



JOURNAL

MT CALVARY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND
PRESCHOOL

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

February 2016

Eyes For Your Wife Only

By Pastor Dan Domke—Senior

This last year has been hard on marriage, family and so many things Godly. I am thinking about February 2016 as I write and maybe things will be better. Being the month set aside to consider love I wanted to remind us all in light that the biblical love these days seem to have in large part been forgotten.

Valentines Day for example goes back to a couple traditions. One, Emperor Claudius II (3rd Century A.D.) decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married and outlawed marriage for all young men serving in the army. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him imprisoned, and later put to death. Some stories say that the young couples, who Valentine had married, gave flowers and letters to Valentine when they visited him in the prison. Two, In a slightly different version of the legend, Valentine was an imprisoned Christian man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he

was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' to his love when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine'. We will perhaps never know the actual history of Valentines, but the traditions in part speak of February 14 as being about Godly love circling around marriage and family.

When there is so much thoughtless immorality among Christians God's heart breaks. Thoughtless immorality are behaviors which people do not give a thought to being wrong let alone a sin. Yes I am being judgmental. I am judgmental only in response to God's command to judge right and wrong based on the fact that scripture commands us to judge those within the church. (I Corinthians 6: 12-13) So, I thought I would focus on Husbands this month and how we are to relate to the women we have married.

Note: As I work with men and boys it is apparent the use of obscene websites has grown as has the use of the internet. The 'Resolved Eyes Initiatives' offers help so I
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The Season of Lent: Remembrance

By Pastor Kelly D. Smith—Associate Pastor

It is upon us once again, the ashes on our foreheads, the somber music, the midweek services, but around us many have forgotten about this wonderful time in the church year. It is a tough season in our culture. We always want to be happy and upbeat. Be in a good mood, and most importantly have FUN! The season of Lent is a difficult season to explain to the world because it makes

people look like we are a bunch of naysayers.

You are going to spend 40 days focused on repentance? Giving up something to help keep in mind the sacrifice of Jesus? Why bother? Can't you just do that in Church on Sunday? It seems like your religion is just too strict.

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have included the following article.

5 Must-Haves to Porn-Proof Our Marriages

By JT Waresak

Courtesy of [The Resolved Eyes Initiative](#)

I grew up in an era where the prevailing thought was, "You can look as long as you don't touch." Sadly, this was the "manly motto" that most boys heard as they matured into young men. It was a lie then, and it is still a lie today. The natural outcome of this philosophy has led millions of boys and men into a pattern of porn that has reached pandemic proportions. Beyond despairing is the undeniable fact that, as Christians, our lives aren't much different when it comes to controlling what we put in front of our eyes.

At the core of this issue is the reality that pornography itself is not the root of the problem. In some sense, pornography has and will always be available. The true dilemma here is that we have placed ourselves before God and our wives. It's a heart issue. As men, we will protect what matters most to us. If we don't take the action needed to protect something, we really don't care too much about it.

My adult daughter recently shared that she was watching a sporting event on T.V. with a group of twenty-something friends that included several young men. A commercial came on that displayed scantily-dressed female models. Some would say the commercial was "soft-porn." As she and other young ladies sat uncomfortably around this group of young men, not one of them had the conviction to get up and turn off the T.V., or at least turn the channel. This scene epitomizes today's man when it comes to the topic of immodesty and pornography. We lack godly-resolve that compels us to actively protect what should matter most to us. This must change.

As a Christian man that is married, I have two life-priorities that need to take highest precedence: 1, my relationship with God and 2- my relationship with my wife. These relationships define me as a man and compel how I live my life. By God's grace, he has blessed me with children and my role as a father is added to this life-defining relationship list. Within each God-defined relationship, I am called to love in a manner that places others before myself. I must relentlessly pursue a course of life that positions God, my wife and my children before myself.

When it comes to protecting what matters most, I must resolve to have eyes that honor my God, my wife and my children. If this "resolved-eyes" resolution means anything, it necessitates my highest commitment to the protection and provision around these relationships. If I say that Jesus Christ is my everything, my everything must truly be His.

I'm reminded of a young Jew named Daniel who purposed in his heart not to defile God with his life (Daniel 1:8). To have resolved eyes, we must first have a resolved heart. This doesn't mean we'll ever be perfect, but what it

does mean is that we will never give up our pursuit to put God and our families before ourselves (Matthew 6:33).

For me, this is a daily pursuit of taking care of what matters most. I am compelled to continually engage the battle-fronts around these relationships. If I'm not actively fighting the battle, I'm losing it. Given the unabashed access to immodest and porn-laced web content, the online world in which we all live must be perceived as a huge battlefield of epic proportion.

Hence, step one requires that we discern the enemy's tactics and strategize a plan to defeat them. Here are my "5 Must-Haves" when it comes to this battle-front strategy to "porn-proof" our marriages (and families). While they pertain specifically toward husbands, I believe the principles apply for wives as well:

1. **Keeping God at the center of my life and my marriage starts with my mind.** I must daily take in God's truth and grace through His Word, knowing what I take in on a regular basis will define who I am and how I live. We're called to "renew" our minds, "set our minds on things above" and not on the things of this earth (Colossians 3:2) and to think about things that are "honorable, whatever just...pure...lovely... commendable...worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8).
2. **Maintain an uncompromising love for God and my wife.** Any form of immodesty that could lead toward lust must not be something I willingly put in front of my eyes. As important, I must protect my family from it as well. This certainly means that any form of porn, however loosely-defined, is something that I will not tolerate in my life. I've often shared with my children that if it's wrong before God, it's wrong before us. From a very practical standpoint, this will greatly limit the entertainment in my life and the movies I will see. It is a small sacrifice to give up for the sake of my walk with God, my wife and my kids.
3. **Total Transparency before God and my wife.** My online activities are an open book for anyone to see - especially my wife. Filters are also great. Yet, the greatest "filter" needs to be God's Spirit within me. I must embrace the Coram Deo life, i.e. that I live my life before the ever-presence of God within me (my body is His temple - 1 Cor. 6:19-20).
4. **Keep the battle in front of us.** I talk about this topic on a regular basis with my wife and children (age appropriate, of course). My teen and young adult children know that the online and entertainment world is a battlefield that requires the full armor of God. They know that like anything else in life, the battle-readiness starts with God Himself. He is our source of power in this battle. His grace and truth rule and provide us our greatest offense and defense.
5. **Pulling together to fight the good fight.** Going beyond my own family, we need to be addressing this issue at the "body" and church-wide level. Not only are marriages and families being destroyed, our witness for Christ is being greatly weakened. In Christ, we live in community. I pray that our pastors and men within our churches make this a regular topic of conversation. Resolved eyes must become a priority and a life-mission where we seek to protect what matters most. What are

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Have you ever heard of the Anti-“Islamophobia” Bridge Initiative? It is housed at Georgetown University’s Saudi-funded Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

A young woman by the name of Dordan Denari recently said, “I’m a Christian and I Love Muslims”? Absolutely. However, love for Muslims represents a far different sentiment than love for the Qur’an.

Denari presumably believes that Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, who was crucified and rose from the dead for the salvation of the human race. Yet she is professing love for a book that not only denies all of that, but also insists that **Christians are accursed, vile beings** who should be waged war against until they submit to the hegemony of a group that believes differently. One wonders if Miss. Denari’s attempt at Muslim-Christian understanding includes a comprehensive understanding of the verses below from the book she professes to love:

— **Jesus is not the Son of God, belief in the Trinity is “excess”**: “O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And **do not say, ‘Three’; desist — it is better for you.** Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.” — Qur’an 4:171 “It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! when He determines a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be,’ and it is.” — Qur’an 19:35

— **Jesus was not crucified**: “And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, Allah’s messenger — they slew him not nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them; and lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain.” — Qur’an 4:157

— **Those who believe in the divinity of Christ are “disbelievers”**: “They have certainly disbelieved who say that Allah is Christ, the son of Mary.” — Qur’an 5:17

— **Christians “forgot a good part” of the divine revelations they received**: “From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We did take a covenant, but they forgot a good part of the message that was sent them: so **we estranged them, with enmity and hatred** between the one and the other, to the day of judgment. And soon will Allah show them what it is they have done.” — Qur’an 5:14

— **Those who believe that Jesus is God’s Son are accursed**: “The Jews call ‘Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. **Allah’s curse be on them**: how they are deluded away from the Truth! ” — Qur’an 9:30

— **Christians who do not become Muslims “are the most vile of created beings”**: “Nor did those who were given the Scripture become divided until after there had come to them clear evidence. And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion. Indeed, they who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists **will be in the fire of Hell**, abiding eternally therein. Those are **the most vile of created beings.**” — Qur’an 98:6

— **Muslims must fight against and subjugate Christians**: “**Fight** those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and **feel themselves subdued.**” — Qur’an 9:29

Although few Christians would dare say so publicly nowadays, to be a Christian at all assumes a denial that Muhammad is a prophet and the Qur’an a holy book, for they both affirm as matters of faith beliefs that Christians do not hold, and — as per the above passages — deny many that Christians do hold. Source: <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2015/12/robert-spencer-in-pj-media-im-a-christian-and-i-love-the-quran>



we saying if we don't?

Wives and moms out there, we need you to fight the battle with us. We need your prayers, encouragement and help. If you're a single-mom, reach out to a male relative, your pastor or other godly man that can assist you in building this life-principle into the heart of your son. Every boy and man out there needs to have a mentor to stand alongside them in this battle. We can't go it alone.

No doubt we have taken some serious hits and losses when it comes to pornography. However, the battle is not over. Regardless of our past, Christ calls us to walk with Him in the present. Like Daniel, we can resolve in our hearts not to defile ourselves before God. We can choose God, our wives and our children over this world and the lust of the eyes it will offer us. In Christ, we can have resolved eyes.

"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself..." Daniel 1:8

If viewing obscene websites are a problem for you, whether or not you are male or female, check out:

<http://devocentral.com/resolved-eyes/>

The Resolved Eyes Initiative

The Resolved Eyes initiative is a movement devoted to reinforcing the commitment of purity within our marriages. While the primary focus is to encourage men and women to devote their eyes totally to their spouses, the resolved eyes goal of keeping the marriage relationship pure is both a pre-marital pursuit as well as a lifetime journey of devotion. We encourage all men, woman and our teens that want to honor God with their lives and marriages to make the Resolved Eyes Commitment and then share it with your spouse, family, friends and church family.

“Marriage Should Be Honored by All” Heb. 13:4

The writer is not a LCMS Lutheran but the point he makes is important and even critical. I wanted to add this: Remember baptism is a gift of God for the spiritual war chest. There God has made you His own and gives you His Holy Spirit. The Lord’s Supper is also a gift which helps us to be the men and women God wants us to be for through this means God forgives our sin, and strengthens saving faith. No matter what sin we are tempted by God is greater than the temptation, and His forgiveness transforms.

Pastor Domke



During the Sundays In Lent—Pastor Domke is presenting a series Titled—”Joseph from the Well to the Summit of Power”

Sunday Themes

February 13&14—Favored Son, Hated Brother

February 27&28—Resisting Temptation

March 5&6—Imprisoned and Forgotten by Man

March 12 &13—Remembered and Exalted By God

March 19&20—Grace to the Guilty

CAMP MINNEBOJI

Information and registration forms are now available here at church or you can get this information on line at www.minneboji.com and on Facebook: **Camp Minneboji**. Camp week is June 26 - July 2 at Camp Okoboji in NW Iowa. The camp, for kids in grades 4-9, features Bible Study, Mission Presentations, Music, Crafts, Sports, Recreation, a Camp T-shirt and the chance to meet new Christian friends. This year’s camp theme is “Got? Questions” with our theme verse Hebrews 10:23. The Camp registration fee is \$340 for the week. The Honor’s Camp registration is \$370 for the week. The registration deadline is June 1.



Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. Also if someone wants to do something earlier, the sheet will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please call Nancy Ziegeldorf at 599-2261.

Retirement Announced

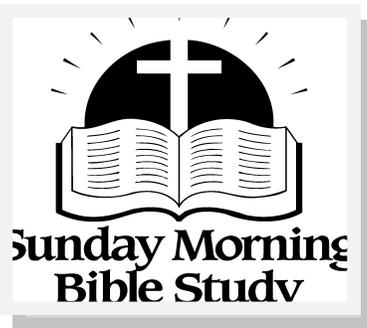
We are sad to tell you but glad for Kathy Sawvell that she will be retiring at the end of June 2016. Kathy will have worked for and served as Mt. Calvary's church secretary for 25 years. She has been a faithful worker and has worked tirelessly serving her Lord and His people. I encourage you to say thank you to her for these 25 years and as we get closer to June perhaps cards of appreciation would be appropriate. She has requested no retirement party, but personal thanks givings are certainly welcome. More importantly make an effort to thank the Lord for the blessings He has brought to the congregation through Kathy. She and her husband Darwyn are looking forward to time together without work responsibilities.

Good Bye and God Bless

Matt and Cindy Niederbaumer
1025 Beach NE
Huron SD 57350

Applications will be available beginning February 15, 2016

Applications for the position of Mt. Calvary's Church secretary will be available February 15th between 9 am and 4 pm.



Do not forget to attend Sunday School for Children and Sunday School for Adults. Christians are people of the Word, do not forget to grow in the knowledge of the Lord by studying the word. 9:15 A.M. Most Every Sunday



ADDRESS CHANGES Pastor Domke's Men's Retreat—Becoming the Men God wants us to be.

February 19-21, 2016

Mr and Mrs Ron Bitter
477 22nd St SW
Huron SD 57350

Overwhelmed but not overcome is the 2016's men's retreat theme. Men from all over the upper Midwest will be attending. And many of those men in general and men of God in particular find themselves overwhelmed. The promises in Christ however, make the promise that we might be overwhelmed but in Christ not overcome. As a nation we are facing immense change in the very fabric of our culture. Freedom is being lost, assumptions once held in the past seem no longer relevant. The ravages of relativism, the self-

centeredness of personal gratification, the emptiness of radical individualism, and the lost of moral absolutes are taking their toll.

This year's retreat will be one which encourages and uplifts men who struggle and who doesn't? Jesus said he would be lifted up and when He was He would be drawing all men to himself. Registration form are available in the office and on line at www.mtcalvaryhuron.org or at www.islandcamp.org.

The TRUTH about LOVE & SUFFERING—by Megan T. Smith

When I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came. My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me. And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me. The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest. God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes. I cry to You for help and You do not answer me; I stand, and You only look at me. You have turned cruel to me; with the might of Your hand You persecute me. (from [Job 30](#))

Poor Job. His hardships (and there were hardships a-plenty) were the product of a bet between God and Satan. There's no sugar-coating it. It's right there in black and white. How unfair is that?? Have you ever heard anyone say that God did Job wrong? Do you ever feel a little bit like Job sometimes? Job's story certainly doesn't give us the warm fuzzies we hope to gain from the Word of God, does it. ...Or does it?

My husband says the comforting thing about the story of Job is that it shows us no evil assaults us that God hasn't allowed. ...Oh well, yippee. That makes me feel much better. God knows all about my suffering, He allows it, He can stop it, but He won't. Still no warm fuzzies here. So, Satan can't touch us without God's permission. **THEN WHY DOES GOD GIVE HIM PERMISSION???** For crying out loud! This isn't rocket science!

DOES GOD LOVE ME OR NOT?!?

No, this isn't rocket science. This is harder to understand than rocket science. That's why the world doesn't get it. We get sucked into the belief that love is nothing but warm, pleasant feelings and butterflies, that it has nothing to do with suffering and pain. We're so quick to forget that the greatest act of love the world and heaven alike have ever known was one wrought with misery and pain: the worst most unbelievable suffering anyone could ever imagine, bitter betrayal, total abandonment, undeserved shame, gut-wrenching physical torture, and grief enough to make the Son of God Himself cry. ([Luke 22-23](#); [John 11:35](#))

Jesus' perfect love for us and for His Father led Him into suffering for our sake so that, in the end, you and I could one day love without tears. But right now, love isn't all laughter and warm fuzzies, not even on Valentine's Day. Just like it was for Jesus, **REAL LOVE** is giving your life for another ([John 15:13](#)). It's living in a sinful, fallen world and pressing on through the turmoil, pain, suffering to fight the good fight for the sake your brother ([1 Tim. 6:12](#); [Phil. 1:23-24](#)), for a good greater than your own comfort and well being.

Look at it this way: Adam and Eve had nothing but warm fuzzies in Eden, and it still wasn't good enough for them. So watch out when Satan tries to tell you what love ought to feel like. Next thing you know, you've bitten into a forbidden apple trying to find something that *feels* better than perfection *is*. And no, Job wasn't blameless, not after his troubles began anyway. He thought that being blameless entitled him to a better life than he had, that his good behavior and devotion to God meant that God was wrong to allow his suffering. Therein lies Job's sin. That's why God came to him and shouted quite angrily, "Brace yourself like a man! I will question you, and you will answer ME! Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?!" ([Job 38:3-4a](#))

Eep. So Job sees the error of his ways and changes his thinking....and probably his pants.

See Job today: a comfort throughout the ages, a paragon in times of personal suffering. We see that God allowed Job's suffering for our sake as well as for his own sake. Job got a much-needed chance to repent, and you and I have the comfort of his story without having to endure it ourselves and faith through hearing the Word of God. Do you think Job would turn around from his place in heaven with the rest of the saints and say it was worth it? I bet he would, the same as Jesus will say to each of us about His own glorious Cross when He finally welcomes us home once and for all. And we'll all say the same thing one day no matter what cross we bear now, but it's a lot easier to say it on Job's side of heaven than it is on ours. Until then, we know we are forgiven through Christ, and we suffer. It's not a *but*; it's an *and*, although it's not the end.



2016 Vacation Bible School Set

VBS 2016 has been scheduled for Monday through Friday, June 6-10 at Mt. Calvary. We will meet in the evenings as we did last year with supper served at 5:30 for all helpers, children, and their families, and activities following from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. All children ages three through 6th grade are welcome to attend. In *Barnyard Roundup* VBS, your children learn that Jesus gathers us together! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus graciously gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever. **VBS this year is "farm-tastic!"**

Mark your calendars and make plans now to be a part of it!



So let's address the first one. If we required people to get ashes put on their forehead to be part of the Christian Church or to be saved, or however you wish to word that, yes, that would be too strict. But all of those things listed in Lent are optional. We as the Church don't need to observe the season of Lent or put Ashes on our foreheads or any of that. We do it for another reason, to remember.

The world moves at a breakneck pace. Kids are busy every night of the week, and so are their parents. It never stops moving, but in the midst of that busyness we set aside time, set aside things we treasure, for 40 days to remember throughout those days that there is a God who loved so much, that His Son was sent into this world, and laid down His life for you and for me.

Did I do anything to deserve it? No that's why there are ashes on our forehead. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return, and God as our creator, cares for this dust that He formed, that was lost to Him when it sinned, that He would not withhold His only-begotten Son, Jesus, for our sake. He showed us Love that transcends our understanding that you and I might be lovely in the sight of God.

So we repent, for that is what Jesus taught, Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand. It is how Jesus starts his Ministry in the gospels. Jesus begins by proclaiming that same message that John the Baptist proclaimed as John prepared the way of the Lord. So we repent and confess with the Word of God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Because our Lord teaches us, Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven is why we slow down during Lent. It is to reflect upon what we sing in the, "When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul." *Hymn 543 v2*. That's why we gather together each Wednesday and all year around, not because our religion is strict, but because here there is the forgiveness that the Son of God won for me, and He won for you.

It is easy to lose track of that in the midst of everything that is going on. Our world has become so busy that not only have we slowed on Evangelism, we have slowed down on our individual learning of the Word of God. This is why we have Lent, it is a time of the year not to burden us, but to help us focus and remember what Jesus has done for us, as we watch Him climb up the Hill to Jerusalem to die so that we might live. I hope to see you there on Ash Wednesday and start preparing for Jesus' ascent to Jerusalem.

Offering Options

The Board of Stewardship would like to make the congregation aware that they can give their offerings online if they so choose.

First of all we should look at what scripture says. 2 Corinthians 9:7 **"Everyone should give what they have decided to give in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"**.

We give offerings out of joyful thanksgiving for the gifts that God has given to us. As new tools become available, it is okay if we wish to use them as long as we are careful to remember the reason we are giving.

What we have found is, the simplest way for you to give online, should you choose to do so, is through the bill pay services offered by your bank. Here are some guidelines:

1. Set the church up as biller in your bill pay account.
2. Put your offering envelope number as the account #.
3. You can designate where you want the money to go (general, missions, building, preschool) in the memo line.
4. Schedule either a one time or recurring transfer.
5. Verify that the payment cleared your account.

We realize this is not a fit for everyone, and are not suggesting that people need to adopt this method of giving. We are just merely letting people know it is a tool available which may be helpful to them. It also could be used to send your offering to church on a week when you are not able to be there. However, we would caution against thinking that the church just wants your money. God does not need our money, after all, it's already all His. What He is after, is your heart. Your Fellow Servants in Christ, the Board of Stewardship.



Mt Calvary Lutheran Church
And Preschool

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Winning the Lost and Strengthening the Faithful

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