

# Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

*Sharing God's love with those around us and our lives with one another.*

*Preparing for today, tomorrow and eternity.*

*Caring for each other, our community, and the world.*



December 9, 2018

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool  
2055 S. Franklin St. Rd.  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

[office@mtcalvarydecatur.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydecatur.org)

[www.mtcalvarydecatur.org](http://www.mtcalvarydecatur.org)

Member of Lutheran School Association

THE MISSION OF MT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH IS TO:

“HELP THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW JESUS TO KNOW HIM;  
AND TO HELP THOSE WHO DO KNOW HIM TO KNOW HIM BETTER.”

Worship: 9:00 am

Adult Bible Class: 10:30am

Sunday School: 10:30am

Brett Hinrichs, Pastor

*Office Phone: 428-0641 Cell Phone: 847-553-8296*

*Pastor Email: [pastor@mtcalvarydecatour.org](mailto:pastor@mtcalvarydecatour.org)*

*Welcome...* to all who worship here this morning, especially our guests. What a blessing it is to come together in God's house to hear His Word and return to Him our thanksgiving and praise. We are happy to have you worshipping with us.

*Guests...* if you are looking for a church home, we'd love to have you as a member. If you would like to know what we believe or are interested in joining our congregation, please mark the appropriate box on the Fellowship Register as it is passed to you by an Usher. God wants every Christian to belong to a local community of believers where he or she can be fed and nourished with God's Word and Sacraments. Please consider God's will carefully as you think about your life with God.

*Aids Are Available For The Hearing Impaired...* Please speak with an Usher if you would like to use an aid during the service.

*Anyone...* who needs, or knows someone who needs, spiritual help, guidance, or comfort, please feel free to contact our Pastor.

*For Those Attending the Lord's Supper...* if you are not a member of Mt. Calvary or a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, speak to Pastor Hinrichs or an Elder before approaching the altar to commune. If you are communing today and need to avoid alcohol, the innermost ring of the individual cups is alcohol free wine. If you are gluten sensitive, please ask an elder for gluten free wafers.

*Live Streaming...* we are live streaming our services. If you and your family do not wish to be on camera, we suggest that you refrain from sitting in the first two rows of pews. And for Children's Sermon, we suggest using the side aisles to go up to the front of the sanctuary and have the children sit at the sides of the group.

# SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## AS WE GATHER

We all know the time and effort that goes into preparing our homes for Christmas. We clean the house, put up the tree, decorate the yard, bake cookies, buy presents, and countless other activities. In our Scripture Readings for today, we hear the call of John the Baptist, encouraging us to an even more important type of preparation: preparing our hearts for the coming Savior.

This morning our children will help us in this preparation as they deliver a program called Christmas Letters. In this program, letters are written to the many people involved in the events surrounding Jesus' birth. These letters help us to understand what the people may have felt and thought as these events unfolded and how God was preparing them for Jesus.

Just as God once prepared the hearts of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and so many others, we know that God continues to prepare our hearts today. He invites us to turn from every sin in our lives, receive the forgiveness Jesus earned for us on the Cross, and live our lives caring for the people around us and sharing Jesus' love with them.

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN #344 ..... "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

## INVOCATION

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## OPENING RESPONSES AND CONFESSION OF SINS

**P:** I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.

**C:** **A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'**

**P:** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

**C:** **and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,**

**P:** and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

*Malachi 3:1, Luke 3:4-6*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**C:** Heavenly Father, we confess to you that the landscape of our souls is filled with many rough and crooked paths. There are mountains of pride and valleys of indifference. We come before you now, confessing that we are by nature, sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Prepare our hearts to receive Your Son and the forgiveness He gives.

**ABSOLUTION: RECEIVING GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

P: Brothers and sisters in Jesus, our Lord says to us, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* From the wood of the manger to the wood of the Cross, Christ Jesus has come to die for you and for His sake, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING .....Malachi 3:1-7**

*pg. 676 in Blue Bible, pg. 1490 in the Red Bible*

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING .....Philippians 1:2-11**

*pg. 830 in Blue Bible, pg. 1825 in the Red Bible*

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

**C:** ♪ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL ..... Luke 3:1-14

*pg. 726 in Blue Bible, pg. 1593 in the Red Bible*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

### CONFESSION OF FAITH ..... Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P:** Let us pray for Church and all people according to their needs.

*(after each portion of the prayers)*

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** Into your hand, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY SONG .....“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

1. We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2. May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our firstfruits give!

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN: #357 (v.1,3,5,7) .....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

## CHRISTMA LETTERS CAST AND CHARACTERS

Kelsie Gerhardt..... Narrator  
Ashley Atchason ..... Mom  
Austin Atchason..... Son & Shepherd  
Maddox Wallen ..... Daughter & Angel  
Jack Wallen ..... Joseph  
Hannah Gambrill..... Mary  
Jarrin Toberman ..... Innkeeper  
Daniel Gambrill, Corbyn McCoy, Hunter Robinson ..... Shepherds  
Meredith Dull, Josie Blackman, Jillian Blackman ..... Angels

*We would like to say a special thanks to all who helped put together the children's program this year. Many hours were spent working with the kids in preparation for the program!*

*To God be the Glory!*

## We Believe and Teach That...

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- The Ten Commandments are a revelation of God's will for our lives.
- Since we cannot keep the Ten Commandments perfectly we cannot save ourselves.
- God provided our salvation for us by sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, to die for our sins.
- Jesus proved His effectiveness by rising from the dead on the third day.
- The only way to heaven is to trust that God has saved us through Jesus' work and his all sufficient death for us.
- God expects His people to gather for worship and service in the local congregation.

## Our Ministries Include...

- SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 A.M.
- ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT 10:30 A.M.
- CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:30 A.M.
- MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 6:30 P.M.
- WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 9:00 A.M.
- MT. CALVARY CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL

A Christ centered learning program for 3 and 4 year old children

- LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A quality Christ centered day school; grades K-8

A quality Christ centered High School

## We Invite You To...

1. RELAX. At Mt. Calvary you can rest assured that you will never be put on the spot, never singled out or embarrassed.
2. BRING THE KIDS. For your pre-school children we provide a supervised nursery that runs simultaneously with our services. There is also a diaper changing station available in the nursery for your convenience.
3. ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH US. Join us after worship for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by, pick up a cup of coffee or tea, and enjoy some fellowship before the 10:30 AM Bible Study begins.

### Our Staff

#### Office Manager

- Kim Copeland

#### Music

- Jean Graham
- Dorothy Damery

#### Sunday School

- Ashley Atchason
- Dorothy Damery
- Dan Reynolds

#### Preschool

- Cathy Kurecki
- Mary Pressley

#### LSA

- Dorothy Damery
- Matthew Gruenwald

### Our Officers

#### President

- Doug Gerhardt

#### Vice-President

- Alan Dull

#### Secretary

- Tayler Anderson

#### Treasurer

- Rodger Koester

#### Financial Secretary

- Marsha Warnick

#### Head Elder

- Joel Fletcher

#### LSA Representative

- 

#### Property Comm. Chair

- Roger Harting

#### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Phone (217) 428-0641

Email: [office@mtcalvarydeatur.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydeatur.org)

Website: [www.mtcalvarydeatur.org](http://www.mtcalvarydeatur.org)

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