Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church May 2020



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

From the Pastor:

Grace to you and peace... Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

No one could have envisioned a time when Calvary Lutheran Church would have to ask people to stay at home and not come to church. No one could have envisioned a time when in-person Bible study, committee meetings, potlucks, and in-person worship services and a whole list of other activities would have to be cancelled due to our love and

concern for each other as the coronavirus pandemic threatens our health. But today we find ourselves living in such a time. For the past month events at the church has been suspended and we have had to find new ways of connecting with each other as we worshipped together and lived out our life of faith as a community.

But this did not cancel our Easter Celebration. Using zoom Calvary Lutheran Church gathered individually in our homes as we worshipped together using technology some of us had not even heard of one month before the coronavirus entered our world. Even though we experienced technical difficulties it was great to see so many of you together for worship on Easter Sunday. The joy of the Easter Event was celebrated. Alleluia's again rang out in the sanctuary and in our homes. The message "Do Not Be Afraid" was brought to us as Jesus met with the two Marys Easter morning; and with us as we tried to make sense of the events happening in our world today.

On Easter morning we heard "Jesus is Alive." The One who was slain now reigns forever and ever. Today Christ Himself teaches us "Do Not Be Afraid" even though we cannot physically be together. "Do Not Be Afraid" during times when social distancing has become the temporary norm. "Do Not Be Afraid" even though the price of oil fell below zero dollars. "Do Not Be Afraid" even when we see masked people in the store and in our neighborhoods.

"Do Not Be Afraid" because "Christ Is Alive!" One hymn that we sing at Easter sums up the message well... "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die. Christ Is Alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time. Christ Is Alive; and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise." ELW # 389

Do Not Be Afraid... Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Paul



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Council's Corner

Council Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on the 09th day of March 2020 by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul gave a devotional from the book of Genius. Pastor said, "Days come and go. Mornings turn to evenings and evenings turn to mornings. Spring turns to summer, summer turns to fall, and fall turns to winter. One day Adam was in the Garden of Eden and the next day he wasn't. In the blink of an eye, life changes. Pastor's prayer. "GOD our lives are a gift from you." Help us to forgive often and love with all our heart and to give you thanks each day.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce O'Connell, Chris Kinsey, Fritz Leifeste, Kara Martinez, Linda Ortegon, Betty Thane, Barbara Walker, Marie Williams, John Ulrich, and Pastor Paul Zwarich.

Special quest: Adam Scott of the San Angelo Police Department spoke on "Church Security". The council had some good questions and came up with some good ideas that could be a good fit for our particular church setting.

MINUTES: Pastor recommended one change in the January 2020 Council Meeting minutes. Once the minutes were changed John motioned to accept the January 2020 Council Meeting minutes as presented. Marie motioned to accept and Kara second the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich. The February 2020 Financial Report and was approved as presented.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Leon Thane, Steve Mild and Margaret Leifeste. The audit committee met on January 18, 2020 to examine the financial books for 2019. The records showed no discrepancy and the books were found to be in compliance with good bookkeeping standards.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell presented a printed report with the weekly and monthly attendance figures and offerings for February 2020.

CORE TEAM REPORTS:

Education – Marie Williams presented the Parish Education report. The attendance in the lower grades has been averaging four in attendance. The average attendance in the upper grades, which includes the teacher is two. Their study is on the Book of Matthew. The confirmation class averages nine in attendance. The adult class averages 9 in attendance. The Day Camp registration form will be on line the third week of March. A Day Camp signup sheet will be placed in the north-ex during April and May. Day Camp volunteers are needed to bring snacks and a signup sheet will be available in the north-ex. The Day Camp T-shirts this year will be red. Due to Lenten Services, the ladies bible group will not meet on Wednesdays. The men's bible breakfast will meet once a month. The location and time will be posted in the bulletin or the calendar.

Fellowship – Kara Martinez. The fellowship committee met on January 26, 2020. Plans for the Easter Celebration were finalized. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is planned for February 25. The committee agreed on an Easter Sunday brunch and Easter Sunday Pot Luck lunch. Dorothy St. Germain will place a signup sheet for the Pot Luck Lunch in the north-ex early April. During the next fellowship committee meeting the annual church picnic will be planned. Kara announced she would not be resigning and would remain the leader of the Fellowship committee.

Service and Justice – Betty Thane. The social and justice meeting was held on March 05, 2020. Projects going forward are: Easter Bags for project DIDNIDAD. Bags will be delivered on March 30, 2020. The San Angelo Habitat for Humanity offering will be placed in the Sunday April 19th and April 26th bulletins. Family Shelter. Items to support the Family Shelter will be collected during the months of July and August. Living Lutheran Publications are being picked up by the congregation. However, more issues don't need to be ordered at this time.

Worship – Bee Rose Interim. Absence. Nothing presented.

Evangelism - Barbara Walker. There hasn't been much interest in the small group studies. There has been a suggestion to start a book club and that's being considered.

75th **Anniversary Committee** – The committee members report. Anniversary celebration date is October 22, 2022. NT-NTL Bishop will be attending. The banquet location and options is being discussed since Zentner's Daughter closed. The next proposed meeting date is Friday November 6, 2020 at the home of Frieda Stelling.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Paul presented the Pastor's Report. The council accepted a motion to form a security committee to implement safety and security procedures for our church. Pastor proceeded to highlight the upcoming events: Men's Bible Breakfast March 14, 2020 at Rosa's Café. Lutheran Lunchers March 12, 2020 at Dunbar Restaurant. Fellowship Committee Meeting March 15, 2020 after the worship service. Palm Sunday is April 05th and Easter Sunday April 12th. There will be two Easter Sunday services. A sunrise service and one at the regular time. Good Friday Service is at 6pm. Delegates Barbara and Margret along with Fritz will attend the Synod Assemble April 24 - 25th @ Pat Quin College Dallas, Texas. Pastor will be on vacation June 1st – June 06, 2020. VBS/Day Camp is scheduled for June 14th – June 19th, 2020. Rostered Ministers Gathering Phoenix, AZ July 20th – 23rd. Pastor will be on vacation September 20th - 26th. Pulpit Supply needed September 20th. Pastor presented the ELCA presiding Bishop's concerns about COVID-19. The council presented a couple of ideas. No holding hands during the Lord's Pray. No met and greet during the service, and a change to communion.

Minutes continued on page 4...



Worship

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

Bee Rose, Interim Worship Committee Chairperson

Well, I hope everyone is keeping safe during this pandemic.

As you will no doubt read in the Pastor's notes, we haven't heard when we will be able to go back to the church for worship. Until then we will continue with Zoom. And, while on Zoom for our services, please, please, please mute your device/computer while Pastor Paul is speaking. The reason is that when your device is not muted any sound that your device picks up in the background takes over and stops the Pastor's reading, sermon, etc. Thank you for helping us to ensure everyone heard the readings, the parts of the service and the Pastor's message.

On another note, we have reached the end of our quarterly volunteer sign-ups. While we are not going to the church building we don't need Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes or Communion Servers but we do still need Assisting Ministers and Readers. I will be sending the sign-up sheet out via email. If you will please consider signing up for a position we would greatly appreciate it. You may call me at 360-908-8789 with which position and I will put you down on the schedule. I'll be sending out the updated schedule weekly on Mondays. Oh, and you may want to stop by the church if you signed up to bring flowers. Since it is now after Easter the flowers will still be needed to decorate the Sanctuary.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

If there is one common theme during this quarantine, across every continent, it is the search for peace. And Jesus said it best when He told His disciples that He does not give as the world gives. His peace He leaves with us, as a free gift to enjoy.

And because Jesus does not give as the world gives, we know that this peace is lasting and secure—impervious to circumstances.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your peace. What a gift it is! In the middle of this uncertain season, still Your peace remains. For that reason, we will not let our hearts be troubled today.

In the precious name of Your Son, Jesus.

ZOOM ACTIVITIES:

CONFIRMATION - Tuesdays at 5:00 P.M.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M.
The study is *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*— a conversation about loss, grief, and nostalgia in congregational life.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. The study is *Every Day, Holy Day*. For more information, contact Barbara at babswalker07@gmail.com.

WORSHIP SERVICE - Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

...Church Council Minutes continued from page 2

OLD BUSINESS:

Church Sign Update: The sign is up and working.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Semi-Annual Meeting Date is tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2020. The nominating Committee will be nominating eight nominees to fill eight positions. Free Water Bottles and balloons with our church information on them will be given out at the upcoming April Children's Fair. The mother board in the sanctuary was installed March 09, 2020. Gary has Good News Bibles in the church library. Betty is organizing old church photo albums and Irene is helping updating the names in them. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:30 P.M. in peace and harmony with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully, Linda Ortegon - Council Secretary

Education

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

Parish Education for May, 2020:

It seems that we have not seen each other as a family in quite a while. We miss meeting as a congregation, face to face. We pray that this will not continue long!

The Women's Bible Study is going to use Zoom to hold their Bible Study. Please contact Barbara Walker for more information.

The Parish Education Team has decided that Sunday School will not meet until this coming August due to the restrictions that are in place.

Plans for Day Camp will be delayed. Sign-up sheets for meals and helpers, as well as enrollment forms, will not be available until we know the camp will take place. Cross Trails Ministries will meet the last week in April, and they will let us know if our Day Camp will be held. Some people have concerns that the campers, as well as the counselors, might not feel comfortable traveling to other locations due to the virus. We will start enrollment when and if the Day Camp will occur.

Marie Williams, Parish Education Team Leader

Service and Justice

"Do justice; love kindness; walk humbly with God."

May, 2020

PROJECT DIGNIDAD: A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who donated Easter Bags to Project Dignidad to give the less fortunate a Happy Easter Meal. Seven families from our church donated Easter Bags. I know it was difficult to find all the items with our problems of shopping during the coronavirus, but Calvary came through and did a great job.

Please remember the recipients of Dignidad during this time of furloughs, losing jobs, and layoffs. There are a lot of people really hurting, trying to feed families and just survive. When shopping, whether in the store or curbside, remember to pick up some nonperishable items to show our love to them. Remember: "God's Work. Our Hands." Thank you for your help in sharing.



Betty Thane, Service and Justice Team Leader

<u>ELCA GOOD GIFTS</u>: Another means of sharing our love with our neighbors is through the program of ELCA Good Gifts that we contribute to with our offerings in the Noisy Bucket. Visit "ELCA.org/good gifts" at any time during the year and you may donate a contribution. Some new projects that have been added are as follows:

Fruit-Tree Seedling: Special varieties of fruit trees, such as mango, orange and guava, are known to thrive in the driest of conditions, even drought. These low maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion, and providing nutritious fruit for children and adults alike. Fruit Tree Seedling, \$10. Fruit Tree Farm, \$150.

School Supplies: Imagine being denied the chance to go to school just because your family could not afford school supplies. This is the case for far too many children around the world where basic supplies are required for a child to be enrolled. By providing notebooks, paper and pencils, you provide the building blocks for a brighter future. School Supplies for a Child, \$10. School Supplies for a Classroom, \$300.

THE WOMEN'S FAMILY SHELTER: From July 5th through August 2nd, 2020, our family here at Calvary will be collecting Hope Kits for the Women's Shelter. Items needed are deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste/brush, hair brush, comb, Kotex/tampons, ladies panties (sizes 6 to 12), stuffed animals, T-shirts, Kleenex, lip gloss, foundation make-up, mascara, cloth bags, bus passes, monetary donations, backpacks, medium suitcases, notepads and pencils.

THE NEXT SERVICE AND JUSTICE MEETING will be held June 25th, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

BLESSINGS, Betty Thane, Service and Justice Core Team Leader

Fellowship

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



Kara Martinez, Fellowship Team Leader

Faith& lellowship

Men's Bible Breakfast is suspended until further notice.

Lutheran Lunchers is also suspended until further notice.

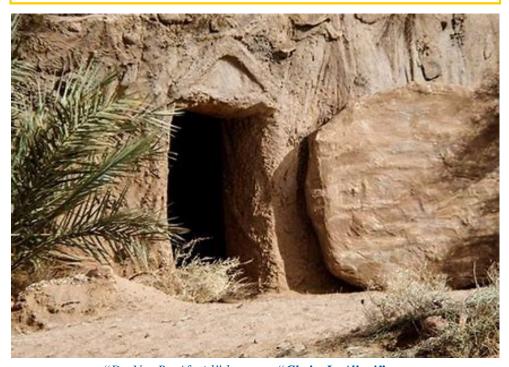
We will have a **Welcome Back Service and Church Picnic** when we are given the OK to resume normal activities. Further details will be provided as they become available.



May 5 - John Fiveash
May 12 - Janette Dailey
May 16 - Riley Scott
May 18 - Crystal Purington
May 28 - Jane Derby

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries this month.



"Do Not Be Afraid" because "Christ Is Alive!"

		May	2020
Saturday	2/9	23	30
Friday	1/8 15 Newsletter Deadline	22	Looking Ahead June 7 - Holy Trinity Sunday
Thursday	7	21 Ascension of Our Lord	28
Wednesday	6:00pm Zoom Women's Bible Study 13 6:00pm Zoom Women's Bible	20 6:00pm Zoom Women's Bible Study	6:00pm Zoom Women's Bible Study
Tuesday	5:00pm Zoom 6:30pm Zoom Adult Bible Study 12 5:00pm Zoom Confirmation 6:30pm Zoom Adult Bible Study	5:00pm Zoom Confirmation 6:30pm Zoom Adult Bible Study	5:00pm Zoom Confirmation 6:30pm Zoom Adult Bible Study
Monday	Pastor's Day Off 11 Pastor's Day Off 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	18 Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off WEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATE* HONOR* REMEMBER
Sunday	Easter 4 10:00am Zoom Worship Service 10 Easter 5 10:00am Zoom Worship Service	Easter 6 10:00am Zoom Worship Service	Easter 7 10:00am Zoom Worship Service 31 Day of Pentecost 10:00am Zoom Worship Service



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.



Now all the vault of heaven resounds in praise of love that still abounds: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
and by His presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Calvary Lutheran Church 3231 College Hills Boulevard San Angelo, TX 76904

Phone: 325-944-1116
Website: calvarysa.org
E-mail: calvary.lutheran@wcc.net

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

Day of Pentecost - May 31st

