



# Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

April/May 2023

## From Eye Witness to "I witness."

By Rev. Chris Navurskis, Senior Pastor

The apostle John was at the cross, in person, to see the events that you and I remembered once again through Holy Scripture on Good Friday. We are separated by time and space from that redemptive moment so long ago, but John was there. In John 19 we read, *"He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe."*

John's testimony is still effective and powerful because it is faithful. The mockers who mocked and the angry voices that hurled insults are gone. Sure, new mockers come and go, and blasphemers arise and fall, but the word of the Lord stands — forever. Satan is defeated. Opponents of Christ have nothing to offer though they try to lure God's people away from the truth. At best, they offer worldly amusements stained by Satan's worst deceit and deception. Apart from the cross there is no hope. There is no future. There is no truth apart from God's truth in Christ. This is the truth John wrote and spoke and lived.

We believe John's testimony not because we have examined what he wrote and judged it to be true, but because the truth has taken hold of us. Plenty of other people saw and heard Jesus and were even called to follow, but they did not follow or even believe. By his word, Jesus chose John and the other disciples to follow and be sent. Being there for the cross and the empty tomb was a necessary component for their apostleship — their sending. The same is true for us.

Our sending in Jesus' great commission is not merely based on the cross and empty tomb, it is the fullest expression of the cross and empty tomb. Jesus says to his church, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, GO!"* Consider all the sending that takes place in the book of John. At the foot of the cross, Jesus sends John to behold Jesus' mother. After the resurrection, Mary is sent to proclaim the resurrection to Jesus' "brothers." Jesus sends his disciples with his peace and the Holy Spirit to forgive sins and preach the good news, which John's letter accomplished once again in our midst this Easter Sunday.

I am thankful for the opportunity to have preached this Gospel to you all at Mt. Calvary. You have provided for me and my family as I have served in the pastoral office here, and I thank you for the way you have shared your daily bread with us. This has been a blessing to me both as a father and as a husband. The passion I have for those roles is the source of the passion I have in my service to Christ as a pastor. Everything I do is connected to my desire to spend eternity with my family in the presence of Christ. The same is true in my

love for you, my Mt. Calvary family. I see my wife and my children as gifts from the Lord and I am responsible to him for the way I lead, both at home and in the church. I see our congregation the same way.

His will for you is not only that you would be in the church building to be fed, but also that you would be sent from that building into the world. His will for you is not merely that you would hear his gospel or "like" and "share" it on Facebook, but also that you would know his word and confess that word and live it intensely. His will is that you would be so deeply immersed in his Gospel that by baptism you would know you were there when you sing, "Were you there?" His will for you is that John's words would be your own: *"He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe."* The message from Jesus' eyewitness will show you how you are to witness.

In Christ, Pastor Chris



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
I have been blessed by the Lord to serve you as pastor over the last five years. I have also been blessed to share this work and life with pastor Kevin. He is a faithful

and skilled pastor and friend. Together, we have celebrated and endured the daily tasks and movements of the fellowship we have this side of heaven. The scriptures make us confident that none of our labor has been in vain. In fact, the scriptures promise that all of our prayers have been heard, that which we have planted will bear an eternal harvest, Jesus' word will not return to him empty, and we will be reunited with those who have gone before us in Christ.

With that confidence in place, I am accepting the call to serve as senior pastor at King of Kings in Cedar Rapids, IA. I will continue to work with the elected leaders of Mt. Calvary and King of Kings during the transition. Considering the many factors involved, and in consultation with both district presidents, I anticipate a moving date in mid to late May. I look forward to the time we still have together on this Lenten journey to Easter, and I see that as an image for our ongoing connection as Christians in the kingdom work of the gospel. Though for a while, we will be separated by time and space, we will remain united in Christ as coworkers in the gospel until the Lord's appearing.

In Christ, Pastor Chris



## Of His own accord

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! May the blessings of Easter fill your hearts with joy and confidence long after the Day of Resurrection. It is always such a marvelous celebration for us as Christians. Beautiful Easter lilies adorn the chancel. Victorious songs are sung loud and song. And of course, we hear the Gospel message of Easter from one or more of the four Gospels.

Although believers love hearing that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning, I believe that, sometimes, a few of the details get lost in the shuffle. Very often, the Gospel reading for Easter is very long. At other times of the Church year, only certain selections of chapters are read, in order to hone in on certain themes. But, that is not necessarily something that can be done with the readings for Holy Week and Easter. In order to get a proper sense of what has happened, it makes the most sense for everything to be included. And yet, it is hard for many Christians to maintain their focus throughout dozens of verses. We may be so focused on the overall message and gathering the key points. Or, on the other hand, we may believe that we already know everything there is to know, since we have heard it many, many times.

Obviously, the overall message remains the same: Jesus is risen. That will not change. However, as I was reading the Easter account from Matthew, I took special interest in what happened from the moment of Jesus' death on the cross to the time just after He rose from the dead. This is one of the time periods about which we know not as much.

We often wonder what it must have been like to be one of His disciples or one of His followers, knowing that He was actually dead. We know that Jesus was lifted up on the cross at 9 am and by 3 pm, He had breathed His last. Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. It was thought to have taken a person two or three days to die by crucifixion. It was designed to be the most cruel, agonizing punishment that a person could think of. Something that would make rebels and troublemakers think twice before crossing the Romans. Many criminals might have been fairly young and healthy just before meeting their fate, which is why they might have lasted longer. Yet, Jesus had been severely flogged just prior to carrying His

own cross to Golgotha. Jesus was exhausted from no sleep on Thursday night, when He was arrested and brought before Caiaphas. And the stress of knowing where all of this was heading must have been enormous.

Despite all of that, we must remember what Jesus had said: *"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."* Despite outward appearances, no one took Jesus' life from Him. He laid it down of His own accord. He is always in control. There were certain things that He needed to say from the cross, in order to fulfill the Scriptures. When He had done everything perfectly, it would allow people to later remember and believe. In just six hours, when Jesus had done everything He needed to do and said everything He needed to say, He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit. When the soldier pierced His side, blood and water poured out. His heart was no longer able to pump the blood. His body had shut down. Yet, it says Jesus gave up His Spirit when He realized that all had been completed. The authority still rested with Him.

At the moment that Jesus died, a few things happened that we don't talk very much about. In addition to the darkness which came over the whole land, there was a large earthquake and the tombs were opened. How many of you have ever seen this resurrection of the saints depicted in art or movies? I don't believe I ever have. Yet, this is a powerful sign that the Son of God has just died on the cross. As he watches everything unfold, the centurion can no longer deny it.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law must have seen these amazing events. And yet, a short time later, they still believe that they are in control. Their hardness of heart and stubbornness are truly remarkable. After Jesus' body is taken down from the cross and placed in a freshly-cut tomb, they set out to make sure that nothing else happens. As they gather before Pilate, they say, *"Sir, we remember how that*

*(Continued on page 3)*



Then he bowed  
his head and gave  
up his spirit.

John 19:30



(Continued from page 2)

impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

Although they may be talking big, you can almost feel the fear in their words. Not only are they desperate that the people not think Jesus rose from the dead, they seem to be petrified of it actually happening. After talking to Pilate, they would have had the tomb inspected. Once they saw that the body was where it was supposed to be, they would have rolled the stone back in place and used the seal of the governor of Rome to make everything official. Making sure every-

thing was secure, they placed guards in front of the tomb.

In retrospect, these attempts are so incredibly feeble. Are a couple of soldiers really going to stop the Lord of the Universe? Is a seal made of wax going to stop God's angel from sitting on the stone? No matter how much they called Him a fraud, they saw Him die and now, He is no longer dead. No matter how much they claimed that His body was stolen, they could never find it. Each day, more and more people had Jesus appear to them. The ripple which started in Jerusalem has reached every corner of the world. Jesus, who laid down His life for our sins, has taken up His life again, making sure that we never leave His side.

## Special Thanks from the flower committee to those who donated to the Easter Lily Fund

- From Vernal & Marilyn Hanson in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary
- In Memory of Ralph & Helen Hindman from Vicki Harmdierks
- In Memory of Basil & Marie Berquist from Karen Johnston
- In Memory of Fred Stolt from Sandy Stolt
- In Memory of Ryan Wenz from Barbara Wenz
- In Memory of loved ones now with Jesus from Larry & Regela Walz
- In Memory of Jackie Jager from her family
- In Memory of Jim & Ruby Johannsen from Roger & Julie Kropuenske
- In Memory of Arlen & Bonnie Dale and Bob & Maude Evenson from Danny & Shelly Dale
- In Memory of Erin Schmidt & baby James Daniel Hovland from Wayne & Tammy Cramer
- In Memory of Richard & Virginia Ziegeldorf, Dorothy & Dennis Shearer, and grandson Hunter Dean  
from Randy & Nancy Ziegeldorf
- In Memory of Cornelia Hagge, Ralph Hagge, Lawrence Fuerst, Lila (Fuerst) Frohreich from Dean & Susan Fuerst
- In Memory of Emil & Genevieve Quiram and Don & Betty Henson from Dan & Judy Henson
- In Memory of Gerhard & Ormalyn Boetel from Ben & Judy Boetel and Dennis & Maureen Decker
- Larry & Janice Williams
- David & Kerry Niederbaumer .



**Thank you to  
everyone who  
contributed to  
the success of  
Lent services,**

**Lent suppers, palm cross folding,  
Holy Week services, Easter Sunday  
services, and Easter breakfast.**

Thank you to all the youth who  
showed up with helping hands to  
serve Lent meals and Easter Breakfast.  
Many hands make light work!

To the Congregation, thank you for  
your continued support of the Youth!  
We appreciate you!

**Thank You!**



Please plan on coming  
**Saturday, April 22nd at 9:00 a.m.**  
to help with a variety of projects throughout the Sanctuary, Activity Center,  
**and outside if the weather is nice.**  
There is a checklist of things to do posted on an easel in the Fellowship Hall in case you can come to help on a different day.

### Mt. Calvary is delivering meals April 24-28

Delivering meals for the Senior Center is a meaningful volunteer opportunity for community outreach. It takes approximately one hour each day.

**If you have questions  
contact Dan Henson.**



### Voters Meeting



**Quarterly  
Voters' Assembly  
is Tuesday, April 25  
at 7:00 p.m.**



Phyllis Arwood  
Country View Estates  
764 Illinois Ave NW  
Huron SD 57350

Larry Waldner  
Avantara Healthcare Center  
1345 Michigan Ave SW  
Huron SD 57350

Dear friends,

If you would like to know who your elder is for your family, there is a binder located in the mailbox outside the church 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 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.**

### 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 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 all officers for serving the Lord in this way.**

### FAREWELL & Godspeed

Lance Kuehl  
1970 Woodcrest Dr NE  
Owatonna MN 55060  
has transferred to  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,  
Owatonna, Minnesota



## Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church



### DAY CARE NEWS

Greetings from Mt. Calvary Learning Center!

It's official, we are now operating under our own entity! We are so close to being able to open our daycare doors with our final inspection from the state fast approaching. However, there are still a few items that we need prior to opening, if you have any "gently" used items on this list and would like to donate them please feel free to drop them off at the preschool or we can arrange to pick them up.

**Baby Furniture** - pac n play, play saucers, walkers, highchair/booster chair, strollers, etc.

**Toys** - play dishes, play food, babies, barbies, baby clothes, barbie clothes, toy cars/trucks/tractors, legos (big and small), farm animals, etc.

Thank you to the LWML for cleaning out a cabinet in the kitchen for the daycare use, we appreciate all that you have done and continue to do to help this process along. We will also need to have use of the refrigerator/freezer located in the Activity Center kitchen; we are uncertain of which groups are currently using the one with the top freezer. If possible, if you have items in the refrigerator/freezer could you reach out to Dawn (605-354-2151) to discuss options for usage.

Thank you all for your continued encouragement, support, donations and prayers. They are greatly appreciated.

Mt. Calvary Learning Center

## Learning Center News

March was filled with lots of fun and learning. We are working on the plants unit still. The kids really enjoyed planting flowers and having to water our plants. With it being spring we can not wait to enjoy more time outside and at the park.

The Bible stories we have been learning are the Easter stories of when Jesus was arrested and crucified, Jesus is Risen, and when Jesus goes up to Heaven. The children are learning that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that he loves all of us.

We took a field trip this month to Coborn's. They showed us everything you need to know about a grocery store. In April we will be touring the Hospital and learn what they do at the hospital.

In April there was with lots of 'inside' learning and outside playing at the park. We are in the Dinosaur theme and will move on to the Farm theme. The kids enjoyed taking care of the flowers they planted in March.

For our Bible stories we will be reading: The Holy Spirit comes; A Changed Man; Paul's Journey's; and Jesus is Coming, from the books of Acts and Revelation in *The Beginner's Bible*.

The children going on to Kindergarten will be taking a field trip to Buchanan Elementary to visit the kindergarten classrooms and teachers. The last day of school will be May 18th. We will be going on a field trip to the park the last day of school. We are all excited for summer but we are not ready to let the children go on to Kindergarten as we will miss them all.

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

— 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)*



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





## Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Kids for Christ meets each Wednesday from 5:15-6:15 p.m. for Kindergarten through fifth grade students.

We will gather in the basement.

**Final meeting for this year will be Wednesday, April 26th.**



# 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 meet with Roger Kropuenske in the youth room downstairs on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.
- The Study Guides for 7th and 8th grade class have been made available on the church website and in the Narthex. Having been prepared, 7th and 8th graders have resumed classes with Pastor Chris on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.
- High school students will meet with Pastor Kevin at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- Anyone wanting to take the Holy Communion test can make an appointment with either pastor to do so.

**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®

### Camp Minneboji

Registration for Camp Minneboji is open! Camp Minneboji is our District Youth summer camp for youth completing grades 4-9 held every year at Camp Okoboji in Milford, IA. This year's **camp dates are June 18-24** and the theme is "Way + Truth + Life = JESUS" from John 14:6.

**WAY  
TRUTH  
+ LIFE  
= JESUS**

Minneboji 2023

**Registration closes May 1 or when we are full so register early!** We are also always looking for potential counselors and counselor assistants (CA's) to help us run Camp Minneboji. To register or get more information, please check us out at [minneboji.com](http://minneboji.com) or on the South Dakota District website.



### Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."*

*Romans 1:16 (KJV)*

We're excited for our 2023 Answers VBS, *Keepers of the Kingdom*. This armor of God themed VBS will equip children with the tools they need to be discerning, knowing truth from error amid the battle for their hearts raging around us.

**GOD HAS GIVEN HIS CHILDREN ARMOR TO WEAR IN THIS BATTLE!**

Children will learn:

- We're in a battle between two kingdoms
- How to become part of God's good kingdom through faith in his Son
- What the pieces of the armor of God are and what they represent
- There is absolute truth that's for all people, all times, and all circumstances
- To put on what's right (Jesus' righteousness) . . . and do right
- To guard against false teaching and temptations
- To be ready to give an answer for the hope they have
- To be "keepers of the kingdom"

*(Continued on page 7)*

*"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

(Continued from page 6)

**Mt. Calvary Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** Supper for families will begin at 5:15 p.m. and VBS lessons and activities will begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m. On Thursday evening, we will have a short concluding program at 8:00 p.m.

**Registration is now open** for kids aged 3 through those who have just completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade! Registration forms can be found in the weekly church bulletins and on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. Please put your forms into the big VBS box on the table. Register early so that enough materials can be ordered and prepared for all children attending. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crafts, eat yummy food, play awesome games, and more.

**Helpers are needed!** Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help full or part time. We have many ways to be involved during VBS or prior to its start as we make our preparations. Contact Becky Dragt with any questions you may have and your willingness to help share the *Keepers of the Kingdom* message with the children. There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for many of the ways to help!

**We appreciate your prayers for VBS.** Ask God to bring children to our program so they can know and grow in Jesus, our Savior! Ask God to provide leaders and helpers for this important mission at Mt. Calvary.

### 2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

June 4-8: Evening meals at 5:15pm for all VBS families. VBS starts at 6pm and concludes at 8pm.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

(One form per child, please)

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Who can pick up your child? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of home church \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ List \_\_\_\_\_

Medical concerns Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Release:** I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

**Photo Release:** I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

**Permission to Attend:** I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church, and that all registration information will be removed from the hosting site by December 31 of this year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
And Preschool

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"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "



**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

See pages 6-7 for details and registration form