

# December 2021

## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

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

Pastor Brett Hinrichs  
office@mtcalvarydecatur.org



**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8am - 12noon

\*Office CLOSED  
Christmas Eve 12/24\*



## Join Us Sundays

Worship Service  
at 9am

Christian Ed. Hour  
at 10:30am

## Wednesdays,

December 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

Advent Bible Study at 12:15PM

Advent Worship at 6:30PM

# *A Message from Pastor Hinrichs*

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Is your Christmas shopping done yet? Yes? Congratulations, you win Christmas this year! No? Good luck. Haven’t you heard about all the shipping delays, inventory shortages, and lack of retail workers?”

Those were the opening lines to an article I read the other day (and drew upon heavily for this message) by a woman named, Kyla Rodriguez, who is a DCE in our Synod. Now, as she pointed out in the article, it seems to me like the pressure to shop early and buy gifts for Christmas is even more in your face this year than in prior years. The Black Friday deals have started weeks ahead of actual “Black Friday.” In fact, at our house we even received a old-school Christmas toy catalog (from Amazon of all places) before Halloween!

Somewhere in the middle of all these marketing and advertising campaigns, we as Christians also have the dates of the Advent season on our radars. In her article, Kyla reminds us that as we leave the celebration of Thanksgiving (and a few dedicated days of shopping), we enter into a season of anticipation. But we are not just anticipating the next deal on a gift, the next Christmas movie to watch, or even counting down 25 days on an Advent calendar. No, we anticipate the birth of a small baby who changed the world with His arrival! We are counting down to the moment when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth (John 1)!

Now for the world, who doesn’t know Jesus as their Savior, Christmas Day is often viewed as the peak and the end of their season of anticipation. The cookies are baked, decorated, and eaten. The gifts are all given and opened. Now it’s time move on to New Years’ Eve. But for us who know Jesus as our Savior, Christmas Day is not meant to be an *end* to the anticipation of Advent, but is only the *beginning!* Kyla writes, “it launches us into the life and the ministry of a child who would change the world. Christmas Day introduces us to a baby who would one day exchange a lowly wooden bed for an even lowlier wooden cross. Christmas signals not the end of a season, but rather the dawn of something new.”

This season, I encourage you to look toward Christmas not as a deadline for all that you “need” to accomplish between now and December 25<sup>th</sup>, but through the lens of Scripture. Instead of focusing and dwelling on to-do lists and whether your online shopping purchases will arrive in time, dwell instead on the words of the angels announcing good news of great joy to the shepherds. Run with the shepherds to see the baby (Luke 2:16)! Continue to spread the news of what you have seen (Luke 2:17)! Treasure up the details of that day with Mary (Luke 2:19), but also continue to search out Jesus’ teachings (Luke 2:48)!

This Christmas, whatever you buy, whatever you do or do not get done, whatever arrives on time (or doesn’t) I pray that you would take the time to remind yourself and others that Christmas is not the end of a season, but rather the beginning of an entirely new life that is ours in Jesus, whose birth we celebrate and whose saving return we continue to anticipate!

Your fellow servant in this new-born Savior,

*Pastor Brett Hinrichs*

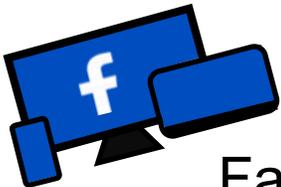
To read Kyla’s article in its entirety, you can go to <https://blog.cph.org/serve/dwell-december-everyday-faith-calendar>

# GROW TOGETHER

## Worship at Mt. Calvary Sunday Opportunities

Worship Service: Sunday at 9am

Christian Education Hour: Sunday at 10:30am



### Connect at Home



Facebook Live Worship: Sunday at 9am

Facebook Live Bible Study: Sunday at 10:30am

\*Special Advent Opportunities begin Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>\*  
(see next page for more details)

## Weekday Bible Studies



### **Men's Bible Study**

Monday evenings at 6:30pm



### **Women's Bible Study**

Tuesday mornings at 9:00am

### **Thursday Bible Study**

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

*All Bible Studies are meeting in-person, but still have remote or call-in options.*

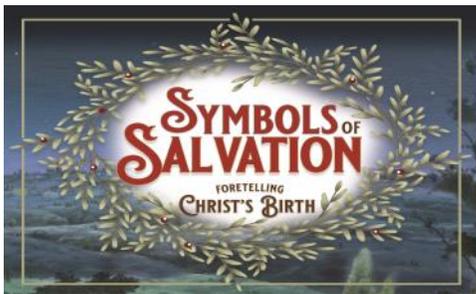
# Midweek Advent Series:

## “Symbols of Salvation- Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament”

Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “*The virgin shall conceive and bear a son*” (Isaiah 7:14); “*Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*” (Isaiah 9:6); and “*From you [O Bethlehem] shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days*” (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that the entire Old Testament prophecies about Him—“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them *in all the Scriptures* the things concerning *Himself*” (Lk 24:27, emphasis added). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; *and it is they that bear witness about Me*” (Jn 5:39, emphasis added). **All of the Bible is about Jesus!** From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh.

Our Advent series this year is going to focus on three particular Old Testament stories that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush,



the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. As we grow closer to Christmas, we’ll see that the narrative of Jesus’ birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification. **All Scripture finds its fulfillment in Him!**

May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh! We hope you can join us for these opportunities to discover even more about Jesus!

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

Regular Sunday Worship: 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26 @ 9:00am

Midday Advent Bible Study: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 @ 12:15pm -12:45pm

Midweek Advent Worship: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 @ 6:30pm

Sunday Youth Led Worship/Children’s Program: 12/19 @ 9:00am

Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service: 12/24 @ 7:00pm

New Years’ Eve Worship and Communion: 12/31 @ 6:00pm

# SERVE TOGETHER

## Stitches of Love

### December 2021

Looms, crochet hooks, knitting needles, and yarn! That's what was hopping this year in our group, Stitches of Love! Our 2021 totals are as follows:

**Hats: 854**

**Baby hats: 37**

**Scarves: 46**

**Blankets: 30**

**Dishcloths: 200**

The blessing of all these items took place during worship on Sunday, November 14. A more detailed article will be coming in January as to where these items were given and how we were the hands and feet of Jesus. We will begin counting anew in December for 2022.

A big thank you to all the people involved in this whether it was working on the items or donating money or yarn or just cheering us on. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month from 2-4 pm.

# LWML Mite Sundays

The **FIRST** Sunday of each month is Mite Sunday. Please remember to turn in your Mites and pick up your new LWML Monthly Mite Challenge Calendar from the LWML table on these days. **Your Mites DO Count!**

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

## Mt. Calvary Preschool Corner December Update



Our students are so excited for Christmas! Their Halloween costumes were hardly put away before their attention was turned to Christmas, and so our Bible Stories all this month will be the Christmas Story!

We planted apple seeds in early November and placed them in our brand-new greenhouse. A huge thanks to Alan Little, Merle Collingwood, and Roger Harting for helping to deliver our greenhouse. There are many more plantings to come!

This month, we will be collecting baby items to donate to New Life Pregnancy Center.

For years, we have offered families the opportunity to order books from Scholastic Book Company. However, this year the shipping challenges have made this difficult, as well as a new increased dollar amount for combined class orders needed to receive free shipping (order totals need to be over \$50). Therefore, we are opening our classroom orders to church members who may want to participate. Orders can be completed online using our classroom code of **Q8ZM3** at [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com) or by using a flyer which will be on the yellow cubies. While the Christmas order has already been placed, if you are interested, please join us for our January order!

# Heavenly Holidays Bazaar

7am-2pm Saturday, December 4

Mount Calvary Lutheran- 2055 S. Franklin Street Rd.

Prepare now for the holidays by marking your calendars for our holiday bazaar. Homemade treats and cookies sold by the pound! Handcrafted items, for Christmas and everyday!

Our Ladies Guild has been busy planning to provide you:

☆ Cookie Walk ☆

☆ Bake Sale ☆

☆ Christmas Room ☆

☆ Cookbooks ☆

☆ Crafters ☆



Sponsored by: Mount Calvary Ladies Guild



Through an online friend I learned of two ladies: Yili, 27, with a diabetic son; and Yinette, 49, with a son and older mother and father. We speak online almost every day. I immediately felt their need and God tugged on my heart.

At first, I was giving them both a little money each week for food. They had NO food. Quickly I realized that I couldn't do this by myself, and God told me we needed to do something more. I talked to my daughters Katie and Amanda. Katie started a group on Facebook. It was rocky at first, but it has fed them almost every week since March or so. God is amazing. And Katie & Amanda have a million friends! But the VE people have so many needs. We got Yili medical help to battle a second round of COVID and much more!

I will return next month with more news and ways that we can help support these brothers and sisters in Christ who worship with us each week. I look forward to sharing with you about the wonderful project that the Monday night Men's Bible Study started.

-Your Brother in Christ,

Dan Reynolds

*If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about this opportunity to bless someone in Venezuela, you can email us at this address: [theleastofthese3@yahoo.com](mailto:theleastofthese3@yahoo.com). You can also check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/leastofthese3/>. Please note that this group is a private group (to minimize spam), but we'd love for you to join us.*

# ***New Ministry Spotlight: Venezuelan News***

*As many of you know, our worship livestream has allowed us to connect with many people with whom we would normally not have the opportunity. This includes a number of people in other countries, including Venezuela. Some of our members have been able to intentionally connect with these Venezuelan families and a growing person-to-person ministry has begun. Occasionally we will be offering updates on these happenings in our Parish Pulse. So please enjoy our first edition of Venezuelan News!*

## **Venezuelan News: Volume 1**

If you are like me, you probably don't know much about Venezuela. Other than it's in South America. Over the course of this year, 2021, I've learned a lot. It was the richest country in South America but is now the poorest. They're very few efforts to help the VE people. The physical infrastructure of the country is collapsing day by day. There is no running water. When the water flows it is dirty and muddy, not fit to drink. Electricity is on and off, with large spikes and brownouts, ruining many devices. Their natural gas system is on and off. Crime is rampant and no police. The avg. monthly wage is less than \$2 a month and their version of social security \$1 a month. The "public" health system has collapsed, and the only reliable source of healthcare is through individuals or private clinics. No garbage service. People pile garbage on large, abandoned lots and burn it. Or just leave it. Most can't work - there are few jobs. Gas is rationed and it's almost impossible to have a car. Food is expensive. A lot of people eat garbage.



# Dove Christmas Care & Share Annual Basket Drive

Distribution will take place at  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 1 Bachrach Ct.

Toys and gifts can be brought to t  
he East entrance of Dove, until Dec. 2 at noon.

Starting on Dec. 3 drop off donations will go to St. Paul's.

This year, we will also be collecting gifts for seniors in nursing homes.

If you would like to sign up to volunteer, our work dates are as  
follows:

**Friday, Dec. 3** 10am- 8pm • **Saturday, Dec. 4** 9am-4pm

**Monday, Dec. 6 - Friday, Dec. 10** 9am- 5pm

**Saturday, Dec. 11** 9am-4pm • **Monday, Dec. 13** 9am-4pm

These days will be unloading, marking labels, sorting and counting  
gifts, delivering gifts to the nursing homes, and shopping if needed. If  
you want to assist in shopping, let us know in advance!

Those days are **Tuesday Dec. 14-Friday, Dec. 17** 8am-5pm

Volunteers are free to come and go as they please! If you want to  
sign up to volunteer, have inquiries, want to adopt a family (or fam-  
ilies) by providing a complete food and gift basket, or have any  
other questions, please reach out to Angie Williams at  
217.428.6616 or email her at [awilliams@doveinc.org](mailto:awilliams@doveinc.org).

# SHARE TOGETHER

## Congregational Fellowship Dinner

**Who can come?** Anyone who wants to join us!

**When will it be?** Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm

**Where will it be?** Mt. Calvary Fellowship Hall

**What will we eat?** A catered meal by Rork's Pork  
Menu items include: Smoked BBQ meal (Smoked Sausage, Pulled Pork), Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls, and Desserts (provided by a few of our members)

**What Else Should I know?** Please RSVP to Debbie Roberts by December 9<sup>th</sup> ([djrob2745@yahoo.com](mailto:djrob2745@yahoo.com) or 217-429-2026)  
Cost will be \$15/person (Checks made out to Debbie Roberts)

## Join the Ladies for Lunch!

Our Tuesday morning Ladies' group will be eating out for lunch after the first bible study of each month! This list is not set in stone, so please keep up with Bethe Little to ensure you are up-to-date with any future changes.



December 7<sup>th</sup> - The Wharf ● January 6<sup>th</sup> - Applebee's

*If you have any questions, please reach out to Bethe Little.*

# Ladies' Christmas Party

The Ladies are having a Christmas party on **Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at **6pm** here at Mt. Calvary and ALL ladies are welcome to join us!

Just add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you are coming. Please bring finger foods to share and a \$5 gift.

If you have any questions, reach out to Bethe Little at 217-855-2802 or [bethelittle2333@gmail.com](mailto:bethelittle2333@gmail.com)



## Looking for More Fellowship Opportunities?

As we look toward the new year and beyond, we are exploring how we can continue to build new ministries or renew prior ones as part of our leadership's initial long range planning discussions (more details to come in the near future). That being said, if you would like to see a new ministry get started or would like to have an old ministry relaunched (BIG KIDS, BUILDING BRIDGRS, ETC.), please get in touch with Pastor Brett or one of the elders. We are excited to keep building for the future (and the present!) as we daily Grow, Serve, and Share together as one body in Christ!

# SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN DECEMBER

## ELDERS

12/1	Scott Busboom
12/5	John Graff & Russ Jozwiak
12/8	Tom Little
12/12	Doug Gerhardt
12/15	Scott Busboom
12/19	John Graff & Russ Jozwiak
12/24	Tom Little & Scott Busboom
12/26	Doug Gerhardt
12/31	John Graff

## READERS

12/5	Scott Busboom
12/12	Tom Little
12/19	Russ Jozwiak
12/26	Frank Dunmire

## A/V TECHNICIANS

12/1	Jim Stevens & Justin Burns
12/5	Jim Stevens & Kelsie Gerhardt
12/8	Joel Fletcher & Justin Burns
12/12	Jim Stevens & Kelsie Gerhardt
12/15	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
12/19	Joel Fletcher & Kelsie Gerhardt
12/24	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
12/26	Joel Fletcher & Kelsie Gerhardt
12/31	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Dec 7	Sharon & Rod Butler
Dec 14	Lyn & Jim Stevens
Dec 21	Nancy Peck
Dec 28	Barb & Roger Harting

## OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Masha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Roger Harting 217-428-6718 217-412-6289 rbharting@hotmail.com
CANDLES & ALTAR	George & Debbie Roberts Dale & Barb Jones Ron Augustine
BELLS & CHOIR	Peter Miller
NURSERY	Sharon Goers
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING	Lyn Stevens
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Kelsie Gerhardt Gale Krueger Dan Reynolds
TABULATOR(S)	Marsha Warnick Rodger Koester
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

## ORGANISTS

12/1	Steve Ford
12/5	Steve Ford
12/8	Krista Hinrichs
12/12	Krista Hinrichs
12/15	Lisa Peterman
12/19	Peter Miller
12/24	Steve Ford
12/26	Lisa Peterman
12/31	Lisa Peterman

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/1	Alan & Allison Dull
12/3	Jim & Carol Sulwer
12/13	Scott & Paula Busboom
12/28	Dale & Barbara Jones
12/29	Steve & Sandy Haseley
12/30	Alan & Bethe Little
12/31	Jim & Beth Butler Bob & Sheila Norman

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2	Jim Butler
12/3	Megan Boerwinkle Nancy Howard
12/4	Richard Austin Karlie Rae Jeffers Vickie Mendenhall
12/7	Pastor Brett Hinrichs Tayler Howse
12/14	Kelsie Gerhard
12/16	Lori Wallen
12/17	Samantha Baker Alan Reynolds
12/20	Ryan Jozwiak
12/26	Cecilia Barding
12/27	Lyric Novak
12/30	Nicholas Atteberry Jean Wangrow

# “Just a Thought”

It seems that as we age, the celebration of holidays gets just a little more difficult. There is more consideration given to how many decorations you put up, since they will just have come back down. Chances are you have lost friends or family members this year, making it that much harder to “celebrate”. I ask you to keep one thing foremost in your mind... Jesus is the reason for our celebration. He doesn't need our decorations or special meals etc. to have a special place in our holiday celebrations, He only needs a home in your heart.

*Sharing my Thoughts with You,  
-Beth Langdon*

# Partner Ministry Updates



## LSA LIONS

### Giving Back:

**LSA Student Government's "Share-The-Gift" Fundraiser:** During the month of November, students, families, and community supporters engaged in a contest to help raise money to buy Christmas presents for kids in foster care through Lutheran Child and Family Services. It began as 10 teachers were nominated to be turned into a human "Ice Cream Sunday." Each day students could "vote" with their donation and whoever had the most money by the end of the fundraiser would "win" the sweet, cold prize.

By the end of the fundraiser, \$10,000 had been raised which will buy presents for 100 foster kids this Christmas. What a great way to share the love of Jesus with our community this season!

### Upcoming Events:

**LSA Student Christmas Concerts:** LSA Christmas concerts will be held in the gymnasium on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Grades PreK-4 & 5/6 Choir will celebrate at 2pm. Grade 5/6 Band & MS/HS Band and Choir will celebrate at 4pm. We'd love to see our congregational families, friends, and community member join us for these great musical experiences!

## "Gayle Sablotny – Gifting the LSA" Memoriam and Fundraiser

**\*\*\*ENDING SOON\*\*\***

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

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

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

Gayle Sablotny served at the LSA as an art teacher for over 11 years and impacted many lives. The lives of her students, her coworkers, her family and friends. On Dec. 3, 2010, God called Miss S. home to heaven. December 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. SO, in memory of her, 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. Let's make HER PROUD by GIFTING THE LSA.

# STAY CONNECTED

## LSA ReSale Shop

421 E. Cerro Gordo Decatur, IL. 217-423-0122

The shop is always in need of helpers! Call or stop in to ask about our current volunteer opportunities.

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## CAMP CILCA

ADDRESS: 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall, IL 62625



- PHONE: 217-487-7497 •
- EMAIL: [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org) •
- WEBSITE: [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org) •



## CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT



*Of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

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