



Journal

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

“Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins”

March 2023

The weight of Glory

By Rev. Chris Navurskis, Senior Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

Well done – you did it again! You weathered yet another South Dakota snowstorm. I am always impressed by snow. In the Bible, snow is referenced in some cases for its white and clean appearance. In other cases, snow is referenced for its value as life giving precipitation. In still other Biblical references, one can find overtones of mystery or power.

As I type this note, a wheel loader is scooping snow in the church parking lot and loading it into a dump truck which will haul it away. I looked up the model of the wheel loader and discovered that it weighs approximately 35,000 pounds. Nevertheless, as the wheel loader pushes into that giant pile of snow only a small part of the pile moves. The wheel loader spins its tires and presses into the pile and the pile holds fast, repelling the wheel loader's advance. The wheel loader is forced to pick away at the pile piece by piece.

The wheel loader is about 25 feet long, and the pile is at least twice that length and width and probably 15 or 20 feet high. That means the pile of snow weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of 500,000 pounds! How do I know? There is actually a “Snow Weight Calculator” online.

Someone, doing his or her daily work this side of heaven, needs to know how much snow weighs to accomplish some engineering task for a snow moving equipment manufacturer, or some accounting task for a city billing department, or something else you or I can only imagine. We are always calculating and counting and categorizing. We like to understand and define. We want answers. We find security in counting because it gives us control, but what about when things are out of control?

After the snowstorm does its worst we begin to dig out. I would say that is a better feeling than the anticipation of a predicted storm, or enduring an ongoing storm. In the midst of any storm we can begin to feel vulnerable and overwhelmed. How long will this last? What kind of damage will the storm inflict? Who will help me deal with the outcome? For someone who is homeless, the question can quickly become one of basic survival.

I could make a jump at this point to the storms of life, but I would like to simply stay in the place of humility in the presence of power – even humiliation in the presence of power. All of our modern advances in technology which answer so many of life's problems promote a prevailing, yet false, sense of security. The truth that we are able to realize with every storm we face is that we are constantly subject to forces greater than our own. In fact, the most beautiful part of a

snowstorm might be the way it humbles us.

In Job 38, God questions Job saying, *“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?”* In this section of scripture, God is humbling Job. He is addressing his presumptuous pride as much as he is addressing his self-pity and fearful ignorant anger. From Job 38 through 42, you hear the Lord speak and Job repent. Job finally responds, *“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?”* Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”

In our world, we think we have knowledge when we predict that the coming storm will bring between 5 and 24 inches of snow. God knows how much snow has fallen on the earth from the beginning – down to the single flake. God knows how much more snow will fall from now until the Lord Christ comes again. He knows the path every snowflake travels and which molecules he chooses to use and reuse for the purpose of watering the earth and making it bud and flourish. We think we have power because we can build trucks and plows to move mounds of snow. God melts the snow in multiple states simultaneously simply by clearing the clouds and shining the sun on all that is frozen and with just a couple degrees of heat that move by his command. It is easier for him to warm the earth by his command than it is for you to walk to your thermostat to activate your furnace.

Lent causes us to consider the might of the almighty and the finitude of our being. Acknowledging that aright, we would be moved to awe and wonder and even, perhaps, submission. After all, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess, that Jesus is Lord. Nevertheless, submission is not necessarily worship. If we are moved to awe and wonder and submission but have not the ability to worship, we are easily cast off or condemned by his Glorious Majesty. The good news is that not only is he mighty and powerful, but he is gracious and merciful. The almighty chooses to speak to his creatures, like Job, and to correct them. When God speaks to Job, it is a scary moment for Job and humbling, but in that speaking God changes his creature.

The message of God's mighty and holy judgment that we hear throughout Lent should cause us to ponder the weight of our sin. If we were to calculate our sins over a lifetime and by

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means of their impact on others we would still not see their full weight before God. There is no "Sin Weight Calculator" online that we can use to estimate the force we would need to exert to offset their weight. The only place we can see the weight of our sin aright is at the cross where God places the full weight on his only Son. The Son is the one who is able to offset the full weight of that dreadful load by his resurrection from the dead – not piece by piece, but once and for all, generation by generation, past, present, and future. We worship not because he has chosen to remember each of our sins by name, but because he has chosen to forget those, and call us by his own name.

In Jesus' name, Pastor Chris



Smudges

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Savior! Many blessings to you as we begin our Lenten journey and as we prepare our hearts to receive the blessed gifts of the cross and the empty tomb. As I was looking for a key word to summarize the season of Lent, the word preparation kept jumping out at me. Preparation is a key word for Christians and it can mean slightly different things. In one sense, preparation is done with an event in mind. If you were anticipating a fancy dinner, you would prepare by purchasing all of the ingredients for the meal or by setting the table in an aesthetically pleasing manner. If you were preparing for a test, you would revisit all of your notes from class or go over a study guide that was given to you in advance. In another sense, preparation is an internal, individual process that is much more subjective than getting ready for an event at a certain place and time. Whether a person is prepared or not may not be apparent on the outside. Only the person themselves or God Himself alone knows for sure.

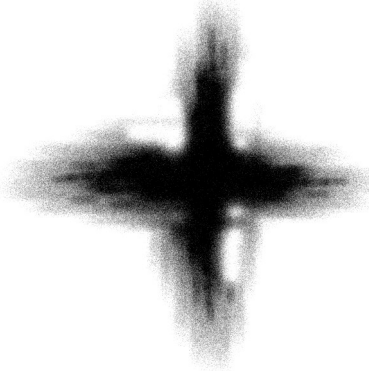
On Ash Wednesday, Christians all around the world attended worship with the idea of being prepared. They wanted to start this new season by getting off on the proper foot. And what better way to do that than to rightly admit the true state of the world and the people in it? In order to be forgiven, one must first acknowledge that they are a sinner. Instead of being pure and holy, we bear stains that are as bright and obvious as scarlet on a white backdrop. With our high school students, I was recently talking about the Image of God. It is a tough concept to grasp, since we see the word "image" and think this means that God looks like we do. But our discussion was about how we, at the same time, still have the image of God and have also lost it. In the beginning, God created man in His own image, but at that time, the image

within us was clear, straight, and perfect. Since the Fall into sin, the image of God in us has become blurred. It has shifted to the point where it is almost unrecognizable. Yet, being made in the image of God is what gives us our worth. So, it's not our last name or our social status or our works or anything else that gives us our worth. Our worth comes from the fact that God created us and loves us as His dear children. And one day, God is going to restore His creation. Everything will once again be set right and believers will once again enjoy that harmonious relationship.

In a way, the dark black smudge that sometimes appears on people's foreheads on Ash Wednesday is a good reminder of how things are. It can serve as a reminder of the blurred image of God. It reminds us that we are far from perfect. In fact, it reminds us that there are much less nice ways to describe it. One of my Seminary classmates, who is now a pastor in Africa, once asked us why Americans always call their sins "mistakes." As an American, I was initially defensive, but he had a good point. When we sin, we know full well what we are doing and yet, we do it anyway. We should be ashamed of any attempt to minimize sin. It seems that, in Africa, they might have a better handle on that.

Yet, not all impositions of ash look like a smudge or a blob. With some of the more skilled applicators, the ash clearly forms the outline of a cross. Now, if Ash Wednesday were only about sin and nothing else, there would be no need to form any kind of shape. The pastor might as well smear the ash all over every parishioner's face. Because the only point would be that you are a sinner and the ash might as well be all over, to better represent what is on the inside. But that isn't the only point, is it? The ash is in

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the shape of a cross because that is where our sin went. All of our sins stuck to Jesus on the cross and they were crucified with Him.

On Ash Wednesday, we quote the Scriptures when they say “dust you are and to dust you shall return.” The first function of quoting that verse from Genesis is to remind us of the inevitable result. The wages of our sin is death. Unless Christ returns, we will all return to the dust from which we were formed. The breath of life will have gone out of us.

But there is some implicit Gospel in that quoted verse too. It says that we are dust and we shall return to dust, but it does not say that we will remain dust, does it?

A few of my pastor friends reminded me of that this week. Returning to dust, though it seems like it would be a dead

end, is actually not one. Every single person will be raised for the final judgment. And when that happens, believers will have Jesus as their advocate and mediator. With each accusation that is hurled against us, Jesus will show the evidence that the debt has been paid by the shedding of His blood. As it says in the book of Revelation, God’s people are those who have “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, satisfied the wrath of God by giving Himself as the sacrifice. So, whether you ended up with a smudge or a blob or a perfect cross on your forehead, remember Who has taken care of those sins. And as you wash it away, remember Who has claimed you as His own in the waters of Baptism.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



‘Set Apart to Serve’ February/March 2023 Congregation Survey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Set Apart to Serve, (lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve) the LCMS initiative to recruit future pastors and church workers to hand over the saving faith to God’s people, needs your help again this year as we strive to continually improve our efforts. We would appreciate input from the members of your congregation through a short online survey.

Is there a young man in your congregation you would like to encourage to consider becoming a pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. Along with our prayers, the LCMS has begun *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS), an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS.

Please take a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. The more responses we receive, the better equipped we can be to serve the church in this effort. Thank you.

We would appreciate receiving all responses by March 15. All responses are completely anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out to the LCMS Church Information Center at [888-THE LCMS \(843-5267\)](tel:888-THE-LCMS) or infocenter@lcms.org.

Thank you for your time and support in helping the LCMS with this important initiative.
In Christ,

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Executive Director
LCMS Office of Pastoral Education



Dear friends in Christ, on February 19th, I received a call to serve King of Kings Lutheran church in Cedar Rapids, IA, and announced that news to our congregation on the weekend of February 25th and 26th. I will deliberate the call during the month of March and announce a decision on or before the weekend of March 25th and 26th. As a congregation, we will be praying for our brothers and sisters at King of Kings as they also include our congregation in their prayers. Thank you for your prayerful support during this time of reflection and contemplation.

In Christ, Pastor Chris and family

Dear friends,

If you would like to know who your elder is for your family, there is a binder located in the mailbox outside Lorna's office.

Of course, you are always free to reach out to the elder with whom you are most comfortable.

In Christ,
your Mt. Calvary Board of Elders.



Thank you from the Board of Trustees to those who came on Saturday, February 25th to help with a variety of projects throughout the Sanctuary, Activity Center, and Fellowship Hall. We were few in number that day but checked off a number of items left on the checklist posted on the easel in the Fellowship Hall.

And thank you to those who came on other days to take care of some checklist items. We encourage everyone to take a look at the checklist and then find a day and time you can complete a task. Contact Glenn Overbay with any questions you may have.

Please watch the bulletins and April newsletter for a spring work day. Hopefully, it will be scheduled on a beautiful April Saturday and the weather will be good for the completion of many outdoor projects.



2023 Congregational Officers

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 Wonnemberg.

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.

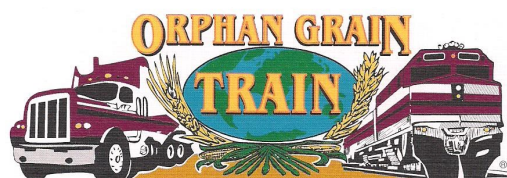
PARISH EDUCATION, CHAIR: Susan Fuerst.

YOUTH, CHAIR: Natasha Airheart.

EVANGELISM, CHAIRMAN: currently vacant

SCHOOL BOARD, CHAIR: Dawn Eining.

Thank you to all officers for serving the Lord in this way.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Need Updates

Orphan Grain Train has been instrumental with relocating several Ukrainian families to Norfolk, NE. They have been able to provide housing and other needed items. The families are now needing vehicles for employment, taking children to school, and running errands. If you have a vehicle in good running condition and would like to donate it to OGT for this use, contact OGT at 402-371-7393. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

OGT needs your help furnishing Kentucky families that lost everything from tornadoes and flooding. You can contribute funds at ogt.org. Select Domestic Disaster Relief and type appliances in the comments section.

We are still packing clothing at Mt. Calvary. Consider cleaning your closets and donating gently used items to OGT. A congregation this size can make a huge contribution to those who are in need. Thank you for all you have given.



women's retreat

**March 17th thru March 19th
Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN**

Ladies, want a weekend of relaxation and time with God?
Join us for the Women's Retreat!

Podcaster, 1517 speaker and MN native, Katie Koplin is our speaker for the event. Katie's speaking topic is "He Leads". Katie says, "This talk focuses on the places Jesus met people on the road with his forgiveness. In turn, where Jesus has, is, and will meet us with that same forgiveness."

The cost of the retreat is \$140 which covers lodging, food, and programming.

If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Hampton or Barb Schley. .

Reminder - Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars® by March 31

If you have a qualified connection to a Thrivent Financial insurance or annuity product you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars® to direct to our church or preschool each year. Thrivent Choice Dollars® can make a profound impact.

Directing Choice Dollars® costs Thrivent members nothing, but is a gift by Thrivent, to support recipients. Directing dollars is as simple as calling the Thrivent organization at 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice options.

Direct your
**Thrivent Choice
Dollars**



Thank you to everyone that gave a special contribution or memorial to be used to purchase a new flower cooler.
The goal of \$8,000 has been reached.

Easter Lily Donations

During Lent no flowers are placed on the altar. On Easter, lily plants will decorate the altar. If you would like to donate to the purchase of lilies for the altar you may put your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies" and place it in the offering plate, put it in the mailbox by the church office, or mail to the church. If the donation is given in memory of loved ones, please write the name(s) on the envelope. Checks may be made payable to LVML.

Palm Sunday, April 2 is the deadline. Thank you.



Holy Week Worship Schedule—Looking Ahead



Sunday, April 2—Palm Sunday (usual worship schedule)

Thursday, April 6—Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)

Friday, April 7—Good Friday

12:10 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service (livestreamed)

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service (livestreamed)

Saturday, April 8—Easter Vigil

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Worship Service (livestreamed)

Sunday, April 9—Easter

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service (livestreamed)

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)



Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Learning Center News

February filled our preschool classroom with lots of learning and fun! We are finishing up the Ocean Unit and then moving on to the Plants Unit. This will be a fun unit for the kids as they will get to plant flowers from seeds and take care of them during class time. Once the flowers have bloomed, they will get to take them home and continue to care for them.

Our Bible stories have been on learning about the miracles that Jesus did. The most recent story was about Jesus feeding 5,000 followers with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. The children are learning how no matter what, Jesus always takes care of us.

We took a field trip this month to visit the dentist. He showed the kids all the fun things that happen when you visit the dentist and how to take care of your teeth. It was a good way to teach them that the dentist isn't a scary place. In March we will be touring Coborn's and seeing what it is like to work in a grocery store.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Mt. Calvary Learning Center. Hope you have a wonderful and warm March!

— Mt. Calvary Learning Center

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)



**We invite you to our
Preschool Open House
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**Meet the teachers
Visit the classroom
Meet some friends**



Fair City Cash Register receipts will be collected from Sept. 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023. Please deposit them in the collection box at Fair City Foods or the collection boxes at church. A special thank you to Fair City Foods for participating in the Apples for the Students program. Your cash register receipts help our Preschool earn items for our school.

Coborn's Cash Register receipts are collected all year. Please place them in the collection box near the Preschool or in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently collecting for the months of February, March and April, 2023 only. Any register receipts prior to these months are no longer eligible. These receipts earn cash for our Preschool.

**Thank you to all that help support our Mt. Calvary Preschool
through your gifts and prayers.**



"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14



Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Kids for Christ
meets from 5:15-6:00 p.m.
on Wednesdays for
Kindergarten through
fifth grade students.

We will gather in the
basement at 5:15 p.m.



FAMILY MINISTRY

NEWS

Thank you to all those that came to the introduction of the new Family Ministry Handbook! Please refer to the schedule you received for dates and times for each grade.

- 6th graders will be meeting with Roger Kropuenske in the youth room downstairs on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. throughout Lent
- High school students will not meet with Pastor Kevin again until April 12th. Please note the schedule change, as we will not be meeting on April 5th during Holy Week. Throughout Lent, work on the vocabulary for each week until we meet again after Easter.
- Anyone wanting to take the Holy Communion test can make an appointment with either pastor to do so.
- The Study Guides for 7th and 8th grade class (Lutheran Studies 3 in the Handbook), will continue to be published for devotional class preparation and available each week in the Narthex or on the church website to prepare you for your classes with Pastor Chris after Easter.

If you did not receive a handbook or have any questions, please be in touch with the Pastors.

God's Blessings!

Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study

For grades 7 through 12. In recent years, you may have heard about the smash-hit series *The Chosen*. This is a Christian show which follows the life of Christ from the perspective of those who knew Him best in His earthly life. Like most Christian shows, the director takes creative liberties, but in our youth Bible study, that has given us the opportunity to go back to the Scriptures and compare. Join us as we examine how our popular culture sees Jesus, compared to what the Bible says. In Christ, Pastor Kevin

**The
CHOSEN®**

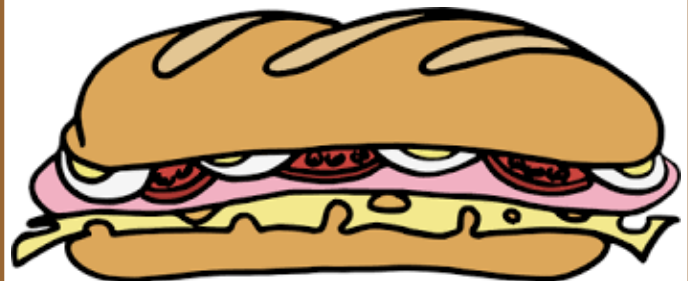
Save the Date!

**This year's VBS
will be held June 4-8**

The theme will be "Keepers of the Kingdom"
from Answers in Genesis



The Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser



and Valentine Bake Sale were successful!

THANK YOU for your support of the LYF!!

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
And Preschool

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

Phone:
605.352.7121 Church
605.352.7122 School

Website: www.mtcalvaryhuron.org

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JOURNAL
The Church of the Lutheran Hour
Published Monthly
March, 2023

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "

Lent Midweek Schedule — Please check weekly bulletins for details

Wednesday, March 1

6:00 p.m. Supper—LWML will be serving scalloped potatoes with ham
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 p.m. Supper—youth will serve meat loaf and baked potatoes
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Wednesday, March 15

6:00 p.m. Supper—***Would your group or board host this meal?***
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Wednesday, March 22

6:00 p.m. Supper—***Would your group or board host this meal?***
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

Wednesday, March 29

6:00 p.m. Supper—LWML will be serving hot ham and cheese sandwiches
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service

