



October 2023

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



October 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1 LWML Sunday 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Elders 11:30am crosses | 2 | 3 NO Bible Study | 4 10am-12pm Crafters 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 5 1pm LWML | 6 | 7 |
| Pastor gone for conference | | | | | | |
| 8 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30 Building Comm. 5-7pm Youth group | 9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 10 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Council | 11 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 3-7pm Octoberfest | 16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 17 10am Bible Study | 18 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service | 23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 24 10am Bible Study 3pm Hats of Love | 25 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 26 | 27 | 28 10am-12pm Harvest Houses |
| 29 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Voters Meeting | 30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 31 10am Bible Study | Nov 1 10am-12pm Crafters 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm | Nov 2 1pm LWML | Nov 3 | |

Happy Anniversary

{None this month}

Happy Birthday

- 3 - Olivia Marshall
- 4- Deb Thompson
- 4- DeEtte Lindsey
- 5- Donna Bolin
- 5- Caleb Cansino
- 6- Jim Lipe
- 10- Steven Baughman
- 14- Michelle Peterson
- 14- Brett Teske
- 15- Ethel Carlson
- 18- Kate Schlake
- 18- Emma Wolfe
- 20- Randy Robertson
- 24- Tom Whittle
- 27- Douglas Havens
- 28- Keith England
- 29- Rose Morris
- 30- Kathy Schlake
- 30- Tim Gerk

Attendance for the month of September

| Date | Worship | Communion |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 9/3 | 90 | 70 |
| 9/10 | 94 | 70 |
| 9/17 | 80 | 57 |
| 9/24 | 84 | 58 |

Baptism Birthdays

- 10-1 Lois England
- 10-1 Jacqueline Henry
- 10-5 DeEtte Lindsey
- 10-11 Ava Sebben
- 10-11 Lyla Sebben
- 10-11 Sophia Sebben
- 10-11 Sarah Stewart
- 10-11 Greg Donley
- 10-13 Katelyn Engel
- 10-13 Lori Engel
- 10-16 Deb Thompson
- 10-16 Avery Wolfe
- 10-20 Nelly Clark
- 10-26 Jonathan Whittle
- 10-26 Leah Kugler
- 10-26 Emma Wolfe

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 |
| Deb Lescallett | JoAnn Folger |
| Jen Baughman | Ethan Meeker |
| Tamara Liebmann | |
| Nancy, Rose's sister | |
| Eva Jean, Ruth's sister | |
| Sandy, Debbie, Stephan: family of Randy, Tony | |
| Justin, Dean & Darla's son | |
| Tom, Brittany's dad, cancer diagnosis | |
| Eileen, Kadin Stokes' grandmother, cancer | |
| Jen Baughman's sister, diagnosed with cancer | |

Others:

Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna, 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

Preschool News

Preschool is off to a great start. We had exciting trips to the fire station, where the fire fighters showed us their “house” and truck. Some students even got to squirt the hose!

We raised several caterpillars that changed in butterflies! School pictures were taken. Thank you to Laura, Kayla, and Jamie!

October will be a busy month with Pumpkin Patch field trips, fall parties, parent -teacher conferences and the CID teachers gathering in Collinsville. We will have our first “show and share.”

Seven families received awards from the Preschool Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support! Donations are always needed and greatly appreciated.

Please keep the staff and preschool families in your prayers. It is a joy and privilege to work with God’s children!

LWML



Oct. 1st will be LWML Sunday– 2023 Theme **“The King is Coming”**

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life! *Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!* (Psalm 24:7–10)

**LWML will meet on Thursday, Oct. 6th at 1pm to pack college care packages.

Have you used your Thrivent action teams for the year yet? We still have several projects and fundraisers planned for this year and would love to have you help us complete them! Talk to Leah in the office if you have one available!



THRIVENT
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Voter’s Meeting: October 29th after church.
Mark your calendars! Lunch will be provided.

Knox County Right to Life

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Knox County Right to Life will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 PM at First Baptist Church, 169 S. Cherry St., Galesburg. First Baptist Church will host the meeting which will include education and letter writing.



7x7x7 Prayer 7:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7 words: Lord, please, stop abortion in this country.

October is Respect Life Month

Sunday, Oct 1st 1:30pm-3pm Annual Life Chain

- This is a nationwide, peaceful, prayerful demonstration. Christians stand holding pro-life signs united in silent prayer for unborn babies and their mothers. Allow your heart to break for what breaks God's heart.
- We will meet and stand along the sidewalk in front of Mt. Calvary during that time

Monday, Oct 2nd—Tuesday, Oct 31st “40 Days for Life”

- Individual church members can sign up to pray for a weekday all month. Sheet for sign ups is available in entryway
- *Pray that our local Walgreens and CVS pharmacies **that are currently** dispensing abortion pills either behind or over the counter have a change of heart and cease to provide them.*

Saturday, October 28th— Youth Life Celebration

- Free event 6-9pm at Bethel Baptist Church. Pizza, drinks, desserts and music for ages 13+.
- Jess Ford will talk to the youth about finding your purpose and your voice through Christ.
- *At age 16, Jess discovered he was nearly aborted. His journey of confusion and heartache brought a spiritual breakthrough. Jess is seeking to inspire, empower and shift eyes onto Jesus. He found his purpose. He found his voice. Find yours!*

Sunday, Oct 29th— Annual Festival of Life

- Free Admission event at Bethel Baptist Church. Doors open at 6:30pm, event starts at 7pm.
- Free will donation will be taken, refreshments will be served
- Jess Ford will speak on “Shining the Light of Truth in a culture of death”. Life Essay and T-shirt contest winners will be announced.
- *When coming face to face with an unplanned pregnancy, Jess' mom considered having an abortion. At age 23, Jess' core mission is to fight for justice for all with a burning passion for inspiring young men to protectors of women and children.*

IL Lives— Right to Life Billboards are up around Galesburg. We hope you've noticed them! There is opportunity to sponsor them, and allow them to remain visible in our community! If you would be interested in financially helping this endeavor— talk to Jessica Cansino. Thank you.

Hats of Love

Hats of Love will meet Tuesday, Oct. 24th at 3:00 p.m.

We continue to make baby hats, baby mittens, adult hats, lap blankets, and amputee stump covers!

Hats of Love WILL NOT MEET in November and December.

Continue your projects and we will plan to see you in January (weather per-



Choir (and any enthusiastic singers that want to join) will sing for Reformation on October 29th! Choir will meet after church on Sunday October 15th to practice! Thank you!

Mt. Calvary Youth Group Annual Harvest Houses

October 28th 10am-12pm

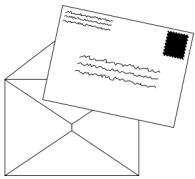
Cost is \$15 per house

Come decorate at church, or pick it up and take it home!

Pre-registration closes on Oct 21st.

Please talk to Leah in the office of register here:

<https://forms.gle/r9RHamQopF2MMqhx6>



Nov 5th– mark your calendars for Card making with Evangelism We will make Veterans Day and Thanksgiving cards for our shut-in members. Lunch will be provided for those making cards.

Youth Group will meet Sunday, October 8th from 5-7pm. We will be making Veterans Day cards and talking about upcoming activities.

The youth will be hosting the circuit youth on Sunday, November 5th. They are currently collecting socks to be distributed to local area shelters to aid those in need. If you are able, please drop off new socks in the tub provided in the entryway.



Did you know that October is
Pastor Appreciation Month?

Your pastor knows you by name, shares the Word and the Sacraments with you, and walks alongside you in good and bad times.

Can you find a way to tell Pastor Sommerer thank you this month?

On Halloween and Meat Sacrificed to Idols!

I grew up getting dressed up and painted up and being excited to celebrate Halloween. We would trick-or-treat at Grandmas and our neighbor's and show off our outfits. Some years we even had costume parties at our Lutheran school, and we always brought enough candy to school to share with everyone. The fact that many of us who grew up "normal" celebrated Halloween doesn't make it a good idea or a bad one. It's just an observation. My parents and Lutheran school teachers likely never knew or cared where the day originated. Its origins were lost in ancient history so far as they were concerned. What they received and passed on was simply the fun of kids in costumes and candy. It was a night for kids and adults to enjoy one another.

There are no definitive beginnings to how we receive Halloween. It's a hodge podge of different traditions. The name itself is of Christian origin and derives from All Hallows' Eve, but many of the histories, if they may be taken as reliable, trace it back to the Celts 2000 years ago. For the Celts it was the festival that signaled the end of fall and start of the cold winter months. October 31 was thought to be the night the ghosts of the dead returned to the earth. (BTW, there are not ghosts, only angels and demons.) Some of the rites associated with the Celtic practice have echoes in some of our modern observances, bobbing for apples, etc.

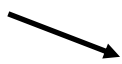
In thinking through, Halloween and what would become my hermeneutical approach, I didn't want to simply do it because I did it as a kid and it was fun, and the good memories of showing off outfits for grandma. Neither did I want to throw out the practice because some ancients practiced something similar that may or may not have been an antecedent to modern practice. I do want to think through it Biblically, but this is a difficult subject to take chapter and verse back to Scripture.

The nearest parallel I can conjure is 1 Corinthians 10 and Paul's discussion of how a Christian should receive or reject meat that had been offered to idols. Here, Paul is pretty nuanced in the discussion. On the one hand, Christians are called to flee from idolatry, and that meat sacrificed to idols is in fact sacrificed to the devil (demons v.20), whether pagans realize it or not. Since the meat has been used in demonic worship, a Christian cannot share the table of demons with the unbeliever.

That brings us to the question of meat that having once been part of a demonic ceremony might find its way onto the table. Paul's advice here is to eat unless someone tells you about it, then abstain for the sake of the other person's conscience. Paul's point here is: these false gods are nothing, but the meat is still able to be received with thanksgiving when it's disentangled from the demonic associations.

Again, Paul says if you are invited to a home, don't ask about where the meat came from, receive it with thanksgiving. If you become aware of those connections to pagan practice, avoid for the sake of becoming a stumbling block to Christians who might have scruples against eating meat offered to idols. But whether you eat or drink, Paul said, do it all to the glory of God. If it scandalizes your conscience, avoid. If you receive with thanksgiving (and it's not a stumbling block to a Christian brother who is more scrupulous in the matter), eat to God's glory.

Now the question: How to receive Halloween? Should we trick or treat or is that sin? My answer is an attempt to apply Paul's spirit in 1 Corinthians 10. But it's important to note, Paul's advice was about something that was very current in his day. All the readers of the letter would have wondered about how to receive or not receive that meat offered to idols. The objectionable practice of meat offered to idols was in their face every day and every time they went to the market. The aspects of Halloween, so far as they can be known accurately, are lost in the mists of ancient history. Very few Christians, including my parents and school teachers, drew any connection between dress-ups and exchanging candy and the worship of false gods. Though they didn't let us dress up like devils and demons.



Continued....

If Paul dealing with a very current question of meat offered to idols could give the advice he gave, I would suggest that he offers us a way of thinking about Halloween... whose origins are nearly impossible to say with certainty, and I imagine few Christians who trick or treat do so because of any ancient Celtic practice. Paul seems remarkably practical in his advice. He doesn't encourage any prolonged investigation of the meat source. He seems to say if you can receive it as a gift from God and to God's glory, participate. If it scandalizes the conscience of a brother in Christ, abstain.

My own thought on Halloween runs this direction. Most people who hand out candy I dare say do it because they enjoy doing something nice for kids. Most parents, because they want to have a fun night for their children. I think Christians ought not glorify demonic things or engage in it in a way that is obviously sinful... cruelty, tricks and vandalism, cheap and immodest outfits.

So, this has been my thought from Paul: If it is a scandal to someone for whom Christ died, I will abstain, and I will not argue someone should ever embrace something that contradicts their conscience. If they can't do it with assurance and act from faith, it's sin (Rom.14:23) and I don't want to be the cause of leading another astray. However, stripped of those associations by two millenia, I don't think any parent needs to feel guilty visiting neighbors or family who are inviting them to come, because they want to do something nice for those children. If your first thought of Halloween is the murky (and really unknowable) rites of ancient peoples, it's probably a good idea to avoid it. If you love Jesus and love your neighbors and love good sweet fun, buy some candy and hand it out or take little to trusted neighbors and friends. Paul's advice in Romans 14 may serve us well, "*Whatever you believe about such things keep between yourself and the Lord... whatever does not come from faith is sin.*"

Now, realize I'm not telling you what to think or do. I will not let my conscience be your guide. If you dress up as your favorite 16th Century Church Reformer, I think you're just fine. But if the murky, dark history lingers in your mind, you do well to avoid it, and let neither party be too hard on the other. "*All things are lawful,*" but not all things are helpful. *All things are lawful,* but not all things build up. *Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor*" (1Cor.10:23).

~Pastor Sommerer

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool families
are invited to join us on October 15th for
OCTOBERFEST



Hosted by Evangelism:
3-7pm, With dinner served at 5pm



Hot dogs, brats, German potato salad, sauerkraut
and root beer furnished!

**We ask that our congregation families bring
a dish or dessert to share!

There will be games, contests, photo booth and music!
Fun for all ages!

