



Journal

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

“Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins”

November 2023

Around the Table

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! May our gracious God and Father bring you an abundance of blessings and a countenance that overflows with joy this month. This is my prayer for you, because I know that joy is not always the prevailing feeling as we enter into the stretch before us.

As we think about the thirty days ahead of us and beyond, we know that they may bring a mixed bag of emotions. Feelings of joy and nostalgia often shift to feelings of worry and angst, because holidays like Thanksgiving can be a stressful time for a lot of people. Just think about all the “ingredients” that could go into this mixture that we call Thanksgiving Dinner.

First of all, you have travel. Whether people travel on the road or in the air, there is no stress-free environment. By car, they will find gas prices that are still sky high and the possibility of breakdowns. By plane, they risk luggage getting lost and an uncomfortable experience with cramped seats.

Then, even when the travel rush has ended, there is preparation for the big fancy meal, which often falls on the shoulders of only a few individuals. Ingredients, including main dishes, are more expensive than ever before. And it seems that there is always at least one catastrophe. Not enough pies, lumpy gravy, or forgetting to thaw the prized bird. Hopefully your catastrophe doesn't involve putting a frozen turkey in the deep fryer.

Then, of course, there are the people. Although there has been a movement recently toward “Friendsgiving,” we know the usual suspects for our Thanksgiving table. Most often, the people we gather with are our family members: grandpa, grandma, parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Many of these blood relatives have been living separate lives until this one day when they are all crammed in the same room. Childhood rivalries may be reignited. Political comments begin to fly. Young college students, flush with new ideologies, start spewing the new ideas that they have come to believe. Older adults, perhaps a bit stubborn and set in their ways, begin to push back with all their might.

Does this sound like any Thanksgiving Dinner that you have witnessed? I would be surprised if you never have any

stress when you get together for the big shindig at the end of November. In my family, thankfully, it's usually not so bad when we get to the event itself, but the older and younger generations have clashed on the timing. Some want the gathering earlier, some want it later. Some want it on a Saturday, some on a Sunday. Some have other gatherings to go to, others do not. And of course, in the end, not everybody is happy.

I feel blessed to have grown up in a household and in a family where there was very little conflict. Of course, in most families, there's probably one who could be called a black sheep or others who may come off as odd, but nothing quite to the level of other families that I have known.

As a pastor, I have had some different experiences. Of course, I get to be there at some of people's best moments, but I also get to help people pick up the pieces after some of their worst experiences. Unfortunately, it is no longer a surprise to me when I hear that family members are not speaking to each other or that any combination of siblings, parents, children, and others have had a major falling out. It has become so commonplace that I almost don't even bat an eye.

It seems that now, more than ever, Satan is trying to drive a wedge between family members. In schools, some educators are encouraging children to transition to a different gender without their family's knowledge. During COVID, we saw a mass movement toward cutting off contact with family members, due to positions on vaccination, masking, social distancing, and the pandemic. And there have been many other attempts to demonize the other, the one that does not agree with us.

What we have to realize is that God made the family for a reason. Not just a dad, a mom, and children, but grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. The structures that He put into place should not be discarded at the first sign of trouble. God created the family to support, to encourage, to instruct, and to lead by example.

From listening to many people's stories, I can say that these family separations are often one-sided. Many people long for a reunion. Many would love nothing more than to reconcile, but they feel that at this point, it may be an impossibility.

In the Bible, there are accounts of family interactions everywhere that you look, from Cain and Abel to Abraham and Sarah to Joseph and Mary. Many of the chapters recorded for us include incredible amounts of dysfunction, far more serious than most any instance of family dysfunction in

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

John 13:34, NRSV



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our own lives. In Genesis alone, we see Jacob stealing Esau's birthright and blessing, followed by Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers. And yet, those accounts of family dysfunction are followed by even more extraordinary shows of forgiveness.

Jacob the heel-grabber was sure that his brother Esau would kill him the moment that he saw him, but instead, we see one of the most beautiful moments in all the Scriptures. Big, rugged Esau runs up to his shrimp of a brother and squeezes him hard. At that moment, it must have been a little bit dusty, because neither of them could keep from crying. It had been so hard being apart, because their natural state was

being together. Jacob even says that to see Esau's face again was like seeing the face of God. The reason that Jacob says that is because he knows that way that God operates. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Jesus, in the parable of the prodigal son, teaches that the father of that wayward son ran to meet him. No matter what he had done, he just wanted him to come home. So, as you make your way to family gatherings and wade into those deep waters, remember that family is a gift of God. Remember that Christ forgave the worst in you and calls on you to forgive others, especially those closest. It may not be easy, but we can still stand for the truth of God's Word and show compassion to all His children. In Christ, Pastor Kevin

Is Our "Missions" Giving All That Important?

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

Background: Each year, Mt. Calvary adopts its annual "budget," a portion of which is designated for missions, including a significant amount designated for the South Dakota District. Because I served as District President and have firsthand knowledge of how the mission commitments the district receives from its congregations are used, the president of Mt. Calvary, Kerwin Haeder, and Pastor Koester asked that I would write a newsletter article and some bulletin notes and give a presentation on missions before the Sunday Services and in the Adult Bible Class. Those who were present in church on October 22nd heard those presentations and read the bulletin insert. For those who weren't present but who are interested in how our missions giving to the District is used, the following is what was included on the bulletin insert.

What About Our "Missions" Giving?

On our offering envelopes, there are two categories for our weekly giving. The *first* is FOR OTHERS. It is first for a reason. In the church's life, just as in our own personal life of faith, God's Word encourages us to count others before (or better than) ourselves and to look not only to our own interests, but to the interests of others (see Philippians 2:3-4). The *second* category is FOR OURSELVES.

Under the first category, there is one single item, namely "Missions." As the Mt. Calvary Voters Assembly set our annual budget for 2023 [and again for 2024], it designated \$89,000 for Missions. Of that, a portion was designated for our South Dakota District's special "over-and-above" project of Together in Mission (T.I.M.) providing direct support for Synod Missionaries in Eurasia. Two of those missionaries are pastors who have previously served in the South Dakota District. Another portion is to help support the fairly new Lutheran Family Services organization which provides counseling services with a distinctive Lutheran / Christian emphasis for both professional church workers and for the laity of our

District's congregations. For several years, \$70,000 has been designated for "District. The balance is for Mt. Calvary's outreach through our Early Education Center, support for the Main Street Living television program, and for Lutherans for Life.

What about our "Missions" Giving to the District?

Mt. Calvary is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a denomination of approximately 6,000 congregations in the United States. The LCMS is divided into 35 districts, one of which is our own South Dakota District. There are certain ministries and missions that, because of their size, Districts and Synod are able to do on behalf of the congregations and often more efficiently than single congregations would be able to do. Those include training of pastors, teachers and other church workers, helping call and place pastors, teachers and other church workers as needed in congregations and church schools, sending and providing foreign missionaries and institutional and military chaplains, starting new congregations, providing programs and resources for established congregations as well as many other services.

The "Missions" commitment that Mt. Calvary sends to the District is used as follows:

49.4% goes to direct "Mission / Outreach" support, including support for the Synod, new mission congregation support in the district, missionaries on the Rosebud Reservation (Pastor Andrew Utecht) and on the Pine Ridge Reservation (Pastor Albert Sutton), deaf ministry support (Pastor Matthew Nix), university student ministry support (Brookings, Vermillion, Madison), and financial aid for those preparing for church work (pastors, teachers, DCEs, etc.).

26% goes to congregational services support, including Lutheran Witness subscriptions, youth and young adult services, disaster response, district conferences, workshops, and conven-

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tions, and the hospital chaplain in Sioux Falls (primarily for patients who are from congregations throughout the district outside the Sioux Falls area).

24.6% goes to administration, namely support for the district president, the assistant to the president (formerly "executive secretary"), the district business manager, the administrative assistant, and finally building and property maintenance.

Some Additional Thoughts:

Many of us are aware of verses in the Bible which speak of the offerings that God's people give. But what we may not realize is that many of those verses in the New Testament are speaking *not* primarily about the offerings that God's people are giving in support of their *local* church or gathering of believers. Rather, many of those verses are speaking about offerings which will be used for the support of Christian ministry in other locations. Specifically, as the Apostle Paul wrote his letters ("epistles") to the Romans and Corinthians, he wrote of special offerings that would be used for the relief of "the poor among the saints at Jerusalem" (cf. Romans 15:26). Take a few moments and look at these writings: Romans 15:25-26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; and 2 Corinthians 8:1 to 9:15. Then take a look at Philippians 2:1-11, and especially verses 3 and 4.

While we would all agree that the Lord's work here at Mt. Calvary is vitally important and deserves our faithful stewardship and support, we also realize that even as our Savior came not to serve Himself but to serve others and even give His life for them, so He has also called us to serve others as

well. Both as a congregation and as individual members of the congregation, one of the ways we serve others is through our mission giving. Though we may not always personally see the results, lives are being touched through the Gospel ministries we support with our mission giving, whether it be people in a new mission congregation in our district, or people hearing the Gospel through our missions on the Reservations in South Dakota, or people being served in through our District's ministry with the deaf, or people first hearing about Jesus through the foreign missions we support, or students who are receiving District aid as they prepare to be pastors, teachers, or other church workers. And there are many others as well. What a real difference our mission giving FOR OTHERS makes!



**On Sunday, October 22,
following the late service,
a Pastors' Appreciation
Potluck Lunch was held
for Pastor Kevin and Pastor Sattgast.**

**Thank you Pastors, for your
faithful service to Mt. Calvary!**

**PASTOR
APPRECIATION
POTLUCK**



Confirmation Announcement

God's richest blessings to Logan Gerrits and Chase Temme, who have completed their catechetical studies and were received into communicant membership on Sunday, October 29th.

At the Quarterly Voters' Assembly on Tuesday, October 17 the following were elected for the 2024-2025 term.

VICE PRESIDENT Roger Kropuenske
ELDER Matt Busch, Dan Florey, Chad Hanson, Ryan Vanden Berge
YOUTH CHAIR Natasha Airheart
EVANGELISM CHAIR Dan Henson
FINANCE BOARD MEMBER Rosalie Pownell, Sandy Stolt
TRUSTEE MEMBER Rod Olerud

Thank you to new officers, continuing officers, and outgoing officers for serving the Lord in this way.



Nikalus and Jocelyn Busch
 565 Jefferson Blvd
 Huron SD 57350

Danielle Geigle
 467 Hollett St
 Tracy MN 56175

Eric Price
 202 N Catalpa St
 St Lawrence SD 57373

Laurel Thomas
 3300 Stanford Rd, Apt W307
 Fort Collins CO 80525



Huron Zone Fall Rally November 12th at Mt. Calvary beginning at 2:00 p.m.

A short business meeting and election of officers will be held. Our speaker will be Ann Cruse sharing her experiences from her MOST Ministries medical mission trip to Guatemala earlier this year, and a guest speaker announcement will be in the bulletin prior to the rally.

All are welcome to join us!



Sara and I would like to thank everyone for the generous donations you have given us for our mission trip to Guatemala. We were not able to go as planned because of the civil unrest in Guatemala. We are in the process of planning our trip for March or May of next year. We received enough supplies to assemble 110 hygiene kits which will be used on our mission trip. Once again, thank you for your generous donations.

Nancy Ziegeldorf and Sara Newman

Advent by Candlelight Sunday, November 26 — 6:00 p.m.

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women of all ages to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ.

Plan now and make your reservation for an evening of entertainment and dessert. Invite your family members, friends and neighbors for a Christ-centered preparation for the holiday season. "Good News of Great Joy for All People" will be held on **Sunday, November 26, 6:00 p.m.** in Mt. Calvary's Activity Center.

There is no charge for Advent by Candlelight, but pre-registration is recommended, and we ask that you sign up on the sheet which is on the counter in the Fellowship Hall or you may RSVP by calling or texting Nancy Ziegeldorf or Kerry Niederbaumer. **Please join us!**





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



Thank you to everyone who helped with and participated in this family fun event of a spaghetti lunch and pumpkin carving on Sunday, October 15. Great fun and fellowship!





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

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. Bin in Fellowship Hall for donations. Please have your donated items in before November 5th.
- 2) **There will be a packing party for Operation Christmas Child to pack the shoebox gifts on Sunday November 5th following the 10:30 service. A lunch will be provided. All members of the congregation are invited to participate in this event.**
- 3) Take shoe boxes home to fill on your own and return, filled, by November 5th.
- 4) Donate to help cover the cost of shipping for the boxes. We will be having a door offering on Sunday, November 5th for donations toward covering the cost of postage for the Operation Christmas Child shoe box gifts. Required postage is \$10 per box.
- 5) Build a shoebox online.

On October 29th during the Sunday school hour, the Sunday School children made jump ropes from donated t-shirts to be included in the shoe boxes. Thanks to everyone that donated t-shirts, and to the Sunday School children for making the jump ropes. Thank you to Dan and Judy Henson for donating for the shoe boxes purchased for this project!

Dear Family Ministry students and parents,

Please note that we have transitioned to a new part of our Family Ministry schedule. Starting on Wednesday, October 18th anybody who is not yet receiving Communion will meet with me for three consecutive Wednesdays (other students already receiving Communion are welcome to come for review).

With that in mind, we have a couple corrections to make to the Family Ministry calendar. First, the final Lord's Supper class will take place on November 1st, not October 29th as previously indicated. Second, for those students who have not yet been receiving Communion, Lord's Supper testing and interviews will take place November 8th through November 29th, not November 1st through December 1st as previously indicated. You may schedule a time with me to do this, preferably on one of those Wednesday nights.

Some of you have also 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 mtcalvaryhuron.org/family-ministry-1. The requirement, as found in the Family Ministry handbook, is one sermon note per month. Up until recently, there was not a spot for a parent's signature on the sermon notes, but as of the new printing, 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 questions, please let me know. God's Blessings!

FAMILY MINISTRY
NEWS

Mt. Calvary Learning Center Corner

Daycare Closed

Thursday, November 23

No Preschool

Wednesday, November 22
Thursday, November 23

Coborn's Cash Register receipts are now being collected for the months of August, September, and October. There is a collection box located in the entrance of the Learning Center and in the Fellowship Hall. We would appreciate it if you could please have these receipts turned in no later than Sunday, November 5. These receipts help earn cash for our Preschool.

Fair City Register receipts are no longer being collected.

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

MT. CALVARY



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

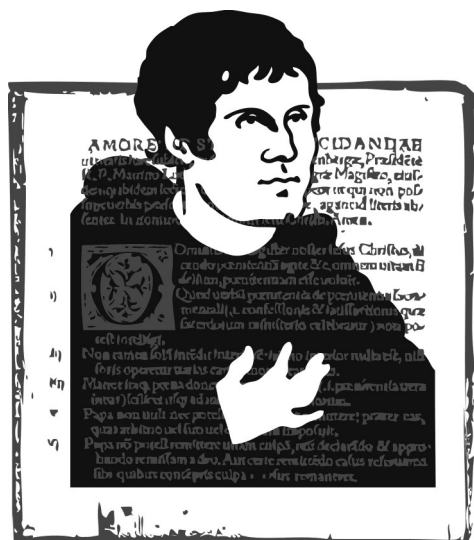
"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



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

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

**No class on Wednesday, November 22
due to the Thanksgiving Holiday break.**



**The next youth/
family fun event is on
Sunday, November 19th**

**Following second
service there will be
a German food
potluck Marty Party!**



**Open to the whole congregation,
all are encouraged to join in with the kids.
Food, games/activities, all the fun!**

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. November 17-19, 2023. 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:
\$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**



**Thanks to all who contributed to, and participated in,
the Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 29th**

"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 "

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 22
7:00 p.m.

Please Note: Kids for Christ will not meet
on Wednesday, November 22nd

Church Office will be closed November 23rd-24th

