**CALVARY CALLER**

April, 2022

Church Office 920-793-3917

Office Hours: 11a – 2p, Mon - Thurs

contactus@calvarytr.org

**EASTER**

**By Pastor Bruce Hanstedt**

 John Ylvisaker, in his song ‘Borning Cry’ traces God’s presence with us throughout our lives: when we were born, when we were baptized, our childhood, all of our life.

 I particularly love the last verse which speaks of when life ends:

*“When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I’ll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.”*

 All the biblical narratives concerning Easter have that element, the element of surprise. No one, literally no one, was expecting what happened. For it was the same then as it is now: Death and taxes – inevitable and, regarding death -it is final. When it’s over, it is over. For those still living, life changes; it’s now about grieving the loss, trying to pick up the pieces, making the most of the precious time left for you - for when it’s over, it’s over.

 The twentieth chapter of John is fun to read. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb where the crucified and very dead Jesus was lain. To her surprise, the stone at the tomb’s entrance is rolled away. She runs to tell the disciples; Peter and John race to the tomb - yes, it is empty. They don’t understand and return home, but Mary remains by the tomb. She is weeping, of course. A voice from the gardener perhaps, “woman, why are you weeping? “, but then the surprise: the loved, deeply familiar voice, greets her by name. “Mary.”

On the evening of the same day the disciples, minus Thomas, are gathered behind closed doors for fear of the religious leaders. The doors are locked and yet, He is there. Fear at first, and then it vanishes, replaced by the sheer joy of the surprise: “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Can science prove any of the above? Of course not, it’s not in the realm, the jurisdiction, of science. Yet there may well be two unscientific but very real ‘proofs’ concerning the ‘surprise of resurrection.’

 The first is simply the logic that strongly hints ‘something must have happened’ – it doesn’t make sense otherwise. Their leader hanging dead on a Roman cross; his broken body taken down and placed in a cave. The followers of this now dead leader are weeping, broken and without hope. Oh yes, and some of them were totally afraid, cowards in a very real sense.

 What changed it all? What moved them into the fearless, almost crazily brave, joy-filled characters that fill the book of Acts as it describes the early Christian Church? Or, putting that book aside, how did the early church, which increased in size by twenty percent yearly, come to be? It’s kind of a proof, isn’t it? That first Easter, something very surprising had to have

happened.

 Secondly--and far more to the point – the quest for “is this all real?” is found by giving Jesus’ words an honest try: “If anyone is to do God’s will, that one will know whether my teaching is from the Father, or comes from another.”(John 7:17) That’s it, friends. Stop the agenda, all the important things that clutter the day, and check it out by trying it, by doing it. Check out stuff like praying, listening, and pondering the life and words of Jesus. Stuff like allowing yourself to love yourself because God loves you, and then moving toward others, caring for others. Do it. Try it. Maybe there will be “Yet one more surprise.”

**Worship**



* **The last Ash Wednesday service will be April 6th at Zion United Methodist Church in Mishicot at 6:30p.**
* **Maundy Thursday, April 14th service at St. Paul at 6:15p**
* **Good Friday, April 15th at 3:30p**
* **Easter Sunday, April 17th at 8:30a**



Thank you to Pastor Asher O’Callaghan from the ECSW who led our worship on March 20th and preached about transitions.

**Transition Update**

COVID restrictions were partially lifted on Feb 27th.

* Masks are no longer required, but recommended if one is not vaccinated.
* Anyone is able to wear a mask if they are more comfortable doing so.
* The Task Force will be discussing lifting the rest of the restrictions now that the level is low in Manitowoc County.

The Joint Executive Committee will be meeting on April 4th. One item of discussion is how to work with St Paul to simplify our new pastor’s job.

Any suggestions are welcome!





**Happy Birthday!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st  | David DeVore |
| 1st | **Sonya DeVore** |
| 8th  | **Ken Mittag** |
| 11th  | **Jeremy Arneman** |
| 14th  | **Nancy Hartfield** |
| 14th | **James Williams** |
| 17th | **John Kreeger** |
| 18th | **Jeffrey Hinze** |
| 19th | **Donna Hinze** |
| 21st  | **Debra Hinze** |
| 26th | **Dana Arneman** |
| 27th | **Scott Manthei** |
| 27th  | **Bella Ruoho** |
| 30th | **Cindy Jones** |

**Happy Anniversary!!!**

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| --- | --- |
| 6th | John & Darlene Laurin |
| 25th | **Jeff & Debra Hinze** |

***In Our Prayers***

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Bill, Amy, Laurie, Sue, John, Joan, Carol, Margaret, Jane, Louise, Deanna, Scott, Melody, Kyle, Richard & Joanne, Judah, Dave, Bailey, Cannon, Lindsay, Pat, Jennifer and her family.

We ask that you obtain permission from the person to have their name made public.

Your prayers do make a difference.

**The deadline for putting something into the May newsletter is April 15th.**

*Prayer requests can be made by emailing the office at* contactus@calvarytr.org, *or by calling* *the church and leaving a message for Jennifer.*



Keeping Our Contacts Up To Date!

*Please check your last Calvary directory and verify that all your information is correct. In the past several months, errors in phone numbers and email addresses have been found when the church tried to contact some members. It's important that this information is updated and accurate.*

*If there is an error, please contact the church office to make correction*

***Church Staff & Council Contact information***

**Pastoral Intern:** Vicar Melissa Pagel

Contact information: For emergent pastoral needs: 920-684-9024

**Church Office Manager**: Jennifer Loos

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11:00am – 2:00pm

Office Phone: 920-793-3917

(Doors are locked. Please call or use doorbell if you need assistance)

Email: newsletter@calvarytr.org

**Music Ministry:**Becky Doyen and as needed – Mari Roedig

**Calvary Lutheran’s 2022 Council Members:**

***Executive Officers:***

*President: Cindy Schmidt: 920-901-7449,* *cas3761@gmail.com*

*Vice-president: Joe Bitto: 920-304-6808, bittohoney@charter.net*

*Secretary: Kim Braun: kbalma1@charter.net*

*Treasurer: Ken Mittag*

***Council Members:***

*Diane Grasse: 920-794-8065*; *Barb Jensen:* *bbjensen77@gmail.com*; *Rita Kreeger:* *rkreeger@charter.net*

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**January 1st – February 28th 2022**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Budget (GB)** |  |
| Income and Expense Report |  |
| General Fund Income  | $14,884.00  |
| General Fund Expenses | $9,146.12  |
| General Fund Balance  | $5,737.88  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Capital Improvement Fund** |  |
| Income and Expense Report |  |
| Beginning Balance (Jan 1) | $18,370.70  |
| Cap Improvement Income | $1,664.00  |
| Expenses | $0.00  |
| Ending Balance | $20,034.70  |



**Ukraine Relief: Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish Invites Matching Gifts to LWR**

If you are discerning where to give to support Ukraine, please consider Lutheran World Relief. The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish has extended the match first made by Nelsonville and is matching all donations up to $258,000 and the matching challenge number keeps going up! At our last update it was up to as much as $340,000. Individual gifts count just as much as gifts from congregations. The match has been extended to April 25 to allow you to receive donations through Easter Sunday.
The love of your congregations will be doubled and reach refugees in and around Ukraine. Lutheran World Relief is also airlifting Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits that your congregations have already made from our Dubai warehouse as part of our first response.

Mail gifts to LWR, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297.Write “Ukraine Match” in the memo line. Or give at [www.lwr.org/match](https://ecsw.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=adc7611e5cadb04ccc1a934a3&id=9ef5be02cc&e=87be3fa624). This link can be used for your congregational gift or by your individual members. All gifts will be matched, up to $258,000!
Thank you Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish for inspiring us to follow your example of generosity!

**The ECSW is forming teams around urgent needs and profound possibilities.**

**If you are interested in learning what the Synod is doing,**[**click here.**](https://ecsw.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=adc7611e5cadb04ccc1a934a3&id=cc9b395c5b&e=87be3fa624)

**\*\*\* For those receiving paper newsletters, contact Cindy Schmidt if interested. \*\*\***

***The ECSW annual meeting is on May 13th and 14th in Oshkosh.***

***Calvary still needs two representatives for the gathering.***

**Council Commentary**

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 6 p.m.

**Present:**

Cindy Schmidt, President; Joe Bitto, Vice President; Kim Braun, Secretary;

Diane Grasse and Rita Kreeger

Rita opened the meeting with a devotional for Lent.

**Secretary’s Report** - Meeting minutes from February 8, 2022 were reviewed and Joe made a motion to approve the February 8th Council Meeting Minutes; seconded by Rita. Motion carried to approve the meeting minutes as printed.

**Statistical Report -** There were no new updates for the Statistical Report.

OLD BUSINESS

**CARELink Report** - The CARELink Statistical Report was provided to Council indicating the total number of families helped for 2020 - January 2022.

**Employee Reviews** - The Calvary Joint Executive Committee consisting of Cindy, Joe and Kim will be coordinating dates and times to conduct employee reviews for Calvary employees, Jennifer, Darrick and Becky.

**Daylight Savings Time** - a reminder of this time change on March 13th included in the newsletter and announcement page to members.

**TREM/Lenten Services** - Upcoming services to be held are HFM Chapel Ecumenical service at 6:30 p.m. on March 16th; Worship Service with Pastor Asher from the Synod at 8:30 a.m. on March 20th; St. Peter the Fisherman Ecumenical service at 6:30 p.m. on March 23rd; Grace Congregational Ecumenical service at 6:30 p.m. on March 30th and Zion United Methodist Ecumenical service located in Mishicot at 6:30 p.m. on April 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

**Worship Service Schedule -** Looking ahead at who will be leading worship at Calvary; Melissa will lead the services on March 2nd, 6th and 13th. Pastor Asher from the Synod will preach on March 20th. Cindy will check what mask requirements might be needed for this upcoming service with the Synod. Stan will lead the March 27th worship service.

**Joint Executive Committee (JEC) Meeting -** The Joint Executive Committee of Calvary and St. Paul’s met on Wednesday, February 9th and the meeting minutes of this meeting were distributed to Council for review; minutes are on file. Main topics of this meeting were to discuss next steps in the call process for a new pastor and upcoming worship service times.

**Call Committee Update** - Joe provided an updated on the Call Committee. Each church has a co-leader; Lisa Shimanek is Calvary’s. The Call Committee recently met and has established a block of generic interview questions for the job applicants; Pastor Asher has been notified by the Call Committee that they are ready for next steps in the call process.

**Election of Officers** - The 2022 Election of Officers for Calvary is Cindy Schmidt as President; Joe Bitto as Vice President and Kim Braun as Secretary. Motion to accept slate of officers was made by Rita and seconded by Diane. Motion carried to approve slate of officers as presented.

St. Paul’s Officers for 2022 are Marty Schuh, President; Sarah Hohn, Vice President and Holly Gotstein, Secretary.

**Election of the Extended Ministry Representative** - Motion to accept Barb Jensen as the new representative for Extended Ministry was made by Kim and seconded by Rita. Motion carried to approve Barb as the representative for Extended Ministries.

**Two Rivers Ecumenical Representative (TREM)** - Rita has agreed to be the TREM representative for Calvary.

**Synod Representatives (open)** - two Synod representatives are needed to attend the conference scheduled for May 13th and May 14th in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**Extended Ministries Update** - Cindy provided an update on Extended Ministries monies distributed to several agencies: Synod Project (bunks beds for local children in need of a proper place to sleep) - $500; ESCW - $500; Pine Lake Couple Chapel - $500; T.R. Fire Department Fire Safety - $100; new banners for Lent - $278.00; Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine - $500.

**Easter Flowers** - forms are now available to members to complete for the ordering of Easter flowers, a notice was e-mailed to members and is available at church.

There was no further business for discussion and the meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. The next scheduled Council Meeting is set for Tuesday, April 12th at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom meeting link and call-in telephone number will be provided prior to this meeting date along with the agenda and items for discussion.

**\*~\*Calvary Lutheran’s Worship Service &**

**Helpers Schedule\*~\***



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**The Calvary Caller**

1921 Adams Street

Two Rivers, WI 54241

**April 2022**

***A family of Christians***

***growing in faith through***

***worship and service.***