



Journal

Mount Calvary
Lutheran Church
and Preschool
688 Dakota Ave S
Huron, SD 57350

“Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins”

February 2023

God plants

By Rev. Chris Navurskis, Senior Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

In the midst of such snowy and cold winter weather, I was surprised to see the seed display racks already set up at stores like Runnings! I was not prepared to begin my garden planning, but the presence of the product display did engage me to the extent that I am now pondering my next move – do I start our flowers and veggies indoors first, or wait until the ground warms and thaws?

The early planter can reap an early harvest, but early planting is not without risks. The risk is, if one puts in all the work of starting plants indoors, and plants them when the ground warms, all the work could be undone by an April or May blizzard. Rumors abound that recent fog activity and bird migration indicates the possibility that grass will green early, get snowed on, and then green again for the long term around mid-May.

One may say that the weather and planting is guesswork, or a gamble. My grandpa used to say that he didn't need to play the lottery because farming was a much more exciting game of chance. Truthfully, he worked on faith and lived by prayer like so many farmers in the Midwest. I am reminded of that every spring.

Claire and I have a father-daughter tradition of planting flowers together each spring. At the parsonage in Illinois, we had over an acre of yard. I tilled a large area for our vegetable garden and four more areas for large flower beds.

We planted some beds with flowers that would attract butterflies, another with flowers that would attract certain pollinators, and another with flowers that would replant themselves and return every year.

Here in Huron, we have built several raised flower boxes behind the garage. So far we have planted a variety of wild flowers for cutting and placing in vases indoors. We have tried potatoes and corn and different kinds of carrots. This year, we are going to focus special attention on attracting Monarch butterflies. I am also going to take my wild rose flower beds to the next level of development.

Whenever we come up with a plan for our planting, there is purpose. Perhaps your activities are similar. You are not alone in that planning. During February, 250 million roses are produced just for Valentine's Day. Think about that time and

effort! Thousands of hours and gallons of water and tons of fertilizer, and all the thorn pokes during picking and then the fuel in delivery, and miles upon miles of travel just to get the flower from your hand to your beloved.

With that in mind, as Jesus speaks to us, “*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,*”²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6).”



Consider these words in the anxious times which mark our present season of life this side of heaven. Realize that God always plants with a purpose. God plants and tends the flowers of the field for the beauty of his good earth, and even to feed the birds with seeds. He has planted you for the beauty of his kingdom and the well-being of coming generations. He has planted you to be rooted in his word, lest the winds of change and evil storms of our swirling culture erode the foundations he has established. He has planted you so that the goodness of his creation would be on display in a world where the evil one seeks decay and destruction. He has

planted you simply because he loves life and loves causing us to live.

It won't be long before we start our Lenten journey. We will feel the chill of sin and see the darkness of death. You will ponder the purpose of a kind of planting in the ground Good Friday. Even in the valley of that shadow, Jesus' reference to lilies comes to mind and brings hope of resurrection. We have hope in the resurrection that the disciples did not at first understand. What they finally saw caused them to plant the seeds of the Gospel, which caused even our church to spring up, take root, and live. Can you imagine what might bloom and grow if we planted as they did?

In Christ,
Pastor Chris



More than conquerors

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Savior! The frigid temperatures of February are here. And in South Dakota, we know that the wind is always going to be present. When the arctic blast of February is upon us, there are a few things that most people are talking about. Of course, we hear about the next blizzard and the next possible thaw. We hear about Valentine's Day. And we hear about the biggest entertainment event of the year: the Super Bowl.

You might remember that in 2018, the Super Bowl was in Minneapolis, at the newly constructed U.S. Bank Stadium. I was in Wisconsin at the time, but I remember hearing about just how crazy everything was back in my hometown. Reporters from dozens of countries descended upon the Mall of America. Patriots fans were out and about seeing the sights. Eagles fans were making a mess of things. And everybody was complaining about how cold it was in Minneapolis in February, because they weren't used to it. That year, more people watched the Super Bowl than ever before. There were 118.2 million people who turned on their TVs to watch the same thing at the same time.

Even if you don't like football, the Super Bowl is something that permeates our culture. If you can't tell the difference between a screen pass and a screen door, many people enjoy the commercials that are interspersed between the action. And even if you don't like that, there's always the Super Bowl spread that is laid out at many a party.

Being in the Super Bowl also has an interesting effect on the players who are actually playing the game. They know that this is a really big deal. They know that they need to play well, because whether they play poorly or play admirably, they will be remembered for it in the years to come. With so many people watching, there is a lot of pressure to perform their craft at the highest level. Not only that, they need to work together as a team or they won't have a chance.

But there's another interesting effect that playing in the Super Bowl has on the players and coaches. At the end of the game, the sideline reporter will come up to the winning coaches and players, asking them to reflect on what has just happened in real time. Millions of eyes watching, millions of ears hearing. One chance to give glory to God.

Some players take that chance. Somewhat nervously, they might utter a few words thanking God. Others, prepared and practiced, may let their faith be known in an even bolder way. After the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI, Colts coach Tony Dungy witnessed to his faith in front of millions of people. He has since gotten out of coaching, but people have not stopped badgering him for expressing his faith publicly. At the 2023 March for Life in Washington D.C., Dungy was one of the featured speakers and his words supporting life created a firestorm. His job as a commentator on NBC's Football Night in America has been threatened, but he has remained firm in his words.

When people hear football players giving glory to God after a victory, there is sometimes a misunderstanding. Non-Christians believe that this player is bragging that God loves them more or they have more faith or God chose them to win this game over the other team or the other players. If

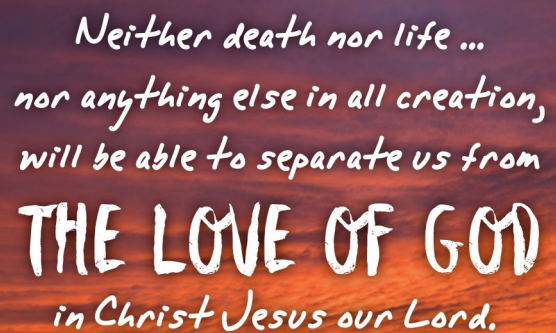
there were follow-up questions in the interview, I'm sure that most every Christian player would say that this is not true. After all, there are Christian players on both sidelines. God does not show favoritism or partiality. In the grand scheme of things, who wins a football game is so miniscule and minute.

Yet, it is still appropriate to give glory to God in that moment. And the reason is because we should give thanks to God for everything that we have. There is nothing that we own or have that does not come from Him. God is right by our side in every moment. Some of these players and coaches have extraordinary stories. Many players grew up in poverty and have been able to get their family out of that situation due to their God-given gifts. Others have overcome personal tragedy in their families and in their own lives. And every player has overcome the adversity of making an NFL team against all odds.

In Romans 8, Paul talks about us being more than conquerors through Him who loved us. At the end of the Super Bowl, there is triumphant music, confetti, and trophies hoisted high, but that's not the kind of thing Paul is talking about. Those who share in this victory may not see many of its spoils in this life. They will have troubles and burdens. They will all fall short of the glory of God. And yet, they are a part of the greatest victory that has ever taken place.

You might have heard that the company Nike gets its name from the Greek word for victory. And here, in Romans 8, we have a heightened version of that word, meaning to "prevail completely." When Paul talks about this victory in Romans 8, it's all about the work of God. Nowhere in these many verses does Paul say that we are to be given credit for what has been done. If we were to be assigned any credit, the work and the victory would always be suspect. But since God has done all of it, by sending Jesus to die on the cross and to rise again from the dead, we can be assured that it has taken full effect. The victory that Jesus has won for us is so ironclad, that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, things present or things to come, height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



*Neither death nor life ...
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from
THE LOVE OF GOD
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ROMANS 8:38-39, ESV



We are reaching out to
THANK YOU for your 2022
Stewardship of Time, Talents,
and Finances!

Mount Calvary is extremely
blessed to be partnered with you
through your Christian Steward-
ship. Christian stewardship is a
free and joyous activity of God's
family – the church – in managing
life's resources for His purposes.

Mount Calvary has incredible
youth and adult stewards that
have spent countless volunteer
hours making Mount Calvary a
joyous place for fellowship and
worship.

All glory and thanks be to God!
*"Rejoice always, pray without ceas-
ing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians
5:16-18)

Your servants in Christ,
Board of Stewardship



Congregational Officers for 2023 - Updated

PRESIDENT: Kerwin Haeder.

VICE PRESIDENT: Roger Kropuenske.

SECRETARY: Heidi DeJong.

TREASURER: Kristen Bich.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Bonnie Rieck.

HEAD USHER: Scott Adams.

ELDER: Joe Airheart, Robert Blaseg, Ralph Borkowski, Wayne Jungemann,
Chad Hanson, Dan Florey, Ryan Vanden Berge, Leonard Wonnenberg.

TRUSTEE, CHAIRMAN: Glenn Overbay.

TRUSTEE, MEMBERS: Stuart Adermann, Trevor Gerrits, Terry McHenry.

STEWARDSHIP/WELFARE, CHAIRMAN: Bill Eining.

FINANCE SECRETARY: Julie Kropuenske.

FINANCE BOARD MEMBERS: Jan Gerrits, Rosalie Pownell, Judy Tschetter.

PARISH EDUCATION, CHAIR: Susan Fuerst.

YOUTH, CHAIR: Natasha Airheart.

EVANGELISM, CHAIRMAN: currently vacant

SCHOOL BOARD, CHAIR: Dawn Eining.

**Thank you to new officers, continuing officers,
and outgoing officers for serving the Lord in this way.**

Volunteer(s) Needed



Vickie and Kent Hamp-
ton have coordinated
scheduling the weekly
support for set up/
serving/clean up and
purchasing supplies
needed for the weekly
Bible Study hour since
2009.

It is time for them to transition away from this
responsibility. So we need a person or couple
to volunteer in this role going forward. If this
is a way you would be willing to serve Mt.
Calvary, or have questions, please contact Vickie
Hampton at 350-5181.

We thank Vickie and Kent for their years of
service and we appreciate the next person or
couple willing to take on this role.



Karen Johnston
822 S Main St, Apt 307
Council Bluffs IA 51503

Charles & Penny Lentz
1601 Ohio Ave SW, Apt 210
Huron SD 57350

Terry White
1353 Kansas Ave NE
Huron SD 57350

**Some names were inadvertently left off the list that was published previously.
Here is the complete list.**

Donations to the Christmas Poinsettia Fund were given in memory of:

- Gordon and Janet Bogh from Allen & Robin Shoultz
- Maude & Bob Evenson and Arlen & Bonnie Dale from Danny and Shelly Dale
- Jim and Ruby Johannsen by Roger and Julie Kropuenske
- George and Arlene Van Scharrel by Dave and Paula Van Scharrel
- Gerhard & Ormalyn Boetel from Ben & Judy Boetel and Dennis & Maureen Decker
- Wes and Clarice Rounds, Hillard Peskey, Brent Verch and Kevin Peterson from their family
- Erin Schmidt, James Lloyd Schmidt, and Daniel Hovland by Tammy and Wayne Cramer
- Additional donations were received anonymously.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Christmas Poinsettia Fund.



**BIRTHDAYS**

1	Kathy Weatherford		Kelly Christopherson		Brian Rand
	Nathan Dick	11	Gladys Dick		Samantha Christopherson
2	Melissa Machtemes	12	Audrey Davis	22	Dean Fuerst
3	Jesse Evans		Cody Kinsley	23	Mitchell Evans
	Lori Messegee		Heather Pfitzer		Raymond Jager
	Lisa Meyer		Chase Temme		Chae Greenwood
	Donna Bartel	14	Val Witham	24	Sandra Stolt
	Heather Wilson		Ron Schmidt		Charles Gascoigne
4	Ted Bartel		Justice Donovan		Kelly Hennrich
5	James Tapken		Louise Hasche	25	Dennis Mead
	Stacy Boonstra	15	Sherri Blaseg		Kristen Bich
6	Janell Beckman		Jill Harmdierks		Jaden Kuehl
7	Geraldine Dunn		Barb Schley	26	Denise Gascoigne
	Cody Payton		Josh Ziegeldorf		Skye Dorn
	Barrett Petersen	16	Barb Wenz		Connor Kinsley
8	Teresa Hofer		Scott North		Tyler Kinsley
	Karen Donovan	17	Betty Crandall	27	Darwin Maas
	Brad Weatherford		Shirley Lang	28	Dennis Decker
	Alex Jacobs, Jr.		Tamara Cramer		Rylee Airheart
	Arianna Steely		Kristina Van Scharrel		Alyxander Busch
9	Penny Dooley		Patricia Hotchkiss		Clyde Zirpel
	Andrea Brueggeman	18	Clinton Schieckoff		Jamie Lysne
	Kerry Niederbaumer		Baker Gorden	29	Stacy Strickler
	Ryan Kruse	19	Rosalie Pownell		
10	Cynthia Privett	20	Christian Ellis		
	Mandy Siedschlag	21	Jake Hafner, Jr.		

BAPTISMS

	LeRoy Deneke	11	Allen Merriam	21	Dora Jean Wipf
	Ginger Moeding	12	Amy Fullerton		Jay Thomas
1	Amy Hall		Clarissa Hanson		Devan Nelson
	Kelsey Bauer	14	Jack Boetel	22	Todd Schroeder
2	Ralph Borkowski		Vanessa Thompson		Madison Pftizer
3	Steve Arbach		Karen North	24	Donna Bartel
4	Beverly Kohlmeier	15	Nelson Terkildsen		Elan Wonnemberg
5	Benjamin Quam		Lacey Bich-Blocher	26	Jenna Adams
	Gail Haeder	16	Vicky Claassen		Aniya Busch
	Russell Donovan		Val Witham	27	Carey Hintz
	DeAndre Kogel	18	Chris Hruby	28	Tatum Carey
8	Brandon Dooley	19	Rick Kohlmeier		Rylee Airheart
	Nancy Frank		Richard Porter		Eugene Dennis
	Ryan Vanden Berge		Karissa Schroder	29	Heather Pfitzer
9	Bradley Henson	20	Lori Messegee	30	Tanner Marone
	Kristina Kogel		Lisa Meyer		

ANNIVERSARIES

12	Collin & Doris Knudson
14	William & Carolyn Quiram
	Tom & Roxanne Ford
16	Dennis & Paulette Owens
	Bennie & Judy Boetel
19	Ron & Joan Russell
24	Marco & Kelli Medina
26	Ronald & Ruth Nelson





Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Preschool News

January was filled with a lot of fun and learning! We finished up our unit on Polar Animals and are now moving on to learning about the five senses. This is always a fun one, as we get to have all kinds of games and experiments to go along with our theme. We have a taste test where the kids get to try all kinds of things - dark chocolate, cilantro, lemon, crackers, sour gummies, etc. We have a hearing game where they shake eggs and guess what is inside of them.

Valentine's Day is coming up, so we have decorated our windows with hearts, and we have a party to look forward to. For our field trip this month we are going to visit the dentist at Dakota Family Dentistry. They always do such a nice job showing us around, and each child gets to take home a goodie bag which includes a tooth brush!

One of our Bible stories we learned recently was about Jesus healing the paralyzed man. We talked about what good friends he had to carry him all the way onto a roof to see Jesus. We talked about how strong their faith was that Jesus would heal him, and that this was a miracle because nobody but Jesus can do things like that. The week previously we had learned about the first miracle Jesus performed at a wedding, so they were familiar with this term. I was very proud because many heard the word "miracle" and immediately brought up last week's story.

Thank you for your prayers and support, they mean a lot. Hope you have a wonderful February! - Mt. Calvary Preschool

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

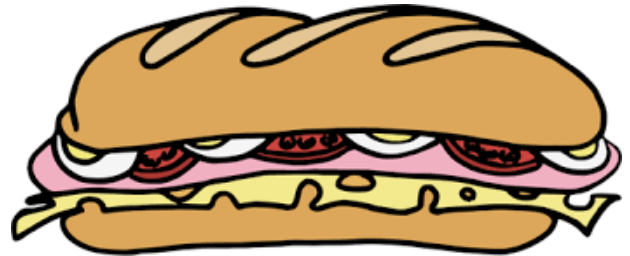


Mt. Calvary LYF Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser

Orders: Sub Sandwich orders will be taken by LYF Members until Sunday, February 5, 2023. **Please return forms to the church office or place in the box located in the back of the church.** Payment upon order is preferred.

Pickup: Sandwiches will be prepared the morning of **Saturday, February 11, 2023 and may be picked up at the church from 11:00 a.m.-12 noon.**

If this pickup time does not work for you, please let us know and we can arrange for you to pick them up after weekend services.



Cost: \$7.00 per 6" sub

SUB: Please mark all boxes below of items you want on each sub.

☐ Turkey ☐ Ham ☐ Roast Beef

☐ Cheese ☐ Lettuce ☐ Pickle

*** Each sub comes with a bag of chips and condiments

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Thank You for your support of the LYF!!



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
And Preschool

A member Church of
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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Huron, S.D. 57350

Phone:
605.352.7121 Church
605.352.7122 School

Website: www.mtcalvaryhuron.org

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JOURNAL
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Ash Wednesday

February 22

6:45 p.m. Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m. Worship Service