

# May 2024

## Mount Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

2055 S. Franklin St. Rd  
Decatur, IL 62521

Office Phone:  
217-428-0641

Office Email:  
office@mtcalvarydecatur.org

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
8am - 12noon

*The OFFICE is CLOSED  
On Fridays*

*Summer Office Hours will begin  
June 3rd. The office will be open  
Mon-Weds  
8am-12 noon*



***With Honor and Gratitude,  
we Remember. God Bless the USA!***

## 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*

*“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”*  
-James 1:16-18 (ESV)

It finally feels like Spring is here! The weather is attempting to warm up (minus the overnight cold snaps here and there), trees and shrubs are beginning to bud, gardens are starting to grow, and excitement over new adventures is on the horizon as the school years ends and many kids are graduating. It seems that even our normal routines and responsibilities start to shift as summer draws near. Spring is certainly a season of change!

While many of these adjustments are welcome, there are plenty of changes in our life that we aren't as excited about. When an injury takes us from our home to a skilled care facility. When a loved one passes. When friends move away. Honestly, it could even be something as simple as when your favorite restaurant changes their menu! Whatever the circumstance may be, big or little, significant or superficial, change is all around us.

It is in the midst of this changing world that God's Word comes to give certainty and stability. In the book of James we hear this promise, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”* With these words, James is telling us that in a world where everything is constantly changing and so much seems up in the air, we do well to remember that God is still in charge. He never changes. His promise to give good and perfect gifts to His children is just as certain today as it was yesterday and the day before.

In college, we had a tradition of attending a brief prayer service on Thursday evenings. The service, called Compline, is in our new hymnal and is a beautiful service to prepare our hearts and souls for the night's rest. This time of worship became something we could count on, something we knew would always be there. It was this service of Compline which reminded us of the stability we have in Christ, our God whose love and care does not change. One of the prayers we would pray in that service has stuck with me in the years that followed. To this day, I will still pray it when dealing with change and uncertainty. The prayer goes like this: *“Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”* This simple, yet beautiful prayer reminds us that in the changes and chances of this life, God gives rest to our souls who are worn out by dealing with uncertainty. Our God is a God whose love never changes and whom we can always count on no matter what.

So, my brothers and sisters, take heart. Even though change and uncertainty may come, God still gives His good and perfect gifts to us, with the same love and care He has always shown. Look always to the Cross of Christ, and know that you have a foundation that is sure and stable. No uncertainty, no change or chance of life, can ever change God's love for you!

In our Risen Savior Jesus,  
Pastor Brett Hinrichs

# Grow Together

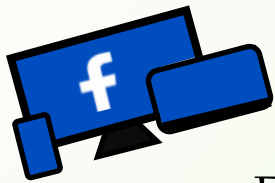
## **Worship Life at Mt. Calvary** Sunday Opportunities

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)

**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 Primrose Living Center. See the Calendar for details.

**Thursday Bible Study: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evenings at 6:00<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

## Stitches of Love

Hats: 424   Scarves: 8   Dish cloths: 71  
Baby Hats: 27   Blankets: 10

All of these items will be donated throughout the year to area non profits in Macon County to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays from 1-3pm and all are welcome to join us!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS



### Animal Day

Mother's Day (3's+ 4's)      Forget Me Not Day (4's)

Dandelion Day (3's)

Rock Springs Field Trips (3's&4's)

Zoo Field Trip (3's + 4's)

*A special THANK YOU to Alan Little for making a new cover for our sand/mud box. The kids love to play and get dirty and now we know that the "dirt" will stay clean from the neighborhood cats!*



May will be busy for the preschool! We will have Bicycle Safety Day on May 15th, weather permitting. We will be riding our bikes on the South portion of the parking lot and behind the church. Please plan accordingly as the kids enjoy "riding down the hill" from the portico to the garage.

Both classes will be visiting Rock Springs & Scovill Zoo this month. The 4-year old class will have their closing program on Wednesday, May 15th.

### ***Thank you Readers!***

*Thank you Bonnie, George, Krista, and Roger for coming to read to the Preschoolers. The kids truly LOVED having guest readers.*

*There are a few weeks of school left—feel free to check the sign-up sheet if you would like to come read to the kids. It only takes a few minutes! (10:50-11am)*

### **Mothers Day**

Ladies don't forget to wear your hats on May 12th. Also, we are now purchasing permanent landscaping plants for Mothers/Fathers day instead of buying roses and carnations. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



# Venezuelan News: Volume 3-05

May 2024

I would like to start out by thanking all of the Mt. Calvary family who give to this mission. There are many of you and you all deserve thanks and God's blessings. So many of you give me emotional support as well. There are times this exercise can be very daunting. When you run out of money before you can feed them all is very disheartening. We've recently had a few bad weeks. It's been down to the wire every week on who would eat and who wouldn't. I need to develop more sources and I've just not discovered any new ones. I've tried Synod, district and LHM. I have never even gotten an answer. Nothing.

We have had a good thing happen this last month. Sonja and her daughter Camillia were in a very bad neighborhood. She basically lived in a tin shack. There was no insulation or ceiling so the sun boring down on the tin really made it hot. And they only had fans - no air conditioning. Daily temperatures are in the high 30's to low 40's Celsius (35c = 95f 43c = 109f). It is very humid. Adding to the heat as well. And remember you can't take a cold shower or bath - you have to conserve your water as best you can. But there is good here - Sonja has moved in with Miranda. Miranda lives in a much nicer house in a much nicer area. It's good knowing that both Miranda and Sonja will be safer now. And they can share food and supplies. Sonja still needs an air conditioner but she is in such a better place. As we say in Spanish - poco a poco (little by little).

The power conditions in Venezuela have not and probably will not improve. There is a power outage every day, sometimes two or three times a day. Yili had her power come back - and then it cycled up and down 6 times. It ruined a couple of surge strips but worse - all the lights that were on in the house. And now the government is charging the citizens for the power usage (so much for socialism). But when the power is on and it's a Sunday morning, mama has one or more of her friends watching church with her and Yinette (on Facebook). If the power is off, they watch it later.

As for conditions in Venezuela I would ask you to continue praying. There is also a great deal of turmoil over the upcoming elections. President Maduro has "disqualified" all the opposing candidates. One thing that Maduro has threatened the citizens with is shutting off all social media. Facebook is very important in our ability to communicate with our friends and provide them a worship service.

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.

I would ask you to continue to pray for this ministry and its future. I am looking for ways to source sponsors that can give regularly. I am open to advice or help. 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.

## 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





## Seasons of Discovery: Post-Vision Day Update!

We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of those who attended our Vision Day workshop on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a very thought-provoking experience that helped us learn how to use the tools and techniques we've been practicing as we seek God's guidance for future ministry and service to our community. While we are moving closer to a clear vision statement we can all rally around, there are still a few more steps to take. At this time, our goal is to formally present about the efforts at our next Voter's Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. In between now and then here are a few of the steps we will be taking.

- Next week (April 29-May 3) we will have a debrief meeting with those who attended the Visioning Day to talk through some of the discussion points and to answer any lingering questions and concerns.
- After that, we will have a couple smaller teams that will meet to:
  - Help solidify our "ministry targets" and begin drafting possible "Vision Statements"
  - Coordinate with the Church Council in their short-term and long-term planning and budgeting work.
- Present the material to the Church Council for review prior to the June Voter's meeting.

If you would like to be part of this process, please talk to Pastor Brett or one of our Elders. Even if you are not interested, **please pray that God would continue to guide this process and give wisdom to our leaders in this time of planning and preparation.** In the end, we know this is Jesus' ministry and all we seek to do is to join Him in the work He's already doing!

## Midyear Contribution Statements

Church Contribution statements are a common part of church life in most congregations and are useful in at least 2 positive ways:

- givers can see whether our records are accurate and corrections can be made if mistakes are found
- statements can be useful tax documents.

End-of-Year Contribution Statements for all givers are here to stay. But how many of our givers are really interested in the Midyear Statement? What if they were provided "upon request" instead? We'll find out by trying this for our upcoming Midyear Contribution Statements.

Sign-up sheets/phone number to call will be available May 19 through June 30th. Stay tuned for more information! The number of sign-ups and work involved will help determine whether to return to providing the Midyear Statements to all givers like we have done in the past.

Have questions?

Contact our Financial Secretary, Marsha Warnick, at 217-855-2572.



# Share Together

## Mothers Day

Ladies don't forget to wear your hats on May 12th.

Also, we are now purchasing permanent landscaping plants for Mothers/Fathers day instead of buying roses and carnations. The sign-up sheets for those are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



## Join the Ladies for lunch!

*Rejoicing in and remembering the godly women in our lives...*

*All Mt. Calvary ladies are invited to a special luncheon honoring our mothers and the many other godly women who have influenced our lives.*



### Details:

WHEN: Tuesday, May 7th at 11:00am

WHERE: Mari Mann Herb Farm

COST: \$15 per person

*If you would like to join please RSVP to either Beth the Little (217)855-2802 or Sandy Haseley (217) 620-3442 by Tuesday, April 30th.*

## ADULT VBS—SAVE THE DATES!

I have been trying to find new ways to spread the word about the unique opportunity we have here to join in this gathering. The more research I do, the more I think we are the only church with this opportunity! It is fun, free, and full of surprises. Please consider registering for a session or all of them and most of all, bring a friend. This is a great time to share some memories and learn a little something too. Each session stands alone so you can pick and choose what fit into your schedule. There is no preparation, just come and have fun!

This summer each session will have a devotion, body bingo, a service project, and a couple of fun surprises along the way! Join us as we learn to celebrate God's gifts to us. Have questions? Contact Beth Langdon at 217-423-3213.

Join us on Thursdays in June (6, 13, 20, 27):  
12-2:30ish (lunch served)

Family Sessions: Saturdays June (15, 29)  
10am-noon (snack served)

## SUMMER KICK OFF

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Sunday, June 2nd

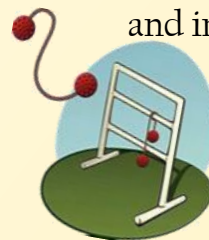
Time—3-5pm

We will have a Summer Kick-off themed Family Fun night on Sunday, June 2

There will be inflatables, yard games, snacks, and lots of fun activities for folks of all ages!

This is a great way for us to reach out to the local families who may not have a church home.

Vicar Ethan will be chairing this event and will be looking for a few people to step-up and help him with the planning and implementing of this event.



# SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN MAY

## READERS

5/5	Ashley Robinson
5/12	Krista Gerhardt
5/19	Sheila Norman Bonnie Seeforth
5/26	John Graff Roger Harting

## AV TECHNICIANS

5/5	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
5/12	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
5/19	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher
5/26	Jim Stevens & Joel Fletcher

## ORGANISTS

5/5	Peter Miller
5/12	Steve Ford
5/19	Steve Ford
5/26	Lisa Peterman

## OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Marsha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING/ GROUNDS	Roger Harting
CHANCEL CANDLES	Dale & Barb Jones
COFFEE/TEA	
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)	Debbie Roberts & Marsha Warnick
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

## ELDERS

5/5	Dan Reynolds
5/12	Doug Gerhardt
5/19	John Graff
5/26	Russ Jozwiak

## MEALS ON WHEELS

5/7	Sharon & Rod Butler
5/14	Lyn & Jim Stevens
5/21	Nancy Peck
5/28	Barb & Roger Harting
Meals on Wheels Coordinator: Lyn Stevens	

THANK YOU to  
all who help  
serve this  
congregation!



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Mike Atteberry
5/1	Angela Goode
5/1	Greg Harms
5/4	Alicia Hagan
5/4	Wendy Jozwiak
5/6	Larry Adams
5/6	Rodger Koester
5/6	Toni Reynolds
5/7	Michelle Robb
5/11	Debra Augustine
5/13	Julie Dunmire
5/13	Layla Glosser

5/15	Brian Urbanowicz
5/16	Joy Miller
5/17	Stephanie Napier
5/19	Lyn Stevens
5/22	Charles Aukamp
5/22	Matthew Smith
5/23	Mary Duncan
5/23	Bethe Little
5/25	Jon Aukamp
5/28	Robert Creamer
5/29	Justin Burns
5/29	Olivia Robb

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/5	Katie & Shawne Gambrill
5/8	Brad & Vickie Mendenhall
5/12	Tom & Mary Little
5/17	Todd & Carlin Koester
5/18	Elizabeth & Joe Gephart
5/19	John & Debra Brosam
5/28	Robert & Lori Creamer
5/30	Arnie & Jeri Jeffers
5/30	Bobbi Jo & Jason McCoy
5/30	Joseph & Ashley Robinson

## May's "Just A Thought"

I have been spending a good deal of time over the last several months getting ready for adult vacation bible school. With the theme of: celebrating God's gifts and talents. I have come up with several ideas for a motto revolving around that theme, however I can't seem to nail one down. One idea I want to foster during the event is that God has uniquely designed each of us to serve Him and His people. Thus the motto I am leaning toward is: SERVE GOD, BE YOU. You may just want to attend, to see what I end up with!

( smile) beth



# MTC KIDS CORNER

## ★ Confirmation Connections

### Thinking Ahead for Next Year

Do you have a child who will be entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher? Do you think they are ready to begin a deeper exploration of their faith through confirmation classes? If so, we are beginning to plan for next year's confirmation classes, so please talk to Pastor Brett about some upcoming information sessions and early orientation opportunities.

## ★ Children's Church

Just a reminder that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month is "First Sunday Family Day." We do not offer Children's Church so that everyone can worship together. We also encourage our kids use of the "kids worship bulletins."

## ★ General Reminders

### Summer is Coming: Keeping Cool and Staying Connected to Christ

As the school year wraps up and summer is starting, many families are beginning to make plans for new summer routines and especially for vacations! As you look at these ways that your family can enjoy meaningful time together without the stress of school, make sure to include plans for how you'll keep connected with Christ.

For example, if you are travelling for an extended period of time, ask yourself, "What church could we attend near our vacation destination? Will we watch services online as a family? Will we work in extra devotions or prayers?"

These answers will be different from each situation, but just as you take time to plan your time away together as a family, take time to plan time together with Jesus.

## ★ Events and Activities

### May Joint Youth Group (MTC Hosts)

Parents and teens, please be watching for updates for our May Joint Youth Group activity with Trinity. We'll have more information coming soon!

### Youth Programming Survey

Attention parents of school age children! We are trying to find new ways to better support you and your families in their faith grow and we'd like to get your feedback about how we can best partner with you in raising your kids in Christ.

Please check your email for a survey where you can share feedback regarding our existing programs, offer opinions about possible new programs, and share your insights about other opportunities we haven't thought of.

# Partner Ministry Updates



**UNITY CHRISTIAN LIONS**

PREPARING LEADERS FOR LIFE

— A Ministry of the Lutheran School Association —



**Summer Day Camp:** Brand new this year, Unity is offering summer camp for students entering grades 1-6. This camp is run by our own teaching staff and will include fun indoor and outdoor activities, skill building and academic development. Runs school day hours (8:30am-3pm) from June 24 - August 2. Register through the button below!

**Hiring for Business Leader Position** - After many years of faithful service here at LSA/Unity, Heidi McCormick is retiring at the end of this school year. Please join me in thanking her for the investment and impact she's brought to LSA/Unity over the years. We hope to fill this full-time position by June, which provides leadership for the following areas: Payroll, Financial Statements, Budgeting, Tuition Management,

## LSA Thrift Store

Donations days are Monday & Tuesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM and Thursday 2:00 - 6:00 PM. Shop hours are Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM with extended hours on Thursday till 6:00 PM.

All donation items should be put in bags or boxes of a manageable size with clothing separate from household items. It also helps to bag/box toys, shoes, and linens separately from other 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 donations. 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 in Decatur. The phone number is 217-423-0122.



## Coming up at Camp CILCA

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



**May 26, 2024**—40th Annual Hog Roast. Join us for Matins Service at 10:30 then stay for a delicious BBQ lunch. Adults \$10 Kids 4-12 \$8.

**May 25-26, 2024**—Great Central IL Campout—make a weekend of it and come out for devotions, outdoor recreation and Christian fellowship.

**May 29, 2024: First day of Summer Camp**—We kick off our Summer Camp season!



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
DISTRICT**  
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



The next Small Church Summit will be on Saturday, June 8 at Zion Lutheran Church, Carlinville. The formal session will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. An ice cream social will follow. Special guest presenter will be Rev. Dan Galchutt, Executive Director of the Synod's Office of National Mission. Rev. Galchutt's topic for the SCS is "Engaging Your Community . . . with Jesus." Each person attending should register. Start by clicking

<https://forms.gle/pEuFuENrygSBDtWG6>

