

# Calvary Comment

Calvary Lutheran Church  
September 2019



Pastor Paul and Phyllis Zwarich

## From the Pastor:

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been*

*saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. — Ephesians 2:1-10*

As I write this newsletter article school is about to start for the 2019-2020 Academic Season. Life is about to return to normal. Soon school zones will be enforced on our roadways, football will again occupy our time on Fridays, and reading, writing and arithmetic will be taught in our schools. And the students will quickly learn that the teachers are grading and evaluating their progress.

As adults we know that grading is a normal part of life. We are graded and evaluated at work, we are graded and evaluated for a credit score, we are graded and evaluated for insurance purposes and many other important areas in our life. We even see the same process in our spiritual life. When we compare ourselves and our lives against God's Commandments, we see that we get a failing grade. We don't even come close to passing, even if God would round up or grade on a curve.

Fortunately, when it comes to our salvation and our relationship with God, these are not based on what we do, but rather what God does. Paul makes that clear in the second chapter of Ephesians when he states, "*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...*" And a few verses later Paul writes, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*"

We are saved not by what we do, but rather by what Jesus has done for us: He died and rose again for us. He saved us when we were *dead in our trespasses*, when we had a "failing grade." We are saved by His grace, not by our "grade" or works. Jesus' righteousness and merits are given and applied to us. God sees us as righteous in His sight and not as sinners who deserve condemnation. Our salvation is accomplished and certain. In Christ, we have a passing grade.

Pastor Paul



September 2nd is the 125th anniversary of the celebration of Labor Day as an American national holiday.

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PLEASE SEE PAGE 8 OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION  
REGARDING THE NEW CHURCH SIGN.

# Council's Corner

## Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting 8 July 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m., on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019, by the Council President Fritz Leifeste. Pastor Paul gave a devotional and a prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fritz Leifeste, Chris Kinsey, John Ulrich, Linda Ortegon, Joyce O'Connell, Betty Thane, Marie Williams, James Parry, Teddi Phillips, and Barbara Walker.

MINUTES: Marie Williams motioned, seconded by Joyce O'Connell to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Council meeting as presented. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Ulrich presented the Financial Report as of June 30, 2019 and it was approved as presented.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joyce O'Connell presented a printed report which showed the weekly and monthly attendance figures and offerings for the current year.

### CORE TEAM REPORTS:

Education – Marie Williams said she would give an update on “Day Camp” at the next meeting.

Fellowship – Kara Martinez reported, “There was nothing planned to date,” per an e-mail sent to Fritz Leifeste.

Service and Justice – Betty Thane reported \$50.07 was received through the “Noisy Bucket” mission fund. She suggested presenting videos during the children's service time, that show where and how the funds are being used. The suggestion was well received by the Council members.

Worship – Teddi Phillips said hymns for the August and September services will be selected on Thursday.

Evangelism -- Barbara Walker said a meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss ideas.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul went over the pastoral acts, activities, and upcoming events. Pastor Paul suggested producing a new church directory of members which would include photos. All Council members agreed. Marie Williams volunteered to lead that project. Betty Thane motioned to move it forward in early fall.

OLD BUSINESS: The installation of the Church Council for the coming year was held Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The landscape problem with dirt and mud washing off the ground by the front doorway and into the parking lot was opened for discussion. As of July 08, landscape estimates had not been received. Several members stated they would talk to their personal lawn maintenance crew about possible solutions. The Council thanked Dorothy St. Germain for her service on the Worship Team and thanked James Parry for his four years serving as the Council Secretary. There was nothing new to report on the kitchen project.

NEW BUSINESS: The Council agreed the storeroom under the stairs needs to be locked since cleaning agents are stored there. John Ulrich thought there was a lock in another area of the church that could be used and would investigate. No action was taken on suggesting guidelines for people seeking assistance. Serving hamburgers at the Children's Rally Day, August 25, 2019 is being discussed. Pastor Paul said the 2019 Confirmation Class will be an accelerant program with mentors. An estimate of \$20,000.00 to replace the church sign was received. Chris Kinsey suggested that John Ulrich check with the insurance company to see if any portion of the cost is covered by our policy. John agreed to do so. The last sign was paid for through church service donations. A Council retreat may be scheduled for late September or early October.

CLOSING: There being no further business, the meeting duly closed at 7:40 p.m. in peace and harmony with the Lord's Prayer.

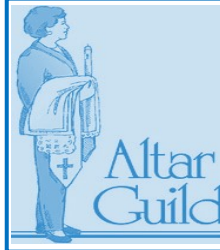
Respectfully,

Linda Ortegon, Council Secretary



# Worship

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



We are so happy to welcome Teddi Phillips and Sassy Puckett to the Altar Guild! Our next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 7th. Being on the Altar Guild is a wonderful way to serve the Lord, and we'd love to have **you** join us! Please contact Pam Ulrich at 942-9404 for additional information.

*Teddi Phillips, Worship Committee Leader*

## September Liturgical Color(s)

**Green** - all month

Why green? Green is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Some assemblies use differing shades of green throughout the Sundays after Pentecost, a lighter green in summer and a darker green in fall. (ELCA. org, 2017) The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

## Hymn of the Month

**ELW #686: *We Give Thee but Thine Own***

Consider reading/singing the hymn as a prayer in the privacy of your heart and mind. Don't have access to a hymnal? You can find the lyrics on [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org). Type the title in the search box. Would you like to sing along? Go to [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and type "*we give thee but thine own with lyrics*" in the search engine.

## Luther Quote of the Month

*"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."*

## News/Information

\*\*\* **Next Altar Guild meeting: Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

\*\*\* **Next Worship Team meeting: Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, directly following worship**

\*\*\* **As requested by some of you, look for more "purple book" hymns in our Worship Service.**

\*\*\* **Congregants, please consider sharing your gifts by serving in the Worship Service! The signup sheet is in the Narthex.**

\*\*\* **See calendar for additional information.**

\*\*\* **Sources:**

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29874.Martin\\_Luther](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/29874.Martin_Luther)

<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/>

[What\\_is\\_the\\_meaning\\_and\\_use\\_of\\_liturgical\\_colors.pdf](#)

| Worship Service | Greeter/s       | Usher                  | Acolyte         | Assistant Minister (Liturgist) | Communion Assistant | Reader (Lector)   | Video Tech |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| September 1     | Jo McCormick    | Mitch and Landen Simon | Annalysse Simon | Joyce O'Connell                | Elwin Hahn          | Kristy Simon      |            |
| September 8     |                 |                        | Joyce O'Connell |                                | XXXXX               | Phyllis Zwarich   |            |
| September 15    |                 |                        | Ashlyn Scott    | Ann Helm                       | Caitlyn Phillips    |                   |            |
| September 22    | Pam Ulrich      | John Ulrich            | Joseph Phillips | Teddi Phillips                 | XXXXX               |                   |            |
| September 29    | Phyllis Zwarich |                        | Ashlyn Scott    | Leon Thane                     | Ouida Hahn          | Valerie Bluthardt |            |

Please Note: If you are unable to serve on the date listed above, please call Teddi Phillips at 277-0797, or change with another person. Notify Teddi 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*

**COME AND JOIN US FOR RALLY DAY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th, at 8:45 a.m. The theme is “Servants” for all levels. We will also have backpack blessings that day. Hope to see you there.**

**If you would like to help teach Sunday school, please contact Marie Williams.  
Marie Williams, Parish Education Team Leader**



## A Word from the Congregational President:

School is beginning again. I hope that everyone had a great summer, even though it was hot and dry. We are starting to think about the fall seasons. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it.

The Council is still working on the logistics of our kitchen remodel. Hopefully, we will get going in earnest in September. The landscaping project is moving on. We have some proposals as to how best accomplish this. The biggest problem we have now is the runoff from rain on the parking lot side of the church.

Pastor and I, along with a couple of other members, will be attending the COW meeting in Abilene on September 7th. Pastor and Phyllis will be on vacation in September. He will miss the September 15th and 22nd services.

We hope that our youth have a blessed school year full of great memories. I also wish for our teachers to have a great year and a positive impact on their students.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact  
on the world around you. What you do makes a difference  
and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall

Yours in Christ,  
Fritz

# Evangelism

The Evangelism Team recently reviewed a book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels. We found the book very encouraging in our search for how evangelism looks at Calvary. It focused on relationships with people and accepting the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you decide to read the book for yourself, I would be very interested in your thoughts about it. We have begun planning ways to encourage relationships within Calvary as well as outside of Calvary. Let me know if you are interested in helping! Thanks, Barbara Walker  
Email: [babswalker07@gmail.com](mailto:babswalker07@gmail.com) Phone - (432)213-5293

## Believing the Best

The person who is close to God thinks positive, uplifting, edifying thoughts about other people as well as about himself and his own circumstances.

You exhort others with your words only after you have first had kind thoughts about that individual. [Remember that whatever is in your heart will come out of your mouth \(Matthew 12:34\).](#) Thoughts and words are containers or weapons for carrying creative or destructive power (Proverbs 18:21). This is why it is so important to do some “love thinking” on purpose.

I encourage you to send thoughts of love toward other people. Speak words of encouragement. Come alongside others and urge them to press forward in their spiritual life. Speak words that make others feel better and that encourage and strengthen them.

Everyone has enough problems already. We don’t need to add to their troubles by tearing them down. We can build up one another in love (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Love always believes the best of everyone (1 Corinthians 13:7).

We are living in obedience to the Word of God when our thoughts, actions, and attitudes line up with what it says.

**SOURCE:** You Version Bible App: *Closer to God Each Day Devotional* by Joyce Meyer

**REMEMBER THAT WHATEVER IS IN  
YOUR HEART WILL COME OUT OF  
YOUR MOUTH (MATTHEW 12:34).**



# Service and Justice

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

## SERVICE AND JUSTICE September, 2019

**THE NOISY BUCKET OFFERING** for July 2019, was \$55.55. Total amount for the year is \$467.81. Since we are sponsoring collecting money for water wells in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries (and others), I felt part of an article in the New York Times is fitting for this newsletter. **"A quarter of humanity is running out of water:** Seventeen countries, home to one-fourth of the world's population, use almost all the water they have. Many are arid, while some squander supplies. Climate change makes the risks increasingly urgent. Although a drought in Southern California ended this year, the water supply in Los Angeles isn't keeping pace with demand." We should thank and praise God everyday for His gift of water and be sure to use it wisely.



Collecting water in Cape Town last year



**Betty Thane,**  
*Service and Justice  
Team Leader*

**"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."** is scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 8**, following the morning Worship Service. We will be bagging rice and beans for Project Dignidad to distribute to those in need of food. This is a tremendous help to the volunteers who work at Dignidad. **PIZZA** will be available for a light lunch after we finish the bagging of the rice and beans. PLEASE join us to do this great project and for a time of fellowship with our church family.

**"IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK."** The NTNL Synod Public Witness Team was awarded a 2019 Mission Endowment Fund Grant to bring awareness to the Synod on **MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS**. This is an opportunity for Public Witness to bring resources to our congregation in the next year. All of us can make a difference in helping others as we learn the signs of Mental Awareness.

Prayer: By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## NTNL Women of the ELCA 2019 Retreat

**October 10-13, 2019**

**Butman Methodist Camp - Merkel, TX**

**Theme: "God's Undivided Neighborhood"**

***"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37 NRSV***

We will be collecting toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste for Blessing Bags to be given to the homeless. As a usable craft we will be making mats for the homeless using plastic bags to make Plarn (plastic yarn) which we will learn to crochet into mats. Boxes have been placed in the Narthex for your plastic grocery bags and your Blessing contributions. **It takes about 700 plastic bags to make an adult mat, so we need everyone to help us collect plastic grocery bags. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

**BLESSINGS, Betty Thane**

# Fellowship

*"Building Christian community in love and grace."*



**5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK - SEPTEMBER 29TH!** There will be more information in upcoming bulletins.

**LUTHERAN DINERS** will meet at Western Sky Steak House on Wednesday, September 4th, at 5:30 p.m. John and Pam Ulrich are the hosts. Please call them at 325-942-9404 to RSVP, and join us for a fun evening!

**THE MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** will begin meeting again on Saturday, October 12th.



*Kara Martinez, Fellowship Team Leader*

## Happy Birthday

September 2 - Evelyn Puckett  
 September 5 - Carly Bluthardt  
 September 12 - Margaret Leifeste  
 September 14 - Heather Purington  
 September 16 - Brian Purington  
 September 16 - Aubrey Hariman  
 September 19 - Irene Hunter  
 September 19 - Ida Walter  
 September 20 - Daisy Montanez  
 September 25 - Julie Storey  
 September 26 - Chet Cooley



## Happy Anniversary

September 3, 1988 - Mark and Sheryl  
 Sad

September 9, 1972 - Brian and Crystal  
 Purington

## Thank You

Thanks to our friends at Calvary for their thoughtful cards and expressions of sympathy at the loss of Bob's mother in July.


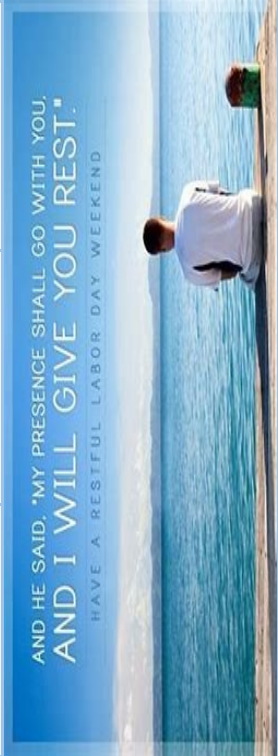
We so appreciated your support. Bob, Valerie and Carolyn Bluthardt

Pictures are of our Lutheran Diners enjoying time together on August 15th.



# September

# 2019

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                 | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                               | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>Pentecost 12</b><br>8:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:00am Worship Service  | <b>Happy Labor Day!</b><br>Pastor's Day Off<br>2:00pm Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group       | 5:30-8:00pm AA Group  | 5:30pm Lutheran Diners at Western Sky Steak House | 10:00am Exercise Group<br>11:00am Service and Justice Meeting<br>5:30pm AA Group                                | 5:30pm AA Group                        | 9:30am Altar Guild Meeting<br>11:30am COW Conference<br>Meeting in Abilene<br>11:00am AA Group |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>                              | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Pentecost 13</b><br>8:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:00am Worship Service<br>11:00am Worship Committee Meeting<br>11:00am "God's Work. Our Hands."<br>Grandparent's Day! | Pastor's Day Off<br>2:00pm Exercise Group<br>6:30pm Church Council Meeting<br>5:30pm AA Group | 5:30-8:00pm AA Group  | 6:00pm Women's Bible Study                        | 10:00am Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group   | 5:30pm AA Group                        | 11:00am AA Group   |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>                              | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>Pentecost 14</b><br>8:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:00am Worship Service  | Pastor's Day Off<br>2:00pm Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group                                  | 5:30-8:00pm AA Group  | 6:00pm Women's Bible Study                        | 10:00am Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group   | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br>5:30pm AA Group | 11:00am AA Group   |
| <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>                              | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>Pentecost 15</b><br>8:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:00am Worship Service  | Pastor's Day Off<br>2:00pm Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group                                  | 5:30-8:00pm AA Group  | 6:00pm Women's Bible Study                        | 10:00am Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group   | 5:30pm AA Group                        | 11:00am AA Group   |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   |  |   | <b>LOOKING AHEAD</b><br><br>November 10 - Semi-Annual Meeting<br>November 17 - Congregational Thanksgiving Meal |  |             |
| <b>Michael and All Angels</b><br>8:45am Adult Sunday School<br>10:00am Worship Service<br>11:00am 5th Sunday Potluck  | Pastor's Day Off<br>2:00pm Exercise Group<br>5:30pm AA Group                                  |   |   |   |  |  |



## 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.

### New Church Sign

**History:** Our present church sign was purchased 10 years ago and needs replacement. Replacement parts are hard to get. Additionally, the software to program the display/s is antiquated and very hard to use.

**Proposal:** A campaign is being started to raise the funds required through donations. The campaign will end the last Sunday of September. To date, \$16,000 has been donated. The options for the signs are:

3' X 6'4" = \$20,500.00 (Same size as our present sign)

4'5" X 6'2" = \$27,035.00

5'4" X 6'2" = \$29,572.00

6'2" X 6'2" = \$32,200.00

The new sign would have more brilliance and automatic dimming at nighttime. The software is the latest state-of-the-art and very user-friendly. The sign at Shannon Clinic at Knickerbocker and Sunset has the same resolution and brightness as any of the signs listed above. The hope initially was to have a sign twice the size of our present one. Response to the campaign will decide on the one to be purchased.

If you desire to donate, please make a check payable to Calvary Lutheran Church and enter "Church Sign" in the memo section of the check. A status board "United Way Thermometer" style will be displayed in the Narthex.

Thank you. Calvary Church Council

Calvary Lutheran Church  
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San Angelo, TX 76904

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E-mail: calvary.lutheran@wcc.net

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**"God's Work. Our Hands"**  
**Service Project - September 8th**

