

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
April 2020



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

It is hard to fathom the despair the disciples must have felt on the night that Jesus was crucified. Did they sleep that night? Did they eat? Did they sit huddled together as a group for comfort and support or did they scatter?

In a period of one week, so much had changed. Just a few days earlier everything was wonderful as they escorted Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem while the crowd waved palm branches, spread their cloaks on the road and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

But then – disaster. Betrayal by one of the disciples. A night-time arrest. A trial. And then death by crucifixion. In just a period of twenty-four hours all the joy was gone. Jesus, their beloved teacher, was dead and now the disciples worried that they too might be hunted down and executed. Shock, grief, despair, confusion, fear, all consumed the disciples as they tried to make sense of all that had just happened.

But it was not the end, because Sunday followed Saturday and resurrection followed death. Death could not cancel life. The grave could not cancel Christ's presence with us. Crucifixion could not cancel the grace of God.

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb, they were greeted by an angel who said, "*Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'* This is my message for you."

And the women left the tomb with fear and great joy as they ran to tell the disciples what they had just seen and heard. Jesus was alive. But his resurrection was not a resurrection that would just merely resume life from where it had left off, but a resurrection that would unleash God's redeeming grace upon his creation. As Jesus said, "*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*"

Today, all of humanity is experiencing fear as the corona virus cancels events and separates us from each other. Social distancing has become the new norm. Sporting events – cancelled. Gatherings over 100, 50, even 10 people – cancelled. Greeting one another with a handshake at worship – cancelled. Sharing a common cup as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion – cancelled. In just a very short time our life together has changed, and fear has taken a hold in our lives.

But the Good News is that our darkest times, and our moments of greatest despair, will end. The light will shine again, not to bring a return to the way things were but to bring a new beginning filled with hope.

In the meantime, remember that even though some things have been cancelled; the grace of God **has not been cancelled**. Even though we may be forced to limit activities at church, the forgiveness of sin **has not been cancelled**. Even though our daily routines have been disrupted, the hope we have based upon the grace Jesus will bring us when He is fully revealed **has not been cancelled**.

And that is why we can celebrate Easter today and shout, "**Alleluia! Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**"

Pastor Paul

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

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Council's Corner

Council Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on the 13th day of January 2020 by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul gave a devotional from the book of 1st John. Pastor ask, "Have you ever felt a prayer wasn't answered?" Only to realize as time went by, even years, there was a good reason why. Ask without doubting and with all confidence according to his will. 1 John 5:14 I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce O'Connell, Chris Kinsey, Fritz Leifeste, Kara Martinez, Linda Ortegon, Bee Rose, Betty Thane, Barbara Walker, Marie Williams, John Ulrich, and Pastor Paul Zwarich.

MINUTES: John motioned to accept the November 2019 Council Meeting minutes as presented. Marie motioned to accept and Kara second the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich presented the Financial Report as presented December 31, 2019, and it was approved as presented.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell presented a printed report with the weekly and monthly attendance figures and offerings for the 2019 year. Total 2019 annual contributions compared to 2018 was up.

CORE TEAM REPORTS:

Education – Marie Williams said the committee members Pastor Zwarich, Gary Griffin, Kara Martinez and herself will only meet only as needed. Blossom Parry will begin teaching the 1st-5th grades Sunday School Class. Marie will be teaching the 8th-12th grades Sunday School Class: Study of Hebrew ordered. The lesson on Easter Sunday be the "Easter Story." Pinata Sunday will celebrated that morning from 9:00am – 9:30am. The last day of the Sunday School year will be May 17th. All graduates will be honored that Sunday. Day Camp will be June 14th –19th, from 8:15am –3:40pm. One Action item: Pool day. The next committee meeting will be in June.

Fellowship – Kara Martinez said due to family needs she will be reassigning from the Fellowship committee. She will serve through May 31st or until her replacement is voted in.

Service and Justice – Betty Thane reported in February Gary will give a temple talk on the subject of "suicide prevention." The committee will have the opportunity to preview the talk to make sure it's positive and audience appropriate. Betty will meet with Joyce to identify and resolve the small difference in the noisy bucket year in totals.

Worship – Bee Rose was introduced as the worship committee chairperson. The executive committee approved Bee to serve interim until the position is filled. Welcome Bee Rose.

Evangelism - Barbara Walker believes by starting small group studies it would create an opportunity for members to get know each other. She would like to pursue this and would welcome input.

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Council's Corner

Council Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2020

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Paul presented the Pastor's Report. Pastor brought up the recent violence in the news that targeted churches and suggested the council open discussions on church security. Pastor identified our eight new members, then went over the pastoral acts performed during the month of December, the committee meetings and activities that were held. He reminded everyone all annual committee reports are due by the end of January. Pastor proceeded to highlight the upcoming events: New Member Sunday for Bill and Sarah Anderson. Lutheran Lunchers January 16th. Christian Education Luncheon with Fritz January 22. Synod Council Meeting with Deans January 31. Calvary's 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee meeting February 4th, 2:30pm. Pastor will be out of the office February 08 and on vacation February 18th-20th. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 25. Ash Wednesday February 26. Mid-Week Lenten starts March 04th. Palm Sunday April 05th and Easter Sunday April 12th. Delegates Barbara and Margret along with Fritz will attend the Synod Assemble April 24-25th @ Pat Quin College Dallas, Texas. Rostered Ministers Gathering Phoenix Az July 20-23. Pastor will be on vacation September 20th-26th. Pulpit Supply needed September 20th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kitchen Updates. Completed. Church Directory: Joyce located an individual that would take photos in her studio. The cost would be \$50.00 a photo. The location and the cost were concerns. All agreed to table the church directory until May, but all agreed to produce a membership directory listing the names and addresses only. Church Sign Update: The sign is here! An installation date is pending.

NEW BUSINESS:

Church Security – Joyce motion to pass and Chris 2nd the motion, all council members agreed, to form a Security Committee task to implement a security policy and action plan for the church. It was suggested Officer Scott come to the next council meeting. He may be a good resource for information. Christian in Actions - Instead of Christian in Actions referring individuals directly to the church, all council members agreed that Pastor Paul would diligent a portion of the Pastor Discretionary Fund directly to Christians in Action. Worship Chairperson – Bee Rose was announced as interim. New members – Sarah and Bill Anderson transferred their membership. The council tabled the decision to give the Lent Mid-Week Offering to the National Association of Mental Illness "NAMI" Texas Chapter in San Angelo, Texas pending more information on how they serve our local community. Last a reminder the Council's Annual Reports to the Congregation is due by the end of the first quarter.

CLOSING: There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:00 P.M. in peace and harmony with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Linda Ortegon - Council Secretary



Worship

*"Empowering God's people to worship in grace and truth."
John 4:23*

Bee Rose, Interim Worship Committee Chairperson

Hello, fellow parishioners

Unfortunately, not much to report this time. We don't know what the future holds. We do know that prayer helps all of the time. So continue to send those prayers to beat this virus. Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands! Only use sanitizer if you don't have access to a sink with soap, too. WASH YOUR HANDS!!!

Blessings,

Bee Rose 🦋 🕯️

Worship Service	Usher	Greeter/s	Acolyte	Assistant Minister (Liturgist)	Reader (Lector)	Communion Assistant
April 5	Steve Mild	Jo McCormick		Joyce O'Connell	Ashlyn Scott	Kara Martinez
April 12		Phyllis and Bob Zwarich		Leon Thane	Valerie Bluthardt	XXXXX
April 19		Kara Martinez		Leon Thane	Phyllis Zwarich	Steve Mild
April 26				Steve Mild	Bee Rose	XXXXX

Please Note: If you are unable to serve on the date listed above, please call the Church Office at 944-1116.



Service and Justice

“Do justice; love kindness; walk humbly with God.”

April, 2020

NOISY BUCKET OFFERING for February 23, 2020, was \$88.79. The total for 2020 is \$159.52. What an awesome way to give in Thanksgiving to share our blessings with others.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS: Another means of sharing our love with our neighbors is through the program of ELCA Good Gifts that we contribute to with our offerings in the Noisy Bucket. Visit ELCA.org/goodgifts at any time during the year if you wish to make a contribution directly. Some new projects that have been added:

Fish Farm: Give your neighbors a fish, and they'll eat for a day. Give your neighbors a community fish farm and they'll eat for a lifetime. A fish farm begins with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia. The entire community benefits from a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals, and protein. Community Fish Farm — \$250 or Share a Fish Farm — \$50.

God's Global Barnyard: Can't decide? A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where it is needed most to support our livestock, agriculture and other sustainable development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive. God's Global Barnyard — \$ — any amount.

Manure: Nothing says “I care” more than a big heaping pile of this stuff, which works wonders on struggling fields. Manure increases soil quality, reduces the risk of erosion and improves nutrients available to crops — helping a farmer increase yields in a stinking big way! Pile of Manure — \$20.

SAN ANGELO GIVES: A special offering envelope will be placed in the bulletins on Sundays April 19 and April 26 so members may contribute to the San Angelo Gives Foundation on May 5. Make checks to Calvary and put Habitat in the memo. San Angelo Gives will add a percent to our offering and this will then be given to Habitat for Humanity. This is a good return on our gift.

FAMILY SHELTER: Items to support the Family Shelter will be collected beginning July 5 through August 2, 2020. Items on the list will be published in the May and June newsletters.

THE NEXT SERVICE AND JUSTICE MEETING will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Betty Thane, Service and Justice Team Leader

EASTER BLESSINGS, Betty Thane, Service and Justice Team Leader

Fellowship

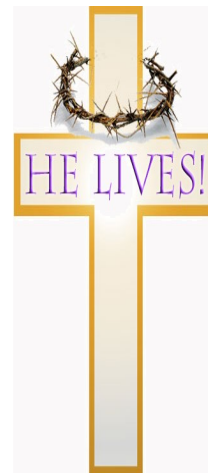
"Building Christian community in love and grace." Acts 2:44-47



Kara Martinez,
Fellowship Team Leader

EASTER SUNDAY IS APRIL 12th.

We will be celebrating Easter with two Worship Services. The Sunrise Service will be at 7:30 a.m. and followed by a Continental Breakfast from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for the children will meet at 8:45 a.m. The Easter Sunday Service is at 10:00 a.m., followed by our Easter Sunday Potluck. Meat will be provided for the potluck, and you are asked to bring a favorite side dish or dessert. The sign-up sheet for the potluck will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, April 5th.



April 2 - Al King - 90th!
 April 4 - Travis Raab - 92nd!
 April 7 - Betty Egan
 April 8 - Mark Dailey
 April 16 - James Kahlig
 April 16 - Norma Kahlig
 April 18 - Myley Hariman
 April 21 - Neil Phillips
 April 22 - Fritz Leifeste
 April 22 - Dave Puckett
 April 22 - Bob Zwarich
 April 23 - Alex Conover
 April 25 - Ouida Hahn
 April 26 - Steve Mild
 April 27 - Barbara Fumagalli



Easter Lilies: If you would like to provide a lily for Easter Sunday, please call Pam Ulrich at 942-9404 to order. If you will be giving a lily in honor of or in memory of someone, please give Pam that information when you order. The cost of each lily is \$11.00.

Easter Cross: On Easter morning, please remember to bring flowers to decorate our Easter Cross. Because flowers are used for their symbolism of life, joy, and human frailty, ("All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, and the flower fades..." Isa. 40:7-8), artificial flowers, ribbons and bows should not be used in the worship space. Let's make this Easter cross the prettiest of all. Pam Ulrich



Faith & Fellowship

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th, at 8:00 a.m. at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way. Hope you'll join us!

LUTHERAN LUNCHERS: The April luncheon will be dependent on when we're able to safely congregate again. Additional information will be available as soon as possible.

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC: The picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 31, following the Worship Service. Further information will be available in the May newsletter and bulletins.

Happy Anniversary

April 14, 1984 -
John and Jane Cocuzzi

April 27, 1963 -
John and Pam Ulrich

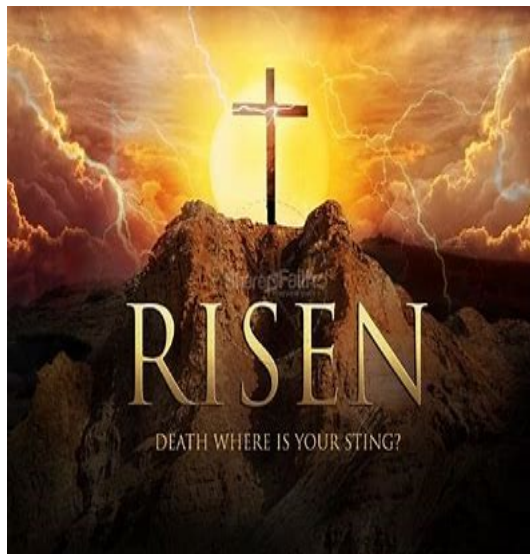
April 30, 2011 - Corey
and Andrea Sanford

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group			<i>Maudy Thursday</i> 10:00am Exercise Group 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm AA Group	<i>Good Friday</i> 6:00pm Good Friday Service 5:30pm AA Group	8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way 11:00am AA Group
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Easter Sunday</i> 7:30am Sunrise Service 8:15am Continental Breakfast 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Easter Worship Service 11:00am Easter Potluck	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 5:30pm AA Group	5:30-8:00pm AA Group	6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>Easter 2</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30-8:00pm AA Group	6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
26	27	28	29	30	Looking Ahead May 17 - Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting May 31 - Congregational Picnic	
<i>Easter 3</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30-8:00pm AA Group	6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 11:00am Service and Justice Meeting	Please Note Items on this calendar are subject to change. We will be updating information as needed on Calvary's website and with e-mails and phone calls.	



Calvary Lutheran Church

We strive to recognize and nurture the Christ in ourselves and each person that we encounter along the way. Our church is a thriving community of believers, and lovers of the word of God. Calvary Lutheran has a long tradition of outreach and service to its members and the community. We hope you will join us for service on Sunday to experience for yourself the fellowship of Christ.



The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won! Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst; But Christ their legions has dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead. All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell; the bars from heaven's high portals fell. Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, from death's dread sting Thy servants free, that we may live and sing to Thee.

Alleluia!

From The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Palm Sunday, April 5
Maundy Thursday, April 9
Good Friday, April 10
Easter Sunday, April 12

