



# August 2023

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



# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10am-12pm Crafters	3 1pm LWML	4	5
6 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Elders Mtg	7 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Card-making	14 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service	21 <i>Preschool Orientation</i>  <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	22 <i>Preschool Orientation</i>  3pm Hats of Love	23	24	25	26
27 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service	28 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	29	30 Preschool classes begin	31	Sept 1.	Sept. 2

## Happy Anniversary

### Happy Birthday

- 5- Carrie McCance
- 5- Lori Engel
- 5- Avery Wolfe
- 6- Daniel Sommerer
- 8- Tim Laugesen
- 8- Micah Sommerer
- 10- Leah Kugler
- 15 - Sophia Sebben
- 18- Lori Kugler
- 20- Jason Kersh
- 23- Jim Welch
- 24- Laura Nichols

- 1- Jim & Dee Lipe
- 6- Matt & Gwen Wells
- 16- Michael & Kayla Bird
- 19- Ron & Nancy Lindberg
- 20- Isaiah & Courtney (Donovan) Kistler

### **Attendance for the month of July**

Date	Worship	Communion
7/2	—	—
7/9	62	53
7/16	116	71
7/23	92	68
7/30		

### Baptism Birthdays

- 8-3 Ruth Robertson
- 8-6 Montana Bennett
- 8-13 Laura Nichols
- 8-13 Robert Nichols
- 8-14 Karen Ramage
- 8-19 Daniel Sommerer
- 8-19 Genevieve England
- 8-20 David Whittle

### *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
Louis Linnenburger	Chris Clark

Nancy, Rose's sister  
Eva Jean, Ruth's sister  
Dale Matheny, recovering from surgery  
Brion Bennet, Shelly Harding nephew, paralyzed  
Eileen, Kadin Stokes' grandmother, progressive cancer  
Jen Baughman, upcoming surgery- July 31 & treatments

#### **Others:**

Mourning at the passing of Pastor Frederick Larnar  
Wisdom and safety for the Synod Convention  
Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission  
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute  
Our Armed Forces: Sgt Kaleb Karssen

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

Knox County Right to Life will hold its August meeting on Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00pm at St Patrick Catholic Church (858 S. Academy St, Galesburg). This meeting will include letter writing and education.



\*\*\*Watch for more details to come on 40 Days of Life, Festival of Life and the Life Chain!



\*Knox County Right to Life is once again selling Christmas ornaments! Orders are being taken now through September 22nd! You can have up to 12 names (6 on each side) with Merry Christmas or a family name on the bottom plus the year. They are \$15 each. Talk to Diane Teske if you would like to order!



LWML will meet on August 3rd for their monthly meeting.

Roll call will be a verse on teaching  
Leah will have the topic and Merrily is the hostess.

*We plan to have election of officers at this meeting.*

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## LCMS Stewardship Ministry - Define Your Life by How You Give August 2023

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

## July 23, 2023 Voters Meeting Summary

Pastor's official acts included 4 adult baptism and confirmations, 3 youth confirmations, hospital/shut-in calls, circuit pastors meetings, and leading preschool chapel services. He participated in the closing programs for preschool at the end of May.

Treasurer report included information that the Endowment Fund is rising steadily, maintenance costs continue to increase and are over budget for that designated fund. Insurance premiums have increased, and technology renewal fees have been paid. Envelope giving need to be approximately \$18,000/month for us to meet the need for our budget. Currently for quarter 4 we have received \$46,000 which equals out to about \$15,000/month.

Stewardship thanked all who contributed and helped with the rummage sale. Over \$1,800 was raised. Stewardship will host the Tuesday evening VBS dinner, serving spaghetti. November will be pie-making– so please remember them if you have any extra fruit!

Education reported that VBS is coming this week! There were 52 children registered. The youth will be helping with VBS. Preschool: classes are being filled from the wait list. Teachers return on August 15, with orientation taking place on August 21st and 22nd. Classes will begin on August 30th.

Evangelism reported that Fathers Day cards were made at the beginning of June. Will meet again on August 13th to make “thinking of you” cards. Hats of Love over the past 3 months made 56 stump covers, 34 adult hats, 41 baby hats, 9 pairs of baby mittens, 2 lap robes, and 1 baby blanket. Rose plans to talk to Jeanie and Kayla about hosting a Back to School picnic this fall.

Elders reported that the confirmand questioning, breakfast and service went well. Thank you to all who helped with the Mothers Day breakfast as well. New members have been assigned elders, and the elder list has been updated to include those new members. Jonathan Knussman was transferred to Bethany, Naperville, per his request.

Properties reported that during spring HVAC checks, 2 units were found to have no refrigerant. A leak test was performed on both units with no major issues found, they were filled and are working. A new push mower has been purchased. Contacts are being made to inquire about replacing outside gym doors and the bell tower north doors. The bell tower doors may be able to be repaired and fitted with panic hardware (necessary for preschool as an exit) and to make them open and close easier. Work in progress. From the power outage over the 4th of July weekend: the line that had damage is from 1976 when the education wing was originally built, so it was repaired but we were told that it will go on a list to be replaced completely at a later date.

Building Committee presented information on loan options and timeline for the renovation project. Information was given on ratios of fundraised money vs. loan amounts vs. what each congregational household would need to contribute. (pertinent papers can be obtained from Leah in the office) Motion was made, seconded, and approved by members present that the congregation set a fundraising goal of at least \$250,000 by the end of 2024, at which point we will re-evaluate and move forward in one of three ways: 1. decide to proceed with the project and contact Klingners for design drawings, 2. extend the fundraising deadline, or 3. cancel the project and shift to just repairs, maintenance and minor improvement on the current buildings. *Any and all monies raised will remain in the CIF and be used for repairs and necessary projects needed for the buildings.* This is an entire congregation project.

Elections at Mt. Calvary will take place at the October Voters Meeting for Stewardship, Secretary and Evangelism. These are all 2 year terms.

Well done,  
good & faithful  
servant.

Rev, Frederick Larner died on Wednesday, July 26th in the arms of Jesus.

Rev. Larner's graveside service will be held on Monday, July 31st at 10:30am at Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens, north of Galesburg.

Our Mt. Calvary family is invited to join us in rejoicing in the eternal life that Frederick gained through Christ's victory over death and grave.

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Council will NOT be holding a meeting in August.

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Crafters will meet on Wednesday, August 2nd from 10am-12pm.  
If you need help on a project or just want some fellowship while you work— you are welcome to join them!



Hats of Love will meet on the 4th Tuesday, August 22nd at 3pm. We continue to knit /crochet items for people in our community and welcome anyone who wants to learn! We can also use donations of yarn! Pray that those who receive our items are blessed by them as we witness to those around us.

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Pray for our Preschool!

Orientation for families attending Mt Calvary Preschool is August 21st & 22nd. Preschool will begin classes on August 30th. We ask that you keep the teachers, students and all involved in our preschool in your prayers as they start working towards a new school year!



LCMS School Ministry: Chapel Talks for Lutheran Schools focuses on John 15:1-5 this year. *"I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5"*

Jesus, we thank you for being the Vine and connecting us to you. We pray that You bless our connections to You and Your Word this school year, in our chapel time, in our classrooms, in Sunday worship and in our family devotions. Help the children in our care to see Jesus through us. Amen.

*“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9*

God is so good! Amazing things are happening here at Mt Calvary! Through your hard work we have spent this week sharing the Gospel with 50 children from our community. We are thankful for your labors. Members donating decorations, time, cookies, supplies, and more! By the grace of God, God’s people are doing incredible things, giving their time and energies to *“fan into flame the gift of God”, and I rejoice in your labors for the sake of the Gospel.*

I write this to affirm and give thanks to God for the many great things He is doing through so many willing hearts, but also to encourage each member to see yourself as part of this great work through your prayers, donations, financial support and volunteer service. Keep in touch with the goings-on and continue to support this work, even consider asking how you can plug in.

I recently saw a church sign: “I love my church. You will too.” It is my conviction that churches grow when each member sees themselves as “missionaries entering the mission field.” That means instead of one light shining in a dark world for two hours on Sunday morning. Each member and member home becomes a burning light in the world of darkness, pointing the lost to Christ.

I love the sign, because I think it’s a great idea to form how we see our own congregation and invite others to join us. Negativity and poor-mouthing your church, pastor, or fellow members is not attractive to absent family members or fence sitting friends and neighbors. The world is negative enough no one wants a toxic environment from their church. And that’s why I love to see what God is doing here so powerfully at Mt Calvary. Because it seems to me that you too... love your church. And so, I encourage you all to become those lights in the darkness and to adopt the mindset that you love your church and see it as a great place to invite others. Guard your lips from negativity and cultivate an attitude of joy in what God has for us in this place!

And what do we have going for us – certainly not the personal magnetism of the pastor or other niceties that large churches can provide. But we have the one treasure that makes the church God’s Church. We have the pure doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone. We have the precious Sacraments of Christ administered according to the Gospel. We have confessional integrity in a church landscape susceptible to downplaying the importance of Scriptural truth. We have the pure Gospel. (*“May I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gala.6)*).

By themselves those things are worth more than the whole world, but by God’s grace we poor, unworthy sinners forgiven through faith in the blood of Jesus have lots of opportunities going on where our own members and our community families and children can hear that great Gospel (see partial list above). There are also many opportunities for the Priesthood of Believers (you) to participate in the mission, here at church and in your homes and families and among your neighbors and friends.

Large churches can often grow by programs and allurements not available in smaller churches. I believe small churches first grow by members shaking off the fear of inevitable decline, focusing instead on the mission and what we do have - Jesus. Small churches grow by realizing they have a treasure that’s worth sharing, by going to those around them, by not being afraid to invite others, by openness and caring and a welcoming spirit, by embracing “outsiders” as fellow redeemed. Most people that become members of a church do so because a friend invites them. But how? Just say, “I’ll pick you up!” or “I’d love to bring you to my church tomorrow!” Remember what a great gift God has given us! Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, and the synod of which we are a part, is committed to the truth of Holy Scripture in a



*Continued...*

climate where many churches set their agenda by testing the wind of popular culture; is committed to proclaiming Christ's death and resurrection to every age (from nursing home calls to preschool); is committed to the unchanging Gospel of salvation in Christ apart from which there is no salvation.

*You are a chosen people. God chose you in Christ (Eph. 1:4f) before the foundation of the world. "Declare the praises of Him." Wisely use every opportunity. If you have a friend who hasn't attended for a while – invite – a family member or grandchild – invite or even pick up the child and bring her to Sunday school. Be excited about what God offers in this place as you invite others – always mindful that it has nothing to do with us unworthy sinners! Be excited that here God gives His gifts and all of us fallen sinners are pointed to Christ. (For those unfamiliar you may wish to explain a little about what it's like! Especially, I always encourage to talk about the great gift of Holy Communion, and how we honor that gift by teaching our members before they commune. This will prepare them not to be surprised that we commune only those confirmed in the faith.) The gift we've received and the message we have to offer is not our own, but is the timeless, unchanging truth of Christ! "What you have freely received, freely give!"*

I encourage you to prayerfully consider the items below. Prayerfully ponder who or what you can add to this list, asking God to use you in His service.

Some people or things I can pray for...

Some things I can volunteer for...

Some people I can invite to Mt Calvary (remember these can be young or old, related or not)...

*Pastor Steve Sommerer*



The Women's Pregnancy Center in Galesburg  
is having their

## **Community Baby Shower**

on Saturday, August 5th from 10am-1pm

Come, see the center and join in fun games and activities  
plus meet some moms that have been helped with your support!

The center is located at 1252 W. Fremont St.  
Parking is available next door at New Life Baptist Church  
Drive-through drop-off will also be available if needed

**Needs for the center include:** diapers (sizes 4,5,6), wipes,  
baby shampoo & lotion (no bedtime scents), activity walkers, swings,  
strollers, baby gates.

Cribs, car seats, and high chairs (only new can be accepted).