

March 2024

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

2055 S. Franklin St. Rd
Decatur, IL 62521

217-428-0641

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

office@mtcalvarydecatur.org



Daylight Savings Time
Begins March 10, 2024.
Spring Forward!

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8am - 12noon

**From dust
you were
taken...**



**But in
Christ,
you are
restored**

All are Welcome
to Join Us!

Sundays

Worship Service 9_{AM}

Christian Ed. Hour 10:30_{AM}

Wednesdays

Lenten Service 6:30_{PM}

A Message from Pastor Hinrichs

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16:6-8

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

A few years back there was an interesting fad that made its way across TVs throughout our country and even throughout the world: the fad of the “Courtroom Drama”. The premise of this genre is to draw the viewers into the emotional and highly charged (and also extremely exaggerated) world of the legal system. And if you've ever watched these shows you know that there is often a “surprise witness” that comes on the stand to testify to some aspect of the crime that they've seen or heard that is critical to the case.

As many of you know, in our midweek worship services we have been hearing from a number of people in Scripture who testified about what they had seen and heard about Jesus' suffering and death. However as we approach Easter, it is important to remember that these witnesses don't just testify to Jesus' death, but also to His resurrection, even if reluctantly at first! In fact, in the portion of Mark's Gospel recorded above, we see a strange phenomenon happening. As soon as the angel makes the announcement about Jesus' resurrection, the women who were at the tomb freeze up. They were so shocked and so scared because it all seemed too good to be true!

As Christian living today, there are times when we, like the women, can also find ourselves dealing with that strange Easter silence. When we stop to consider the news, it can be hard to believe. After all, it isn't everyday that someone comes back to life! But nevertheless, we know the truth: Jesus is risen! Jesus has gone before us! Jesus will reveal Himself to us! It will all be just as Jesus has told us!

As we relive these events of Jesus' death and resurrection this month, I challenge you to go and do what the women first struggled to do: Go and share Jesus with someone! Tell them about a Savior who the grave couldn't contain. Proclaim to them a God who death couldn't hold. Tell them of a love that is larger than life and a promise that no power can prevent! This Easter may we no longer be reluctant witnesses who struggle with an Easter silence, but instead, by the power of the Spirit, speak boldly and powerfully about our Savior who keeps His Word! For Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the name of our Risen Lord,

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

Grow Together

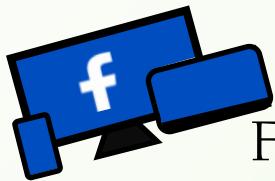
Worship Life at Mt. Calvary Sunday Opportunities

Worship Service at 9:00_{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 9:00_{AM}

Radio Worship: Sunday at 9:00_{AM} on 100.9FM WZUS

See next page for Mid-Week Lenten Worship and Holy Week and Easter Service dates and times.

Weekday Bible Studies

Men’s Bible Study: Monday Evenings 6:30_{PM}

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

Women’s Bible Study: Tuesday Mornings at 9:00_{AM}

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

The 3rd Tuesday of each month join the ladies at Evergreen Living Center or Primrose Living Center. See the Calendar for details.

Thursday Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thursday evenings at 6:00_{PM}

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

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

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK



As we journey on through the season of Lent, we will continue reflecting on the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion during our Wednesday evenings. Below you'll find the rest of the topics for our services as well as a brief overview of our Holy Week schedule.

— Midweek Lenten Schedule —

Wednesday, March 6th
at 6:30_{PM}
“Denial”

Wednesday, March 13th at
6:30_{PM}
“Gethsemane”

Wednesday, March 20th
at 6:30_{PM}
“Guilty”

— Holy Week Schedule —



Palm Sunday Worship Service (New Member Welcome)

Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 am

This Sunday kicks off our Holy Week services, as we are led into worship with a youth led Palm Sunday Procession Parade and many other creative elements to guide us in our reflection on the love that led Jesus into Jerusalem and the Cross.



Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion Service

Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 pm

We invite you to join us for a beautiful evening of worship, reflecting on the incredible last will and testimony Jesus gives as He washes His disciples' feet and institutes the sacred meal we now know as the Lord's Supper.



Tenebrae Worship Service (Service of Progressive Darkness)

Friday, March 29th at 6:30 pm

As we continue to reflect on Jesus' final days of earthly ministry, our attention turns to the darkness that descended upon the world that first Good Friday. This is a very interactive and moving service, one that you won't soon forget!



Sunrise & Celebration Services (Communion at Both Services)

Sunday, March 31st 6:30 am-Sunrise / 9:00am-Main Service

Through our various services and fellowship opportunities, we rejoice that Jesus is risen from the dead and has proven His victory over sin, death, and even Satan Himself! These services are amazing experiences that are not to be missed! Invite and friend and join us because Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



Serve Together

Stitches of Love

A new year and new totals for Stitches of Love!

Hats: 268 Scarves: 8 Baby Hats: 27 Blankets: 5

To God be the Glory!

Anyone with a heart of service is welcome as we are the hands and feet of Jesus! We meet from 1-3pm the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.



Want to Help our Preschoolers? Do You Like to Read?

We'd like to invite members of Mt. Calvary to come and be a "Guest Reader" during our preschool's story time. The kids would love to meet you and hear you read a story to them! Storytime is from 10:50am-11:10am. We'll provide the book & the audience.

Want to help? Please sign up on the bulletin board! Want more info? Please contact our preschool director, Cathy Kurecki, via email at preschool@mtcalvarydecatour.org



Dinosaur Week

Egg Day

Sink/Float Experiments

Dissolve Experiments

Easter Parties!

We are in need of empty oatmeal containers.
Please bring them to the Preschool or office.

A huge thank you to Krista Gerhardt for helping our classroom stay warm this winter. Come check out our new curtain! It works great and looks amazing! Also, thank you to Roger Harting & Tom Little for taking care of snow/ice removal. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open!

Forms are available through Mrs. Kurecki, on top of the children's cubbies, and online at <https://www.mtcalvarydecatour.org/enrollment-process.html>



VENEZUELAN NEWS VOLUME 2-03

Mama and Yinette are still doing well after papa's passing. Mama has a lot of neighbors and friends. They have visitors quite often. And of course most of them need a meal and Yinette always takes care of them. Some of mama's friends will stay the night. But one of the neatest things that mama has started is having "church" at their house. They will gather with a cup of coffee (I make sure mama gets coffee every week in the groceries). And they watch Mt. Calvary on their TV with their neighbors and friends. As strange as this whole virtual mission has been - it's even more amazing that through the things that we have done there are others sharing and hearing about Christ. I know there are positive and negative aspects to "online" church - but whoever dreamed this would happen? On top of that they don't speak English. But they are still blessed and mama is blessed to share it.

[I'm repeating this paragraph from last month] We think of mission work as something that goes on somewhere else. With people not very much like us. In faraway places. I know I don't think I ever "humanized" it so much before. I empathized with the families (if they were from the US). I could imagine being somewhere that was not home and missing all the things we grow to expect. But I don't think I ever thought much about the people being missioned to. That's what's so incredible about The Least of These. They are real people. With pains and joys, happiness and sadness. They have a heritage and traditions - just like we do. God works in remarkable ways.

Just a reminder, if you are an online giver, you can now designate funds to be given to The Least of These and the church treasurer and financial secretary will make sure your donations get there. You can also give at church, just designate that it is for the Least of These. Thanks, Rodger Koester, for suggesting this.

Joel Fletcher, Katie and I will be doing a presentation on the Venezuelan mission. It will be on March 17th and I hope you can attend. Even if you are not interested in giving - please come. I need all the encouragement I can get at times. Joel is looking forward to more of you seeing what this is all about. Thanks!

I would ask you to continue to pray for this ministry and its future. 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.

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. Please pray for these people and pray that God can raise up people to give and help us support them.

PayPal: theleastofthese3@yahoo.com Venmo: Kaitlyn-Gambrill
Cashapp: \$KaitlynGambrill or \$kb9jlo Cash/check: Just see us at Church.





Mortgage Reduction Opportunity (MRO) - Update

Mt. Calvary kicked off the MRO program in January of 2023. After a full year of support from our members and some non-members, I am happy to report we are making significant progress toward reducing our mortgage principal, thus reducing interest costs, and advancing the final payoff date. Below are the details:

- 1) Our monthly mortgage payments are \$5,211.50 per month at an interest rate of 4.5%.
- 2) Our mortgage balance at the start of the MRO (Jan. 1, 2023) was \$437,366 with 101 months to payoff. Our mortgage balance as of the Feb. 2, 2024 payment, is expected to be \$253,335, with 54 months to payoff. This is due to an additional \$134,197 in principal from the MRO being paid.
- 3) In summary we have saved over \$51,094 in future interest and advanced the payoff date by almost 4 years so far
- 4) The March MRO contribution will be at least \$13,126 as of now, but still growing!

The sources of this additional funding have come from numerous sources, not just member contributions. For example, just this month alone the recent Chili Supper, Sale of Baked Goods, Silent Auction and Food Fundraiser brought in \$5,352. This is a group effort and paying dividends for the future! I would like to thank everyone for their support on this program and the end is in sight.

Just a reminder if you're a Thrivent member, you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to Mt Calvary, but you need to designate those periodically, so check your account. Also note the opportunity to use electronic giving at <https://www.mtcalvarydecatour.org/giving>. This method allows giving to Weekly/General Fund, Building Fund, Mortgage Reduction, Elder's, Venezuela Mission, and Other giving.





Share Together

A Few Notes from the Annual Ladies Guild meeting in January

The annual Ladies Guild planning meeting was held on January 20. After prayer and breakfast the following items were discussed and passed with a majority vote:

- Altar flowers will only be presented if someone has sponsored them.
- We will only have fellowship snacks if someone donates them. There will be no quick trip to the store to purchase snacks.
- The Rummage sale fundraiser has ended.
- Trick N Trunk has been changed to a Fall Festival.
- Mothers Day/Father's Day roses/carnations will no longer be offered. We're exploring the idea of people bringing in plants on those days that could be used/planted around the church More details to come.

If you have any other questions or would like to see the minutes from the meeting feel free to contact Shannon in the office.

TRIVIA NIGHT (FRIDAY, MARCH 22 AT 6:00PM)

FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT KNOW, THIS IS NOT A BIBLE TRIVIA GAME. IT IS REGULAR, RANDOM TRIVIA WITH MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS. A TEAM CONSISTS OF UP-TO 6 PEOPLE (THESE CAN BE FRIENDS/RELATIVES THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE OTHER MEMBERS OF MT. CALVARY). EACH TEAM WILL NEED A NAME OR THEME. BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND TABLEWARE. THE CHURCH PROVIDES THE TABLES, SEATS AND TRIVIA.

THE ENTRY FEE IS \$40 PER TEAM, AND YOU CAN BUY-IN OPPORTUNITIES TO ANSWER WITH SMALL BILLS. IF YOU WANT TO COME AND WATCH, A SEAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU FOR \$10—BUT YOU DO NOT GET TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL JOIN A TEAM AND HAVE A BLAST WITH THE REST OF US!

TO SIGN UP, CONTACT EITHER BETH LANGDON OR THE CHURCH OFFICE. PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TABLES TO SET UP. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE ADULT VBS MISSION PROJECT SUPPLIES.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE AGAIN!

BETH LANGDON (DUCKY1BL@AOL.COM)

3F's March Outing

Friday, March 8th at 5:00 we will meet at Everyone's East End Grill at the Decatur Airport. We will order off the menu. Please RSVP to Debbie Roberts by Tuesday, March 5 so we can give them ample time to prepare for our party.

djrob2745@yahoo.com
217-972-0774

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 Beth Little to ensure you are up-to-date with any future changes.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Beth Little.
March 5th—Mosaic Café at 1st Christian Church
April 2nd—LaTeDa in Clinton



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN MARCH

READERS

3/3	Ashley Robinson
3/10	Krista Gerhardt
3/17	Sheila Norman & Bonnie Seeforth
3/24	John Graff & Roger Harting
3/31	Marsha Warnick

A/V TECHNICIANS

3/3	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/6	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/10	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/13	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/17	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/20	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/24	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/28	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/29	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
3/31	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher

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	Jim & Carol Sulwer
CHOIR	Peter Miller
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)	Rodger Koester & Marsha Warnick
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

ORGANISTS

3/3	Steve Ford
3/6	Steve Ford
3/10	Steve Ford
3/13	Peter Miller
3/17	Peter Miller
3/20	Krista Hinrichs
3/24	Lisa Peterman
3/28	Steve Ford
3/29	Peter Miller
3/31	Steve Ford

ELDERS

3/3	Russ Jozwiak
3/6	Dan Reynolds
3/10	Alan Dull
3/13	John Graff
3/17	Russ Jozwiak
3/20	Dan Reynolds
3/24	Alan Dull
3/28	John Graff
3/29	Russ Jozwiak
3/31	Dan/Alan

MEALS ON WHEELS

3/5	Sharon & Rod Butler
3/12	Lyn & Jim Stevens
3/19	Nancy Peck
3/26	Barb & Roger Harting

Thank You to our volunteers & workers for all you do!
Check out the Sign-Up Station in the Fellowship Hall for opportunities to serve.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/3	Andrew Napier
3/5	Sharon Butler
3/5	Barbara Jones
3/5	Kristin Nelson
3/8	Bart Dunmire
3/8	Adele Meyer
3/10	Brenda Peter
3/11	Jillian Blackman
3/11	Ryker McCoy
3/12	Cooper Howse
3/12	Paityn Koester
3/14	Gloria Shutter
3/16	Julia Austin
3/16	Bonnie Seeforth
3/16	Hannah Tish
3/18	Jeremy Atteberry
3/21	Jason Hoehne
3/27	Ruby Stock
3/30	Cody Augustine
3/30	Alan Little
3/31	Janet Atteberry
3/31	Elizabeth Simminger

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/29	Tom & Linda Chitwood
------	----------------------

“Just a Thought”

March 2024

What are you thinking, when in our liturgy, we sing “Restore unto me the joy of my salvation”? Everytime I sing that, I picture Jesus hanging on the cross. In His death, He provides for our salvation. When He says, “It is finished” He is checking the last thing off his bucket list. The thought of this event should bring us such joy, we can't contain it. Will you share that joy with someone this Lent? beth

“The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name”

Zechariah 14:9



MTC KIDS CORNER

Children's Church

★ **March 10: Kids Mission Project Day**

As part of our congregation's ongoing efforts to teach about "whole life stewardship," our children's church leader, Gale Krueger, has been helping our kids identify their unique gifts and passions and how they can use them to serve their neighbor. As a result, each child has been working on a project that they will use to earn money for missions.

After worship on Sunday, March 10th, the kids will present their projects in the Fellowship Hall, at which time church members can buy the projects or services that the children have spent time preparing.

Please consider bringing a few dollars that day to help teach our kids valuable lessons about sacrificial giving & stewardship.

★ Confirmation Connections

- Confirmation class will continue to meet each Sunday morning after worship in the month of March (minus 3/24 & 3/31)
- Parents, as a reminder, please encourage your children to attend worship with you each week. And don't forget to have them complete their sermon notes and submit them to Vicar Ethan.
- Finally, some of our students have now completed all of their unit modules and are eligible to make their confirmation vows. Please take time to talk with your child and help them consider if they are ready to take this next step in their faith life. If they are, please reach out to Pastor Brett and/or Vicar Ethan.

★ General Reminders

KEEPING CONNECTED

It's no secret that family life is often crazy. Between carpooling kids to sporting events, juggling the demands of your job, and just trying to keep everyone alive, it's very hard to keep connected. While each family must figure out what works best for them, I strongly encourage each of us to **take this month and be intentional about "keeping connected."**

- Make time just for family: enjoy a meal at the table, do something fun together, talk about life.
- Make time just for God: Come to worship, pray together during the week, talk about Jesus.

Just as our relationship as family can suffer if we don't spend time together, so can our relationship with God. While He's always there, we can still miss out on the connection we share.

Let's be intentional about "keeping connected" in all the areas of our life.

Partner Ministry Updates



UNITY CHRISTIAN LIONS

PREPARING LEADERS FOR LIFE

— A Ministry of the Lutheran School Association —

Annual Dinner Auction: Friday, May 3, 2024. Red & Black Gala. More details to come.

Unity Summer Camp: We're officially launching Unity Summer Day Camp in 2024. The camp will be for incoming 1st-6th graders and open to the community as a whole (current students will have priority enrollment). The program will incorporate fun day camp activities, skill building, and academic engagement through project based learning. We will share registration information as it becomes available, but for now mark the dates of June 24 - August 2 .

The LSA ReSale Shop

Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 7th for the semi-annual 10 cent sale at the LSA ReSale Shop, 421 E. Cerro Gordo Street. The Shop will be open 9:00 AM - Noon and all merchandise will sell for 10 cents an item. The Shop is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 8th - 10th for re-stocking. The Shop will re-open on Monday, March 11th with all new spring and summer inventory. Volunteers are needed! Come anytime, any day and stay as long as your schedule allows. For more information, contact the Shop at 217-423-0122. The LSA ReSale Shop supports the ministry of Unity Christian School (LSA).



Coming up at Camp CILCA

Camp Cilca is located at 4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall IL 62625



March 2, 2024—Camp CILCA Pancake Breakfast. Enjoy a free pancake, sausage and fruit breakfast at Camp! It's our way of saying THANK YOU! Breakfast is served from 10am-1pm in the Dining Hall.

March 30, 2024—Spring Work Day

April 14, 2024—Annual Banquet

May 29, 2024—First day of Summer Camp



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS
DISTRICT**

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



LLL Convention: March 9, 9am @ Immanuel Lutheran, Altamont — register by 3/5/24— more info available in the church office.

Kapelle Choir (Concordia Chicago) Concert: March 10, 3pm @ Christ Lutheran, Normal

Illinois March for Life: April 17 Meet @ Trinity Lutheran, Springfield - (see the CIDLCMS.ORG site for times and more information)

