

# THE MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2024

There's lots for me to share this month, so take it all in, please - if only a bit at a time.

## DECISION REACHED

On Sunday, the 25th of February the Voters decided to sell Mt, Calvary (the building and site) to The Smith Academy for Excellence. This action came after a year of processing our situation and what to do. We also spent a good deal time recently to bring this all together in a couple of information sessions after church. Plus, your leadership spent hours talking about pertinent issues and finally reviewing the offers to purchase. Thank you for your prayers, your concern, and your input in making this important decision.

- The sale does not include our **Child Care Ministry**. Any possibility that it continues must be worked out between the buyer and our leaders. Our Director, Dora Kurpierz, is key in this, but a representative or two of the congregation will also be very much involved.
- In addition, **what's inside the building** (things like tables, chairs, and other movable things) were not part of the deal. We have to determine what we need and don't need, and what to give away or sell to the buyer. We won't immediately have storage space unless we rent it. What we do will depend somewhat on what the Academy wants to do.

Please remember (at least) three things:

1. It has been from the beginning and still is the plan, that Mt. Calvary congregation continues, hopefully in Waynedale.
2. As we talked about what we want, this still leaves God room to open other doors.
3. While we believe that this is a HUGE God-led decision, there is still a lot to do, now. A lot!

Now is also a good time to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to three men who have been an invaluable help to us:

- **Dave Norton**, our real estate broker from BND. He has been wonderful to work with. He has led us through the listing and sale process. He has learned who we are and what we have here, and he has advised us all the way through. He's a devoted churchman and an all-around great guy! Previously, he has sold 20+ churches. Now he can add one more!
- **Andy Hesterman** - He's a member of Holy Cross and an employee of Real Estate Solutions, that works with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), our mortgage holder. Andy is also a great man and has helped us a lot in navigating the financial aspects of our church and helped us look down the road. Like Dave, he has met with our leadership and the Voters. I expect he'll help us some more.
- **TJ Mattick**, our Indiana LCEF Vice President has also been with us every step of the way. He has helped us with our mortgage payments and advised us even before we entered this venture.

Pastor Karl Frincke  
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Deaconess Jeana Moe  
Pages 4

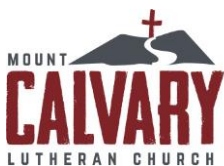
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1819 Reservation Dr.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46819  
260-747-4121  
[www.mtcfw.org](http://www.mtcfw.org)

In addition, your **Board of Trustees** has done a lot of work in all this and we thank them as well! Please add your personal thanks to Neal McFeters, Betsy Sherwood, Connie Paille, Susan Mittelstaedt and Scott Trenary. As a Staff member, Jeana Moe has also been greatly involved.

## WHAT NOW?

"As the dust settles," so to speak, there are some specific things we will need to deal with. Big things! The Board of Trustees will take the lead on a number of things that now need to be done:

- Signing the sales agreement and negotiating the **"To Be Decided" issues** - what we do with the contents of the building and the Academy's plan for when they will take possession.
- Work on a plan for **where we go from here**; a plan for everybody to buy into.
- We need to decide **how to allocate the money** we will have once the sale is completed. (By the way, won't it be great to have money in hand, rather than be so concerned about our previous debt, which will very soon be history as we pay off the mortgage?! And we won't have the big concern of maintaining our huge facility.)
- We also need to consider **our ministry**. God continues to call us to share Jesus and work in His kingdom. We need to consider how because things are now different for us in many ways. How exactly we do this will be a huge matter for prayerful consideration. We can't do everything, so we'll need to assess things and focus. For one thing there certainly will be opportunity for outreach through our connection with LSUS. Students and their families without a church home can be our immediate (and doable) mission.
- We'll need to consider what **ministry staff** we need to lead us in mission and serve the congregation and look to engage those persons in ministry.
- We'll need to find the **next place for us to worship** and carry-on other aspects of the ministry, careful not to lease or buy anything until we have a plan. While the place isn't the most important thing, the next place after LSUS will have to give us more space.
- And clearly, we will need to keep ourselves in good shape spiritually, through worship and God's Word!

No doubt there will be a few (or more than a few) more things to the list.

## Worship Services

We will begin worshipping at Lutheran South Unity School (LSUS) in the near future; this is certain, but a temporary arrangement. We will let you know when this shift will take place, and we will also spell out all the details, so stay tuned!

## Day-to-Day Business

Since we will only have enough space to worship and store a very few things at LSUS, the Staff's immediate attention will be on where day-to-day business will take place. This will enable us to continue to function in the short-term. We'll start looking right away for a place to do business and have a place for Bible Study, a prayer group and other meetings and activities. What comes after this in that regard is something we'll work on once we set priorities.

## New Opportunities

While there is a lot to do in order to complete the sale and move on, we will very soon be in a great position to do some important things in order to continue in an effective, God-pleasing way. First and most of all:

- Pray! Continue to pray that God would lead us into His will for Mt. Calvary. We've been doing that all along and can never stop. Never.
- Stay informed. There are a lot of very important considerations as our future unfolds.
- Participate. Do what you can as you learn of needs.

In all this we have experienced and learned so much - many things we never expected! What we did pray for and expect was God's leading, perhaps as never before. And we got it! In many ways, some things are the same: God's mission for us and all Christians. "Go and make disciples" remains. How we fill our part of that mission will be different for many reasons: a new location in Waynedale, new opportunities, a different number of people than quite some time ago, and new energy as the Holy Spirit works in and through us with new challenges and opportunities. And He will! Exactly how, we (again) don't know at this time, but we trust Him. It's like the prayer we've prayed for months - a prayer we need to keep saying, both regarding ourselves and Mt. Calvary:

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

God's work continues and while He doesn't need us, He's chosen us to be a part of His plans. While some things are uncertain, and we can't take things for granted, that's fine. It is an exciting time! Don't forget God is present and still active as He leads us through this new season.

A lot to do. A lot of exciting things to do, really. It's an adventure; a big part completed and other big parts in front of us. If things were easy, we likely would not be doing enough, come to think of it. While some may look at our situation primarily through the lens of defeat and more uncertainty, remember that God has already led us on the adventure to be where we are. Therefore, we have all the more reason to trust His leading through the things ahead. When you get down to it, all of life is an adventure. You've been through many parts of that adventure, individually and together. As the old hymn puts it: "God brought us to this time and place surrounded by His favor." - And that remains true! With that faith and trust, let's continue to journey forward, God continuing to lead the way!

## FOR MARCH WORSHIP ...

We're soon to complete our important Sunday sermon series:

### **What Kind of Church Does God Want Us To Be?**

- Christ-Centered, Faith-Filled, Faithful - 04 February
- People With a Vision - 11 February
- A Church of Loving Relationships - 18 February
- Shared Ministry, Equipped and Empowered - 25 February
- A Church That Reaches Out and Reaches In - 03 March
- A Flexible and Functional Congregation - 10 March
- A Church With Meaningful and Inspiring Worship - 17 March

This Month's Special Lenten and Easter Worship

(10th - Daylight Savings Time Begins - "Spring forward")

24th - Palm Sunday

28th - Maundy Thursday, 6.30p Worship with Holy Communion

29th - Good Friday - 6.30p Worship

31st - Easter - 9.30a Worship with Holy Communion

**PASTOR KARL FRINCKE**  
Transition Pastor

## PASTORAL CARE

Dear Mount Calvary members,

Easter is at the end of the month. Easter is a remembrance of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. It is a sign of hope. That is what we need as individuals and as a congregation, especially given what we wrestled with in February. Because of Easter, we can look to the future with hope.

Part of what I did in Pastoral Care ministry last month was help our homebound know what was going on and offer them the opportunity to vote by proxy regarding what to do with the building and property. I also helped them find a volunteer who could act as their proxy if they didn't already know someone who could serve on their behalf. I provided a listening ear as people vented their feelings when I spoke to them on the phone or in person. I attended Board of Trustees meetings in an advisory capacity. I continued to work on getting musicians to play for our church service each week, too.

Pr. Karl continued visitation and Communion ministry as he was able. This was curtailed somewhat by his involvement with the realtor and LCEF representatives as our Transitional Pastor. These meetings were essential in Pr. Karl helping us process the opportunities and challenges ahead of us.

I learned late in the month that a member of the congregation had been in the hospital and a rehabilitation facility. He admitted that he had not let the church know. I really regret the missed opportunity to provide pastoral care myself, or to ask Pr. Karl to do so. So, once again, I ask you, PLEASE call the church office at 260-747-4121 if you or someone you love is in the hospital or if someone you love has died. You may also call or text me, Deaconess Jeana, at 260-416-8472. You may also call or text Pastor Karl at 260-466-5121 to discuss any Pastoral Care needs.

## Family to Celebrate

This month we remember a homebound member and a former member:

Jean Voirol died January 25, 2024. Her funeral was held at a funeral home on February 9, 2024. Jean became a member of Mount Calvary by affirmation of faith on May 18, 1999. Jean regularly attended the Saturday night service until her health longer allowed it. Even after she moved into Heritage Park, Jean remained interested in Mount Calvary, asking about what was going on here, until she was no longer able. She was a kind and pleasant woman.

Please keep Jean's children and their families in your prayers as they adjust to life without her.

Next, we remember former member, (Doris) Eileen Zeissig. She died February 1, 2024. A private family funeral was held. Eileen, and her husband, Werner, became members of Mount Calvary by adult Confirmation on March 7, 1948. She and Werner were active members until they decided to return to their former hometown to be nearer to their children. While at Mount Calvary, Eileen was surrogate grandmother to the Hartke children for years. She prepared and took meals to ailing members. Eileen was known for her singing voice in choir, her caring ways, her quick sense of humor, and her ready laugh. She will be missed by those of us who knew her. Please keep Eileen's surviving children and their families in your prayers as they adjust to life without her.

Debbie David's family shared the following information:

Debra David 09/29/1956-1/19/24

"Join us for a Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 23rd from 11-3pm! Lunch will be provided at noon (Zianos) Please RSVP via text by 3/20 to 260-740-7984 if you plan to join for lunch."  
Emanuel Lutheran Church, 800 Green Street, New Haven, IN 46774

**DEACONESS JEANA MOE**

## NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION

**WAYS TO HELP MOUNT CALVARY** – The deadline to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Direct your dollars online at [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/) or call 800-THRIVENT. You must remake your request annually or quarterly to assure your funds are being distributed in accordance with your wishes. Mount Calvary would appreciate any funds you designate. Thank you!

Aluminum recycling, Kroger card rebate, paper recycling, Thrivent Choice, and donation of ink cartridges, cell phones, iPads, and laptops. If you have questions about how to participate, please contact the church office.

**SERVICE CANCELTION** – Please check WBCL, WANE15, and WPTA21/NBC33 for service cancellation when bad weather occurs.

**DEBT REDUCTION FUND** – We are collecting donations for roof repair/replacement. Roof repairs have been completed.

**DO YOU KNIT?** – Or do you know someone who does? The Seminary Guild is looking for people willing to knit baby booties. Please contact Deaconess Jeana Moe at 260-416-8472 if you would like to help.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION** – For any financial questions, please reach out to Dianne Clark in the church office. If you have set up online check writing with your checking account, you can have your bank send a check to Mount Calvary either automatically or on demand. If possible, have your envelope number appear as a memo. Your envelope number will be updated this year. Our address is: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1819 Reservation Dr, Fort Wayne, IN 46819

**DONATION** – We are collecting cold weather gear for the homeless. Bring new or gently used hats, gloves, blankets, or other gear to the collection box in the narthex. We have someone willing to take them to where a weekly meal for the homeless is served so they can take what they can use. Keep checking the closet by the whiteboard for useful items that are free for the taking.

**ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS** - Check the library, tables in the Sanctuary, and in the closet by the whiteboard. There are novels, Bibles, and other materials there free for the taking!

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE** – Mites/small change continues to be collected the 3rd Sunday of each month for the ongoing support of local and global mission projects, and scholarships and other support of our Seminaries and Universities. Every little bit adds up! Look for the display on one of the tables and help yourself to the materials there.

## CHILD CARE & PRESCHOOL

The month of February may be one-day longer this year, but it still has seemed to fly by with everything that has been going on in the Child Care & Preschool!

Some highlights from the Child Care & Preschool in February have included:

- **Licensing:** We had our first unannounced State Licensing visit for 2024 this month and things went well during the visit. We have a new Licensing Consultant so this was her first time visiting us here at Mount Calvary and she said she was impressed by things she saw in our wing of the building and within our classrooms so that was good news for us to hear! 😊 We didn't have any deficiency findings, so we expect another visit in the fall sometime unless something else comes up between now and then...
- **Classroom Spotlight:** Ms. Ja'Vonda in our PreK classroom has been doing some extraordinary things with her kiddos! They have started a unit on Fairy/Folk Tales and Ms. Ja'Vonda had them acting out the story of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" for the other classrooms to watch the performance while we were in Chapel at the end of February. They will also be learning "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "The Three Little Pigs", "The Little Red Hen" and more. They also have set up a "movie theatre" in their classroom dramatic play area (complete with a pretend concession stand in their kitchen)!
- **Welcome!:** We welcomed a new staff member to the Toddler Classroom team. Ms. Mary joined us in the middle of February and the kids have taken a quick liking to her (which, one-year-olds can be a little, or a lot, particular of who they do/do not accept in THEIR classroom 😊).

Our Bible verse for February through the Orange Curriculum was 1 Corinthians 16:14, NIV ("Do everything in love.") and our Bible stories were:

- *We missed Week 1 of Chapel this month due to having issues with the internet in the building.*
- Jesus loves people everywhere. (**Woman at the Well** John 4:1 – 30)
- Jesus loves people even when they do something wrong. (**Zacchaeus** Luke 19:1 – 10)
- We can love like Jesus. (**Do Everything in Love** 1 Corinthians 16:14)

**BLESSINGS,  
MS. DORA**



## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

**MARCH 7, 1958**

**WAYNE & CAROL MOUGHLER**

**66 YEARS**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

**NEAL MCFETERS**

**MARCH 7**

**SUSAN BIENZ**

**MARCH 10**

**JIM SOURS**

**MARCH 21**

**TERRY VAN KIRK**

**MARCH 28**

**RICH REKEWEG**

**MARCH 28**

**WAYNE MOUGHLER**

**MARCH 28**

**JOYCE JONES**

**MARCH 30**



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES

*February 7, 2024*

Present: Betsy Sherwood, Pastor Frincke, Connie Paillie, Scott Trenary, Andy Hesterman, Neal McFeters, Dianne Clark, Jeana Moe, Susan Mittelstaedt, Dave Norton

Dianne's Report:

1. Deficit for January was \$19,599. This included catching up on the child care director's benefit payments.
2. Still waiting for the Employee Retention Credit payment which may come by June.
3. There were computer issues at the church which were from a disconnected port.

Dave Norton's Update:

1. Union Baptist has not returned his calls and he longer expects an offer from them.
2. The Good News Church has submitted an offer for \$1.75 million. They do not need to sell their current location in order to purchase our building.
3. Smith Academy is working on an offer.
4. Sacred Heart is working on an offer.
5. Harvest Fellowship is not going to make an offer but asked to be contacted if our current offers fall through.
6. He will notify all prospective buyers that the deadline for offers is Feb 16.
7. The contents of the building are "to be determined" on all potential offers.

Andy Hesterman is going to look at the church and Preschool and Childcare finances to estimate what our options are and how much time our finances allow.

Proxy forms that are prepared can be signed and returned by mail if a member is out of town.

Neal and Pastor have looked at LSUS and chosen an area for Mt Calvary to worship in. It is bright, holds about 50 people, has room for some supplies, and is close to parking and restrooms.

Everyone is encouraged to continue to pray for the will of God for Mt Calvary's future.

Dave Norton closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Sherwood

# VOTER'S MEETING

*February 18, 2024*

Pastor Frincke opened with a devotion and prayer.

31 members were present and proxies for 9 additional members were submitted.

Betsy Sherwood made a motion to table the voting on the offer from the Good News Church until next week so all offers could be considered together. Patty Beyer seconded it. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

An information meeting followed. Discussions included:

1. A lawyer will review before an agreement is signed but one has not reviewed the offers at this time.
2. Sacred Heart's offer includes all the property listed.
3. There was discussion on whether it is God's will to sell the property. This included that others may be better able to use the property and do better with outreach.
4. Union Baptist does not intend to sell their adjacent land if they purchase ours.
5. The voting next week would involve run offs and gradually eliminating offers until one or none is decided. The Board of Trustees will recommend 2.
6. 3 of the 4 offers have expressed some interest in the child care but none have discussed any specifics. This is not part of the sale and cannot be guaranteed.
7. The prospective buyers are expecting a response by February 27th.
8. Equipment/contents and possession date are to be negotiated.
9. The principal of LSUS has agreed to our worshipping there but it has not been approved by the School Board.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Sherwood

# VOTER'S MEETING

*February 25, 2024*

Pastor Frincke opened with a devotion and prayer.

37 members were present, and proxies were submitted for an additional 11 members.

Neal McFeters summarized our current situation including:

1. Our desire to remain a congregation.
2. Our funds will soon be depleted.
3. We have explored options and now have 4 offers to purchase our property.
4. An answer to these offers is expected on Tuesday, February 27.

Betsy Sherwood made the following motion.

After considering all four offers to buy Mt Calvary (the building and site), the Board of Trustees unanimously makes the following recommendation regarding which offer we consider pursuing, and that the Board of Trustees engage the party making the offer in determining any particulars not mentioned in the offer. The offers are listed in order of preference.

1. The Smith Academy for Excellence
2. Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
3. Union Baptist Church
4. The Good News Church

Kathy White seconded the motion.

Discussion included:

1. If we counteroffer Sacred Heart for the asking price, we risk losing our current offers.
2. God can do all things including keeping us in this building.
3. The Child Care is at risk if we sell.
4. The Child Care is at risk if we run out of money and we would not have the funds to make its ending more gentle.
5. If we sell, we will have the costs involved with moving and storage.

Kathy White moved to vote on the sale. Nicholas Zagaros seconded. Paper ballots were passed out and Connie Paillie, Susan Mittelstaedt, and Joe Magsam served as counters.

Votes as follows:

- Smith Academy – 27
- Sacred Heart – 11
- None of the above – 10

Discussion followed:

- Smith Academy is an outreach to a population we have wanted to serve but have not.
- Do we open ourselves up to a discrimination lawsuit depending on who we choose?
- Have we considered all the ways we can reduce our costs?

Jeana Moe made a motion to vote again, and Laurie Brown seconded it.

Votes as follows:

- Smith Academy – 39
- Sacred Heart – 2
- None of the above – 7

Motion for the Board of Trustees to pursue a sale to Smith Academy For Excellence carried by more than two-thirds.

Betsy Sherwood moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeana Moe seconded. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Sherwood