



# Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

September 2023

## Here am I, send me

**By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor**

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I don't know about you, but for me, the summer has flown by. It seems that we should have at least another couple months of warm weather, vacations, family reunions, and the like, but alas, when you receive this newsletter, it will be September 1st.

I actually don't mind the cooler weather, the football, and the changing colors, but it seems as though there is a seismic shift that happens as the calendar turns the page from month 8 to month 9. We go from mostly care-free to resuming a vast number of responsibilities. This seems to be most pronounced when a person is still in the process of formal education.

With school, there is often a day of orientation, a first day of classes, and perhaps, a move in day that marks a sharp cut off and the beginning of something new. As parents know, feelings can start to well up within their children when they realize that the day is near. I remember well the butterflies that I used to get. Thankfully, I can say that I almost always looked forward to school starting. At the same time, I know that there can also be feelings of fear and dread.

A few weeks ago, one of my aunts reached out to us cousins concerning her son, who will be starting college this fall. She said that moving him in was very emotional and he was having a bit of a tough time coming to grips with being so far away. Although she said that he was having a difficult time, I think she herself was struggling with the baby of the family doing something so grown up. She asked us if we, as his cousins, could pray for him, send him a message, write him a letter, or call him. Although I'm sure that she had already told him, she wanted him to know through us that it was normal to feel this way. Everybody gets scared, nervous, and homesick sometimes. And, in the end, things turn out okay.

As soon as the message came through, I thought about the times that I had felt the same way. Probably the toughest one was the move to Missouri for Seminary. I remember being really sad for about a week afterward. Soon, I was distracted by classes and friends and exploring a new city, but being in a place that was so foreign, you can really start to doubt yourself. I'm sure every Seminarian has wondered, at one point or another, what they were doing there. There must be some mistake. God couldn't really want you to do this. Get out now.

There's a German word that Martin Luther liked to use: *anfechtung*. Although there is not an exact English equivalent,

in one biography of Martin Luther, it is described as "all the doubt, turmoil, pang, tremor, panic, despair, desolation, and desperation which would invade the heart of man." Basically, Martin Luther was keenly aware of his unworthiness due to his sin. Luther said "I am dust and ashes and full of sin." To Luther, the fact that God would love him and use him in His kingdom might have often felt like a mistake.

The prophet Isaiah felt the same way when he saw a vision of the Lord. With his eyes, he saw that the train of the Lord's robe filled the entire temple. He saw heavenly creatures with wings, saying "Holy, Holy, Holy!" This caused Isaiah to say "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" In response, the angel takes a burning coal from the altar and touches it to Isaiah's lips. The angel tells him that his guilt is taken away and his sin is atoned for. With his guilt taken away and his sin atoned for, Isaiah was able to say "Here am I! Send me!"

This text is often used at the ordinations or installations of pastors and I am pondering it again as I am considering a call. In many ways, it applies to the people of the congregation as well. It applies to those who bring the Gospel, who may often wonder "what right do I have to carry the Word and bring it to others?" Yet, Christ has cleansed and purified us through the blood of His cross. Because He rose from the dead, we will be eternally around the Lord's throne, singing His praises. Though there is no merit or worthiness in us, God uses us as instruments in bringing the Good News. For this reason, we can joyfully say "Here am I! Send me!" in whichever place that the Lord puts us.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During our worship services on August 13<sup>th</sup>, I announced that I have received a Divine Call to serve as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Medford, MN.

This means that I currently have two Divine Calls, one to Mt. Calvary and one to Trinity, Medford. I have already started the process of prayerful deliberation, asking that God would help me to discern His plan and where He would have me serve. It will take time to do this, but I know that the Lord will reveal His will for me. As far as when a decision will be made, I plan to announce on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, I ask for your prayers for me and for both congregations. "Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

May God's peace be with you, Pastor Kevin

**FROM  
THE  
ASSOCIATE  
PASTOR**

**“We Preach Christ Crucified” -- LCMS National Convention Report from Pastor Sattgast**

On July 29 through August 3, nearly 1,500 voting delegates, advisory delegates, advisory representatives, and special guests met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 68th National Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The theme for the convention was “We Preach Christ Crucified” based on 1 Corinthians 1:23-24.



Throughout the convention, the worship services, the devotions, many of the reports and even some resolutions to be voted upon focused on the convention theme “We Preach Christ Crucified.” That is at the heart not only of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, but of the entire Christian faith. From the time of the fall into sin, all of us and all people are affected by sin, both the original sin we have at birth and the sins we commit against God and one another. We continually see the results of sin in the world around us with so many rejecting God’s Word, God’s will, God’s plan of salvation, and God’s design for who He has created us to be. Yet God, in His grace and mercy, has sent Jesus to be the Savior and take the guilt of all sin on Himself on the Cross so that we and the world may have forgiveness and salvation. Now the mission of the Church is to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified to all people so that by the power of the Holy Spirit they may believe. Ultimately, this affects everything we do as the Church and how we live our lives of witness as God’s people, even in a world that often doesn’t want to receive our witness. Nothing less than eternal life is at stake.

Over 1,000 “voting delegates” to the convention were selected from the circuits of the 35 districts of the LCMS. From the time that our Synod was founded in 1847 (176 years ago), the voting delegates have been equally divided between pastors and laity for the specific purpose that in conducting its business, the Synod is neither clergy-dominated nor lay-dominated. Each circuit, therefore, elects one pastoral and one lay delegate. The South Dakota District sent a total of sixteen voting delegates from its eight circuits. 160 “advisory delegates” to the convention represented the 10,000 “commissioned” workers of our Synod. Those include Lutheran School Teachers, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs), Deaconesses, and a few other categories of church workers. An additional 161 “advisory representatives” attended. They included district presidents and individuals who serve on various boards, commissions, or other “agencies” within Synod. I attended because I serve as the chairman of the Commission on Handbook which is responsible for maintaining the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod.

Prior to a convention, Synod’s congregations, circuits, districts, seminaries, universities, boards and commissions all have the right to propose “overtures” for consideration by the Synod in convention. Over 250 overtures were received for this convention. Overtures that have similar content are combined by “convention floor committees” into “resolutions” that actually come to the floor of the convention for debate and voting. Over 75 resolutions were presented and adopted ranging in topics from establishing partner church relations with Lutheran denominations in Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Finland, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka to addressing social issues such as human trafficking and addressing our society’s disregard for God’s design for marriage, family, and sexuality. Other important resolutions addressed pastoral preparation especially recognizing the shortage of pastors, and strengthening the Lutheran identity at our Synod’s universities. Sadly, Concordia University Texas has chosen to sever its connection with the Synod, thereby breaking the Bylaws of Synod under which it is supposed to operate. One resolution called for that university to repent and reestablish its relationship with the Synod. I expect that in a coming issue of The Lutheran Witness there will be articles which will also provide a report of this and other resolutions that were adopted.

Each convention also involves the election of the president and other officers of the Synod, along with members of various Synod boards and the boards of regents for our seminaries and universities. A very extensive nomination and vetting process is done prior to the convention. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was reelected to a fifth term as Synod President and all of the currently serving vice-presidents (including Pastor Nabil Nour from South Dakota), along with the current secretary of Synod, were reelected.

One of the observations I have with this convention is that while there are always differences of opinion on various topics, on those areas where the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions speak clearly there is great unanimity in our Synod. Several resolutions passed with not a single dissenting vote. That, to me is amazing. And on many other matters, most of the resolutions passed with over 80% to 90% majority votes. That, also, is amazing to me because I’ve seen many conventions when the voting on major issues often passed or failed because of divisions like 48% to 52%.

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

Special highlights of the convention, for me, were presentations by leaders and members of recently established Biblically faithful Lutheran Churches in Finland and Ukraine. Rev. Serge Maschewski, the "Bishop" (President) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU) spoke of the challenges facing that church body and its members not only in the midst of the war with Russia, but also with the pressure in Ukraine to embrace the LGBTQ agenda. Likewise, Bishop Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF) and Dr. Paivi Rasanen, a member of the Parliament in Finland and also a member of the ELMDF, spoke of the persecution they have faced, including being charged with "hate speech," because they have published writings that defend the Bible's teachings of male and female and the sanctity of marriage. In each case, these individuals and their churches are committed to upholding the teachings of the Bible in spite of the opposition and persecution they face.

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



## Confirmation Announcement

God's richest blessings to Avah Newman, Lucas Peskey, and Alexis Ziegeldorf, who have completed their catechetical studies and were received into communicant membership during the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 27th.

## WELCOME New Member

Amanda Wood  
1354 Illinois Ave SW  
Huron, SD 57350



David Bowers  
120 Sycamore Ave, Apt 22  
Vermillion SD 57069

Trisha Shreeve  
658 14th Street SW  
Huron SD 57350

## 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 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: Dan Henson.

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

**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.**





## Join Our Class!

**Are you interested in being formally received as a communicant member of Mt. Calvary?**

**Are you a current member who would like to refresh your memory on Lutheran teaching and the Catechism?**

**We invite you to attend Family Ministry classes on Wednesday nights.**

We will be covering many of the same topics as we would in a traditional adult instruction class. If, after attending these classes, you wish to be received into communicant membership, you would need to fill out a membership application that would go before the elders and church council.

This particular class goes from late August until late January, with a large break from October 30th-January 9th (12 classes total). Normally, the group will meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

These classes are open to anyone who is 8th grade and above. We will have a virtual option available via GoToMeeting. **We invite you to join us!**

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

## Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday is October 8

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

*Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:7-10)*



Where there is poverty, there is hunger. Poor nutrition and hunger are responsible for nearly half of the deaths in children under the age of 5 because their bodies lack basic nutrients. The majority of these deaths occur in regions of Asia and Africa. Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is compassionate about the hunger crisis and this past Fiscal Year more than 5.1 million fortified rice meals were shipped world-wide. The monetary gifts from Orphan Grain Train donors make these shipments of life-saving food possible.

In the Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2023 OGT shipped 274 shipping containers of donated relief supplies to 38 states and 71 countries worldwide. 27 regional OGT locations collect and distribute food and reusable goods. Our nearest OGT warehouse is in Norfolk, NE. We have had youth and Lutheran Women in Mission volunteer there and in Milbank packing Mercy Meals and clothing for shipment.

We continue to collect used clothing for needs worldwide. We thank you for the clothing and for monetary gifts to support these humanitarian efforts.

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

We will resume meeting for Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting on September 14th.

**Everyone is welcome to attend!**



## Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with National Night Out!

Especially, I would like to thank the Board of Evangelism members and the other Mt. Calvary members who volunteered time and talent.

We had a very nice night in the park on Tuesday, August 1. We were very thankful for the pleasant weather, especially compared to last year's high temperatures.

This year, we had handmade drawstring bags courtesy of Marlus Lemke and Sherri Blaseg, Mt. Calvary lanyards and can koozies in 4 different colors, a multitude of Easter-themed slap bracelets and bubbles, tasty Rice Krispie treats with your Christian messages on them, tons of t-shirts and mugs courtesy of Thrivent, fun crafts from VBS, Spanish Bibles, Portals of Prayer, various Christian books and pamphlets, bookmarks, and more.

Through the night, we saw many smiles and wide eyes as kids and adults scanned our booth. People inquired about Mt. Calvary and we invited them to join us for worship. We received multiple prayer requests in our bucket and even a donation. It felt great to engage with our community and share the love of Jesus with them!

In Christ, Pastor Kevin





## 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*

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over, and fall is fast approaching! With the close of summer comes the start of a new school year.

### PRESCHOOL

Some exciting news for our preschool this year...for the first time in a very long time both our morning and afternoon classes are full, and we have a waiting list! What a blessing! Ashley and Krysten are both excited about welcoming our new students and returning students, preparing for the school year. This year we will not only be teaching letters, numbers, shapes, and colors but our students will be learning about Jesus through Bible stories/songs, memorizing the Lord's Prayer as well as learning the 10 Commandments. We are excited about our new curriculum and bringing our ministry into the homes of every student. Our first day of school was Monday, August 28.

We are also starting an after-school program operating Monday-Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. With the recent loss of funding for TAP in our public schools there was a need for aftercare. Several churches and preschools have stepped up to help fill this need. We will be able to take 20 students K-3 for this program and are charging \$50 per week. There will be learning, and activities catered to this age group. We have a few spots left for this program if you know someone who is looking for after school care. The after-school program starts Tuesday September 5th, if you have questions about this program or know someone who is looking, please reach out to Jamie at 605-461-9222.

We are planning to bring back our "Student Spotlight" in our Sunday bulletins, watch for this insert introducing a new student or staff each week.

Please keep our teachers and students in your prayers as our new year begins.

### DAYCARE

Jamie and her staff are staying busy with over 20 kids in our care to date and more to come. She has really stepped into the role of Director, working with parents, kids, and her staff. The knowledge, energy and enthusiasm they bring to our program has been instrumental in our growth. We have additional staff ready to step in as we grow in numbers. There is still room if you or someone you know is looking for childcare, please reach out to Jamie Lysne at 605-461-9222.

More exciting news.....

Jamie has had a couple of families that have inquired about joining our church and one family who inquired about baptism. All have been referred to Pastor Kevin. This has been our mission and our prayer from the very beginning. As soon as they came through the doors, we wanted to reach families with the Gospel. We wanted to grow our church, getting into homes through our kids. How exciting! Over these last couple months, there have been very few places I can go without being stopped by a parent or grandparent of a child in our care, wanting to share a story about their child or grandchild. It has been wonderful hearing the stories about kids who want to come to daycare, even on the weekends. It has been great to hear that they don't want to go home when the day is over. And most importantly, it's so rewarding to know that they are learning and retaining not only the head knowledge, but the desire to pray and the love for Jesus. This has been and will continue to be the mission for both our daycare and preschool.

Watch for our "staff spotlight" these will hanging in the entry area of our preschool room along with the children's artwork, calendar of events and other information regarding our program.

Please keep our daycare kids and staff in your prayers as we continue to grow.

**Thank you to our church family for the support given through prayer, donations, words of encouragement, without you our mission wouldn't be possible.**

Mt. Calvary Learning Center



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. Mark 10:14"



## Children — Youth — Family Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Who Went: a group of Confirmation youth and parents—a bus left Mt. Calvary early Friday morning with eight youth and two chaperones, stopped in Mitchell to pick up more youth and another chaperone, then headed west on I-90 to Custer.

What They Attended: Higher Things Retreat  
— NOT GUILTY

Where It Was: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
in Custer, SD

When It Was: August 11 - 12, 2023

Photos (clockwise) of the group before boarding the bus in Huron, waiting for their turn at yard games, settling into overnight accommodations at the church, whiteboard activity, taking turns in the bumper balls, in the sanctuary at Our Redeemer.



*"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 — Family Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Last day of Summer  
Sunday School will  
be September 3rd.

Thank you to all  
the children and  
teachers for a  
great summer!

Rally Day to kick off the new Sunday school year  
will be on Sunday, September 10th.

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

With the daycare up and running, there is technically supposed to be no interaction between daycare kids and other groups of kids. Because of this, we are asking that children arrive at Mt. Calvary no earlier than 5:00 p.m. and go directly to the classrooms in the basement. Thank you!



**Wednesdays at 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.  
Family Ministry classes for 6th, 7th, 8th grades,  
high school students, and parents**

**FAMILY MINISTRY**  
**NEWS**



Our congregation will be collecting items to be donated for shoebox Christmas gifts for children around the world and monetary donations to help cover postage for the boxes through the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program.

Shoe boxes will be available to use or you can also supply your own.

We will have a "packing day" for the congregation to participate in packing the shoe boxes prior to national collection week, November 13-20. More details to come.

#### High School Students and Parents:

As we scroll through Instagram and Snapchat we are bombarded with images and videos of extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. People are living awesome lives and it makes us second guess our own. The truth is that most of us live pretty ordinary lives. We wake up. We go to school. We do homework. We hang with friends. We spend way too much time on our phones. We've got "extra" in our ordinary lives, but it's stuff that makes us anxious or sad, things that worry us, scare us, and confuse us. It's extra questions stirring within us and extra pressures all around us.

Amidst these pressures and questions of life there is an amazing truth: God loves ordinary people. "[extra]ordinary" will lead students through encounters with Jesus who answers questions and calms fears. Students will discover that the love of Jesus is the "extra" that their ordinary needs.

**High school students in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders are invited to join other LCMS youth at the 2023 LCMS District Youth Gathering—Kearney, NE. Friends of youth group members are invited and encouraged to attend too!**

The gathering will include an off-site servant event component, giving all participants the opportunity to honor God through service to others in the Kearney community.

#### Registration fees & deadlines:

\$180 per person if postmarked by 10/17/2023

\$190 per person if postmarked between 10/18 and 10/31

\$210 per person if postmarked after 10/31/2023

Registration fee includes all gathering programming, Bible studies, servant event activity and transportation, games, a t-shirt, two meals on Saturday, and worship on Sunday.

**Hotel costs are not included in the registration fee.**

Information on room blocks will be shared with registration materials.

**All high school students and their parents interested in attending should contact Tasha Airheart as soon as possible! Make plans now to attend!**

**2023 LCMS District Youth  
Gathering—Kearney  
hosted by the Nebraska District**



**Save the Date!**  
**November 17-19, 2023**

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



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"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "

**Children — Youth — Family Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church**

**Rally**  
**SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 10**

**Rally Day to kick-off the Sunday school year.**

**There will be a potluck lunch for the congregation.**

**Games will follow in the Activity Center for all who want to participate.**

**Sunday, September 17**

**All welcome to attend the family gathering at**

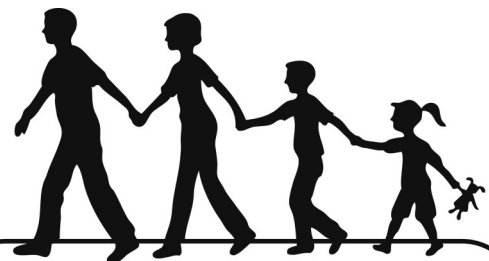
**Ralph and Kim's on September 17 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Come for food, fun, and fellowship! Bring your lawn chair!**

**RSVP is not required but helpful for food accommodations.**

**To RSVP contact Tasha Airheart.**

**Directions are 1/2 mile east of East River Nursery  
on the north side of the road. Address is 485 57th St SE.**



***Bring the Family!***