

# April 2021

## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

2055 S. Franklin St. Rd  
Decatur, IL 62521  
217-428-0641

Pastor Brett Hinrichs  
[office@mtcalvarydecatur.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydecatur.org)



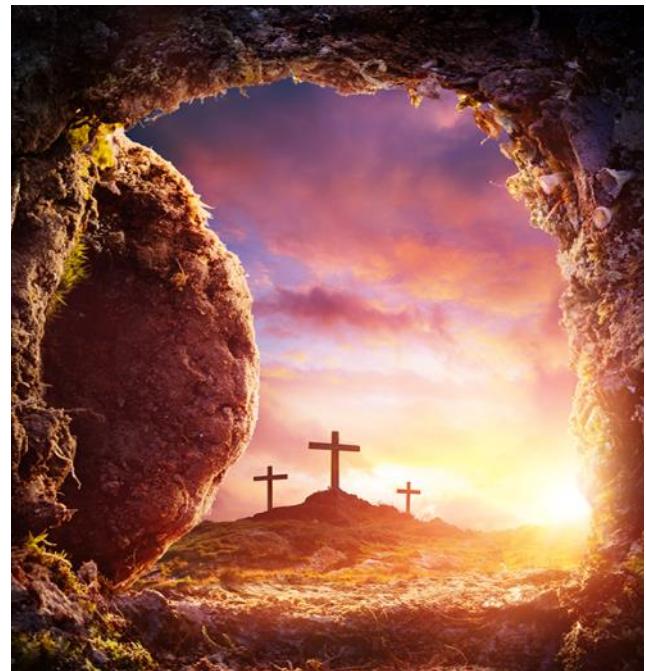
Join Us For  
In-Person  
Worship

Sundays  
9am & 10:30am



Monday – Friday  
8am - 12 Noon

\*Office Closed\*  
Good Friday (April 2nd)  
Easter Monday (April 5th)



# *A Message from Pastor Hinrichs*

<sup>14</sup>If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>20</sup>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ”

-1 Corinthians 15:14,20

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Easter. It is amazing that one word can conjure up so many different images, so many different memories, so many different feelings. Your mind, even now may hear the faint echoes of organ and trumpets, blaring away as the congregation sings, “I Know That My Redeemer Lives.” Your nose may smell a faint trace of Easter lilies. You may see a faint image of the altar decked in white, the sunlight streaming in through a stained glass window. All of these things are so closely connected to Easter and bring us so much joy!

But when is the last time when you really stopped to think about why Easter is truly so special? Why do we make such a big deal and have so many outward celebrations and traditions connected to this day? We know that Easter is about the Resurrection of Jesus. But again, I ask, “Why does the resurrection matter?”

When we look to the Scriptures, we see a number of answers to that question. But at the very heart of the matter, are the words recorded for us by the Apostle Paul, “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” If there were no resurrection, there would be no Christianity. Take out Easter and you’re left with nothing! In an article by Brian Hedges, he writes “[It] unquestionable that the first generation of Jesus’ followers did believe he had risen, and were convinced that everything had changed as a result.”

How true that is! For those first disciples, and for every person since, the world has been radically changed by Jesus’ death and resurrection! And the implications it has are astounding! The following three points just scratch the surface what the Resurrection brings for us!

## **1. Jesus’ resurrection means that his sacrificial death on the cross was sufficient, and therefore our sins can be forgiven.**

Paul emphasizes this in 1 Corinthians 15, reminding us that “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (vv. 3-4). Then, in verse 17, he argues that “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

In other words, Paul saw a direct connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the sufficiency of his death to atone for our sins. When Jesus rose again on the third day, it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son. In his resurrection, Jesus was vindicated (1 Timothy 3:16). But in his vindication, we are vindicated too. That’s why Paul says in Romans 4 that Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Romans 4:25).

## **2. Jesus' resurrection means that death is defeated once and for all.**

As Peter proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost, “God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him” (Acts 2:24). Death lost its grip on Jesus!

But the resurrection means that Jesus not only defeated death for himself, but that he defeated it for us. He died and rose as a new representative for humanity, as the Second Adam. “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,” writes Paul, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). His resurrection guarantees ours.

Perhaps no one has said this more eloquently than C. S. Lewis. In his 1947 book *Miracles*, Lewis wrote: “The New Testament writers speak as if Christ’s achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the ‘first fruits,’ the ‘pioneer of life.’ He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has been opened.”

The empty tomb assures us that sickness and suffering, death and disease will not have the final word.

## **3. Jesus' resurrection means that the material world matters.**

Lest there be any misunderstanding, when the apostles said that Jesus rose again, they meant that his physical body came back to life. The risen Jesus wasn’t a phantom or ghost, but a breakfast-eating, flesh-and-bone, human being (see Luke 24:36-43 and John 21:10-14).

When Jesus’ came out of the tomb in a physical body, it was God’s definitive stamp of approval on the creation project with all of its materiality. The resurrection shows us that matter matters. And this is why the early Christians looked to the future with confidence that the created order itself would be redeemed (see Romans 8:18-25).

Though we wait for the full consummation of new creation, the Scriptures also teach that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is already working within us (Ephesians 1:19-20). The resurrection, you see, not only assures of God’s forgiveness and comforts us in suffering as we anticipate the final reversal of death, disease, and decay; it also motivates and empowers us to push back the tide of suffering and evil in the present world, through word and deed, in mercy and in justice, all in Jesus’ name.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you can see Easter is everything! Easter means forgiveness, hope, joy, peace, and all the gifts of God! **Easter changes our past, our present, and our future.** All of this because our Savior died and rose from the grave! We not only have spiritual life, but true physical eternal life! It is no wonder then that we celebrate using all our senses! As you experience the sights, sounds, and smells of Easter this year, may they all remind you that your life, now and forever, is truly changed in Jesus! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

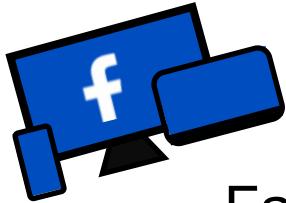
*Pastor Brett Hinrichs*

# Worship at Mt. Calvary

## Sunday Opportunities (NEW SCHEDULE)

Worship Service: Sunday at 9am (one service only)

Christian Education Hour: Sunday at 10:30am



### Connect at Home



Facebook Live Worship: Sunday at 9am

Facebook Live Bible Study: Sunday at 10:30am (NEW)

Radio Worship: Sunday at 9:00am on 100.9FM WZUS

## Weekday Bible Studies



**Men's Bible Study**  
Monday evenings at 6:30pm

**Women's Bible Study**

Tuesday mornings at 9:00am (Telephone Conf. Call)

**Thursday Bible Study**

1st & 3rd Thursday evenings at 6:30pm

*NOTE: For all in-person activities, social distancing measures will be required.*

# SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN APRIL

## ELDERS

April 1	Doug Gerhardt
April 2	Scott Busboom
April 4	Tom Little Russ Jozwiak
April 11	Frank Dunmire
April 18	Doug Gerhardt
April 25	Scott Busboom

## OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Masha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Dick Goers 217-767-2711 217-412-8847 dgoers37@comcast.net
CANDLES - ALTAR	George & Debbie Roberts (odd) Dale & Barb Jones (even) Ron Augustine
HANDBELLS & CHOIR	Dorothy Damery
NURSERY COORDINATOR	Sharon Goers
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING- PAPER	Lyn Stevens
SCRIP COORDINATORS	Ashley Atchason Bonnie Seeforth
SOUND & VIDEO	Jim Stevens Kelsie Gerhardt Joel Fletcher
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Ashley Atchason Dorothy Damery
TABULATOR(S)	Marsha Warnick
USHER(S)	Andrew Napier

## A/V TECHNICIANS

April 1	Joel Fletcher
April 2	Jim Stevens
April 4	Joel Fletcher Jim Stevens
April 11	Jim Stevens
April 18	Joel Fletcher
April 25	Joel Fletcher

## MEALS ON WHEELS-TUESDAYS

April 6	Dorothy Damery
April 13	Lyn & Jim Stevens
April 20	Nancy Peck
April 27	Sharon & Rod Butler

## Endowment Committee Members Needed

Mount Calvary is in the initial stages of establishing an endowment fund to manage gifts from wills and estates in an orderly and efficient way for the advancement of God's kingdom. The church council has passed a resolution authorizing the formation of an endowment committee, whose task will be to research and recommend items related to the setup and management of such a fund.

The endowment committee will meet 3-4 times over the upcoming months, and their findings will be presented back to the church council.

We are currently looking for members of the congregation to serve on this committee. If interested, please reach out to Alan Dull at 312-273-0069 for more information.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/20	Larry & Shirley Horath
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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/8	Debbie Goveia
4/9	Tom Black
4/10	Heather Urbanowicz
4/15	Dick Goers
4/21	Marilyn Roemelin
4/24	Ashley Atchason Michael Peterman
4/27	Greg Totel

# April 2021

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## "Just a Thought"

"Dear God, Yes, it's me again"

### **What can I do for you, my child?**

Well, now that Lent is over and we've celebrated your rising, I just feel a little lost. Over Lent, I spent a lot of time on the Red Letter Challenge and I learned a lot. I want to change fundamentally, to become a better representative of You to those around me.

### **I couldn't be happier, I look forward to seeing what you will accomplish!**

That's just it... I don't know *where* to go from here?

**Start in your circle of contacts, look at those you spend time with- can you be a better influence on them? Can you have a spiritual conversation with them? Can you listen to what they say and find a way to meet their needs? By doing this, you honor Me.**

But *how* do I start?

**By listening with your heart! I give you opportunities every day to make a difference in someone's life, you just don't see them. Remember yesterday in the carwash, the young man that did your prewash?**

I see him every time I go there.

**Ever think to ask how his day is going or thank him for helping to clean your car?**

I never thought of that being a way to share Your love. Oh, wow, I have a *long* way to go...

**I'll be beside you every step. You have a pastor that is a good, Godly man and he want you to be more like Me, too. I have poured out my spirit on those at Mt. Calvary through the Red Letter Challenge, I'm looking forward to seeing how you will all work together to serve Me more completely than in the past. I'm proud of you and I love you more than you know. I am always working behind the scenes of your behalf. You can trust that.**

You make it sound so exciting! 'Thank You' Just doesn't seem to say enough.

**Then DO your thank you.**

**BE your thank you.**

**LIVE your thank you.**

**That will bring Me great pleasure.**

Wow, I can't wait!

**Then get going, my child!**

Sharing my thoughts with you- Beth Langdon

# **“Gayle Sablotny – Gifting the LSA”**

## **Memoriam and Fundraiser**

*Remembering an outstanding teacher & friend while supporting the LSA.*

**Join in:** [facebook.com/groups/gaylesablotnygiftinglsa](https://facebook.com/groups/gaylesablotnygiftinglsa).

**Donate:** [gofundme.com/f/gayle-sablotny-gifting-the-lsa](https://gofundme.com/f/gayle-sablotny-gifting-the-lsa)

Gayle Sablotny (Miss S.) served at the Lutheran School Association (LSA) as an art teacher for just over 11 years. She began teaching there at the beginning of the 1999 school year. Before that, she attended LSA as a student, graduating 8th grade in 1967. So one might say that LSA was a big part of her life. If you knew Miss S., you KNOW that the LSA AND her students meant everything to her. She was a gift to the school and was an amazing presence that influenced many. For example: You could often find her at the school after hours or on weekends either running the kiln, prepping for events like Lutheran Schools Week, or working on murals. If you were having a bad day, the art room was a safe place to sit, vent, or let off steam by throwing broken pottery. She encouraged creativity and usually went out of her way to assist any idea that a student of hers had. She regularly referred to her students as her “kids” and she treated us as such.

In short, Miss S. impacted many lives. The lives of her students, her coworkers, her family and friends. On December 3, 2010, God called Miss S. home to heaven. It came as a shock to the school and those that knew her. December 3rd is a day that many of us still remember and use that day to remember her. December 3, 2020 was the 10-year anniversary of our life on earth without Miss S. We would like to use this year to celebrate her life, honor her memory, and support a cause that meant so much to her.

Miss S. would do absolutely anything for LSA. In memoriam of her, we (two LSA Alums) have started the “Gayle Sablotny – Gifting LSA” fund to support the LSA. All funds collected will go towards the mortgage on the LSA building. Aside from sharing thoughts and memories of Miss S. we are asking that you find it in your heart to donate to this fund to help relieve some financial stress from the school. Collecting will end on December 3, 2021. Any amount you can donate would be a great gift to LSA. Whether it is a large amount up front, \$10 a month, \$50 every 3 months – whatever you can offer will help. Let’s make HER PROUD by GIFTING THE LSA, as she was a gift to it herself.





## Units of Study

- Shape Unit in the 3's class
- Caterpillars and Butterflies in both classes
  - Rhyming in both classes
  - Letter Identification in the 4's class
  - Pocket Day in the 4's class

A huge **thank you** in advance to those who will be helping us sew pockets at the end of the month.

We will be learning how Jesus died for us all but then rose 3 days later - What a Happy Day!

We will learn how God turned a Sad Day (Good Friday) into a Happy Day (Easter morning).

As always, thank you for your support of the mission of the preschool to bring Jesus into these children's lives.

Recently, I received a text from a previous grandma asking for the words to the prayers we said at snack-time during preschool. He wanted to say them before meals at home.

God's Blessings,  
Cathy Kurecki

## Supply Request

If you have an empty cardboard oatmeal container tin, would you consider donating it to be used for the preschool? Thank you!

# **Partner Ministry Updates**

## **Our LSA School & ReSale Shop Updates**

**Scrip Ship to Home** is now available for our LSA families! Scrip users must order through the Raise Right app and choose cards that are labeled “ship to home eligible”. Cards cannot be shipped to school at this time so please make sure that you are ordering eCards or cards that are ship to home eligible.

**The LSA Resale Shop** *is in need of additional volunteers!* They have been receiving constant donations and need help sorting through all of the items that they have received. Please contact them at 217-423-0122 to inquire about volunteering.



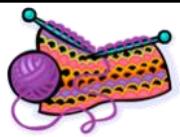
ENROLLING NOW FOR  
2021-2022  
PREK LITTLE LIONS - 12TH GRADE

**LSA  
LIONS**

The advertisement features a large red lion logo on the left and the text "ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021-2022 PREK LITTLE LIONS - 12TH GRADE" in white. Below this, the "LSA LIONS" logo is displayed, consisting of the word "LSA" stacked above "LIONS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background is a dark red with diagonal grey stripes.



# Stitches of Love for March 2021



So far this year:

Hats: 211 Baby Hats: 6 Scarves: 13 Blankets: 5

We will continue to meet as we are able and we are working on hats and scarves for area children as well as Operation Enduring Support. The blankets will be sent to a non profit called "Blankets for Ben" which gives blankets to families of organ donors. We are also making dish cloths to give to Northeast Community Fund for their Christmas baskets. If you wish to join us, please do. We will teach you how to use the loom to knit if you don't know how.

We strive to serve our community and be a Christian witness.

# CID Updates

## EVENTS ACROSS OUR CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

### **Ark Encounter and Creation Museum Trip April 26-29**

Immanuel, Springfield is hosting a trip see the Ark and Creation Museum in Kentucky. Cost is \$450.00 per person (double occupancy) and includes: Round-trip motorcoach, 3 night stay in Cincinnati, area, 3 days' breakfast and dinner, admissions, baggage handling. If you are interested in this incredible opportunity call Pastor Stuenkel at 217-622-7266 or the church office at 217-528-5232 for details and sign-up.

### **The Book of Jeremiah: Overcoming Life's Sorrows**

Based upon Dr. Lessing's forthcoming book on Jeremiah (Concordia Publishing House, September, 2021), this course will be a combination of in-depth study and practical application—all based upon one of the prophet's major themes: surviving life's sorrows. Jeremiah offers a hope and future in Christ to all who have experienced a major disaster in life.

## **ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **To Register by Phone with Credit Card:**

Contact LeeAnna Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

### **To Register Online:**

Go to [www.ctsfw.edu/CE/Decatur-Illinois](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CE/Decatur-Illinois).

### **Additional Information About This Class (Including Accommodations):**

Contact: Rev. Matthew O. Versemann  
Email: [pastorversemann@msn.com](mailto:pastorversemann@msn.com)  
Phone: (217) 420-0586

### **To Find More Continuing Education Classes:**

Visit our website at [www.ctsfw.edu/CE](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CE).

### **Continuing Education Opportunities:**

LeeAnna Rondot  
Administrative Assistant Continuing Education  
Phone: (260) 452-2204  
Email: [CE@ctsfw.edu](mailto:CE@ctsfw.edu)

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse  
Director of Continuing Education  
Email: [Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu)  
Phone: (260) 452-2273

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISRTICT EVENTS CONTINUED

## Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl

April 18th @ 2:00pm



CID's Youth Bible Bowl: ***The Exodus.*** *Exodus (chapters 1-20, 24, 32-34, & 40).* This year we are having an “online” Bible Bowl. No team is too small to participate in the Online Bible Bowl. Contact Pastor Mark Eddy at [zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com) if your congregation’s youth might participate in this year’s Bible Bowl.

## Basic LERT Training (Lutheran Early Response Team)

April 24, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

St. John, 1450 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., East Moline



Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m. Participants are asked to register online in advance and also pay a \$35 training fee which includes the cost of lunch. For registration, visit:

<https://Https://form.jotform.com/81215292634959>

use the training code:0082.

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## Stay Connected with your District

Looking for additional information ? Visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- CID’s GatePost Newsletter
  - Subscribe to the E-GatePost/*News You Can Use*
  - Stay connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- [Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)
- 

## CTSFW Continuing Education Class

June 21-23 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church 1960 E. Johns Ave., Decatur, IL

***“The Book of Jeremiah: Overcoming Life’s Sorrows”***

Instructor - Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Professor of Theology and Ministry and the Director of the Center of Biblical Studies at Concordia, St. Paul. Based upon Dr. Lessing’s forthcoming book on Jeremiah this course will be a combination of in-depth study and practical application—all based upon one of the prophet’s major themes: surviving life’s sorrows. Jeremiah offers a hope and future in Christ to all who have experienced a major disaster in life.

For cost and additional information contact email Rev. Matthew Versemann at [pastorversemann@msn.com](mailto:pastorversemann@msn.com) or by phone 217-420-0586



# **ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE**

## **Congregational Voting Results**

Results of the request to allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023? More than the required one-fourth (63.32%) of the Synod's member congregations registered a vote, and the majority (90.67%) of votes cast favored adoption. The stated extension of the 2019–2022 triennium by a year, allowing district conventions to take place in either 2021 or 2022 and deferring the national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023, is therefore adopted.

## **Here I Stand Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>**

More information will be released from the Synodical Office in the future. As a reminder in its 2019 convention, the Synod adopted the following resolution:

- “Resolved, That April 18, 2021 be declared “Here I Stand” Sunday throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its districts, circuits, and congregations; and be it further
- “Resolved, That these entities be encouraged to gather for worship celebrations to commemorate this event; and be it further
  - “Resolved, That a synod wide thank offering be coordinated and collected for this day, to be used toward the continued proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.

## **Recruiting Pastors and Other Church Workers**

A convocation on church worker recruitment, particularly that of pastors, will be sponsored by the Shelbyville, Effingham, and Altamont Circuits at St. John Lutheran Church, Effingham on Pentecost, May 23, 3 to 6 p.m. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be the featured guest speaker. Representatives of the seminaries, Concordia-Chicago, and Concordia-Wisconsin will be there, also folks from LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and Camp CILCA. You can register for this Circuit Convocation, starting April 1.

Please register by **May 7** at [www.stjohnsLCMS.net](http://www.stjohnsLCMS.net)

# CAMP CILCA LOWDOWN: APRIL 2021

ADDRESS: 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625  
PHONE: 217-487-7497 / EMAIL: [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

*Camp CILCA exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.*



## **Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!**

- **Spring Clean Up Day:** Saturday, March 27
  - 8:30-11:30, then lunch.
  - Lots of cleaning to be done.
  - A controlled burn on 7 acres will also be done.
  - Contact the camp office to let us know you are coming!
- **Women's Scrapbooking Retreat:** April 16-18 at the Christian Growth Center
  - \$80 covers your stay and 5 meals
  - Saturday evening worship service
  - Space is limited. Contact the camp office and reserve your spot today!
- **HELP NEEDED!** Camp CILCA is seeking to fill 2 positions year-round:
  - **Assistant Cook:** \$14/hr, part-time
  - **Maintenance:** \$12/hr, part-time
  - For more information contact the camp office today!      **Find out more on-line at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)**

Email [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

Call 217-487-7497

