

November 2023

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



November 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|--------|---|
| | | | 1 10am-12pm Crafters 4-5 pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 2 1pm LWML | 3 | 4 |
| 5 8:45am Bible Study & SS 10am Divine Service 11:30am Card making 5pm Youth host circuit | 6 <i>Pastors day off</i> | 7  10am Bible Study | 8 4-5 pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 9 | 10 | 11  Veteran's Day |
| 12 8:45am Bible Study & SS 10am Divine Service 11:30am Building Comm. 11:30am Elders | 13 <i>Pastors day off</i> | 14 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Council | 15 4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation | 16 | 17 | 18 9am CIF Pie Making |
| 19 8:45am Bible Study & SS 10am Divine Service | 20 <i>Pastors day off</i> Pizza Ranch Fundraiser 5-8pm | 21 10am Bible Study | 22 No Preschool Thanksgiving Eve Service 6pm | 23 <i>Thanksgiving</i> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Office Closed</div> | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8:45am Bible Study & SS 10am Divine Service 11:30am Card making 11:30am youth making baskets | 27 <i>Pastors day off</i> | 28 10am Bible Study | 29 <u>Advent</u> Dinner Worship Times TBD Silent Auction Begins! | 30 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 2 10am Sunday School practice |

Happy Birthday

2- Meghan Bird
3- Shannon Sebben
3- Henry Jacobs
5- Darla Westergreen
8- Christopher Clark
11- Alexandra Stine
13- Kathy Martinie
14- Evelyn Nord-England
17- C.J. Carlson III
18- C.J. Carlson II
18- Teresa Raaf
19- Kimberly Noe
20- Margaret Wright
20- Mark Meeker
21- Kay Shoop
23- Wendy Havens
24- Alex Teske
24- Natalie Gonzalez
24- Madeline Gonzalez
28- Sharon Gonzalez
28- Jillian Shipp

Happy Anniversary

1- Jon & Kathy Schlake
12- Tim & Hsing-Fen Gerke

Attendance for the month of October

| Date | Worship | Communion |
|-------|---------|-----------|
| 10/1 | 63 | 44 |
| 10/8 | 95 | 71 |
| 10/15 | 74 | 57 |
| 10/22 | 67 | 57 |
| 10/29 | 89 | 65 |

Baptism Birthdays

Tim Gerke
11-4 Olivia Marshall
11-8 Christopher Clark
11-10 Evelyn Van Winkle
11-14 Vickie Stine
11-19 Thomas Whittle
11-19 Kate Schlake
11-20 Lindsay Jacobs
11-23 Janalee Gutierrez
11-23 Tim Laugesen
11-25 Kayla Bird
11-25 Meghan Bird
11-25 Derek Koch
11-30 Kay Shoop

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Joyce Wolfe | Dan Brackett | Theresa Clark |
| Anita Reinertsen | Janalee Gutierrez | Mitch Jacobs |
| Bob Donley | Guy Hood | Dean Westergreen |
| Deb Lescallett | Jen Baughman | Ethan Meeker |
| Natalie Gonzalez | | |

Judy, Rachel Macek's friend
Eva Jean, Ruth's sister
Justin, Dean & Darla's son
Tom, Brittany's dad, cancer diagnosis
Eileen, Kadin Stokes' grandmother, cancer
Jen Baughman's sister, diagnosed with cancer

Others:

Derek, Leah & family at the death of Derek's sister, Nicole
Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute
Our Armed Forces: Sgt Kaleb Karsen

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

Preschool News

In October the preschoolers enjoyed field trips to Prairie Moon Farm in Knoxville. We loved the pumpkins, donkeys, reindeer and picking our own pumpkins!

Teachers has a nice trip to Collinsville on Oct 6th for the SID/CID Teachers Conference— great fellowship and learning opportunities! Parent-Teacher conference were held Oct 12-13. Fall parties will be celebrated on Oct 30th and 31st— always a fun day for students and staff!

We collected lots of warm clothing which was donated to Lutheran Social Services. It was very much appreciated.

In November we look forward to visits from GHAS, and fieldtrips to the library and Pizza House. We also will enjoy mini feasts before Thanksgiving break. We will collect paper products and toiletries for Safe Harbor with Show and Share.

Thank you for the Oktoberfest collection for the Preschool Scholarship Fund! Thank you for participating in our Jen's Candles Fundraiser! We appreciate and love our Mt Calvary congregation and we wish you all a Blessed Thanksgiving!

LWML Will meet on Thursday, November 2nd at 1pm



Roll call will be a favorite Thanksgiving church memory. Lori will have the topic. Janet will be the hostess.

Before you sit down to enjoy turkey and football...
Join us to celebrate the blessings God has given us!
Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:00pm.



Have a Blessed Thanksgiving from Mt. Calvary!
(The office will be closed on Nov. 23rd and Nov. 24th)

Mt. Calvary Youth Group
has several fundraisers coming up in December:

- Hosting circuit youth on Nov 5th for Sock Party
- Bring your silent auction items to church by Nov 22nd
- Silent Auction (will run from Nov 29th - Dec. 17th)
 - Christmas Houses on Dec. 9th
- Sunday School Christmas Program Wed., Dec 20th (practice on Saturdays in December)
 - Epiphany Party Jan 5th





A very grateful *Thank You* to all our Veterans.
 No words can express how deeply indebted we are to you for your willingness to sacrifice all for our country.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

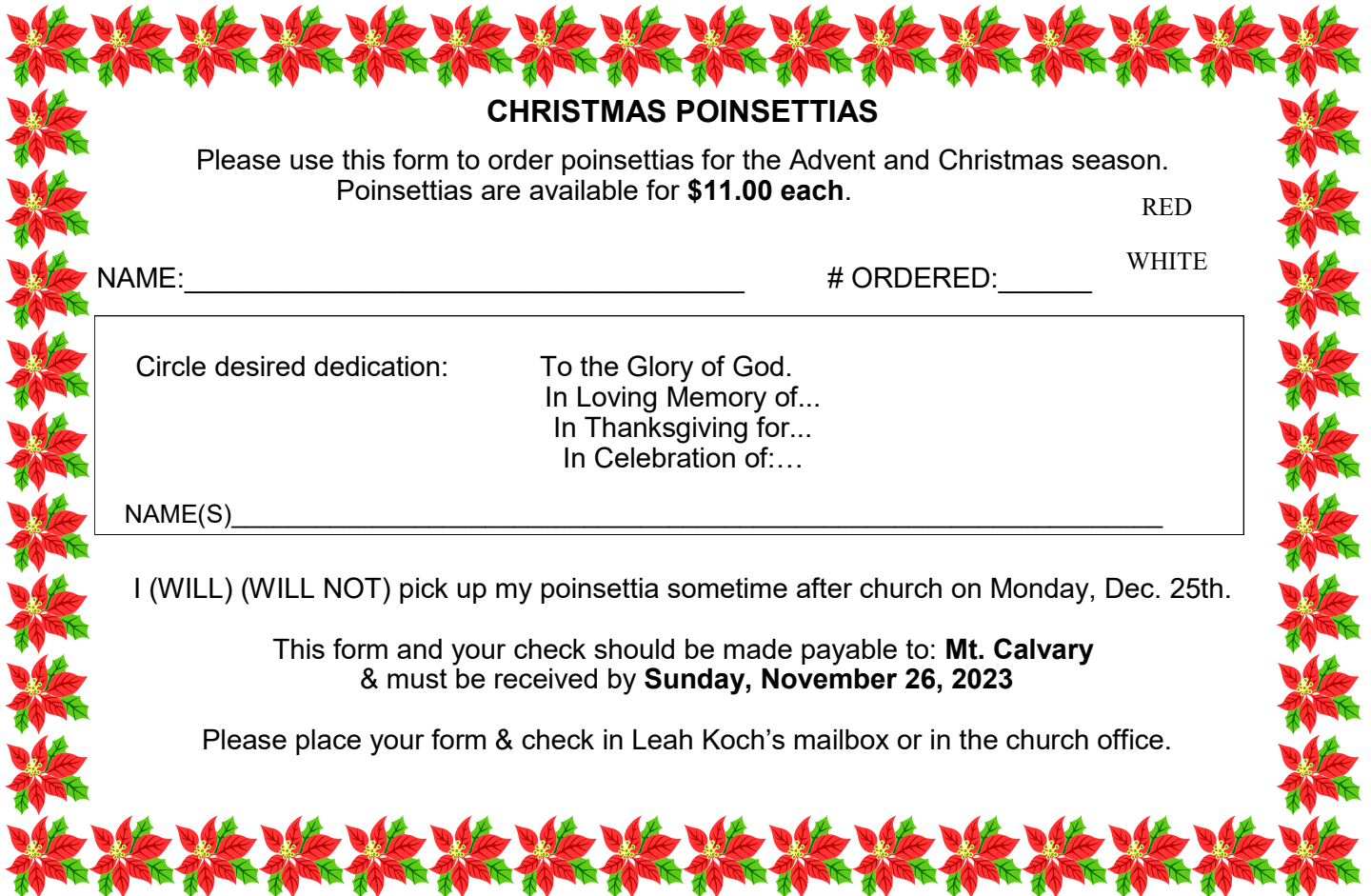
Hats of Love

WILL NOT MEET In November or December.

Continue to knit and crochet. You can bring your goodies to drop off at church if needed and we will plan to meet up in January!



The flower chart for 2024 will be out soon.
 The cost is \$50 for 2 weeks.
 Make the check payable to **Mt. Calvary** and give it to Leah in the church office along with the desired dedication.
 If you have any questions contact Leah in the office: 342-7083.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please use this form to order poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas season.
 Poinsettias are available for **\$11.00 each**.

RED

WHITE

NAME: _____

ORDERED: _____

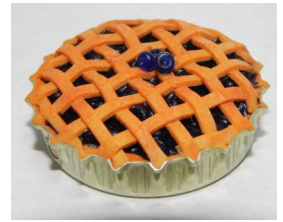
| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Circle desired dedication: | To the Glory of God. In Loving Memory of... In Thanksgiving for... In Celebration of:... |
| NAME(S) _____ | |

I (WILL) (WILL NOT) pick up my poinsettia sometime after church on Monday, Dec. 25th.

This form and your check should be made payable to: **Mt. Calvary**
 & must be received by **Sunday, November 26, 2023**

Please place your form & check in Leah Koch's mailbox or in the church office.

PIE ORDERS : Order forms are on the entry table! Share with family and friends who want an easy, pre-made dessert! Pie-making will be on Saturday, Nov. 18th starting at 9am! If you are able to come and help assemble— it is greatly appreciated! Many hands make light work!

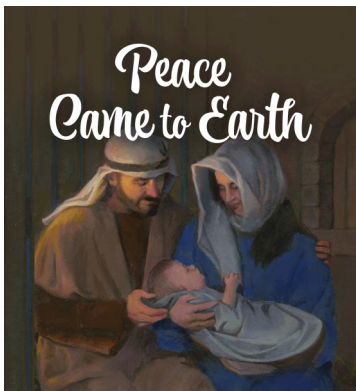


Thanks to Tim Gerk, Bill Byers and his dad, Jack along with the Sommerer and Koch boys— several trees were taken down on the back property line of church. If you are willing and able to help haul away brush or want some firewood, we would be grateful for help in removing the piles, or even assisting in loading for removal. Talk to Pastor or Leah.

The Elders will meet on Sunday, November 12th and will be discussing Advent service times and dinners. If you have a comment pertaining to the topic, please talk to your Elder.

Please watch the bulletin and your emails for updates on the Advent Service dinners and times when a decision has been made.

We pray that you will be able to join us this upcoming Advent season as we prepare our hearts for Christ and Christmas.



Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season. Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace.

But as we seek peace in these many ways, God intersects us with a peace that both passes our understanding and yet meets our needs. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace. In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.

Voter's Meeting Summary

At the Voter's Meeting on October 29th, one new voting member was welcomed: Tim Gerik.

Current positions up for re-election are Stewardship, Secretary and Evangelism. Shelly Heimann agreed to continue at Stewardship, Leah Koch agreed to continue as secretary, and Rose Morris agreed to continue as Evangelism.

Pastor gave a report on his official acts.

Treasurer: costs continue to be high for maintenance, pest control and office supplies. Our expenses are more than our income. There has been less giving. We need \$18,500 each month to meet our budget, but the average giving per month has been \$14,400 since the fiscal year started.

Stewardship: Thank you for supporting the building committee and their fundraising. Pie making will be on Saturday, November 18th beginning at 9am.

Education: Youth have several fundraisers upcoming in November and December along with circuit activities. Sunday School had a cookout on Sept 29th and will begin Christmas Program practice in December. Preschool is going well. Teachers conference, field trips, Show & Share, a fundraiser that raised over \$2,400! Thank you to Family Tree Photography for taking our school pictures! Scholarships were handed out to 6 families at the end of September.

Evangelism: Hats of Love will not meet in November or December. Thank you to the ladies who continue to work diligently on all the items. Oktoberfest went well. Thank you to all who attended. Nov. 5th and Nov 26th there will be card making after the services. Dec. 10th will be caroling to our nursing home and shut in members

Per the Elders: The Elders retreat in September was enjoyed, thank you to the Kugler's for hosting. Fern Harding has been transferred to Immanuel Lutheran, Murray, KY. Leah has a current Elders list in the office and will update as new members are added. Next meeting will include discussion about the Advent dinner and service times. Please let you Elder know if you have thoughts on that subject.

Properties: The garage was broken into in September. Police report was filed and we have purchased and will be installing security cameras. The parking lot has been resurfaced. There are several trees on the back property line that need to come down. Looking for people willing to be "project leaders" for specific jobs around church. Derek will not be seeking re-election for properties in 2024.

Building Committee: The goal is to raise \$250,000 by end of 2024. Current fundraisers include Beef Raffle– tickets are being sold and please return ticket stubs, money and any unsold tickets to Leah by Dec 16th. Drawing will be held December 17th! Pizza Ranch Fundraiser Night– Nov. 20th from 5-8pm! Carry out, delivery or dine-in gives us 7% and all the tips for the night! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to support us! Also looking into bagging groceries at Hy-Vee and gift wrapping for the holidays. Other fundraisers are in the works for after the new year. This is a congregational effort, so all ideas, help and support that our congregation can give, is greatly appreciated and helps us reach our goal! What happens if we don't get to the \$250,000 goal? In January 2025– we will be re-evaluating. We will look at the fund we have and decided: 1– we can move the project forward, 2– we pause and fundraise more, 3– we decided not to move forward with the project and use the money raised to make repairs and maintenance to our current building.

Congrats to Natalie Cansino for a 3rd place finish for the Knox County Right to Life Essay Contest in October. She was recognized at the Festival of Life. We are sharing her essay with you this month.

**What would you say to a friend who says she is pregnant
and unsure of what to do.**

I understand that this decision is hard for you, but I want to be able to support you no matter what, so I'm going to tell you my opinion. I think life is something to be cherished. The Bible says "Children are a gift from the LORD." In my opinion I think you should always receive a gift with open arms. The Bible also says "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you; and I ordained you a prophet to the nations." The same is for that unborn child of yours. That child, boy or girl, will be amazing and I know they will do great things, even if what they do seems small, it will be amazing. And I know this seems scary, but God is always here for you and will never leave you. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." As long as you believe in Him you should never be afraid because He won't let something bad happen to you just because. Everything happens for a reason, and He won't hurt you just because, He always has a reason.

And think about it, if my Mom went with abortion I wouldn't be here with you right now and it's the same thing for you. Without your Mom's choice, I wouldn't have this amazing friend standing right in front of me. I understand you're confused and scared, but some moms thought abortion was the best plan, and ended up regretting it for the rest of their life and I don't want that for you. I want you to be happy with the choice you made and I want you to save that child's life, no matter what you think. It is still a life and that child's life is in your hands. I know it's a heavy scary thought, but the best thing you can do for that kid is give it life.

- Natalie Cansino



The next meeting for Knox County Right to Life will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7pm at New Life Baptist Church, 1232 W Fremont St, Galesburg. The meeting will include education and letter writing.

There will be no meeting in December.
Please remember to vote PRO-LIFE in the upcoming elections.

The Knox County Right to Life **Christmas Wish List** is available on the bulletin board. This is a great way to support their ministry and ongoing projects. Donations can be given to Leah in the office, or mailed directly to Knox County Right to Life.