



# *Living in the* **Shadow of the Cross**

Vol. 46 No. 8

August 2025

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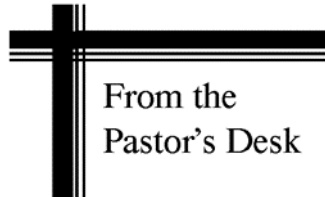
Office hours  
M–F 8:00am—12:00 pm  
www.mt-calvary.com

## Upcoming Events

**Aug 3** - Farewell Luncheon  
for Aaron & Erika

**Aug 6, 13, 20 - 5:30 - 7:00**  
Meals in the Park

**Aug. 31 - One Service**  
**9:15am**  
Elder Breakfast after service



From the  
Pastor's Desk

## Church Humility

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” –Philippians 2:3

I still remember the tears coming down my mom's face as we sat at the kitchen table that Saturday morning. I was 18 years old, home for the summer from my first year away at college. It was my first time on my own but not really on my own. My fees included room and board so I wasn't struggling to make rent or cooking my own meals. But I was responsible for keeping track of my own responsibilities. It was my own fault when I didn't have a clean shirt or socks in the morning. Without her wise counsel and advice, I had made a few bad choices.

What did I do that morning to make my mom cry? I apologized for all the times that I had taken her for granted, for all the little things she had done that I never thought of... until I had to do them for myself. I confessed that I had put my own needs above hers.

And maybe it's time we made the same confession to Mother Church.

In the short text from Paul's letter to the Philippians, he explains that life in Christ is a life of service. “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” These are some tough words for us. Look at the things around Ascension. Are they here for others or are they here for us? Do we evaluate the mission and ministry about making sure our needs or met or are we looking to the needs others... even those outside the Church? Paul explains that this was the mind of Christ.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:5-8)

Continue > > >

This description serves two purposes for us. First, it shows us the depths of Christ's love for us, all that he gave up for you and for me that we would be his and live with him in eternal peace and love. Second, Paul tells the Church throughout the ages to "have this mind among yourselves." If Jesus, the Son of Man, "came not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45), then how can we, his disciples, get upset when the Church is not "meeting our needs?" The Christian life is about meeting the needs of others, starting with their need for a Savior.

It's time that we confess our sin of selfishness in all things and start to consider how we can serve and "love our neighbors as ourselves." It may just bring tears to the eyes of someone close to us.

In Christ,

*Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



**Reminder!!!**

There are 5 Sundays in August. August 31, we will have ONE church service at 9:15 am (Traditional Service) with an Elder Breakfast following the service.

Come join us for worship and breakfast!!



## *A Note from our D C E*

### **A Grateful Farewell**

As I prepare to step away from my role here, I find myself filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we've shared. Looking back, I'm humbled by the ways God has worked through this congregation to serve, grow, and love well.

One of our most visible and valuable ministries in my opinion has been our free meals in the park. What began as a simple act of love blossomed into a community-wide effort lead by our Board of Discipleship to share Christ's love through food and fellowship. We have gotten letters in the mail giving monetary support to what we are doing as well as people not associated with Mt. Calvary bringing deserts to serve. We are also giving out fresh produce to anyone who wants it and praying for them at our prayer table.

Our partnership with Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots has been a powerful expression of our commitment to mission. In our third year, we had 19 people signed up to serve! Although that trip was ultimately canceled because of the devastating forest fires in Canada, the spirit of service in this congregation continues to shine.

In my time here we have also had the opportunity to expand our LIFE class to include an adult Bible study, creating space for deeper spiritual growth and meaningful conversation. It's been a joy to see adults engage with Scripture in new ways and build community through shared learning.

For the past three years, a dedicated group of men has gathered regularly for Bible study, forming a space of fellowship, accountability, and spiritual growth. This group has become a steady source of encouragement and wisdom, and it's been inspiring to witness the bonds that have formed through shared time in God's Word.

We have also partnered with other LCMS churches to create a youth winter retreat that brought fresh energy and connection to our young people. These retreats were more than just fun—they were formative experiences where faith was nurtured and friendships were forged.

For two years, our Christmas learning program helped children and families explore the story of Jesus' birth in creative and engaging ways. In the third year, we took that learning and turned it outward by serving Heal House through a special service project. It was a beautiful example of faith in action.

We expanded our Sunday School program to better serve our children and youth, creating three distinct classrooms: Pre-K to 2nd grade, 3rd to 8th grade, and High School. This expansion allowed us to meet students where they are and provide age-appropriate teaching that nurtures their walk with Christ.

As I leave, I carry with me the memories of these ministries and the people who made them possible. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your partnership in the Gospel. I am confident that God will continue to do great things through this church. May you keep shining His light in every corner of your community.

In Christ's Service,  
Aaron Finkel, DCE

## Fishing Camp - June 28



Emma Dawson



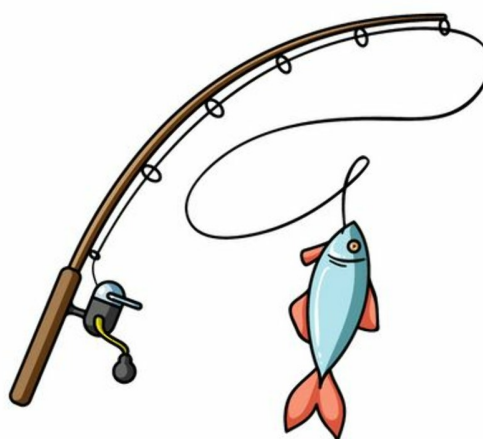
Garrett Sickles



Hunter Dawson



Max Miers - grandson of  
Kraig & Julie Daugherty







Art Camp -  
June 27



## Connecting with the Church



Bodie DeJong	1-Aug
Erik Loux	1-Aug
Andria Allen	1-Aug
Natasha Cooper	1-Aug
John Queck	1-Aug
Nate Fehl	4-Aug
Mason Sickles	5-Aug
Ken Tague	9-Aug
Sydney Sickels	12-Aug
Rod Goodrich	13-Aug
Jax Bingham	13-Aug
Drew Martsching	14-Aug
Denise Rudolph	15-Aug
Jerry Ohnemus	17-Aug
Carol McKnight	17-Aug
Nancy Rodemeyer	17-Aug
Monica Cormeny	21-Aug
Andrew Bakke	21-Aug
James Vail	26-Aug
Hailey Fehl	27-Aug
Lynne Toltzmann	27-Aug
Melinda Grimm	28-Aug
Ethan Loux	30-Aug

Please notify the church office of updates or changes to your address or contact information or any corrections to the Church Directory at [office@mt-calvary.com](mailto:office@mt-calvary.com) or call 515-961-4321.

THANK YOU!

Colleen DeLanoit  
Office Administrator  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

## DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Transfer: James & Stephanie Pulse  
To: St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Ames, IA

Temporary address change:  
Dave & Julie Jordan  
1401 E. 28th St. Unit 113  
Norwalk, IA 50211



## HELPING HAND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Dish Soap  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Ravioli  
Hamburger Helper  
Canned Soup  
Spaghetti O's  
Ramen Noodles  
Cake or Muffin Mix  
Canned Chicken

**This month Mt. Calvary  
delivered 102  
grocery items to support  
the Food Pantry.  
Thank you for your  
continued support!**

## Opportunities to Serve



Available dates to donate flowers for the altar on Sunday.

August 3, 2025 - Bill & Sherrie Engel 50th Anniv.

August 10, 2025 - Connie & Terry Boetcher

August 17, 2025 - Jen Ohnemus

August 24, 2025 - Barb Gould

August 31, 2025 - Don & Joan VanDiepen

**Altar Flowers – Needed:** Individuals can sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the “Flower Fund.” Place checks/cash in the offering and mark “Flowers” or you can use the online option to donate. You may sign up for a specific week on the flower calendar located on the Pillar. If you have a special occasion and would like flowers ordered for you and placed on the altar, contact Sherrie Engel. We need two arrangements for the altar total cost \$50.00. Contact Sherrie Engel, 515-490-2333 for more information. There are plenty of Sundays available.



Available dates to host Sunday Morning Treats

August 3, 2025 - Peggy & Carter Bosquet

August 10, 2025 - available

August 17, 2025 - available

August 24, 2025 - available

August 31, 2025 - ELDER BREAKFAST!!

## 2025 Meals in the Park

This is Mt. Calvary’s second year to host Free “Meals in the Park” at Moats Park Shelter every Wednesday June 4 – August 20. We are very blessed to have willing workers (in the harvest fields) to help with cooking, serving, praying, and supporting this mission work. We have 4 more weeks of Meals in the Park.

July 16 - we served 154 meals,

July 23- we served 140 meals,

July 30- Menu: Pulled Pork, Mac’n Cheese

Aug. 6 - Menu: Sloppy Joes, Green Beans

Aug 13 - Menu: Rigatoni, Salad, Bread

Aug 20 - Menu: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Pork & Beans

What a blessing this has been to many who are needing what we have to offer.



## LWML CONVENTION - OMAHA, NEB.

JUNE 27 – 28

We had 2 representatives from our LWML society attend this years LWML Convention.

LINDA NORTON & NOREEN SMITH







Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission projects!

## LWML National Mission Grants

33 new mission grants were approved at the National LWML Convention held in June in Omaha, Nebraska. The total of the new grants is \$2,622,270.00 for the 2025-2027 biennium. The grants are for all over the world, including some in Iowa. 24 of the 33 grants are based in the United States, with the others being global grants. Keep collecting your mites so that we can meet this goal.

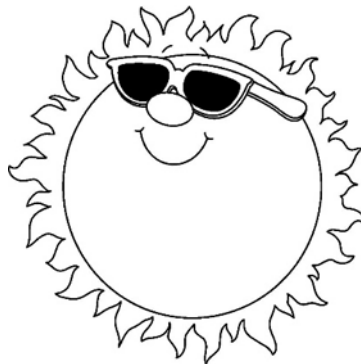


## Upcoming Events:

LWML Sunday and bake sale, October – date to be announced soon.  
Fall quarterly meeting, Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

All women are invited and encouraged to attend the events. See you there!

LWML hopes that everyone is enjoying the summer!



2025 National Youth Gathering - July 18 - 24, 2025 New Orleans bound.  
Mt. Calvary sent 9 youth, 2 chaperones, and our DCE to the gathering.  
R - L DCE Aaron Finkel, Hunter Koenig, Caroline Koenig, Slade Koenig, Jonah Cawthorn, Grant Sickles, Izzy Allen, Rachel Sickles, Izaac Tague, Hailey Cormeny, Ella Van-Dyke, Amanda Cawthorn.





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**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting—Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting**  
**June 8, 2025**

Attendance: Pastor Tom Vanderbilt, Aaron Finkel, David Cormeny, Terry Pauling, Linda Norton, JoAnn and Ed Chapman, Ken Tague, Charlotte Weaklend  
(See attachment for congregational attendance)

Ken called the meeting to order at 12:24 PM.

Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

JoAnn motioned for the approval of May Church Council minutes. The motion was seconded by Charlotte. Motion was passed with unanimous vote.

Pastor's Semi-Annual Report: (See Email Attachment)

Pastor announced he will be working with Barb Gould to create a Pastoral Care Coordinator position.

DCE Report- Aaron (See Email Attachment)

-The van has been used 13 times so far. Church councils are free to ask for permission for use of the van.

-We've had our first Moat's Park Meal. We served 118 meals.

-Fresh fruit is now part of the meals.

-A Prayer Table has been added as well.

-Aaron has been offered a DCE position at St. Michaels Church. Please pray for his guidance.

Elder's Report- Dave Jordan (See Email Attachment)

-Elder's council does have a \$1000 fund for congregation members in need. Please reach out for assistance.

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)

-David Cormeny motioned for approval of May's Financial Report. Sara Vanderbilt seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report- Chad Keuhl (See Email Attachment)

-Church Council may need to leverage our CD to cover our deficit.

-Sarah Vanderbilt motioned to approve May's Treasurer Report. Bud Bohannon seconded the motion.

Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Education Report- Melinda Grimm (See Email Attachments)

Evangelism Report- Jen Olson (See Email Attachments)

Discipleship Report- Ed and JoAnn Chapman (See Email Attachments)

Worship Report- Charlotte Weaklend and Karla Roush (See Email Attachments)

Parish Nurse- Carolyn Pauling (N/A)

Youth Report- Natasha Cooper (See Email Attachments)

Records Report- David Cormeny (See Email Attachments)

Stewardship Report-NA

Property Report- Terry Pauling (See Email Attachments)

- \$10,000 will be used out of Property's Budget for the parking lot. We currently have \$9500 in pledges. Close to half the cost of the repair. We still need donations. You can use retirement for donations by utilizing a Qualified Distribution Form. That would be tax free.

- Council would like to have the parking lot done Mid to Late August.

- Council may have to use a short-term loan to complete it.

- Wednesday evening the church had no hot water. The council had to replace the water heater.

#### **Old Business**

- Pastor and Ken will be attending the IDW District Convention at lake Okoboji.

#### **New Business**

- Ballots will be open three Sundays. You may suggest someone for a write in ballot.

- Current Positions open for councils and volunteers

- Elder's Council

- Jacob Hermanson

- Steve Smith

- Vacant

- Education

- Vacant

- Records

- David Cormeny

- Stewardship

- Vacant

- Worship

- Jennifer Olson

- President

- Ken Tague

- Treasurer

- Vacant

- Evangelism

- Vacant

JoAnn- Sign up is ready for Moat's Park meals. Feel free to just visit and see what it's like and if you want to help!

JoAnn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:59 PM. Dave Zwanziger seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

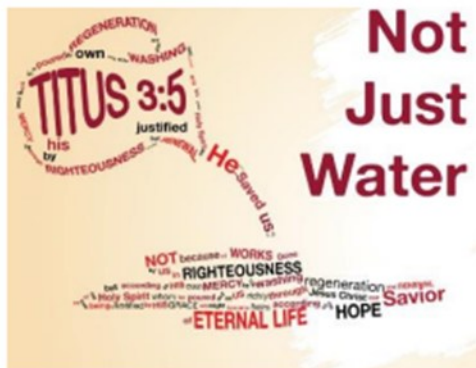
Pastor Tom closed with prayer.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was offered by , with Jake, a second by Melinda. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cormeny

Looking ahead . . . Fall Youth events.....



### **Junior Youth Gathering**

Dean - Pastor Nick Thackery

Theme – “Not Just Water” (Titus 3:5)

October 18-19

Sheraton, West Des Moines

Cost \$175

### **Senior Youth Gathering**

Dean - Pastor Alex Slotter

Theme – “God’s Calling Your Life” (Ephesians 2:10)

November 21-23

Holiday Inn at the Airport, Des Moines

Cost \$250

**God’s Calling  
Your Life**

ICW YG GATHERING 2025





		<b>SERVING IN WORSHIP</b>					
Date		Accolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Elders	Readers	Counters
<b>3-Aug</b>	<b>E</b>	Blake Bingham	Brad & Nancy Rodemeyer	Andy Bakke & Bill Sponsler	David Cooper	Linda Norton	
	<b>L</b>	Izzy Allen	Nancy Hauge	Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan	Jake Hermanson	Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
<b>10-Aug</b>	<b>E:</b>	Carson Vail	Steve & Karla Roush	Mark & Diane Johnson	Steve Smith	Terry Pauling	
	<b>L:</b>	Anna Sickels	Julie Jordan	Kyle Wiese &	Jake Hermanson	Jill Sickels	Dave & Julie Jordan
<b>17-Aug</b>	<b>E:</b>	William Griffith, Sr.	Mark & Diane Johnson	Terry Pauling & Paul Ophus	Brad Rodemeyer	Jean Schroeder	
	<b>L:</b>	Rachel Sickles	Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Kraig & Julie Daugherty	Dave Jordan	Bill Engel	Mike & Jen Olson
<b>24-Aug</b>	<b>E:</b>	Hunter Koenig	Bill & Becky Sponsler	Bud Bohannon & Jerry Ohnemus	David Cooper	Barb Gould	
	<b>L:</b>	Kira Cawthorn	Dave & Judy Zwanziger	Bill Engel &	Jake Hermanson	Charlotte W.	Mike & Emily Oeffner
<b>31-Aug</b>		Kenna Roan	YOUTH	YOUTH	Steve Smith	Melinda Grimm	
<b>ONE SERVICE 9:15 AM</b>			X	X	X	X	Dave & Judy Zwanziger
<b>7-Sep</b>	<b>E</b>	Blake Bingham	Laurel Cogswell	Bill Sponsler & Steve Roush	Brad Rodemeyer	Caroline Koenig	
	<b>L</b>	Izzy Allen	Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan	Dave Jordan	Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
<b>Thank you for serving. If you are unable to serve please find someone who can!</b>							

# August 2025

August 2025							September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
31								29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2 9:00am Fellowship Hall Reserved - Goodrich
3 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended 11:30am Farewell	4	5	6 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	7	8	9
10 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	11	12	13 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	14 10:00am Ruth Circle Meeting	15	16
17 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	18 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	19	20 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	21	22 Articles for newsletter Due Monday!	23
24 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	25 6:00pm Elders Meeting	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:15am Traditional 10:15am Elder Brunch	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6