



Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church

San Angelo, Texas

December 2023



*Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich*

From the Pastor

It's the most wonderful
time of the year
With the kids
jingle belling
And everyone telling
you be of good cheer
It's the most wonderful
time of the year.

Yes, the music industry informs us that Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. And why not? Shops are full. People are out. The cash registers are ringing. Santa is at the mall. Homes are lit with bright lights. And everywhere one goes, one is met with anticipation. The world loves December...at least people in the western world.

Christians, however, are torn between two different themes during the weeks that lead up to Christmas. First, we partake in the economic boom of the season and head to the stores. Christmas shopping needs to be done. Parcels need to be mailed. Christmas cards need to be sent. Special food must be prepared. For some, it is not the Christmas Season unless Grandma's secret food dish is prepared, and Grandpa's lawn ornaments which he made with his own hands have been displayed.

And for a moment, the Christmas Season does feel like the most wonderful time of the year. But then the other theme and reality sinks in. And we are reminded again that the Advent Season is a time for us to prepare for the

celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. And to do so we are prompted to take time out to pray and reflect upon what "I" have done, and what "I" have left undone. And we are encouraged to examine why Jesus was sent in the first place.

For you see, the weeks leading up to Christmas are marked by repentance. It is a time for us to reflect upon the coming Savior as an infant and the reason for which He came. It is a time to acknowledge once again that Jesus came to us as an infant so that He could die on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins. He was sent to us to restore our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

During the Mid-Week Advent Services this year, we will focus our attention on Isaiah 9:6 which reads:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: **and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace**". (Isaiah 9:6)

Come and join us Wednesday nights on Dec 6, 13 and 20 for our Mid-Week Advent Services starting at 6 pm in the Sanctuary or Online via our home web page.

Shalom

Pastor Paul

Calvary Lutheran Church Minutes
October 10, 2023
Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m.



Ashlyn Scott
Council Secretary

Present:

Betty Thane, President
Joyce O'Connell, Vice President
Dorothy St.Germain, Fellowship
Leon Thane, Financial Secretary
Ann Helm, Treasurer
Paul Zwarich, Pastor
Bee Rose, Worhsip

Not Present:

Ashlyn Scott, Secretary
Heidi Wierzoweicki, Education

Joyce moved to accept September's minutes with corrections, Bee seconded, motion passed

Treasurer's Report

Ann reviewed September's Treasurers report and was accepted as presented

Financial Report

Leon reviewed September's Financial report and accepted as presented

Education

Nothing to report

Worship

Meeting in November to do Hymns

Fellowship

Thanksgiving meal on November 12th

Pastor's Report

Pastor read report

Unfinished Business

AV/Mic Update: Scheduled for November 6th -10th

Possible College Freshmen to become trained with the new system

No possible delegates for the Senate Assembly on April 19-20, asking Fritz and Margaret

Possible Budget for 2024: Adding \$200 to the special events fund, in total 400

Adding another \$50 to the confirmation budget

Open to discussion to increase pastor's salary and housing allowance

Bee motions to raise pastor's salary set by the Synod, motion fails.

Bee motions to bring pastor's housing allowance to the minimum requirements, currently increasing \$20,500 for 2024 budget, Joyce seconds, motion carries

Motion to table budget discussion until treasurer has the opportunity to make a revised budget figure and have called council meeting soon

New Business

Leak of 7 gallons an hour: Ann motions to remove the water meter for sprinkler system so there is no charge, Bee seconded, motion carries.

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Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting: November 5th 2023, accepted meeting agenda
Christmas Worship Schedule- 3 midweek at 6pm, Christmas Eve @ 7pm, Christmas Day, no service
Accepted schedule as presented

Communication

Samaritan’s Purse and Concho Valley Food Bank requesting money... letters filed away.

Joyce motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dorothy seconded, motion carried
Adjourned with Lord’s Prayer

Ashlyn Scott
Council Secretary

Calvary Lutheran Called Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023
Betty called meeting to order at 5:00

Present:

Betty Thane, President
Joyce O’Connell, Vice President
Dorothy St. Germain, Fellowship
Leon Thane, Financial Secretary
Ann Helm, Treasurer
Paul Zwarich, Pastor
Bee Rose, Worship

Absent:

Ashlyn Scott, Secretary
Heidi Wierzowiecki, Education

After going into Executive Session and stopping the recording, Pastor opened with prayer.

Calvary’s budget for 2024 was the topic of discussion:
Once out of Executive Session, Leon made a motion to present the proposed budget that was drafted on October 11, 2023, and discussed here this evening, with a -\$13,017.88 projected balance. Motion was seconded by Joyce. With no further discussion, Betty called for the vote, motion carried that we present the proposed budget for 2024, discussed here today.

There was some discussion of who would present this budget to the congregation, the major difference is the effort to bring Pastor’s housing allowance up to the ELCA/NT-NL minimum.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Joyce & with a 2nd by Bee.
The motion was carried, and we closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 6:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce OConnell






Christmas Poinsettias

Calvary, You can help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve by purchasing a poinsettia. Details will be coming soon in the Sunday bulletins. Thank You!



Decorate the Church

HELP IS NEEDED Saturday, Dec 16 at 10am to put up the Christmas tree and wreaths in the church. It generally takes less than 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.

Service Volunteers, Flowers & Altar Guild						
DATE	Greeter	Asst. Min.	Reader	Flowers	Tech	Altar Guild
Dec 3 Advent 1	Jo McCormick	Joyce O'Connell	Bee Rose		John Ulrich	Pam Ulrich
Dec 10 Advent 2		Bee Rose		Thane		
Dec 17 Advent 3	Jo McCormick	Elaine Mitchell				
Dec 24 Advent 4 10am		Bee Rose	Phyllis Zwarich			
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight 7pm			Ann Helm Leon Thane Betty Thane Phyllis Zwarich			
Dec 31 Christmas 1				Thane		

Mid Week Advent Wednesday 6pm	Dec 6	Dec 13	Dec 20
Readers	Joyce O'Connell	Betty Thane	Phyllis Zwarich

Fellowship News

We will have Christmas Fellowship after Children's Program on Sunday December 17, 2023 at 10:55 am . Bring your favorite cookies, dips and chips, cakes, pies or candies, etc. to share with our members and guests. We can visit and share our stories of Christmas past and blessings of Christmas present as we enjoy these treats. Merry Christmas!



Dorothy St. Germain



Remember our church members whom we haven't seen in a while and our shut ins with a card, visit, or phone calls. Please add an address to cards placed in a mailbox, or even better, mail them if you have not seen the members in awhile. A lot of cards linger in the boxes!!!



Thank you to all who helped make the Thanksgiving Dinner such a success and a wonderful time. The food was delicious!!!



Christmas Program



The youth will practice for the Christmas Program at 1pm on Sat. Dec. 16. We will enjoy Chick Fil A after practice.

On Dec. 17, the youth will present the program during the 10am service. Bring your favorite sweets and treats for fellowship following the service. Please join us!



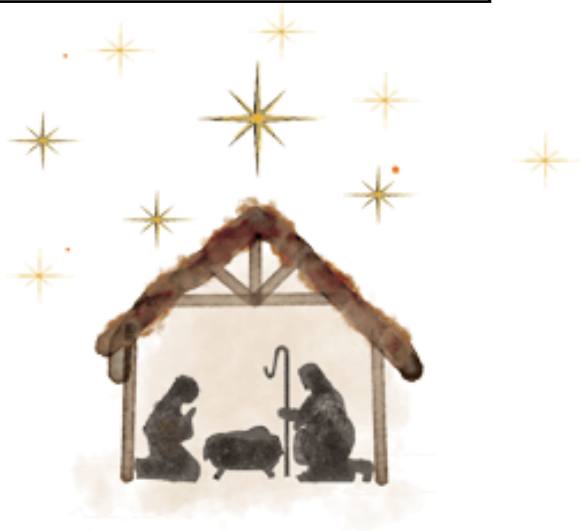
Save the Date

Saturday, Jan. 6th , 2024 at 11 am, we will have our annual Epiphany Baked Potato Luncheon. **Our Guest speaker will be Lou St.Germain.** You will not want to miss this special event!

After Lou's talk, we will share a baked potato lunch. Please bring your favorite topping. 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.



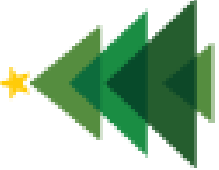
ANNIVERSARIES

12/27/1964

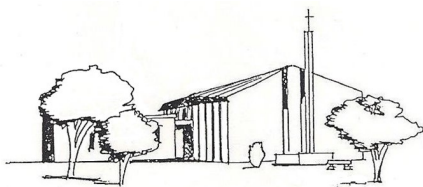
Leon & Betty Thane

BIRTHDAYS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					AA 5:30pm	Altar Guild 10am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA 5:30pm	Mid-Week Service Advent 1 6pm UCM ASU Food 4 Thought 10am	AA 5:30pm	AA 5:30pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA 5:30pm Council Christmas Dinner @ Miss Hattie's 6pm	Mid-Week Service Advent 2 6pm	AA 5:30pm	AA 5:30pm Soup Kitchen 9:30-1	10am Decorate the Church ***** 1pm Christmas Pageant Practice
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:45 Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service <i>Youth Christmas Program during the 10am service</i>	AA 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline Carols by Candlelight @ Sacred Heart 6:30pm	AA 5:30pm	Mid-Week Service Advent 3 6pm	AA 5:30pm	AA 5:30pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45am Adult bible study <i>Children's Sunday School on Holiday Break</i> 10am Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight 7pm	Christmas Day AA 5:30pm	AA 5:30pm		AA 5:30pm	AA 5:30pm	
31						
8:45am Adult bible study <i>Children's Sunday School on Holiday Break</i> 10am Worship Service	 DECEMBER					

Calvary Lutheran Church
3231 College Hills Boulevard
San Angelo, TX 76904



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

Phone: 325-944-1116
Website: calvarysa.org
E-mail: secretary@calvarysa.org

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.