

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.



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

January 28, 2024

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

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www.mtcalvarydecatur.org

Member of Lutheran School Association

WELCOME TO MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL!

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am

Christian Education Hour (Kids & Adults): 10:30am

Midweek Bible Studies: See Bulletin Insert

Brett Hinrichs, Pastor Ethan Hart, Vicar

Pastor Email: pastor@mtcalvarydecatur.org

Vicar Email: vicar@mtcalvarydecatur.org

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

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.

Connect Card Booklet... We encourage all who attend our services to record your name in our "Connect Card" booklets. You'll find them at the edges of each row or have them passed to you by a neighbor. The information you share helps us better serve you in your faith.

Guests... if you are looking for a church home, we'd love to have you become a member of Mt. Calvary! If you would like to know what we believe or are interested in joining our congregation, please mark the appropriate box on the Connect Card which should be passed to you at the beginning of the service. God wants every Christian to belong to a local community of believers where they can be fed and nourished with God's Word and Sacraments.

Families with children... In addition to activity bags for younger children, we have a nursery and a cry room conveniently located close to the Sanctuary if you should need to leave the service with your child. There is a TV and the Service can be heard over the speaker system. You can find a changing table with supplies there or in the restrooms.

Offerings... In thankfulness for what God has given us, we give a portion of our time, talents, and treasure back to God. Please see the laminated card in the hymnal rack in the pews for more information about how to give.

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... In the Lord's Supper God gives the incredible gift of forgiveness through His body and blood that is in, with, and under the bread and wine. Knowing that not everyone shares this belief, if you are not a member of Mt. Calvary or a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we encourage you to speak to our pastor before communing. If you need to avoid alcohol, the white wine is alcohol free. For those who are gluten sensitive, please inform the pastor or elder, so they can offer you your own gluten-free wafer.

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Divine Service, Setting 1, page 151

PREPARATION & WELCOME

Before we begin our service, please take a moment to fill out the "Connect Card" Booklet in your pew. We use this information to get to know our guests and best serve all God's people in their faith. If you are the last in your row to complete a "Connect Card", please leave the booklet there for an usher to collect at end of the worship service.

OPENING HYMN: #599 "Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near"



1 O grac - ious Lord, with love draw near, To us Your
2 Sus - tain the work You have be - gun in those u -
4 Lord keep us firm in our in - tent, to You, Your
5 O Fath - er grant that by Your grace, We may Your



chil - dren gather - ed here The Spir - it's gift in
ni - ted to Your Son, For in that pure bap -
Word, and Sac - ra - ment. O make us bold, our
will each day em - brace; With fruits of faith our



us re - new: The gift of faith that clings to You.
tis - mal flood We have been cleansed by Je - sus' blood.
faith to share And make us strong, each cross to bear.
lives now bless, To all the world Your name con - fess.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Text: © 2003 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001190
Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES: THE BIBLICAL BLESSING OF BAPTISM

Responses taken from Luther's Small Catechism

P: Throughout human history, the Lord God has brought His blessings to people in unexpected ways and through unexpected means. In the beginning, He spoke all of creation into existence with a word. When His

people were enslaved in Egypt, He delivered them through the waters of the Red Sea. Even the Cross itself, is, as Paul says, *“foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”* Today, we rejoice that God continues to work through humble and unexpected ways, including the gift of Baptism, which our Lord himself has instituted and commanded His people to receive, as these our brothers and sisters are doing today. As a reminder of the truths of Scripture we’ve been exploring these last few weeks in our series, I ask you to join me in confessing our faith in Christ and these gifts.

P: What is Baptism?

C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word.

P: Which is that Word of God?

C: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

P: What benefits does Baptism give?

C: It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

P: Which are these words and promises of God?

C: Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

P: How can water do such great things?

C: Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: *“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”*

P: Finally, what does such baptizing with water indicate?

C: It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: Where is this written?

C: St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

The baptismal party comes forward as the hymn is sung

BAPTISMAL HYMN: #605..... “Father Welcomes” (v. 2)

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly
through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,
Life for - ev - er has been won.

2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
Shall be _____ born a - gain.

Refrain

Text and tune: Robin Mann, 1949

Text and tune: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001190

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

LSB page 268

Congregation can follow along in the hymnal or on the screens

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: ♪Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together.

C: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING..... Acts 8:26-39

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pg. 1705 in the Red Bible

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING..... 1 Peter 3:18-22

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pg. 1890 in the Red Bible

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE





HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28:16-20

Pg. 1550 in the Red Bible

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew, the twenty-eighth 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 MESSAGE

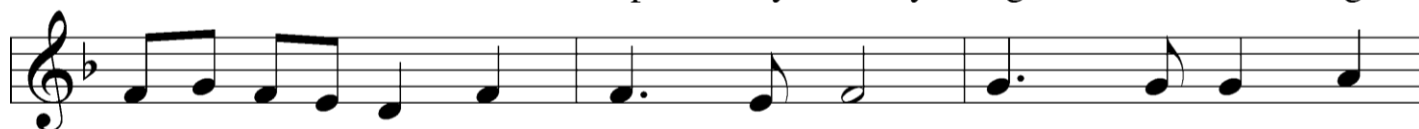
HYMN OF THE DAY#594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com-par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
font I've trav - eled, All your might has
dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
did re - lease me In a dear for -
come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957 // Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt.
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SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

After each prayer, the congregation responds as the pastor directs

OFFERTORY



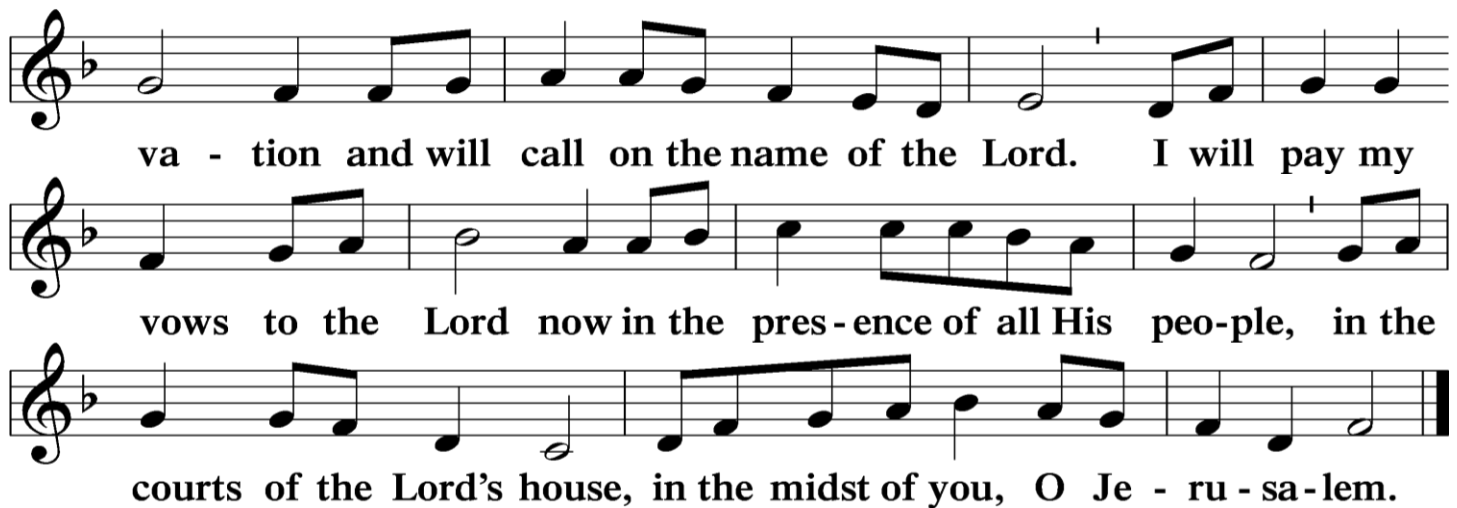
What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



CONCLUDING PRAYER

P: Let us pray together.

C: Lord Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, we thank You that You continue to preach Your Gospel among us. Send Your blessing upon the Word You have spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You. Give us strength to fight the good fight of faith and to overcome all the temptations of sin, death, and the devil so that we may finally receive the salvation of our souls; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Trusting in all of Your promises, we are bold to pray...

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 #825.....“Rise, Shine, You People”



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how He sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent His Son to save us.



Our hu - man sto - ry; God in Him is cen - tered.
 He brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
 Your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing.
 Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
 To all the world go out and tell the
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
 driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
 sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt.//Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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Sermon Notes:

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.
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR AT 10:30 A.M.
Join us for children's Sunday school classes and various adult Bible Studies
- MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 6:30 P.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 9:00 A.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- 1st & 3rd THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 6:00 P.M. (Meets in the Conference Room)
- MT. CALVARY CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL
A Christ centered learning program for 3 and 4 year old children
- LUTHERAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
A quality Christian Elementary & Jr. High school (Pre-K Bridge Class; Grades K-8)
A quality Christian High School

We Invite You To...

1. RELAX! At Mt. Calvary you always be yourself and know that you will be welcomed and cared for as a person who is created and loved by God.
2. BRING THE KIDS. For Kindergarten through 4th Grade students, we offer a "Children's Church" time during the sermon, where students learn an age-appropriate Bible story. For your preschool 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 Staff

- Shannon Lanier

A/V Tech(s)

- Joel Fletcher
- Jim Stevens

Music

- Lisa Peterman

Sunday School

- Gale Krueger
- Dan Reynolds
-

Preschool

- Cathy Kurecki
- Jessica Stock

Our Officers

President

- Tom Little

Vice-President

- Alan Little

Secretary

- Brenda Roland

Treasurer

- Rodger Koester

Fin. Secretary

- Marsha Warnick

Head Elder

- Alan Dull

Unity Board Rep

- Joel Fletcher

Unity Found. Rep

- Ashley Robinson

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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