



**MOUNT CALVARY
LUTHERAN**

*Lutheran Church --
Missouri Synod*

MountCalvaryGA.org

336 Carl Vinson Pkwy
Warner Robins, GA 31088
478-922-1418

E-mail
office@mountcalvaryga.org

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

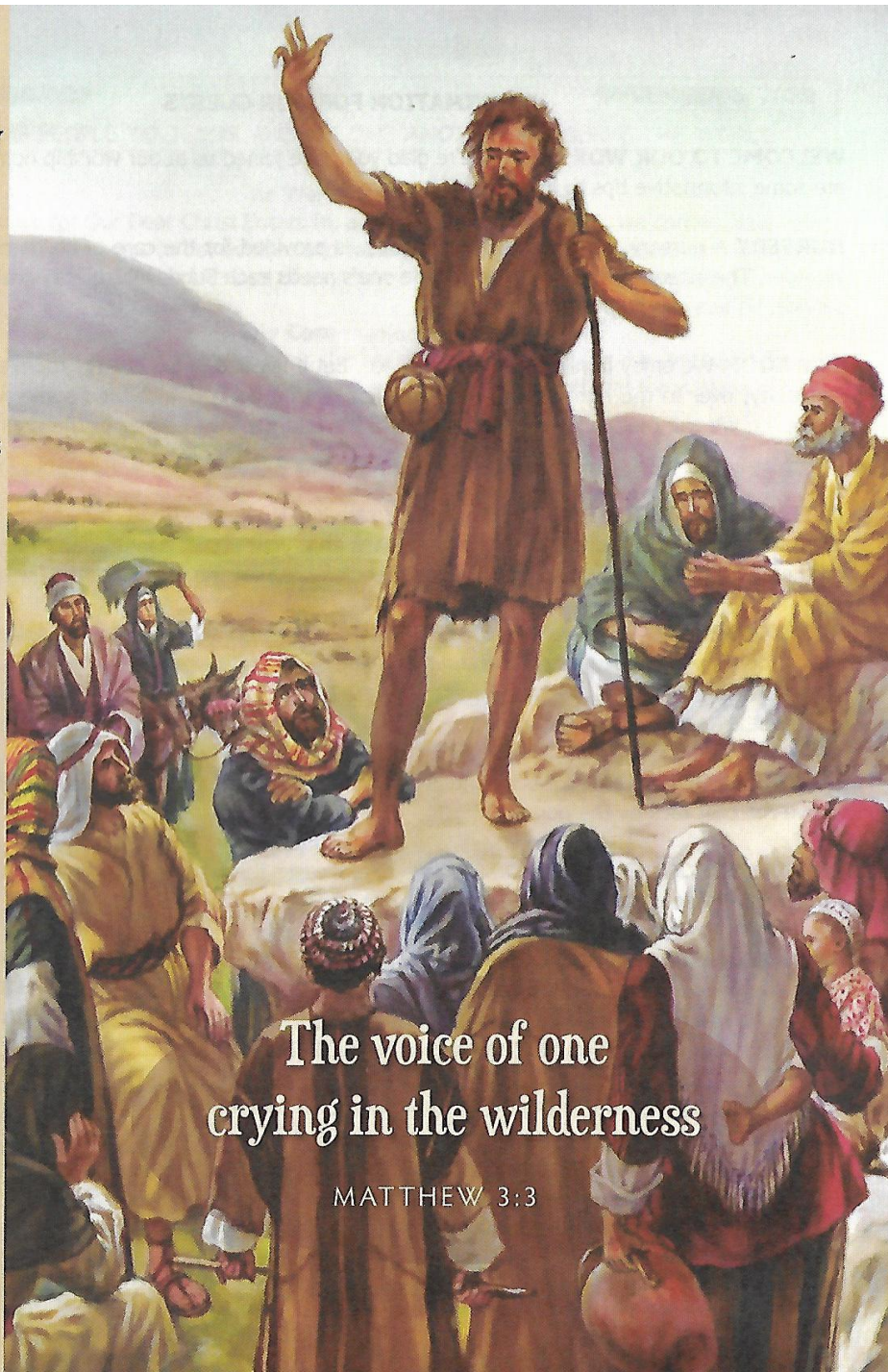
Pete LeBorious
Associate Pastor

Jamie Dick
Music Director

Katie Simmons
Director of
Contemporary Worship

Zachary Boeyink
Vicar

Jerry Bisping
Director of Christian
Outreach, Emeritus



**The voice of one
crying in the wilderness**

MATTHEW 3:3

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.

PRELUDE: Flute Quartet – Ruthie Radcliff, Kim Leslie, Elizabeth Walker & Stella Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN: *"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"* Hymn #341 (vs 1-2, 5)

THE 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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(Please stand)

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."

THE HYMN:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #357 (vs 3-4)

(During the hymn, the second candle of the advent wreath will be lit.)

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, even in this exciting Advent season, we are reminded that our homes are sometimes visited by hurt in this broken world. Please be present with those homes that are experiencing troubled times and circumstances. Fill them with complete trust in you and the strength to endure hardship. Be their source of courage, and give them confidence in knowing that you came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem to comfort and save. **Amen.**

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.

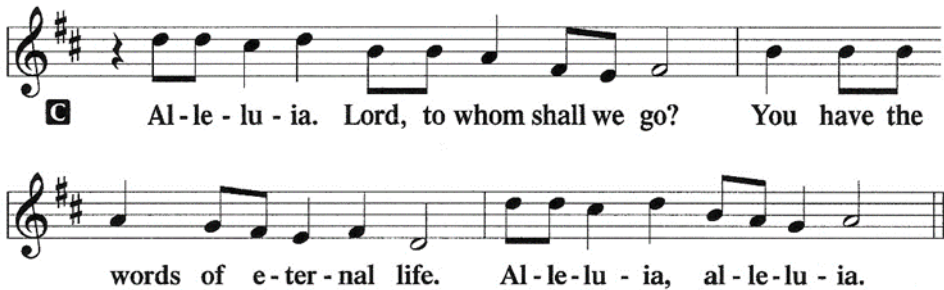
THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:35-39 (*Nothing can separate us from God's love*)

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.

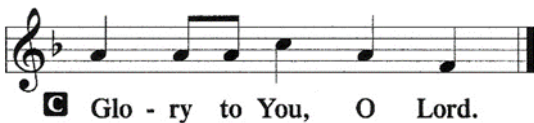
Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE



THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



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.

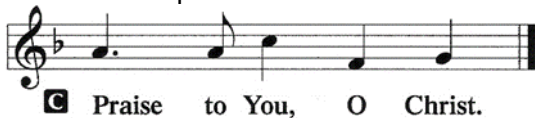
¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

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.



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 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pastor Andrew Howe

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:**"Savior of the Nations, Come"****Hymn #332 (vs 1-4)****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.

CHOIR ANTHEM:**"Still, Still, Still"**

Sanctuary Choir

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 ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**THE PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

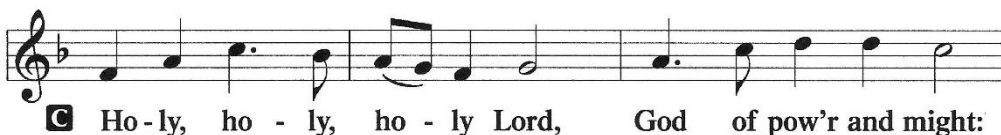
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

AGNUS DEI

G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way 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)*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"I Wonder As I Wander"

**I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

**When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.**

**If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.**

**I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Hymn #359
"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" Hymn #336
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Hymn #356

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"O Sing of Christ"

Hymn #362

CHORAL BENEDICTION *(the Choir will sing 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.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE SENDING

Go in peace!

And serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE POSTLUDE

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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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.

Mount Calvary has received donations in memory of Dawna Dugan, 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.

Christmas Party Schedule for Youth/Young Adults: 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.

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.

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 25th: 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 14th, 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.

Licensed to Chill – Snow Tubing Trip: Both the Middle and High School youth will be heading up to Lake Lanier for a day of wintery fun on Monday, December 22nd, 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 14th.

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!

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.

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:** Vicar Zachary Boeyink. **ELDERS:** John Van Buskirk (8 am) and Walt Seefeld (10:45 am). **ACOLYTE:** Jude Van Buskirk (8:45 am) and Allyssa Curenton (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Fred Tamer. – Late – Mike Hopf, Dave Harter & Bruce Bauman. **LAY READERS:** Steve Kirchoff (8 am) and Chuck Mollenkopr (10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Marcia Brighton, Toli Van Buskirk & Carrie Wurdeman. **GREETERS:** Alyce Quillin (8 am) and John & Liz Hunter.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Open. **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