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**Office hours**

M–F 8:00am—12:00 pm

[www.mt-calvary.com](http://www.mt-calvary.com)

## Upcoming Events

July 4 - Church Office closed

Every Wednesday - Summer  
Meals at the Park 5:30pm

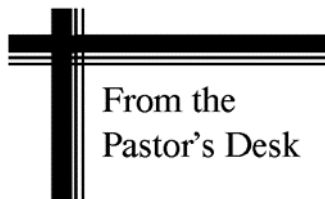
July 10 - Ruth Circle Mtg.

## *Living in the*

# Shadow of the Cross

Vol. 46 No. 7

July 2025



### From the Pastor's Desk

## What Will You Do with That Freedom?

In 1995, Mel Gibson starred in *Braveheart*, an Academy Award winning film about the life of Scottish knight, William Wallace. Much of the dialog is fictitious and full of creative license, but there's one scene that always stirs my heart. Before the Battle of Stirling Bridge, the first real battle of the First War of Scottish Independence, the movie depicts Wallace addressing his army. He says: "I am William Wallace. And I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You have come to fight as free men, and free men you are. *What would you do with that freedom?*" (emphasis added)

In Galatians chapter 5, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul writes these words: "For freedom, Christ has set you free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1a). Everything about the mission, ministry, and message of Christ is about freedom. The sick are freed from their illnesses. Sinners are freed from their sins. Some are freed even from death! Jesus' whole mission was an operation of liberation! By Baptism, you have been freed from worrying about your sins because they are forgiven through Christ's death. You have been freed from the fear of death because Christ is risen, and death is not the end. You have been freed from the power of the devil because Christ has defeated him with His perfect obedience to the Law. Forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation are yours. Freedom for all eternity!

What will you do with that freedom?

Some will squander that freedom. They'll bury it in the backyard like the wicked servant in The Parable of the Talents. Some will take their freedom and hoard it for themselves, keeping themselves safe and not caring at all for those who are around them. They'll present their dirt-covered talent to their Savior and be welcomed into His presence. But, perhaps in the back of their minds they might wonder...

What could I have done with that freedom?

Here's what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther says we should do with this freedom in his "Treatise on Christian Liberty": "To make the way smoother for the unlearned—for only them do I serve—I shall set down the following two propositions concerning the freedom and the bondage of the spirit: *A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all*" (emphasis added). This means that every Christian is set free from the things I listed above. They are perfectly free lords of their lives; they can do whatever they wish. This freedom is the gift of God in Jesus Christ. And, Luther tells us what we should do with our freedom, that is, serve our neighbors. In this freedom from Christ, our wills align with His will

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and we serve others in our homes, in our families, in our congregation, and in our community. We don't abuse our freedom and use it as an excuse. Instead we lean into that freedom and use it in ways that are God-pleasing and kingdom-expanding.

What will we do with our freedom? We will use it to free others from the same terrors that we have been freed from. We will preach the Gospel as St. Francis of Assisi tells us, "Always preach the gospel and, if necessary, use words." Our actions of service and care for our communities will prepare hearts to hear the life-giving Word of Jesus Christ.

This is what we will do with that freedom.

In Christ,

*Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



Reminder: The Church Office will be closed for the 4th of July holiday!!



*A Note from our D C E*

### **Living out Christ's Call**

In Matthew 25:31–46 we encounter a call to embody Christ's love through service, a call that resonates deeply with our understanding of faith in action. This passage reminds us that when we serve those in need, we are serving Jesus Himself. Whether it is feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, or clothing the naked, each act of love reflects our commitment to the Gospel and our gratitude for the saving grace of our Lord.

We believe our salvation is a gift of God's grace, not earned by our deeds. However, our faith naturally overflows into compassion and service. As we respond to the needs around us, we are not just performing good works, we are witnessing to the transforming power of Christ's love. When we see a neighbor in distress, it is not just an opportunity for charity it is a moment to celebrate our shared humanity and to put into practice Jesus' command to care for the "least of these."

This call to service also deepens our fellowship within the church and our community. It challenges us to look beyond our personal concerns and to actively share our abundance—not only material resources but also the gift of time, attention, and love. Inspiring examples abound in our congregation where acts of service have fostered hope and unity. These stories are both a testament to our faith and a beacon that invites others to experience the compassion of Christ firsthand.

As we strive to live out this biblical mandate, let us remember that every act of kindness, every meal shared with a stranger, and every moment given to someone in need is a way of bearing witness to our Lord's redeeming work. In the midst of our busy lives, let us intentionally set aside time to serve—knowing that in doing so, we not only follow in Jesus' footsteps but also reaffirm our commitment to proclaiming the good news through our deeds.

May each of us be ever mindful that true service is both a privilege and a calling—a tangible expression of the grace we have freely received. Let our actions speak louder than words, and may our lives be a living sermon that draws others to the heart of Christ's love.

In Christ's Service,  
Aaron Finkel, DCE

## 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 13. We are very blessed to have willing workers (in the harvest fields) to help with cooking, serving, praying, and supporting this mission work. Our first week we served 118 meals, our second week we served 151 meals, our third week we served 104 meals (a rainy night). What a blessing this has been to many who are needing what we have to offer.





**Treasurer Needed:** Mt. Calvary's treasurer, Chad Kuehl, is stepping down due to health reasons. We are in desperate need for someone to fill this position for the one-year balance of his term as soon as possible. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact either Pastor Vanderbilt or Ken Tague ([ktague@taguehome.net](mailto:ktague@taguehome.net)). Please remember Chad and Mt. Calvary's needs in your prayers. Thank you.

**Beautification Committee needs your help.** We are looking for volunteers to help water/weed the flower beds around the church. There is a signup sheet on the pillar. The beds are divided into areas. You can pick the area you want to take care of and the week you can help. You only need to work your area once in the week you choose. Check out the signup on the pillar and help us keep the church grounds looking beautiful!! Thank you!!

**Current Open positions on the Council.** Cast your Ballot. Ballots will be opened on June 29, 2025. There are several vacant positions that need to be filled. You may suggest someone for a write in ballot. Any questions please talk to Ken Tague or Jake Hermanson.

- 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**

**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:**

**Talk to the church office about becoming a Reader in Worship.**

**Talk to an Elder about becoming an Usher at either service.**

**Volunteer to be a song leader at our 10:30 am Sunday service.**

**Sunday Morning treats – Volunteers needed to host at Sunday morning coffee time.**

A sign up sheet is on the pillar in the fellowship hall. **Altar**

**Flowers – Needed:** Individuals to sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the "Flower Fund." Check out the flower chart on the pillar in the fellowship hall.

## Connecting with the Church



Terry Boettcher	2-Jul
Carl Cloeter	3-Jul
Bryan Herold	3-Jul
Sharon Erwin	6-Jul
Karla Derrickson	6-Jul
Ellen Glasgow	6-Jul
David Cormeny	10-Jul
Cindy Gosch	10-Jul
Karen Leak	12-Jul
Rose Strike	13-Jul
Laurel Cogswell	14-Jul
Marlys Gaston	14-Jul
Shane Geurink	15-Jul
Wade Williams	16-Jul
Betty Lewis	17-Jul
Rhonda Myers	17-Jul
Tom Henline	18-Jul
Wyatt Williams	21-Jul
Gordon Myers	22-Jul
Diane Johnson	23-Jul
Garrett Sickles	25-Jul
Emma Dawson	26-Jul
Rev. Tom Vanderbilt	27-Jul
Marilyn Reinholdt	28-Jul

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:

We recently printed a updated phone Directory. Take a moment to look to see if there are any changes that need to be made and let Colleen know if a correction needs to be made. Thank you!!!!

### Prayer List

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please contact Colleen in the church office, so we can include you on the prayer list in the weekly Calvary's Current.

We also have a prayer chain group that is willing to pray for you at any time.

### 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.

July 6, 2025 - Ruth Circle

July 13, 2025 -

July 20, 2025 -

July 27, 2025 - Pastor Tom & Sara

**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

July 6, 2025 -

July 13, 2025 - Wiese

July 20, 2025 -

July 27, 2025 -





# LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

## For The Life of the World

That's what our Christian lives are for. God reaches down through us in our various callings to care for the world.

Churches have a special way of caring for the world. They are loving their neighbors all around them. Churches aren't just buildings where people gather. The gathering forms and shapes God's people to be sent out as the body of Christ in the world, caring for neighbors and showing God's love to all.

Sometimes it's through deeds that people first meet Jesus. Mercy, compassion, care. That's what God's people do, because it's no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20b).

Lutheran Hour Ministries wants to equip and prepare you to care for your neighbor well. You can find everything you'll need to preach, teach, and even build events around engaging your community and loving your neighbor with our [Love Where You Live](#) kit.

We're here to help you cultivate a congregation that will do more good by bringing God's goodness to the world through service, engagement, and care for your congregation's neighbors and surrounding community.

As you help them experience the love of Jesus, we're also ready to help you share that love, not just in deed, but also in word, by telling them about His love for them with our [Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age resources](#).

Let us know how we can help you do more good by caring for your neighbors, engaging your community, and introducing people to Jesus — all for the life of the world. Just reply to this email.

Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies  
VP, Ministry Engagement  
Lutheran Hour Ministries





Thank you for your ongoing  
support of our mission projects!

## LWML Quarterly Meeting

Join us on Monday, July 28th for our quarterly LWML meeting. The meeting is at 6:30 pm, in the fellowship hall. Please join us!

## Mites



Thank you for your continued support of LWML mission projects by donating your coins to the Mite box. Every penny counts toward a mission project.



## Upcoming Events:

July quarterly meeting, Monday, July 28, 6:30 pm.

October quarterly meeting, Monday, October 27, 6:30 pm.

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

*God  
Bless  
America*

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
May 19, 2025**

Attendance: Aaron Finkel, David Cormeny, Jake Hermanson, Linda Norton, JoAnn and Ed Chapman, Ken Tague, Charlotte Weaklend  
Ken called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Aaron opened the meeting with prayer.  
Aaron's Devotion (See Email Attachment)

Motion was made by JoAnn to pass April Council minutes. Jake seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

DCE Report- Aaron (See Email Attachment)  
-National Youth Gathering has now been fully funded.

Elder's Report- Jake (See Email Attachment)

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)  
-David motioned for the approval of April's Financial Report. Charlotte seconded. Passed with unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report- Chad Keuhl (See Email Attachment)  
-JoAnn motioned for the approval of April's treasurer's report. Jake seconded. Motion passed 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)  
-Charlotte announced that the organ is coming to the age where it may start failing. Worship might be looking at new parts in the near future.

Parish Nurse- Carolyn Pauling (N/A)

Youth Report- Natasha Cooper (See Email Attachments)

Records Report- David Cormeny (See Email Attachments)

Stewardship Report-Jim Pulse (See Email Attachments)

Property Report- Terry Pauling (See Email Attachments)

Old Business

-Parking lot decision has been tabled until next meeting. Council will need to discuss funding and timeline.

New Business

Board Elections Updates for Candidates

Elders: Jean Grimme, Steve Smith, Jake Hermanson

Education: Vacant

Records: David Cormeny

Worship: Vacant

Stewardship: Vacant

Church Council President: Ken Tague

-Pastor Tom will be gone to Okoboji July 20<sup>th</sup>.

-Ken will be running a Thrivent Workshop that Sunday.

-The van has been used 12 times since it was purchased.

Upcoming meetings will be June 8<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting and July 21<sup>st</sup> for Church Council Meeting.

Aaron closed in 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

## An Introduction to Mt. Calvary Finances

Have you been confused by the financial portions of our Congregational meetings? Are you wondering what different funds, like the cans and memorials, are being used for? Do you wonder how we can be “behind” on finances and yet we are able to do new things?

Church finances can be confusing so this article is an attempt to clear up some misunderstandings and educate you about monies that Mt. Calvary has that may help you on in your walk with Christ. Here’s a simple breakdown of the different funds we use.

**The General Fund:** Think of this as the church’s “checking account.” Our regular offerings are deposited here, and we use it for the regular expenses of the congregation, including salaries, ministries, and repairs that are approved in the annual budget each November. This fund sees the most activity and volatility. Because of this, our treasurer tries to keep three to six months’ worth of expenses in this account. This helps us to absorb the ebb and flow of the year.

**Special Funds:** Sometimes people will give gifts to the church that “have strings attached,” that is, they are for a specific purpose. When this happens, we call these funds “special funds.” These monies can only be used for the specific purpose for which they were given. Think of these like we’re saving these resources for a special purpose. Just like families may save money for a bigger purpose, these special funds are being saved for a specific purpose. An example of a special fund is the Joshua Fund, which is money designated for repairs of the building. One minor exception is memorial funds, which we’ll talk about next.

**Memorial Funds:** These are gifts that are given by families in memory of loved ones. We want to do our best to honor the memory of those loved ones, so the Memorial Committee recommends things that are durable and long-lasting; we try not to use these funds for general expenses or repairs. If these memorials aren’t spent often or quickly is because we’re trying to make sure that they are used responsibly in a way to honor those whose memory they represent.

**Cans Fund:** Another example of a special fund is the Cans Fund. The money that we collect from the “Cans for Christ” shed go into this fund. Originally, this was started to raise a few hundred dollars to help with Vacation Bible School decorations. It has since grown beyond this original intent. We’ve pivoted the use of these funds to help *the people of Mt. Calvary*, not the building. Over the last few years, we’ve used this fund to buy food for our Wednesday LIFE meals and to offer financial assistance for kids to go to camp or adults to attend Christian conferences and trainings. We want to use this money to help people directly. These funds are available to all members of Mt. Calvary. If you’d like financial help to attend a Christian camp, conference, concert, or training, talk to Pastor Vanderbilt or Aaron because the Cans Fund is available to everyone.

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A couple of years ago, we received a very large memorial gift. The Council recommended and the Congregation approved creating three special funds with this gift. Let's review the three funds created by this gift and how they are used.

**Generation to Generation Endowment Fund:** 70% of the gift was used to establish an endowment. Think of this like a retirement fund where we don't want to spend the principle but allow that principle to grow so that a portion of this fund can subsidize our General Fund each year. 2024 was the first year where we realized some earnings from this fund, and we were able to add \$25,000 to our General Fund to help us meet our regular budgeted expenses.

**Local Ministry Fund:** 20% of the memorial gift was put into this fund to allow us to dream about the future. Many times in ministry, an important opportunity comes up, but a church doesn't have the finances to meet that need. This fund is set aside so that we *will* have funds for future opportunities. So far, we've used those funds to purchase a church van, to resource our meals in the park, and to hire a choir director in the short-term. These funds are also available for members of Mt. Calvary. If you have an idea for a new ministry but you aren't sure where to start or how to fund it, Pastor Vanderbilt can help you.

**Mission Giving:** 10% of the memorial gift was set aside to give to causes and organizations *outside* of Mt. Calvary. Just as the Bible encourages us to tithe to the Church, we felt it was important to share a portion of this gift with others in our community and the church at large. We used a portion of these funds in 2024 to help install a Baby Box at MercyOne in Des Moines.

We hope this helps you to understand Mt. Calvary's finances a bit more. If you still have questions, feel free to talk to Pastor Vanderbilt or Mt. Calvary's treasurer, Chad Kuehl.



			<b>SERVING IN WORSHIP</b>				
Date		Accolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Elders	Readers	Counters
<b>6-Jul</b>	<b>E</b>	Carson Vail	Barb Gould & Marilyn Groth	Bill Sponsler & Terry Pauling	Brad Rodemeyer	Jean Schroeder	
	<b>L</b>	Izzy Allen	Julie Jordan	Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan	Dave Jordan	Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
<b>13-Jul</b>	<b>E</b>	William Griffith, Sr	M. Meyer & L. Norton	Mark & Diane Johnson	David Cooper	Caroline Koenig	
	<b>L</b>	Anna Sickels	Nancy Hauge	Kyle Wiese &	Steve Hauge	Jill Sickels	Dave & Julie Jordan
<b>20-Jul</b>	<b>E</b>	Hunter Koenig	Mark & Diane Johnson	Paul Ophus & Jerry Ohnemus	Gene Grimm	Melinda Grimm	
	<b>L</b>	Kira Cawthorn	Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Bill Engel & Jeff Blonigan	Jake Hermanson	Bill Engel	Mike & Jen Olson
<b>27-Jul</b>	<b>E</b>	Kenna Roan	Jo Pulse & Jean Schroeder	Steve Roush & Bud Bohannon	Brad Rodemeyer	Jeret Koenig	
	<b>L</b>	Rachel Sickles	Dave & Judy Zwanziger	Kraig & Julie Daugherty	Dave Jordan	Charlotte Weaklend	Mike & Emily Oeffner
<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		Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan		Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
	<b>Thank you for serving. If you are unable to serve please find someone who can!</b>						

# July 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 29	30	Jul 1	2 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	3	4 Holiday - Church Office closed	5
6 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	7 6:30pm Worship Board meeting	8	9 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	10 10:00am Ruth Circle Meeting	11	12
13 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	14	15	16 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	17 Articles for newsletter -Due Monday	18 8:00am National Youth Gathering	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
National Youth Gathering						
8:00am	Camp Okoboji - YOUTH WEEK					1:00pm
8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended			5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park			
27 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	28 6:00pm Elders Meeting 6:30pm L.W.M.L Qtrly meeting	29	30 5:30pm Summer Meals at the Park	31	Aug 1	2