



# Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

January 2024

## January "Blah"s

By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Savior, the One Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days! I pray that God would allow you to continue marveling and wondering at the miracle of God in the flesh, sent to save us from our sins. May you continue to marvel and wonder, not only throughout the remaining days of this Christmas season and throughout the season of Epiphany, but always.

Some of the words of my introduction sound like something that you might find in a Hallmark movie or on a festive Christmas card or in the mouths of certain people as they talk about Christmas. I recently found out that one of my relatives likes Hallmark movies and of course, I had to give her a little bit of a hard time. After all, with most of those movies, you can tell the plot from a mile away. Business woman climbing the corporate ladder comes home for Christmas and meets the down-to-earth farm boy. At first, they are at each other's throats, but after a while, they start to like each other. Usually, here's a meaningful scene with snow falling and soft music playing in the background.

Although these kinds of movies aren't really my cup of tea, I guess it's to each their own. And interestingly, many people do talk about the sense of wonderment or "magic" that comes with Christmas. They talk about fresh snow falling on Christmas Eve. They talk about the perfectly decorated tree lit up at night. They talk about kids running downstairs on Christmas morning. They talk about Santa Claus coming down the chimney and retreating to his sleigh with flying reindeer.

Obviously, as Christians, we know that this isn't where our sense of wonder at Christmas is supposed to come from. There is plenty of wonder to be had in the account of Jesus' birth and the account of the events that led up to it. Only a handful of people in history have received a message from an angel. Never before had a child been born of a virgin. The creator of the universe was wrapped in swaddling clothes to prevent Him from getting cold. All the fullness of God dwells

in that helpless babe. And this Christ child would save His people from all of their sins.

Although the cheap, counterfeit wonder draws many in, many are still brought in by the real wonder that comes from the manger. That wonderment draws those who would not normally come to worship. That wonderment causes people to visit the place where we hear good news of great joy that will be for all people. Perhaps this will be the only time that they worship in this calendar year, but somehow, they know the importance of the Christmas message.

The problem with counterfeit wonder is that once the Christmas tree comes down, once the stockings are removed, once the newly-opened presents are stowed away, all the wonder and specialness has seemed to go away. I suppose, if you stake your sense of wonder on Santa Claus, your wonder really has gone away. Or maybe it was never there to begin with.

Many, in the days following the holidays, experience what many experts call the "January blues," but I'd like to invent a new term, if I could. I think many people suffer from something that I am going to call the "January blahs." For those who only attend at Christmas and Easter, they go back to their lives, thinking that the specialness has gone away. But even for those who attend regularly, this seems to sometimes be the case. The decorations come down and everything seems to be humdrum.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Recently, I was reminded of something that we have in worship that is most definitely not humdrum. In December, we had an interesting mix of events during our worship services and it just so happened that on the same day as the Christmas program, some of our young people got their first chance to receive the Lord's Supper. In January, there will be a couple more who do the same thing.

As I taught them about the Lord's Supper, I stressed what a huge deal this was to be receiving it for the first time. I may have even made them more nervous than they needed to be. Throughout the classes, I stressed that this truly is Jesus' body

*(continued on page 2)*

A GREAT  
& MIGHTY  
Wonder



(Continued from page 1)

and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of their sins. I told them that they needed to be repentant of their sins and receive the sacrament in faith, lest they receive the Lord's Supper to their great harm. However, I also stressed how wonderful this gift of God is. Christ is truly present, right there in the palm of their hand. It truly does bring the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' body and blood is spiritual medicine for the soul.

By receiving this blessed gift now, rather than later when they are confirmed, these young Christians will hopefully develop a deep appreciation and see why Communion helps them along the way. We realized that having early Communion is not for everybody. We would not force anyone to do this, but for these kids and their parents who had made the choice to go ahead with it, it was a beautiful and reverent moment. As those young Christians stood up there in front of the rail, extending their hands to receive the gift they had learned about, they stood in front of our beautifully decorated Christmas trees and a sanctuary full of meaningful Christmas images. It struck me how the wonder of Christmas and the wonder of the Lord's Supper were intersecting.

The Lord's Supper is sacred and so is the Word that we hear in worship, whether at Christmas time or not.

As pastor, one of my favorite titles is "steward of God's sacred mysteries." I told the kids so, as I was teaching them. God has entrusted me with a Word and Sacrament ministry and I must be respectful, reverent, and full of wonderment as I handle the things of God, while making sure that others do the same.

So, don't tell me that the wonder and specialness of what God is doing has somehow gone away, because Christmas Day is past. As it says in 2 Timothy 3:15, "*from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.*" Timothy's childhood did not consist of only a day or a couple days a year when things were really special. His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice passed on their sincere faith to him every day as he was prepared for ministry in God's holy church. I pray that it would be the same for you, as you strive to never take the things of God for granted.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kevin

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,  
As we all celebrate the birth of our Savior, I wanted to express my heartfelt thankfulness for all of the wonderful cards, gifts, and kind words for Christmas. Mt. Calvary has always been extraordinarily generous to me and this year was no different. I am blessed to serve the people here, knowing that I am loved and appreciated.

In Christ, Pastor Kevin



Dear Members of Mt. Calvary;  
Thank you to all of you who remembered us this Christmas with your cards, your generous gifts, and your personal expressions of Christmas greetings and thanks. It truly has been a joy to help out at Mt. Calvary over the past several months. We thank you all and pray God's many blessings as together we make our journey of faith under God's blessings and in the grace of Jesus!

-- Pastor and Debbie Sattgast

**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!**





**2024 officers will be installed during worship services on Sunday, January 7th.**

## Installation of 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, 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.

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

### Voters Meeting



**Quarterly  
Voters' Assembly  
is Tuesday, January 30  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Important  
to Attend!**



The Board of Stewardship would like to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** for your 2023 Time, Talent, and Financial Support. Mount Calvary is extremely blessed to be partnered with you through Christian Stewardship. Christian Stewardship is a free and joyous activity of God's family – the church – in managing life's resources for His purposes.

Mount Calvary has incredible youth and adult stewards that spend countless hours making Mount Calvary a joyous place for fellowship and worship. All glory and thanks be to God!

Your servants in Christ, Board of Stewardship

**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



### 2023 Statements

**Your 2023 Offering Statements will be in the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall by January 31st.**

**If you would like yours mailed to your home please contact the church office.**

**(605)352-7121**

2024 Offering Envelopes have been placed in the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that mailboxes have been rearranged slightly but are in alphabetical order by last name. If you are unable to locate yours please let us know.

**If you would like your offering envelopes mailed please contact the church office.  
(605)352-7121**

If anyone did not receive a box, but would like one please contact the church office.



**New  
Offering  
Envelopes**

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





## CHANGE of ADDRESS

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Jay Stickley  
1070 15th St. Apt. 2B  
Huron SD 57350

### Mt. Calvary will deliver 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.**



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 6:00 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



## MT. CALVARY



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

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!**

### 51ST ANNUAL HOUR OF REFLECTION

**JAN. 28, 2024 @ 2 P.M.  
CAPITOL ROTUNDA**

*The Sanctity of Human Life*

**DALE BARTSCHER**  
SDRTL EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR - EMCEE

**BISHOP DEGROOD**  
DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**JON HANSEN**  
LIFE DEFENSE FUND  
WALK FOR LIFE LEADER

**MUSICAL GUEST:**  
SDRTL  
ASSOC. DIRECTOR  
JENN LEE

**Walk for Life 12 - 1 p.m.**  
 State Capitol Grounds - Pierre  
**Grand Marshalls:**  
 SD Pregnancy Resource  
 Centers

**SD Right to Life, 1107 Mt. Rushmore RD, Suite 1-B, Rapid City, SD 57701**







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

A number of hardy souls braved the cold on Friday, November 24th for the Mt. Calvary Parade of Lights float!



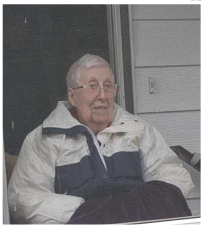




## Children — Youth — Family Ministry at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

We had a great turnout for caroling on December 10th! 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."



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Preschool through 6th grade will go to the 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!



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

**Christmas Is Jesus**



*"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



**Wednesdays — Kids for Christ meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m.**

**Kindergarten through fifth grade students January 3rd and 10th.**

**Kindergarten through third grade students January 17th and going forward.**

**4th and 5th grade students transition to Family Ministry starting January 17th.**

Dear Family Ministry students and parents,

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.

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS



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 for 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!**

In Christ, Pastor Kevin

**National Lutheran Schools Week  
is January 21-26**

# 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"

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK 2024



**CONNECTED**

JOHN 15:1-5



[lcms.org/lutheran/schoolsweek](https://lcms.org/lutheran/schoolsweek) [lcms.org/schoolministry](https://lcms.org/schoolministry)

*"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 "

## January Dates to Remember:

**Wednesday, January 3 — Kids for Christ—Kindergarten through fifth grade students meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m.**

**Thursday, January 4 — New Member Class at 6:00 p.m.—class will run for 8 classes total**

**Sunday, January 7 — Installation of 2024 Officers at both worship services**

**Wednesday, January 10 — Kids for Christ—Kindergarten through fifth grade students meets.**  
**(from 5:15-6:15 p.m.)      Family Ministry—6th and 7th grades will have class with Roger Kropuenske.**  
**Family Ministry—8th grade and above class will meet in-person again.**  
Please refer to the Family Ministry Calendar for further schedule details.

**Sunday, January 14 — 4th and 5th grade students receive Bibles during worship service—RSVP to Pastor Kevin**

**Wednesday, January 17 — Kids for Christ—Kindergarten through third grade students and going forward.**  
**(from 5:15-6:15 p.m.)      4th and 5th grade students transition to Family Ministry starting January 17th.**

**Sunday, January 21 — Kickoff of National Lutheran Schools Week—January 21-26**

**Monday-Friday, January 29-February 2 — Mt. Calvary delivers Meals on Wheels**

**Tuesday, January 30 — Quarterly Voters' Assembly—Important to Attend!**