



# Journal

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

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins"

March 2024

## Good Luck

**By Rev. Kevin Koester, Associate Pastor**

Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! It's hard to believe that it is already March. I just recently took down my Christmas and Epiphany decorations and now, we find ourselves in the middle of Lent and headed toward an early Easter.

Since I was a bit late in taking down my decorations, I had to make some interesting choices. Valentine's Day had already passed, so I wouldn't be putting anything up for that. However, I debated whether or not I wanted to put my Easter decorations up already. The Lutheran pastor in me said "No way! It's Lent! Don't use the 'A' word!" However, realistically, I knew that if I waited, I would become busy with Lent and Holy Week and then, when Easter finally came, I wouldn't have anything up.

There was another question that popped into my mind as I was rooting through boxes of decorations. Did I want to put anything up for St. Patrick's Day? I had a few green things that would fit the theme of the day, including a sign with an Irish blessing/prayer/proverb which says "May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door."

As you might guess, I keep this near one of the doors of my house this time of year. I had to look around quite a bit before finding a decoration that I liked, because a lot of the St. Patrick's Day messaging doesn't really jive with what we believe as Christians. On St. Patrick's Day, you are encouraged to wear green or risk getting yourself pinched. You hear a lot about leprechauns and pots of gold. And you see lots of four-leaf clovers, which are believed by many to bring good luck to those who possess them.

As with many of the holidays that our American society celebrates, St. Patrick's Day has taken on a life of its own.

Just like Easter became associated with the Easter bunny and Valentine's Day with Cupid, St. Patrick's Day has absorbed its own mascots, traditions, beliefs, and even, theology.

You might have heard a little bit about the original St. Patrick. The reason why we have a day dedicated to him is because of the Church and her numerous feast days for notable saints. You may say that this sounds like a Catholic thing to observe days for notable saints, but this is something that the

*(continued on page 2)*



Dear members and friends of Mt. Calvary,

At the quarterly voter's meeting on January 30th, Mt. Calvary extended me a call to be sole pastor.

In our worship services on February 4th, I announced that the Lord has led me to accept the call to serve as sole pastor of Mt. Calvary. I will be installed as sole pastor in March. Thank you to all those who have been praying for me and expressing your support!

As my confirmation verse, Acts 20:24, says "my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

*In Christ, Pastor Kevin*

**Rev. Kevin Koester will be Installed  
as Sole Pastor of Mt. Calvary  
during both worship services on  
Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**District President Sailer will be preaching at  
both services and will lead Bible study.**

**A potluck meal will be held in the Activity Center  
following the second service.**



**Installation**





(Continued from page 1)

Lutheran Church has done for a long time and something that some LCMS churches still do to this day. The only difference is that we recognize that these saints are nothing more than people, sinners like us. These saints are not to be prayed to or even used as an intermediary between us and God. As it says in Romans 5, we have access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, we recognize that God works through people and that He has continuously done so throughout all of history. Sometimes, we can start to think that God stopped using people after all the apostles died out, but throughout the centuries, God has used countless missionaries, pastors, leaders, and most of all, regular people, to spread the Gospel. This is something that is worth celebrating, even if we don't want to take our reverence for saints too far.

The story of St. Patrick is remarkable (and not just because he supposedly drove all the snakes from the Emerald Isle). You see, when he was a teenager, he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. After six years, Patrick escaped and was later ordained as a priest. In an unexpected twist, God sent him back to Ireland, where he had been a slave, to preach the Gospel to a land of pagans. It must have been nerve-racking for him to do this, but he was more successful than he could have ever imagined. Today, Ireland is one of the highest-percentage Christian nations in the world and St. Patrick is the patron saint of the land that once imprisoned him.

If you were going to see St. Patrick off on his first voyage back to Ireland, you might have been tempted to tell him "good luck." Because, after all, that's what everybody seems to say when you have something big that you have to go and do. We say it without even a second thought. It has become an expression of good will and nice wishes and support.

I think St. Patrick would be confused to see how luck has come to be associated with his holiday. After all, think about what a phrase like "good luck" implies. Basically, it says that

everything is random. Sometimes, good things happen. Sometimes, bad things happen. But there's really no rhyme or reason for why things happen the way that they do. So, you just hope that more good things than bad things happen to you, while you are here. It basically means that there is no one in control of anything.

St. Patrick believed that God was present with him in everything that he did. He was a fierce defender of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and one of his most famous prayers was "Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me." And if Patrick were here today, he might say something like "I don't need luck, because I have Jesus."

If we think about it, the Bible doesn't teach luck. Did Joseph just happen to be sold into slavery and rise to be Vizier of Egypt? No, it was so his family could be saved from famine and later on, so God could show His power in front of the nations. Joseph, in Genesis 50:20 says "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." And did Esther just happen to become Queen of Persia? No, it was so Haman's plot could be foiled and the promise of a Savior could be preserved. One of the most famous verses in that book is Esther 4:14, which says "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Although we sometimes question why things happen the way that they do, we know that we have a God Who cares and a God Who is constantly working for the good of His people.

We do not have to fear the cold, loveless nature of random chance. God knows us. He never forgets us. Isaiah 49 says that He has "written our names on the palm of His hand." The palm would be the very same place where the nails would be driven. Jesus' palms would be one of the sights that Doubting Thomas would be amazed to see.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kevin

## St. Patrick





Jessica Howard  
1115 Dakota Ave S  
Huron SD 57350

Tanner Marone  
880 10th St SW  
Huron SD 57350

Debra Olerud  
388 24th St SW  
Huron SD 57350

**WELCOME**  
*New Member*

Jared Cook  
325 E 1st Ave  
Miller, SD 57362

### Reminder - Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars® by March 31

If you have a qualified connection to a Thrivent Financial insurance or annuity product you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars® to direct to our church each year. Thrivent Choice Dollars® can make a profound impact. In 2023 Mt. Calvary received \$4,089 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. Directing Choice Dollars® costs Thrivent members nothing, but is a gift by Thrivent, to support recipients. Directing dollars is as simple as calling the Thrivent organization at 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Thrivent Choice options.



**FAREWELL &  
Godspeed**

Bob, Donell, and Thomas  
Mayfield

527 Ohio Ave SW  
Huron, SD 57350  
have transferred to  
St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Wolsey, South Dakota

Matthew Mayfield  
3051 Maple Valley Dr Apt 104  
Madison, WI 53719  
has transferred to  
St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Wolsey, South Dakota

Todd and Lisa Nelson  
564A W 9th St  
New Richmond, WI 54017  
have transferred to  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church,  
New Richmond, Wisconsin

Dareld and Karen Schley  
40492 210th St  
Huron, SD 57350  
have transferred to  
St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Wolsey, South Dakota

Paige Snyder  
PO Box 28  
Wessington, SD 57381  
has transferred to  
St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Wolsey, South Dakota



## LUTHERAN WITNESS SURVEY

Please complete the survey below and return.

At the 1976 District Convention, a resolution was passed that the blanket subscription for the Lutheran Witness for our entire District be provided and paid for by each congregation. The congregations of the District have dutifully provided subscriptions for all of their households for many decades but recently the cost has increased significantly. The cost of the subscription has risen from \$11.25 in 2022 to \$20 for 2024 and has become too much to bear for some of the Churches in our District.

Consequently, in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023, the District Board of Directors asked each Church in our District to vote on whether to continue the resolution from the 1976 District Convention or to rescind it. The vote by the majority of the Churches within the District was to rescind it. Therefore, the last Lutheran Witness your household will receive will be in March, 2024.

We do have some alternatives moving forward for continuing the Lutheran Witness and wanted to get input from the members of our congregation on how we should proceed. We request that you complete the following survey and leave it off at the Church Office or mail it to the Church Office using the envelope in the monthly newsletter.

☐ **Have our Church purchase the Lutheran Witness at the bulk rate and have it available to pick up or distribute at the Church. (approximately \$20 per year per subscription)**

☐ **Let each household purchase the Lutheran Witness subscription themselves and have it mailed to their home. (approximately \$25 per year)**

☐ **Don't have our Church purchase the Lutheran Witness. The option for each household to purchase it would still be available.**



## LENTEN SERIES

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and for the following five Wednesdays, our Midweek Lenten Services are using a theme of the seven words of Jesus on the cross. After our Wednesday Lenten services have concluded, we will focus on the seventh word for Good Friday.

Using the seven words of Christ from the cross is a Lenten practice that has been done at many times and in many different places throughout Christendom. However, we might be puzzled as to why they are called "the seven words." Sometimes, in the Bible, when it says "word," it doesn't mean one singular word, but rather a statement. For example, the Ten Commandments are sometimes known as the Ten Words. In the same way, Jesus makes seven statements from the cross.

Each of these statements of Jesus is rich with meaning and can easily be expounded upon in a sermon. We hope that reflecting on these precious words from Christ's lips help you to see what He has done for you and for all of us.

### "The Seven Words"

Wednesday, Feb. 14 - **Ash Wednesday**

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"Father, Forgive Them"**

Wednesday, Feb. 21

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"With Me....In Paradise"**

Wednesday, Feb. 28

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"Here is Your Son...Here is Your Mother"**

Wednesday, Mar. 6

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"Why Have You Forsaken Me?"**

Wednesday, Mar. 13

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"I Am Thirsty"**

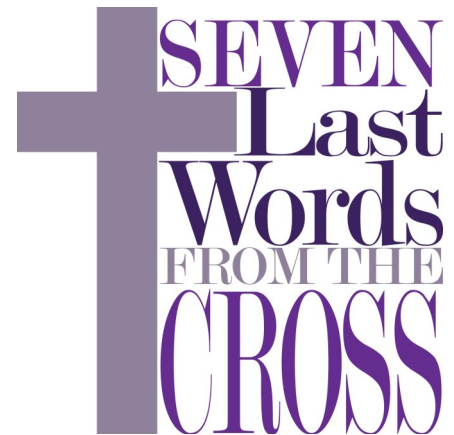
Wednesday, Mar. 20

7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service— **"It Is Finished"**

Friday, Mar. 29 - **Good Friday**

12:10 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service— **"Father, Into Thy Hand I Commit My Spirit"**

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service— **"Father, Into Thy Hand I Commit My Spirit"**



### Palm Cross Assembly

Please join us on Saturday morning, March 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to help assemble crosses for Palm Sunday. Don't know how to fold a cross? We'll be happy to teach you. Your help is appreciated.

### Easter Lily Donations

During Lent no flowers are placed on the altar. On Easter, lily plants will decorate the altar. If you would like to donate to the purchase of lilies for the altar you may put your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Lilies" and place it in the offering plate, put it in the mailbox by the church office, or mail to the church. If the donation is given in memory of loved ones, please write the name(s) on the envelope. Checks may be made payable to LWML.

**Palm Sunday, March 24 is the deadline. Thank you.**







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

Everybody enjoyed watching the movie together on February 18th! The popcorn and goodies were yummy treats and "Overcomer" gets a thumbs up rating from our Mt. Calvary kids and families. As it said in the movie, our identity is found in Christ. *"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."* 1 John 5:5.



*"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."* Mark 10:14





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



March is coming! And that means madness on courts all around the country! Since it's been a while between volleyball and basketball games at Mt. Calvary, we thought we would change that.

**At 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to showcase your skills in front of your church family or come be amazed at the athletic talents God has given.**

Even if you're not very tall or can't jump very high, we still think you'll have fun. We will provide some snacks as well. Invite your friends! Hope to see you there!



## Save the Date!

**This year's VBS  
will be held June 2-6**

The theme will be "The Great Jungle Journey"  
from Answers in Genesis



The Super Bowl Sub sales and the bake sale on Sunday, February 11th were both huge successes! Thank you for your generosity and your support of our Mt. Calvary youth! We hope that you enjoyed your sandwiches and the baked goodies! The group enjoyed assembling the subs for you!



*"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

**The Sunday  
School children  
will sing during  
the 10:30 a.m.  
service on  
Palm Sunday**



**Please note that Kids for Christ  
will not meet during Holy Week.**

**Kids for Christ for Kindergarten  
through third grade students meet on  
Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m.**

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Dear Family Ministry students and parents,

The 8th grade and above class now have the opportunity to take the test on a Wednesday at the normal class time or by appointment when they feel they are adequately prepared. Upon passing the test, they will complete their faith statement and schedule a time for an interview.

The 6th and 7th grade class will be working on memory work. They received a list of 24 Bible passages that every Christian should know. Of those 24, they are to pick 12 verses to recite perfectly to Pastor Kevin. They are to complete all their memory work before classes resume on April 3rd. To keep pace, reciting 2 verses per week is recommended. They may recite these verses on most Wednesday evenings at 6:15, Sunday mornings after each service, or by appointment during the week.

The 6th and 7th graders also received a schedule and assignment description via email for opening and closing prayer during our sessions in April. They are to write out their prayer beforehand and use all 6 types of prayer when they write it. Please contact me if your student is not able to make one of the sessions, so we can rearrange as needed. In Christ, Pastor Kevin



Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts prepared last November. You will have the opportunity to contribute items for this year's shoeboxes

or donations for items to be purchased or for sponsoring online shoeboxes for hard-to-reach areas.

We will be collecting one category of items per month throughout the year for boys and girls in age groups of 2-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years. Please remember that these items are going into someone's Christmas gift (possibly the first gift they have ever received). Please donate quality items that are new or in new condition. If you are crafty and love to sew or work with wood, talk to Susan Fuerst or Jan Williams for ideas on hand-made items that can be included in the shoeboxes. Please do not include items that could be perceived as scary, violent, or war-related. Liquids, foods, and candies are not accepted. Please don't send items that have glass or are breakable. (For further information see the Operation Christmas Child information on [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ).)

There is information about the "item of the month" near the Operation Christmas Child display in the Fellowship Hall. The calendar of collection items can also be found on the church website. Even though there will be an "item of the month" any type is welcome at any time.

Please also feel free to ask for a shoebox (or use one of your own) and pack your own box at home, bringing it to church for collection in November. Thank you in advance for your participation in this mission to share the love of Jesus with children around the world!

### March Items of the Month

#### BOYS CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

**All items must be new or like-new condition**

- Clothing (remember it has to fit in a shoebox)
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Flip-flops
- Shoes
- Mittens
- Gloves
- Hats
- Sunglasses



Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
and Learning Center

A member Church of  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
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Huron, S.D. 57350

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**JOURNAL**  
**The Church of the Lutheran Hour**  
***Published Monthly***  
***March, 2024***

"Mt. Calvary: Where New Life Begins "

## Lent Midweek Schedule

### Wednesday, March 6

6:00 p.m. Supper—Ryker, Avah, Alexis serving chili dogs  
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service (livestreamed)

### Wednesday, March 13

6:00 p.m. Supper—youth serving lasagna and garlic bread  
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service (livestreamed)

### Wednesday, March 20

6:00 p.m. Supper—LWML serving super nachos  
6:45 p.m. Hymn Sing  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship Service (livestreamed)

## LENTEN *Schedule*



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

**Sunday, March 24—Palm Sunday** (usual worship schedule)

**Thursday, March 28—Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)

**Friday, March 29—Good Friday**

12:10 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service (livestreamed)

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service (livestreamed)

**Sunday, March 31—Easter**

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service (livestreamed)

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion (livestreamed)