

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
December 2019



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

The Advent/Christmas Season is upon us. During the next few weeks we will again prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. The Season calls us to **“repent and believe”** the Good News of the coming of the Christ Child. On the First Christmas the Shepherds heard the Angelic message **“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you 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. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’” When the Shepherds heard all this, they went with haste to see the Christ Child.

As we hear the great and glorious message of the Christ Child may we too rush with haste to worship our Lord as the humble Shepherds did so many years ago. **Please join us as we prepare ourselves during the Advent Season at 6 o’clock Wednesday evenings for our Mid-Week Advent Services and at 10 am Sunday mornings for our regular Worship Services. And don’t forget about our Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7 pm.** As we attend these services may we too return home glorifying and praising God for all the things that we shall see and hear just as the Shepherds did when they returned home from their visit with the Christ Child.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Paul



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Council's Corner

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

03 October 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on the 03th day of October 2019 by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul gave a devotional from the book of Jeremiah. He said at times God's plans may not be in line with ours. God's will for our lives may seem illusive. He reminded us not to get caught up on our earthly plans but to look toward our eternal one. God's perfect plan. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. He opened with a prayer.

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

MINUTES: John motioned to accept the September 09, 2019 Council Meeting minutes as presented and Marie second the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich presented the Financial Report as presented September 30, 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 current year.

CORE TEAM REPORTS:

Education – Marie Williams said the youth rummage sale is planned for October 19 from 8am to 3pm. Tables will be set up on Sunday October 13 for the collection of the rummage sale items. The youth will bake cookies in the kitchen on Sunday October 06. The Christmas Program practices are planned for November 24, December 01st and December 15th during the Sunday school hour. The next meeting is tentatively planned for November 24 after church service.

Fellowship – Kara Martinez said the Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 17, 2019. It will be the main topic of discussion during the next Fellowship meeting.

Service and Justice – Betty Thane reported year to date the "Noisy Bucket" mission has collected \$648.45. The Good Gifts Christmas Tree Ornaments have arrived. Advent Trees have also been received for the congregation. Cookies for the military will be begin in December. Christmas Caroling for the shut-ins is tentatively planned for December 15th. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd.

Worship – Teddi Phillips said while she was working on the budget, she noticed money was budgeted for Sunday Service Flowers. Since there is a sign up sheet for the congregation to provide flowers for Sunday Service so she suggested removing that from the budget. All the council agreed. The next team meeting is schedule for October 13, 2019. The next Altar Guild will be on November 02, 2019.

Evangelism - Barbara Walker secured a spot at the Chicken Farm Event for Saturday October 05, 2019. Volunteers are needed. Our goal is to let the community know who Calvary Lutheran is. Balloons and water will be given out with our church information on them.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Paul presented the Pastor's Report. He first began by thanking the church for his vacation, which he truly enjoyed. He highlighted a few of the upcoming events: October 07-October 09 is the Bishop Convocation @ Briarwood, October 10 is Lutheran Diner's, October 12 is Men's Bible Study, October 13 is the Worship Committee Meeting, November 10, is the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, November 17 is our Sunday Thanksgiving Dinner, and December 04 Mid-Week Advent Services begins. Delegates are still needed for the Synod Assemblé April 24-25th @ Pat Quin College Dallas, Texas.

OLD BUSINESS:

Worship Services: It was approved for Joyce O'Connell to lead worship services and give communion September 15 and September 22 of 2019 while Pastor Paul is on vacation. **Council Retreat:** May be scheduled for late October. **Realm Ministry "ACS Technologies":** Joyce O'Connell presented a recommendation from Realm Ministry. ACS Technologies created a cloud-based software designed to connect church staff and their congregation together by integrating the core components of running a successful ministry's administration, accounting and community. We are currently using the Roll Call system. Joyce will confirm we have the required hardware necessary to integrate with ACS Technologies. She will also confirm pricing. **Synod Assembly:** April 24-25, 2020 in Dallas, Texas. Synod Assembly Delegates need to be confirmed. **Church Directory:** Marie Williams said hiring a business to produce our church directory was expensive. It was suggested for us to take the photos of our members and download them to an on-line photo website to produce the directory. A couple of members said they may know individuals that might be willing to take the photos inexpensively. **Church Sign Update:** John Ulrich submitted a total cost of \$20,500 to our insurance company to replace the digital sign in front of the church. Our insurance policy will pay \$425.00 toward the replacement. Funds to pay for the sign is primary received through church donations and special gifts. As of September 08, 2019, \$18,945.00 has been received for the sign. **Lawn Landscaping Proposals:** Barbara Walker presented two estimates from Bird's Eye Landscape: the traditional landscape idea for \$5250.00 and an estimate for a xeriscape option for \$4,800.00. Chris Kinsey motioned to accept the proposed estimate from Bird's Eye Landscape for the xeriscape option. Kara Martinez seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara said the landscape company should start placing the new landscape in a couple of weeks and it should be complete by Thanksgiving. The landscape company is donating a cement bench and they would like suggestions for symbols or words to be on it. Fritz said the kitchen upgrades are on hold until they can locate someone to do the installation of the new appliances. Fritz will meet this coming week to finalize the kitchen upgrades. Joyce confirmed the new church directory can be created on the new Realm program. Pastor Paul and Fritz need 2 delegates to go with them to the Synod Assembly April 24 – April 25, 2019 in Dallas, Texas and need to know by November 19, 2019. John said funds were added to the budget to cover the monthly expense of the new office software Realm. Flowers were dropped from the worship budget. Flowers will be provided voluntarily by congregation members. **Open budget items:** Building Insurance renewal coming up in November and Health Benefit renewal in January. The budget committee did motion to accept the budget. Joyce seconded the motion. All agreed. We're nearing our goal to purchase the outdoor digital sign through donations. Last Sunday started the campaign to receive the additional funds to purchase the outside digital sign. We are \$300.00 short from having enough money to purchase the small sign and \$10,000 away from purchasing the large sign. The council all agreed to pull money from the Memorial Special Fund Account if needed to complete the purchase of the large digital sign. A congregation meeting will be held for final approval from the congregation.

CLOSING: There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:45 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*

Teddi Phillips, Worship Committee Leader

December Liturgical Color(s) - Blue (1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd) Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use. Some assemblies use purple in Advent, a color associated with royalty as the church awaits the newborn king (note that this is a different meaning from when it is used in Lent which suggests repentance and solemnity). **White** (29th) White, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. Some also use **Gold**. (ELCA.org, 2017)

Hymn of the Month - LBW 42 - Of the Father's Love Begotten Consider reading/singing this Christmas hymn as a prayer in the privacy of your heart and mind. Don't have access to a hymnal? You can find the lyrics on <https://hymnary.org/>. Type "Of the Father's Love Begotten" in the search box and click on the first one under the section "texts". Would you like to sing along? Go to YouTube.com and type "Of the Father's Love Begotten lyrics". I recommend <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOF9JLjkPis>. That particular one is beautiful!!

Luther Quote of the Month - *"You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say."*

News/Information *** Next Altar Guild meeting: Saturday, Jan. 4th at 9:30 am *** Next Worship Team meeting TBD *** Congregants, please consider sharing your gifts by serving in the Worship Service! The signup sheet is in the Narthex. *** See calendar for additional information.

Sources- https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29874.Martin_Luther http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What_is_the_meaning_and_use_of_liturgical_colors.pdf <https://www.liturgybytlw.com/Pentecost/AllSts.html>

Worship Service	Usher	Greeter/s	Acolyte	Assistant Minister (Liturgist)	Reader (Lector)	Communion Assistant
December 1	Brad Pfeiffer	Jo McCormick	Pedro Montanez	Joyce O'Connell	Ashlyn Scott	Pedro Montanez
December 8	Mitch and Landen Simon		Annalysse Simon		Kristy Simon	XXXXX
December 15		Bob Zwarich	Rachel Unger	Ann Helm	Marie Williams	Steve Mild
December 22	John Ulrich	Phyllis Zwarich		Steve Mild	Margaret Leifeste	XXXXX
December 24 (Evening)			Pedro Montanez	Joyce O'Connell	Phyllis Zwarich	Pedro Montanez
December 29						

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

Education

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." Proverbs 22:6

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM -
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH,
DURING THE 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**



Do you Pray?

I loved this interpretation of Prayer.
What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe'. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. *That is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being.
Keep praying always

A Word from the Congregational President:

Christmas is upon us again. December is always a busy time for everyone. During this season of giving and loving, please don't forget what it is all about.

Advent Services will begin on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 pm. Hope to see many of you at these services. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15 during the service. Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:00 pm. Hope you can make it.

May each and every one of you have a Blessed and safe Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,
Fritz

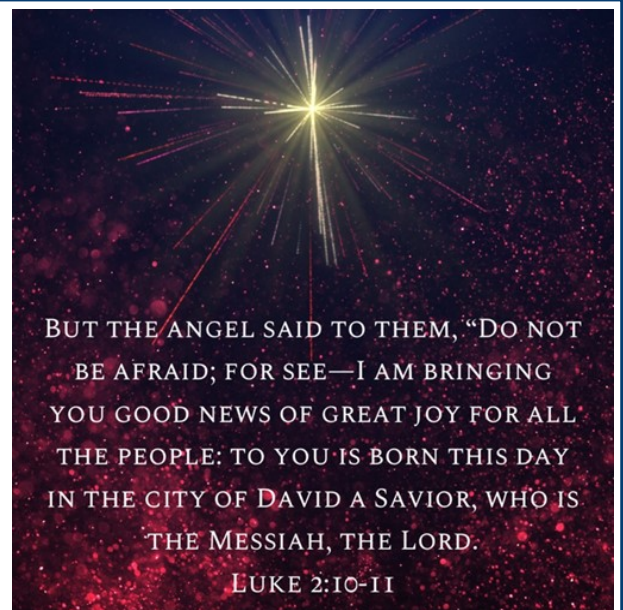
Evangelism

Do you have a passion to build deeper relationships with others? We have begun planning ways to encourage relationships within Calvary as well as outside of Calvary. Please pray about this. We could use your ideas and help.

We hope to get together in January to make plans for 2020. Let me know if you are interested in helping or if you just have an idea!

Joy and Peace to you this season and all year!

Barbara Walker - 432-213-5293 or
email: babswalker07@gmail.com



BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT
BE AFRAID; FOR SEE—I AM BRINGING
YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL
THE PEOPLE: TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY
IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS
THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.
LUKE 2:10-11

Service and Justice

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

SERVICE AND JUSTICE December, 2019



*Betty Thane,
Service and Justice
Team Leader*

NOISY BUCKET offering for October 27, 2019, was \$135.50. Total for the year is \$816.38. The noisy bucket offerings will resume in January 2020. We have been so blessed.

GOOD GIFTS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT TREE will be up December 1. We have lots of ornaments and this year we have lots of chicks and honey bees. Make one of your special persons a neat Christmas gift.

2019 ADVENT CALENDARS are available on the table in the Narthex. There are plenty of calendars for everyone who would like to have. They are free, so be sure and take what your family wants.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING is scheduled for December 15 after the Worship Service and a light lunch of pizza. Bring your friends and let's sing and bring some cheer to our shut-ins.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAVE A GOOD SANDWICH? We would like to suggest **JIMMY JOHN'S** on Sherwood Way. Some time ago Gary Griffin talked with Charlie Nixon, who is a managing partner, about giving us their unused bread. Every Friday someone from Calvary (normally Gary and Kara) pick up the bread (lots of bread) and take it to Wesley United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen, who serves up to 200 meals a day to homeless people. **WHAT A MINISTRY.** Thank you, Gary and Charlie, for supporting this ministry. Bibles, blankets, jackets, gloves, pillowcases, sleeping bags, etc. can be brought to Calvary to be delivered to Wesley United. Gary said, "A Bible has never been returned." **Thank You All For Your Support and Love.**

PROJECT DIGNIDAD: Please remember our homeless and less fortunate by continuing to bring nonperishable food goods plus any clothing and household goods. Thank you for your generous love.

COOKIES FOR THE MILITARY are a Thank You to military personnel for their service. The cookies are sent with personnel so they have them as they travel home for the holidays. Please help us by baking cookies and bringing them to the church Worship Services on December 1st and 8th.

AFTER CHRISTMAS CARD SALES: Please buy boxed Christmas Cards when they're on sale after Christmas that we can send to the prison ministry. Inmates will receive 4 cards that they will be able to send to their family members in 2020. Thanks to Dan Lund for giving us something we can do to reach out to others.

A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR BY SHARING WITH THOSE WE LOVE AND CARE FOR.

Betty Thane, Service and Justice Team Leader

Fellowship

"Building Christian community in love and grace."



Kara Martinez,
Fellowship Team Leader

You're Invited... to the End-of-the-Year Congregational Brunch! Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 29th, at 9:00 a.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for bringing food items for the brunch. Hope to see you there!

Men's Bible Breakfast will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14th, at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way. Come join us!

Lutheran Diners will not meet this month, because of the busy-ness of the Advent and Christmas seasons.



Happy Anniversary

December 27, 1964 - Leon and Betty Thane

Thank you

TO THE CALVARY LUTHERAN FAMILY: Thank you so much for thinking of me, praying for me, sending cards, and calling me while I was in the hospital and rehab with a broken hip. I will have more therapy here, and soon I'll be back to normal. Thank you, again, and love to all of you. Irene Hunter



December 4 - Heidi Wierzowiecki
December 7 - Christine Fryar
December 9 - Steven Tucker
December 10 - Lee Rose
December 12 - Kara Martinez
December 15 - Peyton Burney
December 19 - Charlene Siegrist
December 24 - Herb Itz

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH: Following the Worship Service and a pizza meal, we are going Christmas caroling to our shut-ins. Please contact Betty or Leon Thane at 653-3876 if you are interested.



A THANK YOU FROM GARY GRIFFIN:

Thank you from Penny and myself for all of your prayers, cards, and flowers. They helped us remember we are not alone. We have a very large family.

If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of Gabriel, here are three suggestions: Connect Church, 1026 Kenyon Street, Knoxville, TN 37917; 134 SFS, in care of Msgt. Huntgate, 120 Brice Drive, Louisville, TN 37777; Berkley Griffin College Fund, in care of Gary Griffin.

Helen Brandenberger would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



AN INVITATION TO THE LADIES OF CALVARY:

The Ladies of Trinity Lutheran, San Angelo, would like to invite you to the annual Ladies' Christmas Program at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th, in the Fellowship Hall. Fellowship and food will follow the program.

(To enter the Fellowship Hall, please use the entrance to the Fellowship Hall, on the Loop 306 side of the building, on the end closest to the fence.)



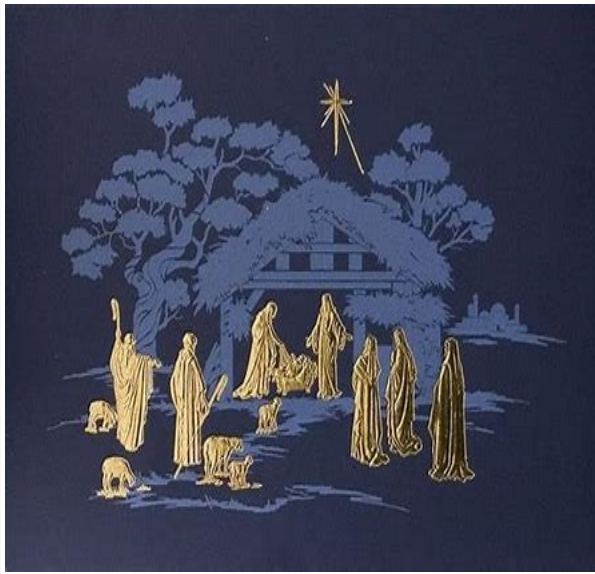
December

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 8:45am Confirmation Class 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	2 Pastor's Day Off 9:00am Cookie Baking/Service and Justice Meeting 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	3 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	4 6:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service	5 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	6 5:30pm AA Group	7 11:00am AA Group
8 Advent 2 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Service 4:00pm Ladies' Christmas Service at Trinity	9 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:15pm Church Council Meal 5:30pm AA Group	10 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	11 6:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service	12 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30pm AA Group	14 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way 11:00am AA Group
15 Advent 3 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Service and Children's Christmas Program 11:00am Lunch and Christmas Caroling	16 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	17 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	18 6:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service	19 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	20 5:30pm AA Group	21 11:00am AA Group
22 Advent 4 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Service	23 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	24 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	25 6:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service	26 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	27 5:30pm AA Group	28 11:00am AA Group
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00am End-of-the-Year Brunch 10:00am Worship Service	30 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	31  7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	 5:30pm AA Group	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	Looking Ahead January 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord January 12 - Baptism of Our Lord

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.



**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia!**

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Stille Nacht -

text by Joseph Mohr; music by Franz Gruber

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Christmas Eve - December 24
Christmas Day - December 25
New Year's Eve - December 31

