



Mailing address:
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Pastor Tom Vanderbilt
pastor@mt-calvary.com

Colleen DeLanoit
Office Administrator
office@mt-calvary.com
Office hours
M–F 8:00am—12:00 pm
www.mt-calvary.com

SEPT 1 - Church Office
closed for the holiday

Sept 4 - Thursday Bible
Study: Christians in a Woke
World

Sept 8 - Men's noon Bible
Study resumes

Sept 9 - Textile Tuesday

Sept 10 - Resume
6:00 pm L.I.F.E. Classes
5:30 pm Meal

Sept 11 - Ruth Circle mtg.

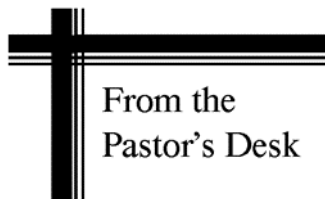
Sept 13 - BBQ Cookoff and
Bags Tournament

Sept 28 - Trap Shoot -
Izaak Walton - Ahquabi

Living in the **Shadow of the Cross**

Vol. 46 No. 9

September 2025



From the
Pastor's Desk

Taking a New Look at Things

Moses was a great man who was used mightily by God. Moses was able to escape the genocide of his time by being floated in a basket down the river into the arms of Pharaoh's daughter. He spent forty years

as a son of Pharaoh, until was forced to flee for murdering an Egyptian. He ran to Midian where he met Jethro, a priest of Midian. Jethro offered Moses the hand of his daughter and they became family. Moses lived with Jethro for forty years before God called Moses to return to Egypt and free God's people.

Moses was uniquely suited to this task. Being raised in the courts of the Pharaoh, Moses knew the customs, courtesies, and culture of Egyptian royalty, skills that would help him interact with Pharaoh and negotiate the release of the Hebrews. Likewise, Moses had spent time with Jethro in the wilderness. He would have the skills to help thousands of people navigate the unfamiliar areas as the Hebrews travelled from Egypt to the Promised Land.

As great as Moses was, he wasn't perfect. Jethro, his father-in-law, helped him to see this.

When Moses and the Hebrews made it to the wilderness around Midian, Jethro came to pay him a visit. They took some time to catch up and then, in the morning, Jethro went with Moses for his duties. **The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?"** (Ex 18:13-14). Moses explained that he was settling the disputes of the people, both great and small. Even though it was a difficult task, he felt that it was his to do. Jethro responds, **"What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone"** (Ex 18:17b-18). Jethro then goes on to explain a better system for dealing with disputes by dividing people into smaller groups to settle minor disputes better. Moses had the humility and wisdom to follow Jethro's suggestions. He was blessed to have an outside opinion to help him evaluate what he was doing.

Continue > > >

Now is also a good time for us to evaluate what we are doing. Our DCE position is vacant and the quickest we can expect to fill that position is nine months, but twelve is more realistic. Likewise, the Boards of Education, Evangelism, and Stewardship are all vacant with no one to take on those roles on the Church Council. The temptation for us is to put our heads down, put our nose to the grindstone, and power through trying to do what we've been doing for years. If we take that approach, the words of Jethro would ring true for us, too: **"What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out..."**

Now is a good time for us to take a fresh look at things. At our August meeting, the Church Council agreed to start exploring new options for this new season at Mt. Calvary. I've reached out the Rev. Dr. Keith Haney, an assistant to the President of Iowa District West, who specializes in organizational change. I've asked him to meet with a group from the Council to look at where we're headed as a congregation and what the future looks like for our congregation and the community.

Even though things are changing a bit, the grace of our ever-present Lord, Jesus Christ, is with us. He will keep us and bless us to the end. To Him belongs all praise and glory!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Tom".

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



Reminder: The Church Office will be closed Sept. 1 for the holiday!!

Aaron & Erika Finkel - Farewell Luncheon - Sunday, August 3, 2025



Farewell and Godspeed



MEALS IN THE PARK

August 20, was the last meal in the park for 2025.

We have served 1,540 meals in the past 12 weeks!!

We have also been blessed with members along with Capital City Fruit to be able to give away fruits and vegetables to those who attended our meals.

A BIG THANK YOU TO members of the Discipleship group and those members who volunteered and showed up to help us serve the meals. Well Done!!



Time to fire up the grill!



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the
3rd annual BBQ Cookoff and Corn Hole Tournament!

Saturday September 13, at 4:00 p.m.

BBQ Competition starts at 5:00 p.m.

Cooks need to Signup and choose your meat. (Signup sheet is on the pillar)

The meat will be provided.

Corn Holer's – Signup as a team or just join one

Bring a side dish to share, and let's have some fun!!



Connecting with the Church



Happy September Birthdays

Trista Geurink	1-Sep
Alyce Balvanz	2-Sep
Neve Sickels	2-Sep
Merle Johnson	3-Sep
William Griffith Sr.	3-Sep
Mary Barkley	4-Sep
Ken Kiger	4-Sep
William Sponsler	5-Sep
Rachel Sickles	7-Sep
Betty Nelson	9-Sep
Bradley Rodemeyer	10-Sep
Michael Finck	11-Sep
Saylor Johnson	11-Sep
Elijah Cormeny	13-Sep
Paul Balvanz	14-Sep
Laurie Strackeljahn	14-Sep
Linda Schrader	14-Sep
Finn Koenig	15-Sep
Judy Zwanziger	17-Sep
Alexis Fehl	18-Sep
Brenda Geurink	19-Sep
Carson Vail	22-Sep
Bonnie Fant	23-Sep
Melanie Van Dyke	27-Sep
Conny Sheil	27-Sep
Megan DeLanoit	28-Sep

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 or call 515-961-4321.

THANK YOU!

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

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Transfer: Breanna Dawson

Emma Dawson

Hunter Dawson

To: King of Kings Lutheran Church
Cedar Rapids, IA

Funeral: Carolyn Dee Pauling
8-2-2025



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 98
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.

September 7, 2025 - Jenny & Jerry Ohnemus

September 14, 2025 -

September 21, 2025 - Daryl & Ethel Lee

September 28, 2025 - Linda Norton

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

September 7, 2025 - available

September 14, 2025 - available

September 21, 2025 - Kyle & Lisa Wiese

September 28, 2025 - available



Available dates to Host a Mid-Week Meal

Sept. 10, 2025 - Sub Sandwiches– Discipleship

Sept. 17, 2025 - Taco’s - Discipleship

Sept. 24, 2025 - Sloppy Joes - Discipleship

Oct. 1, 2025 - Available

Our Wednesday night meals in the Park are moving inside to the fellowship hall here at church. We are needing help preparing meals. If you are willing to help please sign up on the signup sheet on the pillar in the fellowship hall. We offer financial assistance to anyone willing to prepare the meal. Everyone is welcome to attend our Wednesday night meals!

LWML Fall Rally

Please join us for fellowship and Bible Study



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
5615 SW 14th Street Des Moines
Saturday October 18, 2025
Registration 8:30 am
Light Breakfast 8:45 am-9:15 am
Registration Fee \$6.00

Ingathering: Bidwell Riverside Food Pantry:
Laundry detergent,
soap,
shampoo,
Dawn Dish soap,
diapers size 4,5,6,
canned fruit,
peanut butter.



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.

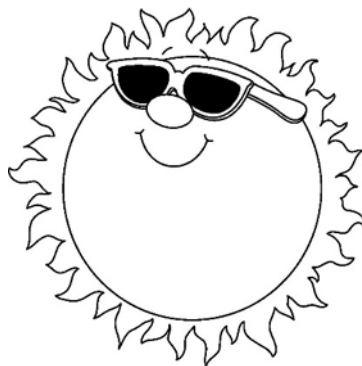


Upcoming Events:

LWML Sunday and bake sale, October – date to be announced soon.
Fall quarterly meeting, Monday, October 27th 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!





LWML is hosting a baby shower for Agape Pregnancy Resource Center and we would love to have you join the fun! The shower will be held until October 5th.

AGAPE provides confidential pregnancy and parenting services 100% free of charge in Des Moines and Indianola. For more information on Agape and the services they provide, see their website: <https://agapedsm.com>

Below is a list of items to help with your shopping for the shower. There are also copies of the list on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your unwrapped items to church by October 5, 2025.

Thank you!!!!

For questions, contact Becky Sponsler or any LWML member

Baby Shower List for Agape Pregnancy Resource Center

The following items are requested from Agape. **All products** (including clothing) must be new. Walmart gift cards in any amount can also be donated.

Diapers – size 4, 5 or 6	Baby lotion/shampoo
Boy clothing 3 month to 4T	Baby formula/food
Girl Clothing 3 month to 4T	Towels/Washcloths
Winter coats 3 month to 4T	Infant bathtubs
Shoes from Infant to Toddler (0-3T)	Small Toys (Infant +)
Bottles/Cups	

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Elder Care Listings

If your last name begins

With the letter:

Your Elder is

A – D

Brad Rodemeyer 515-669-3108

E – H

David Cooper 515-971-3197

I – L

Steve Smith 641-342-3817

M - Q

Mike Oeffner 712-579-2586

R – U

David Jordan 515-371-3360

V – Z

Jake Hermanson 515-205-9117

We care for you because Christ cared for us!

Mike Oeffner is our newest Elder.

He and his wife Emily joined our church and were married here in 2023.



Oeffner, Mike & Emily

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 21, 2025

Attendance: Ken Tague, Jake Hermanson, David Cormeny, Ed Chapman, JoAnn Chapman, Mary Barkley, Linda Norton, Terry Pauling, Natasha Cooper, Jen Olson
Ken called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Jake motioned to pass June 2025 Council minutes. Jen seconded the motion. Motion was passed with unanimous vote.

Pastor Report- (See Email Attachment)

DCE Report- Aaron (See Email Attachment)

Elder's Report- Jake (See Email Attachment)

- There is a new opening for custodian. Sebastian Cooper will be fulfilling the role through August until we can find a replacement. Elders are exploring City Wide Facility Solutions to fill the role. They are waiting to see a quote and if it's scalable with hours.

- Council needs an update of the candelabras.

- Elders would like to applaud Dave Cooper for preaching. Should council compensate him for his service?

- A motion was made by Jen that we continue Aaron's HSA policy through the rest of the year. His termination date would be August 3, 2025. All other services would be prorated upon his termination with no reimbursement. Jake seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)

- Parking lot donations show \$500 more than on the Treasurer's report due to the donation being at the end of the month.

- Terry motioned to approve June's Financial Report. David seconded. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report- Mary Barkley (See Email Attachment)

- CD decisions will be tabled until August's meeting.

- Jake motioned to approve June's Treasurer Report. Natasha seconded. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Education Report- Chairman vacancy needs to be fill quickly.

Evangelism Report- N/A

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

Worship Report- Jen Olson (See Email Attachment)

Youth Report- Natasha Cooper (See Email Attachments)

- Surveying Fall Youth Nights to see what day works best for the congregation.

- With Aaron's absence, we would like to have volunteers from the congregation to keep up the growth of the Youth Group.

Records Report- David Cormeny (See Email Attachments)

Stewardship Report-Jim Pulse (See Email Attachments)

Property Report- Terry Pauling (See Email Attachments)

-There is a remaining balance of approximately \$25,000 for the parking lot. This will be tabled for discussion for August's meeting.

Old Business

-Council is wondering if we should push BBQ cookoff back to September. This will be tabled until August's meeting.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was offered by Terry, a second by Ed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
David Cormeny



Please let us know

If you know of someone, from our church, who has been hospitalized, please inform the Church Office. Hospitals no longer inform us when one of our members is admitted to their care. Therefore, we need your help for information regarding hospital stays. Pastor Vanderbilt tries to prioritize hospital visits but he doesn't always know when someone has been admitted. We appreciate your help. Thank you!

What's Happening with the Youth?

Over the next year, we will be structuring the Youth Ministry at Mt. Calvary a bit differently. After hearing from parents, through a survey sent out in August, we think the below schedule provides opportunities for our youth to engage, dig into scripture, and serve. For the quarterly and special activities (like the gatherings), we would love some parental help. For information or with questions, contact either Natasha Cooper or Sara Vanderbilt.

High School - Regular, weekly activities

- Sunday morning - Sunday School (if we have enough teachers, we can offer a HS-specific class - if not, they can either attend with the younger kids or go to the adult class)
- Wednesday night during LIFE (6ish - 7:30ish) - HS Bible study

Middle School - Regular, weekly activities

- Sunday morning - Sunday School
- Wednesday night during LIFE - Pastor and I will do some fellowship/game nights & some service nights with all the classes (including HS)

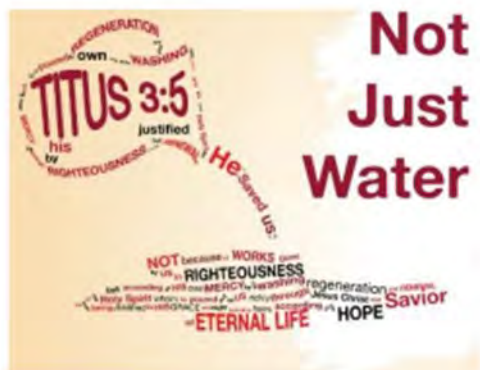
Quarterly

- We will schedule one activity per quarter for MS and HS youth, like bowling, Sky Zone, Christmas party, etc.

Special activities

- Junior Youth Gathering (grades 6-8) - October 18-19
- Senior Youth Gathering (grades 9-12) - November 21-23
- Egg my Yard & Easter Breakfast
- Youth Week at Okobojo – July 2026
- Winter gathering with other area churches

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 FYG GATHERING 2025



Don Norton Memorial trap shoot



**Everyone Welcome
Come and Enjoy
Free Lunch and
Fellowship**

Proceeds benefit:
*Mt. Calvary Lutheran
Church Youth Group*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Izaak Walton League
16383 118th Avenue
Indianola, IA

**Cost: \$20 per participant
Includes one box of shells
and clay pigeons**



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

September 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1 Labor Day -Church Office closed	2	3 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE	4 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	5	6
7 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	8 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Board of 6:00pm Worship Board 6:30pm 4-H Meeting	9 9:00am Textile Tuesday	10 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE	11 10:00am Ruth Circle Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	12	13 4:00pm BBQ Cookoff & Cornhole Tournament
14 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	15 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	16 9:00am Textile Tuesday	17 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 7:00pm CHOIR PRACTICE	18 8:00am Pastor out of office 5:00pm 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	19	20
21 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended	22 8:00am Pastor - Conference in Ft. Dodge 1:00pm 6:00pm Elders Meeting	23 9:00am Textile Tuesday	24 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 7:00pm NO CHOIR PRACTICE	25 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	26	27 2:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved Nichole Wells
28 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended 12:00pm Trap Shoot -	29	30 9:00am Textile Tuesday	Oct 1	2	3	4