

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 31, 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.

New Year's Eve Service

December 31st, 2018

A Service of Prayer and Praise

AS WE GATHER

Technically speaking, New Year's Eve is not a "Church" holiday. Yet on this day, we cannot help but look back on the blessings we have received from God in the past twelve months, and realize the strength He has provided in dealing with the challenges and joys of life in that same period. We also are moved to look forward, wondering what God has in store for us during the next year.

† PREPARATION †

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #899 “Across the Sky the Shades of Night”

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

P: As we begin our worship this New Year's Eve, this psalm of Moses reminds us that as the generations roll on year by year, we dwell in the hands of God, who loves us and promises to care for us—as He has done this year, so He will do in the year to come.

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: **Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and world. From everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

P Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love,

C: **that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

P: Teach us to number our days aright,
C: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

P: May the favor of the Lord rest upon us;
C: establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 90:1-2, 12, 14, 17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Lamentations 3:21-26

pg. 584 in Blue Bible, pg. 1279 in the Red Bible

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Romans 8:31b-39

pg. 801 in Blue Bible, pg. 1758 in the Red Bible

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:35-40

pg. 737 in Blue Bible, pg. 1618 in the Red Bible

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

SERMON HYMN #733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

SERMONETTE

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: God is our refuge and strength in all generations. Standing on the eve of another year of His grace, let us take this opportunity to thank and praise Him for all of His benefits to us: Let us pray.

P: For the gift of life, for food and drink, for house and home, for all that we need to support this body and life,

C: we thank You, Lord.

P: For the beauty of Your creation; for the gifts of art and music to enhance our worship, for the freedoms we enjoy to worship and serve You as we ought,

C: we thank You, Lord.

P: For those whom You have placed in our lives: our spouses, parents and children; our friends and neighbors; our co-workers and colleagues, our church family, our pastors and teachers,

C: we thank You, Lord.

P: For those who have been examples of Christian living, for those who have encouraged us in our walk with You, and especially for those who have been called to eternal life during this past year *[all are invited to mention aloud the names of family and loved ones whom the Lord has called to eternal life, saying "For _____"]*; for these and all others known to You,

C: we thank You, Lord.

P: For the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation; for having called us to faith and restored us to Your family,

C: we thank You, Lord.

P: For the blessings of health and contentment in the year to come; for the strength of faith to trust in all of Your promises, love, and care for us,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the leaders of nations that peace and justice may succeed; for our own leaders, for our military personnel, and all first responders, that they may have the gifts of wisdom and courage,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the spread of the Gospel, that You would give us the courage and strength to seize opportunities to boldly share the love of Christ in word and action,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

GATHERING OF OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God, You are the giver of all good things. As we bring these gifts to You, we give thanks for all the bounty You have given us during the past year. Bless these gifts, that they may bring glory to Your name and may build Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: As we stand at the doorway to another new year, we are reminded of all of our sins of the past year. As the Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." *1 Jn 1: 8*
- C: But God has promised that if we acknowledge our sins and confess them to Him, He will forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ. *1 Jn 1: 9***
- P: So then, let us now confess before God the sins of which we are aware, as well as the sins of which we are not aware, seeking His forgiveness for them all.

(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)

- P: Almighty God,
- C: we confess before You and one another that we are, by our very nature, sinful and unclean. There have been countless times when we have sinned against You and against one another, whether by our actions, our words, or thoughts. We have not loved You with our whole heart, mind, and spirit. We have not shown love to those around us, but have hurt and taken advantage of others. Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us from our sin for the sake of Jesus Christ. Restore us to Your family, and strengthen us that we may live for Your glory.**
- P: Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, it is my responsibility and my privilege as your called and ordained pastor to announce the grace of God to you, and in the place of and at the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**

PREFACE

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: Heavenly Father, You have indeed been our refuge throughout all generations. Even before You created the heavens and the earth, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. At the end of this year, we praise You for Your constant love and compassion, having forgiven our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and having restored us to Your family. For these and all that You do to support our bodies and souls, we join together with angels, archangels, and all the generations of believers who have gone before us and those generations yet to come, in praying the prayer You have taught us:

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

HYMN #524..... "How Sweet the name of Jesus Sounds"
HYMN #900..... "Jesus! Name of Wonderous Love"
HYMN #575..... "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: From everlasting to everlasting, You are God!

Psalm 90:1-2

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together.

C: We praise You, O God, for having fed us with the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this gift of life, strengthen us to meet the challenges of the New Year, remaining strong in faith and in hope, that we may be faithful until the day when our Lord comes to guide us to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor, and ✠ give you peace. *Num. 6: 24-26*

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:#917..."Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

*"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."*

-Lamentations 3:22-24

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

- 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?

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Website: www.mtcalvarydeatur.org

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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