

# 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 24, 2018

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

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[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.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**A Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candles**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**AS WE GATHER**

“To you is born in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” We rejoice in this announcement and ask again, “Who is this Child born in a manger in Bethlehem? Who is this Child and why does the entire world stand still this night to hear again the story of His birth?” He is Christ the Lord, the Babe the Son of Mary!

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

*Please stand*

**OPENING HYMN #379 ..... “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

## INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

## BIDDING PRAYER

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather on this holy night, with joyful hearts, to celebrate the birth of Christ, our Savior and King. As we worship, we will hear anew the story of God's loving plan for His creation, from the first days when mankind plunged themselves into sin and darkness to the day when our salvation was revealed in the Christ Child whose birth we celebrate. So now, let journey again to Bethlehem. Let us hear the promises of God. Let us sing songs of joy. And even as Mary did that first Christmas, let us treasure up all of these things and keep them in our hearts throughout the year. But now, let us pray together.

**C: Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that You come to us, in the person of Your Son, Jesus. We rejoice that through His birth, His life, and His death on a Cross You have rescued us from the bonds of sin and death so that we may be free to live as Your people. To you alone, O Father, be all glory and honor, with the Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

*The story of Christmas begins at the dawn of time. After Adam and Eve rebelled against God, He gave them a promise: the promise of a Savior who would restore mankind's relationship with God. In our lessons, we'll hear the many promises made about this coming Messiah and how every one of these promises find their fulfillment in Christ.*

FIRST LESSON ..... Genesis 3:8-15

*God Promises a Savior after Adam and Eve's Sin*

FIRST CAROL: HYMN #370 ..... "What Child is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

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SECOND LESSON ..... Isaiah 9:2,6-7

*God's Promise of a Perfect Heavenly King*

**SECOND CAROL: HYMN #376..... "Once in Royal David's City"(v.1,2,5)**

Once in royal David's city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned  
All in white, His praise will sound!

THIRD LESSON..... Luke 1:26-38

*An Angel tells Mary she will give birth to the Promised King*

**THIRD CAROL: HYMN #361 ..... “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v. 1-2)**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

FOURTH LESSON..... Matthew 1:18-25

*An Angel tells Joseph of the Good News of Immanuel, God with Us*

**FOURTH CAROL: HYMN #361 ... “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v. 3-4)**

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming;

But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him,  
still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

FIFTH LESSON..... Luke 2:8-20

*The Shepherds come to worship Christ, the Newborn King*

**FIFTH CAROL: HYMN #368..... “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

SIXTH LESSON ..... John 1:1-14

*Jesus, the True Light of the World, comes to His Creation*

**SIXTH CAROL: HYMN #387 ..... “Joy to the World!”**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

# CHRISTMAS CREED

*Sung to the Tune "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

**In God the Father we believe, the Lord of hosts His Name.**

**All things from Him their form receive;**

**By His strong Word they came.**

**By Him was all created In earth and heav'n above.**

**He made them all, things great and small,**

**By His great pow'r and love.**

**In God's Son Jesus we believe, Who came at God's own hour.**

**Whom Virgin Mary did conceive,**

**By Holy Spirit's pow'r.**

**He suffered and was buried, Was raised at God's own call,**

**To reign on high, and to draw nigh,**

**At last as Judge of all.**

**In Holy Spirit we believe, And in Christ's Church on earth.**

**The saints, united, faith receive,**

**A gift of precious worth.**

**He sanctifies and keeps us, By His empow'ring love.**

**Forgiven, we by grace set free**

**Shall live with God above.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING** ..... *Special Music*

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY: #367** ..... **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"**(v.1, 5)

Angels from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story,

Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

*Refrain*    *Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising

God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising

To the\_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*The congregation responds after each prayer with, “hear the prayers we say today.”*

## 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.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

**P: The light of the candles which will soon illuminate our faces, reminds us of the glorious light of Jesus, our Immanuel. From His birth in the manger, to His death on the Cross, even to His Resurrection on Easter morning, Christ’s light could always cut through the greatest darkness. And so, even in the darkness we experience each day, Christ remains our constant light and hope. Let us rejoice on this night for the Light of the World has prepared His place in your heart!**

*An usher will come and light the candle of the person closest to the middle aisle. Please pass the flame to your neighbor. In order to avoid dripping wax, please tip only the unlit candle.*

*As the candles are being lit, a portion of “Silent Night” will be sung in German. Once these verses are complete, the congregation will begin singing the hymn in English as printed below.*

## DEPARTING HYMN: HYMN# 68 ..... “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you in this holy season and brighten your heart with the light of His holiness. The Lord fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please extinguish your candles and return them to the ushers as you depart.*

## 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

Pastor	Office Manager	Music	Preschool	LSA
▪ Brett Hinrichs	▪ Kim Copeland	▪ Jean Graham ▪ Dorothy Damery	▪ Cathy Kurecki ▪ Mary Pressley	▪ Matthew Gruenwald ▪

WE'D LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR, SOLOISTS, AND MUSICIANS FOR BLESSING US WITH GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC ON THIS HOLY NIGHT

### Our Officers

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
▪ Mark Cornthwaite	▪	▪ Marcia Cornthwaite	▪ Rodger Koester
Financial Secretary	Head Elder	LSA Representative	
▪ Mary Lou Collingwood	▪ Mike Atteberry	▪ Joel Fletcher	

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Phone (217) 428-0641

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