

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



**July 2023**

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



# July 2023



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<b>Leah's summer office hours</b> Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30-12					1	2  Pastor out of town
2 <i>Rev, Brandos</i> 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Elders Meeting 11:30 Building Comm.	3	4  <i>Office closed</i>  	5  10am-12pm Crafters	6  12pm LWML potluck	7	8
P a s t o r a n d f a m i l y o n v a c a t i o n						
9  8:45am Bible Class/Sunday School 10am Worship Service 11:30am VBS meeting	10  5pm Council	11	12	13	14	15
16  8:45am Bible Class/Sunday School 10am Worship Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Voters Meeting 3:00pm VBS Set-Up	24  6-8pm VBS	25  1pm Hats of Love  6-8pm VBS	26  6-8pm VBS	27  6-8pm VBS	28  6-8pm VBS	29
30  8:45am Bible Class/Sunday School 10am Worship Service	31	<b>Aug 1</b>	<b>Aug 2</b>  10a-12p Crafters	<b>Aug 3</b>  1pm LWML	<b>Aug 4</b>	<b>Aug 5</b>

## Happy Anniversary

## Happy Birthday

2- Shelly Harding  
4- Theodore Clark  
7- Richard Stine  
7- Karen Ramage  
8- Montana Bennett  
8- David Whittle  
9- Louis Linnenburger  
12- Genevieve England  
12- Jules Henry  
12- Lucas Knussman  
13- Ezra Sommerer  
19- Gary Peterson  
20- Ruth Robertson  
22- Mike Martinie  
27- Jana Carlson  
31- Jeanie Whittle

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

## Baptism Birthdays

7-1 Fred McGunnigal  
7-3 Nancy Lindberg  
7-9 Joshua Peterson  
7-17 Callie Cansino  
7-17 David Cansino  
7-17 Joseph Cansino  
7-17 Amelia Cansino  
7-17 Caleb Cansino  
7-17 Gabriela Cansino  
7-26 Ezra Sommerer  
7-27 Owen Wolfe  
7-31 Theodore Clark

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

## **Attendance for the month of June**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
6/4	91	68
6/11	87	66
6/18	126	83
6/25	94	67

## *In Our Prayers*

### Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett
Theresa Clark	Fern Harding
Anita Reinertsen	Janalee Gutierrez
Mitch Jacobs	Bob Donley
Guy Hood	Dean Westergreen
Frederick Larner	Louis Linnenburger
Chris Clark	Jen Baughman

### Others:

Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna, the Kenya Mission  
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute  
Our Armed Forces: Sgt Kaleb Karssen

CIF will be making pies again this fall and would love it if you would think about them as you have extra fruit this summer!



If you need help figuring out how to prep the fruit please let us know! Or you can drop it off at church and have us prep it!

---

LWML will meet on July 6th for their summer potluck meal at church at 12:00pm.  
Bring a dish to pass, and family is welcome!



God Bless America!  
Have a happy, fun and safe 4th of July!

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do You will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

---



VBS @ Mt. Calvary!  
July 24-28, 2023 : 6pm-8pm  
Dinner will begin at 5:15pm

We are covered in Jesus' grace! Our theme is inspired by 1 Timothy 1:14: "The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." Each of the lessons focuses on biblical accounts that emphasize the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

VBS is for children ages 3 (potty trained and with preschool experience) through 5th grade. Registration closes on July 14th!

Link to register: <https://forms.gle/3DKnSWRowaiJDy3N7>

\*\* All volunteers should have received an email from the office with information and the handbook. If you did not receive one, please let Leah know!

\*\*There will be a VBS meeting on Sunday, July 9th to go over details for VBS! Please attend if you are able!

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry – July 2023

### Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he 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).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: 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, every-thing we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money 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 our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our du-ties to others stem from our birth into that 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 own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought 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 we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

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 save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the 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, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

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

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, 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 God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

**Catechism Review:** Has it been a long time since you have reviewed the catechism? Have you forgotten some of the treasures you learned years ago? The doctrine of the Gospel is the pearl of great price. Every LCMS should take a refresher course from time to time.



**We will begin a catechism class in Sunday morning Bible Class beginning at 8:45am on July 9th. You are encouraged to join!**

Who? Those who want to become members or those who were confirmed long ago. Plan to join us!

---



Pastor and family will be gone July 1st through July 6th.

Pastor Brandos will be preaching on July 2nd.

If you have an emergency, please call the office or your elder and we will contact the Pastor on call for Mt Calvary.

---

We are in need of several Sunday School teachers. We team teach and you would be responsible for one Sunday a month. If you are willing to teach our younger members about Christ and His church, or need more information, please talk to Melanie or Leah.



Several Sundays throughout the next few months that are available for altar flower dedications:

July 16th, July 30th, August 27th, Sept 10th, Sept 24th, and Oct 8th.

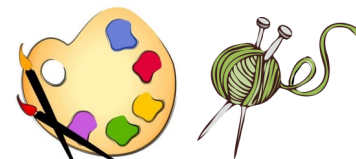
If you would like to dedicate the altar flowers, please talk to Leah. The cost is \$50.

---

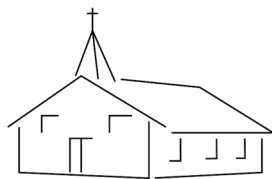
We will have our voter's meeting July 23rd after church. Come join us and hear what is going on!

---

Crafters will meet on Wednesday, July 5th from 10am-12pm. If you need help on a project or just want some fellowship while you work, come and join us!



Hats of Love will meet on **Tuesday, July 25th at 1pm**. Time was changed due to VBS that evening. Please join us if you are able! Thank you to all who continue to help provide for those in need!



The Building Committee will hold a short meeting after church on Sunday, July 2nd to review information to be presented at the Voters Meeting on July 23rd.

---

## A Dollar for Missions

The basic idea is simple: Every week each member of your congregation contributes one dollar, over and above regular church offerings. At that rate, in a year's time each member will contribute \$52. The congregation tracks these monies separately from all other offerings, and sends them to the District. At the end of a year, a congregation of 100 people will contribute an extra \$5,200.

Even if only half of the members of CID churches contribute, this kind of ongoing offering would yield almost a million and a half dollars every year to support mission projects. Which missions? As the District recently resolved, "well-conceived projects in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions including maintenance and upgrades to facilities (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry)" (Res. R2022-03).

The District's resolution asks congregations to begin gathering DFM funds in January, 2023. For further details, see the Stewardship page of the CID website, <http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-stewardship.html>

And pray that the Lord of the harvest would send not only laborers into His harvest but also send them with good and God-pleasing plans. Contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the District office for additional information: [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)

**The Current Project: Amount to be funded: \$35,000**

**Project:** University, Champaign, for purchase of 12-passenger van

University Lutheran is the LCMS Campus Ministry congregation at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. We bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty, and staff, as well as others in the area and community.

The van will have two major uses. First, we will use it as a shuttle for students on Sunday mornings. It will drive a pre-planned route, picking up students at specific stops. We hope that this especially will help on days of less than ideal walking weather. We also hope to help students overcome the hurdle of getting to church on a campus where residences are usually a lengthy walk, and bringing a car to campus is difficult and expensive. The second major use will be for transportation to various activities, retreats, and service projects throughout the year. Though we don't travel great distances, the ability to transport many or all of the attendees at once, and not rely on students to provide rides, will be helpful. We plan to make use of the van as a help for the upbuilding of the faith of the LCMS students here, as well as an instrument of outreach for students who want to come but might have difficulty otherwise.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight. Prov.3:5-6

Very soon we celebrate our nation's independence. On July 4, 1776, our Forefathers signified their desire to exist as a free and separate republic. We are the heirs of the great courage and sacrifices they made. The liberties we enjoy were the result of their labors, and especially the gift of our Almighty God.

As we reflect on their sacrifice and on the blessings of our birthright of freedom, we are humbled by the goodness that has come from God's hand. We are rightfully prayerful that God would lead our nation and always provide faithful governing authorities to steward the responsibilities of governance for the good of our people.

Part of our duty of gratitude to God is to equip ourselves to be faithful and responsible heirs of that heritage of freedom. Above all things that means, constant and unceasing prayer for our nation, our leaders, and those who administer and execute our laws. The Psalmist wrote: *"The world is Mine and everything in it; the world and all who live in it."* Again, he wrote: *"The eyes of all look to You, O Lord... You open Your hands and satisfy the desires of every living thing."*

God is *"the Giver of every good and perfect gift."* We cannot remain strong as a people in denial of Him from Whom all life and every good thing comes. And so we also pray that God's Holy Spirit would cause His life-giving breath to bring lost and dying souls to the hope of salvation in His Son Jesus Christ. When God's Church awakens souls to salvation, hearts are turned again to thought of responsibility and kindness and compassion to our neighbor. None of these societal goods can be long enjoyed apart from their replenishment by the Creator God.

As Christians we don't really celebrate independence so much as we strive to live in dependence. We look to God, because we know that neither we nor any man, democrat or republican, can stitch together the torn fabric of our union. In dependence, we look to God to stretch out His hand of blessing to further the work of Christ's Church in proclaiming the saving Gospel. In dependence, we implore God to water our fields and make the crops that sustain us. In dependence, we ask God to push back the lies and delusions of the devil that seduce us to find our happiness in rebellion against Him and His will. We live in dependence upon the God who loved us so much that He sent His Son from heaven to redeem us by His holy and perfect life, and His innocent sufferings and death. In dependence, we rejoice in our Baptism that joined us to Christ's resurrection victory over death and the grave. In dependence, we trust that God has us and our nation and every generation to come in His Sovereign power.

This Independence Day remember that you are dependents. You are sons and daughters of your Heavenly Father. Strive to live in dependence, looking to the One whose greatest desire is to bless and redeem for Himself often wayward, wandering children. May God keep your families wherever the Holiday brings you and bring you safely home!

Pastor Steve Sommerer