

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve

(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: Divine Service Setting Four
Hymns: 354, 357 vs.7, 353, 356
Special Music:
Liturgist: Pastor Sattgast
Lector: Ryan Vanden Berge
Sermon: Pastor Sattgast
Theme: The Mystery Revealed
Text: Romans 16:25-27

3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Candlelight Services

379, 367, 392, 368, 361, 363, 364
Still, Still, Still —Wetzler
Pastor Koester
Ralph Borkowski, Len Wonnenberg
Pastor Koester
"True Love"
1 John 4:7-16

Donations for the poinsettia plants were given by many in memory of loved ones. List is on page 4.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS WEEK

Organist: Karla Sawvell
Tech Support: Larry Williams
Greeters: Ryan Vanden Berge

Julie Kropuenske
Logan Gerrits, Larry Williams
Ralph Borkowski, Len Wonnenberg

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 whose loved one has died: **family of Dan Kelley**-uncle of Bill Eining and cousin of the Schley family
- ◇ Remember those who have been hospitalized or have special needs:

Brad Bader

Allen Shultz

Mike and Lois Frank

Cindy Alter

JoAnn Schley

Amanda Wood

William Quiram

Gary Doering

Al Merriam

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

Steven Lockhart-brother of Claudia Johnson

Earl Bult-stepson of Charles Pieschke

Mykaila Soloman-granddaughter of Claudia Johnson

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:

PFC Kaegan Plumb-US Marines, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA-husband of Kameryn Plumb

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**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: *The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh*
When King David *"lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,"* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Samuel 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, *"conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary"* (Apostles' Creed). That holy child, the incarnate *"Son of the Most High,"* receives *"the throne of his father David"* and begins to reign *"over the house of Jacob forever"* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *"the mystery that was kept secret for long ages"* but is now *"made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God"* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Romans 16:25–26).

CHRISTMAS EVE: *The Word of the Lord Is Fulfilled in the Flesh of Jesus* Though Ahaz would not ask, the Lord gives a sign to the House of David — *"the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel"* (Isaiah 7:14). With this promise, He signifies that salvation is by His grace alone. It is no work or achievement of man, but the Lord's own work and His free gift. The promise is fulfilled as the Son of God is conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, and the sign is received in faith by the House of David in the person of Joseph (Matthew 1:20–24). *"Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary"* (Nicene Creed), God is with us (*Immanuel*) in the flesh of Jesus, Mary's Son. Joseph believes that Word of God and so demonstrates a marvelous example in his immediate and quiet obedience, taking Mary to be his wife and caring for her in faith and love. He loves her because the love of God is manifest in this, that *"the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world,"* to be *"the propitiation for our sins"* (1 John 4:10–14).

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Christmas Poinsettia Fund.

Donations were given in memory of:

- Their parents by Ben & Judy Boetel
- Ed and Martha Schilling, Gladys Schilling by Sandy & Dennis Schilling
- Ralph and Helen Hindman by Vicki Harmdierks
- Hunter Ziegeldorf by Randy & Nancy Ziegeldorf
- Ryan Wenz by Barbara Wenz
- Duane Frank, Eldon and Burdette Whites by Nancy Frank
- Lawerance Fuerst, Lila Fuerst, Daniel Fuerst, Cornelia Hagge, Ralph Hagge by Dean & Susan Fuerst
- Jim and Ruby Johannsen by Sandy & Dennis Schilling, and Roger & Julie Kropuenske
- Erin Schmidt, James Lloyd Schmidt, Daniel Hovland by Tammy & Wayne Cramer
- Wes and Clarice Rounds, Hillard Peskey, Brent Verch, Russell Dillon by their family

Additional donations were received anonymously. Thanks to all!





All 2023 Congregational Officers

A reminder to have the annual recaps for your boards submitted to the church office no later than December 29th to allow time for the Annual Report to be printed prior to the Voter's Assembly in January.

The sign up sheets of the 2024 list of volunteers that are coordinated by the LWML are on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. It takes many hands to complete the mission work that we do in our church and for our community. Please consider signing up for one of the many jobs that are listed. **You do not need to be an LWML member to volunteer!!** If you have questions, please talk to Kerry Niederbaumer..



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

Reminder to Congregational Officers for 2024:

All officers, new and continuing, will be installed during worship services on Sunday, January 7th.

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, Matt Busch, Dan Florey, Chad Hanson, Wayne Jungemann, Ryan Vanden Berge.

TRUSTEE, CHAIRMAN: Glenn Overbay.

TRUSTEE, MEMBERS: Stuart Adermann, Trevor Gerrits, Rod Olerud.

STEWARDSHIP/WELFARE, CHAIRMAN: Bill Eining.

FINANCE SECRETARY: Julie Kropuenske.

FINANCE BOARD MEMBERS: Jan Gerrits, Rosalie Pownell, Sandy Stolt.

PARISH EDUCATION, CHAIR: Susan Fuerst.

YOUTH, CHAIR: Natasha Airheart.

EVANGELISM, CHAIRMAN: Dan Henson.

Installation of Officers

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

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



Remember, no Kids for Christ class on Wednesday, December 27th.

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 final 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 and then discuss options for staying sharp until they have classes again in April. Please refer to the Family Ministry Calendar for further schedule details.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, there will be some special times in our worship services for each of our 4th and 5th grade students to receive a brand new Lutheran Study Bible.

These Study Bibles will serve them personally and in their studies as they move into the Family Ministry Program on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. The transition will be gradual at first, since they will have the same teacher as they might have had while they were in Kids 4 Christ, but as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:2, there comes a time when every Christian needs to be moved along the path from milk to solid food.

We would appreciate your presence at one of these worship services and your participation in these first steps of discipleship. You may RSVP by emailing Pastor Kevin. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone that participated in, and contributed to, the success of the Sunday School Christmas Program and meal on Sunday, December 17th.

BLESSED BY MEANS OF GRACE

Weekend Worship: 185

Bible Study: NA

Sunday School: 32

Midweek Advent Worship: 94

| 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 | \$ 7,421 | \$ | \$ |
| Mission | \$ 1,721 | \$ 1,464 | \$ 1,700 | \$ 1,996 | \$ | \$ |
| Building | \$ 192 | \$ 70 | \$ 115 | \$ 193 | \$ | \$ |
| Preschool | \$ | \$ 335 | \$ 200 | \$ 290 | \$ | \$ |

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."

Mt. Calvary will be delivering meals Jan. 29-Feb. 2

Delivering meals for the Senior Center is a meaningful volunteer opportunity for community outreach. It takes approximately one hour each day.

If you have questions contact Dan Henson.



This Week in the Parish

| Day | Time | Event | Location |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday, December 24 | <u>Christmas Eve</u> | | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Worship Service In-Person/Livestream | Sanctuary |
| | There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study | | |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Candlelight Worship Service In-Person/Livestream | Sanctuary |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Candlelight Worship Service In-Person/Livestream | Sanctuary |
| Monday, December 25 | <u>Christmas Day</u> | | |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Christmas Morning Worship Service In-Person/Livestream | Sanctuary |
| | Church Office Closed—Pastor Kevin leaving after Worship Service | | |
| | Daycare Closed—No Preschool | | |
| Tuesday, December 26 | Pastor Kevin on Christmas Break | | |
| | No Preschool | | |
| Wednesday, December 27 | Pastor Kevin on Christmas Break | | |
| | No Preschool | | |
| Thursday, December 27 | Pastor Kevin on Christmas Break | | |
| | No Preschool | | |

Christmas — New Year's Eve Worship Schedules

Sunday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

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

