



Journal

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

“Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins”

August 2023

Delight in the Lord

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I have opened many a newsletter article with that very phrase. To me, it just feels right. Any average Joe can give a “hello” or “hi” or “hey, how are you doing?”, but we as Christians get to greet each other in the name of Jesus. And that’s better than any of the other ways that people can choose to greet each other. First of all, it reminds us of God’s power and His presence in our lives. Secondly, it reminds us of the fellowship that we share with one another. This isn’t something that we should take for granted, because fellowship wasn’t always such an easy thing to express.

In the early church, it is said that Christians had certain ways of identifying each other. One way was through the ichthys. You may be saying “I have no idea what an ichthys is,” but I’ll bet you have seen many of them while not knowing what they were called. Ichthyoses can be found on the backs of vehicles all around the country. They are so popular that atheists and evolutionists feel the need to combat them with their own version. An ichthys is the “fish” symbol that consists of two arcs that meet and intersect at two points. Sometimes, you will see the fish with Greek letters in it. The letters Iota, Chi, Theta, Upsilon, and Sigma stand for a Greek phrase that can be translated into English as “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

To be even more clear, some Christians have added a cross to the ichthys symbol. In the early church, if someone was wondering if they were dealing with a Christian or not, they would draw one of the arcs of the ichthys into the sand. If the other person was a Christian, they would complete the sign of the fish by drawing the other arc with their foot. In this way, they knew that they were dealing with another brother or sister in the faith.

I have to confess that, sometimes, when I think about my brothers and sisters in the faith, I forget to include all Christians, all around the world. When you are in a certain environment, you start to think only in terms of what is close and apparent to you. Nevertheless, we should be praying for Christians all around the world and Christians of different cultures, right in our own backyard.

When I received the call in May of 2019, I was told about the great mix of cultures that exists in Huron. I was told that there were people from Asia and Latin America and just about everywhere in between. When I arrived, I saw that

our preschool had many young children from 1st generation immigrants and refugees. In doing things like National Night Out, you get to observe just how unique our Huron community is.

A couple of weeks ago, I got a phone call that I was not expecting. Lorna can tell you that we usually get a lot of phone calls during the day, but I think she would agree that we had not gotten one like this before. On the other end of the phone was a woman and her husband from South Korea. Although there was a language barrier, her English was just good enough to get her point across.

She said that she and her husband had been watching Korean church services online for several years now and they were tired of it. She especially believed that it was time to be with people again. They had gotten to the point where they were just craving that fellowship. As she was on the verge of tears, she asked me if I knew of any churches where they could go.

I thought of Psalm 37, where David says “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” It was obvious to me that this woman and her husband had strong faith. Today, not many people would go out of their way to reach out to a strange church in search of fellowship. I wanted to help them really badly.

Because of the language barrier, I figured that Mt. Calvary would not be a great option for them, although I told them that they could certainly come. I sent out a plea to the Huron Ministerial Association, looking for a church that had Korean services. After clarifying that I meant Korean and not Karen, I finally found a pastor in town that had had Korean members before.

After all the arrangements were made, she sent me a text message in broken English: “Pastor who saves us, I hope God’s great and wide grace be with Kevin and your family. Yes I know...this is too exaggerated, (but) I want to say thank you so much. I desperately need God’s companion(ship).” I had never received a message like that before. It was so sincere and so inspiring. I may never see them again, but it was a reminder what happens when we delight in the Lord: He provides. It was a reminder of just how blessed we are to have our Mt. Calvary family and our Christian community throughout the world. Just like she said, God’s grace is great and wide. May our Lord’s face shine upon you and your family and may He be gracious unto you always.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



WELCOME New Members

Orville and Vicki Harmdierks
Box 96
Wessington Springs, SD 57382



Louise Hasche
470 21st St SW Apt 202
Huron SD 57350

Timothy Johnson
PO Box 775
Bloomington IL 61702

Laurel Thomas
2805 Chickaree PL SW
Loveland CO 80537

2023 Congregational Officers

PRESIDENT: Kerwin Haeder.

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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.

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.



Sunday Morning Youth and Adult Bible Study

Each year, we as Christians revisit the life and work of Christ by observing the various seasons. We start with Advent, which brings us back to the Old Testament and the waiting for the Messiah. At Christmas, we celebrate God's promise being kept in the incarnation and in Epiphany, we recognize God's promise as being for all people, including the Gentiles. Through Lent and Holy Week, we prepare ourselves to receive the sacrifice of Christ for our sins and on Easter, we joyously shout that Jesus is risen to give us eternal life. However, the vast majority of the Church year is spent in "common time" or the season after Pentecost. Over twenty Sundays are meant to help us reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit through the disciples in the early church and the work that the Spirit is still doing through us today. To that end, we will now be studying the Book of Acts, which chronicles the work of the Spirit in the early Church. Although we are endlessly familiar with the Gospels and the epistles of Paul, we may find that we have more to learn about this fascinating book. We invite you to join us!

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



Thursday Morning Bible Study—We invite you to join us!

(Meets weekly at 9:30 a.m.) In recent years, our society has had many discussions about truth. When a person says something, there are often accusations of "fake news" or endless "fact checks" in order to combat "misinformation." Many in our world believe that truth is relative, but we as Christians believe in absolute truth. God's truth is absolute simply because it comes from Him. Christians have seen the issue of post-modernism coming on the horizon for a long time, but now, it is here in full force. On Thursday mornings, we will be going through something called *The Truth Project*, which examines some of these very same issues of truth and falsehood. In this DVD series produced by Focus on the Family, Dr. Dell Tackett presents a Biblical worldview and equips us for the fight.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day holiday.

PLEASE NOTE: The On Call phone is no longer in use.

You may call the church office at any time (605)352-7121. Pastor Kevin's cell phone number is noted in the voicemail greeting. Or a message may be left after the greeting. Messages will be retrieved during normal business hours.

If Pastor Kevin is not available you may call an elder.



Quarterly Voters' Assembly recap from Tuesday, July 18.

Budget adjustments for the second half of 2023 reflecting changes to pastor staffing and worship service support were approved.

As of February, 2023, Mt. Calvary Learning Center (MCLC) became a separate 501(c)3 entity. MCLC is now governed by their own Board of Directors. Recommendation to change the Church Bylaws to change the School Board Chairman to be an advisory member to the Church Council rather than a voting member was approved.

The Mt. Calvary Monthly Newsletter you are receiving by U.S. Mail has a single self-addressed stamped envelope included with it. We appreciate the offerings sent using these envelopes.

If you would like additional stamped envelopes, please contact the church office at (605)352-7121.

If you are not using the stamped envelopes, please bring them back to Mt. Calvary for reuse.

Thank you,
The Mt. Calvary Council

The Board of Stewardship would like to make the congregation aware that they can give their offerings electronically if they so choose. First of all we should look at what scripture says. *"Everyone should give what they have decided to give in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* 2 Corinthians 9:7. We give offerings out of joyful thanksgiving for the gifts that God has given to us. As new tools become available, it is okay if we wish to use them as long as we are careful to remember the reason we are giving. What we have found is, the simplest way for you to give electronically, should you choose to, is through the bill pay services offered by your bank. We realize this is not a fit for everyone, and are not suggesting that people need to adopt this method of giving. We are just letting people know it is a tool available which may be helpful to them. It also could be used to send your offering to church on a week when you are not able to be there. However, we would caution against thinking that the church just wants your money. The Lord looks for hearts set apart for Him alone.

Your Fellow Servants in Christ, the Board of Stewardship

Here are some guidelines:

1. Set the church up as biller in your bill pay account.
2. Put your offering envelope number as the account number.
3. You can designate the fund where you want the money to go (general, missions, building, preschool) in the memo line.
4. Schedule either a one time or recurring transfer.
5. Verify that the payment cleared your account.



2023 National Night Out

Mt. Calvary will again participate in the National Night Out event at Campbell Park on Tuesday, August 1. This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

Food, games, and other fun activities are available for community members of all ages.

The Board of Evangelism coordinates with other boards and volunteers at Mt. Calvary to get everything ready for our booth and to 'man' the booth. Let us know if you would like to help!

We would love to have many Mt. Calvary youth, members, and families join us! This is a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with all kinds of people.

Synod News: The 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is set for July 29 through August 3 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Whether you are attending in person or following the proceedings at home, here is everything you need to know about keeping up with all convention-related news.



DURING THE CONVENTION

The *Convention Workbook* and its accompanying booklet, *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees*, are available. Find both, along with other publications (such as the first issue of *Today's Business*, a convention schedule, an FAQ and the convention Bible study), at lcms.org/convention/national. All times are Central Daylight Time.

The opening Divine Service and all convention sessions will be livestreamed and archived at lcms.org/convention/livestream. Shorter videos with convention recaps, interviews and other features will be posted on the Synod's YouTube and Vimeo platforms: vimeo.com/thelcms and youtube.com/thelcms.

In addition, news stories will be posted to the *Reporter* website, reporter.lcms.org, throughout the convention. Subscribers to LCMS News, the Synod's free email news service, will receive daily updates with links to the latest stories. To subscribe, visit lcms.org/reporter-signup.

KFUO, the official broadcast voice of the LCMS, will provide live updates and interviews throughout the convention. Follow KFUE's convention coverage at kfuo.org and facebook.com/kfuoradio.

Up-to-the-minute convention updates will also be shared on the Synod's official convention Facebook and Twitter accounts at facebook.com/lcmsconvention and twitter.com/lcmsconvention. To join the conversation, use the official convention hashtag, #ChristCrucified, when you share convention-related posts on social media.

AFTER THE CONVENTION

After the convention has concluded, archived video will continue to be available for viewing at lcms.org/convention/livestream, and all stories posted during the convention will continue to be available at reporter.lcms.org (click on the tabs for "Convention" and then "National Convention").

Following the convention, continue to tune in to KFUE (listen at 850 AM in the St. Louis metro area and worldwide at kfuo.org) for ongoing convention-related news and interviews.

Excerpted from post of July 3, 2023 in the Reporter



Thank you to everyone that contributed to the 2023 Baby Bottle Fundraiser for the Plus One Guidance Center by July 11.

If you did not return your filled bottle to the church you may take it to the Plus One Guidance Center.

plus one
PREGNANCY GUIDANCE CENTER



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train Shipments/Donations

A shipment of clothing was sent to the Republic of Georgia. Blankets, diapers, clothing, choir robes, and medical equipment were shipped to Lithuania for families living in poverty, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

Domestic aid was given to south Texas and a load of school desks were picked up in Alice, TX. They'll be shipped internationally. The Pavilion in San Benito, TX received 15,000 lb. food, 14,256 Food for Kidz meals, bikes, children's items, medical equipment, and other goods. 54 large hay bales were delivered from Wisconsin to Las Vegas NM to help small farmers who lost grassland to fires last year.

At Mt. Calvary we continue to collect clothing, bedding, stuffed animals, and plastic bags for sleeping mats. Thank you for serving families' needs.

Let Paula Van Scharrel know if you have used bicycles that you would donate. There is someone who repairs them before shipment. The bikes are a vital mode of transportation in many countries.

Children-Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

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**



Who: Confirmation Youth

What: Higher Things Retreat - NOT GUILTY

Where: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Custer, SD

When: August 11 - 12, 2023

Time: Fri. 4:00 p.m. to Sat. 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Tasha Airheart if you are interested in attending this retreat. Registration deadline is July 31st.

Cost: \$40 per person

Meals: Friday supper; Saturday breakfast, lunch and snacks

What to Bring: toiletries, changes of clothes, basic hygiene items, sleeping bags, pillows

The Lord Jesus Christ determines the eternal destiny of all people. Even yours! Did you know that? He does! Why? I'm glad you asked. First, He was sent by His Father to take away the sins of the world (Matthew 1:21; John 1:29). Second, all judgment has been given to Jesus by His Father (John 5:22, 25) so that He authoritatively speaks His Father's Word of pardon or forgiveness to guilty sinners on the earth (Matthew 9:3-8; John 5:24; 8:3-11; Luke 23:34) or withholding forgiveness from them. The NOT GUILTY verdict of absolution is the key that opens heaven's door to His Father's heavenly house. Absolution is the divine verdict declared to at fault sinners that they are NOT GUILTY for Jesus' sake. You who hear and believe this have no fear of the Last Day's verdict of damnation because, through faith in Jesus and His Word of forgiveness, you have already passed from death to life (John 3:17-18; 5:24). What joy! What freedom! NOT GUILTY FOR JESUS' SAKE!

Rev. Brent Kuhlman, a sinner declared to be "NOT GUILTY" because of the Lord's Good Friday death and Easter Sunday resurrection, has the joy of serving as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Murdock, NE in order to pass on that same absolving verdict into other sinners' ears and hearts that desperately desire it. Over the years he has taught pastors and lay people God's Word in Siberia, Vietnam, Sumatra and Tanzania. He drives school bus, golfs, plays the organ and currently is learning to play the guitar. Man! Are his fingers sore!



Mt. Calvary Learning Center Corner

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

With so much excitement and all the wonderful things happening... Well let me start by re-introducing our Learning Center Director – Jamie Lysne. Jamie comes to us with a vast background in child development. She graduated from Sioux Falls Technical School with a degree in Child Development. Jamie started her work at Trinity Lutheran Learning Center in Hartford, from there she went to work at the Kids Club in Mitchell. Upon moving to Huron, she took the lead teacher position at Kingdom Kids before taking on the role of Director at Mt. Calvary Learning Center. She and her son are members of Mt. Calvary after transferring from her home church, Zion Lutheran in Mitchell. Jamie has been a huge asset to us in moving the mission of the daycare forward and helping to redevelop our preschool. Her love of teaching was seen this past year as she has taken on her role as Director. Her love of God and teaching children about his love through our Lutheran Faith has been instrumental in our mission. Jamie is married to Tad and they have a son, Weston.

DAYCARE

With so much gratitude to our Mt. Calvary members who have been praying for us, donating supplies, money, assisting with cleaning, making a phone call or sending a card of encouragement, and for offering support without a thought...WE ARE FINALLY OPEN!! After years of work, multiple state and city inspections, numerous phone calls and learning more about how the state works than anybody should ever need to know, we were ready by the last week of May to open our doors. We are starting small with 20 children and continue to grow, rapidly. Currently we have 4 full-time employees (including our director) and 2 part-time employees. We are adding employees as our child count increases. Jamie has her work cut out for her as she navigates through the ever-changing needs and rules that come with operating a daycare. We will continue to keep everyone updated as we grow. We still have room if you or someone you know is looking for childcare, please reach out to Jamie Lysne at 461-9222.



PRESCHOOL

It's that time of year again...the first day of preschool!!! We are so excited to be starting another year of Preschool. Our teachers have been working hard preparing the classroom and curriculum for the upcoming year. There are some exciting changes for us this year, we have a new preschool teacher and teaching assistant.

We welcome Ashley Florey as our new Lead Teacher for the coming year. She joined us last school year as our Teaching Assistant. Ashley is married to Dan, one of our Elders, and they have three children Ryan, Kaitlyn, and Brier. They have been active members of Mt. Calvary for the several years. Ashley brings a new energy to our team; her love of children and teaching is apparent in everything she does. She is excited to be a part of our mission, bringing the word of God to each student, helping them grow in their faith and preparing them for the next step...kindergarten.

To assist Ashley this year we are welcoming Krysten Sifuentes. She comes to us with experience in child development, working in the TAP program through the Huron Public School District, and most recently, the Huron Public Library. She is married to Ismael and they have four children Mateo, Zoey, Isabelle, and Isaiah.

Our first day of school will be Monday August 28. Morning class this year will be 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and afternoon class will be 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. We are still accepting applications. If you or someone you know is interested in attending preschool for the 23/24 school year, please reach out to Jamie Lysne at 461-9222.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers, this mission would not be possible without our church family!

The Mt. Calvary Learning Center Board and Staff

Coborn's Cash Register receipts are currently being collected for the months of May, June, and July 2023 only. **Please place your receipts in the container in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, August 6.** 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 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

Dear parents and students going into 6th grade,

We are so excited to welcome you into the Family Ministry program! Before orientation and classes begin, we want to get you started on the right foot. On Sunday, August 20th, you will be presented with a brand new Lutheran Study Bible and Small Catechism during worship. You may come to either service on that day to receive these essential items.

When you receive them, there will also be a short part of the service that you need to come up front for. I will let you know when to do that. Don't be nervous! Your church family is here to support you. Looking forward to a wonderful year!

In Christ,
Pastor Kevin



Dear family ministry students and parents,

It's that time of year again! For most students, school will be starting near the end of August and this year, so will Family Ministry. The first time that we will all meet together will be on Wednesday, August 23rd.

That night, we will meet longer than we usually will, from 5:15-6:45 pm. This is because I plan to have a half-hour orientation and our first class period on the same night. Since we will also have some hungry people due to the longer timeframe, we plan to have a meal to accompany this meeting. The meal will be served from 5 to 5:30 pm, overlapping with orientation.

At 5:45, students will split off to meet with either Roger or myself for our first class session.

For those of you who have children at multiple grade levels, there will be supervised open gym time in the Activity Center from 6:15-6:45 pm. I look forward to seeing all of you!

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

**Kids for Christ will resume
on Wednesday, August 23.
for Kindergarten through
fifth grade students.**

5:15-6:15 p.m.

We will gather in the
Fellowship Hall
at 5:15 p.m. then
go to the classrooms
in the basement.



**Rally
SUNDAY**

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Rally Day for the kick-off to the Sunday school year will be held on **Sunday, September 10th**. We will have more details in the weekly bulletins regarding lunch and games, etc.

"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

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

Phone:
605.352.7121 Church
605.461.9222 Learning Center

Website: www.mtcalvaryhuron.org

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"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "

August Family Ministry/Kids for Christ Schedule at Mt. Calvary

Sunday, August 20

At both Worship Services — Presentation of Bibles and Catechisms to 6th grade students

Wednesday, August 23

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. — meal for Family Ministry, Kids for Christ students, and parents

5:15 – 5:45 p.m. — Family Ministry Orientation for 6th, 7th, 8th grades, high school students/parents

5:15 – 6:15 p.m. — Kids for Christ for Kindergarten through 5th grades

5:45 – 6:45 p.m. — Family Ministry classes for 6th, 7th, 8th grades, high school students/parents

6:15 – 6:45 p.m. — supervised open gym time in the Activity Center

Wednesday, August 30

5:15 – 6:15 p.m. — Family Ministry classes for 6th, 7th, 8th grades, high school students/parents

5:15 – 6:15 p.m. — Kids for Christ for Kindergarten through 5th grades

See page 7 for more details. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins.