



Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church

San Angelo, Texas

December 2022



*Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich*

From the Pastor

The word “**Advent**” literally means “**to come to.**” In the Christian tradition, Advent refers to the longing of God’s people for God to come and dwell with them. On many occasions in the Old Testament, life had spun out of control and the lives of God’s people seemed dark and

discouraging. At times it felt that God had abandoned them.

When things did get bad and when God seemed far away, a few people did come to their senses, and they prayed for God to come back to them even if it meant that they would have to be disciplined. Life was empty and terrifying without God. Chaos and sin ruled the streets day and night. Darkness reigned in the hearts and souls of people.

One of my favorite Advent hymns is **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**. The first verse explains it well. *“Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel; God fulfills the promise.”*
ELW # 240

Advent begins this year on November 27, 2022. This year our Mid-Week Advent services will focus on some of the characters of the Christmas story that we read about during the Advent Season but generally don’t pay much attention to in our study of the Lectionary texts.

Week One will focus on the Angel(s) that hover over the incarnation story and bring Good News to people living in darkness. The Angel of the Lord said to the Shepherds: “Fear not: for, behold, I bring good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Week Two our attention will shift to the Shepherds who were abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night when

suddenly the “angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.” Luke 2:9 Hearing the Good News, the Shepherds said to one another “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us.” Luke 2:15

Week Three’s theme will focus on “Seeking and Finding” as we journey with the Three Wise Men and discover that true wisdom is found at the feet of Jesus. Our journey will begin as we read “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?’ For we saw His star when it rose and we have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:1-2

Finally. on Week Four we will conclude our Wednesday Mid-Week services and focus on Herod, the Monster of Christmas who figures very prominently in the Christmas story but generally does not get a lot of attention. Matthew informs us, “Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.’” Matthew 2:16-18

Come and join us for Mid-Week Advent worship at 6 PM each Wednesday evening during Advent as we read again how God brought light into the darkness of this world with the heavenly proclamation: “For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to this world, and for promising victory over death and evil. Fill us with joy at his coming and keep us faithful to him against every evil power, so that we may be light for the world in his name. Amen.

Pastor Paul



Linda Ortegon
Council Secretary

Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

October 11, 2022

The Council President Betty Thane called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. on the 11th day of October. Pastor Paul opened with a devotion, "Walk the Talk" from second Timothy, Chapter 2 verse 14 and a prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Treasurer Ann Helm, Council Secretary Linda Ortegon, Education Committee Leader Heidi Wierzowiecki, Financial Secretary Leon Thane, Council President Betty Thane, and Pastor Paul Zwarich.

MINUTES: Betty Thane Council President moved to accept the September 2022 Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes. Leon motion to accept the minutes. Heidi second the motion. The council approved the Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ann Helm. Ann explained the difference between cash on hand and designated funds. The Council accepted the September 2022 Treasurer's report as presented.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Leon Thane. The Council accepted the September 2022 Financial Secretary's Report as presented. Ann made a motion to accept. Linda second the motion.

CORE TEAM REPORTS

Education: Heidi Wierzowiecki. Sunday school got off to a good start. She will be meeting with Mark soon to discuss this year's Christmas play.

Fellowship: Dorothy St. Germain. Absent. Betty read a letter Dorothy wrote highlighting the work each member of the 75th church anniversary committee accomplished over the last four years. As well as the noting the work church members helped with. A sign-up sheet will be in narthex for individuals to set up tables and chairs at 10am on Saturday the 15th and to decorate tables at 2pm in preparation for our 75th Anniversary meal. The Fellowship committee will be planning our Thanksgiving dinner in November. It will potluck with meat provided. Ann said this past Thursday our church prepared a meal for United Campus Ministries at Angelo State University, their "Food for Thought" program. There was a good turnout of students and workers. It went real well and was very interesting.

Service and Justice: N/A

Worship: Bee Rose. Absent

Evangelism: N/A

Pastor's Report: Please refer to the Pastor's September Report for details.

New Business

2023 Church Budget - The 2023 Church Budget was presented to the council. After some discussion Heidi made a motion to amend the 2023 Church Budget. Leon second the motion. Heidi made a motion to accept the amended 2023 church budget. Leon second the motion.

Delegates – The NTTL Assembly will be held in Shreveport April 28 and 29 of 2023. The congregation will be ask if anyone would like to volunteer to go as a representative of our church at the semi-annual congregation meeting. Two nominees are needed.

Semi-Annual Congregational Agenda – The council discussed the semi-annual congregation agenda. The council approved the annual congregational agenda for the November 06, 2022.

Day Camp 2023. The 2023 Day Camp will be held July 09-14, 2023. Marie Williams will be ask to take lead. The age group will be the same as last year.

Consecration Sunday – February 05, 2023 is the date for Consecration Sunday, Betty purposed the church provide a catered meal. Leon made a motion to accept. Heidi second the motion. The council approved.

Consecration Sunday Committee – Betty will ask the following people to be on the Consecration Sunday committee. Ann Helms, Chris Kinsey, Joyce, Betty Thane and Pastor Paul.

Speaker for Consecration Sunday – February 05, 2023. Betty ask Ralph Thompson to be the guest speaker on Consecration Sunday. Leon made a motion to accept Ralph Thompson as the guest speaker. Heidi second the motion. The council approved.

Council Christmas Dinner – The council will meet the evening of December 13, 2022 to share a meal together in place of a council meeting.

Other Expenses – The church treasurer, Ann, purposed transferring the MIF fund, which is a CD to our checking account due to low funds. The MIF fund is \$8,963.01. Heidi made a motion to allow Ann to move the MIF fund to our checking account if she deemed it necessary. Leon second the motion. The council approved.

Old Business

Congregation Sunday Date – The council approved Congregation Sunday to be held on February 05, 2023. Leon motion to accept February 05, 2023 as the date. Heidi second the motion. The council approved.

Upgrade AV Live Streaming – Chris Kinsley submitted an estimate to improve the AV Live Streaming. An application to the Mission Endowment Fund will be submitted by the end of October for the funds to cover that cost. A decision will not be known until January 2023 if the application was accepted. The estimate cost submitted was \$23,442.37.

Roof – The gutters have been cleaned out. The invoice will be coming soon. \$470.00.

75th Church Anniversary = 105 people have RSVP so far.

Communications – Thank you letters were received from the Family Shelter and Wesley United Methodist Church for our support. Donations to project Dignidad equaled \$250.00 in cash value for beans and rice and another \$116.00 for kitchen items.

Betty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann second the motion. The council approved. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Linda Ortegon / Council Secretary



Worship News

Bee Rose

I found a devotion in YouVersion that I enjoyed last year entitled *Our Christmas Stories; A 26 Day Devotional*. I really enjoyed it. There are a few of us signed up to go through it in starting just before Advent.

Points to Ponder

The colors that we see are actually reflections; that is, our eyes perceive the light that bounces back to us from whatever we are looking at. Not all the light is reflected back to our eye; some is absorbed. The colors we perceive are, in actuality, precisely what they aren't: they are the light that is reflected away.

During a summer making art and talking with residents of Phoebe Ministries, which serves people with dementia, I reflected on color and vision, perception and its limitations. Sometimes, as we see people growing older, we see them losing qualities and characteristics that we have loved. We may see them as shadows of their former selves. But Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:12 reminds us that we are fully known by God, even as we struggle to know ourselves and each other. We see through a mirror dimly now, Paul writes, but when we enter life eternal, we will come to know each other as we are fully known by God.

This message is excerpted from "Learning to see God's beloved" by Mary Button in the October 2019 Cafe online magazine.

Receive the Holy Spirit

Sometimes God seems gone. Even faithful Christians can sometimes feel absolutely alone. Carmelite nun, mystic and reformer Teresa of Avila called this feeling the "Dark Night of the Soul." She also wrote that, for her, it lasted 19 years!

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Continued from p. 5

Yet every one of the spiritual mothers and fathers I've studied, including Teresa, engaged in prayer, including "receptive prayer." Why? Because so much of our prayer lives involve asking for help. When we engage in receptive prayer, we open ourselves to receiving what we have asked for. After all, Scripture urges us to ask, listen, and receive.

Prayer is not just something we do. It is something God does in us. Even at age 10, I knew God was saying to me as well as to the disciples: "Receive the Holy Spirit." And in gratitude, I still do.

This message is excerpted from "The presence in the prayer" by Grace Brame in the May 2019 Gather magazine.

Bee Rose

Service Volunteers, Flowers & Altar Guild						
DATE	Greeter	Asst. Min.	Reader	Flowers	Technology	Altar Guild
Dec 4 Advent 2	Jo McCormick	Joyce O'Connell	Linda Ortegon	Hank & Bee Rose	John Ulrich Pedro Montanez	Pam Ulrich
Dec 11 Advent 3		Tori Redman	Phyllis Zwarich	poinsettias		
Dec 18 Advent 4	Jo McCormick	Bee Rose	Tori Redman			
Dec 24 Christmas Eve		Joyce O'Connell	Tori Redman			
Dec 25 Christmas Day			Bee Rose			





Christmas Poinsettias

Calvary, You can help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve by purchasing a Christmas poinsettia for \$15. To order, call Pam Ulrich at 325-942-9404 , Shelly at the office, or sign the sheet on the table in the narthex. Please mail your check, or put it in the offering plate & designate that it is for a poinsettia.

Can You Please Help?



Decorate the Church

HELP IS NEEDED Saturday, Dec 3 at 10am to put up the Christmas tree and wreaths in the church. We need strong young people willing to climb a ladder to place the ornaments and angel on the top of the tree and hang the wreaths on the wall as well as older helpers . It generally takes less that 2 hours to get it all done when we have a group. Please plan to come and lend a helping hand as we get ready to celebrate the blessed season.



1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Friends and family,

Thank you for your prayers and condolences regarding the loss of our grandson, son and brother, Brandon Graham. Your words and thoughts help so very much!

***Leon & Betty Thane, Joseph & Gayla Thane,
Tara, Ember & Katie Thane***



A Note of Thanks

Thanks to all my many friends at Calvary for so many beautiful cards, letters, flowers & phone calls while I was in the hospital & rehab.

I love you all,
Ida Walter



Fellowship News

Dorothy St. Germain

Merry Christmas to everyone. Please remember friends, family, and shut in friends. If you would send them a card, make a visit, or give them a phone call, they would love hearing from you. Help share God's love and spread his word. He loves us! Have a blessed Christmas season.



Directory Updates

Marie Williams' address is 1320 N. Monroe (NOT 1302 N. Monroe).



Christmas Program

The youth will practice for the Christmas Program on Sat. Dec. 10. We will enjoy Chick Fil A after practice. Details coming soon.

The following day, the youth will present the program during the service on Dec. 11. Please join us!



T-shirt Sales

If anyone would like a teal Calvary t-shirt for \$21, contact Ann Helm. Sizes available are M, L, XL, & 2X until gone. Get yours before the price goes up!



Holiday Greetings

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving, & I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Thanks to everyone for the cards. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Blessings to all,

Helen Brandenberger



Save the Date

Saturday, Jan. 7th 2023 at 11 am, we will have our annual Epiphany Baked Potato Luncheon. **Our Guest speaker will be Bob Bluthardt**, site manager at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. He will enlighten us with interesting aspects about the Fort. Bob is an excellent speaker, & you will not want to miss this special event!

After Bob's talk, we will share a baked potato lunch. Please bring your favorite topping. Please RSVP to Pam Ulrich so we can get a count of how many potatoes we need to bake.

Thank you!

RSVP to Pam at 325-942-9404.



12/27/1964
Leon & Betty Thane



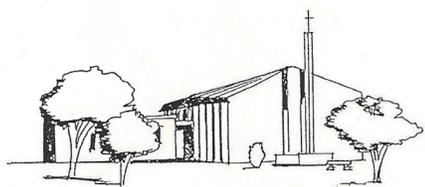
04	Heidi Wierzowiecki
07	Christine Fryar
09	Steven L. Tucker
10	Lee Rose
12	William Anderson
12	Kara Martinez
14	Izabella Willis
21	Hilda Torres
21	LaMont Allen
25	Lori Smithwick
29	Myshae Allen





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AA 5:30pm	2 AA 5:30pm	3 Decorate the church 10am
4 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	5 AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	6 AA 5:30pm Council Christmas Dinner @ Western Skies 5pm	7 Mid-Week Service Advent 2 6pm	8 AA 5:30pm	9 AA 5:30pm	10 Youth Christmas Program Practice
11 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service <i>Christmas Program</i>	12 AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	13 AA 5:30pm	14 Mid-Week Service Advent 3 6pm	15 AA 5:30pm	16 AA 5:30pm Soup Kitchen 9:30-1	17
18 8:45 Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	19 AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Newletter Deadline	20 AA 5:30pm	21 Mid-Week Service Advent 4 6pm	22 AA 5:30pm	23 AA 5:30pm	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight 7pm
25 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	27 AA 5:30pm	28 UCM ASU Food 4 Thought 10am	29 AA 5:30pm	30 AA 5:30pm	31

Calvary Lutheran Church
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*Sharing God's word & love
within and beyond
Calvary.*

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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.