

**G**rief – our beloved body of Christ's believers here at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church has certainly been dealing with a number of very difficult situations lately – ongoing pain and suffering, extended illness, hard-to-understand circumstances, challenges with no obvious answers, and of course, the deaths of those within our congregation and among our loved ones. Yes, we have been, and still are, faced with a lot of grief.

I recently ran across an article in my files that I'd like to share with you this month. It was written by Pastor Erik Schmidt in 2016. He is an LCMS Pastor in Michigan, who, prior to the ministry, spent time as an instructor of philosophy and world religions. He and his wife Heidi, along with their two living children Ethan and Katy, have been learning to live as a family of four after their son and brother Daniel went home to be with the Lord at age six. Here is his article:

### *If You Are Grieving, Read This*

Grief makes no sense. I mean, of *course* grief makes *sense*, in that something so precious, so beautiful, something we just took for granted would always be there was ripped away from us.

We are not meant to be torn apart by sin, death, and the devil, but we are. We are not whole, so we grieve when we suffer genuine loss, because we become still less, with even less to hold onto in this fallen world. Another light goes out, and we are left in still more darkness; the world becomes a little less bright. So we cry, we rage, we hide, we shake, we avoid, we indulge, we run, we fight; we do whatever it takes to cope with this pain that is so impossible to cope with.

Therein lies the non-sense. Because we *can't* cope with it. We can't carry it. We can't live with it. Yet we can't escape from it. It rends us, pierces us, impales us, decapitates us. It rips our heart from our chest, tears out a chunk and then shoves that mortally wounded muscle back into our shattered rib cage.

Then we have to go on living, knowing we will never again be the same. We read books, we talk about it, we hear advice (we are *given* still more that we *don't* hear because we can't or won't). We face it head-on, we avoid it at all costs, but *none* of it helps. Not *really*, because the one thing we want, the one thing we *need*, the one thing we can't live without can never be again, at least not in this life.

So we go on. Our grief fades with time, but this is not the same as getting "easier" or "better." There is cruel irony in this, because the pain that makes it so hard to draw breath is the only real tie we have to what is lost. As that pain fades, so, it feels, does that tie—which is a betrayal beyond reason. Why should life get easier? Why should life go on? Why should I have to learn to live without what I have lost?

This makes no sense, is incomprehensible, inexplicable. Because grief is not objective or comparable, in any way. You cannot say one's loss is easier or harder, better or worse than someone else's, because you have *no* idea what they're going through. The flip side of this is that there is no one who can possibly understand what *you're* going through.

No one, save God. He *does* know, and because He defeated those great enemies of sin, death, and the devil, our grief will one day be over. Thus, we do not grieve as others who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13). I believe this, and yet...

Yet I still grieve. We still grieve. With heads bowed, we grieve. With cheeks dampened by tears, we grieve. With throats tight and chests crushed, we grieve. With silent pain and anguished groans, we grieve. With desperate screams and heavy brows, we grieve - yes, we grieve.



For my son, Daniel, I grieve. My joy, my heart, my passion still evade my grasp since he was taken from me, three years ago. Three years. The cruelty of the passage of time never ceases or eases. Three years makes me feel as though I have no right to hold onto my grief. Three years makes me feel as though I need to move on.

But three years without my son is impossibly cruel. He has been gone half as long as he was alive. While his brother and sister grow; while other families with three children continue to live on together; while other dads get to laugh and play and hug and teach their children... I grieve. Alone. And not alone. But also alone.

You, who grieve: you are not alone. You are, of course, alone. But also not alone. As I said, grief makes no sense. Thank God, then, that it will one day be wiped away. (<https://thefederalist.com/2016/09/30/if-you-are-grieving-read-this/>)

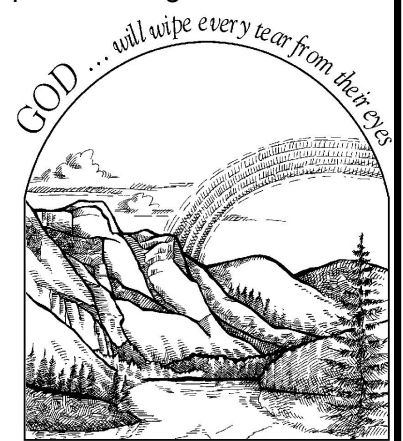
Isaiah 53:3 assures us that we are never alone in our grief, saying that Jesus, The Father's Suffering Servant, was Himself "despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." In fact, even as He stood at the sealed tomb of His friend Lazarus – knowing that He would raise him back to life in a matter of moments, we are told that Jesus "wept" (Jn. 11:35) in grief over the pain and anguish that sin and death brings to all of us here in this earthly life.

And that is why Jesus invites and urges us all in the middle of our grief and sorrow, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mat. 11:28-29). Yes, Jesus promises not only that He has conquered sin and death, so that we have the assurance of a perfect life where "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore" (Rev. 21:4), but we know that even while we grieve here on earth He is with us – in the middle of the tears and sorrow.

May His love and grace comfort you as only He can do today and always.

Serving as His servant,

*Pastor Keith Beed*



*There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.*

Revelation 21:4



## The Board of Spiritual Outreach

The Board of Spiritual Outreach has met and discussed some new ideas to meet our Target goal this year. We also welcomed a new member to the Board, Krystal DeGross.

We are still collecting medicine bottle caps to be used by 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

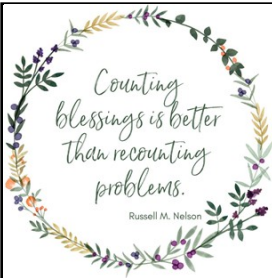
"Dales Pharmacy" on them or just generic/plain caps. There is a container on the table by the restrooms to collect the caps.



We continue to collect milk bottle caps from the Longmont Dairy for Butler Elementary. There is a box on the table by the restroom to place the milk caps in.

By, Judy Kimball, Board Chair

**At my lowest: God is my Hope.  
At my darkest: God is my Light.  
At my weakest: God is my Strength.  
At my saddest: God is my Comforter.  
No matter your circumstance,  
you can rest when you have God.  
If you have God, you have everything.**



## CELEBRATING OUR BLESSINGS!

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

- ✦ Modern weather forecasting.
- ✦ God keeps us safe from severe cold.
- ✦ A warm home, out of the cold and wind.
- ✦ That Gary and Larry have eternal life in heaven and we can look forward to seeing them again.
- ✦ That we have a congregation that supports each other in difficult times.
- ✦ The gift of God's unchanging truth in times of uncertainty.
- ✦ Loved ones and a unity of faith to share with them.
- ✦ We have dedicated Sunday School teachers willing to use their talents to help our students grow in their faith.
- ✦ Recent snows for well-needed moisture.
- ✦ For the Time, Talents and Treasures that God has given to us all. That we may use them to His Glory.
- ✦ The gift of laughter.
- ✦ After 13 years without seeing her, Joy René was shopping and bumped into her daughter! An amazing blessing! God is good!

*Count Your Blessings*



**New directories come out this month!** Make sure to re-check your information and let Tracy T. know if she missed something.

We are in need of 2 more ushers, Please prayerfully consider helping out and let Andrew Metzger know if you are interested.



**Ushers Needed**



A new Altar flower chart is posted! Sign up for one or 2 vases at \$25 each.

Instructions are on the chart.



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."



## Living as God's Redeemed *People With A Purpose*

### Consecration Sunday

**February 16th**

**9:00 am** – Bible Study / Sunday School

**10:30 am** – Worship with Holy Communion

**12:00 pm** – Celebration Luncheon ("catered")

Sealed Pledge Cards from last year are in your church mailbox. Pledge Cards for 2025 will be handed out at the Worship Service on February 16.

There will be a **bingo game** with **prizes** during the luncheon. You won't want to miss it!



Please remember that we cannot be a Youth Group without YOU!  
All school age kids are welcome!  
Confirmands this includes you!



Saturday, January 18, 2025 was the first leadership meeting for our 2025 ministry plan, "God's Vision – Our Future". I was so proud of Target 1 as all the members were at the Leadership Welcome. I was elected chairperson of the Youth Board and Tracy Tiscareño. was elected chairperson of the Education Board. We will be meeting again after church and Bible Study February 2<sup>nd</sup> to refine our goals and tasks for the year. Members on the Board of Youth are Bryan Herrera, Jessica Deepe, Landon Verbeek, and Nona Schaefer. Members on the Board of Education are Corinne Gabel and Tracy T.

The Youth Group voted to host a Sweetheart Dinner Fundraiser, Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the Church. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board with a limit of 21 couples (42 people). Tickets can be reserved at \$30 per couple or \$15 single. The menu is a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner with dessert and entertainment provided by our youth members. Proceeds will go towards the Youth Gathering costs.



Isaiah has placed a box by the grocery cart to collect any size jars of peanut or other butters i.e. almond, tahini, Nutella etc. for his 4-H club's theme of "Share the Love". He will be collecting these jars until February 14, 2025. Also, Xander is selling mattresses for a Mead Band fundraiser. If you need a new mattress, talk to Xander. February 8<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the mattress sale.



Isaiah's Northern Middle School Choir concert has been changed to Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 P.M. at Union Colony in Greeley. There is a \$10 ticket charge. Wyatt is performing in Valley High School's performance of "Little Women" March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. and Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

We are gearing up for the LCMS National Youth Gathering, "Endure", held in New Orleans July 19-23. Nathan Deepe and Pastor Besel are the adult leaders and youth members Isaiah Dux, Jacob Babcock, Owen Deepe, and Xander Herrera will be attending. The group will be leaving July 18<sup>th</sup> and returning July 24<sup>th</sup>. Our talented youth have been tasked with creating T-shirts to wear while traveling to and from the event highlighting Mt. Calvary and the theme "Endure" from Hebrews 12:1-3. The group will be holding special meetings preparing for the Gathering.

We wish God's blessings on all these events.

Count your blessings and say your prayers.  
Remember, there can be no Youth Group without YOU!

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

**YOUTH**  
Our next Meeting is:  
**February 23rd**  
After Sunday School



I would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who brings children and young people to Sunday School! Our teachers are volunteers and they make a commitment to these children to be here every week, to miss out on Adult Bible Study and to use their own time to plan for class. It feels very defeating when no one shows up. So again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to help these children and young people "grow in faith". - Tracy Tiscareño







## Embracing Our God-Given Talents for His Mission

Each of us is uniquely gifted by God with talents and abilities that are not for our own glory but are meant to be used in service to Him and others. It's easy to focus on the talents we have and compare ourselves to others, but we must remember that every talent, no matter how big or small, is a part of God's greater plan. As we enter into our annual *People With A Purpose* stewardship period, we are reminded that the gifts God has given us are meant to advance His mission and to serve His people.

Our mission is clear: *Sharing God's Word, Serving All*. This isn't just a slogan, but a call to action that requires each of us to actively participate. We are all a part of the body of Christ, and each person's contribution—whether it's a gift of leadership, teaching, hospitality, or any of our many opportunities for service—is essential to fulfilling God's mission for Mt Calvary. We are all called to be part of the mission, and it's our responsibility to use our unique abilities to support the work of the Kingdom.

But we must also remember what Martin Luther's said about our gifts:

**4292 Why God Grants Gifts** *You should know that it is a gift of God if your station is higher than that of others or if you excel others in some other respect. However, He has not endowed you with it to give you reason to put on airs because of it and act 'uppish' toward everybody as if you were better in the eyes of God than others because of your gift. On the contrary, God has commanded you humbly to serve your neighbor with your gift.*

This is a reminder that our talents are not for our personal pride or to elevate ourselves above others. God has gifted us not to boast or feel superior, but to serve. Each of us, no matter our place in society or the nature of our abilities, is called to serve with humility. Whether we have been given the ability to speak, to serve, or to lead, our responsibility is to use those gifts to build up others and glorify God. We should never hide our talents out of fear, nor should we wait for someone to ask us to use them. Instead, we should actively seek opportunities to serve, recognizing that every act of service is part of the greater mission of sharing God's love and truth.

In this stewardship season, let's commit ourselves to using our talents for His glory. We shouldn't wait for someone to ask us to step into action; the mission is already before us, and we are all called to participate. God's mission is not something that can be left to others—it's a collective effort, and every one of us has a part to play.

As we seek to serve with humility, let us look beyond ourselves and consider how we can use our gifts to bless others. Whether it's through small, everyday acts of kindness or large, impactful efforts to serve our community, every action counts. No gift is too small, and no contribution is insignificant. Together, using ALL of our talents, we can fulfill our mission to *Share God's Word and Serve All*.

-Scott Heusinkveld



**STEWARDSHIP**  
Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

"God, who gives us all without reluctance, is pleased when we give the same way.

In Christ, all our giving is pleasing because all our sins are forgiven.

The clincher: It's 'all grace,' which provides 'all sufficiency in all things at all times.' Why does God so bless? 'That you may abound in every good work.' You are blessed. The Lord has 'shoveled' His blessings on you." (2 Corinthians 9:6-9)

By Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod



## Mt. Calvary's Ministry Plan – Monthly Update

Target Group #2 is the Trustees.



Our Target: **We are good stewards of the property God has given us.**

God has blessed us, both with a facility and land that we are to use for the fulfillment of his mission for Mt. Calvary.

**Goal #1: Complete three improvements to the church campus to make it more inviting by the end of 2025.**

**Task #1** Inspect our sign and repair/replace needed items.

- ✦ We have inspected the sign the fluorescent light bulbs are all burnt out and we can no longer buy them so we are looking into changing them out to LED fixtures. Andrew has gotten a price on LED light fixtures to update the sign lighting. The Trustees are meeting February 9th to discuss this and the other tasks for Target #2.
- ✦ The sign needs to be painted in 2025

**Task #2** Evaluate our fellowship hall to determine what updates are needed and how to best use the space to make it as inviting, welcoming and usable as possible for guests and members.

- ✦ The trustees have met and discussed this task, but no ideas have been finalized.

**Goal #2: Form a master site plan draft by the end of 2024 to make use of all the land the Lord has given us.**

**Task #1** Meet as a board to discuss the east lot and poll the congregation to gather their ideas for the east lot. Talk to other churches to learn how they are using areas similar to our east lot.

- ✦ The trustees have discussed this goal, but no ideas have been finalized.



### Lutheran Women's Missionary League

*Mt. Zion Lutheran, Boulder  
Playground Renovation  
Grant amount: \$5,000*

- ✦ Update playground for preschool children
- ✦ Provide an inviting atmosphere to the people of Boulder  
*This preschool is a major outreach to the citizens of Boulder.*

Thank you for your mites!

