

GOD BLESS AMERICA




July 2020

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



July 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----|--|
| <p>Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am-12pm</p> | | | 1 Bible Study online | 2 LWML Potluck 12pm | 3 | 4 Happy & Safe 4th!  |
| 5 8am/10:30am In person Worship | 6 Worship Service posted online | 7 | 8 Bible Study online | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8am/10:30am In person Worship 11:30am Voter's Meeting Worship Service posted online | 13 | 14 | 15 Bible Study online | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8am/10:30am In person Worship Worship Service posted online | 20 Council Meeting | 21 | 22 Bible Study online | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8am/10:30am In person Worship Worship Service posted online | 27 | 28 | 29 Bible Study online | 30 | 31 | Bible Studies may post on Wed. or Thurs. depending on the taping day |

HAPPY Birthday!

2- Shelly Harding
 7- Richard Stine
 7- Karen Ramage
 7- Glenemay Gustavus
 8- Montana Bernett
 8- David Whittle
 9- Louis Linnenburger
 11-Nicole Lindsey
 12-Genevieve England
 12-Jules Henry
 12-Lucas Knussman
 13-Ezra Sommerer
 13-Wally Walker
 19-Gary Peterson
 20-Ruth Robertson
 22- Mike Martinie
 23- Debra Hughes
 27-Jana Carlson
 31-Chelsea Macek
 31-Jeanie Whittle

11- Keith & Evelyn England
 21-Mark & Shari Meeker
 24-Dale & Donna Bolin
 30-Bob & Karen Ramage



Attendance for the month of June

| Date | Worship | Communion |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 6/7 | 82 | 74 |
| 6/14 | 73 | 66 |
| 6/21 | 70 | 63 |
| 6/28 | 64 | 58 |

Baptism Birthdays

7-1 Sue Spay
 7-1 Fred McGunnigal
 7-3 Nancy Lindberg
 7-9 Joshua Peterson
 7-26 Ezra Sommerer
 7-27 Owen Wolfe

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

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Joyce Wolfe | Dan Brackett |
| Debra Hughes | Kim Noe |
| Missy Montgomery | Theresa Clark |
| Tom England | Walter Walker |
| Fern Harding | Arlene Hazlett |
| Janalee Gutierrez | Guy Hood |
| Rose Morris | Bev Donley |
| William Burkhardt | Louis Linnenburger |
| Anita Reinertsen | |
| Rae Marie- Theresa Clark's mother | |
| Glenn - Lori Kugler's brother | |
| Arlene Hazlett's sister Donna Vilardi- battling leukemia | |

Others:

Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna, the Kenya Mission
 Sgt Daniel Colombo (Chelsea Macek's husband) deployed to Kuwait
 PFC Douglas Havens- deployed in the Middle East
 LCpl Kaleb Karsen- stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA
 Our nation, our world, our leaders, our neighbors
 Our healthcare workers: Tom, Mark, Jared, Gabby,
 Evelyn, Diane, Kathy, Shelly, Deb, Lori, Becca

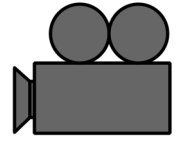


We will be move to having 2 Sunday services (8:00am & 10:30am) in July- starting July 5th- as Illinois enters Phase 4. Please sign up for the worship time that works best for you and your family:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a44aea92cabff2-july>

We will also continue to post services online for those members who cannot return yet.

We are working on installing a camera that will make recording our church services (and placing them online) a bit easier. With that will come a learning curve. Please bear with us as we adjust to recording our in-person services and placing them online for those who cannot return yet to worship. This means that the timing of the service being posted online may change to Mondays. Thank you for your patience.



The LWML Summer Potluck will take place on Thursday, July 2nd at 12 noon in the church gym. Meat will be furnished, please bring a dish to share. Family members are also invited. Please let JoAnn Folger (299-0600) or Leah (office: 342-7083) know if you plan to attend and how many people you are bringing so that we can plan accordingly. Thank you!

May Offering Totals

| | Received | | Year to Date Received |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Envelope Offering | \$ 13,760.13 | Envelope Offering | \$ 143,472.07 |
| Online Giving | \$ 2,895.44 | Online Giving | \$ 6,463.82 |
| Loose | \$ 672.00 | Loose | \$ 5,287.70 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 1,034.34 | Miscellaneous | \$ 40,677.60 |
| Monthly Total | \$ 18,361.91 | Total | \$ 195,901.19 |
| Monthly Offering Goal | \$ 19,924.58 | Year-to-Date Offering Goal | \$ 239,095.00 |
| Monthly Deficit | (\$ 1,562.67) | Year-to-Date Deficit | \$ 43,193.81 |



God Bless America! Have a happy 4th of July!

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature.

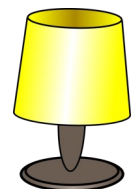
Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

For the whole law can be summed up in this one command:

"Love your neighbor as yourself." **Galatians 5:13-14**

We will **NOT** be holding a rummage sale due to the extenuating circumstances this year.

We plan to hold one next year and thank you for all your help and support in this throughout the years!



LCMS Stewardship Ministry- Newsletter article – July 2020

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

OFFICE Hours for the summer!

Leah will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30am to 12 noon. If you leave a message she will get back to you on the next business day. If you need assistance faster, you can call the office to see if Pastor is in, or contact Pastor on his cell phone at 618-444-7055.



VOTE

We will have our voter's meeting on July 12th after the second service, starting at approximately 11:30am. Lunch will be provided- Come join us to hear about what is going on with our church!

We have a sign up available so that we can plan for how many people will be coming. Please let us know if you will be attending or not at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a44aea92cabff2-will>

If you are unable to attend we can provide the budget information to you if you desire, please let us know.

Pastor's Thoughts 1

Who are we? Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (hereafter LCMS). The Missouri part of the corporate title comes from the founding Saxon German congregations landing in Perry County MO and its current headquarters is in St. Louis. The LCMS is a group of congregations – 6000+- “walking together.” The Greek word for walking together is synod.

The LCMS is made up of her parish pastors and the congregations they serve. That means lay persons aren't members of the synod, but members of the congregations that are synod members. Congregations, such as Mt. Calvary, are self-governing, but not autonomous, in the sense that we have freely entered into a binding compact wherein we have pledged to uphold the teachings of the Lutheran Church as found in the Book of Concord and to conform our church life and practice to the authority of God's Word.

In binding ourselves to God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions as a faithful exposition of that Word, the LCMS member congregations are doing something already evident in the New Testament epistles: churches binding together to do collectively what would be impossible to do alone. The LCMS operates the largest Protestant school system in the United States. This requires thousands of church workers; hence, we partner with our LCMS to support colleges to train those teachers, and seminaries to train future pastors. We partner to support missionaries throughout the world. We partner to provide faithful theological supervision and encouragement toward right teaching and practice. (This is why we split into smaller units like district and circuit as proper visitation

in a national synod would be quite impossible. Not only theological leadership, but also guidance during time of vacancy, etc.)

As a congregation of the LCMS, we pledge to use only doctrinally pure worship materials, hymns, devotional resources; that is, materials that speak the Law and Gospel clearly. Not stubbornness, but dedication to the Word of God makes us inflexibly desirous of teaching all things in accord with the Word. (Just a few passages of note: 1Tim.4:16; Matt.28:19; Rom.16:17; 1Cor.1:10; Matt.7:15) This is not the kind of Pharisaic judging forbidden in Scripture, but loving God by loving God's Word. Any falsification of that Word or denial of it is a big deal for someone who loves God and desires to confess Him before the world. So, we would no more willingly allow a small amount of heresy to be injected into our preaching and music than we would allow a small amount of poison to be mixed in with our medicine. Poison is bad. False doctrine is worse. Its consequences can last much longer. "*Watch you life and doctrine closely... you will save your hearers*"(1Tim.4:16). Pure doctrine saves. False doctrine is demonic in origin.

To live a life of integrity before God and the world is to confess what is true and to reject what isn't. Rejecting what is wrong is a necessary expression of love. (Read Matt.10:32f) It is also a matter of integrity for members of a synodical fellowship (which is voluntary after all) to keep their promises to their sister churches to teach and practice what aligns with our confession (closed communion, for instance), inasmuch as that confession was not forced upon us but entered willingly. Godly men and women keep their word.

Consider confirmation. Over the years sometimes for their own diverse reasons, a confirmand will leave the LCMS. When they return asking and expecting to commune, they and their parents may get upset. The reality is: I as a pastor and the congregation itself took our binding pledge more seriously than the confirmand did. It isn't to say they aren't Christian, only that they have publicly aligned with a different church. That public confession should mean something to them and be taken seriously. God takes it very seriously (Matt.10:32f).

Sometimes they will say something like, "I still believe exactly as I was taught." Then, it is absolutely necessary that your confession follow your faith, and to act against it is shameful. It is exactly what we pledge in confirmation, and we need to take our public confession of membership seriously. For a Christian (*and we do account for the possibility of sins of ignorance here*), I can't have my private faith and my public action or confession. Where I choose to become a member is the most public expression of my inner faith. It won't do to whine about it or feel upset with someone else. I must take responsibility for my confession.

If the place I'm worshiping doesn't really reflect what I believe, then either 1) I'm not a Christian at all but a hypocrite going through the motions; or, 2) I'm not connecting the dots between my faith and my Christian responsibility to "flee false doctrine"; "watch out for wolves in sheep's clothing"; "mark those who teach other doctrines and avoid them." (I'm also aware of the possibility that circumstances

leave one without a right teaching church immediately available, say on a deployment where one might have a Catholic and a Protestant service and no other choices. Here, I'd simply suggest not going forward at the time of communion.)

How desperately we need to make clear to our young people that they must be people of character and love God enough to stand on His Word. It is not loveless – quite the opposite – to take a principled stand on God's truth. (In this respect, I dare say more genuine Christian unity exists where two Christians or churches of differing confession agree that their differences matter, than simply saying the disagreements are unimportant.)

The world already doesn't believe in absolute truths. The Church shouldn't feed that relativism. The ancient church had a fellowship practice called communion in sacris; that is, no fellowship in sacred things with those of differing confession. Churches, like ELCA, that didn't take their confessional integrity seriously eventually became false churches and fell prey to all manner of lies. We can only pray for the remnant of believers that remain and that God's Church again be one—sanctified in God's truth. Pray John 17 with Jesus. But don't settle for false unity.

On confirmation day I say that I believe the things I've been taught and on that basis desire to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper because what's taught and confessed at that altar aligns with what I have come to believe on the basis of the Word. No one can force such a confession from someone else (still less on another church). It is a commitment of conscience. Because I truly entered that confession willingly before God and my neighbor, it is important to me that I don't compromise my integrity. God says, "Observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you." None of the things I learned in confirmation do I merely accept in my head while permitting myself to act against them. My action follows my faith (Rom. 10:9-10), and it's just as true of congregations of the LCMS who have voluntarily entered fellowship as it is for a confirmand who joins a church. (Side note: Faith isn't an exercise of my free will or something I initiated. It's always a work of the Holy Spirit.)

A believer called to faith by grace will not regard doctrinal distinctions as insignificant. If faith could possibly live in the heart of someone who doesn't care about doctrine, it is only by a weird inconsistency. Not to care about God's Word is not to care about God. No less than not to care about my wife's words means I don't care for her. Don't fall for the nice, politically-correct and saccharine notion that being Christian is about just being nice, but never honest and bold. Weakness and ambivalence to truth is not nice or Christian. If you want genuinely to love your neighbor, do it by loving and standing on God's truth. You don't do your neighbor (especially not your kids) any favors by being a coward with respect to your faith and confession. Remember what God commands is always good! Thanks for reading... (Read 2 John on Truth and Love.)