MT CALVARY CONNECTION

Visit our website: www.mtcalvarylutheranchurch.org
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JUNE 2023

GROWING UP
in the Word

OUT
with the Gospel

TOGETHER
in Christ

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There is a line in a devotional book I sometimes use that says, *"What I think I know keeps me from knowing what I cannot yet think."* It reminds me that my openness to new possibilities, my ability to imagine something different from what I currently see, is limited by what I think I know is true.

It is often true in our personal lives that we are trapped in sinful patterns of acting and speaking because we are first trapped by what we think we know is true. We think things like, *"That's just the way I am. I can't help it. I'll never change."* Such thoughts become powerful obstacles to repentance. Other times we may think we have sinned so badly that God could no longer love or forgive us. That thought is the root of horrible despair and hopelessness.

Congregations can become limited in what they attempt to accomplish in terms of outreach or service to those in need because they only see their present weaknesses, past failures, the limits of their resources—all the problems known too well. We cannot yet think of what God might do because of what *we think* we know.

It is both an encouragement and a challenge when God says to us in Isaiah 55:8-11, "'*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*'"

God thinks what we are incapable of thinking because He knows His own unlimited power and He knows the infinite depths and heights of His love for us. And so He does what we cannot in our weakness imagine; and then He reveals what He has done in His Word that accomplishes His purposes in our lives.

To the sinner who thinks he or she is beyond forgiveness, God gives the assurance of forgiveness in Christ. To the sinner who thinks that changing sinful patterns of life is impossible, God's call to repentance comes together with the power of the Holy Spirit Who actually works repentance, faith, and change in sinful hearts and minds. To congregations who limit themselves by what they think they know, God declares that His thoughts are not ours. He can accomplish infinitely more than we can ever ask or imagine.

Let us take comfort individually and together in these assurances from God as God breaks us out of what we think we know and sets us loose in the freedom of His power and grace!

In Christ,

Pastor Jim Price

FATHERS DAY CARDS

are now available for 75 cents on the Card Rack inside the Fellowship Hall.

COMMON GROUNDS

Women's Coffee Hour

Saturday, June 3,
8:00a.m.
Five Loaves Coffee Shop
Downtown St. George

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is for anyone interested in talking theology in a relaxed setting over a beverage of your choice. We have LCMS theologians from different parts of the Flint Hills covering a different topic every month.

Where: Rockin K's 1880 Kimball Ave in Manhattan
When: 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 7:30pm
Why: To talk theology!
Cost: At your own discretion.

CURRENT SCHEDULE

June 20: TBD
Topic: TBD

LWML
Lutheran Women *in Mission*

President: Melissa Gier
V.Pres: Carolyn Stutzman
Secretary: Roxie Peterson
Treasurer: Arlys Hartmann

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1—Student Financial Aid Application due
June 1st — 30th Meals on Wheels
June 4—Mite Box/Stamps for Missions Sunday
June 22-25 National LWML Convention, Milwaukee, WI

Serve the Lord with Gladness!
Psalm 100:2

LWML Annual SALAD SUPPER

The ladies of the LWML would like to invite all women in the congregation to our annual Salad Supper on **Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Judy Boye, from Flint Hills Lutherans for Life.

As a special gift to Judy, we will collect donations for Life Choice Ministry. The congregation is invited to participate with us; a collection box can be found in the narthex. Let's see how much we can bless Life Choice!

Items needed are:

- Printer paper
- Postage stamps
- NEW boys spring clothes (sizes NB, 12 mos, 2T)
- Gently used boys and girls clothes (sizes NB, 2T, 3T, 4T); should be next to new with no stains, holes, or nubby wear

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 18—22, 2023

Stellar—An out-of-this-world adventure!

At Stellar VBS, kids shine Jesus' light! Stellar is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Sciency-Fun Gizmo, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

Once again this year we will kick VBS off with a **Sunday evening family celebration (5:00-7:00pm)**, sharing a meal, looking into the theme of the week, learning a few songs, and getting ourselves pumped for a week of VBS. Then we will return to a traditional format for Monday-Thursday 9:00am - 11:30am.

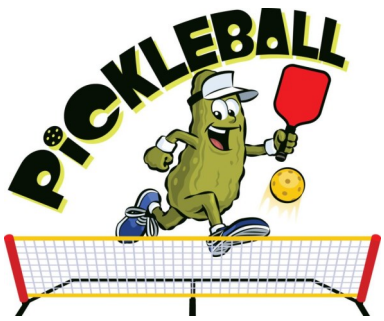
For more information or to register visit: https://mtcalvarylutheranchurch.org/get-involved/children/vbs/

SNL Dates:

Sunday Night Live is an evening of fellowship with friends around God's Word. There is time for silliness, playing, as well as thoughtful discussion and devotional meditation. All middle and high school youth of Mt. Calvary and their friends are welcome to attend.

June 11th

Middle School 6-7pm
High School 7-8pm
We will welcome our incoming 6th grader students and freshmen with a special evening event complete with Ice Cream!

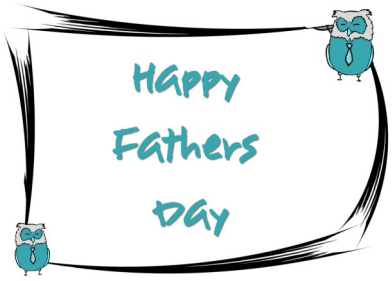


June 25th

6-7:30 (All students)
Pickleball at the Park: Middle School and High School students, parents, and friends, meet at Wamego City park ready for some Pickleball.

MT. CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

17535 Say Road—Wamego, Kansas 66547



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Paul White
Chris Blevins
Ashley King

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Jennifer Blume
Brett Bruning
Kathryn Bruning
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(chair.) Kirk Zerbe
Pat Burns
Gordon Stohs
Paul Zillmann

MCLC INSERT

The Flint Hills Group

The impact we have made with your help!

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1,946,628 Thrivent Choice Dollars directed, Thrivent Action Team Funds raised & Thrivent Community dollars

EVENT IMPACT

- 1,189 Financial, charitable & Thrivent Community event participants

CLIENT & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 1,164 Thrivent Action Teams
- 14,743 Thrivent Action Team Leaders & volunteers
- 356 Thrivent Choice participants
- 148,279 Thrivent Action Team & Thrivent Community volunteer hours

On April 17, 2023, Thrivent celebrated 1 million Thrivent Action Teams and the $1 Billion they've raised for organizations nationwide. That is a tremendous impact since the program's launch in 2014.

Since February 1, 2023, clients have been able to give generously to sixty-five area agencies through action teams. We would like to identify other area agencies that could benefit from this program and people who want to be able to give back to the community.

COMMON GROUNDS

Wednesday, June 21, 6:30pm

LaFiesta Mexican Cantina
2301 Tuttle Creek Blvd
Manhattan, KS

Order dinner and engage in adult fellowship...Connecting with others and finding Common Grounds.

PIECEMAKERS Summer Schedule

June 3rd – day trip to "Quilting is My Therapy" at Liberty MO. Interested in going? Contact Jeannie Merritt
June 5th at 6:30 Meeting (will finish piecing our *Kaleidoscope* quilt top)
June 16th Kansas Regional Quilt Festival – Overland Park. This is a biennial event. Tickets must be purchased online in advance. We will car pool and everyone is asked to pack a lunch for the cooler)

Coming up in the next few months:
July 21st – SEW Day (work on your own project)
August 18th – "T-Shirt Quilts" with Linda McIlwee
September – Work Day at Orphan Grain Train, Wichita

On the Bright Side...Much THANKS to Gordon Stohs (and Thrivent) for updating the lighting in our quilt rooms! Our space is SEW much better!

JR Piecemakers for the SUMMER months:
We will be meeting during week days / no Saturdays. Please let Jeannie know your choice of times to attend (morning or afternoon.)

Thursday June 8th	10-noon or 1-3:00
Tuesday June 13th	10-noon or 1-3:00
Tuesday June 27th	10-noon or 1-3:00

Project ideas for the summer:
Sew a Softie, Crayola Quilt, and other surprises!

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Council Agenda - Regular Meeting 4/19/2023

Minutes from prior meeting: February 2023 Monthly Financial Report: March 2023 File for Audit

New Business:

Congregation Care for Concordia –Tom Maurer was voted our Delegate for Board.

Scholarship Fund – Todd Steinbach is requesting the council allow the establishment of a Thrivent account for the scholarship funds. The fund will be available for attendance to most Concordia schools and titled "The Isaiah Horton Memorial Scholarship Endowment" and could be available this fall.

The City of Wamego is requesting a temporary easement to the church property for underground sewer work for the housing development north of the church. The reviewed paperwork will be signed by Josh and Autumn by 4/23/23.

Old Business:

Secretary – hours (work through lunch). The council is open to allowing this flexibility.

Planning/Vision Survey update Jon distributed a list of ideas for projects and asked those in attendance to rank in order of interest. Those not in attendance will be able to cast their rankings through Jon. The list will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, April 23. Once the list is narrowed down, another round of polling will take place on two consecutive Sundays on weekend services of 5/6 and 5/13 for congregation attendees.

Directory update: Template created in "church windows" who is working on resolving some issues. Hoping to receive more photos - still missing about 60. The directory looks better with more photos. Questions about pending memberships. What does council think about calling this a "community book" as opposed to a membership directory? This would alleviate any potential concerns about "soon to be" members being included in the directory. Pastor is in support of not using an asterisk to identify non-members. The directory is intended to be used for contact information and face recognition.

Board Reports:

Trustees-The HVAC unit that was ordered in December is being repaired under warranty. Mowers are serviced and ready for use.

Treasurer- Financial reports align with budget. A summary report will be prepared for the next congregational meeting.

CYM **Palm Sunday/Easter activities** were a great success. Side note: a lady and her sons from Frankfort attending our Wednesday Lenten services because they had gymnastics in Wamego on Wed. and learned a Donkey would be at church on Palm Sunday and the whole family showed up just so they could see the donkey! I will suggest we should have a donkey greeter every Sunday so we can bring more people to worship!!!!

Regular Sunday School will continue through the last Sunday of May. **Summer Sunday Schoo**l begins in June. **VBS** is also in June--volunteers are needed for both.

The **Sunday School Bus for St. John Mission project** is going well and the students nearly have their bus completed.

Pastor's report:

Update on Christ, Manhattan

- Pastor Crawford retiring May 31. The District would like to find a way to fund the calling of a full-time pastor for that congregation. **See Pres. Panzer Letter.**
- Pres. Panzer has a pastor from Dallas area that he would like Christ to call.
  This pastor has experience in church planting
  He also has experience w/ Classical School—another project Pres. Panzer would like to see happen.
- If that pastor declines, he is hopeful another full-time pastor will be called.
- The timeline stated new pastor here by June 1, which seems unlikely.

Pres. Panzer hopes Mt. Calvary will provide to support the ongoing mission of Christ Lutheran.

- His response is: Financial support and families.
  Financial support--One time or regular giving (for a specified time period).
  Families--Mt. Calvary to ask families to prayerfully consider a move to Christ Lutheran—either transfer or for a period of time so there is an initial support network.

At a congregational meeting to discuss their future, Christ indicated:

- They would be happy to receive the help/support of District.
- They also indicated that if left to their own "devices" they would like to come into some kind of partnership w/ Mt. Calvary.

Another development unrelated to Christ Lutheran is Trinity, McFarland.

- They were going to be in a partnership w/ St. John, Topeka.
- That has fallen through.
- They have expressed to the District that they would like Mt. Calvary to consider partnership with them.
  I have not received anything official other than Larry Boye informing me of that.

Pastor will report back to President Panzer about Mt. Calvary's level of support for Christ Lutheran.

The council is open to supporting a reset at Christ Lutheran but Council would like specifics on the future plan.

Pentecost Offering

Council will decide if we will participate this year. Trevor moved that we take 10% of the general offering on Pentecost to the District Pentecost offering to West Africa. The motion was second and passed. **Closing: The Lord's Prayer**