

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
March 2020



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished." Luke 4:1-2

After Jesus had been baptized, He was tested for forty days in the wilderness, where He rejected the devil and chose God's will – the

way of the Cross. Each year we set aside forty days to concentrate on repentance and spiritual growth in preparation for our Easter Celebration. We call this time Lent. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season and on that day a Cross is made with Ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our sinfulness and mortality. This year Ash Wednesday is observed on February 26, 2020 and the Sundays of Lent will all occur in the month of March. Passion/Palm Sunday will be celebrated on April 5, 2020. This year we will again have Wednesday Midweek Worship Services at 6:00 p.m.

Historically, Lent has been a time for self-reflection and repentance, prayer and fasting, and sacrificial giving. You may have heard the phrase "giving up something for Lent." Often, people observing Lent will fast from something – give something up – as a spiritual discipline. It could be a certain type of food or a behavior that someone might consider a vice. Others will add something, like reading daily devotions or spiritual reflections or praying more regularly. No matter what the activity, all of these changes are meant to bring us closer to God and strengthen our faith as we put our trust in Jesus Christ.

As our Lenten Verse highlights *"Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."* Joel 2:12

May this Lenten Season be a Blessing to you.

Pastor Paul



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Council's Corner

Church Council minutes are not included in this newsletter because the Church Council was unable to meet in February.

A Word from the Congregational President:

We are in the Lenten season during the month of March. During Lent we will take our offering during the Wednesday services and donate it to NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness). The San Angelo chapter has been dormant for several years. It just started up in the last few months. It is associated with the San Angelo Clubhouse that provides services such as job training, social interaction opportunities, and support for San Angelo residents with mental illness.

We are looking forward to a great Easter Season this year. Our attendance is up from last year, and we have received 8 new members recently.

I would like to thank Bee Rose for stepping up and taking the Worship Committee as an interim until the May elections. Please give Bee all the support you can in her endeavors.

INSPIRED

The Church is not a group of people who believe all the same things: The Church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center.

Rachel Held Evans

Yours in Christ, Fritz Leifeste



Worship

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

Bee Rose, Interim Worship Committee Chairperson

Hello, fellow parishioners. Pastor Paul introduced me last month so this is my first official article for the newsletter and as such, will be a bit longer than future input. I look forward to meeting all of you at some point and more importantly, trying very hard to remember your name (please bear with me on that aspect).

When we met and Pastor Paul explained my duties, he said to take the position and make it my own. So, I have felt moved to focus on devotionals, in addition to my other duties, at least until the end of this term. My goal is not to force anything on our congregation, but to just give pause for thought.

There are several avenues of obtaining devotionals from reading verses in the Bible or written pamphlets to a daily passage and devotional on our computers or phones. When we moved here from Bremerton, WA, I made it a point to start my day reading a devotional. Something I had done before, but sporadically.

We as Christians are called to get or stay in devotion to Christ. So, one way is to read or listen to a daily devotional. I read a daily devotional. However, I have also noticed that many days I read it out of obligation; not because I really wanted to learn and/or grasp the understanding AND put into practice the real message. I strive to do better each day.

I want to extend the idea of our members thinking about singularly or with someone else, setting aside time during your day to be with God and devote time to Him. This would be aside from prayer time.

As stated in the following, “When thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees then thou shall bestir thyself.” 2 Samuel 5:24. This to me means that sometimes the spirit nudges you to something that you may or may not be real comfortable with (like me writing this article).

That said, maybe now is the time to get into a good habit. As stated in my devotional yesterday, “I can only spread the sail; Thou! Thou! Must breathe the auspicious gale.” “Seek help of God that you may be more holy in your conversation while living more closely with Christ.”

Blessings, Bee Rose

Worship Service	Usher	Greeter/s	Acolyte	Assistant Minister (Liturgist)	Reader (Lector)	Communion Assistant
March 1	Steve Mild	Jo McCormick	Ashley and Riley Scott	Joyce O’Connell	Ashlyn Scott	Pedro Montanez
March 8		Kara Martinez			Kristy Simon	XXXXX
March 15	Mitch and Landen Simon	Kara Martinez		Ann Helm	Bee Rose	Steve Mild
March 22	Steve Mild	Phyllis and Bob Zwarich	Annalysse Simon	Leon Thane	Betty Thane	XXXXX
March 29				Steve Mild	Phyllis Zwarich	Kara Martinez

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

Parish Education:

The Women's Bible Study started meeting again on Wednesdays at their usual time, but will not meet on Ash Wednesday and during Lent.

The Men's Bible Breakfast group meets on the second Saturday of the month. Please look for the times and location either on the newsletter calendar or in the bulletin.

Sunday School attendance for the lower grades is still averaging 4. Their teacher is Blossom Parry. They are beginning with the creation story and moving to several other Bible stories until Lent starts; then they will begin the passion story. The upper grades are studying the book of Ruth. The average attendance is 3, including the teacher, Marie Williams. The Confirmation Class, which Pastor is teaching, has an average of 9 in attendance. The Adult Class, which Phyllis is teaching, has an average attendance of 9. **The Sunday School program will not have Sunday School on the Sundays of Spring Break, March 8th and March 15th.**

Planning for the Day Camp this summer has begun. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex during the months of April and May. It will ask for people to volunteer to provide meals, both lunch and supper, for the counselors, as well as to help in the kitchen during snack times and lunch. You can provide meals by inviting the four counselors to either your home or a restaurant, or providing a gift card to a local restaurant. You can either purchase the gift card or write a check to the church, which will then purchase the gift card. I would also like to try a sign-up sheet for the snacks to make sure we do not get too many of one snack. Please let me know how you feel about this sign-up sheet. It is just an idea, not set in stone. I appreciate your interest and support of the children and staff who attend Day Camp.

Come and enjoy the fellowship of your Christian family as well as studying with any of the groups being offered.

Marie Williams, Parish Education Team Leader

Evangelism

Are you ready to join a small group in our church? Let me know, as we will start one small group soon and hopefully build from there! If you want to be included in the first group, please call or email me.

Also, do you have an idea to help spread the word about Calvary to others in our community? Please let me know. Joy and Peace to you!

Barbara Walker 432-213-5293 or email:

babswalker07@gmail.com

Jesus was
in a small group.
I'm just sayin'...
(Life change happens in small groups)

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Service and Justice

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

March, 2020

NOISY BUCKET OFFERING for January 26 was \$70.73. A good beginning to a New Year.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS has added some new projects in the past year. Over this next year I will be including the title and explanation in the newsletters, so you are aware of the things that have been added. Our gifts support work in 83 countries. What a Blessing that our churchwide ministry can minister to so many countries. Visit [ELCA.org/good gifts](http://ELCA.org/good_gifts) at any time if you wish to support one of these ministries during the year.

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN: Start with a shared plot of land and good soil, add drought-resistant seeds and top it off with tools and training. The result? Plenty of tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, beans, cassava and other vegetables to go around. Extra produce is shared by the members of the cooperative to provide a great combination of food and income.

FARMING TOOLS: For many people around the world, farming is more than a way of life, it is the primary source of food and income. Helpful tools – like a rake, hoe and shovel – along with seeds and comprehensive agricultural training help a farmer get ahead. With valuable tips and the right equipment, farmers can count on increased harvests and healthy families. \$25.00 Farming Tools.

SOLAR-POWERED LANTERN: In sub-Saharan Africa, only 19 percent of rural households have access to electricity. Without a reliable source of light, it's difficult for children and families to walk home, read, study or complete other household tasks without burning costly fuel and breathing in dangerous fumes. A portable, solar-charged lantern is a perfect solution. Let that little light shine! \$30.00 Solar-powered Lantern

PLEASE REMEMBER our gifts to **Project Dignidad**; aluminum can tabs for **The Ronald McDonald House in Fort Worth**; Bibles, blankets, and coats for our **Homeless**; Our **Shut-ins** with calls, cards, and visits; Our **Church and its Members**; Our **Pastor and Leaders**; and especially, **Prayers of Thankfulness to Our Lord for all our Blessings**.

The next Service and Justice meeting will be held March 5 at 11:00 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Visitors and new members are ALWAYS WELCOME.

Betty Thane, S and J Team Leader



Betty Thane, Service and Justice Team Leader

Fellowship

"Building Christian community in love and grace." Acts 2:44-47



Faith & Fellowship

LUTHERAN LUNCHERS will meet at the Dunbar Restaurant on Thursday, March 12th, at 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Pastor Paul by calling 944-1116. Hope to see YOU there!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will meet on Saturday, March 14th, at 8:00 a.m. at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way. Come join us!

*Kara Martinez,
Fellowship Team Leader*

Happy Anniversary

Todd and Barbara Walker
were married on
March 14, 2009.

Herb and Vera Itz
were married on
March 23, 1990.



- Mark Mitchell
on March 2
- Jill Zuehlke
on March 5
- Joyce Rowoldt
on March 13
- Zoe Mild
on March 22
- Dorothy St. Germain
on March 24
- Jo McCormick
on March 27



**Altar
Guild**

The Altar Guild will meet on Saturday, March 7th, at 9:30 a.m. We'd love to have you join us on the Altar Guild. It's a wonderful way to serve the Lord. For more information, please call Pam Ulrich at 942-9404.

*Thank
You*

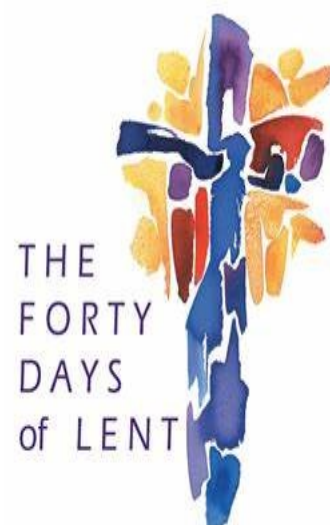
Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate our 50th anniversary. We so appreciate the cards, messages, and well wishes from so many friends and family. Our church family is very dear to us. God has richly blessed us for many years.

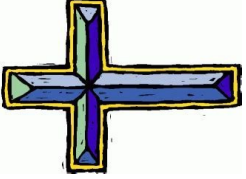
In Christ's love, Fritz and Margaret

FELLOWSHIP TEAM MEETING: The team will meet right after the Worship Service on Sunday, March 15th.



I would like to thank everyone for the kind get well cards and all the prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. It is wonderful to have such a caring church family. God is good.
Dorothy St. Germain



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Lent 1</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	2 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	3 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	4 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	5 10:00am Exercise Group 11:00am Service and Justice Meeting 5:30pm AA Group	6 5:30pm AA Group	7 9:30am Altar Guild Meeting 11:00am AA Group Daylight Saving Time Begins Tomorrow! Spring Forward
8 <i>Lent 2</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 10:00am Worship Service	9 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 5:30pm AA Group	10 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	11 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	12 10:00am Exercise Group 11:00am Lutheran Lunchers at Dunbar Restaurant 5:30pm AA Group	13 5:30pm AA Group	14 8:00am Men's Bible Breakfast at Rosa's Café on Sherwood Way 11:00am AA Group
15 <i>Lent 3</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship Team Meeting	16 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	17 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	18 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	19 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	20 5:30pm AA Group	21 11:00am AA Group
22 <i>Lent 4</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 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 Midweek Lenten Service	26 10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	27 Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm AA Group	28 11:00am AA Group
29 <i>Lent 5</i> 8:45am Adult Bible Study 8:45am Confirmation 8:45am Children's Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	30 Pastor's Day Off 2:00pm Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	31 5:30-8:00pm AA Group	6:00pm Midweek Lenten Service 	10:00am Exercise Group 5:30pm AA Group	Looking Ahead Palm Sunday, April 5 Maundy Thurs- day, April 9	Looking Ahead Good Friday, April 10 Easter Sunday, April 12



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.



When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Sundays of Lent -
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Midweek Lenten Services -
March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1

