

Calvary Comment



**Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich**

Calvary Lutheran Church February 2021



On February 17, 2021 we will begin the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It is hard to believe that it is one year now since the pandemic began. Our last fellowship event at Calvary Lutheran Church was the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper held on the day before Ash Wednesday of last year. My how time has quickly passed.

One year later we still find that Ash Wednesday is an important day in the life of the church because the day reminds us of our mortality and the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for each

one of us when He died on the Cross. On Ash Wednesday the cross again will be imposed upon our foreheads as we hear the ultimate truth "from dust you came and to dust you shall return."

As we begin our Lenten journey many people will give up something that means a lot to their daily living such as coffee, chocolate, soda, deserts and (you fill in the blank) as they prepare themselves for the Easter victory. For others, the Season of Lent will mean spending more time in prayer or another spiritual discipline in preparation for the events during Holy Week. May God bless you during your Lenten Spiritual journey.

This year during our mid-week Lenten Services we will look at several classic Gospel Hymns and discover the song writer's inspiration and real-life events that led



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to creation of these hymns. While I have not finalized which hymns will be examined, hymns such as "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling," "I Love to Tell the Story," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," and "Thou Art Worthy," will be highlighted and sung during worship.

Please join us each Wednesday during Lent on **Zoom** or **in-person** as we sing our beloved Gospel Hymns and wait again for the Day of Resurrection. And remember "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

Pastor Paul



Church Council

9th of November 2020 Council Secretary, Linda Ortegon

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on the 09th day of November 2020 by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul opened with a prayer. The spirit pulls us in the direction of GOD. The spirit allows us to think of others. Let us walk and live by the spirit. Be with us Lord as we gather tonight, but most of all give us patience to see the Christ Child come into our midst.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce O'Connell, Fritz Leifeste, Linda Ortegon, Dorothy St. Germain, Bee Rose, Betty Thane, Barbara Walker, Marie Williams, John Ulrich, and Pastor Paul Zwarich.

MINUTES: Fritz motion to accept the October 2020 Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes. John made a motion to accept the minutes. Bee second the motion. The council approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich. The October 2020 Treasurer's Report and was approved as presented. John mentioned we were still looking okay.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell. The Financial Report was accepted as reported. Joyce said we're staying consistent.

CORE TEAM REPORTS

Education: Marie Williams. Nothing new to report.

Fellowship: Dorothy St. Germain. Nothing to report.

Social and Justice: Betty Thane. Betty said due to the spike in the corona virus the committee, Marie, Gary, Kara, Leon and Betty, got together. They purchased rice, beans and with some additional groceries. Bagged the them for God's Work. Our Hands. One day this week those items will be delivered to Project Dignidad. She also mentioned the Good Gifts Christmas Tree will be put in the Narthex by November 29th. She said different options are being looked at in order to help people participate by making an arrangement to pick up an ornament without having to actually be in the church.

Worship: Bee Rose. Nothing new to report. However, she wanted to thank everyone who has helped with the services. Either by zoom or in person. "Thank you for all your support".

Evangelism: Barbara Walker Nothing new to report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor went over his pastoral acts. Three In-person Sunday Worship Services. Four Zoom Sunday Worship Services. One Worship Service in Miles. Nine Office Visits. Two new members were received on Reformation Sunday – Lori Smithwick and Elaine Welty. The meetings he attended were; A Zoom Dean Meeting with the Bishop. A Dean Meeting with COW Pastors. One two day continuing Education Event – Bishop Convocation October 19th and 20th of 2020. One office Visit with a COW Pastor. One Council Meeting in Miles. The activities he conducted were; Three Adult Bible Studies per Zoom on Tuesday Evenings. Three Confirmation Zoom Lessons. They completed the study of the "Lord's Prayer". Confirmation will resume in January. Upcoming Coming Events are; The Semi-Annual / Annual Congregation Meeting on November 15, 2020. Advent Starts November 29, 2020. Mid-Week Services will be determined. As well as determining if or when to decorate the Church for Advent/Christmas Season and the December Council Meal/Meeting and Christmas Caroling. Christmas Eve Service starts at Seven o'clock that evening. Pastor will be out of the office January 04th – January 07th, 2021. The Epiphany Potato Meal held in January is to be determined. The COW Conference Meeting is scheduled in Abilene on February 13, 2020. Ash Wednesday is scheduled for February 17, 2021. Easter Sunday is April 04th, 2021. The 2021 Synod Assembly is April 23 – April 24, 2021. Location is to be determined. Confirmation (Pentecost Sunday) will be Sunday May 23, 2021. Pastor will be on vacation September 25 – October 03, 2021. Pulpit Supply will be needed for Sunday September 26 and October 03, 2021. Pastor will also be on vacation May 15, 2021 – May 21, 2021. Pulpit Supply will be needed for Sunday May 15, 2021. Calvary's Seventy-fifth Anniversary Celebration Sunday will be on October 16, 2022.

Old Business

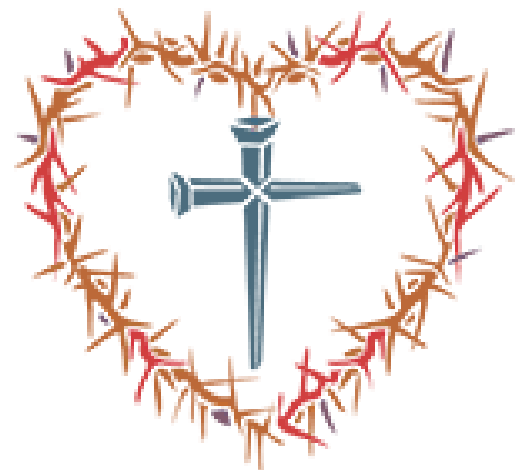
Fritz said the two delegates will need to be selected during the upcoming congregational meeting that will attend the Synod Assembly in April. Pastor and Fritz recommended that we hold off on the "All Committee Night", until we see what happens with the COVID -19 numbers.

New Business

Pastor said during Advent everyone will receive "Devotional for Advent" a book in anticipation we may not be able to meet. It's a daily devotional that can be read throughout the Advent Season. Typically, a Wednesday Mid-Week Advent Service is held. It was recommended that a Zoom Mid-Week Advent Service be held at 6pm every Wednesday during Advent, which starts on November 29th. The council agreed. Pastor said normally we gather after a service and decorate the church for the Christmas Season. However, this year we believe only four or five members should get together on a Saturday to decorate the church. That way it limits the number of people there at one time. The Altar Guild will make the arrangements to decorate the church for Christmas and Thanksgiving. The youth Christmas program is canceled this year. The Caroling is canceled this year as well. The December Council Meeting Meal is tentatively scheduled for the same place we went last year. In person and Zoom Christmas Eve Service is still scheduled for seven o'clock with social distancing in place. The January 09th Epiphany Potato Meal will be planned as scheduled, per the Altar Guild. However, if necessary it can be canceled. John said if we decided to close the church for in person services, "Should we allow the outside group, AA, to meet in the church"? The council said it would be fine for them to meet in the church as long as social distance guidelines are followed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Linda Ortegon





Bee Rose
Team Leader

Worship

ASK: The Third Step in Effective Prayer

In the last two devotionals we discovered that praise and repentance are the first two steps to effective prayer. Today I want to show you the very important third step of asking.

Last time we talked about how repentance is searching your own heart and asking God to put the spotlight on it, and then repenting of anything that He shows you. When your heart is clean, you can have confidence before God when you ask. As 1 John 3:21-22 says,

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus tells us,

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 7:7-11 NIV

Pretty clear, isn't it? God loves you and wants the very best for you. Be careful not to water down the words of Jesus, or somehow try and explain them away or complicate them. He meant just what He said.

But there are some conditions. And next time we will look at those conditions for receiving what you ask God for.

“Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.”

1 John 3:21-22 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1jn.3.21-22.NIV>

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 7:7-11 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.7.7-11>

Bee Rose

DATE	Greeter	Usher	Acolyte	Assistant Minister & Communion Assistant	Reader (Lector)	Technology Assistants	Flowers	Altar Guild
Feb 7 5 th Sun of Epiphany	Pam Ulrich	John Ulrich		Joyce O'Connell		John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez		Ann Helm for the month of February
Feb 14 Transfiguration						John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	Marie Williams	
Feb 21 1 st Sun of Lent	Pam Ulrich	John Ulrich		Ann Helm	Phyllis Zwarich	John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	✓	
Feb 28 2 nd Sun of Lent						John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	✓	

Ann Helm
Team Leader

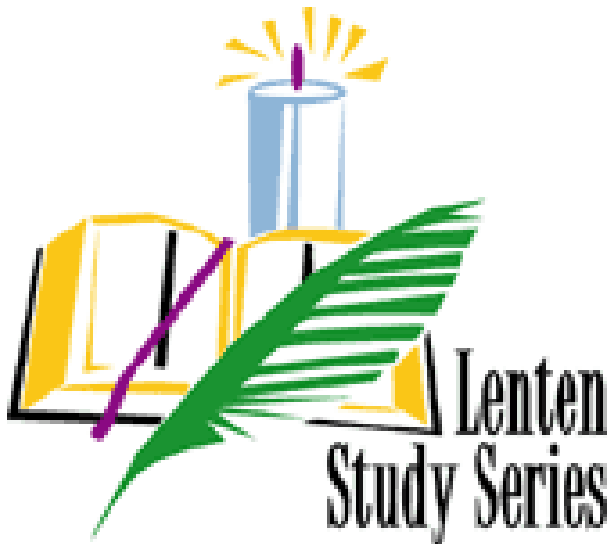
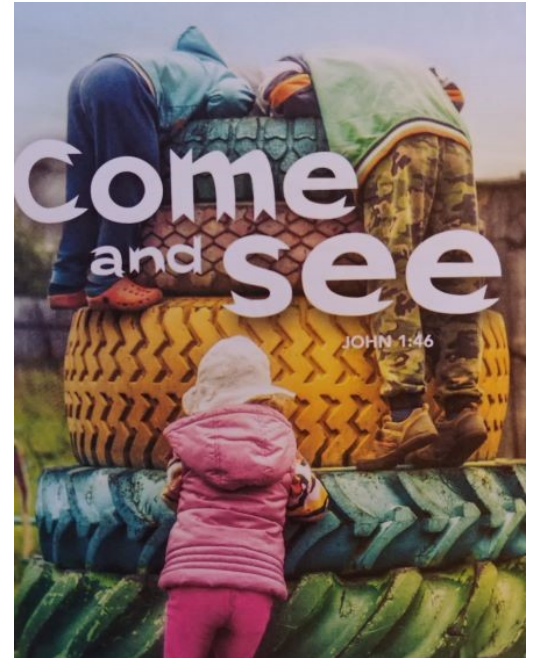
Evangelism



In January, we learned from Pastor's homily about the Gospel of John 1:43-51 that Jesus began his ministry calling disciples, who then brought others to Jesus, inviting them to "Come and See" Jesus. We are called to do the same. Our mission at Calvary Lutheran is Sharing God's Word & Love within and beyond Calvary. The sign in the church driveway reminds us as we leave from worship that

we are "entering the mission field". What great reminders we have that encourage each of us to inspire and invite others to Come and See the love and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord found in His word and in our church family!

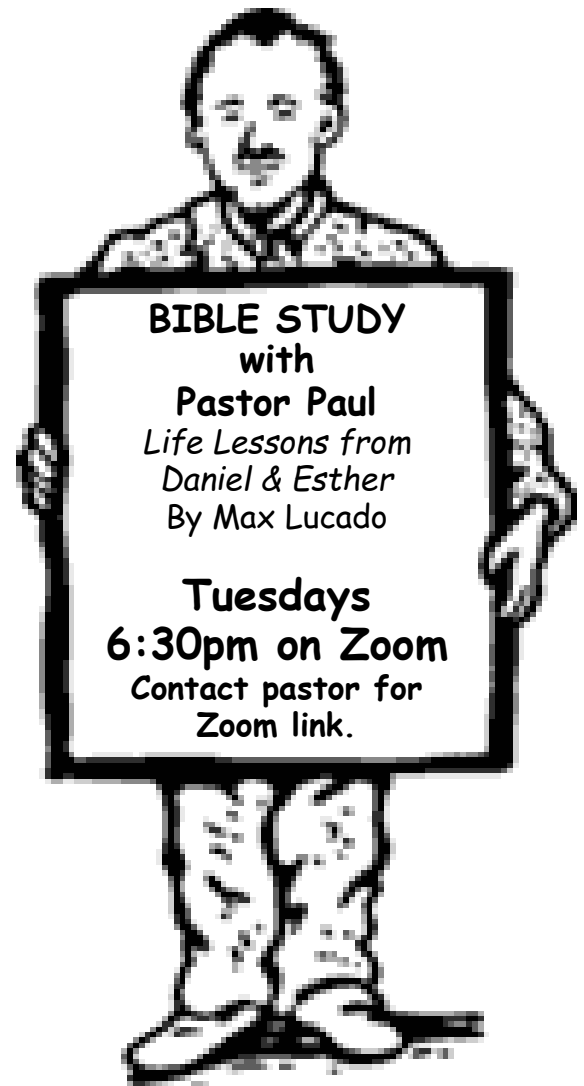
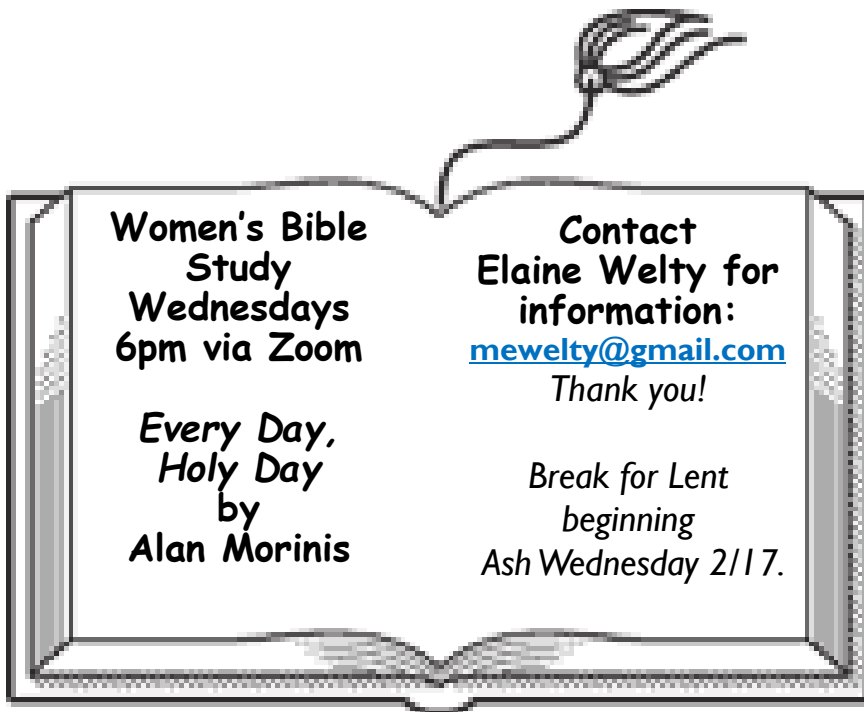
Blessings to each of you,
Ann Helm
ruthann7865@gmail.com
Phone: 325-340-6227



Join us for an online devotional for Lent using YouVersion, a free Bible app you can use on your phone,

ipad, or computer. Call or email Ann Helm for a link or for help downloading YouVersion. Starts Ash Wednesday 2/17/21.

Evangelism continued...



Education

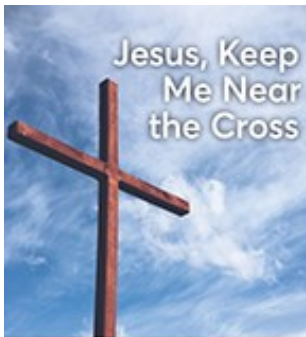


**CONFIRMATION
CLASSES**

**TUESDAYS
BEGINNING
FEB. 9TH
5:30PM
ZOOM**

Marie Williams
Team Leader

Service & Justice



"What does the Lord require of you but
to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

Dorothy St. Germain
Team Leader

Fellowship

Notes of **THANKS**

To each and everyone of you who sent cards, made phone calls, a gift of some kind, that made my "88th" birthday so very special, I thank each and everyone of you. It was indeed a very enjoyable and happy day in my life. I love all of you so much.

God bless,
Rosalee King

THANK YOU to everyone who sent me Christmas cards, goodies & the beautiful poinsettia plant. It was very much appreciated. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas, and I wish everyone a joyful and blessed New Year.

Blessings to all always,
Helen Brandenberger

February 17th



**Ash
Wednesday**



- 8 Cheryl Wamer
- 8 Helen Brandenberger
- 13 Camden Sanford
- 16 Jane Cocuzzi
- 17 Andrea Sanford
- 22 Larry Ross
- 26 Linda Ortegon



- 2/14/1988
Adam & Kristy Scott
- 2/14 /1998
Pedro & Daisy
Montanez
- 2/26/1983
Terry & Arline Zak

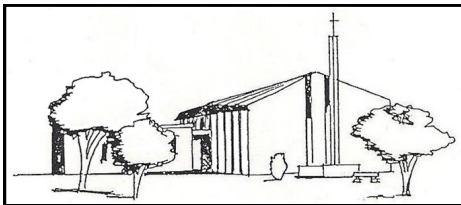
FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Ladies Bible Study--Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm Pastor@ Synod Council Zoom	Pastor@ Synod Council Zoom
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Epiphany 5 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off 6pm Church Council Meeting Zoom	AA group 5:30pm 5:30pm Confirmation class on Zoom 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Ladies Bible Study--Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	10am COW Conference Zoom
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Transfiguration 10am Worship Service 11:30 Pastor in Miles Happy Valentine's Day	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Presidents Day	AA group 5:30pm 5:30pm Confirmation class on Zoom 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Ash Wednesday Service in-person or Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1st Sunday of Lent 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm 5:30pm Confirmation class on Zoom 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Mid-Week Lent Service in-person or Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm Newsletter Deadline	
28	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
2nd Sunday of Lent 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm 5:30pm Confirmation class on Zoom 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Mid-Week Lent Service in-person or Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



*The
Season
of
Lent*



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.