

Calvary Comment



**Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich**

Calvary Lutheran Church March 2021



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It is hard to believe that we are almost half-way through the Lenten Season and fast approaching Holy Week. Now, I know that **“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,”** is normally a sentiment that we apply to Christmas, but for me, Holy Week fits this description. And for good reason, because there is something special and up lifting when we as individuals and as a congregation immerse ourselves in the story that is at the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus gave up everything, even life itself, to draw us closer into a relationship with our Heavenly Father. The Good News of Holy Week is this: **“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.’”**

John 3:16-17

As we continue our journey toward Holy Week, let us remember what the Lenten Season is all about. Lent prepares us for the observance of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for us. Lent is a season of repentance and sorrow for sin. Lent is a time of self-examination in light of the Ten Commandments; Lent is a time of giving up of sinful behavior, a time of personal housecleaning. Lent is a time of commitment to the new life of Christ begun in baptism. Lent is a time of disciplined study of Scripture and a time of growing in faith. Lent is a busy season.

In recent years Lent has also become a time to remember our baptism. Lent is a time to reflect on the impact of baptism on our lives, and to ask ourselves how we are doing. But most important of all, Lent is a time of renewal and new beginnings, as we through faith

apply the complete forgiveness won by Christ's death to our lives. In other words, Lent heightens our awareness that we desperately need Jesus Christ.

Lent indeed is **“The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.”**

Blessings to you in your Lenten journey.

Pastor Paul





Church Council

11th of January 2020 Council Secretary, Linda Ortegon

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on the 11th day of January 2021 by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul opened with a prayer from Romans 12: 20-21. If your enemy is hungry feed him. If he is thirsty give him a drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but be overcome by good. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you're the only one doing the right thing? Have you ever felt betrayed? What was your response? Did you want them to get what was due them? When we are at odds with someone there is a bitterness felt by both parties. When we refuse to forgive the enemy gets a foothold over us. Since God has already overcome our number one enemy we can trust God can help us overcome our other conflicts. As we repent of our own sin and responded in kindness and forgiveness to those who wrong us, our enemies feel their shame. When we combat evil with undeserved good we experience a kind of sweet victory. God, there is no God like you. You forgive us our sins. You provide us with happiness and enjoyment. As we begin a New Year together help us catch a vision of what you have in store for us. So we can march toward the goals you have in mind. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce O'Connell, Fritz Leifeste, Chris Kinsey, Linda Ortegon, Dorothy St. Germain, Ann Helm, Bee Rose, Marie Williams, John Ulrich, and Pastor Paul Zwarich.

MINUTES: Fritz motion to accept the November Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes. Joyce made a motion to accept the minutes. Marie second the motion. The council approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich. The December 2020 Treasurer's Report and was approved as presented. John said nothing big to report. Money wise we are looking good. Hopefully, this coming year will be a better one.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell. The Financial Report was accepted as reported. Joyce said we ended up okay. A couple of individual financial donations were received so we ended up okay.

CORE TEAM REPORTS

Education: The Pastor doesn't have a firm date for confirmation to start yet. The Adult Bible Study starts tomorrow night on the book of Daniel and Ester. Ann ask that the chapter the adult bible study was going to be on be placed in the bulletins the Sunday before.

Fellowship: Dorothy St. Germain. Pastor said we're still not allow to have any fellowship activities in terms of meals and such right now. Hopefully, by summer.

Service and Justice: Marie Williams. There hasn't been an opportunity to meet with any committee. So nothing is planned right now, but something will be planned every quarter.

Worship: Bee Rose. The pastor said the hymns have been selected for worship service through the start of Lent. Everyone is getting a copy of the Sunday worship service bulletins per emails.

Evangelism: Ann Helm. Ann said she meet with Barbara for a little history on her approach. Ann said she looked through her notes on what thought worked and things

that didn't. She also meet with the Pastor to get his take on current things. She is not doing any outreach right now or anything internally because of COVID restrictions. However, she did put an ad in the paper about some of our church activities.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor went over his December pastoral acts. Nine In-Person/Zoom Sunday Worship Services. Two Sunday Services were planned for Miles but one was canceled. So he only had one Sunday Service in Miles. Pastor performed a wedding in Miles for William Brown & Lynzi Kohutek. Four Mid-Week Advent Services. One Christmas Eve Service. Four Zoom Sunday Worship Services. He attended the Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting November 15, 2020. Systems – Theory-Anxiety-Workshop Synod Event was held January 07, 2021 and the Bishop ask all the Pastors to vision what our SYNOD is going to look like when things with COVID stabilizes. He had one Evangelism Meeting with Ann Helm and one Worship Committee meeting with the Bee Rose. The application for the Miles Intern was not completed as planned. The PLM- Supervisor Contextual Agreement for Bryan Swicker has not been signed. Bryan is working through the Lay Parish Ministry right now in order to help the Miles congregation in the future. Adult Bible Study resumes January 12, 2021. A date to resume confirmation is still pending. Pastor will be attending a "You Tube" presentation on January 19 presented by the presiding Bishop in Chicago. Her Presentation will be on "A Look at the Future Church."

CONTINUED ON P. 3

Continued: Pastor has the yearly Synod reports. He will give them to John this week to complete the financial information. COW Conference Meeting is scheduled by "Zoom" February 13, 2020. Tri-Synodical Theological Convention January 24-25, 2021. Fitz and the Pastor has a Synod Council and Dean Meeting February 5-6, 2021. Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021. Easter Sunday April 04, 2021. 2021 Synod Assembly April 23-April 24, 2021 Zoom Event. Pastor will be on vacation May 17-20, 2021. Confirmation (Pentecost Sunday) Sunday May 23, 2021. Summer 2021 Briarwood Programming "Crowded Table". NT-NL Briarwood Leadership Convention scheduled for October 18-20, 2021. Pastor will be on vacation September 25 – October 3, 2021 and May 15 –May 21, 2022. Pulpit Supply will be needed on September 26, October 03, 2021 and May 15, 2022. Calvary's 75th Anniversary Celebration will be on Sunday October 16, 2022.

Old Business

Pastor said during Advent everyone did

receive a "Devotional for Advent" book in anticipation we may not be able to meet. It's a daily devotional that the congregation could read throughout the Advent Season. Wednesday Mid-Week Advent Service started November 29th per zoom. The Altar Guild made the arrangements to decorate the church for Christmas and Thanksgiving. The youth Christmas program was canceled. The Christmas Caroling was canceled. The December Council Meeting Meal was canceled. Christmas Eve Service was held per zoom. The January 09th Epiphany Potato Meal was canceled. The outside group "AA" was allowed to meet in the church.

New Business

John motioned to add \$500.00 to the budget for the Salvation Army. Chris Kinsey second the motion. Ann Helm ask if the funds were available to do that. Pastor and John said yes. The council approved the motion. Fritz said the council needed to start thinking about the overall makeup of next year's council. Fritz said unfortunately it's been a

struggle to fill every council position. Marie and Joyce made a few valid concerns. Marie also suggested consolidating core teams. For example combining Fellowship with Service and Justice. Pastor said he and Fritz wanted to introduce this to the council so the discussion could be opened. Pastor after meeting with the Synod office during the year he would share any necessary feedback with the council. Pastor said he's very interested to see what our presiding Bishop has to say as well. Pastor said our congregation is pretty stable right now and he is very thankful for that. Before closing Pastor ask John if we had any information on the moving off zoom on to streaming yet, but he didn't. Pastor said streaming will do away with Zoom and offer more opportunities to evangelize with the community and other congregations that may be struggling.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Linda Ortegon

DATE	Greeter	Usher	Acolyte	Assist. Minister Communion Assist.	Reader (Lector)	Technology Assistants	Flowers	Altar Guild
Mar 7 3 rd Sun of Lent	Pam Ulrich	John Ulrich		Joyce O'Connell	Valerie Bluthardt	John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	✓	<u>Valerie Bluthardt</u> for the month of March
Mar 14 4 th Sun of Lent					Phyllis Zwarich	John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	✓	
Mar 21 5 th Sun of Lent	Pam Ulrich	John Ulrich		Ann Helm	Valerie Bluthardt	John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez	✓	
Mar 28 Palm Sunday					Margaret Leifeste	John Ulrich & Pedro Montanez		





Bee Rose
Team Leader

Worship

Calvary, here is another excerpt from the Women's ELCA Daily Grace that I thought was thought provoking.

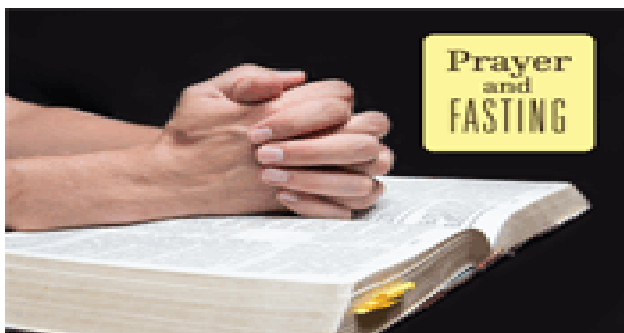
PRAYER, FASTING, AND ALMSGIVING

For centuries and centuries, people have observed Lent with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. That second one, fasting, is where the idea of kids giving chocolate eggs came from. But Scripture gives us other more meaningful ways to fast. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah:

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (*Isaiah 58:6-7*)

Now that is a fast.

This message is an excerpt from "Meaningful ways to observe Holy Lent monthly devotion by Audrey Novak Riley.



**And, here is the Y for
the acronym P.R.A.Y.**

YIELD: The Fourth Step in Effective Prayer

Psalm 37:4 provides us the "Y" in the acronym P-R-A-Y, the four elements to effective prayer we have been discussing over the last few devotionals.

Here is what Psalm 37:4 says,

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Now the Hebrew word for delight in this verse literally means to become soft or pliable. This means that "delighting" in the Lord is assuming a yielded posture before God.

So the "Y" in P-R-A-Y stands for yield. The question is: How do you practice yielding to God when you pray? Yielding is when you stop talking, and you wait, listen, and seek to hear from God.

In my own practice of prayer, I will often bow before God and ask Him, "God, is there anything You want to say to me? Do You have any instructions for me? Is there anything You want me to change?"

Then I silently wait for Him to speak to me.

As you assume this posture of being yielded and waiting quietly before Him, you will be surprised at some of the things that come to your attention: "You need to spend more time with your daughter," "Take your wife out on a date," "Bake your neighbor a pie and build a bridge over which the gospel can travel," "Spend more time praising Me," "Show your gratitude and appreciation for those who have been helping you in your life."

You will indeed hear from God if you ask Him to speak into your heart, and wait silently before Him.

That is the last element of effective prayer: praise, repent, ask, yield. Your prayers can indeed be effective if you commit to these four principles. That is how to P-R-A-Y.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4 NIV

<https://psalm.bible/psalm-37-4>

Bee Rose



Ann Helm
Team Leader

Evangelism



Hello everyone. Each Sunday, Pastor ends the service with "Go in peace. Share the Good News" and we respond enthusiastically "Thanks be to God. And weeeeeeee will!" We rush out of church eager to share with someone what we have heard. And then we hurry on to challenges we face in our lives, especially right now, and we forget. One Sunday when I got home I remembered the sermon "What's in your wallet?" and looked for

my baptismal certificate. I found it! I hope you did too. And I shared the sermon. Such a great story and easy to share. It reminded me about my personal story of who Jesus is in my life. What was my life like when I was not close to Jesus compared to when I was in his Word and listening to him for forgiveness and grace and guidance? What have I learned from his Word that I really want others to know and believe.

There is work to be done, but I am inspired by a song I remember from church that repeats in my mind, very simply "This is my story, this is my song. Jesus my Savior all the day long". I know each of you has a story, too. Share it with someone and tell them about John 3:16. We are the great commission and called to SHARE THE GOOD NEWS.

Ann Helm

Join us as we continue 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.

ruthann7865@gmail.com
Phone: 325-340-6227



Evangelism continued...

Dear NT-NL:

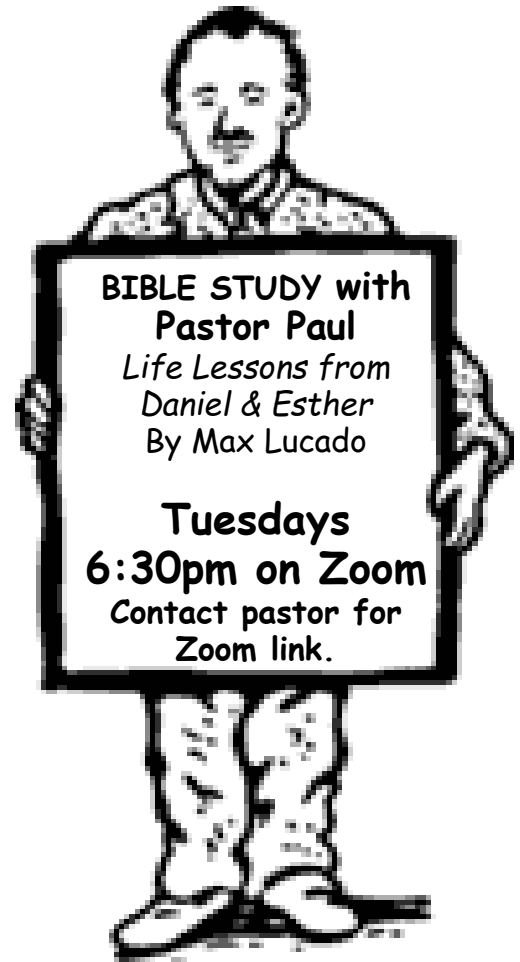
For the first time in our history, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod has experienced a natural disaster that has impacted every community in all four states in our territory. Congregations and individuals have been displaced, income has been lost, and additional trauma has been inflicted on our leaders and members.

In response to this, we are inviting you to make a special gift to our Winter Storm Disaster Appeal. The funds raised will be used for three purposes:

- *Helping individuals who have lost income or had catastrophic damage to their homes.
- *Assisting congregations and/or parish schools who have high deductibles to meet that might be beyond their capacity.
- *Providing coaching opportunities for leaders to work productively through this experience.

I invite you to give generously to this appeal so that we, as synod, can respond to the needs of our communities as they do vital ministry on the ground, as well as provide for the health and wellbeing of our leaders. Please consider making a gift to this appeal online or by sending checks marked "Winter Storm Appeal" to NT-NL Synod ELCA, 680 Copper Canyon Rd, Argyle, TX 76226.

Bishop Gronberg



**BIBLE STUDY with
Pastor Paul**
*Life Lessons from
Daniel & Esther*
By Max Lucado

Tuesdays
6:30pm on Zoom
Contact pastor for
Zoom link.



Education



**CONFIRMATION
CLASSES**
TUESDAYS
5:30PM
ZOOM

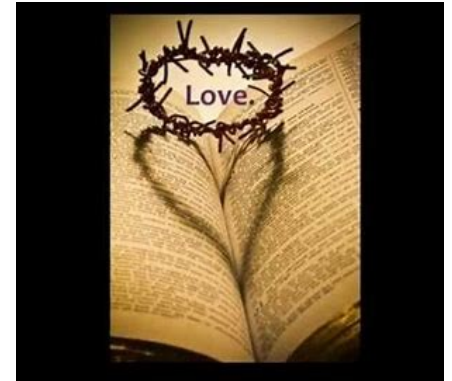


Marie Williams
Team Leader

Service & Justice

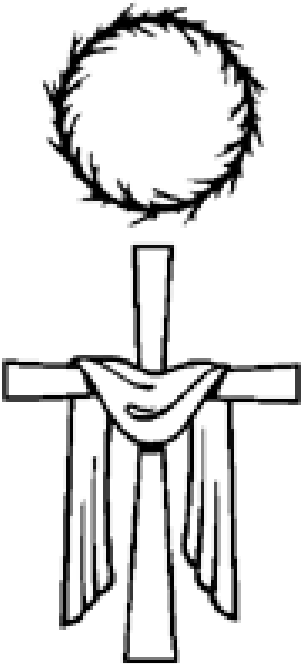
"What does the Lord require of you but
to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8



Dorothy St. Germain
Team Leader

Fellowship



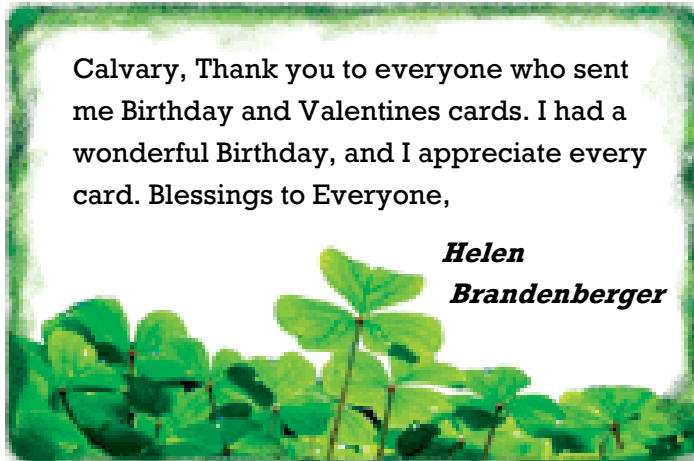
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
Sunday, March 14th



3/14/2009
Todd & Barbara
Walker

Calvary, Thank you to everyone who sent
me Birthday and Valentines cards. I had a
wonderful Birthday, and I appreciate every
card. Blessings to Everyone,

*Helen
Brandenberger*



- 2 Mark Mitchell
- 5 Jill Zuehlke
- 13 Joyce Rowoldt
- 24 Dorothy St. Germain
- 26 Corey Sanford
- 27 Jo McCormick



Hosanna

Prayers for Healing and Strength		
Danny McLaughlin Glady Jones Ollie Holland Joyce O'Connell's great-granddaughter JoNita Schwarz Trinity Miles COVID	James & Norma Kahlig Larry Ross Karla Hariman Healing of foot/leg Mario Luna Marie Williams's brother-in-law	David Van Houten Phyllis Zwarich's son Margie Rose Hank Rose's mom Rosalee King Amanda Boring Leifeste's niece
In the Military		
Jessica Arnold Turner Bickford Ross Bogard Alex Conover	Brandon Cross Zach Fleming Austin Seamands	Kristy Simon James Walton Curtis Williamson Adam Zucker
Our Shut-ins		
Conway Ahrens Helen Brandenberger	Barbara Fumagalli Irene Hunter	Travis Raab Lee Rose



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,

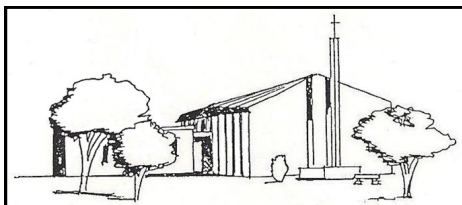
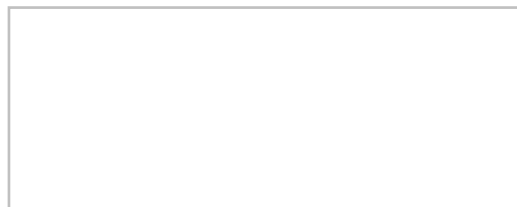


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm 5:30pm Confirmation class on Zoom 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom	6pm Mid-Week Lent Service in-person or Zoom	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Lent 3 10am Worship 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 Mid-Week Lent Service in-person or Zoom	AA group 5:30pm Pastor out of the office. 11th-13th	AA group 5:30pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lent 4 10am Worship Service 11:30 Pastor in Miles	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	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Lent 5 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	
28	29	30	31	April 1	2	3
Palm Sunday 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		AA group 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	AA group 5:30pm Good Friday Service	
April 4						
EASTER SUNDAY						

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Website: calvarysa.org
E-mail: secretary@calvarysa.org

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.