

September 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 - 12 noon

*The OFFICE is
CLOSED
On Fridays*



All are Welcome
to Join Us!

Sundays

Worship Service 9^{AM}
Christian Ed. Hour 10:30^{AM}

A Message from Pastor Hinrichs

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

–Hebrews 10:25

My brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The other day I was at our Lutheran School, Unity Christian, and had a new student there ask me a question after chapel. They said, “Everyone keeps saying that this is the most important thing we’ll do all week here at school, but I don’t get it. What is so important about singing and listening to someone talking about Jesus?”

For centuries Christians have valued worship as the heart of faith and tried to describe what lies at its core. While there has been many perspectives offered, an early Christian philosopher named Justin Martyr offered one of the best ways of looking at worship that I have found. He argued that worship is the key place God meets us and spoke of four necessary aspects of the service and how each contributes to our faith growth and brings God glory. They are gathering, word, meal, and sending. While we can’t cover everything he talked about here, as summer ends and new routines are reestablished, I thought I’d recap a few of his most important thoughts to encourage all of us to be even more active in worship as we settle into this new season.

Gathering: Whether in a sanctuary, school gym, outdoor chapel or even a living room, people coming together to listen to and talk about Jesus is a key aspect of worship. While we often think that our faith is “just between me and Jesus” the Scriptures consistently speak of the corporate nature of the Church and how we are “being built up [together] as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). Worship always involves gathering because we are the body of Christ and belong to each other, and most importantly, to Jesus, the head.

Word: Although this one seems a no brainer, it bears repeating because human nature is so easily distracted by everything. If weren’t not careful, we can get caught up in focusing on orders of worship, the style of music, hiccups in the service, or even the people around us. In worship, we are there first and foremost to hear Jesus speak and to receive the gifts He gives in the Word and the Sacraments (Communion, Baptism, Absolution). This Word is “living and active” (Heb. 4:12) and “accomplishes what God desires” (Is. 55:11). In worship, God gives us both His Word and THE Word, Jesus!

Meal: The Lord’s gift of Holy Communion is, and has been since its institution, the high point of worship. In the Supper, Jesus comes to us in a way unlike any other place and time. This “foretaste of the feast to come” is still hidden underneath earthly means of bread and wine, but this meal is one of the best gifts Jesus gives. He forgives our sins. He strengthens our faith. He quite literally comes to be among us and in us! The communion (with oneness) we have with Christ and each other is something we need “as often as we can receive it.”

Sending: Although we may not always think of it, the sending that happens in worship is just as important as the gathering. We, as the Church, are both the “called out ones” (from the Greek word for Church, Ekklesia) and the “sent out ones” (from the Greek word for apostles, Apostolos). We are gathered specifically so we can be sent. And as we go and live out our calling in the world, we will once again discover our need for Jesus and desire to be gathered again and strengthened by Him. This cycle is the heart of the Christian life. Gathered by God, fed by God, and sent out to love, just as Jesus was sent to us!

Like the 4 legs of a chair, each of these elements of worship help support us in our faith and keep us sitting upright with Jesus. In this season of fresh starts, I pray that you would see and experience these gifts in amazing ways! Let us never give up worshipping together and all the more as we see the day approaching!

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Brett Hinrichs

Grow Together

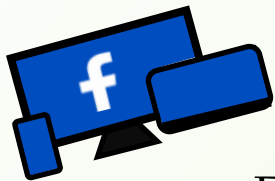
Worship Life at Mt. Calvary Sunday Opportunities

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

Fall Fest: September 28, 3-5pm



This community outreach event will officially kick off the Fall season with fun games, inflatables, snacks and Trunk or Treat! Please consider helping serve with activities that have been planned.

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to volunteer to help with an activity and also a sign-up if you would like to have a Trick or Trunk booth. Contact Heather Boleyn if you have any questions (217) 561-3084 or email hcorman@gmail.com.

Heavenly Holidays Bazaar

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

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.



Teacher Appreciation Baskets

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, September 28th. Thank you for your help in making our teachers feel loved and encouraged!



Preschool News



Preschool began its 53rd year of operation last week on August 25th! This year we hired Suzanne Wills as our assistant teacher and the 4 year-old class will still enjoy having George Roberts as an helper! While we will always welcome more volunteers, it is great to have this level of staffing! If you drop by the church in the mornings, please say hello to our new students and their families!

I'd like to thank Lyn Stevens, Krista Gerhardt and Pastor Brett for assisting in the interview process. Our mission to share the love of Jesus while preparing each child educationally remains our priority. We continue to feel God's blessings as He reminds us to seek Him first!

Stitches of Love

Stitches of Love continues to work and our hat total continues to grow!

Hats: 831 Scarves: 110 Blankets: 110



Venezuelan News: Volume 4-09

Senja's daughter continues to have problems. She has lupus, possibly epilepsy and other effects of malnutrition. It's still a hard road ahead. You don't just eat and fix malnutrition. It's a systemic issue. It takes care. Please keep them in your prayers. She's had to take her to the hospital emergency room several times: seizures and other issues.

Getting enough money for food and water every week is getting increasingly harder. I don't say this to get you to give more - I think the solution is prayer. That is the ultimate solution of course. I would ask you to consider making our VE families a regular part of your ongoing prayers. They sure need it.

I also need to get the word out to more people. If you have any ideas I would appreciate hearing from you. I have tried other churches local to us (and not just LCMS). I think I've emailed every person in the LCMS HQ, Lutheran Hour Ministries, District, and even the Spanish ministry in our district. I have gotten NO ANSWERS from anyone. I even talked to the global manager for business at the LCMS and he answered me once and then never answered again. 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.

Thank you all for giving. Your gifts truly touch my heart and increase my faith. They also influence the families. I can't imagine being in their situation but that touch that tells them someone, somewhere cares - has to be a powerful force.

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.

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 Gambrell on Facebook so we can add you to the group)

Support Info:

Our PayPal address is: theleastofthese3@yahoo.com

Our Venmo is: [Kaitlyn-Gambrell](#)





COUNCIL CORNER

Congregational Survey

As we continue to explore the possibility of merging congregations with Trinity Lutheran, our Long-Term Planning teams want your feedback! Every member of Mt. Calvary should have received a letter in the mail which shares some background about the proposal and gives details about the survey. As a reminder, active members will receive their survey in-person when we worship at Trinity on September 7th. Those who are not there that day will have a copy placed in their church mailboxes. Homebound members will receive their copy in the mail. Those members who have not been at worship with us in the last year and half should contact the Church Office to receive their copies.

This could mark a big change for both congregations so we strongly desire as much feedback as possible! If you have any questions, please reach out to Joel Fletcher or Beth Langdon who are heading up this committee.

Mortgage Burning Celebration!

Last month we shared the wonderful news that Mt. Calvary is officially debt free now that our mortgage has been paid in full! Since 1999, we have seen over \$1,000,000 given back to pay off these mortgages and further God's work through in and through Mt. Calvary!

We would like to invite all current members, past members, family, friends, and anyone else to join us on Reformation Sunday (October 26th) for a special time of praise and rejoicing! We will have a special time of worship, followed by a mortgage burning celebration, and a time of fellowship! Please watch our announcements and social media for specifics!

This is an incredible blessing that shows God's faithfulness and the incredible way He provides for His people and the work He calls them to do! Please join us in giving thanks to God even as we look joyfully to the future to see what He may do!

<i>Budgeted General Funds</i>	<i>Received YTD</i>	<i>Projected End of Year</i>
Weekly Offerings	196,504.57	260,000.00
Pre-School Tuition**	21,419.56	32,600.00
Thrivent Funds	449.00	2,500.00
Special Services Offerings	3,601.00	5,000.00
Other Offerings	1,975.00	500.00
Altar Flowers	544.00	2,000.00
Interest Income	1,051.91	1,200.00
Building Fund Offerings Ends 7/31/25	6,575.00	30,000.00
Mortgage Interest Refund	2,556.84	2,500.00
Other Income	2,882.36	2,700.00
Totals	237,559.30	339,000.00

<i>Designated General Funds</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Gift-In-Kind	-
Memorial	-
MRO	12,447.07
Sunday School	370.06
Venezuela	4,995.00
Pre-School Scholarship	-
<i>Separate Account</i>	
Elders' Fund	871.00

Surplus or (Deficit)	-101,440.70
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Share Together

Join the Ladies for Lunch!

Our Tuesday morning Ladies group will be going out for lunch after the first bible study of each month. This list is not set in stone, so please check in with Bethe Little to stay caught up with any last-minute changes.

September 2nd - Everyone's East End Grill

October 7th - Long Branch in Shelbyville

November 4th - Monical's South Shores

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

If you were part of this fun event last year, you will recall how rewarding and memorable the Fall Fest was for all involved! Volunteering a few hours to help with this community outreach event is a blessing! This is a great chance to use your time and talents to serve the Lord, witness to the local community and get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ in a casual and fun way! Whether its helping run a game or hosting a trick or Trunk booth, your help is greatly appreciated!



See the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.



LWML Fall Rally

Decatur Zone will be holding their Fall Rally on Thursday, **September 18, 2025.** It will be held at St. Paul's (1 Bachrach Ct, Decatur) with signup beginning at 4:30pm and rally starting at 5:00pm. Dinner will be served. Our theme is "Seek Precious in His Eyes Isaiah 43:4." The speaker will be Aine Molvik. In Kind gathering for Northeast Community Center. Call 217-875-3656 if you have questions.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE IN SEPTEMBER

READERS

9/7	@ Trinity
9/14	Ashley Robinson
9/21	Dan Reynolds
9/28	John Graff

AV TECHNICIANS

9/7	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
9/14	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
9/21	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens
9/28	Joel Fletcher & Jim Stevens

ORGANISTS

9/7	@ Trinity
9/14	Steve Ford
9/21	Peter Miller
9/28	Lisa Peterman

ELDERS

9/7	@ Trinity
9/14	Bob Norman
9/21	Russ Jozwiak
9/28	Merle Collingwood

OTHER SERVANTS

ALTAR FLOWERS	Sandy Haseley & Marsha Warnick
BANNERS	Sharon & Rod Butler
BUILDING / GROUNDS	Matt & Cliff Boleyn
CHANCEL CANDLES	Dale & Barb Jones Debbie Koester
COFFE/TEA	Bethe L. & Barb H.
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)	Marsha Warnick & Janice Weathers
HEAD USHER	Andrew Napier

MEALS ON WHEELS

9/2	Sharon & Rod Butler
9/9	Shannen Ray & Students
9/16	Larry & Karen Lange
9/23	Barb & Roger Harting
9/30	Nancy Peck & Lyn Stevens

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:
Lyn Stevens

*Thank You for
Volunteering! Your
time
and talents are
greatly appreciated!*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Ronald Augustine
9/1	Dorothy Damery
9/1	Loretta Hoehne
9/6	Lyncoln Koester
9/7	Jim Sulwer
9/8	Jeri Jeffers
9/11	Barbara Wilkerson
9/14	Russ Jozwiak
9/15	Jadalin Brand
9/16	Gale Krueger
9/17	Stacia Logue
9/18	Tom Chitwood
9/20	Jim Cordts
9/22	Megan Birch
9/27	George Roberts
9/30	Carlin Koester

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/8	Jeff & Debra Augustine
9/8	Rev. Mike & Dorothy Damery
9/10	Matt & Heather Boleyn
9/14	Jeff & Michelle Robb
9/27	Jon & Kristin Nelson
9/30	Phillip & Angie Goode

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

“But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.” Gal 3:22

A MERRY HEART
DOETH GOOD
LIKE A MEDICINE.
PROVERBS 17:22



MTC KIDS CORNER

Confirmation Connections Classes Resumes Sept. 7th

Join us as we kick off a new year of confirmation here at MTC. This is a great chance for youth (6th grade & up) to dive deeper into their faith and discover more about what it's like to follow Jesus! Class will meet in the youth room during the Christian Ed. Hour (Sundays 10:30-11:30am) during the year. Check your texts for more updates!

Sunday School Sunday School is back starting Sept. 14th

This year our "Children's Church" time is moving back to a traditional Sunday School setting as part of Christian Ed. Hour from 10:30-11:30am. Activities will be same, just at a new time!

Events and Activities Wednesday Night Youth Group

Calling all 7th-12th graders (and their friends)!!! Building on the great connections we made during NYG, we will be joining our friends from Trinity and St. Paul's on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30pm for a greater Decatur youth group! We will rotate our activities each month, with the first Wednesday being a "Worship Night," the 2nd as a "Serve Night," the 3rd as a "Fun Night" and the 4th as another "Serve Night."

We know Wednesday nights are busy, so we will be providing a meal for the whole family at 5:30pm before youth group begins. We'll always meet at St. Paul's (even on Serve Nights) before going to those serve locations. If you have additional questions, please contact Pastor Brett.

General Reminders

A good reminder from Facebook post I saw recently. Actions communicate priorities louder than words!

- 1) If we are particular about buying our child just the right equipment and giving them fancy uniforms for sports, but we don't make much of a fuss over being well prepared for worship, what does that teach them?
- 2) If we make sure we attend every school assembly, but we drop them off at Sunday school while we do other things, what does that teach them?
- 3) If we have big celebrations for graduation and give trophies for athletic accomplishments, but we have no special way of marking baptismal birthdays, what does that teach them?
- 4) If we talk to our children about television shows and school work and sports, but we make no regular time to read God's Word with them or talk about the Christian faith, what does that teach them?

It's not wrong to do the things above, but when we do them at the levels our culture encourages us to, how do we make up the difference to go above and beyond in the things that truly matter, the things of the Christian faith? By our actions, do we teach the opposite of what we intend? God grant repentance, starting with me. Consider this well, Christians. Show your children in word and deed that the Christian faith is more important than anything else.

Partner Ministry Updates



UNITY CHRISTIAN LIONS

PREPARING LEADERS FOR LIFE

— A Ministry of the Lutheran School Association —

A Few Quick Updates

Keeping Informed: It's hard to believe that we've already been back at school nearly two full weeks! We've wasted no time and are jumping in with tons of extracurricular activities! Be sure to stay up-to-date on the Current Friends & Families page at unitydecatour.org!

Homecoming— Friday, October 3rd! Mark your calendars now and plan to come out to Unity for a great day of fun and exciting events for the family and the community. From pep assemblies to tailgating and of course our Varsity Lions Football game, join us for a great evening supporting our students!

LSA Resale Shop

September brings our semi-annual 10-cent sale along with restocking and reopening. Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 11 for the 10-cent sale from 9:00 AM - Noon. The shop will be closed Friday & Saturday, September 12 & 13 for restocking. Volunteers are needed for our restocking. Come anytime those days that fits your schedule. If you have questions, contact the shop at 217-423-0122. The shop will re-open on Monday, September 15 with all new fall/winter/holiday merchandise.



Coming up



4124 Camp Cilca Rd, Cantrall IL 62625

Sept 12th—Whippoorwill Golf Outing: *Put together a team and come join us for a round of golf at Hickory Point Golf Course in Forsyth! Contact Pastor Dan Smith at 217-466-1215 to register.*

September 20th—ACT LIKE MEN: *Shooting Retreat (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) See website for details.*

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.*



CENTRAL ILLINOIS
DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Annual LLL Fall Retreat

At Camp CILCA

Saturday, September 6th, 2025

The Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) of the CID will holding their annual Fall Retreat in the Christian Growth Center (CGC) at Camp CILCA.

This retreat will be from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm (Doors open at 8:30 am) The cost for this retreat is \$25 per person (lunch is included).

For more information on this retreat and how to register, email de-lorisblessman@yahoo.com

