

March 2024

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



March 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Elders Meeting 11:30am Confirmation	4 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	5 10am Bible Study	6 10am-12pm Crafters 4pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6pm Lenten Worship	7 1pm LWML	8	9 Daylight Savings "spring forward" 1 hour
10 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Building Comm. 11:30am Confirmation	11 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	12 10am Bible Study 5:00pm Council	13 4pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6pm Lenten Worship	14	15	16
17 Palm Sunday 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Confirmation	18 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	19 10am Bible Study	20 4pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6pm Lenten Worship	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Confirmation	25 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	26 10am Bible Study 3pm Hats of Love	27	28 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 6:00pm Good Friday Service	30
31 Easter 7:00am Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter breakfast 10am Worship Service						

Happy Birthday

3- Debbie Lescallett
3- Mitch Jacobs
9- Marisa Teske
9- Rebecca Smith
9- Ivan Clark
17- Brett Wolfe
17- Clark Bernett
17- Martin Eckhardt
17 - Kaelynn Sebben
19- Kevin Engel
20- Raoul Reinertsen
21- Megan Sperry
22- Shelly Heimann
22- Robert Nichols
23- Randall Noe
28- Nelly Clark
30- Melanie Sommerer

Anniversaries

17-Arnie & Sharon Gonzalez

Baptism Birthdays

3-3 Kelvin Hawthorne
3-11 Talia Wells
3-18 Merrily Sargent
3-19 Shari Meeker
3-24 Brian Mason
3-31 Jordan Donnelly
3-31 Julie Donnelly

Whoever believes and is
baptized will be saved.

Mark 16:16a

Have I not commanded you? Be strong
and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not
be discouraged, for the Lord your God
will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Attendance for the month of February

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
2/4	125	81
2/11	76	57
2/14	67	53
2/18	81	66
2/21	52	—
2/25		
2/28		

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett
Theresa Clark	Anita Reinertsen
Mitch Jacobs	Bob Donley
Guy Hood	Deb Lescallett
Ethan Meeker	Rodney Koch
Rebecca Smith	Mason Carlson
Julie & Steve Brandt	Otis Anderson

Janalee Gutierrez
Dave, Mitch Jacobs dad
David, Pastor Sommerer's brother
Aiden Meeker, grandson Mark & Shari
Gabe's nephew
Fred Concepcion, Nelly Clark's father
Joan, Robert Nichols's mother
Rachel Macek's friend, Judy— surgery

Others:

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

Will you have a graduate this spring from high school or college??

We want their information! (school, degree, next steps, etc.)

Please talk to Leah and let her know all the details!

We will be sharing this in the May & June newsletters!



LWML Will meet on Thursday, March 7th at 1 pm.
Melanie will have the topic and Janet will be our hostess.
Roll call will be a Lenten Hymn verse
Bring your mighty mites!

The theme for the 2024 Lenten sermons is “God on Trial.” The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God— and his people— are judged. Temptations are many in this environment : treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model— and our motivation— in Jesus.

This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before humankind in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

February 28th: Accusations, Vicar Corigan

5pm dinner— Elders serving sloppy joes 6pm— service

March 6th: Sympathy, Rev. Eddy

5pm dinner— Stewardship serving tacos 6pm— service

March 13th: Truth, Rev. Hagen

5pm dinner— LWML serving pasta 6pm— service

March 20th: Misconceptions, Rev. Umbarger

5pm dinner— Properties/Evangelism serving pancakes 6pm- service

Palm Sunday, March 24th

8:45am— Bible Class/Sunday School 10:00am— Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, March 28th: Respite

6pm service

Good Friday March 29th: Evidence

6pm service

Easter Sunday March 31st: Vindication

7am Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10am Worship Service



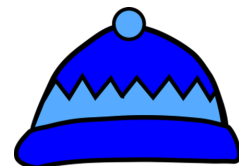
Mt. Calvary will be participating in a circuit rotation during Lent, with pastors visiting us during the weekly Lenten services.

Hats of Love will meet on March 28th at 3pm.

Please bring any items you have worked on.

Blessing Box donations are still being collected in the entryway tub.

We are thankful to continue these missions to those in need in our community!



Preschool News

The preschoolers enjoyed Valentines parties and making valentines for their parents and grandparents. They also made beautiful valentines to share with residents at Woodridge, Allure of Lake Storey, Marigold, Hawthorne Inn and Seminary Manor.

In March we will collect non-perishable food items for the FISH food pantry. We will have fieldtrips to Art Defined, Teddy Bear conventions and Parent Teacher conferences.

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year is open to the community. Please let your family and friends know about us!

Thank you for your donations to the Scholarship Fund! If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate this year, please do so by March 31st!

Knox County Right to Life will have their monthly meeting here at Mt. Calvary on March 12th at 6pm. This meeting will include education and letter writing.



Upcoming events include the annual **Knox County Right To Life Pancake Breakfast**. It will be held on March 24th (Palm Sunday) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1556 E Fremont St, Galesburg from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. We hope you'll join us!



Crafters will meet on Wednesday, March 6th from 10am-12 noon. If you need some help or would enjoy some fellowship while you work on a project – please come join them!

Thrivent Choice Dollars can help organizations that YOU care about! If you are an eligible Thrivent Member- your 2023 **Choice Dollars need to be directed/designated by March 31, 2024**. 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! Choice dollars donated to the preschool go to the Scholarship Fund. Dollars donated to the church go into our Capital Improvement Fund.



The Camp CILCA Lowdown March, 2024
 217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org
 4124 Camp Cilca Rd., Cantrall, IL 62625

SAVE THE DATES

March 2: Free Pancake Dinner

All are invited to this free “thank you” dinner to the community for everyone’s support.
 10am-1pm

March 30: Spring Work Day

Help get camp ready for the warmer weather. Many hands make light work.
 8am-12pm. Lunch will be provided.

March 31: Early Bird Discount Ends! Sign up before midnight to save 10% off every week of camp!

April 14: Annual Banquet This year’s speaker will be Mary Kate Zander, the Executive Director of Illinois Right to Life. Tickets are \$40 and must be reserved by April 10 by calling 217-487-7497 or emailing camp@cilca.org.
 Find out more at cilca.org/annual-banquet

May 29: First Day of Summer Camp! Registration is OPEN for to 2024 camping season. Sign up today for a summer full of adventure in God’s creation!

Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting. Find out more at www.cilca.org

Keep an eye out for upcoming dates for youth group meetings!

Thank you to all who came and enjoyed fried chicken on Feb 21st for our Lenten supper! We greatly appreciate your support!

Youth will be hosting the Easter breakfast and will welcome any help with food donations for that morning. A sign up sheet for food donations will be on the education wing door.



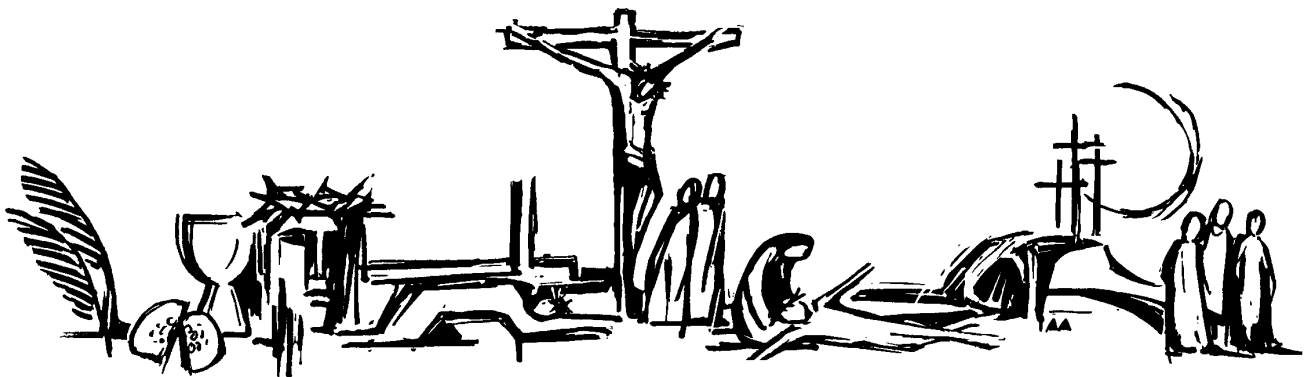
Join us during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday 8:45am- Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00am-Worship Service

Maundy Thursday 6:00pm-Worship Service

Good Friday 6:00pm- Worship Service

Easter 7:00am-Sunrise Service 8:30am-Breakfast and egg hunt 10:00am-Worship Service



On Observing Lent

“Lent is a time in which God’s baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent, described as repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a time for growing into Christ by concentration on our Baptism, so that the obstacles set in the way of God’s grace by our old nature may be removed by His Spirit and we may be signs of God’s kingdom in the world. It calls for a greater openness to the Word of God, zeal in joining the congregation in worship and sharing in the Holy Communion, and conversion in every area of faith and life that we may walk in the Gospel of Christ” (Proclaim, 153).

In the first of Luther’s *95 Theses*, he reminded the Church that Christ’s proclamation, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” calls for a continuous life of daily repentance. What is repentance? It is a Spirit-wrought sorrow over sin (contrition) and a Spirit-given trust in the Savior from sin (faith). During Lent we focus in a heightened way on those aspects of the Christian life which form the core of the Christian life during all season and every day of our lives.

Daily repentance means each day renouncing and condemning that sinful flesh which remains even in the heart of a Christian which hates God and all things that please God (Rom.8:7). We do this through confession of sins privately before God (1 John 1:8-9); corporately in the Divine Service (Matt.18:15-20); through confession with our pastor (John 20:22-23); or with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Peter 2:9). Implicit in true confession is renunciation of the sinful lifestyle and a desire to walk in the light of Christ. Confession which pours out our unworthiness and sinfulness before God always takes refuge in the saving grace of God who lived and died for our salvation. Confession that simply leaves us sad without taking comfort in the Savior misses the whole point.

Fasting is a Lenten discipline, insofar as it is a bodily reminder that we are laying aside the passions and desires of the flesh to draw near to God through His Word and prayer. If I recognize that TV is becoming a need which I am bound by, I might fast by giving up TV for a time to use that time in prayer and the Word. If I am driven by food, I fast by choosing to lay aside meals on a certain day or at a certain time to use that time in prayer and the Word. Almsgiving would be an extra attentiveness to find ways in which we can serve others in our daily vocations as God presents us with opportunity. Where there is need, we act in a way that helps to meet the needs of others.

Lent is a Baptismal season in that what God began and completed in us at Baptism, by the Spirit’s power we pursue through a daily crucifying of the sinful flesh and daily receiving the comfort of the Gospel rising with Christ to new life. This is as Luther put it “*drowning the Old Adam in us by daily contrition and repentance and a new nature in us daily arising to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*” This is God’s gift and work in us, certainly beyond our power to effect, and in that sense is a daily return to Baptism where “we were buried with Christ through Baptism into death so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father we too may live a new life.”



Choir will sing on Maundy Thursday and Easter. We would LOVE to have you join us! We will practice on Wednesday evenings beginning Feb 28th from 5:20-5:45pm. (Please eat supper right at 5pm!) We will also catch a couple Sundays after church to practice!



“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will speak not on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.”

John 16:12,13

The verses above were part of Jesus’ final words with the disciples the night of Judas’ betrayal and Jesus’ arrest in the Garden. The disciples were, at that time, not prepared to understand the significance of what would happen in the next few days. Despite three years of learning at the feet of our Savior, they were still too caught up in their own ideas of what the Messiah would come to be and do. It would take something totally unexpected, something heart-wrenching, before they could understand the import of *“the Word becoming flesh” and achieving victory through death.*

Lent is a time for us to contemplate the mystery of what Christ did for us at the cross. Over time, it seems the mystery becomes “old hat.” It’s an old story, one we’ve heard so many times, and yet a thousand sermons couldn’t do justice to the unimaginable events of Holy Week.

Our Savior left the disciples and us with the promise of One who would come to *“guide us into all truth.” The work of the Holy Spirit is to embed into our hearts and minds the far-reaching significance of Christ’s work. He comes to ingrain in us that what Jesus did was “for us and for our salvation.” I suspect that all of us would be filled with terror if we could only see with God’s eyes the hideous mark that sin has left on our life. If we could only see how deeply we have offended and grieved our God by our words, by our actions, even by our thoughts, only then could we truly understand the depth of what happened at Calvary so long ago.*

Perhaps then, Lent would cease to be “the same old story”, but would instead become for us a time to pour out our sins at the foot of the cross. Then might we be overwhelmed at the abundance of God’s love. Then might we see how Jesus could look out from the agonies of the cross, not hating his murderers, but offering a prayer of forgiveness for them, a prayer of forgiveness for us too. This Lenten season by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God’s perfect Word, may we learn anew of God’s love in Christ! At the cross we see the solemn judgment of God upon the sins of the world, yet at the cross, we see most perfectly the super-abundant love of God that *“while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”*

This Lenten journey ahead is a struggle for us, because it involves renouncing the flesh and its desires and *“fixing our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith.” In that sense Lent is a more intense 40 day microcosm of the entirety of the Christian life – that is to say, a return to our Baptism. As Luther instructed in the catechism, after confessing God’s forgiving, faith-bestowing, Spirit-giving power in Baptism he asked: “What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever (SC, IV).” As we begin together this sojourn of faith toward the Paschal feast we do it reminded always of the power of the Risen Savior that gives us hope and strength for all that lies ahead.*