

Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

MountCalvaryGA.org

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WORSHIP

Saturday Praise & Worship 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Andrew Howe Senior Pastor

Pete LeBorious

Associate Pastor

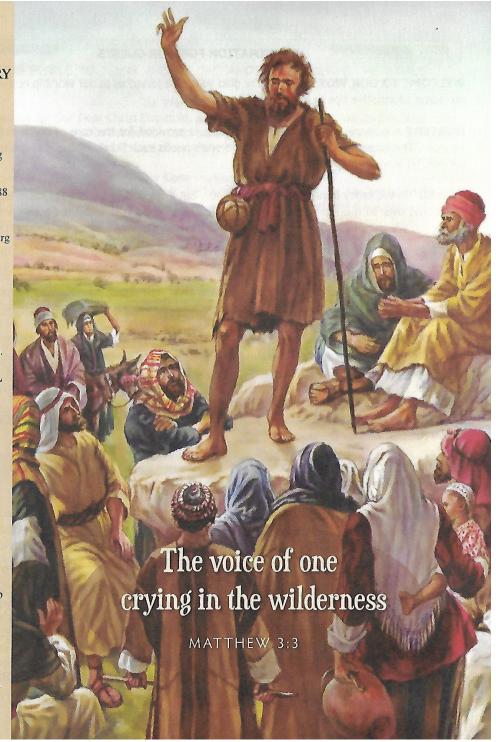
Jamie Dick Music Director

Katie Simmons

Director of Contemporary Worship

Zachary Boeyink Vicar

Jerry Bisping Director of Christian Outreach, Emeritus



PRAISE AND WORSHIP

DECEMBER 6, 2025

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS AND TO ONE ANOTHER TO SERVE THE WORLD

As We Gather

In this second service for Our Dear Christ Enters In, a special series for Advent, we contemplate how Jesus helps us when hurt comes to our homes, and we are reminded that Jesus came to this broken world as one of us to comfort us and heal us of any pain and suffering we experience.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is being celebrated today. It is the belief of the Lutheran Church, based on Jesus' own words, that in this Sacrament His body and blood are really present and that forgiveness of sins and the assurance of salvation are offered to all who come confessing their sins—and believing in Him. Communion is therefore offered to those who share this confession of faith. Children who are not yet confirmed are invited to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Guests who may have questions about Communion at Mt. Calvary are encouraged to talk to Pastor Andrew or Pastor Pete.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: "Here With Us" -Joy Williams

OPENING SONGS: "Jesus Messiah"

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

(Please kneel)

O Lord, the great and awesome God,

who keeps his covenant of love with all those who love him and keep his commandments,

we have sinned and done wrong.

We have been wicked and rebelled;

we have turned away from your commandments and rules.

We have not listened to your Word.

Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame

because we have sinned against you.

We have not sought your favor by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.

O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath. You, O Lord, are merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against you.

O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! We do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

"Comfort, comfort my people,' says your God. 'Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her: that her iniquity is pardoned" (Isaiah 40:1-2). Through the perfect life, death and resurrection of the Christ Child, God has completely removed your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE PEACE CANDLE

Beloved in the Lord, as we draw closer to Christmas, may this wreath remind us that Jesus came to conquer the darkness of our sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah declares,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

On this Second Weekend in Advent we light a candle and call it peace. Christ is the image of the invisible God.

By Him all things were created.

God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him

And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things.

By making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

We trust in this promise. And we trust in Christ's promise:

"Peace I leave with you."

"My peace I give you."

(During the song, Arlene and Michelle Todd will light the Advent candles)

SONG OF PRAISE: "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 53:1-5 (Isaiah prophesies Jesus as the Suffering Servant)

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:35-39 (Nothing can separate us from God's love)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25 (The Angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah)

- ⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.
- ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."
- ¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.
- ²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE MESSAGE Pastor Andrew Howe

TIME OF RESPONSE: Welcome to worship, we are so glad you are here! You are encouraged to fill out an Attendance Card (There is a side for both our guests and members to fill out, and If you will be coming forward for Holy Communion, please read and sign the "Announcement for Communion" portion of the Attendance Card.), place it in the offering plates, which are located at each entrance of the Sanctuary. If you have an offering, your offering may be placed in these plates, preferably before Worship begins. This helps our usher gather our offerings to bring forward and return them before God.



If you would like to make your offering at Mount Calvary electronically, an easy way is to use the QR Code on the left to access the Vanco online giving option.

SONG OF RESPONSE: "Come Thou Fount Come Thou King"

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "O Jesus Christ, who brings healing," and the congregation will respond, "bless all homes with your grace and love."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE DISTRIBUTION (An Usher will invite your pew to come forward to receive the bread and individual cup. The center cups in each tray are white grape juice for those who cannot drink alcohol)

THE DISTRIBUTION SONGS: "Communion"

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the gift of His body and blood may abide in Him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever.

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING SONG: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings"

THE SENDING

Go in peace!

And serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers are provided this week by Cynthia Trichinotis, in memory of John Trichinotis on the 1st anniversary of receiving his Angel Wings on December 6, 2024; and by Debra Miller, Amy White, and family, in honor of our loved ones who have passed away.

SCAM ALERT- never respond to an email or text from the Pastors or any staff asking for "assistance," a "favor," or even a "please reply to this note." They end up asking for "gift cards." We will NOT reach out in this manner. This year, we have had several phishing scams pretending to be Pastor Andrew. It will likely increase as we near the holiday season. The pastoral staff has resources to help those in need through the alms fund. When in doubt, you can call our pastors directly.

<u>Mount Calvary has received donations in memory of Dawna Dugan</u>, Dina Gossman's sister, from Bill & Jacque Bohm and Erv & Kathy Robinson.

The 2026 Secret Sister Tea will be on January 11, 2026 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At the Tea your 2025 Secret Sister will be revealed and you will have an opportunity to draw a name for 2026. Even if you did not participate in 2025, you are welcome to be a part of the 2026 Tea.

<u>Christmas Party Schedule for Youth/Young Adults:</u> Participants are asked to bring their favorite holiday goodie to share for each of the following parties.

College/Young Adult – Sunday, December 14th, 6-9 pm at Sonja & Pastor Pete's home.

Participants are also asked to bring a gift (valued around \$15) for the exchange.

High School – Sunday, December 21st, 6-8 pm at Sonja & Pastor Pete's home.

Participants are also asked to bring a gift (valued around \$15) for the exchange.

Luke2: A Christmas Story: Mount Calvary is offering each of you a chance to wear a shirt to promote the gospel. How, you ask? The Luke2 project is a faith-based ministry promoting Christian faith and the gospel by wearing a t-shirt. We will be selling after each service on Saturday and Sunday. We will also be available before and after the Advent Services in the Narthex. The T-shirts will be sold at \$15.00 each by cash or check (Mt Calvary Lutheran Church). Credit cards will be accepted, and the cost will be \$16.00, to cover the processing.

Cookies and Carols on the Lawn- Joins us by the annex on Friday, December 12th, between 6:00-7:30 pm. Bring a lawn chair, blanket, and fire pit, if you wish. We have firewood available from the chainsaw training! Hot chocolate, cider, and cookies will be provided. For those donating cookies, please place them on the information desk on December 10-11 (Wednesday and Thursday) in either disposable or labeled containers. Please invite your neighbors, family, and friends for this opportunity of fellowship to rejoice in the true spirit of Christmas. Your support of our church events is important for our body of believers. Board of Outreach

Helping Hands Dinner, December 25^{th:} Vicar Zachary is calling for volunteers and donations for this year's helping hands dinner on Christmas day. We are expecting up to 500 people this year which means that we need everything we can get. There is a sign-up to contribute to this ministry in a variety of ways on the information desk as well as a turkey and ham donation sheet. Volunteers are not limited to Mt. Calvary members, so if you know anyone who is interested please reach out to them or let the vicar know in writing so he can reach out. Please ensure that all donated meats are cooked beforehand. See Vicar Zachary with any additional donations or if you have any questions. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord"- Proverbs 19:17

Children's Christmas Party: The SLDT will be hosting a Christmas Party for the children of our congregation (K-5th) on Sunday, December 14^{th} , from Noon -1:30. The children will be making their own pizzas for lunch, creating a Christmas tree ornament, and playing some Christmas games. Following the party there will be a dress rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program.

Cookie Baking & Delivery: On Saturday, December 20th, from 10-3, the High School youth will be baking Christmas Cookies and delivering them to shut-in members of our congregation as we share the Christmas spirit. Lunch will be provided.

Board of Outreach is selling Mount Calvary Christmas ornaments after all weekend and Advent services through December 17th for \$10. Half of the proceeds will go to the LWML Church Worker Scholarship. These make wonderful gifts for family members and extended out of town relatives to have our logo and Luther's Rose displayed on a tree or ornament stand during the Christmas season.

<u>Licensed to Chill – Snow Tubing Trip:</u> Both the Middle and High School youth will be heading up to Lake Lanier for a day of wintery fun on Monday, December 22^{nd} , from 8 am – 6 pm. The cost for the day is \$60/person plus money for lunch (around \$20). Due to the cost and need to purchase tickets in advance we need youth to sign up for this event NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 14^{th} .

<u>College Midweek Bible Study:</u> This group meets online every Wednesday at 8:30. If you are interested in joining us, e-mail Pastor Pete (DCEPete@gmail.com) to receive a link.

Angel Tree: The Angel tree is now up in the Narthex and individual angels have been placed on the tree. We have requests from individuals of all ages. There are also gift card requests for Family Promise. Return your gift in a gift bag with the angel you chose attached to the handle or outside of the bag and place it in the conference room located directly across from the office kitchen. Gift Cards can be placed in the small red "Gift Card" box on the bookshelf in Vicar's office. Please have all gifts ready for distribution by December 7th. Thanks in advance for your generosity and support!

Young Adult Bible Study: The young adults meet at Sonja and Pastor Pete's (413 Erin Way) from 8:30-10 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The family of Lonnie Richardson, Ashley Griffin's family member, who died November 30th.

Louise Maley, Jimmy Martin's mother, who is having some health issues.

Wilda Anderson, Ashley Griffin's aunt, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Sandy Richardson, Ashley Griffin's aunt, who suffered a heart attack.

Don Parrott, who is recovering from throat surgery.

John Stadler, Joan Smith's brother, who is having heart issues and awaiting to see a cardiologist.

Mike Ming, Nancy Branscom's nephew, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Keep In Your Prayers

Cynthia Trichinotis, Joan Steese, Lisa Starkman, Jay Fortner (Vicar Zachary's friend), Barbara Bauman, Susan McEachern, Barbara Mabee, Sue Glaser, Chris Mabee, Keith Busha, Pat Aldredge, John "Jack" Trichinotis (Cynthia Trichinotis' grandson), Laura Harper, Charles Hudock (Carol Yeager's brother), Shelly Bowen Carson (Amy White's friend) and Nick Kesler (Liz Hunter's brother).

Those Battling Cancer

Pastor Aaron Sterling, Bob Yeager, Marie White, Chris Mabee, Michael Deskin (Walt & Cheryl Stafford's son-in-law), Andy Doute (Elizabeth and Lonny Walker's son-in-law), Jeff Grube, John Hanrahan (Mark Dieckmann's brother-in-law), Jenny Tillery (Ed and Kim Rekau's daughter), Walt Stafford, Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), Scott Ramsey (Amanda McVay's uncle), Allison Brewer (Jan and Steve Kirchoff's daughter), Marcia Copeland (Maggie Monahan's sister), Jenny Hursey (Fred & Nancy's daughter-in-law), Wilson Baughman, Tom Guilford (Sylvia's oldest son), Matt Voskuil (Debi Cole's son) and Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt).



SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor Andrew Howe. **LITURGIST**: Pastor Andrew Howe. **ELDER**: Bill Bohm. **LAY READER**: Ginger Martin. **ALTAR GUILD**: Marcia Brighton, Toli Van Buskirk & Carrie Wurdeman.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Mark Dieckmann (Wed 12 pm), John Van Buskirk (Wed 6:30 pm, Bill Bohm (Sat 6 pm), Eric Gossman (Sun 8 am) and Walt Seefeld (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES**: Cate Christmas (Wed), Michael Nuckels (Sun 8 am) and Erik Butts (Sun 10:45 am). **LAY READERS**: Darron Counselman (Wed 6:30 pm), Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Lexie Hadley (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD**: Liz Hunter, Barbara Locke & Linna Nielsen (Wed, Sat & Sun). **GREETERS**: Erv & Kathy Robinson (8 am) and Kevin & Paula Babcock (10:45 am).

Last Week's Attendance Thanksgiving Eve – 62 November 30 - 141 December 3 Early – 14 December 3 Late - 101

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	5 – 8 pm	Progressive Dinner
Monday	10:00 pm	Ladies Guild
	1:00 pm	Women's Small Group
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
Tuesday	3:34 pm	RG@MC Tutoring
	6:30 pm	Council
Wednesday	12:00 pm	Advent Worship
	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
	7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
	8:30 pm	College Bible Study
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Friday	6 – 7 pm	Cookies & Carols
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	12-1:30 pm	Elementary Christmas Party – SLDT
	5:30-8 pm	College/Young Adult Christmas Party