Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Ft. Lupton, Colorado

News From The Mount

Sharing God's Word! Serving All!

November 2026

"Though hordes of devils fill the land; all threat'ning to devour us" (LSB #657, v.3). We Lutherans, and a majority of the Christian Church, have sung those words ever since Martin Luther put them in his Reformation Hymn (*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*) in the mid-1500s. But, do we <u>really</u> believe that what he wrote is true? In Luther's day, the spiritual forces of Satan in our world – and especially in each of our individual lives – was taken much more seriously than we seem to take them today.

Now so many people actually seek out and crave the opportunity to watch Hollywood's depictions of ghosts, demon-possession and horrifying events in what many folks say is their favorite genre of "entertainment": *Horror/Scary Movies* and shows. For some, these have even become a comical or exhilarating attraction; to see ourselves and/or others scream in fright. And of course we have what countless people have told me is their "favorite" holiday – *Halloween* (and its closely related *Day of the Dead* celebrations); where we pay obscene amounts of money to celebrate death and "satanic arts" (see Deut. 18:10-12); even going to haunted houses/corn mazes; dressing up like witches, devils, and ghoulish creatures; and decorating our houses, lawns, and clothes with skeletons, skulls, grim reapers, tombstones, etc.



For years, I have been gently "corrected" by folks for "making a big deal out of nothing" when it comes to these matters. But honestly, I cannot be convinced that this stuff is "nothing." If it were, then we wouldn't have God's many warnings and clear statements in Scripture against the evil forces of the devil; the utter destruction of death and our constant battle as we "wrestle…against the cosmic powers over this present darkness; against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12).

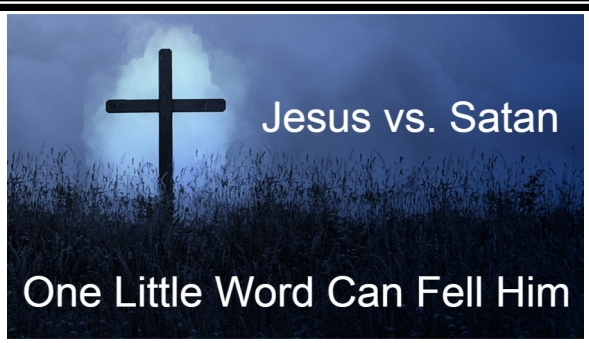
A question that recently came to my attention is this: "Why are we allowing all of these ghoulish, Halloween, and death-focused activities and decorations to be the devil's voice in and around us?" And when those around us are reveling in all of this, "Why are we listening to this extension of Satan and his power?" I've heard some say they allow it "for the sake of the children"; because "they enjoy dressing up in costumes,". (See the P.S. at the end of the article.) But is this what is really best for our children to be hearing, celebrating and learning? I ask these questions, because as Christians, you and I <u>should</u> be listening to God above any, and all, other voices, shouldn't we?

In fact, Jesus gives us a very clear model and instruction for how the devil and his evil powers and influence are to be handled. In Mark 1:23ff Jesus exorcises a "man with an unclean spirit" (demon) with these words: "<u>Be silent</u> and come out of him!" Then in Mark 1:34, it says that Jesus "…cast out many demons. And He <u>would not permit the demons to speak</u>...." Clearly, our Lord considers the activities and voices of the devil and his demonic helpers to be 1) very real, 2) very dangerous 3) entities that He does not want any of us to be listening to, celebrating or embracing in any way.

Why? It goes to the greatest and First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods" and God's summary of Commandments 1-3: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mk. 12:30). It's all a matter of this, "Who/what is truly my first love?" If it is God, then should *Halloween* or *Day of the Dead* be a holiday that I embrace or condone? Death itself is the result of our sin and disobedience to God (Rom. 6:23). Jesus even "wept" at Lazarus' grave because He saw the great pain, suffering and sorrow that death brings to His people, even when He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from death in a matter of moments.

In fact, Jesus so despised the harm and destruction that sin, death and the devil wreaked upon all of mankind, that He suffered and sacrificed Himself on the cross to silence and overcome all forces of evil. St. Paul describes this evil-cleansing work of Jesus, saying that God "has delivered us from the domain of

darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13).



And yes, there is a god-pleasing holiday that celebrates Jesus' victory over death, devil and all evil. In fact, it comes each year on the very same day that our modern world embraces all of these evil voices on Halloween. It is *Reformation Day*, every year on October 31st, when Martin Luther publically sought to call Christ's Church away from the corrupting and spiritually harmful voices that were drawing the people's attention away from Jesus' saving work toward the devil's deceptive lies of salvation through man's works instead.

Yet, as Luther guides us to sing God's truth in *A Mighty Fortress*, even with "*hordes of devils… threat'ning to devour us, We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpow'r us."* The devil's "*might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word* (Jesus) *subdues him"* (LSB #657, v.3).

That's the voice, the message, and the name that I will always choose to follow, celebrate, and proclaim as long and as often as God will allow me. It is the voice of Christ ringing loudly and proudly from the mouths, and in the lives, of His redeemed and beloved people in His Church.

May He keep us ever faithful to His truth,

Pastor Keith Beed

P.S. – Let your kids have the joy of dressing up all year round; doing so, as god-pleasing characters; with god-pleasing messages. Teach them the differences between Halloween and Reformation Day, guiding them to think of Bible stories/characters that might make fun costumes.



The Board of Education

In the month of November, we typically give thanks as we celebrate Thanksgiving. This November, let us give thanks with a grateful heart for what the Lord has done for us in the gift of Jesus! The Board of Education is grateful for the wonderful teachers who teach our children in Sunday School and for the students who show up to learn each week. Thank you!

Join us for "Praise and Paint" on **November 14th at 2:00pm.**

No artistic talent is required! Come with an open mind and willingness to learn and have fun! Fee includes all supplies!



There are three different price point options:

1. Canvas nativity 8x10 Canvas print **$15**
2. Canvas nativity 11x14 Canvas print **$20**
3. Pallet wood leaner **$25** with the option of saying "Joy to the World", "Let it Snow", or "Merry Christmas"

Please invite friends! But make sure to sign up **by Nov. 8th** so our organizer has things prepped and enough materials for each painter. We will have a devotion and light refreshments as well.

Come join us for fun learning and creating!

Watch for more info on a fun Advent Craft Night & Cookie Exchange event in December, as well.

- Corinne Gabel











CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- All the beautiful fall colors.
- The talented members of our church.
- Tracy and everyone who helped with the craft show. It was a fabulous event!
- A wonderful church family who love me and all who walk through our doors. I haven't found this to be the norm at any other church.
- A Pastor who cares so deeply for his flock and is God Action oriented.
- God's gift of family: both biological and spiritual families.
- All those among us with servant-hearts.
- The healing that only God can work within us: physical and spiritual.

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!





The Youth are selling calendars again this year. The cost is **$8.** Last year they went fast! See Tracy T. or a youth to purchase.

Also, the Board of Human Care and LWML have Christian greeting cards, from the same company, available **12 cards for $6.** See MaryAnn Merritt or Elizabeth Dreher.



As our church Thanksgiving Dinner, we will have a "Thanksgiving **Potluck** and New Member Welcome" on **November 29th**, after Bible Study. Plan to stay and get to know our new members as well as enjoy our potluck!





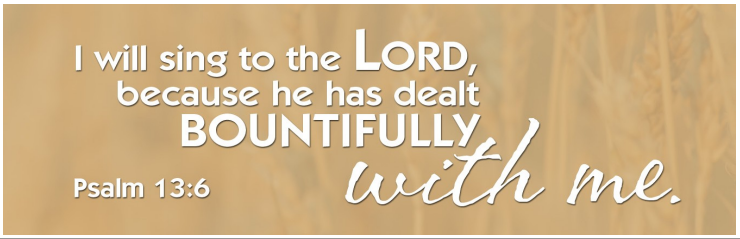
I am so thankful for everyone who helped out with the **Craft Bazaar, Chili Lunch and Bake Sale!** We raised over $1200 for the church general fund! What a remarkable way to witness to, and to serve, both our church and our community. Three local Firefighters joined us for a total of 43 for lunch! We had a "church" table and some people even took information about our church. Corinne G. and Cathy N., worked hard on planning and making the chili lunch and Christina K., and Jan H. ran the Bake Sale. MaryAnn M. and Jennifer M. were at the cashier table all day! Many and various baked goods appeared donated by various members, for which we were very grateful. Several helpers were there to fill various roles as servers, manual labor etc., including Kathy H., Joann D. and more. Mary Ann M., Nona S., and Marco T. helped with signs. Rafi T. helped with setup, signs, and by making notepads from the unused bulletins to give away. Several others helped with advertising. And a BIG thank you to those who came out and shopped! Our crafters were all quite satisfied with our turnout. Leftover chili will be served for one of the Advent Dinners. Plans are already in the making for next year! – Tracy T.



Every year as we approach Thanksgiving, we all start realizing that we should be giving thanks to God for many things. What are we waiting for? Why are so many of us not better about being thankful every day? None of you will be surprised that I know a song that will help us remember to be grateful to God. Although it is not in our hymnal, I believe that "For the Beauty of the Earth" is a great hymn to help us do just that. Even if you don't sing, you can recognize the gratitude. The following is an interesting history of the author and song followed by the lyrics. –Tracy Tiscareño



In 1863, Folliott S. Pierpoint (b. Bath, Somerset, England, October 7th, 1835; d. Newport, Monmouthshire, England, 1917) was wandering through the English countryside around the winding Avon River. As he looked on the peaceful beauty surrounding him, he was inspired to reflect on God's gifts to his people in creation and in the church. Above all, Pierpoint thought of the sacrifice of Christ, in the greatest of sacrifices, that of his life in return for ours. He thus originally wrote the text of "For the Beauty of the Earth" as a hymn for the Lord's Supper. The original chorus read, "Christ, our God, to thee we raise this, our sacrifice of praise." The hymn was meant not only as a song of thanksgiving, but as the only thing we could give Christ in return for his mercy and love: a hymn of praise laid upon the altar as a sacrifice. Editors have since altered the refrain so it has become a more generic hymn of thanksgiving, but as it stands, it takes on a deeper meaning when understood as something we not only sing, but offer up to God.
https://hymnary.org/text/for_the_beauty_of_the_earth



1.For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

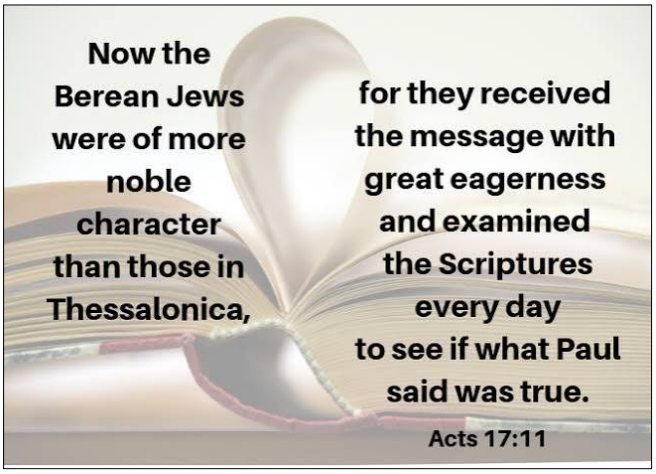
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

5. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Thoughts from your Elder

Greetings, since I can't preach like Paul, I will leave it there. When contemplating the message for this newsletter that I truly desire to convey, I was met with the ever-present challenge of how. How to choose the proper scripture passages to show the readers where my mind was meeting my heart and sharing that pointedly for the message. I've come down to Acts 17. For some, you already know, and are pulling out your Bibles. Which is exactly what my intent is. Mission accomplished? Hardly! We, in today's age of instant gratification, are too readily accepting the first thing we hear or see on the tube, radio, screen, from an acquaintance, pastor, friend, family, or the like. What I'm saying is "just don't take my word for it," LOOK IT UP for yourselves, like the Bereans. They didn't just "check to see" if what was being said was accurate, they dug deep to make sure, rigorously testing every claim against Scripture as the final authority. This goes for any form of information being provided now. In these days of "artificial" intelligence, we must provide due diligence to all the chatter we are being pummeled with. I never believed a weather forecaster until I had to shovel or at least had a look outside. Why should we take for Gospel what is being proclaimed from "the world"? Well, we shouldn't my good people. We can grant someone the benefit of the doubt, but then do a little reflection, research, prayer, and when possible, share what you've found in a loving, and positive manner with the entity that you gave this benefit to. Still struggling? Yeah, me too. Fortunately, we have the ultimate authority on our side. Working on our behalf is the Holy Spirit. When we take into consideration how the Thessalonians responded to Paul's teaching in Acts 17 and compare that to what is going on in the world today, we must follow our faith and dig to the bottom for the truth. Being a true Berean means using Biblical discernment to separate truth from error, fact from fiction, reality from false truths, leading a believer to a faith-based reasoning rather than unthinking acceptance or stubborn skepticism in what the world or your opinion or emotions would have you believe, or think. And then, share what is true, withhold from gossip, having like minds and not shying away from boldly proclaiming Christ IS KING! Paul was able to reason with the non-believers in Athens that the idol they called "an unknown god" Paul knew and was able to make known to them. (see Acts 17:23-34) How about that for reality? The world is still trying to convince itself that it is all in all when we of faith in the one true God know better. We must not fear offending people with our faith. We must do as we've been commanded to do. Stand firm. Luke 12:53 and Matthew 10:35 both tell us the facts. God's word of truth will cause division, because even when we lovingly speak it out loud; seeking to bear each other up, the fruit of the Word will still be rejected by many. Even having been rejected, we must never give up or be deceived by the rulers of this world. For we are in a battle with them, and we fear not for Christ our God has overcome them. But don't just take my word for it please, don't do it. Look it up for yourselves.



May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Mark O. Pilson

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #5: Board of Spiritual Outreach

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

The Board of Spiritual Outreach is collecting boxes of stuffing mix to be donated to the Methodist church. The Methodist church will use these boxes in Thanksgiving boxes to be given to those people in the community that need the help. Our goal is 100 boxes, and all donations are due by November 16th.

We had planned on hosting a Harvest Supper this month, but we were unable to make that happen. Instead, we will be sponsoring a church supper, possibly in January, and all people in the community will be invited to attend.

We continue to collect Longmont Dairy milk caps for donation to Butler Elementary School, as well as medicine bottle caps for Miracle House.

This summer, the Board of Spiritual Outreach helped in the booth at the 4th of July event in Ft. Lupton. We also had a booth at National Night Out, in August.



Board of Spiritual Outreach

Hello dear friends,

The Board of Spiritual Outreach is grateful for all the medicine bottle caps, milk bottle caps and plastic that you have collected and donated. Please check all plastics for stretchability. I'm amazed at the plastics that I have discovered can be recycled. We are hoping to collect 250 pounds by the end of December so the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) will have another park bench donated by the TREX company in honor of a veteran. It takes a LOT of plastic to make that amount. Keep up the good work in support of our outreach projects.

As stated above, the Methodist church is again sponsoring Thanksgiving food boxes and has asked us to provide 100 boxes of stuffing mix. Walmart has them for $0.97 each and Judy found them in bulk at Sam's Club. We will need to have them by **November 16th.** Please help us provide these to give families a tasty, nutritious meal.

In the joy and love of Jesus,

Mary Ann Merritt





Is it really time to think about poinsettias?

Absolutely! Again this year, we ask you to purchase a poinsettia, or two, from any retailer and bring it in to the church and leave it until after the Christmas Day service. We will have labels to put on your plant in case you would like to have it after the Christmas services. You have the option to spend as little or as much as you like—it's totally in your control. The only stipulation is that they should be **red** or **white** and need to be **at the church by December 19th** as that is the day the Altar Guild cleans and decorates the sanctuary for Christmas.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board to help you plan for making your purchase/s and for us to keep track of how many are coming in.

Thank you for your help in adding to the beautification and enhancement of our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

May God richly bless us all as we enter the Advent and Christmas season with our hearts focused on celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Respectfully, The Altar Guild