

January 2021

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

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

Pastor Brett Hinrichs
office@mtcalvarydecatur.org



Monday – Friday
8am -12Noon

Join Us For
In-Person
Worship

Sundays
9am & 10:30am

January 1, 2021
New Year's Day
*Office Closed

A Message from Pastor Hinrichs

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's the start of a brand new year, and boy are we ready for it! 2021, here we come!

Like many of you, I have been saying for a while, "I just can't wait to get 2020 done and over with." Going through a life-altering, world changing year (which is what this past year has been) it is completely natural for us to look at a new year to bring us a fresh start and a better, more comfortable, life. In fact, the other day, I heard someone say, "I hope 2021 brings us some good news."

As I thought about statement, it struck me how weird it is that we look to something as abstract as "a year" to bring about some good news in our lives. Because as much as we say it, it's not 2021 that will bring us some good news and a fresh start. Those things are found only in our God! And that is exactly we hear about in this beautiful gem of a reading in Lamentations chapter 3. God, speaking through His prophet, says,

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: 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."

You see, just many of us are looking for hope and a renewed life, the people in Jeremiah's day were looking for hope too. They also had just had their world torn apart and were left with pieces of a life they used to know. And just like today, they were looking for hope and a new beginning in all the wrong places.

You see, hope isn't found in a new year. And a new beginning doesn't come when you flip a page in the calendar. Only the faithful, merciful God of all creation can bring about a truly new sense of hope in our hearts. As the passage says, *"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, great is Your faithfulness."* Although we all know it, our hope is always found in Jesus and His faithfulness to us.

So as we look at the beginning of another year, our hope and our joy isn't found in whatever earthly events may happen in 2021. As harsh as it sounds, 2021 may not be all that great either. But no matter what lies ahead, we can trust in God's Word and rejoice that our hope and joy is found in God alone. He will continue to be faithful to us and have mercy upon us. Because in Jesus, we now longer get what we deserve, but instead are given the LORD himself as our portion and peace.

May God bless each one of us in Jesus, now and always,

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

PLEASE SEE UPDATES BELOW

Worship at Mt. Calvary

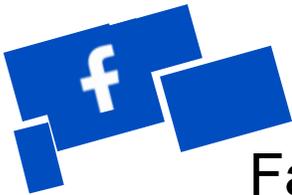
In-Person Opportunities

To sign up call the church office or go to www.mtcalvarydecatour.org

Sunday 9am Worship (45 person limit)

Sunday 10:30am Worship (45 person limit)

Children's Message & Children's Church at this service!



At-Home Worship



Facebook Live Worship: Sunday at 9am

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

Bible Study Opportunities



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 JANUARY

ELDERS

January 3	Russ Jozwiak
January 10	Doug Gerhardt
January 17	Tom Little
January 24	Frank Dunmire
January 31	Russ Jozwiak

MEALS ON WHEELS-TUESDAYS

January 5	Dorothy Damery
January 12	Lyn & Jim Stevens
January 19	Nancy Peck
January 26	Sharon & Rod Butler

Altar Flower Openings

We have numerous openings and want you to know that those wishing to place flowers on the altar can do so again by contacting the church office instead of signing up in the Fellowship Hall; Kim or Tessa will put you on the schedule. Your \$20.00 per vase/\$40 for both, payment can be dropped off in the office or mailed in. Marsha Warnick can deliver your flowers after 10:30 service if you'd like to have them; if not, they'll be delivered to a nursing home.

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
ORGANIST(S)	Steve Ford, Krista Hinrichs, Peter Miller, Lisa Peterman
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING- PAPER	Lyn Stevens
SCRIP COORDINATORS	Ashley Atchason Bonnie Seeforth
SOUND & VIDEO	Scott Busboom Kelsie Gerhardt Joel Fletcher
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Ashley Atchason Dorothy Damery
TABULATOR(S)	Marsha Warnick
USHER(S)	Andrew Napier

Visit Mt. Calvary's Website & Facebook Page

There you'll find our live-streamed worship, online devotions, bulletins, announcements, calendar, Parish Pulse, and more!

www.mtcalvarydeatur.org
www.facebook/mtcalvarydeatur



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Mary Duncan
1/2	Sue Perryman Jeff Robb
1/3	Caroline Dull Nadine Meyer
1/4	Carson Robb
1/5	Debbie Roberts Donna Schenkel
1/9	Susan Simpson Carol Sulwer
1/10	Frank Dunmire
1/14	Pat Hursh Rick Walters
1/19	Krista Gerhardt
1/20	Dan Reynolds
1/21	Tom Little
1/22	Jeff Sites
1/24	Elizabeth Adams
1/25	Mary Aukamp
1/26	Michelle Benton
1/28	Preston Scott Herring Marcia Sleeth
1/30	Bill Peter

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/5	Ron & Vonda Lamb
1/19	Tony & Elizabeth Adams
1/20	Winston & Melba Lacey

January 2021

Sun Mo Tue We Thu Fri Sat

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
²⁴ / ₃₁	25	26	27	28	29	30

*New Year's Day

"Just a Thought"

Just a thought will be a new newsletter addition, written by Beth Langdon, who leads one of the Bible Studies in our congregation. Each month a new topic will be addressed and Beth welcomes any and all feedback on a topic or one you would like to see addressed.

Just a thought... The trauma and destruction of Covid-19 are not likely to leave our lives or minds any time soon. This mighty virus measuring a mere 120 nanometers has been nearly as powerful in its impact as the atomic bomb.

So, how do we move into 2021 with hope and optimism?

I believe the answer is found in the great I AM. Our God is not named I WAS or I WILL BE. He is the great I AM. This means He is eternally with us in the present for us to lean on. He is mightier than the virus. As we lean into Him, we will find the strength to move forward. With I AM, all things are possible.

These, dear friends, are just my thoughts...

Partner Ministry Updates

Our LSA School & ReSale Shop Updates

eLearning has been extended through Jan. 15th. Due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases and large number of staff and students quarantined due to contact tracing, LSA will be complying with the Macon County Health Department's recommendation for all area schools switch to remote learning through January 15th.

Share the Gift: Due to the Covid Pandemic, Student Government Members wrapped their children's gifts at their own homes and, thanks to all of your amazing contributions of wrapping supplies, gifts, and encouragement, the LSA was able to provide approximately 50 children with Christmas gifts!

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 offices will be closed and staff will be working from home through Monday, January 18th. Phone messages may not get returned immediately but we will be available [via email](#) during regular office hours.

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.



CID Updates

EVENTS ACROSS OUR CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

YouthLead Training

February 25-28, 2021 // St. Louis, MO

YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) has equipped teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. The Synodical annual leadership training event in St. Louis is led by our teen Executive Team and gives teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ.

Who is Invited Any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS congregation can join us. We encourage you to contact your district before you register as some districts have supports for those attending this training. (CID has budgeted limited scholarship funds). We prefer teens attend with an adult leader from their congregation. Arrangements can be made for them to come unaccompanied.

Registration for youth and adults is \$375. This covers your food, housing, supplies and a shirt during the whole training. You will need to also cover your transportation to and from St. Louis. REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW. GO TO LCMS.ORG/YOUTHLEAD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

We may have been hoping that the COVID-19 pandemic would be over by now. But many of us are still experiencing its affects. Even if we aren't sick, we may be feeling COVID FATIGUE, which may include weariness, loneliness, frustration, fear, anger, and grief. Yet, in Christ we can still have hope, joy, and peace. Martha Washington was quoted as saying, "The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our disposition and not on our circumstances." We do not always have the power to change our circumstances. But we do have the power to change our attitude or outlook.

We can adjust our disposition by doing the following:

Remember that just as God has gotten us through difficulties in the past, He can do so again. He has provided and will continue to provide the resources and support we need.

Believe that eventually, according to his timing, God will change our circumstances. We are told that a number of COVID vaccines will soon be available. We can trust that eventually this pandemic will end.

Think positive. Norman Vincent Peale wrote "Change your thoughts and you change your world." St. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things."

Trust that God works through all situations for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes (Romans 8:28). He gives us peace that passes understanding, hope that doesn't fail us, and strength in Christ. God may be working through our difficulties to help us grow, to rearrange our priorities, or to fashion us for better things.

Trust that God is with us always. David said to his son Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." He gives us a full life of hope, joy, peace, strength, and contentment even when the world seems to be trying to take these blessings away. Jesus assures us in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." – Rev. Jeffrey Harter

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl (April 2021)

Introducing the 2021 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl: The Exodus. As, God willing, we have our own exodus from home confinement to meeting together as God's church in our various congregations, we seek God's guidance for our exodus by studying the historical portions of the biblical book of Exodus (chapters 1-20, 24, 32-34, & 40). Whether or not we can have an in-person District Bible Bowl. (or via Zoom?), we can study God's word in our homes and/or churches in the Christian hope of God's freeing us from the shackles of this world into His promised paradise through Jesus Christ. Contact Pastor Mark Eddy at zionlcms@juno.com if you would like more information about how your congregation's youth might participate in this year's Bible Bowl.

ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

"Through the Old Testament in a Church Year"- audio resource by Issues, etc. with Ken Schurb

You can find resources that survey the Old Testament in a year. Here, however, is one that does so in a church year. This audio resource will consist of a series of Issues, etc. interviews with CID staff member Ken Schurb during the 2020-2021 church year. The typical interview will run about 25 minutes, closer to 20 minutes if listeners fast-forward through various announcements. The interview recordings will be available on demand at <https://issuesetc.org/archive> The series commenced on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020, with an hour-long premiere that highlighted the biblical teachings of Creation (appropriate for Thanksgiving) and of the Fall and first prophecy of the coming Deliverer (for the First Sunday in Advent Responding to Idols- Book Discussion (Zoom format)

Starting on Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 pm The book *The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther against the Idol of Me, Myself, and I* by Michael Lockwood (CPH, 2016) lays out Luther's multi-faceted case against idolatry and for the one saving God. This book applies the reformer's biblical insights to our times today. CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb will conduct one-hour Zoom discussions of this book every other week, with a break in February.

These conversations are open to all members of CID churches. Pastors and other rostered church workers are especially encouraged to participate. Send an e-mail (kschurb@cidlcms.org .) expressing interest. We will take that as your registration and reply with the appropriate Zoom link. The sessions will be recorded. If you cannot participate live, you can view the session later.

There is no cost for the sessions. In fact, CID will provide the first 25 registrants for these sessions a gratis copy of the book *The Unholy Trinity*. (Please reimburse the District \$3.00 for shipping costs.) If you register by January 3, 2021, we can mail a copy of the book. Be sure to include both your e-mail address and your postal address in your e-mail message to kschurb@cidlcms.org.

CAMP CILCA LOWDOWN: JANUARY 2021



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



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

2021 Summer Camp Theme Announced!

This summer our theme for our summer camp session will be: ***“All for One & One for All!”*** The theme is based off of God’s Word in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, which says:

¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died



The Dining Hall Updates are nearing completion!

