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**Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Pre-School**  
**Huron, SD**  
**A member Church of**  
**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

## **A Word Study—The Word ‘Flesh’.**

**By Rev. Daniel M. Domke—Senior Pastor**

In Galatians 5:19–21 it is said: “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies—divisions, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.” Man, the sinner, has a sinful nature lodged in his flesh. This sinful nature consists of cravings and desires active in man. From this sinful nature emanates sinful deeds, also called “works of the flesh” (Greek: *erga tes sarkos*).

Let’s visit these works of the flesh with a bit more detail.

- 1) **Adultery** – The act of adultery: Being sexually unfaithful to your future spouse or to the person to whom you are married. Then there is adultery of the heart, as Jesus said in Matthew 5:27-30 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- 2) **Fornication** - “The Greek word for ‘fornication’ (porneia) could include any sexual sin committed before, during and after marriage. ...this is any sexual act outside monogamous marriage. It thus includes premarital sex as adultery, homosexual acts as adultery, incest, and all forbidden sexual acts (Leviticus 20:10-21).
- 3) **Uncleanness** - moral uncleanness, unclean thinking, moral corruption which amounts to the loss of conscience and or the defilement of the soul.
- 4) **Lewdness** - these are behaviors which come about when a person is separated from God, like sensuality for the purpose of personal gratification.
- 5) **Idolatry** – this is gross sin, vices, practiced in the worship of idols of stone, wood, and metal. Also included are practicing witchcraft; paganism or wicca, being overcome with hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, and orgies, are as the bible says all idolatry. in 1 C. 5:10, 11; 6:9; 10:7, 14; Gl. 5:20; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5; 1 Pt. 4:3; Rev. 21:8; 22:15.
- 6) **Sorcery** – witchcraft, wrongful use of drugs, magical arts, spells, and so on.
- 7) **Hatred** - or enmity is the conflict in attitude between nations or individuals.
- 8) **Contentions** – or strife-this is the fierce debate or arguing.
- 9) **Jealousies** – literally means to have deep seated zeal - against another person.
- 10) **Outbursts of wrath** – fits of uncontrolled rage. The is being in the flesh or exhibiting worldliness.
- 11) **Selfish ambitions** – This a person who care only for his or her self-interest and care little who gets hurt while they fight to reach their goals.
- 12) **Dissensions** – Disunity because of contentious arguments,
- 13) **Heresies** – Wrongful understanding of words, ideas, and doctrine.
- 14) **Envy** – being jealous over the success of others
- 15) **Murders** – There are three kinds: 1) Course Murder – taking someone’s life by knife, gun, strangulation, etc.; Fine Murder – depriving food, clothing and house so that a person dies; Finest Murder - Killing a person by name calling, destroying self esteem, bullying would fit here.
- 16) **Drunkenness**, being addicted to wrongful use of alcohol.

In the NT the Greek word for ‘flesh’ is *sarx*. This term reproduces most of the OT meaning of *bāśār*. It denotes the fleshy part of the body, as in references to eating flesh (Rev. 19:18, *etc.*), or to the

whole body (Gal. 4:13f.). It may mean the whole man, ‘our bodies (lit. our flesh) had no rest ... fighting without and fear within’ (2 Cor. 7:5), or ‘within me, that is, in my flesh’ (Rom. 7:18). As in the OT, man and wife are ‘one flesh’ (Mt. 19:5f.), and there are passages referring to ‘all flesh’ (Jn. 17:2). The weakness of the flesh is spoken of in connection with the apostles’ failure to watch in Gethsemane (Mt. 26:41; Mk. 14:38).

But the NT has also some distinctive meanings. Akin to the ‘my bone and my flesh’ passages of the OT (though not quite the same) are those which refer to physical descent and the like. Thus Christ ‘was descended from David according to the flesh’ (Rom. 1:3). Paul can speak of ‘Israel according to the flesh’ (1 Cor. 10:18), and the Israelites as his ‘kinsmen by race’ (Gk. ‘according to the flesh’) (Rom. 9:3).

‘The flesh’ may stand for the whole of this physical existence, and there are references to being ‘in the flesh’ (Col. 2:1; RSV omits). There is no blame attached to this, and, indeed, Christ is said more than once to have been ‘in the flesh’ (Eph. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn. 4:2, *etc.*). To be ‘in the flesh’ is not incompatible with being ‘in the Lord’ (Philemon 16). The flesh may be defiled (Jude 8) or purified (Heb. 9:13). The life that Paul the Christian now lived was ‘in the flesh’ (Gal. 2:20).

But, by definition, the flesh is the earthly part of man. It has its ‘lusts’ and its ‘desires’ (Eph. 2:3). If men concentrate on these they may be said to ‘set their minds on the things of the flesh’ (Rom. 8:5). And to set the mind on the flesh ‘is death’ (Rom. 8:6). This is explained as ‘enmity against God’ (Rom. 8:7). The man whose horizon is limited by the flesh is by that very fact opposed to God. He lives ‘according to the flesh’ (Rom. 8:13), that flesh that ‘lusts against the Spirit’ (Gal. 5:17, AV; RSV has ‘the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit’ but AUTHORIZED VERSION is more literal). For a dreadful list of ‘the works of the flesh’, see Gal. 5:19–21. The flesh in this sense denotes the whole personality of man as organized in the wrong direction, as directed to earthly pursuits rather than the service of God.

*The Holy Bible: New International Version.* (1984). (Ga 5:20–21). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Kittel, G., Bromiley, G. W., & Friedrich, G. (Eds.). (1964–). *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 380). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

## The Daily Devotional Life

**By Pastor Kelly D. Smith—Associate Pastor**

This is a difficult thing for many people to get started to keep up with because it is so boring. Not to say that the Scriptures are boring, but the action and the pattern that is required. That each day you set aside some time to sit down, turn off the tv, the radio, and the cell phone, and read a book that was written thousands of years ago, uses strange words, and says some strange things, and then after you get done reading you set aside some time to pray, but where do you start?

This is why a devotional book is so handy, many use portals of prayer and they are a wonderful resource, and wonderful blessing for our Church. And they are a great place to get started, they keep you focused on the Scriptures, and have even an order of Family Worship at the start of the Portals of prayer and they include Luther's Morning and Evening prayer, and they only take about 5 minutes to do each day. Portals of Prayer is a wonderful place to get started, for just as infants in this life start with milk, we must also in the Spiritual things begin with Spiritual Milk and move on to meatier doctrines. For the Scriptures remind us that we are to

meditate upon the Word of God day and night.

Now the devotions from the Portals of Prayer are good, but they are designed to be a brief introduction to the Word of God. I would encourage you this month to dig into something a little bit deeper. In particular if you have a smart phone look up the app, PrayNow by Concordia Publishing House, or if you prefer physical books, the Treasury of Daily Prayer is available as well. These devotionals will take between 10-15 minutes to run through each day. For they include more Scripture, and a longer devotion and a prayer, and a section from a sermon or a theological book focused on the reading for the day. All this is for the purpose of deepening our knowledge of the Sacred Word of God.

This is desperately needed for the trouble that we have run into in the previous years, is that we picked up good habits like doing daily devotions, but we didn't develop them further. If I may use a comparison from the natural world, let us instead consider a person who takes up running, and tells everyone that they are a runner and encourages all to take up running as well, telling of its great benefits. After they have been running for years, they only run a quarter of a mile each day. What of a weight lifter who trains daily and after 5 years of training has never lifted more than 20 lbs at once? What of the Christian, who meditates upon the Word of God, but only does so for 5 minutes?

So what does it mean to meditate upon the Word of God? For indeed, we often have an image of someone sitting down and thinking hard turning it over in his mind, again and again. Or the person with their legs folded and attempting to clear their mind from everything else. But the Hebrew word for meditate, also means mutter, speak, and contemplate. Reading the Word out loud is important, reciting verses out loud is important for that is part of that process of meditating upon the Word of God, it is why the Pastors read the Scripture Lessons, and why the Congregation has responses that are Biblical Verses. For Pastors could just stand up there and ask the congregation to read the lesson quietly to themselves. However, this is part of learning the Scriptures and taking the Word to heart. For that which we speak out loud over and over, sticks with us, and we learn it well, and that which we hear is hard to shake or perhaps more with the times can you, *Let it Go?*

We practice this simply with our children when we teach them to read. We read books to them to the point of nausea, and despite our best efforts as we “meditate” and muse over the words night after night, those words even stick with us. It is through this that both parent and child learn together and it serves as a wonderful time to learn of the Lord. Now indeed it used to be in days of yore that everyone would recite these things to their children to teach them for the parent had the information stored in their head, which the child needed. This had to happen because books were expensive and so the only book you might own would be the Bible. But even then the family would sit down to read, and in this fashion the Christian faith would be based on from parent to child.

As this Lenten Season begins I would urge you all to begin that process of focusing upon the Word of God, setting aside the time to sit down and read out loud those Words. If you have never tried Portals of Prayer I would urge you to do so. If you have been doing Portals of Prayer for years it is time to expand. If you cannot afford those resources I mention earlier, do not be afraid, this process can start off simply by going to Psalm 1, and read the Psalm out loud twice and pray, do this when you wake up and when you go to sleep. If there is a long psalm do about only 8 verses at a time, it isn't a race, it just taking time to learn the word of God well. And then after that pray the Lord's Prayer. Your Brother in Christ, Pastor Smith.

## **New Members**

Fawn and Taylor Olerud  
1160 27th St NE  
Huron SD 57350  
323-9496

## **Good Bye God Bless**

Amanda Trimble  
116 North Liberty Ave  
Madison SD 57042

## **Mt. Calvary Preschool**

February is here! Along with the new month comes one of our favorite holidays – Valentine’s Day. This day is an opportunity to talk about the importance of sharing, giving, loving and friendship just as Jesus teaches.

The children will be visiting the Violet Tschetter Home to make valentines and do a project with the residents.

We are also learning to count up to 100 and counting down to spring!

The children will take their field trip to Burger King and are looking forward to visiting the dentist this month.

### Dates to Remember

Pre-K Valentine's Day party Feb. 11  
Preschool Valentine's Day party Feb. 12  
No School Mon. Feb. 16

Mark your calendars for the Purses for Preschool and Salad Luncheon, Thursday, April 16, 2015

Thank you for your continued support and prayers,  
The Preschool Staff

## **Memorials**

\$80 in memory of Sharron Hansen from Daryl and Linda Haeder for the Preschool.

## *Purses for Preschool*



Purses for Preschool silent auction and the Preschool Spring Salad Luncheon will be on Thursday, April 16 from 11 am-1pm. \$6.00 donation is suggested.

If you have a filled “purse” to donate, please deliver it to the church before March 1<sup>st</sup> so we can display them and assign numbers for the silent auction. If you need a “purse” or container to fill, please contact Linda Haeder. Or if you have things to put into a purse, please bring that to the church as soon as possible and we can put the items together in “purses”.

Please show your support for the Preschool by attending the Spring Salad Luncheon and bidding on purses.

Thank you.

## **Sufficient for the Day**

by Megan T. Smith

**“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [...] Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”** (Matthew 6:25, 34)

We need to eat, we need shelter, healthcare, cars, wheelchairs, heat, air-conditioning... all these things cost money, and we need that, too. But then we're told these things don't really matter. Our lives here don't really matter. And on top of all of this hard work doing things that we don't really need to do in order to attain all these things we don't really need to have, we're called to do the work of the Lord. How can God possibly ask me to spare more??

Sometimes it's difficult to accept that good enough *is* enough. Maybe we don't have the nicest car, but that '95 cutlass gets us from A to B most of the time. Maybe we don't have the house we've always dreamed of, but the few rooms we do have keep us warm and dry and hold happy memories just as well. Maybe we can't afford the newest medications that our insurance won't cover, but what we're taking keeps us healthy enough.

We ought to be grateful for enough. That old car, that small house, that generic medication, that lack of energy, the cyclical futility of work and bill-paying, it's all a little easier to swallow when we remember that Jesus won our reward for us. THAT goal is met. In the meantime, our goal here isn't a mansion, it isn't a worry-free retirement, and it isn't even perfect health or to live as long as humanly possible. It's not to gain an extra special place in heaven, either. Our goal is to serve God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in all that we do, and with all that we are. Why? Well, because we can.

Jesus wasn't saying that our lives here are meaningless. He was saying that our salvation doesn't depend on them, and apart from our salvation, what else really matters? Sure, we “need” to eat in a way, but we can starve to death and still be loved by God. Many do. God's love didn't fail them. Ours did. So, we thank God for our daily bread, even though it's not caviar, and maybe we buy a loaf or two for the local food bank because some people don't have enough of the

things we don't need. We thank God for each new day, painful though we know each day will be, and maybe we stop by to visit a sick friend because we know they're hurting, too. We ask God to watch over us at night, and should we die under that watchful eye, we look forward to seeing His face because we will, whether we bought those loaves of bread or not because Jesus fed thousands.

That's the miracle of a true gift. We're not working off some debt. We're not obligated by Jesus' boundless mercy. We're simply loving God by loving His children because He loved us first. That's freest FREEDOM I know.

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*Suggested verse to repeat if it's a difficult day is 1 John 4:19  
"We love because He first loved us."*

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## MEMORIAL SUGGESTION LIST

Please Note:

The items listed below are suggestions for designated memorials. Please review this list carefully. Memorials may be made for the entire cost of an item or just for a portion. Once you have decided which memorial item you wish to provide, please contact one of the Pastors. Items not listed below may be suggested. However, approval must be secured from Pastor or from the Church Council before a non-listed item will be received by the congregation. It is the policy of Mt. Calvary that we will not use memorial plaques, but that all memorials will be publicly acknowledged in the monthly newsletter and recorded in a permanent memorial record book.

| ITEM                                      | APPROX. COST                              | DESCRIPTION   |
|---|---|---|
| Mission Projects                          | Any Amount                                | Suggestions for world, national, or District mission projects are available from either pastor.   |
| Mt. Calvary Scholarship Fund              | Any Amount                                | Over the years, several members of Mt. Calvary have entered professional church work. Our Church universities and seminaries assign a portion of the tuition, room and board costs to Mt. Calvary. If that portion is not covered by the congregation, it becomes the financial responsibility of the student. The Scholarship Fund helps enable Mt. Calvary to meet its portion of student expenses. |
| Library Books, Videos, and Shelving       | Any Amount                                | The Library Committee has a list of books which they would like to purchase for our church library. They would also like to supply religious videos for all ages. Additional shelving is presently needed for our growing library.  |
| Preschool Educational needs and supplies  | Any Amount                                | The Mt. Calvary Preschool is always open to memorial gifts to help with the costs of operation, etc.  |
| Paraments                                 | Any Amount                                | This fund is for the purchase and replacement of the church paraments when it is deemed necessary.  |
| Choir                                     | Any Amount                                | The Mt. Calvary Adult Choir uses funds to purchase new music. Any gifts toward the support of our music program will be greatly appreciated.  |
| Military and (Karen language) Bible Stick | Any Amount                                |   |
| Multi Media and Education                 | ANY AMOUNT<br>THIS IS AN ONGOING MINISTRY | This memorial is to provide funds for the production and mailing of CD's recordings of the services primarily to our shut-ins, but also for future work supporting our the Website, and recordings and video of the some of the Pastor's Classes.   |
| Unity Candle Stand                        | Approx \$1000.00                          | This memorial is to provide funds for the purchase or building of a Unity Candle for weddings. From Paraments Fund.   |
| Audio Visual for Sanctuary                | \$40,000                                  | \$20,000 from Hampton Memorial, \$24,175.00 from the Scheibe bequest.   |

