**CALVARY CALLER**

January 2020

Church Office 920-793-3917

Office hours 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

contactus@calvarytr.org

**Pastor Julie Barger**

pastorjuliebarger@gmail.com

# ***Pastor’s Ponderings-***

*“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35*

From his birth in the manger to his death on the cross in Jerusalem, Jesus’ life was about love. Christ’s new commandment of love is centered on community. About caring for one another and following Jesus together.

I realize that 20 years ago, I was at a completely different understanding of faith. It was a time in my life where I felt I didn’t need church. I didn’t need other people to worship God, I could do that in nature by myself. While I do still find God’s presence in nature, I realized that I was missing something without others. God’s love is made known in relationships. We experience the three persons of the Trinity, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, who share life and love interdependently. God’s love isn’t something we cherish for ourselves, but a gift from God that is given to us which flows out from us to people around us.

These are strange and foreign words in a culture that worships individualism. We value our privacy and many of us communicate with others electronically as much as in person. In this individualized society, we find ourselves isolated and feeling alone. We were made to be in connection with one another and we are most

joyful when we find belonging with God and one another.

It is so amazing what God can accomplish through believers working together interdependently in faith. Jesus knew that followers needed to be empowered to accomplish God’s witness and kingdom work. Just like the disciples who were sent out, the Holy Spirit, we are sent out to witness Christ’s love in our words and actions. Centered on Christ’s love, we can accomplish so much more than we could ever do alone.

I am honored to work with our congregation in sharing this love of Christ with each other and with all we meet. I look forward to seeing what amazing things God will continue to empower us for in 2020!

Blessings,

Pastor Julie

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**T.R.E.P. News**

 First, thanks to the community’s response, TREP is in a better place than in September of this year.

 Second, the TREP board previously met quarterly, but found that they were not able to be as responsive to the pantry’s downturns, so they have made the decision to meet monthly instead. This allows the board to recognize the variables of funding and expenses and act accordingly.

 The board recognized that more action was required than could be complete in a 1 or 2 hour monthly meeting and has established several sub-committees to revise goals, by-laws, review fundraising, and work with the churches which sponsor the Ecumenical Pantry.

 TREP was not prepared to provide potential supporters with the financial information they required. Our new treasurer has consolidated records, developed a working database and can provide the essential fiscal reports needed to satisfy the TREP Board and any person or organization wishing to support the pantry.

**Don’t Forget Magic Closet**

It’s cold season and we are collecting supplies for the schools like hand sanitizer, soap, and tissues, tissues, tissues!

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**Quilters Start Up Again On**

**January 14th!**

 The community, including local foundations, generous businesses, schools, service groups, and individuals responded to TREP’s urgent needs and continue to help with food and money. The recent crisis for TREP is over. However, in the long term we are looking at increasing the pantry’s presence in the community and creating a healthy reserve fund to help TREP thorugh any future downturns.

 **You, your organization, and your prayers have kept the local pantry viable. Thank you!**

We always need help and more skills. If you have fund raising experience or want to help stock shelves or distribute food at the pantry, please contact the TREP Coordinator, Lynn Skarvan at (920)-793-5364.

**Did you know?**

* TREP is currently providing, on average, 700-750 food insecure individuals with meals
* You can support a TREP family for only $28 a month
* You can support a TREP family for $335 a year!

TREP food needs are:

* ramen noodles,
* meals in a can
* soup
* mac & cheese
* jelly & jam

We supplied 240 children with Christmas gifts this year.

 The coordinator and another board member will be visiting other food pantries to see how they operate and look for new ideas.

**Annual Congregational Meeting is February 23rd. Annual reports are due no later than February 10th.**

**Facility Security & Use**

A short term committee is being formed to look at our church security & usage, and recommend possible changes to Council. This is a short-term committee (about 6 months) and we are looking for input and volunteers to serve on the committee. The first meeting is scheduled for **January 7th at 6:00 PM** at church. Please contact Joe Bitto if you are willing to serve or have any security concerns. Thanks.

**You’re Invited!**

**Women’s Retreat**

**February 7-8**

Please join us for our annual women’s retreat for all the women of St. Paul and Calvary.

We’ll gather at Crossways - Imago Dei Village near Clintonville and stay in the Woodlands Retreat Center.  This will be an opportunity to have fun and build relationships with women from our church families.

Pastor Julie will lead us in discussion, study and activities focused on the theme of Traveling Light. With the Twenty-third Psalm as our guide, let's release some of the burdens we were never intended to bear.

3:00 p.m. Friday – 3:00 p.m. Saturday

Cost: $42 for the overnight or $6 for Saturday

You’re welcome to come and join us overnight or just for the day on Saturday.  We’ll carpool there. Meals will be “team” efforts and will be coordinated once all are signed up.

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**Please sign up by Sunday, January 19.**  Any questions?  Talk to Joy Carlson at 920-682-2228.

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Education News

**Calvary Kids…**

will continue to meeting at 5:30 pm on the first Sunday of the month.

**Confirmation Class Schedule…**

will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. This month meetings will be at St. Paul Lutheran in Manitowoc.

**![C:\Users\General\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\AK1BTXUJ\117828454_a033745b9b_z[1].jpg]()In Case You Haven’t Seen It…**

There is a new notice on the front doors of the church. The sign says: *“Although Calvary Church office hours are Monday – Friday from 10 am to 2:30 pm, there are circumstances when the door may be locked. If this is the case, please call (920) 793-3917 and the secretary will let you in.*

*We apologize for any inconvenience.”*

Having the doors locked when someone is alone in the building is a new policy created by the Church Council. It is for the safety of those who work in the building and are vulnerable to possible dangers. Thank you for your cooperation.

**![C:\Users\Kay\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\72TFC8SO\FocusGroup-ridgetopvirtualsolutions[1].png]()** **Council Commentary**

The December Council meeting opened with a Reading from ***God is in the Manger*** by Bonhoeffer, Pastor reminds us that “for the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait.” The truth is that if we do not know the “blessedness of waiting, we will never experience the blessings of fulfillment.” And so it is in this contemplative anticipatory mode that we wait with hope confident that the time will come.

Pastor Julie lifted up ministry activities from the past month that included work planning a Blue Christmas Community Service and connections with our Synod colleagues in ongoing planning for our South Africa companion church visits in June. Our involvement was resumed with a Community Outreach committee linking the TR Schools with area churches in support of our “kids”. This topic has been identified as one of special interest at Calvary. It is hoped that we will build on our successful collection drives for students at risk (Magic Closet) – exploring expanded connections meeting needs. As mentioned, Synod level meetings have been conducted to identify, build and plan for connections with each companion church. Pastor Julie and Melissa Pagels have been representing us at these monthly Synod meetings. Calvary’s involvement will be increasing as plans are developed. The purpose of this initiative is to build a recognition of Lutheranism around the world. While the context is different, we are enriched through building these relationships as we walk together.

The Council affirmed that CLC desires to be an open, welcoming and compassionate congregation consistent with our mission. This is balanced, however, by the limitations on our resources of time, talent, and treasure. In an effort to explore and define best practices, the “E” Group has surveyed community resources/models with the goal to create a community referral entity supported by area churches. Several recommendations have been advanced. These include:

* Identifying existing community resources/resource guide
* Creating/utilizing a community referral entity (i.e. Salvation Army) when individuals present with needs at CLC
* Preparing “survival kits” with information on community resources
* Explore transportation options (contact/contract with Maritime Metro Transit)

**Within CLC**, there is a recognized need to develop guidelines that govern our structure and security. Our members need to be equipped to welcome/support all people affirming our decision to “Build for All”. As such, there will be an educational component to this initiative with programming to empower. Rules governing behavior/access will be developed with boundaries/consequences defined. Security aspects of this plan will be referred to the newly formed Security Committee to develop recommendations for subsequent Council action.

Recognizing the immediate need to provide security for CLC staff/members, action was approved to implement a one month trial whereby building doors would remain locked during normal office hours when only **one** staff member is present. Signage directing visitors to call the church office number for access would be posted. Feedback/input into this decision is encouraged.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23rd following worship. Reports for this meeting are due in the church office by February 10th. In addition to approving reports, we will be electing new Church Council members and other Synod representatives. Please consider the call for service as CLC continues to explore new paths of ministry in our community.

-Brian Jensen

**Council Members Needed**

***After the New Year we will be planning the Annual Meeting at which the congregation votes for representatives such as Synod Assembly voting rep, Audit Committee, Treasurer, etc. and most important, Church Council Members. Please consider giving of your time as a member of the council. There are several seats open and the council makes most of the decisions for the church in just one meeting per month. It is so little time to give up for God’s work.***

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| **January 2020** |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | **1 New Years Day****Office closed****no Confirmation**7:00 pm AA | **2****6:30 pm Worship**7:00 pm Al-Anon | **3** | **4**6:00 pm AA |
| **5****8:30 am Worship w/ Communion**9:30 am Fellowship | **6**11:00 am **Bible Study @ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **7**7:00 pm NA | **8****6:00pm Confirmation @ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **9****6:30 pm Worship w/ Communion**7:00 pm Al-Anon | **10** | **11**6:00 pm AA |
| **12****8:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Kid’s Program**9:30 am Fellowship | **13**11:00 am **Bible Study @ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **14**9am -11am **Ouilters****6:00 pm Council Meets**7:00 pm NA | **15****Newsletter Deadline****6:00pm Confirmation** **@ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **16****6:30 pm Worship** 7:00 pm Al-Anon | **17** | **18**6:00 pm AA  |
| **19****8:30 am Worship w/ Communion** 9:30 am Fellowship  | **20**11:00 am **Bible Study @ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **21**9am -11am **Ouilters**7:00 pm NA | **22** **6:00pm Confirmation @ St. Paul** 7:00 pm AA | **23****6:30 pm Worship w/ Communion**7:00 pm Al-Anon | **24** | **25**6:00 pm AA |
| **26 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion** 9:30 am Fellowship  | **27** 11:00 am **Bible Study @ St. Paul**7:00 pm AA | **28** 9am -11am **Ouilters**7:00 pm NA | **29 6:00pm Confirmation @ St. Paul** 7:00 pm AA | **30 6:30 pm Worship w/ Communion**7:00 pm Al-Anon | **31** |  |