

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
January 2019



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Throughout the Biblical story we are told over and over again that God keeps creating something new. As we read the Bible we discover that the God who created the heavens and the earth continues to create something new out of the old, and that we are called to be a part of the creative process.

One of the ways that we have been created in the image of God is that God has given us the ability to

create. We are not helpless creatures unable to take care of ourselves. God has provided us with a mind that thinks, an imagination that discovers, and a body that can physically do things. Even still we all need our Lord Jesus Christ because of our sinfulness.

As we celebrate the beginning of the New Year, I think most of us find that our New Year's Eve celebration is indeed an odd celebration. We celebrate with parties and food, football and fireworks; yet what is there to celebrate???

The fact is we are another year older and time continues to march on. And so maybe we celebrate the New Year because deep down inside each of us we hope that the coming year will be different. We all have made mistakes during the past year and we all have things that we wish we could go back and do or say over again. For a few brief hours on New Year's Eve we celebrate and try to fool ourselves that the New Year will be different.

But new isn't easy. As we journey into the New Year we carry our old habits and our old behavior with us. 2019 may be a New Year, but we are the same old people that we were in 2018. Winston Churchill once said, "Sometimes we learn from history, but most of the time we just pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and go right on as we had before."

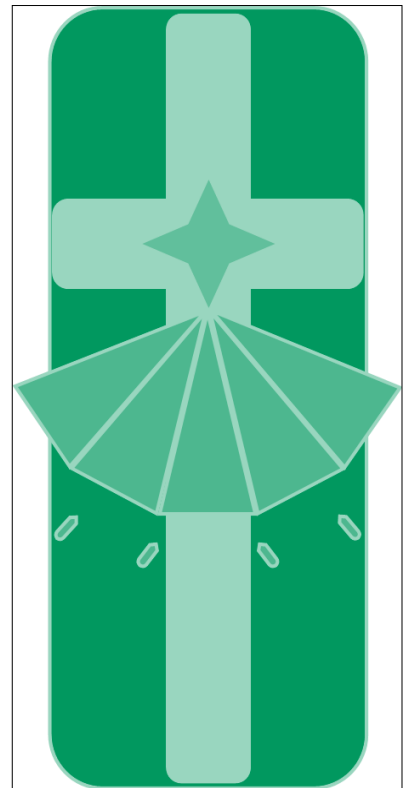
It's tough to be new. And yet, we have been blessed with the four Gospel accounts that tell us stories/actual accounts of people who were born again and made new after they had an encounter with Jesus. One minute these people were walking along down the same old road they had always traveled and then suddenly they were turned around and made new through their encounter with Jesus.

One of the promises of the Holy Spirit is that God makes all things new, even us. God's creativity knows no bounds. We can be "born again." We can be "made whole." We can "start over." Through God's saving grace we can enjoy a New Year free from the sins we have committed in the past.

One of the verses of the Bible that I like to read at this time of the year is Joel 2:28. **"I will pour My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old people shall dream dreams, and your young people shall see visions."** As God continues to change us, God also calls us to be a part of the creative process in the lives of others. And that truly is Good News for you and for me as we begin the year 2019.

Have A Very Blessed New Year!!!

Pastor Paul



The Baptism of Our Lord
Above image created by
Teddi Phillips

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Council and Additional Information.....	2
Worship.....	3
Education.....	4
Evangelism.....	4
Service & Justice.....	5
Fellowship.....	6
Calendar.....	7
Who are we?.....	8

Council's Corner

There was no business meeting at the December Church Council Christmas Dinner, and therefore no minutes were approved and included in this newsletter.



A REQUEST FROM THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM:

The Team feels there is a need for more accurate accounting regarding the Fellowship budget, which will then enable more accurate budget planning.

In the future, everyone who donates for meals will be asked to fill out a voucher for their expenses, and to designate the expenses as a donation. This will enable the Team to know how much was actually spent on the meal.

Expenses for meats for the Thanksgiving Meal should be taken out of the Fellowship Team budget; or if not, the donated amount should be recorded to assist with budget planning.

Thank you for your cooperation. Your Fellowship Team





*Dorothy St. Germain,
Interim Worship
Leader*

Worship

*"Empowering God's people to worship in grace and truth."
John 4:23*

Worship Committee:

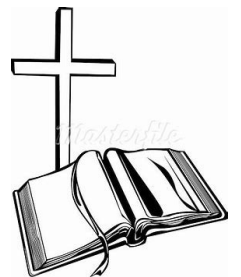
May our Heavenly Father bless you with the fruits of His Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. May He guard, guide and lift you up into His way to the glory of His holy Son, Jesus Christ.

Worship is something we don't have to do but that we get to do because of God's grace. Glory to God! Thank you, Jesus, for being our Savior and Lord.

Thank all of you for your help during the Worship Services, and God bless you in the New Year, 2019.

The new schedule to help in worship is placed on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please help fill in where you can. **You are greatly appreciated.**

Dorothy St. Germain, Interim Worship Leader



Worship Service	Greeter/s	Usher	Acolyte	Assistant Minister (Liturgist)	Communion Assistant	Reader (Lector)	Video Tech
January 6	Jo McCormick	Brent Pfeiffer	Myley Hariman	Ann Helm	Dorothy St. Germain	Margaret Leifeste	Pedro Montanez
January 13	Dorothy St. Germain	Lou St. Germain	Annalise Simon	Steve Mild	XXXXX	Phyllis Zwarich	Pedro Montanez
January 20	Kara Martinez	Brent Pfeiffer	Joseph Phillips	Joyce O'Connell	Caitlyn Phillips	Jo McCormick	Pedro Montanez
January 27	Kim Fiveash	John Fiveash		Leon Thane	XXXXX	Betty Thane	Lou St. Germain

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.

Education

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

Parish Education News:

A special THANK YOU to all who participated in the Children's Christmas Program on December 16th!

Please take note of the following Bible studies that will be resuming after a Christmas Break:

The Women's Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, January 9th, at 6:00 p.m. All ladies are invited!

The Men's Bible Breakfast will resume its meetings on Saturday, January 12th, at 8:00 a.m., at Golden Corral. Come join us for breakfast and Bible study.

Confirmation/Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School will continue on January 13th, at 8:45 a.m. Please join us!

A Word from the Congregational President:

It's hard to believe that 2018 is over and 2019 is upon us. Last year held many good times and some difficult times for all of us. I bet that this next year will have many of the same ups and downs.

I believe strongly that the same God that protected us in 2018 will do the same for us in 2019. As Lutherans, we believe we are saved by grace. That faith has helped us help others in the past and will continue to give us the strength to proclaim the good news to others.

I'd like to encourage all our members here at Calvary to go forth and spread the gospel. As we meet people in our day to day lives who need to hear the message of Christ, let us speak with kindness and love. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us with the right words at the right time to let others know that God loves them. Then invite them to worship with us. "All are welcome in God's house."

My wish for each of you is that the New Year be filled with faith, hope, love, joy, and prosperity. Reflect, review, repent, and renew. (from a church sign) Happy New Year!

Fritz Leifeste

Evangelism



Plan to join us on January 20th!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our first Come and See Event. Our discussion included sharing the word about Calvary and building relationships with others in your daily life. Bookmarks and business cards were provided for those wanting to share with others.

Barbara Walker, Evangelism Team Leader

Service and Justice

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

SERVICE AND JUSTICE JANUARY, 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2019 to our Calvary Lutheran Family and anyone else who may be reading this newsletter. God has so richly blessed us and for these blessings we are thankful. We pray that in the coming year of 2019 He will bless our church, country, friends, relatives, neighbors, and church family.

A WARM, FUZZY THANK YOU to all who donated pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets for the homeless. All were handed out in time for the bitter cold days we have had. Also, thanks for the toys that were given to make a child's Christmas brighter. Sharing with others from the blessings we have received is a gift from God.

PROJECTS THAT WE WILL CONTINUE IN 2019: THE NOISY BUCKET OFFER-

ING will resume the fourth Sunday in January. The offering of loose change from our pockets is collected to support the ELCA Good Gifts program to end hunger in the world. **PROJECT DIGNIDAD**, where we collect non-perishable foods, canned goods, clothing, and household items to help the less fortunate in San Angelo. Place items in the box in the narthex. Collecting **PULL TABS FOR THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** in Fort Worth, to help pay for lodging for families who have children hospitalized there. We have had several families from our congregation benefit from this project. Twenty two pounds were delivered to the Ronald McDonald house in December from our congregation. Place the aluminum pull tabs from soup, coke, beer, and various other cans in the feed sack labeled in the narthex. We make deliveries several times during the year when the feed sack gets full. Thanks for your support.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to all who supplied cookies and/or snacks for our military personnel as they traveled for the holidays. Thank you to Kristy Simon for delivering the cookies, and to Marie and Kara who baked overtime.

THANKS TO ALL THE CAROLERS for singing their merry tunes to our shut-ins. The singing of Christmas Carols always brings Christmas cheer to those hearing the music, and even to those who are sharing their gift of singing.

THE NEXT SERVICE AND JUSTICE MEETING will be held on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.** in the church Fellowship Hall. The team would love to have some new members with new ideas that would join us in sharing with others. Please consider joining us as we make plans for the New Year.



Betty Thane,
Service and Justice
Team Leader

Submitted by Betty Thane, Service and Justice Council Representative

Fellowship

"Building Christian community in love and grace."



**Kara Martinez,
Fellowship Team Leader**

UPCOMING EVENTS...

EPIPHANY LUNCHEON: January 5th at 11:00 a.m. Please see the article below for details.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST: The next meeting date is Saturday, January 12th. Meeting time is 8:00 a.m., and the location is Golden Corral.

LUTHERAN LUNCHERS: Wednesday, January 16th, at 11:00 a.m., at Zentner's Daughter; hosted by Kara Martinez and Marie Williams. Please RSVP to Marie at 655-5836; leave a voicemail if necessary.



January 3, 2009 - Dave and Sassy Puckett
January 5, 1980 - Jim and Joyce O'Connell
January 20, 2018 - Rob and Christine Fryar
January 24, 1970 - Fritz and Margaret Leifeste

Birthday Blessings!



January 9 - Doris Wendland
January 11 - Ann Helm
January 11 - Rosalee King
January 21 - Abigail Scott
January 21 - Curt Tucker
January 22 - Jeannie Mild
January 23 - John Rowoldt
January 26 - Julius Bricker
January 31 - Denise Cooley

Thank You

To all my friends at Calvary:
I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone for the prayers, cards, and sincere thoughts at this sorrowful time for the loss of our father. God bless each and every one of you.
The family of Charlie Pfeiffer (Faron, Brent, and Kevin)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
☆ **EPIPHANY LUNCHEON:** ☆
☆ Please join us on Saturday, January ☆
☆ 5th, at 11:00 a.m. for our Epiphany ☆
☆ Luncheon. Baked potatoes will be ☆
☆ provided. Please bring your favor- ☆
☆ ite topping! Our speaker will be ☆
☆ Gary Griffin, and he will speak ☆
☆ about his ministry to the homeless. ☆
☆ See you then! Pam Ulrich ☆



Altar Guild

The next Altar Guild meeting will be on Saturday, January 5th, at 9:30 a.m. Being on the Altar Guild is such a wonderful way to serve the Lord, and we'd love to have you join us! For more information, please call Pam Ulrich at 942-9404.

January

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Have A Blessed New Year!</i>	NEW YEAR'S DAY (Church Office Closed) 5:30–8:00pm AA Group		10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	9:30am Altar Guild Meeting 11:00am Epiphany Luncheon 11:00am AA Group
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 10:00am Worship Service	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group		6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 11:00am AA Group
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:45am Confirmation/ Adult Sunday School 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 5:30pm AA Group	5:30–8:00pm AA Group	11:00am Lutheran Lunchers 1:00pm Service and Justice Meeting 6:00pm Women's Bible Study	Pastor Out of Office 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Epiphany 2 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		6:00pm Women's Bible Study	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	5:30pm AA Group	11:00am AA Group
27	28	29	30	31		LOOKING AHEAD:
Epiphany 3 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	Pastor Out of Office 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.

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, precious diamond, light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine; there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and distress us, yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.**

**Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in your Son you love us, when not yet begun was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in Him here and above; this is your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, to us giving life forever, keeps us yours and fails us never!**

**Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way - today, tomorrow, every day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!**

From "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Epiphany of Our Lord - January 6
Baptism of Our Lord - January 13

