

# August 2025

## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

2055 S. Franklin St. Rd  
Decatur, IL 62521

Office Phone:  
217-428-0641

Office Email:  
[office@mtcalvarydecatur.org](mailto:office@mtcalvarydecatur.org)

## Office Hours

Aug 1-13

Monday - Wednesday

8am - 11am

Fall Hours Begin Aug 18

Monday - Thursday

8am - 12 noon

*The OFFICE is CLOSED on Fridays*



## All are Welcome to Join Us!

### Sundays

Worship Service 9<sup>AM</sup>

Christian Ed. Hour 10:30<sup>AM</sup>

# *A Message from Pastor Hinrichs*

*“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach.”*

-Acts 1:1 (NIV)

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe it but another school year is about to start! Last minute family vacations are being taken. School supplies are being purchased. Class lists are being posted. And yet as important as all of those things are, for many kids there is nothing more important than knowing who your teacher will be!

I think we can all agree that a teacher can either make or break a year because good teachers are not only there to help us learn, but they shape us and mold us. They pour their heart into us. In short, a good teacher impacts who we are!

As Christians, we have a teacher who does all of that and more! Our teacher, Jesus, is the best teacher there is! In fact, in the Gospels alone there are at least 98 places that talk about Jesus and His teachings! Jesus taught everywhere. He taught everyone. Jesus was always teaching!

And yet, with all of this teaching, this was only the beginning. Notice what God says in Acts 1, *“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach.”* The “first book” to which Luke is referring is his Gospel account. He says those twenty-four chapters are only the beginning of what Jesus would do and teach! His ministry would continue through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God which would be given to the apostles, so that they would be enlightened about the nature of the kingdom of God and how they get to live in that kingdom.

And Jesus continues to do the same for us today! Each time we open the Bible, we are being taught by Jesus. Whether we read a single verse like Mark 8:31, *“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.”* or whole chapters like the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, which start with the words, *“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying...”* Jesus, through His Spirit is teaching us, or as it says in Acts 1:3, He is speaking to us *“about the kingdom of God.”*

As Christians, we are blessed to receive this teaching from our God. Through His instruction, we learn about all that our God has done for us. We see the upside-down way things work in the kingdom. We hear of the promises of God for us, His children. This is the greatest and best gift we could have because it points us back to Christ and all that He has done for us and still does for us today. Without Jesus as our teacher, we’d never know Him as our savior!

As we head into this new school year, I think it's worth asking ourselves, “What does Jesus have to teach us this year? What new lessons will you learn? What new things will you understand about His forgiving love for you? My friends, if you haven't been attending a Bible Study, now is the time to join one. If you haven't been as regular in worship as you should, now is the time to change that! With Jesus as our teacher, our Savior, and our Lord, every day is only the beginning of what He will teach us and what He will do in our lives as He makes His glory known through us! Let us always continue to learn from Him!

Your Servant in Christ,

*Pastor Brett Hinrichs*

# Grow Together

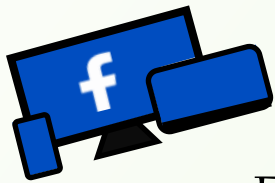
## **Worship Life at Mt. Calvary** Sunday Opportunities

Worship Service at 9:00<sub>AM</sub>

— A “relaxed” traditional service with hymns and standard orders of worship —

Christian Education Hour at 10:30<sub>AM</sub>

— Adult Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Additional Classes —



### Connect at Home



Facebook Live Worship: Sunday at 9:00<sub>AM</sub>

Radio Worship: Sunday at 9:00<sub>AM</sub> on 100.9FM WZUS

## **Weekday Bible Studies**

**Men’s Bible Study: Monday Evenings 6:30<sub>PM</sub>**

Location: Conference Room at Mt. Calvary (across from office)

First Monday evenings of the month meet at Primrose

**Women’s Bible Study: Tuesday Mornings at 9:00<sub>AM</sub>**

Location: Conference Room at Mt. Calvary (across from office)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month join the ladies at Evergreen Living Center or Mt. Zion Rehab Center. See the Calendar for details.

**Thursday Bible Study: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoons at 2:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Location: Conference Room at Mt. Calvary (across from office)

*All Bible Studies have call-in options. Please contact the group leader for more info .*

# Serve Together

## Your mites DO COUNT! They really add up!

Mites are collected the first Sunday of each month. If you would prefer not to carry around the little cardboard box there are small Ziploc bags also available for you to keep in your pocket or purse to collect your spare change. All change that is collected helps support the LWML outreach programs. LWML supports outreach in 82 countries world wide as well as programs down to the local levels.

MT. CALVARY



PRESCHOOL

## Preschool News

MT. CALVARY



PRESCHOOL

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Preschool will be graced with the voices of little ones very soon! The first day of school will be on Monday, August 25th. Have you noticed the “spruced up” entry to the Preschool? Many thanks to Krista Gerhardt, Pastor & Krista Hinrichs, Merle Collingwood and Debbie Goveia! A huge thank you to Alan Little for his beautiful craftsmanship to make a wooden car track for the children.

We have a new teacher this school year, Suzanne Wills. We are excited for this new beginning and pray for the Lord’s blessings on the school.

Thanks to Matt Boleyn for his help setting up the banner in front of the church to advertise the preschool.

## Stitches of Love

*Our Stitches of Love totals through July*

Hats: 792   Blankets: 8   Scarves: 140

We have been blessed to have knitters from Tanglewood make hats too!

### Reminder:

The Annual LWML Fall Rally will be held September 21st, 5pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Sign-In begins at 4:30. More details coming soon, If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Haseley at 217-620-3442 for more info.



# Venezuelan News: Volume 3-08

This month Sonja's daughter was having bad health problems. She was having seizures and she has had to go to the hospital a couple of times. They have done a CT scan and other tests. She is on a lot of different medications. They have determined that she has lupus and they are suspecting epilepsy. In addition she is suffering from malnutrition, you might remember that her younger brother died from complications of malnutrition.

Venezuela, the families are saying the situation there is back to like it was during covid. Food costs are skyrocketing and they are rationing food while others hoard it. It's very sad that a country has to be this way. They elected new governors in every state but I was told it doesn't matter who you vote for ( similar to the presidential election last year.

All these families need are basic necessities. Food, water, healthcare, and a home. Things we all take for granted. Imagine a country where all but the most rich and elite are in poverty. Going from upper middle class to not having running water or garbage service. You know one of the reasons. We are called to take care of the "orphans and widows". Thank God for your support.

The Least of These is now an outreach ministry of Mt. Calvary Lutheran church. We are a separate ministry operating under the church. We are included as part of the information put on the church's website, we have our own page. We have our own giving area as well. We appreciate all the gifts, prayer and support. But please, always put Mt. Calvary first.

Pray for our friends in Venezuela. If you are interested in this mission or want to help you can talk to me anytime. You can email me personally [theleastofthese@mtcalvarydecatour.org](mailto:theleastofthese@mtcalvarydecatour.org)

You can join our Facebook Group, "The Least of These" ( <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leastofthese3/> ) contact me, Toni, or Katie on Facebook and we can hook you up. Our new giving link is: <https://secure.myvanco.com/LZCVY/campaign/C14EYQ>

Venmo: Kaitlyn Gambrill

Cashapp: \$ kb9jlo

Cash/ check: Just see us at Church. Or mark it for the Least of These and turn it into the church with your other offerings.

## Contact Info:

If you are interested in this mission or want to help, you reach out to me, Dan Reynolds, at any time via email at [on30ng@gmail.com](mailto:on30ng@gmail.com)

AND/OR join our Facebook Group, "The Least of These" (to join, contact me or my daughter Katie Gambrill on Facebook so we can add you to the group)

## Support Info:

Our PayPal address is: [theleastofthese3@yahoo.com](mailto:theleastofthese3@yahoo.com)

Our Venmo is: Kaitlyn-Gambrill





# COUNCIL

# CORNER

## Church Mortgage News

Good news! Our last church building mortgage payment was made this week in July. This will result in reducing our monthly bills by \$5211 going forward and allow Mt Calvary to consider other areas of focus for the future that require funding. A big thank you to all who generously gave to our Mortgage Reduction Opportunity with this goal in mind!

With this initiative being complete, we no longer will need specific gifts to the MRO fund. Please know we will be redirecting any future contributions to the MRO and Building Fund into the General Fund. This will allow us to better utilize all contributions for the overall mission and ministry of Mt. Calvary. If assistance is needed, please reach out to Rodger Koester.

Stay tuned in the future for any details on “Burning our Mortgage” celebration.

*Thank you to Cliff and Matt Boleyn for ‘stepping up’ to Co-Chair the Building and Grounds Council position!*

<i>Budgeted General Funds</i>	<i>Received YTD</i>	<i>Projected End of Year</i>
Weekly Offerings	176,771.57	260,000.00
Pre-School Tuition**	20,864.56	32,600.00
Thrivent Funds	449.00	2,500.00
Special Services Offerings	3,601.00	5,000.00
Other Offerings	1,975.00	500.00
Altar Flowers	544.00	2,000.00
Interest Income	1,051.91	1,200.00
Building Fund Offerings Ends 7/31/25	6,035.00	30,000.00
Mortgage Interest Refund	2,556.84	2,500.00
Other Income	2,773.36	2,700.00
Totals	216,622.24	339,000.00

<i>Designated General Funds</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Gift-In-Kind	-
Memorial	-
MRO	11,912.07
Sunday School	361.06
Venezuela	4,265.00
Pre-School Scholarship	-
<i>Separate Account</i>	
Elders' Fund	771.00

<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>
<b>-122,377.76</b>





# Share Together

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FALL FEST IS COMING!**

**Sunday, September 28th from 3-5pm**

We will have Trunk and Treat, Pumpkin decorating, a Hay Ride and a Jump house for the community kids to enjoy! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

## ***Join the Ladies for Lunch!***

Our Tuesday morning Ladies' group will be going out for lunch after the first bible study of each month! This list is not set in stone, so please check in with Bethe Little to stay caught up with any last-minute changes.

August 5th - Josephine's Tea Room, Godfrey IL  
September 2nd - Everyone's East End Grill

Contact Bethe Little with any questions at 217-855-2802

## ***Combined Worship in September***

What a wonderful combined Worship Service we had on July 27th with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Trinity. All Glory to God! If you missed it you really missed an amazing time spent in Worship and Fellowship.

Our next combined Worship Service with Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, September 7th at 9am @ Trinity Lutheran Church  
(1960 E Johns Ave, Decatur, IL)

We will also be celebrating "Rally Day" which kicks off a new year of Christian Education opportunities at both congregations!

Please plan to attend this special service and our combined Christian Education Hour at 10:30am!

**"I love the LORD, for He has heard my voice— my appeal for mercy." Psalm 142:1**

## ***Janitorial Position Open***

We are looking for a new church custodian. The church is cleaned one time a week for approximately 6-8 hours from noon to 7am Sunday morning. A job description is available at the Church Office or by emailing [Office@MtCalvaryDecatur.org](mailto:Office@MtCalvaryDecatur.org).



# MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## LONG-TERM PLANNING TEAM

*As we continue to prayerfully seek God's guidance and consider "big picture" planning ideas, we want to make sure that everyone is kept up-to-date about what is happening! Below you'll find summaries of our recent meetings, townhalls, etc. While most of our energy is focused on exploring a possible merger with Trinity Lutheran, we're always open to wherever God leads.*

### **Updates from June Voters' Meeting**

In case you missed the Voter's meeting, July's edition of the Parish Pulse has a few important updates from the Long-Term Planning Team. The big takeaway is that the congregation gave official authorization to the team to continue exploring a possible merger with Trinity.

### **Updates from July Town Hall**

Approximately 35 people attended the July Town Hall meeting. In this meeting, the team reviewed the merger exploration pathway, presented a brief side-by-side overview of Mt. Calvary and Trinity (size, location, ministries, etc.), sought feedback about some of our own most valued practices, and answered questions from those in attendance. The session was recorded. See "More Info" section below if you'd like to view the recording.

### **Joint Worship Service Update**

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, members from Trinity Lutheran came and worshipped at Mt. Calvary. Pastor Brett Hinrichs led the service and Pastor Matt Versemann preached. Just over 160 people were in attendance and were able to hear God's Word and receive communion together! Many stayed for fellowship, Adult Bible Class and Sunday School. Our next joint service will be at Trinity Lutheran on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This special Rally Day service will begin at 9am with Adult Bible Study & Sunday School to follow.

### **Updates from Latest Joint Ministry Team Meeting**

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, planning teams from both congregations met. We began by sharing any feedback we received about the most recent joint worship service. Afterwards, we worked on a survey that will be given to members of both congregations which will help us create a preliminary model for the potential merged congregation. While it is still being finalized, we plan to distribute the survey in late August or early September.

### **Looking for More Info?**

Check out our "Long-Term Planning Document Library" where you can find meeting notes, graphics, files, townhall recordings, etc. Please call Shannon in the Church Office and she will get you an online link or printed packet of information.

# SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN AUGUST

## READERS

8/3	Ayden Weaver
8/10	Tom Little
8/17	Russ Jozwiak
8/24	Frank Dunmire
8/31	Marsha Warnick

## A/V TECHNICIANS

8/3	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
8/10	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
8/17	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
8/24	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
8/31	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens

## MEALS ON WHEELS

8/5	Sharon & Rod Butler
8/12	Lyn & Jim Stevens
8/20	Larry & Karen Lange
8/26	Barb & Roger Harting

Substitute/5th Tuesday:

Nancy Peck

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Lyn Stevens

## OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Marsha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING / GROUNDS	Roger Harting
CHANCEL CANDLES	Dale & Barb Jones Debbie Koester
COFFE/TEA	Jill & Ray Eyster
NURSERY	Sharon Goers
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING	Lyn Stevens
SOUND & VIDEO	Jim & Lyn Stevens Joel & Stacey Fletcher
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Gale Krueger Dan Reynolds
TABULATOR(S)	Carol Campbell & Marsha Warnick
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

## ELDERS

8/3	Doug Gerhardt
8/10	Russ Jozwiak
8/17	Merle Collingwood
8/24	John Graff
8/31	Dan Reynolds

## ORGANISTS

8/3	Steve Ford
8/10	Steve Ford
8/17	Lisa Peterman
8/24	Steve Ford
8/31	Lisa Peterman

Thank You for all the service that so many of you give! Check out the Sign-Up Station in the Narthex for more opportunities to serve!

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Tony Adams
8/1	Sarah Barnes
8/2	Paula Busboom
8/4	Cliff Boleyn
8/4	Ron Lamb
8/5	Ray Eyster
8/5	Larry Lange
8/6	Michael Warnick
8/8	Karen Dworak
8/13	Jim Stevens
8/14	Vonda Lamb
8/18	Brian Bailey
8/19	Merle Collingwood
8/19	Joel Fletcher
8/26	Zach Lindsey
8/26	Jack Wallen
8/27	Josie Blackman
8/27	Corbyn McCoy
8/29	Jon Nelson

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/2	Frank & Julie Dunmire
8/8	Ray & Jill Eyster
8/11	Stevan & Gale Krueger
8/12	Jeff & Peg Sites
8/17	Rod & Sharon Butler
8/21	Richard & Julia Austin
8/25	Jason & Loretta Hoehne
8/26	Larry & Karen Lange

*God's comfort is near in difficult times...*

<sup>27</sup> “Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”?”

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:27-31





# MTC KIDS CORNER

## ★ Confirmation Connections

### Planning Ahead: Fall's Confirmation

Do you have a child, friend, or neighbor who is wanting to dive deeper into their faith? Consider having them join next year's youth confirmation class! Mt. Calvary parents, if you have a child who is either in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or up, please talk with us about beginning their confirmation journey. This year we are hoping to connect with not only our own members, but other students from 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are really looking to discover what Jesus is all about!

## ★ Children's Church

**We will not be offering Children's Church during the month of August.** To help your child focus on the Bible stories for that week, be sure to grab a special children's bulletin from the ushers when you arrive at worship!

## ★ General Reminders

### Starting the School Year Right: Developing Healthy Habits from the Start

With the start of a new school year right around the corner, many families are beginning to think about the new routines that will come as classes begin. As you are planning for these additional commitment with sports practices, music rehearsals, and much more, it's important to take some time as a family to set healthy goals and habits. As yourself, "What are our priorities?" "How can we plan around them?" "How do we set aside time as a family?" "How can we make sure that our spiritual needs and worship life remain constant?"

As you think about these things, remember that even Jesus Himself took time away from the busyness of his daily tasks to spend time with His Father in worship and prayer. If Jesus can set boundaries for His spiritual life, we can too!

## ★ Events and Activities

- **Family Fun Night @ Adventure Overlook!**  
Join us Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30pm. You can enjoy dinner at Del Carmens, mini-golf or other activities at Overlook, and maybe even ice cream afterwards! Families are invited to come and go as they please. People of all ages are welcome, but we ask that children younger than 8th grade be accompanied by a parent. Please see Pastor Brett if you have any questions.
- **Sunday School Kick-Off and Rally Day!**  
This year, we will be joining with Trinity as we celebrate Rally Day! During our joint service at Trinity on September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special worship service along with games and activities for our school aged children.

# Partner Ministry Updates



## UNITY CHRISTIAN LIONS

PREPARING LEADERS FOR LIFE

— A Ministry of the Lutheran School Association —

### Now Hiring:

We are in the process of hiring for: Teacher for the second section of 1st grade, HS English Teacher

We are still seeking to hire: HS Science Teacher

### IMPORTANT DATES:

August 6th—Registration Day

August 12th 5:30-7pm—Welcome Back Night

August 14—First Day of School

### LSA Resale Shop

September brings our semi-annual 10-cent sale along with restocking and reopening. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 11 for the 10-cent sale from 9:00 AM - Noon. The shop will be closed Friday & Saturday, September 12 & 13 for restocking. Volunteers are needed for our restocking. Come anytime those days that fits your schedule. If you have questions, contact the shop at 217-423-0122. The shop will re-open on Monday, September 15 with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise.



### Fall Activities at CILCA



September 12—Whippoorwill Golf Outing

September 20—ACT LIKE MEN Shooting Retreat  
(Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)



## CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



### District Convention Updates

The 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District of the LCMS was held on July 13-15 at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center in Springfield, IL. Delegates from each congregation of the District met to discuss various resolutions that will help shape our life together as a district for the next 3 years. While full convention proceedings have yet to be released, the following are a few of the key resolutions that were passed.

- To approve a District-wide Capital Campaign to help fund CID District Missions
- To continue the Dollar For Missions Program in its present form
- To annualize congregational contributions to the District and Synod

