



April 2020

Mt. Calvary Messenger
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
1372 W. Fremont Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309 342-7083



April 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Watch for new Bible classes, worship services and more to come each week! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the website!</p>			1 Confirmation ONLINE	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Worship ONLINE 10AM	6	7	8 Confirmation ONLINE	9 Maundy Thursday Worship ONLINE (evening)	10 Good Friday Worship ONLINE (evening)	11
12 A Blessed Easter Worship ONLINE 9AM	13	14	15 Confirmation ONLINE	16	17	18
19 Worship ONLINE 10AM	20	21	22 Confirmation ONLINE	23	24	25
26 Worship ONLINE 10AM	27	28	29 Confirmation ONLINE	30		

HAPPY Birthday!

- 1- Heidi Baughman
- 8- Jonathan Knussman
- 9- Jennifer Baughman
- 9- Vickie Stine
- 9- Kyle Engel
- 10- Theresa Clark
- 13- Brent Bennett
- 13- Ava Kersh
- 13- Isabel Kersh
- 16- Madelyn Bird
- 19- Seeley Koch
- 21- Bob Donley
- 23- Derek Lescallett

- 1-Julie & Kevir Donnelly
- 7-Jason & Sherry Kersh
- 12-Randall & Kim Noe
- 15-Ralph & Merrily Sargent
- 17-Tim & Janet Laugesen



Baptism Birthdays

- 4-1 Bev Donley
- 4-1 Chance Donley
- 4-2 Richard Stine
- 4-2 Brittany Kane
- 4-3 Julian Henry
- 4-7 Arlene Hazlett
- 4-10 LeRoy Shoop
- 4-12 Megan Sperry
- 4-12 Andrew Knussman
- 4-12 Les Lindsey
- 4-15 Shelly Heimann
- 4-15 Dee Lipe
- 4-19 Melanie Sommerer
- 4-23 Derek Lescallett
- 4-25 Theresa Clark
- 4-25 Jonathan Knussman
- 4-28 Jennifer Baughman

Whoever believes and is
baptized will be saved.
Mark 16:16a

Preschool News

Our preschoolers and teachers have been missing class time together! The PTO Facebook Page has been a great way for teachers to share stories and activities.

Families have also shared what they have been doing. Students even got to see Pastor lead a Bible lesson and several songs.

Learning packets and ideas have been mailed to students. We pray that our school families stay safe and we anxious to be together again.

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on local radio stations!

WBYS in Canton, IL (1560AM)
on Sundays at 7:35am

WKEI in Kewanee, IL (104.3FM and 1450AM)
on Sundays at 9:00am

We are keeping all members in our prayers daily. Please let us know if you need any help: financial, medical or just running to get groceries! We ask that you remember Mt. Calvary in your prayers and tithes (as you are able). Even though we are unable to gather together in God's house, we still continue to do His work!

We are working on getting an electronic giving option up and running! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website. More details to come soon!

Starting January 1, 2020, the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) put into effect new rules for Mandated Reporters. “These changes are particularly important for children, such as in a house of worship, schools, and social services organizations.” We are hoping that of all our volunteers that work with Sunday School and VBS will be able to complete this while all have some “stay-at-home” time! If you have helped Mt. Calvary in the past, and plan to help this year— please go to:

www.dcfstraining.org

Find and click on the “Mandated Reporter Training” box. It will ask you to create a log-in and read through the course. It takes about 60 minutes and at the end there will be a certificate of completion that you can print out. We will keep a copy of that certificate on file here at church so that we have the records to show if needed. Contact Leah if you have questions!

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett	Debra Hughes
Kim Noe	Missy Montgomery	Theresa Clark
Tom England	Walter Walker	Louis Linnenburger
Arlene Hazlett	Janalee Gutierrez	Fern Harding
Guy Hood	Peggy LeStarge	Rose Morris
Bev Donley		
Glenn— Lori Kugler’s brother	Chris & Nelly Clark and baby Ivan	

Other:

Our members, our neighbors, our world
 Healthcare workers (Mark, Tom, Kathy, Diane, Shelly, Deb, Gabby, Becca, Carrie)
 those employed, those unemployed
 Our government officials
 Those sick, those alone and lonely
 Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission
 PFC Douglas Havens - deployed in the Middle East
 LCpl Kaleb Karssen—stationed at Camp Pendleton, California

Operating Fund Balance				
	Feb-2020	YTD	Percentage of Budget	Budget
Income	\$ 18,976.69	\$ 140,866.19	58.92%	\$ 239,095.00
Expenses	\$ 20,083.07	\$ 146,698.57	61.36%	\$ 239,095.00
Currently we should be at 66.67% for Income and Expenses, therefore we are behind on both.				

Archaeologists found a marble inscription in *Nazareth dating to the first half of the first century which prescribes death for grave robbers. All previous Roman edicts found on tombs prescribe only a large fine. One wonders what made the penalty be increased and in the region of Nazareth. (Date can't be narrowed more, because scholars are unsure which "Caesar" issued the edict.)*

Paul's transformation has already been noted, but what of the surprising change of Jesus' skeptical brother who became a leader in His brother's cause after His death? What would change the disappointed brother, perhaps a resurrection appearance described in 1Cor.15?

If the disciples were perpetuating a hoax would they have dared to start it from Jerusalem where it could most easily have been squelched? If Jesus didn't bodily rise, Jerusalem was the one place where it would be impossible to have started the Church. If you're going to spread a lie, you don't start it where everyone could shout you down. The only thing that could account for the quick launch of the Church after Pentecost (aside from the Holy Spirit!) is that no one could disprove the claim that Jesus had risen – and many could substantiate it – more than 500 people saw Christ alive after the resurrection! (1Cor.15)

The Jews hold very strongly the observance of Sabbath worship. Yet, Christianity a supposed "Jewish sect", from the very beginning worshipped on Sunday not Saturday. What could have accounted for such rapid and universally accepted change, aside from a resurrection? (Try passing that-or anything that has to do with worship-at church council, if you don't believe that's a big piece of evidence.)

Paul lists a large list of witnesses (500+) to the risen Christ in 1 Cor. 15 (cf. Gospels). Each of these would have been called upon to confirm or deny the testimony. Could such a large conspiracy have ever withstood the interrogation, persecution, and eventually horrible deaths that most endured? People will die for lies (example Islamic suicide bombers), but no one will die for what they know to be a lie. IOW's... The disciples knew they had seen Jesus alive!

There are many compelling reasons to accept the truth of Christ's resurrection. This only scratches the surface. The power of His Word and the testimony of 20 centuries and millions of lives continue to testify powerfully to the resurrection of Christ. We have a sure and certain hope that death is not the end. *"Because Jesus lives, you will live also! Where O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting?" Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Steve Sommerer

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob in our fortress. Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46

Easter is coming! We are working very hard to make it possible for you to participate through our website and/or Facebook page with the services of Wednesday and Sunday. Please friend and follow those pages and share them as you are able. Is it the same? No. Is it a blessing during this tough time? Yes, I think so. Your elders will be meeting to make decisions regarding what to do when we are allowed to come back (start with Holy Week, etc); confirmation (we will continue with plans to keep the day); and how we may need to work within number limits for gatherings. They will also discuss vacation Bible school, how to keep up with lawn work and care of the church properties together with church council. They will be reaching out to their “elder families” and invite you to call or contact them and pastor with any concerns you might have or needs they you need help addressing. So, whether or not we are “quarantined” for Easter, I send you this newsletter encouraging you to keep Easter in your heart of joy - - and know we will definitely observe it together no matter when we are able to reconvene. Jesus conquered death and the devil. He can certainly handle coronavirus – and also any need you might have. *“Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share Jesus knows our every weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.”*

“If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our teaching is in vain.(1 Cor. 15:14)”

Few scholars deny Jesus of Nazareth walked on the earth nearly 2000 years ago, that He was a successful teacher and that He was put to death as a revolutionary figure. Many believe He was too naïve to work within the spiritual and political framework of His day, others that he represented a threat to Rome’s power in occupied Judea. But beyond that, few secular scholars believe that Jesus rose from the dead. The real, true, bodily resurrection of Jesus has been called the linchpin of Christianity.

We can’t prove the resurrection to someone who doesn’t want to believe, but there are compelling reasons to accept the testimony of Scripture. It’s OK to use our head and weigh the evidence. Jesus said, *“You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free...Love the Lord your God...with all your mind.”* *What does the evidence say? It can’t be treated at length here, but many excellent books have been written on the subject and deserve attention. (Paul Maier’s book, The First Easter, was used for this article and is found in the library. Briefly summarized here.)*

On the reliability of the Gospel records... If the authors were lying, would they have described themselves as hiding out in fear while the women went to find the empty tomb? More likely if they were inventing a story, they would portray themselves as heroic. Women were considered unreliable witnesses and were unable to testify in court in those days. If they wanted to fabricate the resurrection story, would they have chosen women to find and report the empty tomb? The apostolic witness would form the foundation of the Church until the Gospels were later collected. If the resurrection never happened and the disciples were perpetrating a hoax, would they have allowed their own writings to undermine their reputation. They exude credibility, never flinching to report things that were very unflattering for themselves. The only thing that could describe the “warts and all” picture of the disciples we get in the Gospels is that they were telling it how it was.

If the Jews wished to squelch the rumor of the resurrection, they could have said the body was still there. Instead, they acknowledged its disappearance with a theft story – passed on by generations of Jewish teachers in early writings. (This is evidence against one’s interest.) While early Jewish historians say that Christ’s body was stolen, they all agree the tomb was empty. Christ body wasn’t produced to deny the claims. Would the disciples have all (except John, so far as we know) become martyrs dying horrible deaths for a cause they **knew** to be a lie? *Would cowardly ex-fisherman be emboldened to change the world with their preaching if it was false and **they knew it was false?** Of course not! How are we to account for Paul’s radical transformation from persecutor to apostle apart from seeing the Living Savior? The only thing that explains the transformed lives is a genuine encounter with the risen Christ.*