



Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

August 2025

"One thing I do: *forgetting* what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"

(Philippians 3:13-14 – *italics* added).

By Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast

Dear Friends and Members of Mt. Calvary,

What does the word "eraser" and the phrase "no longer dwelling" have to do with each other? At first glance, it seems there is nothing at all in common. But both are related to the word "forgetting" that the Apostle Paul used when he wrote to his friends at Philippi, though in much different ways. Here's an explanation.

I have a small "hi-polymer plastic eraser" that measures one-half inch, by one inch, by almost three inches. (It was probably three inches when it was new.) I use it a lot when filling out my draft income tax forms (using a pencil), and especially when I do the calculations on various tax worksheets. I double and triple check all the calculations, but occasionally find mistakes that I've made. That eraser is wonderful. A few swishes and the wrong entry is gone, almost without a trace.

Sometimes forgetting is like that. Instead of an eraser, time swishes away the memory of something that happened in the past. Often those things are somewhat insignificant. After a few days or weeks, I can't remember the clothes that I've worn on a particular day. On the other hand, certain significant things are difficult to forget. If someone tells us something shocking about another person, and then says, "Forget that you ever heard this," it just *doesn't* work like an eraser. The memory is still there, oftentimes annoying us. We wish we would have never heard those words in the first place. It would be much easier that way. Likewise, if we've been affected by some kind of traumatic event, forgetting – at least as we commonly understand it – is really hard.

Now comes the phrase "no longer dwelling." The very first place I rented in which to live was an old, single-wide furnished mobile home. The floor squeaked with almost every step. The furnishings were old and ugly. The entry steps and hand railing wobbled. The door and windows were

drafty. The refrigerator's compressor was so loud every time it came on that it would wake me from my sleep. I could give more descriptions. I *remember* that place pretty well. But as soon as I had enough money and could find another place to live, I gave my 30-day notice and moved out. It was in the past and I was no longer *dwelling* there.

That's the kind of "forgetting" that the Apostle Paul wrote about in his letter to the Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 13 & 14 (above). The Apostle Paul very clearly *remembered* his past. In verses 4-6, he spoke about his very impressive Jewish past and even being a persecutor of the church for a while. But in verse

8, he says of his past, "I count everything as *loss* because of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord." And in verse 13, he speaks of "*forgetting* what lies behind." Paul *remembered* his past well. But he was "no longer *dwelling*" there. He moved on with Jesus and faith in Him.

The New Testament Greek word that Paul uses in Philippians 3:13 is from a word (*epilanthanomai*) that has a couple of meanings. One is "to lose out of mind." That's like an eraser. But another is "to *purposefully* lay something aside." That's the "no longer *dwelling*" sense, and the meaning Paul is using. He is *purposefully* no longer *dwelling* on what his former life involved. It was all "loss" as far as he was concerned.

His faith in the Savior Jesus enabled him to give his "30-day notice" and move on.

It's now been a little over 30 days since our former pastor resigned. We cannot help but remember the thoughts and the emotions we had when we first heard what had happened. And what had happened has affected the members of Mt. Calvary, me included, in many ways. For some who weren't as close to our former pastor, it is probably going to be a bit easier to move on. But for others who felt or worked a bit closer to him or who have children with whom he associated, it is much harder to move on.

May this be our ongoing prayer: "Lord, give me the strength and the wisdom not to dwell on what lies behind, but to strain forward to what lies ahead – the goal for the eternal prize of Your upward call, through Christ Jesus my Savior. Amen"

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(Continued from page 1)

The devil and our old sinful flesh *always* want us to “hold on” to those things that distract us from “the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ [our] Lord.” They know that our mind doesn’t always work like a hi-polymer plastic eraser that can erase the past without leaving a trace. And they certainly don’t want us to *purposefully* lay aside those things, giving notice that we’re no longer going to *dwell* on those things. If they can distract us from Jesus and His Body, the church, they’ve done their unholy work.

But *purposefully* laying aside the thoughts of what has happened takes commitment. It does not just happen that we “forgive and forget,” regardless of what well-meaning people might say. It does not just happen that “time heals our wounds.” First of all, our minds and our hearts don’t work that way even as people of faith. And second, the devil would like us to hang on to that which tries to distract us away from Jesus and away from the fellowship with other believers in the church. Paul remembered his past. I remember that first dumpy little mobile home, but also a lot more things that I’d much rather just “erase” from my memory. The unfortunate reality is that those memories stay with us and in our minds, and the devil is very happy to keep reminding us of them.

But whether for Paul, or for me, or for any of us, we do not have to *dwell* on those things regardless of how deeply they’ve affected us. We have the “surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ [our] Lord.” We have the most precious promises from God and His Word. I Corinthians 10:13 says, “No *trial* has overtaken you that is not common to man. But God is faithful, and He will not let you to be *tried* beyond your strength, but with the *trial* will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (Note: some translations use the word “temptation” or “tempted” instead of “trial” or “tried”, but either translation is from the same Greek words.) And Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things in Him (Christ) who strengthens me.”

So what about forgetting? Well, for some things, our minds will work like the eraser swishing away memories. For other things, we have to admit that it will take a bit more effort. We may indeed have to *purposefully* lay those things aside, refusing to *dwell* in them, giving notice to the devil and our old sinful flesh that we are going to move on. With the Apostle Paul, we should strive to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” And, with God’s help and the encouragement of our sisters and brothers in Christ, we will!

May this be our ongoing prayer: “Lord, give me the strength and the wisdom not to dwell on what lies behind, but to strain forward to what lies ahead – the goal for the eternal prize of Your upward call, through Christ Jesus my Savior. Amen”

Update Concerning Mt. Calvary’s Vacancy

Pastor Phill Andreasen has consented to be Mt. Calvary’s “official / primary vacancy pastor.” Pastor Andreasen is a retired pastor who currently is living in Sioux Falls. Before retiring Pastor Andreasen served as the senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He also served as a vice-president of the Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Andreasen will begin his service at Mt. Calvary this coming October.

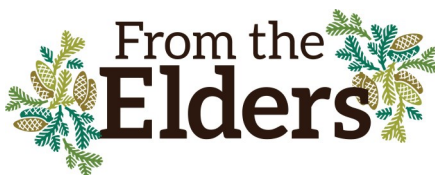
In the meantime, I will serve as the primary vacancy pastor through the end of September, then will continue assisting with the vacancy until the end of the year. There will probably be at least one other pastor who will assist on a regular basis in serving our vacancy. It appears at this time that our Sunday morning schedule for our Divine Services, Sunday School, and Adult Bible Class will be able to remain on the current schedule.

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor Sattgast

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.**



Vicky Claassen
921 S Brek Ave
Brandon SD 57005

Neal Schroeder
6337 51st Ave
Kenosha WI 53142

Loren Smith
Courtyard Apartments
1225 Minnesota Ave SW #114
Huron SD 57350



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

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.



4:00 p.m.—brief planning meeting for families with students ready to be confirmed, and Pastor Spiehs, 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.



5:15 pm Kids4Christ

-6:15 pm

5:15 pm Confirmation-grade 6

-6:15 pm

5:15 pm Confirmation-grades 7-8

-6:15 pm

FAMILY MINISTRY

NEWS

The National Youth Gathering was July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans



Avah, Alexis, Conner, Evan,
Becky, Stephanie, and Sara attended.

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

...“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:16



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
and Learning Center

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