



Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

October 2023

Test the Spirits

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! As we seek to serve the Lord and our neighbors this month, may we always remember that our crucified and risen Lord has given us a spirit, not of fear, but of power and love and self-control. Those are Paul's words to young Timothy as Timothy sought to serve the members who were entrusted to his care. It certainly applies in the context of pastoral ministry, but it has a wide variety of other applications within the life of the laity as well.

Notice how Paul tells Timothy what this good spirit looks like, but he also tells him what it does not look like: fear. As young Timothy ventured out into pastoral ministry, it would require him to have a lot of courage. He would need courage to speak the truth, he would need courage to endure through suffering, and he would need courage to face credible threats of death. Paul knew these things all too well from his own experiences and through the inspiration of the Spirit, he was led to equip Timothy and the entire Church with the knowledge that things were not changing any time soon.

Our world has an interesting relationship with fear. In American culture, the month of October seems to be the unofficial start of what has often been dubbed "spooky season." Sure, in autumn, people also enjoy apple picking and hayrides and pumpkin spice flavored items, but there are many people around us who like to be frightened. People like to watch scary movies. People like to frequent haunted houses. People like to dress up as grotesque and fiendish creatures, while going door to door demanding candy. If we step outside the sphere of our culture, we would be more likely to realize that this is all pretty strange.

If you were to look into the origins of Halloween, you would find some pretty interesting things. First of all, the name "Halloween" has a connection to the Church. As words sometimes do, the word Halloween has morphed over time, but it started off as "All Hallows Eve." All Hallows Eve is what we used to call the day before All Saints Day and together with All Souls Day, the three formed what is called a triduum. On All Hallows Eve, it was thought that the church focused on the evil in the world before the flood. The next day, on All Saints Day, they remembered who were saved from the cleansing flood that God sent. And finally, on All

Souls Day, they remembered how God provided for those who repopulated the earth. Nowadays, on All Saints Day, we remember those in the Church who have fallen asleep in Christ in the previous year, but unfortunately, other practices and beliefs had already crept into the previous three-day Christian holiday.

You see, before the Christian faith was widespread, pagan cultures thought of autumn as the time that the world was dying. The leaves fall off of the trees, the grass becomes brown, and after the harvest, the fields are devoid of growth. Since the world around them was thought to be dying, the people themselves contemplated their own demise. Around the end of October, there was a thought that the barrier between the material world and the afterlife thinned, so that it could more easily be breached. We see this in the Mexican celebration of Dia de

los Muertos (Day of the Dead). In this line of thinking, the afterlife included not only the spirits of those who were good, but also those who were evil. Therefore, on All Hallows Eve, many people thought that they needed some kind of protection from these evil spirits who were roaming the earth, which is partially where we get the practice of Jack-O-Lanterns. Jack-O-Lanterns with spooky faces are supposed to scare away these spirits, based on the Irish legend of Stingy Jack. But as Christians, we do not

need to fear ghosts, since the souls of the dead do not wander the earth.

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During our worship services on August 13th, I announced that I had received a Divine Call to serve as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Medford, MN. I want to thank everyone for the prayers, kind words, and supportive actions as I considered this Divine Call. The Lord has been faithful in giving me clarity and peace, so that I am no longer uncertain about where He would have me serve.

During worship services on September 3rd, I announced that the Lord has led me to decline the Divine Call to serve as Trinity's pastor. I will continue to serve the people of Mt. Calvary. Please pray for the people of Trinity, that the Lord would bring them a faithful pastor and that He would do so very soon. To God alone be the glory!

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

**FROM
THE
ASSOCIATE
PASTOR**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of **power,**
of **love**
and of **self**
-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7



**Quarterly Voters'
Assembly is
Tuesday, October 17
at 7:00 p.m.**

Important to Attend!

**Election of officers
for 2024-2025
and approval of
the 2024 budget**

Offices to be filled for the 2024-2025 term

Please pray for the Lord's guidance as to whether He might desire your service in one of the offices listed below for the 2024-2025 term. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested.

VICE PRESIDENT (Currently serving: Roger Kropuenske. Eligible for reelection.)

ELDER - Four to be elected. (Currently serving and eligible for reelection:
Dan Florey, Chad Hanson, Ryan Vanden Berge.
Currently serving and ineligible for reelection:
Leonard Wonnenberg.)

YOUTH CHAIR (Currently serving: Natasha Airheart. Eligible for reelection.)

EVANGELISM CHAIRMAN (Currently serving: Dan Henson. Eligible for reelection.)

FINANCE BOARD MEMBER Two to be elected.
(Currently serving and both eligible for reelection:
Judy Tschetter, Rosalie Pownell.)

TRUSTEE MEMBER (Currently serving: Terry McHenry. Ineligible for reelection.)

Stuart Adermann, Daryl Haeder, David Niederbaumer, Judy Tschetter, and Pastor Kevin are serving on the Nominating Committee.

Sunday School Superintendent

The Board of Education is in need of a Sunday School Superintendent to assist in directing the Sunday School teachers and carrying out the functions related to the Sunday School year. If anyone has questions concerning the duties of this position, please contact Susan Fuerst.

Current Congregational Officers for 2023

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.

WELCOME
New Member

Samantha Olerud
39602 US Highway 14
Huron, SD 57350

**FAREWELL &
Godspeed**

Kierra Dragt
1200 S. Jay St. Box 214
Aberdeen SD 57401
has transferred to
Our Savior Lutheran Church,
Aberdeen, South Dakota



(Continued from page 1)

In all of these things, we can see that fear and terror was gripping the hearts of these people. They feared the unknown, the strange, and things that they could not control. For comfort, they often resorted to placing power or importance in objects or ideas. Even during the time of Martin Luther, there were many superstitious practices in the Church that needed to be corrected. People would place undue importance on holy relics like the spear that pierced Jesus' side or an original nail from the cross. In trademark Luther fashion, he went back to the Word of God and found these things to be unbiblical and preposterous.

So, where does all of this leave us? Should Christians be protesting Halloween? Should we be barring our children from trick or treating? At the end of the day, this issue is *Adiaphora*, something that is neither commanded nor forbidden by the Scriptures. This is something that depends upon the conscience that we have been given, informed by the Scriptures and carried along by the Holy Spirit. In 1 John 4, it

says "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God."

In the month of October, Mt. Calvary is going to be doing a couple of youth activities, including pumpkin carving and a trunk or treat. For the pumpkin carving, I plan to have Christian stencils that can be used on the pumpkins to witness to our faith. As the light goes inside, we can remember that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome. At our trunk or treat last year, our elders all dressed up as Bible characters. In this way, we can still have fun and we can also remember all the saints, the heroes of the faith, who have gone before us. It may be different from the world around us, but remember, we are called to be different. In a world that trembles at the thought of evil and death, we know that death has lost its sting and evil will be no more. In Jesus, we have that guarantee.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



**Confirmation
NEWS**

Confirmation Announcement

God's richest blessings to Aiden Airheart, who has completed his catechetical studies and was received into communicant membership during the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 24th.



Drew Borkowski
22924 Highway 151
Monticello IA 52310

Mark Cramer
1905 W 42nd St. Apt 12
Sioux Falls SD 57105

Jerrica Donovan
640 3rd St SW
Huron SD 57350

Todd and Lisa Nelson
564A W 9th St
New Richmond WI 54017

WE PREACH
CHRIST CRUCIFIED
FOR ALL PEOPLE

1 COR. 1:18-25



On Sunday, October 15th a door offering will be gathered for the LCMS National Offering.

Ever since the days of Genesis 11, the idea of "all people" has included different languages and dialects. Because the Scriptures were written in Greek and Hebrew, most of us have heard the Word thanks to the diligent work of translators and interpreters. God has blessed us with His Word in our native language.

The 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering, under the theme "We Preach Christ Crucified for All People," will support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English, so that all may read, hear and speak the Good News of Christ crucified in a language easily understood. The scale and scope of this translation work will be to the extent made possible by voluntary contributions.

Congregations throughout the entire LCMS are invited and encouraged to participate, as the Lord allows throughout the coming triennium. For more information:

www.lcms.org/convention/national/offering



LWML members and members of Mt. Calvary, you are invited to join us on Thursday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m. for our annual salad supper and guest speaker.



This year we are excited to have Ann Cruse share her experiences from her MOST Ministries medical mission trip to Guatemala. We hope to see you then!

On Sunday, October 8, Mt. Calvary will be celebrating Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday. The theme is "The King Is Coming."



We will be serving our "muffins for mites" during the Sunday school hour with all offerings collected being sent to support the 2023-24 mission grants of the LWML.

Sara Newman and Nancy Ziegeldorf are going on a mission trip to Guatemala at the end of October.

The trip is a water mission through MOST Ministries where they will be distributing water filters to families. They are also planning to give hygiene kits to the families that receive water filters.

They need about 100 hygiene kits between the two of them, so Sara and Nancy are asking for donations for the hygiene kits. Each hygiene kit contains: comb, hotel size bar soap and/or shampoo, washcloth, travel size toothbrush and toothpaste, and a nail clipper.

They are especially interested in the soap and shampoo items, but can use any items.

Thank you for your help!! Find a small basket in the Fellowship Hall.



EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Join us in the Boardroom on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. as we study the book of 1 Peter. This Bible Study is open to anyone and everyone, including the ladies of our congregation. Let Pastor Kevin or Daryl Haeder know if you are interested or have any questions. God's Blessings!

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

Monday, October 9th—No Preschool

Daycare Hours:

7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Preschool Hours:

3-year-old class 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Monday-Thursday

4-year-old class 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Jamie Lysne, Director 605-461-9222
daycare.mclc@midconetwork.com
preschool.mclc@midconetwork.com
www.mtcalvaryhuron.org/class-information



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

As always, thank you to our church family at Mt. Calvary for the support given through prayer, donations, and words of encouragement, without you our mission wouldn't be possible. — Mt. Calvary Learning Center



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

Thank you everyone who joined us at Ralph and Kim's for wonderful food, fun, and fellowship on September 17th!

God blessed us with beautiful weather and wonderful fellowship.

Thanks to all who attended and participated in devotions, horse drawn cart rides, hay ride, games, meal, and bonfire with s'mores.





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



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

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 and 7th grade meet in the Boardroom
8th grade and above meet in the Fellowship Hall**

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Dear Family Ministry students and parents,

I am glad that the year seems to be off to a good start. Thank you for your engagement and participation in classes.

Some of you have been asking about sermon notes and where they can be found. Sermon notes are the goldenrod half-sheets on the usher's counter right as you come out of the sanctuary. They can also be found online, by going to the mtcalvaryhuron.org website and choosing the Family Ministry page. The requirement, as found in the Family Ministry handbook, is one sermon note per month. Up until this weekend, there was not a spot for a parent's signature on the sermon notes, but on the current printing this week, I am asking that parents would review the note and sign off on it.

On the usher's counter, there is also a binder in which you can record your attendance in worship services. If you have any other questions, please let me know.
In Christ, Pastor Kevin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Preschool through 6th grade

will go to opening in the sanctuary from 9:15 to 9:30 a.m.
then to the basement to their respective classrooms
for Sunday school class.

7th through 12th graders and their parents are invited to participate in the

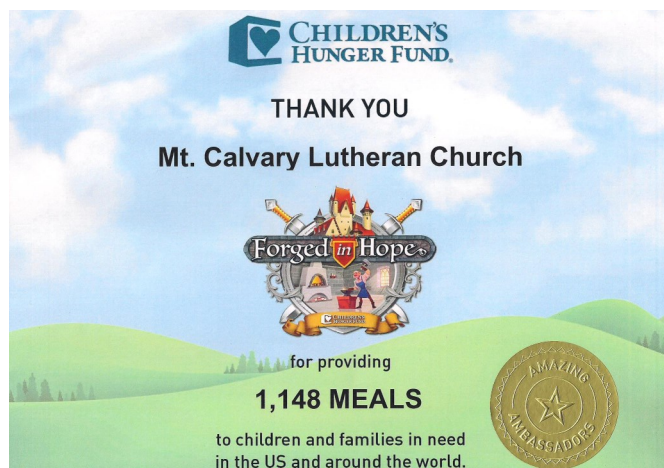
**Middle School / High School Sunday School class.
We will be meeting in the Boardroom at 9:15 am.**

We will be doing a video Bible study that takes place in
the Holy Land, entitled "That the World May Know "
hosted by Pastor Ray Vander Laan. Please join us!

**Thank you to everyone who participated in,
and helped with, Rally Sunday.**

**We surely appreciate all those
that provided food, served food,
cleaned up, helped with games,
and taught classes!**

**Rally
SUNDAY**



**Your VBS kids and their families
donated \$287.01 — That's 1,148 meals!**

Please relay our gratitude to your VBS families.
Those meals will make a real difference for children and families
facing food insecurity and will provide local pastors with an
important tool to share the hope of the gospel.

We are proud to recognize your group as
"Amazing Ambassador!"

Thank you for delivering hope with Children's Hunger Fund.

For the children we serve, Donor Care Team

"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

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.

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



Save the Date!
November 17-19, 2023

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

The congregation is invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which provides Christmas gifts packed in a shoe box to needy children around the world.



There are multiple ways you can participate.

1. Donate items to fill the shoe boxes.
2. Takes shoe boxes home to fill on your own and return filled.
3. Participate in our packing party to fill all boxes prior to collection week.
4. Donate to help cover the cost of shipping for the boxes.
5. Build a shoebox online.
6. Donate t-shirts to be used to make jump ropes for packing into shoeboxes.

Thank you to Dan and Judy Henson for donating for the shoe boxes purchased for this project!

There are bins in the Fellowship Hall for shoe box donation items and for used t-shirts. T-shirts will be made into braided jump ropes by our Sunday School children that can be packed as gift items in the shoe boxes. All colors of t-shirts are needed and accepted. T-shirts do not need to be new and stains are okay!

"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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"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "

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



**The next family fun activity is pumpkin carving on
Sunday, October 15th after second service.**

Scalloped potatoes and ham will be served.

Please RSVP to Tasha by calling or texting.

**The Youth will be hosting Trunk or Treat
on Sunday, October 29th — 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please sign up on the sheets on the counter
in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to bring your car
and/or would be willing to donate candy.

