

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
February 2019



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14th, is quickly approaching. Have you given any thought to what you might do or say to express your love for that special person in your life? If not, perhaps John (the Disciple whom Jesus loved) can provide some insight into the true nature of love. St. John is often called the

Apostle of Love. Both his Gospel and his Epistles are filled with references to God's love for mankind and our loving response to the love God has shown to us through His Son.

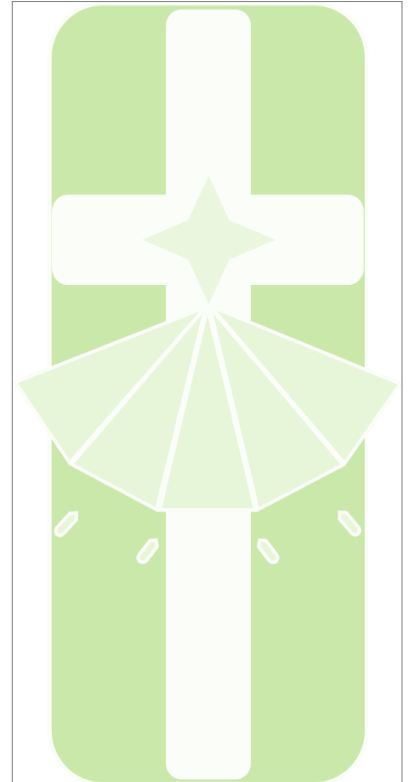
In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:43, 44), Jesus sets a very high standard for love. He directs us to love not only those who love us, but also to love our enemies and those who persecute us. That is a rather tall order. But that is nothing compared to the standard Jesus sets in John's Gospel when Jesus declares, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." In John 15:12, Jesus goes on to describe the very nature of perfect, selfless love "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

And that is exactly what Jesus did for us; He laid down His life in order to save us. God's love for humankind was made manifest in the incarnation of Christ and was demonstrated in the cross. Jesus' perfect, selfless, sacrificial love for us sets a higher standard for love than has ever been set before. It is a standard we cannot hope to meet. Because of our sinful nature we cannot hope to love even ourselves as completely as Christ loves us. But that does not mean we should give up and stop trying to love others as ourselves. As those who by faith are united with Christ, His great love for us enables and empowers us to acts of service and love towards others, especially our brothers and sisters in the church. John captures the very essence of Christ's love at work in our lives in the fourth chapter of his first letter.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

As St. Valentine's Day approaches, I commend to your reading the entirety of St. John's first letter. It is filled with encouragement for your daily life that is firmly grounded in God's love for you that is found in Christ Jesus alone. May the love of Christ be with you. See You In Church.

Pastor Paul



The Baptism of Our Lord
Above image created by
Teddi Phillips

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Council's Corner

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting 12 November 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. on the 12th day of November, 2018, by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul Zwarich offered a devotional based on the verse John 3:16, and a prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fritz Leifeste, Chris Kinsey, John Ulrich, Joyce O'Connell, Marie Williams, Betty Thane, Barbara Walker, Pastor Paul Zwarich, Dorothy St. Germain and James Parry. Lou St. Germain and Leon Thane also attended.

MINUTES: John Ulrich motioned, seconded by Marie Williams, that the minutes of the 8 October Council Meeting be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich presented a printed report of Calvary Lutheran Church's financial condition as of 31 October 2018. No exceptions were noted, and the report was accepted by the Council.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell presented her report in a new format which showed the weekly offerings, the average monthly offerings, and the attendance totals. The report will be generated weekly and summarized annually.

CORE TEAM REPORTS:

Education – Marie Williams reported that the Sunday School averages 6 students, and the confirmation/adult class averages 15 members. The Sunday School classes will not meet during the Christmas holidays because many of the members will be out of town. The Children's Christmas program will take place during the Sunday service on 16 December. The Day Camp 2019 is scheduled for either the second or fourth week in June. If these dates are not available with Cross Trails Ministries, the \$500.00 deposit will be refunded. Four counselors will work with about 30 campers.

Fellowship – Betty Thane reported for Kara Martinez that a Breakfast Potluck will be held on 30 December during the Sunday School hour at 8:45 a.m.

Service and Justice – Betty Thane reported that the Good Gifts Project, (AKA-The Noisy Bucket Offering) had collected \$873.62 since September 2017. At the annual meeting on 18 November, the congregation will be able to vote on where the money will be donated, i.e. share of a water well, goat, cow, or a share of a cow. The Good Gifts Christmas Tree will be in the narthex between 2 December and 30 December.

Worship – Dorothy St. Germain reported that Barbara Montgomery has agreed to play for the Christmas Eve Service and others during the coming month. Several individuals have expressed interest in playing, but not on a full-time basis. ASU student Grace Allen applied for the position as a pianist and will play for the 9 December service. The congregation will be able to give feedback to the search committee and council in making a decision to hire her. Advent Services will begin Wednesday, 28 November at 6:00 p.m. The Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, 24 December.

Evangelism – Barbara Walker reported that the "Come And See" reception on Sunday, 4 November, was a successful event. The discussion topic was about sharing the word about Calvary and building relationships with others in the community in our daily lives. Bookmarks and business cards are available for those willing to have them and to share them with others.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul Zwarich gave a detailed report on his many official duties and scheduled meetings. He will be required to attend a "Pastor at Boundaries" training meeting at Briarwood on 17 January. This training is required on a regular basis by the Synod and the church's insurance coverage. He noted that Joyce O'Connell had taken a beautiful picture of the confirmation class which also included Bishop Erik Gronberg and himself. The picture will be framed and placed in the narthex.

OLD BUSINESS: The Council discussed having a Dinner Meeting in place of the December Council Meeting. The agenda for the 18 November Congregational Meeting was finalized. Two delegates to the Synod Assembly next April need to be selected.

NEW BUSINESS: The Council members were reminded that the various core teams should have a short report of their activities for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Church by 1 February, 2019. The council had received "Thank You" notes from Meals for the Elderly and Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program for our donations of \$62.50 each.

CLOSING: There being no further business, the meeting was duly closed at 7:23 p.m. in peace and harmony with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

James Parry, Council Secretary



Worship

*“Empowering God’s people to worship in grace and truth.”
John 4:23*

*Dorothy St. Germain,
Interim Worship
Leader*

Worship Committee:

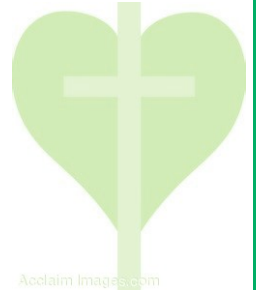
February often brings thoughts of valentines and love. As we think of these, may we remember God’s greatest gift of love for us.

“ For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to die for our sins, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life.”

What a wonderful promise! Happy Valentine’s Day!

The worship schedule is on the board in the narthex. Please take a moment and sign your name wherever you are able to help. Your gift of service is appreciated.

Dorothy St. Germain, Interim Worship Leader



Acclaim Images.com

Worship Service	Greeter/s	Usher	Acolyte	Assistant Minister (Liturgist)	Reader (Lector)	Communion Assistant	Video Tech
February 3	Jo McCormick	Lou St. Germain	Dorothy St. Germain	Joyce O’Connell	Phyllis Zwarich	Dorothy St. Germain	Pedro Montanez
February 10	Norma Kahlig		Annalysse Simon		Kristy Simon	XXXXX	
February 17				Leon Thane	Betty Thane	Phyllis Zwarich	
February 24						XXXXX	

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to serve on the date listed above, please call Dorothy St. Germain at 223-8347, or change with another person. Notify Dorothy of the change, and she will notify the Church Office. Please do not call the office or send an e-mail.



Our Sunday School students presented the Children’s Christmas program, *The Christmas Ornaments*, during the Worship Service on December 16th, 2018. Thank you, students!

Photo courtesy of Joyce O’Connell.

Education

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

Parish Education News: Bible Studies have begun again after Christmas Break! Children's Sunday School and Confirmation and Adult Sunday School meet at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays. The Women's Bible Study takes place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Men's Bible Breakfast has resumed its meetings at 8:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Please join us at any of the studies that interest you.

Evangelism



Thanks to everyone who joined us on January 20th. We continued our discussion about building relationships with others in our daily lives, and sharing the word about Calvary. Bookmarks and business cards are available for those wanting to share with others.

We plan to reach out to community members during the Children's Fair in April. More details soon.

Many, many thanks and appreciation to all of my family, friends, Pastor Paul, and the family of Calvary Lutheran Church.

As I had let many of you know, on November 27 I was going to have surgery on my right shoulder, as it was just worn out.

My daughter kept asking what we were going to do for Thanksgiving. I finally asked her what they were doing, to which she told me that she, my niece, and son were talking about fixing food for Thanksgiving and bringing it to Al and me. It was so nice to have all my family around the table at this time. After much eating and visiting, all departed for their home except my daughter, Teresa, who stayed until after my surgery and then flew home to her family.

My surgery went just fine, as the Dr. had planned for it to. I was in Shannon Hospital until December 2, when I was transferred to Senior Care Meadowcreek, where I stayed until discharged on December 14.

I want to sincerely thank those of you who came to visit me while in Meadowcreek. Pam and John came each Sunday, and Pam came sometimes during the week. Also visiting me while in Meadowcreek were Margaret and Fritz Leifeste, Karla Hariman, Staci Shoemaker (the ASU student who has been attending church, and who brought me a small Christmas tree and an ASU stuffed tiger), Betty and Leon Thane, Pastor Paul and Phyllis, and Jill. I thoroughly enjoyed each one of your visits.

To all of you who remembered me with a get-well wish or in your prayers, very special thanks to each of you.

My biggest thrill through all of this ordeal is the Christmas caroling that members of Calvary did. To see some youth among you was so very uplifting. Al and I love all the youth of Calvary and the participating that you do at times during worship. The youth is what any church is made of. Keep up the good work, youth.

I am still struggling to get where I should be with my right arm. Someone, somewhere, dropped the ball of my exercises to be done, so therefore I am at least 2 to 3 weeks behind with them. Encompass Home Health was able to come to our home and work with me for a couple weeks, and then had to sign off. I am now going to Therapy Solutions three times a week. I'm thinking this is going to last for 6 weeks.

I will be glad when I can once again return to church to worship with all of you. Al has been able to be faithful in church attendance since the surgery. Till we meet again, God bless each of you. Our love to all, Rosalee and Al King.



Service and Justice

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

SERVICE AND JUSTICE FEBRUARY, 2019

Thank You to everyone who purchased the **GOOD GIFTS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**. Our congregation bought 8 honey-bees, 7 pigs, 5 goats, 2 chicks, 2 uniforms, 1 Bible, and 1 rooster. Total cash value of those ornaments was \$779.00. Calvary has been faithful in supporting this meaningful program to help end hunger.



*Betty Thane,
Service and Justice
Team Leader*

Marie Williams and Betty Thane have been reviewing and updating the **EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM** for Calvary. Please contact one of us if you have changes to your address or personal information, and if you do not want to be included in this program. The program is designed to help us check on the safety and well-being of our fellow members in case of a disaster.

Thank You to Gary Griffin, who has volunteered to be on the **PROJECT DIGNIDAD BOARD**, which keeps us informed as to the things going on with which we can help. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Gary. Don't forget to pick up nonperishable items for Dignidad when you are grocery shopping. Dignidad also collects clothing and household items for people in need in the community. When cleaning out those closets and cupboards, don't forget Dignidad.

NOISY BUCKET OFFERINGS of our loose change resumes on January 27th. The fourth Sunday of each month is our Noisy Bucket Offering, so don't forget to bring your loose change to make those buckets rattle to support those in need. The Service and Justice Team has decided all monies collected in the Noisy Bucket Offerings during 2019 will go to support Water Well projects.

THE NEXT SERVICE AND JUSTICE MEETING will be held on Thursday, February 7th, at 11 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Blessings,
Betty Thane, Service and Justice Council Representative



Kara Martinez,
Fellowship Team Leader

Fellowship

"Building Christian community in love and grace."

UPCOMING EVENTS...

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST: The next meeting date is Saturday, February 9th, at 8:00 a.m., at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way. Come join us!

LUTHERAN LUNCHERS will meet on Thursday, February 21st, at 11:00 a.m., at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 4333 Sherwood Way. Please RSVP to Leon and Betty Thane at 653-3876. See you there!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: Join us for pancakes and sausage at 6:00 p.m. on March 5th!

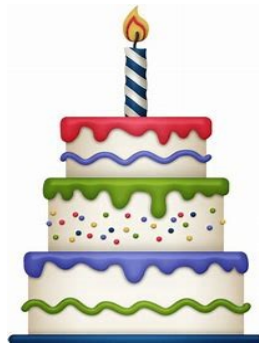
Anniversary Blessings!

February 14, 1998 - Pedro and Daisy Montanez

February 14, 1998 - Adam and Kristy Scott

February 26, 1983 - Terry and Arline Zak

The pictures, courtesy of Joyce O'Connell, are from the congregational Christmas caroling in December. Loretta Verpoorten, Travis Raab, Conway Ahrens, and Frieda Stelling are pictured, along with Calvary carolers.



February 5 - Marvin
Wendland

February 8 - Helen
Brandenberger

February 8 - Cheryl
Wamer

February 16 - Jane
Cocuzzi

February 17 - Andrea
Sanford

February 22 - Larry
Ross



February

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19</i>				2
						11:00am AA Group
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Epiphany 4 8:45am Confirmation/ Adult Sunday School 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Parish Educa- tion Meeting	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 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 11:00am AA Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Epiphany 5 8:45am Confirmation/ Adult Sunday School 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Committee Meeting	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
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Epiphany 6 8:45am Confirmation/ Adult Sunday School 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 Lutheran Lunchers 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
24	25	26	27	28		LOOKING AHEAD:
Epiphany 7 8:45am Confirmation/ Adult Sunday School 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	Pastor Out of Office 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group		March 3 – Transfiguration of Our Lord March 6 – Ash Wednesday

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.



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day!

