

October 2025

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

Join Us Sundays For

Worship Service
at 9am

Christian Ed. Hour
at 10:30am



A Message from Pastor Hinrichs

⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one but Jesus only.

-Matthew 17:5-8 (NIV)

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we will celebrate the 508th anniversary of the day when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. This simple act of faith and dedication to God’s Word prompted a massive movement that not only radically reshaped the Church, but also our entire world. And at the heart of this whole revival are two simple words which saw in our passage above. Jesus Only!

As the disciples were on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration, they saw two heroes of the faith, Moses and Elijah. These two figures were the essence of the Jewish faith. Moses was the great deliverer and Law giver. Elijah was the prophet of all prophets. And yet, after the cloud had lifted, it wasn’t these two that were left. It was only Jesus.

As we look at our lives, there are so many things that try to hold our focus and attention. We can get caught up worrying about the pains and problems that exist in the world. We can fix our eyes on politicians and pundits. Even in the church, we can get caught up in buildings and processes and all this other stuff. And while those things all things we’re called to take care of, at the end of the day, where are you looking? Are we looking at those things or are we looking at Jesus?

It is Jesus only, who is our hope. It is Jesus only, who is our comfort. It is Jesus only who is our Savior, rescuer and deliverer. Much like the bronze serpent was once lifted up so that all could see and be healed, we have a Savior who is lifted up, so that we can look up to Him and live. *“When they looked up, they saw no one, but Jesus only.”*

As we head into this special month, into a new fall season, and into whatever Christ has called us to, may those two words always be our focus. For us as individuals, for us as a congregation, for us as THE Church may our cry always be...

Jesus Only

In His Saving Name,
Pastor Brett Hinrichs

Grow Together

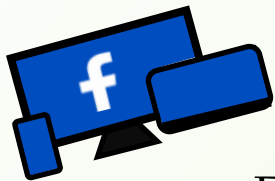
Worship Life at Mt. Calvary Sunday Opportunities

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

Weekday Bible Studies

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

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

First Monday evenings of the month meet at Primrose

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 Mt. Zion Rehab Center. See the Calendar for details.

Thursday Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thursday afternoons at 2:00_{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 .

Serve Together

Heavenly Holidays Bazaar

It's hard to believe, but our Christmas activities are already in the works!

We are looking for Vendors to participate in the Heavenly Holiday Bazaar that will be held Dec 6, 2025. The larger variety of vendors we have the better the Bazaar! Please contact Debbie Koester at 217-972-0774 for more information.

Stitches of Love

Stitches of Love has new totals:

- 903 Hats • 112 Scarves • 1 Prayer Shawl • 8 Blankets

We are currently working on a small little token gift for the Preschool parents for Christmas using our supplies that have been donate.

To God be the Glory!

There are tentative plans to have a blessing of the hats on October 19 during Worship. We hope that you can help us as we bless our local community. Stitches meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1pm.

Teacher Appreciation Baskets—Due Date Extended

We will be collecting treats for the Unity teachers and our Preschool teachers at Mt. Calvary. Suggested donations: individually wrapped candies, crackers, granola bars, tea bags, etc. The final day to donate will be **Sunday, October 19th**. Thank you for your help in making our teachers feel loved and encouraged!



Our school year has begun! Our 4's class is full and we have just a few spots open in the 3's class. We pray that He uses our school to bring all to Christ. In mid-September, we had our first Chapel of the year with Pastor Brett. Many parents stayed to hear the lesson and see the kids learn and sing and pray!

This is the heart of our Outreach ministry in our Preschool!

During the month of October, the 4 year old class will be taking field trips to Fairview Park to search for Fall colors and to Black Bart's Pumpkin Patch. The 3 year olds will visit Imboden Gardens. We have enjoyed our Monday morning zoom sessions listening to the librarians from the Decatur Public Library as they read us a story!

October Bible Stories

Zaccheaus
Jonah and the Whale
Daniel and the Lions Den

Fun Things Happening

Playing with new outdoor toys
Making Applesauce
Penelope & Peter Pumpkin Making

Venezuelan News: Volume 4-10

First before getting started - I want to thank all of you who have donated and have prayed for this ministry. The ministry is not doing as well as it had but you guys - Mt. Calvary has really stepped up and stood in the gap. Every week, usually Sunday I start asking God where the money for the next week will come from. And before the week is over, the money appears. I thank God for all of you. And I can assure you that our friends in VE are thanking you. Please keep on doing what you are doing. You are making a difference. In my opening prayer when I teach adult Sunday school, I always like to end that prayer "Lord help us to be Jesus in this lost and dying world" - with your help we are doing that. God bless you all.

I'm going to repeat a little from last month: I also need to get the word out to more people. If you have any ideas I would appreciate hearing from you. I think the only way to get into these "inner circles" is through people who know someone. Please if you have any connections pass that information on. And if you have other ideas for funding, please let me know. I truly want to keep this ministry going - the need is great. If you desire to give but really don't have the money - but have the skill to help in this area let me know. Also, some companies have a policy where they will match what you give to a non-profit - we are officially a non-profit ministry of Mt. Calvary. Might be an idea.

About the same with Camilia, daughter of Senia. You don't fix malnutrition by eating more. The damage to the body can be permanent. Please try to remember this girl in your prayers. She's a teen and can't see much home in her future.

The Least of These is now an outreach ministry of Mt. Calvary Lutheran church. We are a separate ministry operating under the church (we are non-profit). We are included as part of the information put on the church's website, we have our own page. We have our own giving area as well. We appreciate all the gifts, prayer and support. But please, always put Mt. Calvary first.

Pray for our friends in Venezuela. If you are interested in this mission or want to help you can talk to me any-time. 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 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



COUNCIL CORNER



Long-Term Planning Team Updates

- In case you have not heard yet, Concordia Lutheran Church has expressed interest in being part of talks about congregational mergers. Please join us in praying for their congregation as we all seek to discern where God is leading us.
- Surveys about a possible multi- congregation merger continue to come in. If you have not completed your survey, we would love everyone’s feedback. As a reminder, if you wish for your feedback to be anonymous, we encourage you to remove the label from your copy. These were only added to ensure everyone got a copy. Survey results will be compiled and shared with the congregation as soon as the information is organized.

Mortgage Burning Event

We’d love for you to join us on Sunday, October 26th for a special day of celebration! We will have a special Reformation Worship service at 9am followed by a Mortgage Burning ceremony. After the ceremony, we will have a luncheon reception in the Fellowship Hall. While RSVPs are not necessary, we would encourage you to sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall and consider bringing a dish as well. If you are planning to attend but are not local, please contact the church office to sign up! We look forward to giving thanks for God’s grace and the continued ministry He’s doing here at Mt. Calvary!

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 1:3-5

2025 Budget Update (January 1—September 21)

<i>Budgeted General Funds</i>	<i>Received YTD</i>	<i>Projected End of Year</i>	<i>Designated General Funds</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Weekly Offerings	226,863.59	260,000.00	Gift-In-Kind	-
Pre-School Tuition**	27,706.54	32,600.00	Memorial	-
Thrivent Funds	486.00	2,500.00	MRO	12,517.07
Special Services Offerings	3,601.00	5,000.00	Sunday School	380.06
Other Offerings	3,975.00	500.00	Venezuela	5,940.00
Altar Flowers	544.00	2,000.00	Pre-School Scholarship	500.00
Interest Income	1,051.91	1,200.00	<i>Separate Account</i>	
Building Fund Offerings Ends 7/31/25	7,015.00	30,000.00	Elders’ Fund	1,022.00
Mortgage Interest Refund	2,556.84	2,500.00		
Other Income	2,902.42	2,700.00	Surplus or (Deficit)	
Totals	276,702.28	339,000.00		-62,297.72





Share Together

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, October 17th

Doors open 5:30pm, Trivia begins at 6pm

If you've joined us previously, then you know how much fun this event is!

We have a BLAST!

Teams of 6 or less for \$40. Bring your own dinner/snacks/drinks/place settings/decorations/etc. You can make this as festive as you'd like!

Anyone is welcome to bring a team so invite others to join in the fun!

This is multiple-choice trivia with a couple of twists!

All proceeds go towards the Adult VBS program and the missions that they support.

Gather up your team and join the fun!

The Kids Mission project this October will look a little bit different. The kids will be serving the coffee and tea and treats on Sunday mornings during the month. They will also be greeters this month.



All funds raised will go towards the Venezuela Mission

May God Bless our children at Mt. Calvary and His children everywhere!

Join the Ladies for Lunch!

Our Tuesday morning our Ladies group will be going out for lunch after the first bible study of each month. All are welcome to join!

October 1st - Nesty's(Taylorville)

November 4th - Monicals South Shores

Contact Bethe Little with any questions at 217-855-2802



Save the Date for Christmas Music Bingo

Sunday, November 30 at
1PM

Bingo will last about an hour
\$5 per bingo card and you can play as many as you would like (packs of 5 cards for \$20)

The winners will get cash and a prize!

This is your chance to hear LOTS of Seasonal songs to sing along if you wish.

In March we will be having a Carnival Night! Beth Langdon is looking for donations of plastic poker chips of various colors. She is also looking for Legos for Adult VBS next year. If she receives a huge abundance any extras will be donated to the Resale Shop.

Your attendance at these events helps fund the Adult VBS Outreach where we extend the Love of Jesus to our community. Thanks for any donations you can offer. We are expecting Adult VBS to be even bigger next Summer!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN OCTOBER

ELDERS

Oct 5	Dan Reynolds
Oct 12	John Graff
Oct 19	Russ Jozwiak
Oct 26	Merle Collingwood

READERS

Oct 5	Youth Reader
Oct 12	Krista Gerhardt
Oct 19	Sheila Norman & Bonnie Seeforth
Oct 26	Roger Harting

ORGANISTS

Oct 5	Steve Ford
Oct 12	Bonnie Fiesler
Oct 19	Sharon Cripe
Oct 26	Steve Ford

A/V TECHNICIANS

Oct 5	Joel Fletcher
Oct 12	Joel Fletcher
Oct 19	Joel Fletcher
Oct 26	Joel Fletcher

OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Marsha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Cliff & Matt Boleyn
CHANCEL CANDLES	Dale & Barb Jones Debbie Koester
COFFEE/TEA	Ashley Robinson & Bonnie Seeforth
NURSERY	Sharon Goers
PLANTS	Debbie Goveia
RECYCLING	Lyn Stevens
SOUND & VIDEO	Joel & Stacey Fletcher
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Gale Krueger Dan Reynolds
TABULATOR(S)	Marsha Warnick Brenda Roland
OCTOBER USHERS	LWML Ladies

MEALS ON WHEELS

10/7	Sharon & Rod Butler
10/14	Shannen Ray & Students
10/21	Karen & Larry Lange
10/28	Barb & Roger Harting

Thank You for all the service
that so many of you give!

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:
Lyn Stevens

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Ed Aukamp
10/2	Amy Aukamp
10/3	Josh Urbanowicz
10/4	Sam Nelson
10/6	Daniel Nelson
10/7	Karen Lange
10/8	Carol Reynolds
10/9	Linda McDermith
10/10	Sara Ganiere Sherie Holeman
10/11	Molly Baker Sharon Goers
10/12	Margaret Cordts Carl Derhake Dan Hursh

10/13	Taylor Proft
10/17	Sandy Haseley
10/19	Debbie Bailey Roger Harting Chelsea Stewart
10/20	Krista Hinrichs Rick Lange Madison Reynolds
10/25	Madison Koester
10/26	Lori Creamer Shirley Horath
10/28	Michael Weathers
10/29	Chip Wallen
10/30	Bill Irwin Maddox Wallen

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/4	Bob & Carol Campbell
10/11	Chip & Lori Wallen
10/27	Josh & Heather Urbanowicz
10/29	Dick & Sharon Goers Alan & Carol Reynolds

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

-Isaiah 56:8-11



MTC KIDS CORNER

★ Confirmation Connections

- Confirmation class is well underway! We will continue to meet each Sunday after worship in the month of October.
- 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 Pastor.
- Although we've already started, it's not too late to join! If you know a 6th-12th grader who wants to deepen their faith, please get in touch with Pastor Brett.

★ Events and Activities

Combined Youth Group (7th-12th Grade)

As some of you know, we recently started working with two other congregations in our circuit to provide better opportunities for our youth! Each Wednesday from 6-7:30, we will meet at St. Paul's for all kinds of different activities. Bring the kids. Bring friends!

★ Children's Church

Kids Mission Month

The Kids Mission project this October will look a little bit different. The kids will be serving the coffee and tea and treats on Sunday mornings during the month. They will also be greeters this month. All funds raised will go towards "The Least of These" Venezuelan Mission.

May God bless our children here at Mt. Calvary and His children everywhere!

Sunday School

In addition to confirmation class, we want to remind you that we do offer Sunday School classes for children in 3-year-old preschool through 5th grade. We truly believe that parents are the biggest spiritual influences in the lives of their kids, so we are happy to partner with you in this important work.

★ General Reminders

Teachable Moments: When I was a camp counselor we often had our best faith discussions at the most unexpected times. Usually it was whenever something strange would happen in the course of our day. As parents, grandparents, guardians, or whatever your role may be, keep an eye out for these times. They could be something simple as your child noting the changing color of the leaves or asking about changes in the weather. All of these give you an opportunity to point out spiritual truths like the unchanging love of our God.

Partner Ministry Updates



UNITY CHRISTIAN LIONS

PREPARING LEADERS FOR LIFE

— A Ministry of the Lutheran School Association —

Coming up at Unity:

October 4—Homecoming

October 6-8 (7:30am-9am) and Oct 9 (12-1:30) Donation Drive for the ReSale Shop

October 9—Grandparent/VIP day 1-3PM (please limit 2 visitors per family)

Fall Break—October 10 & 13th

Friday, October 24—3rd annual Jog-a-Thon 1-3PM

LSA Resale Shop

We just want to say a HUGE, heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who came to shop, volunteer, and worked with us as we re-stocked and re-opened! It was both exciting and a privilege to share your excitement as we changed over the shop to all things Fall/Winter!

If you missed it, Monday, September 15th was the FIRST DAY of our Fall/Winter Seasonal Change-over Event and it was the best one yet! We still have LOTS of great items we will be putting out all day every day (like usual!), so be sure to stop by and see what's new!

The shop, located at 421 E. Cerro Gordo is open Monday-Saturday 9am - 3:00pm with extended hours on Thursday 9am-6pm.



Coming up



4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall IL 62625

October 4th—GRIT Run: Registration fee for Open Run participants over age 19 is \$30. The fee for runners between ages 6-18 is \$10. Kids under age 5 are free.

November 1—Act Like Men: Fall Work Day 8-12 Cleaning up around camp. Lunch will be served followed by fellowship around the campfire. RSVP to Pastor Theilen.

December 12-13: Joyful Hearts Christmas



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



CID Junior High Youth Event – Save the Date

“Make A Joyful Noise”

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Camp CILCA

9:00 am - 4:00 pm (sign-in will start at 8:30 am)

Cost \$40 per youth --- \$0 for adult leaders

(includes Lunch, T-shirt, and a full day of activities)

Start planning now to attend this Junior High Youth Event. Registration, long-sleeve t-shirt orders, and additional information will be found at the following link: <https://forms.gle/KaSiitVeioUgLBQU9>

Deadline for registration is October 20th.

- After that date, individuals can still register up to October 30th, **but will not receive a t-shirt.**

