

# February 2021

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



# February 2021

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

	1	2	3 Midweek Class 4:30	4 LWML 1pm	5	6
7 8am & 10:30am Worship Services 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Class  Elder's Meeting 11:45am	8	9	10 Midweek Class 4:30	11 Council 6pm	12	13
14 8am & 10:30am Worship Services 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	15	16 Midweek Class 4:30	17 Ash Wednesday Service 6pm	18	19	20
21 8am & 10:30am Worship Services 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Class	22	23 Hats of Love 3pm  Midweek Class 4:30	24 5pm Dinner 6pm Lent Service	25	26	27
28 8am & 10:30am Worship Services 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Class						

## Happy Anniversary

16-Robert & Laura Nichols  
28-Bob & Bev Donley

## Happy Birthday

5- Arlene Hazlett  
9- Brian Mason  
15-Lori Donovan  
16-Rachel Macek  
18-Buzz Hawthorne  
20-Debra Holmes  
28-Brittany Kane

## Baptism Birthdays

2-5 Gwen Wells  
2-9 Carrie McCance  
2-11 Dalton Engel  
2-15 Joyce Wolfe  
2-15 Gavin Lindsey  
2-24 Nicole Lindsey  
2-28 Melissa Montgomery

Whoever believes and is  
baptized will be saved.

Mark 16:16a

## Attendance for the month of January

Date	Worship	Communion
1/3	31	—
1/10	45	—
1/17	64	55
1/24	62	53
1/31		

## In our Prayers

### Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett
Debra Hughes	Kim Noe
Missy Montgomery	Theresa Clark
Tom England	Walter Walker
Fern Harding	Janalee Gutierrez
Guy Hood	Chris Clark
Rose Morris	Bev Donley
William Burkhardt	Louis Linnenburger
Anita Reinertsen	Mina Montgomery
Beulah Meadows	Arlene Hazlett
Allie Clark (family of Theresa Clark)-	fighting cancer
Lorren-	upcoming back surgery
Glenn -	Lori Kugler's brother

### Others:

Lisa Corps- fostering a little girl  
Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna, the Kenya Mission  
Sgt Daniel Colombo deployed to Iraq  
SPC Douglas Havens- stationed at Fort Drum, NY  
Cpl Kaleb Karssen- 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

## Preschool News

Preschool is going very well. Families and students are doing a great job with COVIS precautions. We have 25 students and are thankful for every school day with the,. National Lutheran Schools Week was Jan. 25-29. We celebrated with Mt. Calvary T-shirt Day and Crazy Clothes Day.

Derek and Leah continue to work on the Fire Marshall improvements. The fire doors should get here in March. We need to cover the gym walls with an approved fire material– if anyone knows a good contractor– please let us know as soon as possible!

Registration opened to church families and current students in January and is going very well. In February, registration will open to the public.

The PTO is selling Little Caesars pizzas and cookies. Please call the office if you would like to order. Put PTO has been tremendously supportive of our students and school! We will celebrate Valentine's Day with parties and card exchanges. The children will make valentines for their parents and grandparents. Happy Valentine's Day to you! Thank you for your prayers, May God bless you and keep you safe.

## LWML

Will meet on Thursday Feb. 4th at 1 pm in the gym.

Lois has the topic, Lori is the hostess  
and the roll call will be Rams.



Our Lent series this year will be "Sacred Head, Now Wounded". This series is based on the hymn and explores the wounds we inflict upon our Lord through our acts of betrayal, apathy, denial, mockery, and abandonment. Yet the ultimate message is one of healing and joy. Our services will begin at 6:00pm.

Ash Wednesday February 17: A Wounded Savior for a Wounded People

February 24: The Wound of Betrayal

March 3: The Wound of Apathy

March 10: The Wound of Denial

March 17: The Wound of Mockery

March 24: The Wound of Abandonment



\*We will have dinners prior to our Wednesday night services, (but not on Ash Wednesday). The dinners will start at 5:00pm.

Feb. 24– supporting the youth group

March 3– available

March 10- available

March 17– available

March 24– available

*For God*

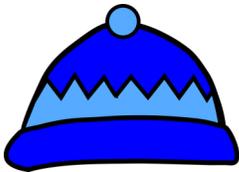
so loved the world  
that he gave his  
only  
begotten  
son so  
that whoever  
believes  
in him shall  
have everlasting

*life*

John 3:16

A blessed and  
happy  
Valentine's  
Day  
from Mt. Calvary!

Remember that  
Jesus loves you and  
we do too!



Hats of Love will meet Feb. 23rd  
at 3pm in the gym!

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There are still a few spots open for altar flowers this year if you would like to celebrate, remember someone special or give thanks to God. Sign up and Leah will contact you a couple weeks beforehand for information and payment!



Thrivent Choice Dollars can help organizations that YOU care about! If you are an eligible Thrivent Member- your 2020 Choice Dollars need to be directed/designated by March 31, 2021. Don't let them expire!

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt or call Jennifer DeWolfe at 309-341-0073 for help.

Both Mt. Calvary Church and Mt. Calvary Preschool are on the list of organizations that can receive your Choice dollars! Thrivent Choice dollars donated to the preschool go into the Scholarship Fund. Dollars donated to the church go into our Capital Improvement Fund.

## Voter's Meeting Summary

- Mt. Calvary held their January Voter's meeting on Jan 24, 2021. 26 voting members were present.
- Derek Koch was elected as Properties Chairman.
- Preschool continues with 25 students, following Health Department COVID precautions.
- The preschool is selling Little Caesar's pizza as a fundraiser until Feb. 14th.
- The Fire Marshall improvements are continuing: fire doors were ordered on Jan. 4th. If we receive a letter from the company stating that the gym ceiling was installed to code we may not have to do anything with the ceiling. (fingers crossed!)
- Youth group had a basket auction and Christmas House fundraisers in December. They will be having a "meals on the go" fundraiser soon!
- Working with Ameren, we will be able to replace all the lights in our building with LED lights! The total cost to replace will be \$9,873.80 but Mt. Calvary will only have to pay \$1,723.00 with the savings incentives that Ameren has! We are working on getting paperwork completed and submitted, no start date for replacement yet.
- We have switched from Century Link to Comcast for phone and internet— that has allowed us to stream our services!
- Elder's were able to lead services while Pastor and family were quarantined— and we are thankful that they did so that we could continue to worship!
- Pastor's 2021 salary— Elder's suggested a 2.5% increase— bringing Pastor's base pay up to \$61,290.00 Motion to accept was made and seconded, approved by voters.
- Lent services and dinners will be beginning in February. Ash Wednesday is February 17th and Mt. Calvary will have a service that evening. The following five weeks will include dinner and then a service.
- Operating funds:
  - Beginning balance on 10-1-2020: \$84,722.75
  - Ending balance on 12-31-2020: \$102,323.28
  - Endowment Fund: (Nov 2020) \$385,794.21
- Designated funds:
  - Beginning balance: \$21,308.77
  - Ending balance: \$28,291.42
- Our PPP loan has been completely forgiven!
- The Synod proposal— to pushback/postpone the Synod convention until 2023 so that the districts can hold their conventions in 2021-2022 was voted on. Paper ballots were used: 24 yes votes, 1 no vote. Tim and Leah will submit the results to the synod online as instructed.
- Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 can be designated until March 31st. Both Mt. Calvary Church and Mt. Calvary Preschool are able to receive choice dollars. If you need help with the process, please contact Jennifer DeWolfe.

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry – February 2021

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

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**Knox County Right to Life**

**7x7x7 Prayer**

7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7 words: Lord, please, stop abortion in this country.

## Lenten Blessings

How can Lent be a blessing for you? Unbelievably, Lent already begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17! The theme for our Lenten services this year will be “Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” It is based upon the classic Lenten hymn and focuses our meditations on the Passion of our Lord Christ. The services of Lent will begin Ash Wednesday and each succeeding Wednesday at 6:30pm. We have a few questions yet to answer as to providing our traditional preservice Lenten meals and encourage you to keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

How blessed we are to have these opportunities together to contemplate the Passion of our Lord! Too easily we forget God not only calls us to eternal life through faith, but also calls us to serve Him with lives of love and good works within our respective vocations. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal, putting to death our sinful flesh - a time of Godly discipline. In that respect Lent is a “Baptismal season”, because in Lent we daily drown our sinful flesh in repentance and rise to life with Christ in the power of His Word.

The root of discipline is disciple and that’s what God calls each of us to be. Our lives of discipleship get derailed by undisciplined lives focused too much on worldly things. Discipline is important. Through Godly disciplines we learn our failures and dependence on Jesus. Through Godly disciplines we remember our privilege of serving God by serving others. Through Godly disciplines we learn that faith passively rests in Jesus’ work, trusting in Him for salvation, even as we actively serve God in the world. The disciplines of Lent include setting aside time to be in God’s Word, both privately and devotionally, as well as the extra services of God’s house. You are encouraged to consider setting aside days and times for prayer and fasting.

The Lenten focus on repentance and Christ’s sufferings and death is a great blessing. In our self-centered world, the Holy Spirit would change our hearts and direct us to Christ through faith and to our neighbor in love. How blessed if we learn in Lent to confess our sins to God our Father through Christ our Lord. Opportunities for individual confession and absolution are offered with pastor during Lent – Saturdays and anytime by appointment. The Portals of Prayer and reading through the Gospels helps us center our homes and lives in God’s Word. Fasting is encouraged (see Matt.6) as an opportunity to lay aside those things (food, TV, etc) that dominate our attentions, dedicating that time and energy to God’s Word and prayer. Works of love and service are encouraged as loving responses to the Savior’s free forgiveness.

God’s grace is a precious treasure. Lent is a good time to grow in our joyful certainty that Christ has won our final victory. By the power of God’s Holy Spirit, “*Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of your faith*”(Heb.12:2).

Please consecrate your homes and hearts to Christ this Lenten journey, and know that God will bring great blessing to your moments dedicated to His Word.  
Pastor Steve Sommerer