

January 2023

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

2055 S. Franklin St. Rd
Decatur, IL 62521

217-428-0641

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

pastor@mtcalvarydecatur.org

Vicar Nathan Nelson

vicar@mtcalvarydecatur.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8am - 12noon

Office will be closed
January 2nd

Check out our Newest
Parish Pulse Section,
"MTC KIDS CORNER"

Worship With Us on Sundays

Worship Service
at 9am

Christian Ed. Hour
at 10:30am

A Message from Pastor Hinrichs

*“For I the Lord do not change;
therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”*

-Malachi 3:6

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I don't know about you, but I have never been very good at keeping my new year's resolutions. I tell myself each year that I am going to do so many new and different things in the upcoming year: exercise more, eat healthier, spend more time in prayer and devotions, the list goes on. But sadly, those changes only last for a while before I find myself falling back into familiar ways.

What is it about New Year's resolutions that get us so bogged down? Is it that it is simply hard to break old habits? Is it that we don't have enough motivation? Or is it something deeper?

As you know, the Christian life is not necessarily a steady climb to living a more God-pleasing life. We have seasons when we may finally gain control of one sinful behavior we've been working on, but then another one pops up. It's a lot like whack-a-mole.

Now this is not to say that we never spiritually mature. God certainly does teach us many lessons and through His Word, the Holy Spirit changes the many sinful behaviors and attitudes we carry.

But the problems we face when we make these God-pleasing new year's resolutions is that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature are all fighting against us. On this side of eternity, we'll never live up to all of things we resolve to change. As harsh a reality as it is, we'll never be “good enough” to keep Satan off our backs.

This is why as we come out of the Christmas season, we rejoice in the sure and certain truth that God resolved to send His Son, Jesus to be our Savior. He did what we could not and kept all of the promises He made, as a new chapter in the history of the world began. Christ resolved to face the punishment we deserve for our “empty resolutions” and stuck with it to the end. Because of this, His father raised Him from the dead and gives that new life to us.

So this year if you find yourself struggling to keep those resolutions, know that you have a God who has resolved to give you forgiveness, life, and strength to live as His child in the year 2023 and in all of the years to come, even unto eternal life. God's richest blessings to you and your family this 2023!

In Jesus,

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

GROW TOGETHER

Worship at Mt. Calvary

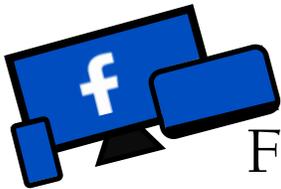
Sunday Opportunities

Worship Service at 9_{AM}

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

Christian Education Hour at 10:30_{AM}

— Adult Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Additional Classes —



Connect at Home



Facebook Live Worship: Sunday at 9_{AM}

Radio Worship: Sunday at 9_{AM} on 100.9FM WZUS

Weekday Bible Studies

Men’s Bible Study

Monday evenings at 6:30PM

Women’s Bible Study

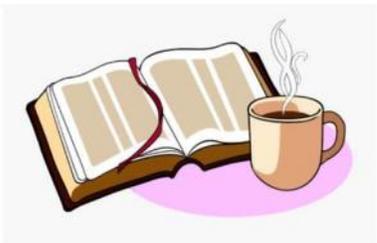
Tuesday mornings at 9:00am

A New Song: I Have Set My King On Zion

Thursday Bible Study

1st & 3rd Thursday evenings at 6:00pm

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



SERVE TOGETHER

Ladies Guild Breakfast & Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 21st @ 8:30 am is the

Ladies Guild yearly planning meeting.

All ladies are encouraged to join us for breakfast and then planning our events and setting our calendar for 2023.

Valentines for Veterans

We will be collecting Valentines to take to Veterans at the Veterans Home in Danville.

The basket is located in the Narthex. The cut-off date to drop Valentines in the basket is February 5th, 2023. Thanks to the Normans for delivering the Valentines to Danville!



Mt. Calvary Preschool Corner

What we'll do in January

- Solar System Model
- Make a Snowman without Snow
- Star Machines
- Melting Experiment
- Magnet Day
- Opposite Day
- Clown Day
- Circus Day

January Bible Stories

Wise Men and Stars
 Jesus is Named
 Flight to Egypt
 Jesus Grows
 January Jubilation
 God's Snow
 Jacob and Angels
 Up, Down & All Around



Space and Planets

Earth

Day and Night

Winter Season

A Prayer Before Meals

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest.
Let thy gifts to us be blessed.
 Amen.

God is great. God is good.
 And we thank Him for our food.
 By His hands, we are fed.
 Thank you, Lord, for daily bread.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Jan. 4th	4S	Return to School
Jan. 4th	4S	"Mitten Day" Bring your mittens to school
Jan. 5th	3S	Return to School
Jan. 13th	3S	"Toasty Toes Day" Bring your slippers to school

Stitches of Love



2022 was a very productive and giving year for Stitches of Love! Besides our loyal members who have provided many beautiful items, we have had three ladies from sister congregations also help us make items.

Recap for 2022 - Our totals were as follows:

Hats: 1004 Baby Hats: 66 Scarves: 167

Dish cloths: 428 Scrubbies: 5 Headbands: 4

Lap Afghans: 2 Fingerless Gloves: 4

Our beloved preschool was given hats, scarves and gloves. We were asked if we could provide hats for Evergreen Lutheran Church and School in Detroit, Michigan, by our preschool director and we did which she sent on. We gave hats and scarves to the LSA Student Council for their gift bags.

As we were then able, we provided hats and some scarves to the following: South Shores which is the school our church has adopted, and Parsons School. We also gave hats to Ashley Robinson's class at Muffley and Shannen Ray's class at MacArthur. A teacher from Hope reached out and asked for hats for her fifth grade class because she had heard our church was very generous and hoped we could provide. God provided just enough hats to take care of her class!

Very soft hats were donated to Cancer Care as were the lap afghans. Premie hats will be given to St. Mary's, and the remainder of the hats will be taken to Crossings to give to clients.

The dish cloths and scrubbies were given to Northeast Community Fund to put in their Christmas baskets.

Deana Tappendorf related this story which came from her daughter, Loretta, who works in an area dentist office. A little boy came in with a hat and scarf on, replete with the tags stating they are from Mt. Calvary. He was flipping that scarf like a Hollywood star. He informed the staff he wasn't taking the hat and scarf off because God gave them to him! If that doesn't make it all worth it, not sure what does!

Please join us if you want to help in this ministry to the community. We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 1 p.m. To God be the glory!

Venezuelan News - Volume 2-01

Yili's health continues to improve. They have some ideas as to the cause of the pulmonary hypertension. She is taking her medicine. She can actually get out of the house now. But like here there is widespread flu, covid, and the like. She must be very careful. With her condition and having asthma she has a lot of risks. Her hope continues to get better. I try as much as I can to encourage her.

I told you last month that I was getting a package together. Between Toni and I we had three boxes. All large and heavy. Ironically the most expensive part of the journey was to Miami (same as last time). But since early in the year the cost has more than doubled. Instead of \$30 a box to Miami, now UPS is charging \$60 (and that's with a discount). We sent gifts for all of them, school supplies, some special food items, toiletries. It's such a joy to get the items gathered together and pack them up and ship them out. I guess in a way it's being able to reach out and touch them. I wish it didn't take so long – I know they would love Toni to send some cookies or brownies!

I am composing this news on December 19th, after our youth led service. Yinette and 'mama' watch live on FB on Sunday mornings (unless power and/or Internet are down). Mama asked Yinette to replay that service three times yesterday. According to the Internet it is 2276 miles from Decatur airport to the Maracaibo, Venezuela airport. Did you ever imagine that what we did in our church would touch hearts over 2000 miles away. Never doubt what God can do. And I would even be so bold as to say never doubt what God can do through you. I try to email them a devotion every day and then one on the weekends as well. They really appreciate the daily devotions.

Donations have been hit or miss the last month. One week they are great and the next week not so much. It is difficult to predict. I know I need to trust God – it is truly God who supplies all. On the weeks we are short it is so hard. Emotionally, it's difficult for me. Please pray for the mission. That somehow, we can continue to feed these families. I would love to tell you that all you've heard on the news about sanctions lifting has helped but it appears to be just so much hot air. The government decided that this month the people should pay for power. Kind of insulting when the power is about as dependable as the weather. On top of that, Venezuelans celebrate their holiday more between Christmas and New Year. Everyone has to pony up \$20 this month for power. Compared to what we pay that's quite a bargain, but Venezuela is a socialist country – power is supposed to be free – and nothing is cheap when you don't have a job.

I am still planning on giving a presentation of the mission/ministry after the first of the year. I haven't talked about a date yet. But we will communicate this ahead of time. Please attend if you can.

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
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
Our Venmo is: Kaitlyn-Gambrill

SHARE TOGETHER

Join the Ladies for Lunch...

The first Tuesday of each month the ladies enjoy lunch together after Bible Study. Join them this month at:

January 3rd—Lock Stock and Barrel

Contact Beth Little if you have any questions.

Food Fellowship Fun

***Will meet Saturday, January 28 at 11:30
for Buffet lunch at The Wagon***

***Cost should be under \$20—we will
know more closer to the day of the event***

Deadline to RSVP is 1/22/23

***RSVP by calling Debbie Roberts at 217-
972-0774 or email djrob2745@yahoo.com***

***Can you help make our first Winterfest a
success? We could use more Winter
themed decorations to help make the
rooms feel cozy. Please drop off any
decorations early in the week of January
8th.***

***Help will be needed on January 9&10 in
the afternoons to set up and decorate.***

***There are many opportunities to help
make this event a wonderful memory. If
you have questions or volunteering offers
contact Beth Langdon at
duckybl@aol.com.***

Winterfest

January 14 & 15 1-4 PM

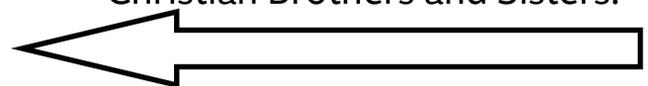
Join us as we celebrate Winter together! This is a family-friendly event with several venues for you to experience. There will be trains set up around the church. We will have an “Activity Stage” area in the Fellowship Hall where anyone is welcome to share their special talents. Playing instruments, singing, whipping up your favorite recipe or trying your hand at standup comedy, juggling or a magic trick! We encourage all to participate.

Name That Tune will be hosted by Steve Ford. Beth Langdon will host poetry readings and the Blackman’s will perform show tunes. There will be a “stage” where you can “show and tell” about a prized possession. Adult VBS did this last Summer and truly enjoyed hearing the stories that were shared.

There will be hot cocoa, coffee, milk, cookies, nuts and mints to enjoy. Winterfest is open-house-style, so bring a friend and show them that we have fun together!

The entry fee is a can of nonperishable food. Vicar Nathan will be creating a “can castle” at the event and all food will be donated to the Northeast Community Fund afterwards.

As you can see, there will be something for everyone. So shake off the January blues and come feel the warmth and love of your Christian Brothers and Sisters.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN JANUARY

ELDERS

Jan 1	John Graff
Jan 8	Russ Jozwiak
Jan 15	Dan Reynolds
Jan 22	Doug Gerhardt
Jan 29	John Graff

READERS

Jan 1	Ashley Robinson
Jan 8	Krista Gerhardt
Jan 15	Sheila Norman/Bonnie Seeforth
Jan 22	John Graff/Roger Harting
Jan 29	Marsha Warnick

A/V TECHNICIANS

Jan 1	Jim Stevens/Kelsie Gerhardt
Jan 8	Jim Stevens/Joel Fletcher
Jan 15	Jim Stevens/Joel Fletcher
Jan 22	Jim Stevens/Joel Fletcher
Jan 29	Jim Stevens/Joel Fletcher

ORGANISTS

Jan 1	Lisa Peterman
Jan 8	Steve Ford
Jan 15	Lisa Peterman
Jan 22	Steve Ford
Jan 29	Peter Miller

OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Marsha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Roger Harting
CHANCEL CANDLES	George & Debbie Roberts Dale & Barb Jones
COFFEE/TEA	
CHOIR	Peter Miller
NURSERY	Sharon Goers
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING	Lyn Stevens
SOUND & VIDEO	Jim & Lyn Stevens Joel & Stacey Fletcher
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Kelcie Gerhardt Gale Krueger Dan Reynolds
TABULATOR(S)	Brenda Roland & Marsha Warnick
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

MEALS ON WHEELS

1/3	Sharon & Rod Butler
1/10	Lyn & Jim Stevens
1/17	Nancy Peck
1/24	Barb & Roger Harting
1/31	Karen & Larry Lange

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:
Lyn Stevens

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	Sue Perryman Jeff Robb
1/3	Caroline Dull Nadine Meyer
1/4	Carson Robb
1/5	Debbie Roberts Donna Schenkel
1/9	Carol Sulwer
1/10	Frank Dunmire
1/14	Richard Walters
1/19	Krista Gerhardt
1/20	Dan Reynolds
1/21	Tom Little
1/22	Jeff Sites
1/25	Mary Aukamp Bobbi Jo McCoy
1/28	Preston Scott Herring Marcia Sleeth
1/30	Bill Peter Finley Stock

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/5	Ron & Vonda Lamb
1/20	Winston & Melba Lacey

“Just a Thought”

Or...

Just a Question...

Is it possible to out-give God?

Since the Voter's meeting on December 11 I have wrestled with this concept. God certainly has His Hand on this church and is providing opportunities for us to “step up to the plate.” The church needs more money to meet the budget (I don't think the budget is wildly out of line).

He is responsible for all that we are and have. It is all on loan anyhow and we can't take it with us in the end...I struggle with this like many of you do.

So, I repeat, is it possible to out-give His provision for us? How will you answer this? For me, I think it is time I trust Him a little more. I hope you join me in this walk of faith.

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

-Malachi 3:10

2022 Contribution Statements will be in your mailboxes on January 15th



MTC KIDS CORNER

Events and Activities

Junior & Senior High Youth!

Be on the lookout for more information about our next joint youth group outing in January. We are still lining up the details, but we're looking at hosting an "Ice Skating Extravaganza" at the arena in the Decatur Civic Center.

Children's Church

There will NOT be Children's Church on New Year's Day during worship!

We will resume our class on Sunday, January 8th.

Confirmation Connections

Confirmation Class Resumes!

Be sure to join us after worship on Sunday, January 8th as we start back in on our regularly scheduled Confirmation Class. We will be covering the following topics in January.

- The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed (Jesus' Life & Ministry)
- The 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed (The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit)

We can't wait to have you back with us as we learn and grow together!

General Reminders

We love kids in worship! The following is from a Facebook post going around! It is so true!

Bring them to church. Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior ... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay down, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job. Bring them to church.

Partner Ministry Updates



LSA UPDATES

Upcoming Events:

ALL CONGREGATIONS ARE INVITED TO THE UNITY 23 BASKETBALL GAME

January 6th at 6:00PM come and support the Boys Basketball team while also supporting the Unity 23 fund drive. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 Students/Seniors. **Let's come together and PACK THE PLACE!!**

Hiring for Open Positions:

Looking for a great place to work? Join the LSA Lions family! We are currently hiring for the following open positions. Please contact our Executive Director, Brian Booth at bbooth@lsadecatur.net for more info.

- ◆ Elementary Music Teacher

The LSA ReSale Shop:

The LSA ReSale Shop accepts the following **clean** items: New & used clothing with no rips or holes; useable kitchen items including small, working appliances, pots & pans, dishes, glassware, serving pieces, etc. (no chips or broken pieces); home décor with no chips or broken pieces; holiday items for any holiday; toys with ALL parts.

All donation items should be put in bags or boxes of a manageable size with clothing separate from household items. A good question to ask yourself before donating: "Is the item I'm going to donate something that I would buy?" If the answer is "yes", then the ReSale Shop would love to have your donation. Volunteers are always needed. You can stop by anytime or call the Shop for details.

The LSA ReSale Shop is located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo Decatur, IL.

The phone number is 217-423-0122.

CID HAPPENINGS

First Ever “Act Like Men” Retreat January 20-22

Men in high school and up will gather for a weekend of activity and instruction, food and encouragement. Assertiveness, health & fitness, competence, vocation, adventure, piety, and more will be discussed and practiced.

Don't miss this opportunity to gather with other Christian Men and explore what Saint Paul meant when he admonished the Corinthians to & act like men. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

\$50 per person. Participants will stay in the Retreat Center, a 42-bed dorm-style house. Meals will be provided. You will need to bring your own bedding, towels, & toiletries.

Register today at:
www.cilca.org/act-like-men-retreat

Camp CILCA Events Save the Date!

March 4 Pancake Dinner: A “Thank You” Event for all CILCA supporters!

March 10-11 Act Like Men: Woodcutters Retreat: Men felling trees, splitting wood, and growing in the Word.

March 26: Annual Banquet with Special Guest Speaker Mrs. Katie Schuermann

April 1: Spring Work Day: Help open up the camp for the season.

April 1: SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! **You can get a 15% discount on Summer programs by registering early!**

Go to our website or Facebook for more information!

Christian Citizenship – Living as Christian Citizens in the Here and Now

In January of 2023, the Illinois General Assembly will conduct a “lame duck” session and begin its regular 2023 legislative session. As Christians, we have a responsibility to be good citizens and participate in the democratic process. Visit our CID District website to read current and updated information regarding your role as a Christian Citizen.

<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.html>

Small Church Summit:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville, Illinois, invites members of small churches in the Central and Southern Illinois Districts to the second “Small Church Summit” on the day after Epiphany, Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (“Snow date” is January 14.) This free event is open to all.

For more information, see the Gatepost:
<http://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2022.GatePost.3.pdf>

To register for this event, please visit:
<https://forms.gle/Z1Xey4BQNiLN533q8>



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS
DISTRICT**

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