responsibilities that allow our congregation to carry out our mission to *Share God's Word and Serve All*. These jobs may not always seem important, but they are ways we serve one another and support the work God has given *His Church*.

It can be easy to think, “Someone else will do it,” or maybe, “There are already enough people,” or “I am too busy right now and will serve another year.” But when enough people think that way, positions remain open and those who do volunteer may end up taking on several responsibilities simply because there is no one else to fill them. Peter gives us a different perspective:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”
1 Peter 4:10, ESV

God has given each of us different gifts and

abilities. We are not all called to serve in the same way, and serving does not mean we have to say yes to everything, but we should consider

where we can use what God has given us to serve our congregation and our fellow Christians. Serving the church is not about earning God's favor; we have already been given His favor through Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace through faith, not by how many church activities we participate in, but our Christian service is our response to what God has already done for us. Paul reminds us:

“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

“Have we made room for the things that matter most?”

Making Room to Serve



With nominations for next year's boards and groups beginning soon, now is a good time to prayerfully consider where you might serve. Take a look at the different opportunities available. Think about your interests, your abilities, and where you might be

able to help. If there is a board or group that interests you, talk to a current board member or one of the church leaders to learn more. You do not need to wait for someone to ask, your willingness to step forward may allow someone who is already serving in several places to focus on one responsibility, or it may simply fill a need that otherwise would go unmet.

We should not assume that someone else will always step forward. As we consider the year ahead, I pray that we all make room for the things that really matter. The new season gives us an opportunity to reconsider our priorities. Among all the things competing for our time and attention, may we remember that our faith is not something to set aside when life gets busy. God has given each of us a place in His Church and opportunities to serve one another.

As nominations near, prayerfully consider where you might serve in the coming year, and let a current board member or church leader know where you would be interested in helping.

In His service,

Scott Heusinkveld



Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #4: Board of Human Care



Our Target: **Mount Calvary's members care for one another.**

We are still looking for someone willing to fill and send out cards for sympathy and "Thinking of you" to congregation members. We have someone who stepped up for **after** January, so we only need someone from now through January and maybe to be on a rotation, so not one person has to do this. We have the cards and the stamps to use. You can do this from the comfort of your own home. It's a great way to serve and care for our church family. Think about whether this is a good fit for you and let us know!

This fall, as in past years, we will be running the Bake sale alongside the Fall Craft Bazaar. We are looking for donations of baked goods and people to man the table. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board just outside the sanctuary with all the details.

We still have the freezer for food for those in need. Let us know of anyone who may be in need of this. Take a look at the boards across from the kitchen to see who your neighbor is and to see if you can help or get help with any needs.

Many thanks to all who have donated men's clothing for Harbor Light. They have been very much appreciated already. We will continue to have a box out to receive these donations. We are collecting clothing, shoes, jackets, new underwear and T-shirts, hats, belts, etc. The complete list will be on a flyer on the bulletin board. Again, the clothing items are for those who are getting back on their feet and need nicer clothing for interviews and appropriate workwear for their various jobs.



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..." 1 Corinthians 12:25b



Did you know when you recycle ink cartridges and/or make a purchase using our Program ID 20887 at www.planetgreenrecycle.com you are directly supporting our fundraising goals? You can encourage family members and others to use our program ID and together, we can raise funds while helping our planet. We get a check everytime we mail in a box of used ink cartridges and when someone orders ink. There is a collection box on the table near the restrooms.

Board of Spiritual Outreach

The Board of Spiritual Outreach is planning to hold an evening meal that is open to the public. We plan to have our "Neighborhood Supper" on November 13th starting at 5:30 pm. The menu includes soup, chili, and other things. We will be placing flyers in various locations inviting people to join us for a free meal. The quilting ladies have graciously donated five quilts to give away. More details will be shared as plans are being made.



We will also continue to collect medicine bottle caps, Longmont Dairy caps and now we collect stretchable plastics. The rule of thumb is the plastic will stretch but not break.

We appreciate your support.

In Christ's service,

Judy Kimball