
(Please check your phones and electronic devices to make sure they are turned off while in the Sanctuary.)

Welcome to Mt Calvary Lutheran church, and to the blessings, comfort, and peace of this congregation. As we gather, we prepare our hearts for the worship and praise of our Lord and Savior by remembering what the Scriptures say: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1 and "One thing have I asked of the Lord...that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4. Moved by such joy, before each service, the Pastors and Elders gather to pray for you.

TO OUR VISITORS

Within this congregation let no one feel a stranger. If you have no church affiliation elsewhere, we invite you to make Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran your church home. Membership is open to all who are in accord with the doctrines and practices of our church, as based on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod website has this information at <https://www.lcms.org/> Please get in touch with our Pastors for the next available new member class.

THE LORD'S EXPECTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF MT. CALVARY

In the glad confession of the Christian faith the Lord expects that every member attends Worship and the Lord's Supper faithfully. The Lord expects every member is involved in Christ-centered education, (Bible Study); The Lord expects every member to be a missionary of Christ and of the Gospel to our community; and that every member is a faithful steward and disciple for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Livestream worship services will be available Sunday mornings.

Go to <https://www.mtcalvaryhuron.org/livestream> and click on "Worship"

Worship service bulletins can be accessed at <https://www.mtcalvaryhuron.org/bulletin>

THIS SUNDAY

Order of Service:

8:00 a.m.

Divine Service Four
with Communion

Hymns:

331 vs.1,2,6; 357 vs.5; 349 v.1,4;
636; 563; 335 vs.1,2,5

Liturgist:

Pastor Koester

Lector:

Joe Airheart

Sermon:

Pastor Koester

Theme:

"Rejoice always"

Text:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

10:30 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program
—Christmas Is Jesus

387, 368, 364, 380, 379, 397, 361, 363

Pastor Koester

Sunday School Children

Pastor Koester

"Rejoice always"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

THOSE WHO SERVE IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS WEEK

Organist:

Nancy Ziegeldorf

Karla Sawvell

Tech Support:

Logan Gerrits

Larry Williams

Greeters:

Joe Airheart

Chad Hanson

Communion Assistants: Joe Airheart, Len Wonnemberg

A STATEMENT OF OUR PRACTICE OF CLOSE COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. 1 Corinthians 10:14ff. Our Lord invites to His table those who repent of all their sins and who trust His words, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:29) and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, (1 Corinthians 10:15-18) any who are not yet instructed in this faith, who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with one of the Pastors in his office prior to the service. Visitors who have previously spoken with one of the Pastors, and who received permission to commune, do not need to seek permission for subsequent visits to the altar.

Dear members of Mt. Calvary,

If I have my history correct, you will be witnessing a first for Mt. Calvary today. Several young Christians will be going through the "Rite of First Communion prior to Confirmation." This means that, although they are not yet confirmed, they will be receiving Communion along with the rest of us. Although this rite has not been used by Mt. Calvary before, it has been used by many other LCMS congregations, including my home congregation (Zion in Hopkins, MN). Rest assured that they have been prepared and examined to determine their readiness for this momentous day. All of them know that they are receiving the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. As St. Paul wrote to Timothy "let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Finally, I would like to express my regret that other students did not get to participate in a special day like this and were not publicly recognized. This is our first full year going through the new Family Ministry program and therefore, our first time doing everything that we have laid out. Within the last few years, other students started receiving Communion as they were deemed ready, but they simply started going through the continuous line mostly unnoticed. If you are one of those students, please know that I rejoice with you just as much as I do these who will be recognized today.



In Christ, Pastor Kevin

PARISH PRAYERS

- ◊ Remember all first responders, emergency personnel, healthcare workers, firefighters, and all members of law enforcement, as well as their families.
- ◊ Remember those affected by disaster and war, especially the soldiers and citizens of Israel and Ukraine.
- ◊ Remember victims of violence, persecution, and the families of Christian martyrs.
- ◊ Remember those who have been hospitalized or have special needs:

Debbie Jungemann

Allen Shultz

Cindy Alter

Amanda Wood

Gary Doering

Brad Bader

Mike and Lois Frank

JoAnn Schley

William Quiram

Al Merriam

(prayers continued on next page)

(prayers continued from previous page)

Roger and Sharon Korkow-friends of the congregation

Roger Wonnenberg-father of Leonard Wonnenberg

Elwood Vanden Berge-father of Ryan Vanden Berge

Lois Houck-mother of Shawn Adermann

Myles and Royce Hupp- sons of Trevor and Kelsey Hupp

Dan Kelley-uncle of Bill Eining and cousin of the Schley family

Steven Lockhart-brother of Claudia Johnson

Earl Bult-stepson of Charles Pieschke

Mykaila Soloman-granddaughter of Claudia Johnson

◇ Prayer of Thanksgiving: **for the marriage of Kaegan and Kameryn (Haeder) Plumb on December 9th**

Dear Mt. Calvary members and friends,

After the first of the year, we will be refreshing the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would like your name, or the name of a friend or family member, to remain on the prayer list, please contact the church office before January 1st.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

Remember in your prayers all those serving in our military, and their families, especially:

Amyah Greene-Army National Guard-granddaughter of Randy and Nancy Ziegeldorf

MSG David Maas-109th RSG-SD National Guard-Rapid City-deployed to Iraq-brother of Ann Cruse

Dustin Murphy, Army JAG, serving in North Carolina-nephew of Dennis and Kathy Mead

Tyler Kludt, pilot for the Iowa Air National Guard-grandson of Melanie Kludt

Sgt Gene Dennis, 665th Support Maintenance Company (SMC) out of Mitchell.

Sgt Justin Frank, SDARNG Med Command.

Cpl. Kuper Heck, U.S. Marine, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA-family member of DeMeris Marone.

David Siedschlag, serving in the Army-nephew of Jay and Mandy Siedschlag.

Paul, U.S. Marine-family member of Donna and Ken Schley

Aric Birkeland, serving in the Air Force Reserve in Virginia.

SSgt Joshua Bartel, Army Reserve, 1-383rd TSBN in Des Moines.

PFC Kevin Kayser, serving in the SD Army National Guard 147th A Co.

Madison Pfitzer, serving in the SD Army National Guard.

Timothy Johnson, Navy Seabee stationed in Illinois.

Dallas McLeod, Army Aviation Maintenance Manager, Fort Campbell, KY.

**Pray
for Our
Military**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 during 10:30 a.m. worship service.

A lunch of barbecues and hotdogs, chips, and milk will be served following the program. Families are asked to bring cookies to share.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: *The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness* When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Isaiah 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24).

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERIES: Beginning on Wednesday evening, December 6, and for the following two Wednesdays, our Midweek Advent Services will be using the theme “Our Advent Journey.” We will be looking at three towns or cities that served major roles in the coming, or “advent”, of our Savior Jesus, as well as some of the people who also were most important in the story of Jesus’ birth and ministry. Beginning with the once insignificant village of Nazareth in Galilee, we will travel to Judea and the historic and important city of Jerusalem, and then conclude in the small town of Bethlehem, the “City of David.” Please be sure to set aside time this Advent Season and join us on this special “journey.”



"Our Advent Journey"

Sunday, Dec. 17 is the third Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, Dec. 20

6:00 p.m. Supper—goulash and green beans served by the Youth

6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service—*Bethlehem*

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Donations can be made through Sunday, December 17th for poinsettias to decorate the altar and chancel area in celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Please leave your donation at the church or put it in an envelope marked “Poinsettia Fund” and place it in the offering plate.

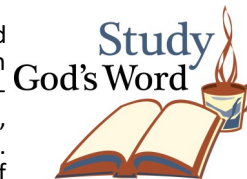
Checks may be made payable to LWML.

If you would like to take a poinsettia plant home after the Christmas services please note that with your donation.

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please write the name(s) on your “Poinsettia Fund” envelope or include a note.



Sunday Morning 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

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 at 9:15 a.m. in the Boardroom. 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!

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



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Dear Family Ministry students and parents,

In the month of December, students in the 8th grade and above class should watch for worksheets to be posted to the Family Ministry page. These worksheets will help you to review the Ten Commandments and prepare for the test. The 8th grade and above class will meet in-person again on January 10th. The 6th and 7th grade class will also have one more class with Roger Kropuenske on January 10th. Please refer to the Family Ministry Calendar for further schedule details.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mt. Calvary? Would you like to refresh your memory on Lutheran teaching and the Catechism? Starting on January 4th, we will be offering new member classes. We will meet on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. for 8 classes total. Our schedule will vary slightly depending on weather and other factors, but we invite you to attend if this is of interest to you. Even if you are already a member, you are welcome to come. Kids are also welcome. In Christ, Pastor Kevin



BLESSED BY MEANS OF GRACE

Weekend Worship: 167

Bible Study: 67

Sunday School: 27

Midweek Advent Worship: 81

Dec. Offerings:	Weekly Need	1st Weekend	2nd Weekend	3rd Weekend	4th Weekend	5th Weekend
General	\$ 6,529 Revised 7/18/2023	\$ 5,503	\$ 5,274	\$	\$	\$
Mission	\$ 1,721	\$ 1,464	\$ 1,700	\$	\$	\$
Building	\$ 192	\$ 70	\$ 115	\$	\$	\$
Preschool	\$	\$ 335	\$ 200	\$	\$	\$

Budgets are guidelines for what the church may need weekly for financing. Actual expenses could be more or less. Thank you for your support of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church because without it we would not have a church. When you give, consider how the Lord has blessed you.

	General	Building	Missions
Cash Available Jan 1, 2023	\$ 84,019.40	\$47,625.78	(\$15,137.44)
2023 Year to Date Net Cash Flow	<u>\$ 16,756.96</u>	<u>\$ 4,448.18</u>	<u>\$17,734.35</u>
Change in A/R 2023	\$ (4,790.14)		
Cash Available Nov. 30, 2023	\$100,776.36	\$52,073.96	\$ 2,596.91

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.

Mt. Calvary Council



We had a great turnout for caroling! Thank you so much to everyone that came. We made a lot of visits, but we hope to make even more next year, with oodles of carolers in tow! We touched more than a few hearts and there were tears of joy at the Christmas message. As it says in Isaiah 49:13, "Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the LORD comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones." His compassion to us comes in Emmanuel, "God with us."

Thank you to everyone who supported the Learning Center Fall Harvest Festival on Sunday, December 3rd. It was well attended, the program was wonderful, everyone enjoyed the walking taco meal and the live auction was a great success! We appreciate you all!



This Week in the Parish

Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, December 17	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service In-Person/Livestream	Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School Opening (PS-6th grade) (then to basement classrooms after the opening)	Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School for 7th grade and above	Boardroom
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study In-Person/Livestream	Fellowship Hall
	10:30 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program In-Person/Livestream	Sanctuary
	Following the program a lunch of barbecues and hotdogs, chips, and milk will be served. Families are asked to bring cookies to share.		
Monday, December 18	Pastor Kevin's Day Off		
Wednesday, December 20	10:00 a.m.	Chapel with a volunteer	Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	Chapel with a volunteer	Sanctuary
	5:15 p.m.	Kids for Christ	Basement
	-6:15 p.m.	for Kindergarten through 5th grades	Classrooms
	6:00 p.m.	Advent Supper—goulash served by Youth	Fellowship Hall
	6:45 p.m.	Hymn Sing	Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship Service In-Person/Livestream	Sanctuary

Christmas — New Year's Eve Worship Schedules

Sunday, December 17

10:30 a.m. **Children's Christmas Program**
With Meal to Follow

Sunday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

9:30 a.m. **Worship Service**
3:30 p.m. **Candle Light Service**
5:30 p.m. **Candle Light Service**

Monday, December 25 — Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. **Worship Service with Communion**

Sunday, December 31 — New Year's Eve

8:00 a.m. **Worship Service with Communion**
10:30 a.m. **Worship Service with Communion**
7:00 p.m. **Worship Service with Communion**

