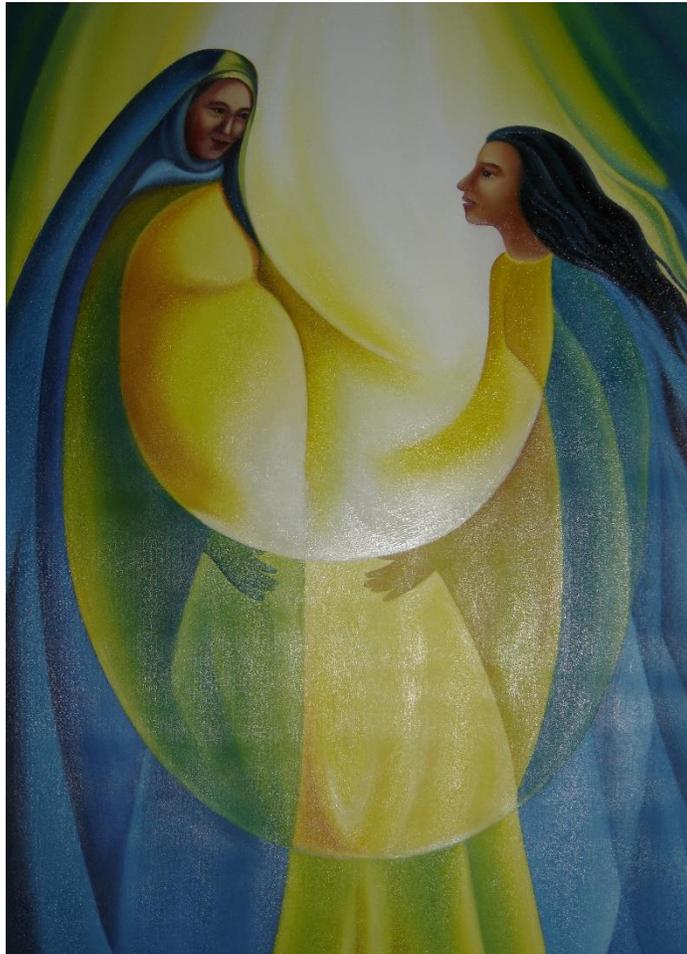


Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

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 23, 2018

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

office@mtcalvarydecatur.org

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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23rd, 2018

AS WE GATHER

Have you ever noticed that there is something that appeals to us on a deep human level when things get switched around? Movies like “The Parent Trap” and “Freaky Friday” have been remade for each passing generation. Why? Because that idea of having things reversed is deeply intriguing. In our Gospel Reading today, we will look at the song which Mary sings after getting together with her relative, Elizabeth. Mary’s Song is a song about the great switch, the great reversal that God brings about in the world for the sake of His people. In Jesus, God brings down the mighty from their thrones, but exalts those of humble estate. He fills the hungry with good things, but sends the rich away empty. As we find ourselves beaten up by our sins and empty in our souls, we rejoice that God has brought about a great reversal for us in Jesus. And in thanks to Him, we sing, even as Mary once did!

† PREPARATION †

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #814 “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **but with You there is forgiveness, therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and to call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTORIT

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

P: My mouth boasts over my enemies,

C: for I delight in your deliverance.

P: There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you;

C: There is no rock like our God.

P: She who was barren has borne seven children,

C: but she who has had many sons pines away.

P: The LORD brings death and makes alive;

C: He brings down to the grave and raises up.

P: The LORD sends poverty and wealth;

C: He humbles and he exalts. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together.

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENTMicah 5:2-5

pg. 658 in Blue Bible, pg. 1445 in the Red Bible

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE.....Hebrews 10:5-10

pg. 850 in Blue Bible, pg. 1873 in the Red Bible

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

C: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

pg. 724 in Blue Bible, pg. 1588 in the Red Bible

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st 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.

CONFESSION OF FAITHApostles' Creed

Found on the inside back cover of the hymnal

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #935 ... "Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord"

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for 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

During the offering, please take a moment to fill out the worship register booklet in your pew and hand it to the usher at the end of the service.

THE OFFERTORY“We Give Thee But Thine Own”



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #361“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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

- 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

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Website: www.mtcalvarydeatur.org

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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and our lives with one another."*