

Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church
San Angelo, Texas
September 2021

From the Pastor

**Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich**



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On August 14, 2021, the All Committee Gathering Retreat was held at Calvary Lutheran Church. At the retreat, three trends were identified that will continue to influence our ministry together that I would like to share with you. The first trend that we discussed was that attendance at worship will continue to be fluid. Right now, we are averaging 45 worshippers in person and 110 people participating online each week. Right now, we have more people participating in worship than we did before the pandemic interrupted our lives. As a result, we have been forced to reconsider what it means to gather for weekly worship as we utilize zoom and Facebook in our worship life. The familiar model of worship and ministry that we have grown up with and cherish is changing. The future is upon us.

The second trend that we discussed is that technology is here to stay. Congregations throughout the ELCA were forced to go on-line this past year to connect with members. No matter how we feel about technology, the use of technology is here to stay. Our mission statement guides us with these words: "Share God's Word and Love within and beyond Calvary." Today we have the means to reach people with the Good News in ways that we could not before the pandemic. I think the Apostle Paul would be delighted that we are able to connect with so many people using the gift of technology.

Our third trend that we discussed was the fact that we will have to continue to adapt to the changing landscape that the pandemic has brought about in our lives. When all this first began in March 2020, everything stopped. But it did not take long for us to spring into action and try new things. And for an organization that has an allergic reaction to change this was amazing. We had to figure out a lot of things quickly, and we rose to the occasion. I want to thank you for your patience as we implemented new ways of being together in Worship, Bible Study, and all areas of our ministry together.

When the pandemic winds down, and it certainly will, there will be a lot of things that we used to do that will have changed. But the mission of the congregation will not have changed, and we will continue to "Share God's Word and Love within and beyond Calvary" using the latest technology and means available to us.

Let us pray: Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (LBW, p 47)

Pastor Paul



Church Council

Linda Ortegon
Council Secretary
July 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on the 19TH day of July 2021 by the Council President Joyce O'Connell. Pastor Paul opened with the devotion, Images of Joy. Picture a child opening a birthday present. An employee coming home after getting a promotion. A couple discovering they are going to have a baby. Grandparents answering the door to grandchildren who have come to visit. Joy is often seen as laughter, cheering and hugging. Now picture images of worship. People gathered praying, hearing the word proclaimed and singing praise to God. Praise to God who is always faithful. Unfortunately, life is not always joyful. A new job and parenting routines is tiresome at times. After a week Grandparents can be ready for time alone. Let us face it no one feels like singing praise every day. We live in a real world with struggles and pain. Even so let us raise our voice in praise. For even in suffering God does marvelous things. Not least of which he is always with us. Pastor opened with prayer.

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

MINUTES: Joyce motion to accept the June 14, 2021, Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes. John moved to accept the June minutes. Chris second the motion. The council approved the June Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich. The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Joyce O'Connell. We had a good month in June. Pastor said our overall attendance is up. Leon will give the

report next month. The Financial Secretary's Report was accepted as submitted by the council.

CORE TEAM REPORTS

Education: Heidi Wierzowiecki. Nothing to report.

Fellowship: Dorothy St. Germain. Dorothy was happy to report forty-seven people attended the church picnic. Everyone had a good time. A big thank you to Pedro for preparing the hot dogs and hamburgers.

Service and Justice: Marie Williams. We had 14 volunteers, 38 hours worked delivering Meals on Wheels last month and over \$240 in donations to the Dignidad project. Committee meeting is scheduled for this Thursday.

Worship: Bee Rose. The worship committee selected music to Advent.

Evangelism: Ann Helm. Nothing

Pastor's Report:

Pastor had five in Person / Facebook Sunday Worship Services. One Worship Service at Miles. Two home visits. Eighteen people received Communion. Pastor had eleven office visits. Council Members were installed on July 11, 2021. The Miles Intern Anne Williams arrived on June 15, 2021. A welcome service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in her honor on June 22, 2021. Pastor met with Anne four Tuesday mornings for their weekly supervisor/intern meeting. Two Sunday Adult Bible studies were held. The letter of Philippians is being studied. The worship committee meet July 15th to pick hymns. Our summer church picnic was held July 18, 2021. The Social and Justice Committee will meet July 22, 2021.

Church Council continued

Our All Committee Gathering with our congregation will be held Saturday morning August 14, 2021 at the church. The Synod Gathering Together event is scheduled for September 11, 2021. God's Work Our Hands is to be determined. The location has not been decided for the Faithful Innovation Meeting scheduled for September 18, 2021. Our confirmed participants are; Joyce O'Connell, Pedro Montanez, Mark Mitchell, Betty Thane, Pastor Paul. The next COW Conference Meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2021. NT-NL Briarwood Leadership Convention is scheduled for October 18-20, 2021. Calvary's 75th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for October 16, 2022. Pastor will be on vacation July 27th-July 31st, 2021. September 25th-October 03rd, 2021. Pulpit Supply will be needed September 26th and October 03rd, 2021. And on Vacation May 15th-May 21st, 2022. Pulpit Supply needed for May 15, 2022.

New Business

Rally Day will be August 15th along with the Blessings of the Back-Packs. Due to the rise in COVID cases, the church will provide colorful facemask for the children and prewrapped snacks. The council agreed to follow the schools and local official COVID guidelines. If changes occur in the community, the Education Committee will meet to determine if changes need to be made to those two events.

Pedro Montanez made a request to study for "SAWL". Chris motioned to fund the full four semester tuition. Bee second the motion. Council Approved. Chris wanted to make the council aware that it's been customary to pay the supply worship leader in Pastor's absence a fee of \$150.00. It is a budgeted item. Marie will conduct the Noisy Bucket offering the 4th Sunday of each month. Our church will be honored for our upcoming 75th church anniversary at the May Assembly 2022. In the past we took a banner. Leon said he will discuss it with the committee and make a decision if a banner will be taken.

Old Business

Faithful Innovations hosted by NTTL is scheduled for September 18, 2021. Our confirmed participants are; Joyce O'Connell, Pedro Montanez, Mark Mitchell, Betty Thane, Pastor Paul. The location is TBD. All Committee Gathering will be held at the church August 14, 2021, 9a.m.-12a.m. Joyce and the Pastor will put together an agenda. New mics will be installed this week and should be working by this Sunday's service. Joy said we received a thank you note from Meals on Wheels. We will partner with Trinity to work the soup kitchen on July 30th. Meeting was adjourned and closed with the "Lord's Prayer".

Linda Ortegon Council Secretary

The Committee Retreat was a success on August 14th. Thank you to all attendees.

Leon Thane	Joyce O'Connell
Mark Mitchell	Bee Rose
Gary Griffin	Elaine Welty
Pastor Paul	Ann Helm
Manuel Ortegon	Dorothy St. Germain
Heidi Wierzowiecki	Pam Ulrich
John Ulrich	Marie Williams





Meetings Resume for Altar Guild

We will resume having Altar Guild meetings on Saturday, September 4th at 9:30am. If you are interested in participating in our church in this way, please join us to learn more and serve our Lord and church. For more information call: Pam Ulrich at 942-9404.

Gathering Together Synod Event

We are praying we are able to be together IN PERSON as a synod at Briarwood on Saturday, September 11, 11am-4pm.



We will gather together for lunch, worship, rock climbing, zipline, archery, field games, and a frozen treat! A great day for the whole family to enjoy!

The Rev. Christopher Otten, ELCA Director of Chaplaincy, will be present with us to preach.

All ages are welcome.

Worship Assistants & Flowers

To Volunteer, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex., call the office or contact Bee Rose.

DATE	Greeter	Usher	Acolyte	AM	Reader	Technology	Flowers	Altar Guild
9/5 Pent. 15	Jo McCormick	Lou St. Germain		Joyce O'Connell	Bee Rose	John Ulrich Pedro Montanez	Hank & Bee Rose	Pam Ulrich
9/12 Pent. 16			Ashlyn Scott	Ashlyn Scott	Phyllis Zwarich		Pedro & Daisy Montanez	
9/19 Pent. 17				Bee Rose			Jo McCormick	
9/26 Pent. 18					Ashlyn Scott		Wierzowiecki Family	



Evangelism

Ann Helm
Team Leader

Hello everyone,

Every one of us who believes in Jesus Christ finds a way to share our faith with others who need to hear. Or maybe we don't. Maybe we are shy or don't know how, or we think it's too complicated. It's not.

Recently I visited Lee Rose to take her communion. I had not seen her for well over a year and I had no idea what to expect. Getting in to see her required signing in, temp check, and hand sanitizing. When I entered Lee's room she was napping peacefully. I spoke softly and she woke up. Her eyes were the same bright eyes I remembered. She had never said a lot on our visits, but in the past we said the Lord's Prayer together and we sang "Jesus loves me". Her voice was even softer than before, barely heard this time unless I got close. She nodded that she wanted communion. I said the Lord's Prayer and she listened with her eyes closed. She took communion. We didn't sing this time. Why did I not remember to sing to her?

As I started to leave, I said "Jesus loves you and Jesus loves me". Then she surprised me by saying "Jesus loves everyone". I was humbled. She was preaching to me in such a gentle loving way. Our visit stuck with me for several days. I kept thinking of how she still shared her faith and how I ought to do that for all of my days, in a loud singing voice or in a quiet voice with another person who needs to hear those words.

At Sunday School recently, Phyllis showed me how to use sign language to say "Jesus loves you". I practiced so I could remember it. That same week, I had some dental work done. My mouth was occupied, but I signed, Jesus loves you to her. It was silly, perhaps. After the work was done, the assistant asked about the signing. I explained to her that I had just learned that one thing in sign language. Then, an amazing thing happened. She showed me a picture of her grandson who cannot speak. She told me their family learning to sign so that they can communicate with him. I showed her again how she could tell him that she loves him. I'm so grateful to Phyllis for showing me how to share the love of Jesus through signing. Who knows when I might need to reach someone who needs to **SEE** those words.

Each of us can find our own way of telling others about Jesus by praying and asking for help from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide us, help us with the words, and lead us into opportunities to share. We can study the Word and become more confident. We can learn from each other and share our stories. We can learn from all the examples provided to us in the Gospel. A good place to start is remembering John 3:16 which reads, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". That says it all.

Blessings to each of you. *Ann Helm*

Answers

**Answers to prayers come in various ways,
sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.
And some take years to fully unfold
the harvest of love and blessings they hold.**

**Answers to prayers come in various forms,
sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.
Some blossom early, and some blossom late,
but each one will flower — have faith and wait!**

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*



Worship

Bee Rose
Team Leader

It always amazes me when I read or hear something that is so easy, I don't know why I didn't think of it before. I found this little nugget in one of the devotional plans I found in the YouVersion application several of us in the congregation are using. "Acknowledging that God is God, is worship."

I guess I just never thought about it being that simple. I thought worship had to be going to church or being with a group of people with a lot of music. The things you learn while doing devotions.

If this intrigued you then please join me for September's worship and bible study on YouVersion. I am doing two, because they are only five and six days respectively. The first is: Bright City - Still volume 2 by Integrity Music and the second is: Worshipping God by R.T. Kendall. Just download the YouVersion app, sign up and go into the area labeled More and then down to friends and add me and anyone else you'd like as a friend. Let me know you are signed in so I can make you a friend and send you an invite. Then go into the area labeled plans, open it and accept the invitation. If you need any help with getting the app or using it then please let me first or Shelly or Ann Helm know.

I am starting a bible trivia Q&A portion in my newsletter article. I'll be asking two or three questions. See how many you can answer without looking them up. And heere we go!

1. In Matthew 18:21, Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who had sinned against him. What was Jesus' answer? A. 120, B. 340, C. 490, D. 9,260.

2. This prophetess was the wife of Lapidoth.
A. Esther, B. Anna, C. Elizabeth, D. Deborah.

3. By what name was the disciple Tabitha also known?
A. Dorcas, B. Tamar, C. Susanna, D. Anna

See the answers at the bottom of the Education Section on page 8.

We still need people to sign up to help with services... please consider signing up. Greeter and Usher are very easy positions and don't require any training. None of the positions keep you after services either.

Prayer

God, today please help me to start applying Your words to my life. Show me how to take what I learn, hear, and study, and live them out every day. You are all that I need and You take care of me. So today, I want to start trusting You more by believing Your words and applying them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessings to all, **Bee Rose**

Be still (and silent)

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grow in silence; see the stars, the moon, the sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within — words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

—Mother Teresa



Service & Justice

Marie Williams
Team Leader

The year is flying by it seems.
I don't know where it's gone.

God's Work Our Hands activity had good participation. We bagged 200 pounds of rice and beans for Project Dignidad. We also enjoyed the fellowship as well as snacks and drinks.

We again partnered with San Angelo Trinity Lutheran to prepare and serve a

meal at Wesley United Soup Kitchen (Our Daily Bread) on Friday, August 20 from 11:00 to 12:50. Plans have been tentatively planned to also participate with Trinity Lutheran Church again on the fifth Friday of October and December.

We have started planning an activity in October for the Family Shelter.

Marie Williams



Noisy Bucket

Remember your coins on the 4th Sunday of each month.
Donations go to the Good Gifts Fund.

Ways to Give

**Checks or money orders can
be sent to:**

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**



**Write "Haiti Crisis" on your check memo
line. Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or
online at <https://www.elca.org/disaster/>**

**100% of your gifts will support earthquake
survivors in Haiti. Together, as a church, we can
be there for our neighbors in Haiti.**

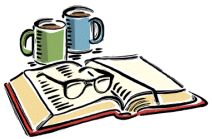
Education

Heidi Wierzowiecki
Team Leader



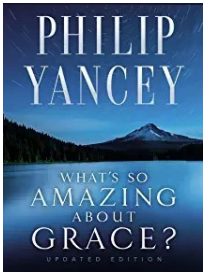
Rally Day

Rally Day is tentatively scheduled for September 12th. We will all meet together to take part in the reading of our lesson followed by discussion. Afterward, we will take part in an activity as well as enjoy refreshments. Thank you, *Marie Williams*



Men's Breakfast Group

We will resume on October 9th. Details coming soon.



Women's Bible Study

We have started meeting again on Wednesday nights at 6:00. We are discussing a book called *What's so Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey. All women in the church are invited to participate. You are also welcome to bring a friend. Books will be provided. Contact Ann Helm at 325-340-6227 for more information.



Communion Instruction

If you would like your child to participate in 1st communion classes, please visit with Pastor Paul.

The answers to questions from Bee Rose's Worship section on page 6: **1)C** see Matthew 18:21-22, **2)D** see Judges 4:4, **3)A** see Acts 9:36



9/3/1988
Mark & Sheryl Sad

9/9/1972
Brian & Crystal Purington

9/13/2008
Mitch & Kristy Simon



2	Evelyn Puckett
5	Carlly Bluthardt
5	Bee Rose
11	Robert Wierzowiecki
12	Margaret Leifeste
14	Heather Purington
16	Brian Purington
16	Aubrey Hariman
19	Irene Hunter
19	Ida Walter
20	Daisy Montanez
26	Chet Cooley

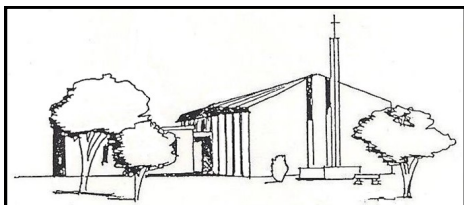
SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Women's Bible Study 6pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	Altar Guild 9:30am 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45am Adult Class bible study with Pastor 10am Worship Service Pentecost 15	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Office is Closed. 	AA group 5:30pm	Women's Bible Study 6pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	Gathering Together Synod Event 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45am Adult Class bible study with Pastor 10am Worship Service Pentecost 16 Rally Day	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	AA group 5:30pm	Women's Bible Study 6pm	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	Faithful Innovations Meeting
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45am Adult Class bible study with Pastor 10am Worship Service Pentecost 17	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Newsletter input deadline	AA group 5:30pm	Women's Bible Study 6pm Autumn Begins 	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	Pastor out of office through 10/5
26	27	28	October			
10am Worship Service Pentecost 18 Noisy Bucket	AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	2 - Altar Guild 9:30am 9 - Men's Breakfast Group 8am 11 - Council Mtg. /Columbus Day 16 - COW Conference 18-20 Briarwood Leadership Con. 24 - Noisy Bucket 25 - Newsletter Deadline			
			Women's Bible Study every Wednesday 6pm			

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

*Sharing God's word & love
within and beyond
Calvary.*



Like us on
Facebook
@calvarylutheransa

Phone: 325-944-1116
Website: calvarysa.org
E-mail: secretary@calvarysa.org

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.