



*Living in the*

# Shadow of the Cross

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May 2026

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## Events in May

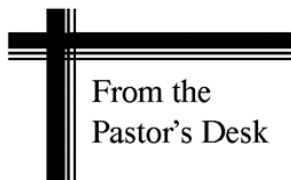
**May 6 - Last night of  
Midweek Classes  
Midweek Meal at church**

**May 14 - Ascension Day  
worship service 7:00 pm**

**May 25 - Office closed  
Memorial Day celebrated**

**May 31 - Fifth Sunday  
One Worship Serv. 9:15 am  
Elder Breakfast 10:15 am  
Missionary Cody Mock &  
family - presentation  
10:30am**

**June 7 - Semi Annual  
Congregational meeting &  
meal starts 11:35am**



From the  
Pastor's Desk

## The Bridge Is Already Being Built

There is something quietly profound about standing in the middle of a bridge. You are not quite on one shore or the other. You belong, in that moment, to the space between — suspended above the water, connecting two worlds that would otherwise remain apart.

I have been thinking about that image a great deal lately as I reflect on where we are as a church and where God seems to be leading us.

Our vision — *Bridging the Gap* — is not simply a catchy phrase. It is a calling rooted in the Great Commission itself. Before Jesus ascended, He sent His church outward: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20). That command has never been rescinded. It simply looks different in every generation — and in ours, it looks like crossing divides of age and technology to bring the timeless Gospel to our neighbors.

But here is what I want us to pause and notice this May: the bridge is already being built — and God is building it through you, right where He has placed you.

This is the beauty of vocation. Luther understood that God does not work in the world through dramatic signs alone, but through ordinary people faithfully serving in their everyday callings. You do not have to be a theologian or a missionary to be a bridge-builder. You already are one. Every time a teenager patiently helps a retiree navigate a new device so they can stay connected with family, God is at work. Every time a longtime member sits with a young family and shares decades of stories about His faithfulness, God is at work. These are not small things. They are the very means by which God is advancing His kingdom in our community.

Technology is often framed as something that pulls us apart — and it can. But in the hands of a church intentional about relationships, it becomes a tool of the Great Commission.

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A text message that says *I am praying for you*. A shared video that opens a spiritual conversation. A simple post that reminds a drifting neighbor that a community of grace still sees them and welcomes them.

These are seeds of the Gospel — the same Gospel we receive together each week in Word and Sacrament. The same Word that sustains us at the font and the table is the Word we carry into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our relationships across generational lines.

And the harvest? That belongs to God. Paul reminds us: “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:6). We are freed from the pressure of manufacturing results. Our calling is faithful, obedient presence — trusting that the Holy Spirit works through the Gospel we plant.

So as May unfolds, I invite you to look around and notice where God has stationed you. Notice the relationships forming across generations. Notice your vocation as a bridge-builder.

Then take the next faithful step. The bridge is being built. And God, who began this good work, will see it through.

In Christ,

*Pastor Tom*

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



## March 29—Palm Sunday processional



## HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY



### **Fanning the Flame: Who's Next? 2 Timothy 1:6**

All 9th-12th graders welcome! Come find out how God has gifted you and join us for a Bible lesson. Every Sunday at 9:30.



## MOCK FAMILY COMING TO VISIT!

Cody & Aurelie along with Eva and Moriah are planning their home service schedule and Mt. Calvary is on it. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, May 31, 2026. That Sunday is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month so we will be having our church service starting at 9:15 am with an Elder breakfast following the service. Cody Mock will be making a presentation on their life as missionaries in Riga, Latvia in Eurasia.





Mark your calendars:

Mt. Calvary Semi-annual  
Congregational meeting & potluck dinner  
June 7, 2026 right after the 10:30 service  
Please join us - Everyone is invited!  
Bring a dish to share



**Our church kitchen is a wonderful benefit that we are privileged to use in God's house. Let's do our part to take care of it and keep it nice for everyone using it.**

**Kitchen Rules**

Wash off counters.

Wipe off stove tops

Clean up any spills in the oven

Clean coffee pots if they were used.

Empty the refrigerator of your food items.

(wipe out food spills if necessary)

Empty dishwasher – if you are using it.

Wipe out sink & dry

Laundry towels – if you used them

And do not forget to return them.

Sweep and/or scrub floor.

Empty trash.

If supplies are needed, items need repaired Or replaced, please leave a note in the Church office.

**Thank you for your understanding and helping to keep it looking nice!**

## Connecting with the Church



David Cooper	2-May
Linda Wright	2-May
Dave Zwanziger	4-May
Nick Fehl	5-May
Mark Johnson	5-May
Quinn Stafford	5-May
Cindy Flickinger	6-May
Jeret Koenig	7-May
Stephanie Fant	7-May
Don Van Diepen	9-May
Sophia Stafford	9-May
Kayla Hermanson	11-May
Ryker Allen	12-May
Steven Hauge	12-May
Ethel Lee	13-May
Adam Loux	15-May
Robert (Bob) Geurink	16-May
Lisa Wiese	18-May
Kyle Wiese	18-May
Cheryl Gebhart	19-May
Heather Youngblut	24-May
Josie DeJong	25-May
Aaron Cawthorn	29-May

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



Celebration of Faith

April 11, 2026

Phyllis Chumbley

Directory change:

Laurel Cogswell

707 Robin Glen

Aspen Bldg. Unit 310

Indianola, IA 50125

515-771-1279

515-961-0940



Heal House. . . Current needs.

Toilet Paper	Fabric softener
Coffee pods	33 gallon trash bags
Laundry pods	Coffee mugs
Paper towels	Disinfecting wipes
Powdered Coffee creamer	

### **HELPING HAND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**

Dish Soap  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Ravioli  
Hamburger Helper  
Canned Soup  
Cereal  
Chili Beans  
Peanut Butter

**This month Mt. Calvary  
Delivered 79  
grocery items to support  
the Food Pantry.  
Thank you for your**

## Opportunities to Serve



Available dates to donate flowers for the altar on Sunday.

May 3 - Steve & Karla Roush

May 10 - Jo Pulse

May 17 - Cheryl Gebhart

May 24 - Jason & Jill Sickels

May 31 - Darl & Ethel Lee

**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

If no one signs up..... no treats!! 😞

May 3 - Smiths

May 10 - available

May 17 - available

May 24 - available

May 31 - Elder Breakfast



Available dates to Host a Mid-Week Meal

April 29 - JoAnn & Ed Chapman

May 6 - Board of Education end of year event

**Summer Meals at the Park 5:30—7:00 pm**

June 3 - Pulled Pork

June 10 - Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese

**“Summer Meals in the Park”.** Our Meals will be served at the shelter house at Moats Park, every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, June 3 through August 19, 2026. We are needing donations of food items and help with the meals. Please check the pillar, in the fellowship hall, to see what items we are needing for our meals. Also the signup sheet, if you are interested in helping with the meal.