

# August 2025

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



# August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

## Happy Birthday

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

## Happy Anniversary

6- Matt & Gwen Wells  
16-Michael & Kayla Bird  
19-Ron & Nancy Lindberg

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

Date	Worship	Communion
7/6	66	—
7/13	94	69
7/20	90	68
7/27	106	77

## Baptism Birthdays

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

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

## *In Our Prayers*

### **Health concerns:**

Anita Reinertsen	Rebecca Smith
Janalee Gutierrez	Art & Lisa Jern
JoAnn & Anson Wing	Bob Donley
Terri Clark	Missy Montgomery
James Welch	Steve & Julie Brandt
Donna Bolin	

Lynn Oberg-Robertson— lymphoma  
JoAnn, Robert Nichols's sister  
Gill, friend of Nichols, cancer treatments  
Ryan, grandson of Dale & Donna Bolin, brain tumor  
Sam Stoner, awaiting organ transplant

### **Others:**

Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna, the Kenya Mission  
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute  
Our Armed Forces  
Jesse, Melanie's nephew on vicarage in Romania



Knox County Right to Life will hold its August meeting on Tuesday, August 12th at 7:00pm at St Patrick Catholic Church (858 S. Academy St, Galesburg).



\*\*\*Watch for details to come about Life Month and the Life Chain!

Knox County Right to Life ornament is a gingerbread man this year! Watch for more details to come soon about ordering! Ordering will be open until September 15th!

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### \*Save the Date!



The Women's Pregnancy Center of Galesburg Annual Fall Fundraiser Banquet will be at the Lake Storey Pavilion on Thursday, October 2, 2025. Plan to attend and learn more about the help that women and families with unplanned pregnancies have in our community! You can call the Pregnancy Center for more information. 309-343-4739

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LWML will meet on August 7th for their monthly meeting. Roll call will be a favorite red fruit or vegetable. Melanie will have the topic and Merrily is the hostess.



Evangelism will hold card making on Sunday, July 24th after the service to make cards for our shut-in members. Please come join Evangelism in the gym to create cards to brighten their day!

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### A DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS

The current Dollar for Missions project is replacement of insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. Some of this fiberglass insulation has fallen from its place under the roof. The area needing work is hard to reach in a high ceiling, so the job will be expensive. The DFM project is for \$10,000. For more details, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>



A great big THANK YOU to all who have volunteered and worked, or came out and supported our building fundraisers this summer! We are thankful for the great opportunities God has given us so far to raise money, and ask his blessings on our continued efforts!

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Hats of Love will meet on the 4th Tuesday, August 6th at 3pm. We continue to knit /crochet items for people in our community and welcome anyone who wants to learn! We can always use donations of yarn! Pray that those who receive our items are blessed by them as we witness to those around us.



## July 20, 2025 Voters Meeting Summary

Treasurer reported that income (plate and envelope giving) have increased. Strong second half of the fiscal year, recouped all losses to income. Top 5 expenses are salaries, benefits, missions, utilities and insurance.

Stewardship thanked everyone who helped with the rummage sale , no check received from the Got Sneakers fundraiser yet, and will hold pie making in November.

Education. VBS was a success. Thank you to Jeanie for her years of service to preschool, Kayla is officially the director. Have openings in 2 day and 5 day classes.

Youth will attend the Higher Things conference July 27-Aug 1 with a trip to Cedar Point before the conference. Will plan a post conference presentation, thank you for all the support.

Evangelism reported the Hats of Love continues to meet. August 24 will be thinking of you cards for the shut ins. September 28 will be Octoberfest. A craft fair to benefit Building Fund will be on Saturday, November 1st.

Pastor's official acts included 42 shut-in and 8 hospital calls, Lent rotation with the circuit, marriage instruction for several couples, a wedding, with several more to come this summer. Instruction, baptism and confirmation for the Unger family. Confirmation in May. CID Convention– will have a report during adult Bible Class on a Sunday at some point. Pastor will be attending Higher Things with the youth.

Elders reported that the service that the Elders covered went well. Served Mothers Day breakfast. Confirmation Sunday and Pentecost in June. Hosted VBS dinners– which went well. Elders are working on inactive rolls, how to proceed. Thank you to Pastor and Randy for attending the CID Convention. Began a book study with the elders. Thank you to Mitch for stepping up to be an elder.

Properties reported that a recent fish fry fundraiser at the beginning of June was well attended and brought in ~\$800 for the building fund. County Fair Parking went well, thank you to those who volunteered to work the shifts needed! Termites have been found in a beam in the sanctuary. Klingner's has been contacted, came out to give thoughts, and we have contracted with them for initial work to get the structure and needed work figured out. Plan to look into if an insurance claim is possible. Roof replacement on education wing is planned for this summer.

Elections at Mt. Calvary will take place at the October Voters Meeting.

If you know someone willing to step into a position and help at Mt Calvary, nominating sheets are available in the entryway, please return them to the office. Positions to be elected in October include: Stewardship chair, congregational secretary, Evangelism chair, Board of Education chair.

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’” (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation! Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

*"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!

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.

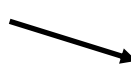
I recently saw a church sign: "I love my church. You will too." It is my conviction that churches grow when each member sees themselves as "missionaries entering the mission field." That means instead of one light shining in a dark world for two hours on Sunday morning. Each member and member home becomes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



*Continued...*

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 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*

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### **Pray for our Preschool!**

Orientation for families attending Mt Calvary Preschool is August 25th & 26th. Preschool will begin classes on September 2nd. We ask that you keep the teachers, aides, students and all involved in our preschool in your prayers as they start working towards a new school year!

LCMS School Ministry 2025-2026 Theme: Make a Joyful Noise!  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song  
and sing praises! Psalm 98:4

