



Journal

Mount Calvary
Lutheran Church
& Learning Center
688 Dakota Ave S
Huron, SD 57350

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

July 2023

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Joy

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus! May the Lord of the Nations bless you and keep you throughout the days of this month and always. I don't know about you, but I have started to see a lot more of the red, white, and blue around town. Soon, we will be seeing even more depictions of Uncle Sam, representations of the bald eagle, and of course, the American flag in various forms and fashions. As we look at the thirteen stripes and fifty stars on the field of blue, the majority of us feel a sense of thankfulness to live in this country. We could have been born anywhere, at any point in history, but God has blessed us by allowing us to live in a place where our freedoms are protected and we are allowed to worship Him without fear.

As a history buff, I have always been fascinated by the American Revolution. I wonder what it might have been like to be on Paul Revere's midnight ride. On many occasions, I have imagined that hot, summer day when John Hancock put his John Hancock on the Declaration of Independence. And I have been fascinated by the great American experiment, which gave the people nearly unprecedented power to govern themselves. Thomas Jefferson, in the writing of the Declaration of Independence, had to state where all of these inalienable rights came from. Jefferson said that we had been endowed by our creator with these rights, and among them were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Since the colonies were trying to separate from a country headed by a monarch all the way across the Atlantic, they went above the monarch's head and said God had given them these rights. Since the king's right to rule supposedly came from God as well, it was the best defense for their actions.

Although our religious freedoms are now under attack, we still benefit from what our founders put into place. Of course, we don't agree with everything that our founders said or believed about God. Many of the founding fathers were deists, who believed that God created the world, but no longer plays an active role in preserving and providing for it. As you look at the language of the founders, you will also find slim to no references to Jesus. It's also interesting to consider the language of God giving us "rights."

The word "rights" seems to imply that God has to do something for us, but we don't want to put constraints or obligations on Him that He has not placed on Himself. The proper way to talk about it would be to say that God has given us the governing authorities and as we submit to them, that is where our "rights" come from.

Then there's that iconic American phrase: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As we know, God loves life. He created all living things with dignity and despises it when people trample on the innocent. In our sinful world, we know that this trampling is going to happen, but through the cross and the empty tomb, our Lord lifts up the lowly and exalts them.

That goes along with liberty, the state of being free from oppression in different areas of life. As Christians, we know that oppression does not happen just because of bad government or tyrannical rulers. Oppression comes because of sin and the influence of the Devil.

And that makes it hard to pursue happiness, like Jefferson wrote about. Earthly pleasures, possessions, and status are fleeting, so our happiness may not linger long when it comes. That is why happiness should not be something that we are striving for. If, in the course of living the Christian life, we are happy at various points,

that is a bonus, but what we really need is joy. Happiness is a feeling, while joy is a state of mind. Happiness is shallow, while joy is deeply felt. Happiness is extremely temporary, while joy is long lasting.

In the parable of the talents, the Master says "well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master." How wonderful it will be when we enter into that joy. We could be greeted with these same words upon our entry into heaven. Just like in the parable, our master has freed us from sin, brought us life, and given us eternal joy in His presence. As you think about this great country of ours and how blessed you are with many freedoms, remember that in Christ, you have even more than you could imagine: life, salvation, and eternal joy.

In Christ,
Pastor Kevin

*life,
salvation,
and
eternal
joy*



Looking Forward

By Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast, Part-Time Vacancy Pastor

Dear Friends at Mt. Calvary,

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the Philippians: *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 1:3-6). I certainly relate to those words as I think of the relationship that I have had with the saints at Mt. Calvary over many years.

Many of you members of Mt. Calvary have known me and my wife, Debbie, for many years. Since 1987 to be exact. For some of you newer members, Debbie and I are probably not much more than faces and names. Since Mt. Calvary's Administrative Assistant, Lorna, asked that I give a little bit of my background, especially for the newer members, I'll share a few words.

First of all, I began serving as Mt. Calvary's Senior Pastor in 1987 after serving as a mission pastor in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Debbie and I moved up to Huron with our three small children and lived in the parsonage (where our current Christian Activities Center and Preschool are located now) for eight years. Then we moved to a home and small acreage a few miles west of Huron. I continued to serve Mt. Calvary until 2006 when I was elected to serve as district president of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. By then all three of our children were gone from our home. In fact, I performed the wedding of our oldest child, Rachel, at Mt. Calvary just a week or so before my final Sunday at Mt. Calvary.

Because the District Office is in Sioux Falls, Debbie and I purchased a condominium unit there, but we continued to keep our home and acreage here. Debbie continued to work as a home health physical therapist with the Huron Regional Medical Center on a part time basis. Then from Friday through Monday, she'd spend the weekend with me. Most of those weekends were "on the road" visiting our LCMS congregations across the state. Most often I was invited to preach when I visited, but occasionally I'd make a surprise visit. On one surprise visit, I was the one who was surprised. The pastor became ill early that morning, so he had asked one of his elders to lead the service and read the sermon he had already prepared. The elder reluctantly agreed. But when I showed up, the elder immediately saw that as an opportunity to give the district president a turn.

Being district president involves not just weekend visits to congregations, but a lot of other visits as well. South

Dakota is one of the districts in our Synod that is known for a fairly high turnover of new pastors. Because most of our congregations are in small towns and rural areas, and because many of those congregations are in small two-point parishes, many new pastors "get their feet on the ground" in their first call out of the seminary, but a few years later often take calls to more populated areas, and, quite often, to larger single-point parishes. As a result, the district president spends a lot of time visiting calling congregations and parishes. There are also a lot of congregational visits for other reasons which I won't elaborate on. In addition to the visits in the district, there are a fair number of Synod responsibilities and meetings which add to the travel time.

I retired in 2015 at the end of my third term as district president, coinciding with turning 66. (A little simple addition will tell you how old I am now.) Since then, I've done a lot of fill-in preaching when pastors are on vacation or when congregations are without a pastor. I've done that a few times at Mt. Calvary and also served briefly as vacancy pastor here after Pastor Domke retired and until Pastor Navurskis arrived.

As I look back on the time I served at Mt. Calvary, there are some wonderful thoughts that come to mind. First and foremost are the members of Mt. Calvary. Many of those who were here when I arrived in 1987 are now with the Lord in heaven. One of our projects this past winter was going through old Christmas cards. Debbie and I had many great memories and many smiles as we remembered so many people and the ministry we shared together with them. But there are still quite a few members who were at Mt. Calvary when we came, or who joined Mt. Calvary during the years I served here. And so there are also memories of births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and of course, funerals of loved ones. In a sense, sharing so many life events over the years really makes us see Mt. Calvary as our "church family" in a very special way.

There were also so many changes that happened over the nineteen years serving here. When I came, the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletters were all done with typewriters, stencils, and a mimeograph machine. Needless to say, the advent of the computer, photocopiers, and duplicators was a welcome change. The congregation was already in the planning stages of a new fellowship hall, so in the first year here, I found myself going from a building project of a new church in Albuquerque to what is now the Fellowship Hall and offices on the south part of the church and a renovation of the Sunday School

(Continued on page 3)

*look
forward
to an
eternal
joy*



(Continued from page 2)

rooms in the church basement. A couple of years before I became district president, the congregation also went through another building project, this time the Christian Activities Center and Preschool area on the north part of the church. While Pastor Dana Brooks, my first assistant pastor, was here, we began the Preschool which met for many years in the church basement. Another significant project was the change from a gravel (and sometimes muddy) parking lot to the paved parking lot. (I've got some pictures of the muddy ruts that came every year with the spring thaw and rains. I think the church janitor was the most happy person for the new parking lot.)

Though the last few years of my ministry was as district president, my heart has always been first and foremost as a parish pastor. It is both a responsibility but also a wonderful privilege to be entrusted by God and the congregation to preach and teach and minister with God's Word of Law and Gospel, grace and salvation. It was a joy to me to preach, to teach – whether in Bible Class or confirmation, and to bring God's Word in hospital visits and visits to those who were homebound. In my new position as "Part-Time Vacancy Pastor" at Mt. Calvary, I am looking forward to revisiting that joy and serving again with all of you as, together, we live in God's grace in Christ and look forward to an eternal joy with God in heaven.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Sattgast



Synod News: Announced on June 21, 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 52.32% of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a fifth term of office, 2023–2026. The election took place via internet balloting. The 6,053 pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod before the deadline (electronic registration by March 19) or their substitutes served as the voters for this election. Of those, a total of 5,000 votes were cast, constituting a vote percentage of 82.60% of the electorate.

LCMS Bylaws instruct the Secretary of the Synod to notify the candidates in the Synod's presidential election of the results of the balloting at least two weeks prior to the convention. The candidates were informed on June 21, of the results of the June 17–20 ballot.

For more information about the election or candidates, see lcms.org/convention/elections.

The 68th Regular Convention of the LCMS will take place July 29–August 3 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin under the theme "We Preach Christ Crucified."

Lutheran Family Service Opens Sioux Falls Office



Lutheran
Family Service

Our staff of mature Christian professionals provide unplanned pregnancy support; adoption services; marriage, family, and mental health counseling; and education & support around grief/loss/trauma.

For more than a century, Lutheran Family Service has been there for people in their time of need providing a variety of services including unplanned pregnancy support, marriage counseling, mental health counseling, adoption services, church worker wellness, and youth and elderly outreach. Lutheran Family Services also offers a number of congregational outreach programs designed to equip people with what they need to successfully manage life challenges before they become a crisis.

- Our mission is simple: We walk with people who are experiencing hard times and are there for them just as God has been there for us.
- Our values are clear: Grace, Life, Family, Compassion, Accountability and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into this world to redeem us. Jesus is the cornerstone of our ministry and the focus of all that we do in serving people.
- Our impact is profound: Every day, the men and women of Lutheran Family Service bring the good news of the Savior and His love to the world, one hurting or needful person at a time. Lutheran Family Service exists to serve those who need it—to help the pregnant young woman without a plan, the frustrated teen who struggles to understand himself and the couple in need of competent help to repair their broken marriage relationship.

Lutheran Family Service is officially launching our mental health counseling, unplanned pregnancy support, and adoption services in the Sioux Falls area. Open now and accepting new clients.

Find us at 3409 W 47th Street, Suite 103, Sioux Falls, SD, 57106.

Contact us via phone (605) 271-1081 or email info@lutheranfamilyservice.org.

Visit our website www.lutheranfamilyservice.org or find us on Facebook: facebook.com/LutheranFamilyService/



Quarterly Voters' Assembly is Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget adjustments for the balance of 2023 will be on the agenda.

**The Church Office
will be closed on
July 4th.**



Rick and Denise Gascoigne
410 S Willis St
Hoskins NE 68740

Geneva Goss
1668 Ohio Ave SW
Huron SD 57350

Kari Hinker
38624 212th St
Wolsey SD 57354

Dennis Kreger
3916 N Potsdam Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

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, Dan Florey, Chad Hanson, Wayne Jungemann, 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: Dan Henson.

SCHOOL BOARD, CHAIR: Dawn Eining.

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

FAREWELL & Godspeed

Pastor Chris Navurskis
and family
216 31st St NW
Cedar Rapids IA 52411
have transferred to
King of Kings Lutheran Church,
Cedar Rapids Iowa

Mark Navurskis
1022 27th Ave NE #305
Aberdeen SD 57401
has transferred to
Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Aberdeen, South Dakota

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.





**We have a need for additional Livestream Technicians
and Livestream PowerPoint Technicians
to assist with our Church Services.**

**The pay is \$25 per service and we will provide training.
Please contact Larry Williams or Pastor Kevin if you're interested.**



A NIGHT OF ENCOURAGEMENT WITH The Garms Family



**Thank you to everyone
who attended the Garms
Family Concert on
Friday, June 16th.**

**Also thanks to those who
helped with planning,
promotions, set up
beforehand and clean
up afterward.**

**We pray that many
people were encouraged
and many Gospel seeds
were planted!**

**In Christ,
Pastor Kevin**

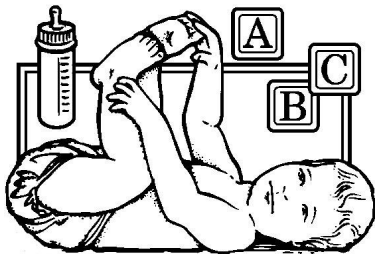
June 19, 2023

Dear Pastor Kevin and the members of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church,

Thank you for hosting our family in concert this past Friday night. We appreciate the open doors to share our music and message of God's faithfulness. May the Lord richly bless your ministry in Huron.

*Joy in Jesus,
Kris, the Garms Family*

p.s. Thank you for the awesome bag lunches!



Thank you for the response to the LWML sponsored Diaper Derby which ran from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

The diapers collected will be distributed to individuals in need and to agencies in our community that support families and children.

Thank you to all who have picked up bottles for the **Baby Bottle Fundraiser** that will end on July 11, 2023. **If you still have a bottle you may bring it to the church by July 11th or drop it off at Plus One after that date.**

Plus One Guidance Center is a Christ Centered pregnancy help center serving Huron and the surrounding communities. The Center's ultimate goal is to impact generations of families forever. They do this by assisting women of all ages and couples facing unplanned pregnancies in making the healthiest choices possible for themselves and their unborn children. In assisting their clients, they work to meet immediate needs for guidance as well as their ultimate need for connection to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

plus one
PREGNANCY GUIDANCE CENTER



Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church



DAY CARE
NEWS

Mt. Calvary Learning Center is excited to announce that we have opened our doors!! With a soft opening on June 5th, we started with our first group of children. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will continue to add children and staff.

We still have openings for daycare, for all ages. So, if you or someone you know is looking, please contact Jamie, our director.

We are also still looking for additional help, if you know someone who would be a good fit in a Christian Learning Center, please send them to Job Service or have them contact Jamie.

A big thank you to all of you who donated toys, furniture, time, money and prayers. It has been an amazing journey and we could not have come this far without the prayers and support of Mt. Calvary.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to grow to full capacity. As always, if you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out.
— Mt. Calvary Learning Center Board and Staff

Learning Center News — Preschool 2023-2024

See you on Monday, August 28th for the first day of preschool in the 2023-2024 school year.

We still have openings for fall but please register soon to ensure you have a spot.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers of Mt. Calvary Learning Center.
We hope you have a wonderful summer!

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 May, June and July, 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.

Summer Sunday School

Starts at 9:15 a.m. with opening music in the Sanctuary. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m.

- Preschool-1st grade — meeting in the basement.
- 2nd-4th grade — meeting in the basement.
- 5th-8th grade — meeting in the Boardroom

**SUMMER
SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

FAMILY MINISTRY
NEWS

This summer, students in the High School class will be preparing to pass the written test. They can schedule an appointment to take the test starting June 14th. After that, they will be working on their faith statement and faith project.

Anyone wanting to take the Holy Communion test can make an appointment to do so.

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

God's Blessings, Pastor Kevin

"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

A Vacation Bible School Thank You To:

- Parents, grandparents, other family members, and friends, for bringing the children
- All the children who participated
- Preschool teachers and helpers
- Storytellers and helpers
- Bible Challenge leaders and helpers
- Game leaders and helpers
- Music leaders and tech support
- Supper leaders and helpers
- Team leaders who guided children
- Craft leaders and helpers
- Everybody that donated craft/decoration supplies
- All those who helped with decorations
- Pastor Kevin for leading the openings, closings, and adult Bible study
- Those who furnished food for suppers, bars and cookies for each evening
- Everyone who contributed in any way to Vacation Bible School, including those who supported this ministry through offerings and prayers.



The Mt. Calvary youth have a number of fundraisers throughout the year to help cover expenses for youth activities. The most recent one was held on Saturday, June 17th at East River Nursery. These Mt. Calvary youth were ready to serve a BBQ lunch to the shoppers from 11 am to 2 pm that day. **Thank you to all the Mt. Calvary members that came out and supported this fundraiser.**

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



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
and Learning Center

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JOURNAL
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