



# Journal

Mt. Calvary Lutheran  
Church and  
Preschool  
688 Dak Ave S  
Huron, SD 57350

“Winning the lost and strengthening the faith through Word and Sacrament”

August, 2015

## My Faith, My Belief, My Religion

By Rev. Daniel M. Domke—Senior Pastor

I am always in search for reasons why things are as they are. I just want to understand why things happen either good or bad. I find patterns lead to certain outcomes. Certain philosophies lead to certain ways of thinking which guide or direct people to conclusions which then result in decisions and actions which sometimes defy common sense. St. Paul warns about the influence of the philosophies of the world and warns us that they are dangerous ways of thinking. Such as in Colossians 2:8, “<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

We can always say sin is the root cause and leave it at that, however while it is true sin is the root cause for every

kind of selfish, sinful, behavior and wrong thinking, such a simplistic point of view provides no way to recognize what is sinful, nor does it provide ways to combat all matter of wrongs. In fact we are to be pro-active by exposing darkness of every kind: Eph. 5: “***11*** *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*”

Christians today must inform themselves and be informed as to what is happening and why. Christian must not remain passive in dealing with wrongful thinking. Years ago people began believing the lie that we should never talk about religion or politics. So we did not disagree with wrong ideas and thinking

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## The Church and the World

By Pastor Kelly D. Smith—Associate Pastor

We are entering a period of time in which the Church is no longer seen as the ally or the friend of the progress of Civilization but rather as the enemy, that which holds mankind back and limits the human race from achieving its full potential. This is a strange place for us to be as Christians.

For many years, there was a fusion of the society and church and a shared belief. A German Theologian by the name of Hermann Sasse noted this

80 years ago as he wrote about American Christianity and the Church. He says, “America has never known this opposition between church and culture, because it has never had a Middle Ages which had to be overcome. In America, the church never has been an obstacle for civilization, an enemy of advancement, or whatever other form the accusations may take.” (The Lonely Way Vol I. P36) My Brothers and Sisters in Christ it appears as though the day has finally come. (con’t page 5)

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thus wrong ideas remained. Years ago, people began believing the lie that we should not judge. So, we did not tell our friends that evolutionary thinking was a myth and wrong. We did not tell people that living together without marriage was a sin because we were afraid it was going to hurt their feelings. So we did not tell people skipping worship was a sin because they might leave the church, well by not coming they already had left the church. So we did not speak up as we should have about abortion, about homosexuality, about radical individualism, or racism, or secularism, or radical environmentalism, or atheism, or whatever the next 'ism' might be. Each of these areas of darkness can be and should be combated with the truth.

These areas of darkness and more have all spread through American culture and our culture has changed while the majority of the Christian Church either has approved or been silent. Oh, to be sure there have been voices warning and proclaim the good news of the gospel, but most would not accept the warning and thus rejected the good news because it was no longer relevant.

We must judge right and wrong, it is part of our every day life. Going the speed limit or not is a judgment. Whether or not to steal is a judgment. Telling someone to obey the speed limit or to not steal or not to lie is a unwelcomed judgment. Why? Because speeders, thieves, and liars want to speed, steal and lie? And that is why all sinners of every stripe resent being told their wrong.

Now, this kind of judgment is not damning someone. Only God can do that, but we are commanded to judge right and wrong, and we are told to exercise discernment. What is discernment? Discernment is given by God, through His Holy Spirit. It is received through the knowledge of God's word and through the insight of a renewed mind. Discerning believers seek to grow in their understanding and knowledge of God's truth. For example, Proverbs 15: **21** *Folly delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course.* (NIV) **“8 All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. 9 To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.”** (Proverbs 8: 8-9)

Further Scripture teaches: **2** *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!* (I Corinthians 6:2) And, **“9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day**

*of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.* (Philippians 1:9-11)

Falling for empty philosophies is common but are not always the case. The church in many cases has fallen for wrong thinking (unbiblical thinking) and has adopted empty philosophies into their systems of belief. America is certainly in a post Christian time. But not all is lost if we will only hang on to biblical truth as the bible believing church.

Within the church and for many Christians they face their own specific sins while at the same time faced with anti-Christian philosophies. There is a response on the believers part to the world as we will always be in the world but are never part of it. If you live in the world you can not be neutral. No escape as Paul wrote, **9** *“I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.”*

The body of Christ is the light in this dark world and the world from that stand point needs us. God wants us in the world to evangelize and witness for and to Christ.

What leads people to doing nothing about the wrong ways of thinking and which often over takes people is indifference to or the view that the Word of God is powerless. People who are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit and not reading or studying the Word lack the bible as the foundation to their thinking. They will lack spiritual discernment. Without biblical discernment wrong thinking prevails. Wrong thinking comes about when a person accepts the philosophy of the world such as relativism, multiculturalism, secularism, evolutionism, Gnosticism, feminism, socialism, biblical activism or , etc. Right thinking comes about because the bible is read, studied, trusted as from God and believed. We are all to be growing in biblical knowledge as Christians and disciples of Christ.

However, if we are going to take a stand against the enemy of our souls, perhaps it is good to listen to Solomon and St. Paul concerning the importance of understanding what is going on around us. First Solomon warns against being simplistic as we watch what is happening in our world.

Solomon wrote, **22** *“How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will...you...hate knowledge?”* (Prov. 1:22) (NIV)

St. Paul says, we are to prepare with spiritual armor to take a stand against Satan, sin, and the wrong ways of

"It's  
'Sheilaism,' just  
my own little  
voice."

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thinking. “ **10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” and in the letter to Colossae he notes: <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8) (ESV)

Paul was concerned that no false teacher take the Colossian believers **captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy** (cf. v. 4). He wrote here not against all philosophy but against *false* philosophy, as the Bible also speaks against false religion (James 1:26). The particular false philosophy at Colosse was “hollow” ( “empty”), “deceptive,” and based **on human tradition ... rather than on Christ.**

True Christian philosophy “takes captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). Philosophy is the love of wisdom, but if one loves wisdom that is not Christian (the Sum of all wisdom, Col. 2:3), he loves an empty idol. Such a one will be “always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7). This kind of philosophy is based on the world’s **basic principles** (*stoicheia*, “elementary principles” or “elemental spirits” [RSV]; cf. Col. 2:20; Gal. 4:3, 9). This may refer to the evil spirits who inspire such heresy and over whom Christ triumphed (cf. 2 Cor. 4:3–4; Eph. 6:11–12). Such a philosophy is demonic and worldly, not godly or Christ like. Unless believers are careful, such philosophy may ensnare them, taking them “captive.”

I am writing this article at the beginning of June and we are waiting for the Supreme Courts decision on same sex marriage. I pray they will think correctly on this matter and I pray they will make a God pleasing decision. If they side with the world for any decision in favor of such marriage, they are following a false legal concept and falsifying natural law. At the heart of all wrong thinking is sin, and at that the mind will be held captive by our flesh and demonic ideas.

The church has a responsibility to speak God’s truth, unfortunately many pastors and many congregations have abandoned Godly truth for wrong thinking. One of the items of wrong thinking is making religion in our image according to our inclinations. Hence, the church is being reshaped by such forces and in some cases you can not even tell some groups are Christian at all. We face an identity crisis as a result.

Chuck Colson wrote, on the "identity crisis" confronting the American Church. He said, “That identity crisis is a failure to understand what the Church really is: its biblical purpose, mission, and authority.” The idea of “Winning the lost” for some churches “Winning the Lost” never comes up, and is never thought about. Growing as disciples in biblical knowledge and understanding reality and avoiding the elusory is not a priority for many and they forget what

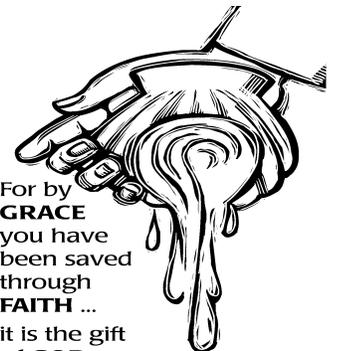
Church is and her authority and mission to save the lost.”

Colson again, “For many Christians, church means the buildings where we meet on Sunday. Building a church means constructing an edifice. When we think of church, we think of it as a place to go -- that’s our first mistake -- to satisfy our spiritual needs -- that’s our second mistake. This confusion limits our ability to impact the culture and to spread the Gospel. Focusing on our needs is simply a manifestation of a philosophy that has gripped American life -- what sociologists call "radical individualism."

Nearly two decades ago, sociologist Robert Bellah wrote a book about American society called *Habits of the Heart*. In it, he said that radical individualism was the defining reality of American life. People were so absorbed in themselves that they saw everything in terms of how it would satisfy their personal needs or desires -- the "imperial republic of self." Bellah argued that this individualism was so dominant in our culture that it was invading the Church, even shaping our ideas about religion. He described an interview he had with a woman named Sheila Larson. When asked to describe her faith, Larson told Bellah, "It's 'Sheilism,' just my own little voice."

We so privatize our faith -- just listening to "our own little voice" -- that we undermine the authority of God’s Word, and the need for the Church. The common saying is, “I know what I believe” which effectively places the bible below human opinion. “I do not have to go to church to be a Christian” which assumes human opinion trumps the Word of God again. My church is the out doors, which actually is the philosophy of pan-theism. All of these are my religion, my faith, my god, my little voice. This little voice is essentially the voice of what you want your life to be. That voice defines your faith, your religion, and who your god is. For many they have created their own religion and in so doing have rejected biblical Christianity and the one true God as He has defined Himself in the scriptures. When people do this they are not saved because they are trusting in a god of their own creation. It is Sheilism and Sheilism is idolatry.

Give it some thought.



For by  
**GRACE**  
you have  
been saved  
through  
**FAITH** ...  
it is the gift  
of **GOD** ...

Ephesians 2:8, NRSV



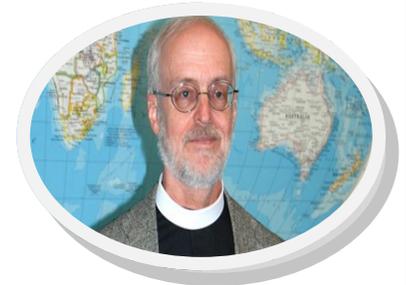
## MEALS ON WHEELS

Mt Calvary will be delivering meals Monday, August 3rd thru Friday, August 7th. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship hall. If you can only do a couple of days, that is great. Times begin at 10:45 and take about 1 hour total. You may eat free at the Senior Center each day you deliver or arrange to take your meal home with you. Call Melanie Kludt at 599-2219 or cell 350-4842 if you have questions or concerns.



## New TIM Missionary

Rev. Alan Ludwig serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Siberia, Russia. He is a theological educator, which includes teaching seminary courses, working with team members in developing theological education in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union and, upon request, teaching and preaching at a local Lutheran congregation in the city of Novosibirsk in Siberia. Since 1998, Alan has worked with the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) and taught seminary courses at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, which is operated by the SELC, a partner/sister church of the LCMS. The seminary was founded in 1997.



TIM—Stands for Together In Mission. Together in Mission is a joint mission project of the South Dakota District and your offerings in part support this work through the TIM budget line in Mt. Calvary's budget.

### Good Bye God Bless

Lori Rens  
4905 W 40th St  
Sioux Falls SD 57106

### Address Changes

Marlys Green  
1251 Arizona SW #211  
Huron SD 57350

### Welcome New Members

Rev. Dale and Debbie Sattgast  
20723 396th Ave  
Huron SD 57350

Daniel Stanfield (Confirmed)  
1141 Iowa Ave SE  
Huron SD 57350

Emma Abbott (Confirmed)  
1016 Kansas SE  
Huron SD 57350

Korrigin Donovan (Confirmed)  
Jerrica Donovan (Confirmed)  
Justice Donovan (Confirmed)

Derek Wahl (Baptized and Confirmed)

1141 Iowa SE Huron SD 57350

1132 Nebraska SW  
Huron SD 57350



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For many years, we have acquiesced to the demands of a secular culture, and did so in order to enjoy a place amongst our culture, for we believed that by giving into the demands and allowing more of the world to walk into the church that we would keep the Church relevant and breathing. This never results in that for Christ has said, that His Kingdom is not of this earth. (John 18:36) We are told in James that, "Friendship with the world is enmity with God." (James 4:4)

The Church hoped that by making these concessions to the world's demands that we would stay relevant and that it would result in a greater proclamation of the Gospel so that we might Christianize the World. However, the result of giving into the world was the secularization of the Church. We have witnessed this slow gradual decline into indifference as the years go by. It has resulted in a laxity that is alarming among the laity of all denominations. If you doubt me, ask your fellow Christians what are the 10 commandments? Can you recite the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm? Where in the Bible does it record Jesus Crucifixion? Now do these things make a person a Christian? No, but someone who professes to love God so that they have no other gods before him, places a high value on knowledge of God's Word.

My brothers and sisters, we let the world in and the world setup shop, and the world gradually pushed out everything that was precious to us. As we approach the month of August, we will be doing a stewardship series that will in part address our love of the world, and our fixation on these things, and how they need to be cast aside for they are tearing our eyes away from the founder and perfecter of the faith. As we love the things of this world more than we love the Word made flesh. The World is telling us that there is a middle road that we can walk, a road between the zealous Christian and the godless heathen in which we can enjoy the pleasures of this earthly life, and be a faithful Christian. But you cannot serve two masters, for that is what the World is trying to lead us into, for we will love one and hate the other.

This is why the Church is under attack not only from without but from within, for many who wear the name of Christian have been deceived and believe that because they walk this middle road. We must be prepared for what is to come. For there are many who have embraced the idea of a middle road where Church and culture must be united, we must forsake these things and cling to the Word of God, for it alone is our salvation, and it tells us there is no friendship with the World. For the World brings death, but Jesus Christ is our life. Please be in Church on Sunday Morning, and set aside time to read the Scriptures. For it is the Word of God alone and the Forgiveness of sins it brings that has the power to overturn the lure of the world and restore our Churches.



## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

LWML is planning to assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We would invite the entire congregation to participate by donating

items for the kits.

The children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. When parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Each kit will contain the following:

4-70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper

1-30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters

on one said and inches on the other

1- Pencil sharpener

1-blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

1-Box of 16 or 24 crayons

5-Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

5-Black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)

1- 2/12 inch eraser

We plan to assemble School Kits on Wednesday, August 26th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Activities Center. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall and by the Activities Center for your donations.

Anyone interested may come and help assemble the kits.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy

Ziegeldorf.



## The Real Problem of Pain

by Megan T. Smith

\*

**“Evils have encompassed me beyond number; My inequities have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs on my head. My heart fails me.”** Psalm 40:12



A couple of years ago, I thought I had an epiphany regarding my chronic pain and illness. After 5 years of struggling with this wretched disease and it's wretched treatments, I finally admitted to myself, to God, and to everyone else within earshot, "I can't handle this." I said it out loud, I said it with tears, and I meant it with all my heart. At first, I felt like a weight had been lifted from my shoulders, but when I woke up the next morning, nothing had changed. I still had the same disease, and the symptoms and side effects were as terrible as ever. I don't know what I expected, exactly. I suppose I expected that weight-lifted feeling to remain, the lessening of anxiety to abate my pain a little, for something to change for the better, but I was devastated.

I'd gotten it wrong. What I needed to admit was, "I can't fix this." That is infinitely harder to admit (even now it brings tears to my eyes) because I'm admitting that this very unpleasant portion of my life isn't going to change. I'm admitting that this illness and all its symptoms and medications are going to be with me until the day I die. What I needed to accept was: I am going to be in pain every day for the rest of my life. What I needed to understand was: *Whenever God gives us a problem we truly cannot solve, He's telling us that it's not really the problem.*

Pain hurts, and to endure it every day is outright torture. It's disruptive, and it's debilitating to say the least, that's true. But pain is not the enemy, neither is the disease or injury that brings it on. The enemy is the lie that your pain must dominate your life. The enemy is the lie that your pain is nothing but meaningless torment. The enemy is the lie that pain makes your life not worth living, that it makes you worthless, that you can't handle it or that you have to handle it alone. The real enemy is the one who tries to distract you with pain. He wants you to forget that the real problem is the fact that there are people all around you in this great Information Age who don't know Christ.



**YOU are an ambassador in chains,  
that you may declare it boldly,  
as you ought to speak.**  
(Eph. 6:20)

The real enemy desperately wants you to forget that the training your trials have given you, and the salvation Christ has earned for you, makes you one of his most formidable opponents. (Yes, YOU: ill, weak, bed-bound, shut-in, depressed and weary as you might be). So don't take a bite of that shiny red apple he's offering you. There's no truth in it; there never was. Instead of looking inward, look outward. See those around you, see the good that you can do, and best of all, watch God work. See the enemy for the liar he is, see your pain for the distraction it is and know that you are above all a baptized child of God capable of commanding, "Get behind me, Satan!" as many times as it takes, because with Christ as our victor, we have no reason to live as victims.

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*Suggested verse to repeat (LOUDLY!) when pain starts to come first is from Matthew 16:23*

*“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me.”*

\*



The Nominating Committee of Mt. Calvary has the responsibility of proposing a slate of candidates for church offices at the October Voters' Meeting. The Committee is seeking names for consideration.

A part of our stewardship as God's people is using the abilities and the time God has given us for use in His Kingdom and His Church. Please pray for the Lord's guidance as to whether He might desire your service in one of the offices listed below. If you would be willing to serve, please sign your name and return this sheet to the church office **as soon as possible**. The Nominating Committee will consider your name as it prepares a slate for the Voters' Meeting.

The specific responsibilities of the individual offices are listed in the Bylaws of Mt. Calvary. A brief summary of each office is given below. All offices are two-year terms. Note: Certain offices are noted as "Member of Church Council." In addition to their other responsibilities, they will also attend Church Council meetings held eight times per year.

**PRESIDENT. \_\_\_\_\_**

Member of Church Council. Presides at all Council and Voters' Meetings. Appoints individuals to serve on special committees. Responsible for seeing that resolutions of the Voters' Assembly are carried out. Member of Finance Committee. Works in close cooperation with the Pastor. Only men may serve as President. (Currently serving: Ralph Borkowski Not Eligible for reelection.)

**VICE PRESIDENT. \_\_\_\_\_**

Member of Church Council. Performs duties of the President in his absence. Only men may serve as Vice-President. (Currently serving: . Dave VanScharrel Eligible for reelection)

**ELDER. \_\_\_\_\_**

(Three to be elected. Non-Council.) Member of the Board of Elders (normally meets monthly). The Board works closely with the pastor(s) and functions to assist the pastor(s) concerning the spiritual welfare of the congregation and in dealing with difficult problems in ministry. Elders make monthly care calls on members of their respective zones. They also assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. Only men may serve as elders. They should reflect the qualities stated in I Timothy 3:8-10. (Currently serving Chad Hanson Eligible for reelection, John Pfitzer, Eligible for reelection; Kerwin Haeder, Eligible for reelection;

**TRUSTEE, MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

(Two to be elected. Non-Council) Trustees are charged with the care and maintenance of the church facilities and grounds and parsonage. They are responsible for supervision of the custodial work and of the office secretary. (Currently serving Chris Newman and Ineligible for reelection; Kent Hampton and Ineligible for reelection.)

**BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION, CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_**

Member of Church Council. Meets monthly with Board of Parish Education and Youth. Reviews and coordinates educational and youth programs of the congregation including Sunday School, VBS, Christmas program, Junior and Senior LYF. Works with the Board to appoint a Sunday School Superintendent and chairs and staff of the Christmas program and VBS. Assists the pastors and LYF leaders in coordinating youth activities. (Currently serving: Vacant at present.)

**MISSION / EVANGELISM, CHAIRMAN: \_\_\_\_\_**

Member of Church Council. Meets monthly with Board of Missions and Evangelism. Concerned with the supervision of mission education within the congregation. Works with the Board of Mission and Evangelism to welcome newcomers, conduct evangelism visitation, and encourage members of the congregation to gain new members. (Currently serving: Roger Kropuenske and Eligible for reelection.)

**FINANCE BOARD MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

(Two to be elected. Non-Council) Assists the Finance Secretary in recording contributions and issuing statements of offerings to members. (Currently serving: Lila Stamp Eligible for reelection; Connie Green Ineligible for reelection)

**BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRY CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_**

Member of the Church Council. Monthly Meetings with the Board of Youth. This office is responsible for working with the Board to call the congregation the needs and achievements of young people of confirmation age and older; Assimilate and engage the youth in the total life and work of the congregation; advise and supervise the youth groups within the congregation in the use of the church facilities; Enlist and train adult leaders and sponsors for all congregational youth organizations; keep informed of and promotes use of resources for youth ministry; cooperate at circuit and district level to do youth events; assist in the coordination of a program of youth activities which will contribute to the spiritual edification of the spiritual participants (Currently serving; Bob Mayfield, Ineligible for re-election.)



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And Preschool

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Winning the Lost and Strengthening the Faithful

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