



Journal

Mount Calvary
Lutheran Church
& Learning Center
688 Dakota Ave S
Huron, SD 57350

“Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins”

July 2025

Psalm 46 Promises

By Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast

Dear Friends in Christ at Mt. Calvary,

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble” (Ps. 46:1). Psalm 46 is sometimes called “The Reformation Psalm” as Martin Luther based the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” on it. But God’s Word is timeless. It not only applied three thousand years ago when the Psalms were written, or five hundred years ago when Martin Luther wrote the hymn, but it applies so directly right here and now. I can’t begin to count the number of times during the recent days that my mind has gone back to the promises of that verse, and, in fact, the entire Psalm. Here are a few of those thoughts.

These recent days certainly have been “times of trouble”! All of us have been affected by the situation with our former pastor, but in so many different ways. Some became close to him as he ministered to us or to a family member at a time of illness or at the end of life. Some enjoyed having him lead one of the “extra” Bible studies at church. Many worked closely with him in children and youth and family activities. I trusted him as a colleague in ministry. And all of us saw him as a faithful “under-shepherd” of the Great Good Shepherd Jesus.

But now we are troubled in so many different ways with feelings of disbelief, sadness, disappointment, betrayal, anger, and even fear for the future of our congregation and our learning center. In these “times of trouble” the devil, and the world around us (think of some of the comments on social media), and even our old hurting sinful human natures tempt us to focus only on those feelings at this time instead of focusing upon God and His Word and His “very present help.” Yet it’s in God and in His Word – not in the devil, nor the world, nor our own sinful nature – that our help and our hope comes.

In his sermon a couple weeks ago, President Sturzenbecher gave us the much needed reminder that our Savior fully knows the situation we are facing, and, in His resurrection and ascension promise, Jesus assures us that we are not facing this alone. Jesus says: “I am with you always” (Mt. 28:20). Jesus is here, and He is helping! In His sermon last week, Pastor Phillips from Lutheran Family Service gave us the much needed reminder that our former pastor, like each of us, is a sinner for whom Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood and died to bring forgiveness. Only where there is forgiveness – first from God, and then for one another – can

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Psalm 46:1**

there be healing and peace. Both our former pastor, but also each of us need Jesus’ presence, His forgiveness for all of our sins, and His peace. And God’s Word – again, not the devil, nor the world, nor our own sinful natures – graciously gives to us the assurance of His mercy, His forgiveness, and His peace.

Near the end of Psalm 46, Verse 10 gives this very encouraging reminder: “Be still, and know that I am God.” The Hebrew word translated “be still” is haraphu. Some Bible versions translate it “stop fighting,” but it also means “withdraw,” or “relax,” or “let go,” or even “surrender.” Think of this: sometimes, especially with what we’re going through in these days, it’s hard not to feel a lot of emotions, including sadness, disappointment, and even betrayal, anger and fear. It does

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no good to try to carry these ourselves. It just makes the hurt and burden heavier. And we don't need to. We can surrender our feelings, knowing that God is God and we are not. He not only will, but already has borne our burdens through Jesus! We can "be still." We can "let go." By His strength! Not our own!

So we cast our cares on Him because He cares for us (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7). And we can have the confidence as we move ahead – whether it's for personal healing, healing in our family, healing in our feelings toward our former pastor, healing in our congregation, or healing in our community – with the confidence that "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Ps. 46:11).

A few suggestions. In 1 Peter 5:8, the Apostle Peter says "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." The devil watches for opportunities to take Christians as his prey. He wants to separate us from the church where God's "means of grace" not only give us forgiveness but strength and peace. He ultimately wants to separate us from our God and Savior. And so he puts all kinds of thoughts into our hearts and heads that lead us away from our Savior and His Body on earth the church. We are at a very vulnerable time. So Peter's warnings to be sober and watchful especially apply to us.

- Don't give in to anger towards people who make personal comments or postings against our congregation. They will do that. They already have. But we are witnesses, not only on behalf of Mt. Calvary, but of the Christian faith itself. Proverbs 15:1 states: "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
- Don't let the feelings of disappointment, or betrayal, or anger lead to withholding forgiveness. From the cross, Jesus prayed for forgiveness for those who crucified Him (Lk. 23:34). In Ephesians 4:32, the Apostle Paul encourages us to forgive one another as God in Christ forgave us.
- Don't let the devil convince us that we should quit coming to church or that we should find somewhere else to go. This is where God has called each of us to be. This is where God freely gives us His grace, His forgiveness, His strength, His promises and hope through His Word and Sacraments. This is where we have fellowship with others who share our faith, but where we also encourage one another, in part, simply but importantly by being together. In Hebrews 10:25, the writer to the Hebrews encourages us not to neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but to encourage one another. Moreover, each of us is an important part of the "Body of Christ" at Mt. Calvary (see 1 Cor. 12:14-27). The Body of Christ (the church) hurts when we are missing.

The next steps for our congregation. Dave VanScharrel, our congregational president, Ralph Borkowski, the chairman of the board of elders, District President Sturzenbecher, and I have met and discussed possibilities for Mt. Calvary's vacancy. President Sturzenbecher is in the process of contacting some retired pastors about the possibility of serving the vacancy on a part-time basis. Hopefully, we will know within a short time who will be serving. In addition, and if at all possible, we are hoping that we will be able to keep our times of services as they currently are. Once we are able to make arrangements concerning those who will be serving our vacancy, we can begin the process involved in extending a call. As we know from prior call situations, there are a number of steps involved and the process can take several months. Please keep these matters in your prayers as well.

In closing, I love the words of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:20-21. They are incredibly encouraging words at any time in our faith and regardless of what circumstances we may be experiencing. But for us at Mt. Calvary and in these days that seem so difficult, they are especially fitting: **"Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."**

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Sattgast

BE
STILL
and
KNOW
THAT
I AM
GOD
Psalm 46:10



On Sunday, June 6th, SD District President Sturzenbecher had the great joy of celebrating 45 years of faithful ministry by Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast.

"Thank you Dale and Debbie for always pointing to Christ Jesus."

Quarterly Voters' Assembly is Tuesday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m.



Important to Attend!

Any communicant member who has reached the age of 18 is eligible to become a voting member.

Dear friends,

If you would like to know who your elder is for your family, there is a binder located in the mailbox outside the church office.

Of course, you are always free to reach out to the elder with whom you are most comfortable.

In Christ,
Your Mt. Calvary Board of Elders.



Faith & Fellowship

The adult fellowship group will meet again at the church after the 10:30 service on Sunday, July 13th.

The potluck theme for this month is 4th of July food and Roger Kropuenske will lead us in a devotion. The group will continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month following the 10:30 service.

We look forward to more great fellowship! Please join us!

Inviting all congregation members to join in a new fellowship group; "Concord Matters."

We meet again on Thursday, July 24th at 10:45 am. Please join us!

A Year in the Confessions

Read the Formula of Concord with us in 2025!



Todd Hamilton
680 Kansas Ave NE
Huron SD 57350

Louise Hasche
507 22nd St SW
Huron SD 57350

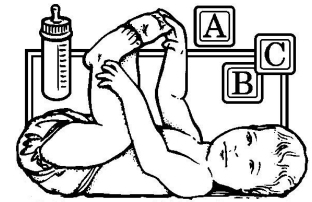
Devan Nelson
528 Oxford Ave
Harrisburg SD 57032

Lyndsea Warkenthien
558 Fulton St. Apt 1607
Brooklyn NY 11217



Thank you to everyone that donated diapers to the annual LWML sponsored Diaper Derby that ran from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

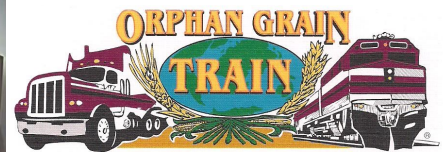
The diapers will be donated for local use in the Huron area.



plus one
PREGNANCY GUIDANCE CENTER

We appreciate those who participated in the 2025 Baby Bottle Fundraiser for the Plus One Guidance Center. The fundraiser ran from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

If you haven't turned in your filled bottles please bring them to the church as soon as possible, or you may drop them off at Plus One.



Thank You

Thank you to those who formed a human conveyor on Sunday, May 25 to bring up approximately 200 packed Orphan Grain Train boxes from the basement and load them onto a trailer to be taken to one of the OGT warehouses for distribution to areas of need throughout the United States and the world.

We also appreciate the items that are donated and those who sort and box them up for OGT.



LWML SD District officers are pictured at the Lutheran Women in Mission Convention June 26–29 in Omaha, Nebraska. Ann Cruse and Nancy Ziegeldorf are in the photo. Others from Mt. Calvary also attended the convention. The convention theme was Growing in God's Grace. The convention goal statement was "Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).





Children — Youth — Family Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church



The National Youth Gathering will be July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans.

Avah, Alexis, Conner, Evan, Stephanie, Becky, and Sara will be attending. Please pray for the safe travels to and from the event and a blessed time for all those gathered in New Orleans.

ENDURE

Thank you for supporting these great young people as they attend the experience of a lifetime!

Looking Ahead to August

Sunday, August 10

Sunday school, Family Ministry, and Kids4Christ teacher installation during both worship services.

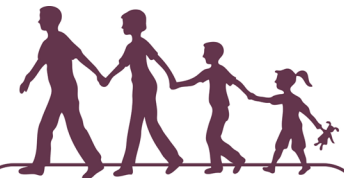
August 10—final day for confirmands to turn in Faith Statements to Roger or the church office.

Family Sunday, August 17

6th grade students will receive Luther's Small Catechism during both worship services.

**Potluck lunch with families furnishing sides and desserts.
Meat and buns will be provided.**

Families are invited to stay after the lunch for games.



Bring the Family!

4:00 p.m.—brief planning meeting with the parents and Pastor Spiels to plan the details of the date for Confirmation and the Service, then confirmands will have their final interviews.

Wednesday, August 20

Family Ministry and Kids4Christ will resume.

FAMILY MINISTRY
NEWS





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and Learning Center

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