

8:45 am Sunday School opening  
9:00 am Sunday School/Bible Class  
10:00 am Worship Service

Join us on Sundays!

# February 2024

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



# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1pm LWML	2	3 6-9pm Trivia Night
4 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Elders	5 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	6 10am Bible Study	7 10am-12pm Crafters  4-5pm Midweek 6-7:15pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Building Comm 11:30am Confirmation	12 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	13 10am Bible Study	14 4-5pm Midweek  6pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	15	16	17
18 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Confirmation	19 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	20 10am Bible Study	21 4pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6pm Lenten Service	22	23	24
25 8:45am Bible Class/SS 10am Worship Service 11:30am Confirmation 11:30am cardmaking	26 <i>Pastor's day off</i>	27 10am Bible Study  3pm Hats of Love	28 4pm Midweek 5pm Lent Dinner 6pm Lenten Service	29	Youth at Higher Things Mini Lock-in	

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

## Happy Birthday

- 4- Calie Cansino
- 9- Brian Mason
- 15- Lori Donovan
- 15- Joey Cansino
- 16- Rachel Macek
- 17- Talia Wells
- 18- Kelvin Hawthorne
- 20- Debra Holmes
- 28- Brittany Kane



We love because he first loved us.  
1 John 4:19

<b>Attendance for the month of January</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Communion</u>
1/7	97	67
1/14	37	32
1/21	77	55
1/28		

## Happy Anniversary

- 16- Robert & Laura Nichols

## Baptism Birthdays

- 2-5 Gwen Wells
- 2-9 Carrie McCance
- 2-11 Dalton Engel
- 2-15 Joyce Wolfe
- 2-28 Melissa Montgomery

## In Our Prayers

### Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe  
 Theresa Clark  
 Janalee Gutierrez  
 Bob Donley  
 Deb Lescallett  
 Natalie Gonzalez  
 Rebecca Smith  
 Rodney Koch  
 Jim Welch  
 Otis Anderson

Dan Brackett  
 Anita Reinertsen  
 Mitch Jacobs  
 Guy Hood  
 Ethan Meeker  
 Dale Matheny  
 Jen Baughman & sister  
 Julie & Steve Brandt  
 Mason Carlson

Dave, Mitch Jacobs dad  
 David, Pastor Sommerer's brother  
 Aiden Meeker, grandson of Mark & Shari  
 Dianna James, Michelle Peterson's mom  
 Justin, Dean & Darla's son  
 Tom, Brittany's dad, cancer  
 Eileen, Caden Stokes' grandmother, 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

We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week (Jan 22-26) with crazy clothes day, t-shirt day, and favorite shoes day. This NLSW theme this year is "Connected", and the Bible verse is John 15:1-5. "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

We will celebrate our Preschool Scholarship Fund Drive into February. Please check out our National Lutheran Schools Week display in the entryway. Envelopes are available for scholarship donations; please return to Leah on place in Jeanie's mailbox. Thank you for your support! Many families depend on this tuition assistance.

Families donated many bags of baby items to the Women's Pregnancy Center for January Show & Share. In February our preschool families will make valentines to be delivered to local nursing homes. We look forward to our Valentines Day parties as we talk about how much Jesus loves us all! Happy Valentine's Day!

The current Dollar for Missions project is to provide mileage for Pastor David Dunlop of Zion, Chestnut and Christ, Clinton to travel every week to Lincoln for prison ministry. \$1,800 would cover the cost of reimbursements for a year, relieving Pastor Dunlop and/or his churches of this expense. For more on this project, see <https://youtu.be/tKDHSJqjHb8>



If District 205 **cancels** school/activities **due to weather**, Mt. Calvary will most likely follow suit and cancel activities also (Midweek/Confirmation/preschool/etc). Please stay safe and stay home if you feel it would be too dangerous to travel out and about! We will update cancellations on the Facebook page or you can call Pastor if needed to double-check status of activities!



**"To Die For" 1 Corinthians 15:3** The Camp CILCA theme for this year!

Does your child want to attend camp this summer? Camp CILCA has some great opportunities both for a camper and as a volunteer! Water-loving, screen-free, music & drama, sports, survival camp plus high schoolers and those with developmental disabilities can all enjoy camp and God's great outdoors! Camp CILCA is always looking for those high school age and older to volunteer (stay free for the week!) and assist campers!

Check out: <http://www.cilca.org>  
*A brochure with all the camp options and information is on the confirmation bulletin board outside the gym!*

## LWML

will meet on Thursday, Feb. 1st at 1 pm.  
Roll call will be a most loved church memory.  
Leah will have the topic and Missy will be our hostess.



## Highlights from the Voters Meeting Summary– Jan. 21, 2024

Pastor gave his official acts report for October-December including; the baptism of Jacob Cansino; adult confirmation for Art & Lisa Jern and Bill Byers; Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas services; assisting in the Children's Christmas Service; leading Tuesday morning Bible Study; leading chapel for preschool along with classroom visits and Bible stories; pastors meetings in the circuit and the district; performing the wedding of JoAnn and Anson Wing; and talking about the upcoming Lenten services and pastor rotation.

The Treasurers report stated that Endowment Fund has been gaining over the last several months and the designated funds continue to increase due to giving. In Q2, the operating fund increased. Overall, the designated funds increased mainly due to the giving towards the building fund. So even with the operating income being under budget, the decrease in operating expense was even to offset the shortage. Hopefully we can keep the lower expenses trend going and increase envelope and plate giving in Q3.

Stewardship will be meeting on January 28th to talk about plans for the year. They were thanked for providing today's lunch.

### Education:

Sunday school has resumed normal classes after the Christmas Children's Service in December. Jr/Sr high Sunday School is working on reading through and learning the book of John for the upcoming April 7th Circuit Bible Bowl.

Youth are thankful for all those who supported the fall and winter fundraisers: Harvest Houses, The circuit sock collection, silent auction baskets, and Christmas houses. They have several upcoming circuit youth events– movie night on Jan 28th and Higher Things in a Box lock-in in Feb.

Preschool has been busy celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas. Several fieldtrips include the library, Pizza House and GHAS visit and collected items for Safe Harbor, Rescue Mission and Women's Pregnancy Center during our Show & Share times! We are celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week and are having a Preschool Scholarship Fund Drive which allows up to support those families who need tuition assistance. Cassandra finished her classes and earned her degree from Carl Sandburg College.

Way to go Cassandra!

Board of Education will be setting a date to meet and discuss upcoming events. Talk to Jessica to figure out a date.

Evangelism is continuing to make cards to encourage our shut-ins. If you are able to attend on a Sunday that cards are being made, please come and join us. Lunch is provided for participants. Hats of Love did not meet in November or December, but will be resuming meetings in January. Thank you to Deb Thompson for the Thrivent Team for card making supplies. Busy bags for church have been cleaned out and readjusted by age. Please make sure to place any items played with back in the proper bags. Thank you!

The Elders reported that Advent and Christmas services went well. There was only one service on Christmas Eve and will plan to continue that in the future. Please welcome and introduce yourself to our new members. Confirmation date options are being discussed with the confirmand families. Lenten services will begin on Ash Wednesday at 6pm. No meal that evening. On the following Wednesday evenings there will be a pastoral rotation for preaching and meals served by church committees. Dinner will be at 5pm, service will be at 6pm every week. Marc Kugler has been elected as chairman of the Elders.

Properties reported that several security cameras have been placed around the church. We have purchased an AED and it is in the mailroom in case of an emergency. Several annual inspections have occurred in December and January, with no issues/violations. Work continues on figuring out the issue with the tv in the sanctuary. We will be installed a furnace in the boiler room to prevent frozen pipes. Properties and Evangelism will be teaming up to serve a pancake Lenten supper on March 20th.

The Building Committee thanks all who have supported our fundraisers thus far and hope that we can all keep working towards our goal! We received a very generous check from Pastor Larner's estate that was earmarked for the building fund. We have an upcoming Trivia Night on Feb 3rd and want to encourage you to invite friends, family and neighbors to test their school subject knowledge! Come join the fun and help us raise money for the Education Wing Renovation Fund!

Anyone wanting to help with Properties is encouraged to talk to Tim, Derek or Leah. Jennifer DeWolfe reminded everyone that Thrivent Choice dollars can be designated until March 31st.

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.

- Ash Wednesday, February 14th: Testimony, Rev. Sommerer
- February 21st: Restraint, Rev. Astrowski
- February 28th: Accusations, Rev. Corigan
- March 6th: Sympathy, Rev. Eddy
- March 13th: Truth, Rev. Hagen
- March 20th: Misconceptions, Rev. Umbarger
- Palm Sunday, March 24th
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th: Respite
- Good Friday March 29th: Evidence
- Easter Sunday March 31st: Vindication

*Our Wednesday Worship Services will begin at 6pm, with a dinner prior at 5pm. (There is not a dinner on Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week.)*

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

### Easter Flowers



Please use this form to order flowers for Easter.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_

(amount you are ordering)

**(\$15.00 each)**

Circle dedication: To the Glory of God...

In Loving Memory of...

In Thanksgiving for....

In Celebration of...

\_\_\_\_\_

I (WILL) (WILL NOT) be picking up my flowers after second service on Easter.

This form and your check should be made payable to **Mt. Calvary**

And must be received by **Sunday, February 25, 2024**

Please place your form & check in Leah’s mailbox, the church office or the office mailbox. Thank you!

**ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 6TH GRADER?**



# TRIVIA NIGHT

**FEB 3 2024** | **6-9PM** DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, GALESBURG**

**TICKETS \$100/TABLE** -----  
(UP TO 10 PEOPLE)

**\*FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**\*CAN BRING SNACKS FOR YOUR TABLE**

**\*SILENT AUCTION RAFFLES      \*BAKE SALE**

**SIGN UP YOUR TEAM BY CALLING MT. CALVARY (309) 342-7083**

THIS EVENT SUPPORTS THE MT CALVARY EDUCATION WING RENOVATION FUND

Collect your friends and family, make a team and come have some fun while we raise funds for the Education Wing Renovation!

Call Leah in the office to reserve your team table!

If you are able to volunteer/help that night or would be willing to donate some bake sale items– the sign up sheet is in the entryway!

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising efforts!

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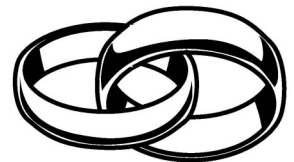
**Thrivent Choice Dollars** can help organizations that YOU care about! If you are an eligible Thrivent Member- your 2022 Choice Dollars need to be directed/designated by March 31, 2023. Don't let them expire! Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more, call 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.

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Marriage Enrichment Class at Immanuel Lutheran Church  
3300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201



Many think that doing what comes naturally is certainly the best way to go about being married. But since we are sinners by nature, having a good and strong marriage does not come naturally. We need to give our marriage good and constant attention and receive guidance for it from our Savior God.

Please plan to join us for classes on Saturday mornings from 10am-Noon on the following dates: February 17, February 24, March 2, March 9, March 16

Our discussion will be from the "You Can Do It" books series by LCMS Pastor Ron Garwood. This study will cover "5 Things You Can Do to Strengthen Your Marriage".

This class will equip you to: Remember God's will for you in His institution of marriage, Be in prayer, Communicate with each other, Love one another, Forgive one another  
Please contact the church office at 309-786-3391 or via email [ilchurch@mchsi.com](mailto:ilchurch@mchsi.com) to pre-register. Childcare will be provided.

## Lenten Blessings

Do you have young children? It's so hard to do the running and practices and make Lenten services, but I promise you – those services and the gravity and intensive focus on the Passion of Jesus are THE MOST MEMORABLE PARTS OF MY FAITH FORMATION. God's Word does its work with the old Lenten hymns to help drive home the importance of Jesus and His redeeming work; as well as, what's most important in your home. Please use these evening services to shape your family as a family that walks together under the cross! Let this be a good time to begin or continue a family practice of being together around the family altar in your home, and here with God's children.

How can Lent be a blessing for you? Ash Wednesday starts February 14! This year Mt Calvary will offer Lenten services of prayer and preaching led by area pastors from our circuit congregations. Our theme focuses on the accusations and temptations Jesus faced - - God on Trial. (We will be joined by Pastors Sommerer, Astrowski, Corigan, Eddy, Hagen and Umbarger, in that order.) All services will begin at 6pm; meals begin Feb.21 and following weeks at 5pm-ish.

How blessed we are to have these opportunities together to focus on the Passion of Christ – God on Trial. Too easily we forget God not only calls us to eternal life through faith, but also calls us to serve Him with lives of love and good works within our respective vocations. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal, putting to death our sinful flesh - a time of Godly discipline. In that respect Lent is a “Baptismal season”, because in Lent we daily drown our sinful flesh in repentance and rise to life with Christ in the power of His Word.

The root of discipline is disciple and that's what God calls each of us to be. Our lives of discipleship get derailed by undisciplined lives focused too much on worldly things. Discipline is important. Through Godly disciplines we learn our failures and weakness and dependence on Jesus. Through Godly disciplines we remember our privilege of serving God by serving others. Through Godly disciplines we learn that faith passively rests in Jesus' work, trusting in Him for salvation, even as we actively serve God in the world.

The Lenten focus on repentance and Christ's sufferings and death is a great blessing. In our self-centered world, the Holy Spirit would change our hearts and direct us to Christ through faith and to our neighbor in love. How blessed if we learn in Lent to confess our sins to God our Father through Christ our Lord. Opportunities for individual confession and absolution are offered with pastor during Lent – anytime by appointment. The Portals of Prayer and reading through the Gospels helps us center our homes and lives in God's Word. Fasting is encouraged (see Matt.6) as an opportunity to lay aside those things (food, social media, TV, etc) that dominate our attentions, dedicating that time and energy to God's Word and prayer. Works of love and service are encouraged as loving responses to the Savior's free forgiveness.

Use this season... God's Church throughout the ages has wisely set aside these times to help us to grow more deeply in our appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice. Use this Lenten season to read through the Gospels at home. Set aside time for prayer. Join us here at church on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. May these good Godly disciplines of Lent help you to focus on Christ. You and I aren't saved by the things we do through Lent. We were saved by what Jesus did at the cross and are saved by what He gave in Holy Baptism and gives in His Holy Supper. (Indeed, what Jesus did at the cross comes to us in no other way that through God's Word and Sacraments.) God's grace is a precious treasure. Lent is a good time to grow in our joyful certainty that Christ has won our final victory. By the power of God's Holy Spirit, *“Fix your eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of your faith”* (Heb.12:2).

Special meals will be provided Wednesday evenings beginning Feb.21 with the Youth around 5-ish so people coming from work won't have to cook. Services are all at 6pm. We pray that will enable more to attend. Praise God for this wonderful season of renewal in His Word! A blessed, focused Lenten journey will truly lead to a joyous Easter celebration!

**See you on Wednesdays, Pastor Steve Sommerer**