**CALVARY CALLER**

March, 2022

Church Office 920-793-3917

Office Hours: 11a – 2p, Mon - Thurs

[contactus@calvarytr.org](mailto:contactus@calvarytr.org)

**LENT**

**By Pastor Bruce Hanstedt**

We’ll be entering it soon, the season of Lent, forty days, plus six Sundays. The forty days are a reminder of Jesus’ time in the wilderness as he prepared to be tempted. For him it was a time of fasting, prayer, and obedience to the leading of the Spirit.

And Jesus’ forty days was patterned off Israel’s forty years of wandering in the wilderness before entering into the Promised Land. Their leaders had failed to trust God; therefore forty years of wandering, learning to TRUST. ‘Repentance’ means to ‘turn around, to change direction.’ For Israel it meant to turn from trusting in self, to trusting in God.

So here we are in 2022, wandering into Lent. It is certainly not a popular season, except for Mardi Gras, the party-filled day which proceeds it. But Lent itself; the complaint is often that it is too morbid. It focuses on the negatives of life too much. Look at the way it begins: Ash Wednesday with ashes imposed, making the sign of the cross and the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Then the end: a Friday strangely called ‘good’, with a man hanging on a cross. He is dead.

Cultures’ over whelming reaction to Lent: Morbid! Sick! A tradition from the suppressive past; Lent - out of date. Not relevant. How can ‘dying churches’ retain morbidity like that and expect to appeal to today’s younger generations?

We buy into current culture with its ‘half-truths’ and so we fail to deal with what real is. We by-pass the subjects of sin and death and the powerful existence of evil; somehow if we don’t acknowledge the negative realities of our lives, they won’t exist.

For instance, there is our current “dealing with DEATH.” Funeral homes and churches have re-focused funerals to only one dimension: “A Celebration of Life.” Omitted are the realities of lament, sadness, and lack of future purpose that accompany the loss of a loved one. After the funeral the bereaved spouse goes home alone, without the loved one. It is lonely and sad, and - at times - there’s the sense, the awful sense, of failure; failure to love, to express care, to refrain from the awful, mean argument.

That’s hurtful, as is by-passing Lent. For the truth of life is that though life is partially celebrative it is not totally that: “We have failed to do those things we ought to have done, and we have done things we ought not to do.” That’s the truth; and the truth is also that sometimes we are ‘jerks,’ self-centered fools who center only on our needs. ‘Celebration of Life!’ Some of it, but not all of it.

So Lent is really important. We observe forty days that Christians acknowledge the darker realities of actual life, of our lives.

And somewhere in these areas of struggle, in these times when—as in the altar area on Holy Week—all ornamentation is removed and there is a foreign starkness: we are joined by Another; One who on our behalf has entered this journey; One who is now with us in the negatives of our lives; One who takes even our sin onto Himself, carrying it to the cross. Thus the negatives of life are not denied – as though they didn’t exist. They are acknowledged. Received, taken from us, and nailed to a cross - dealt with.

We’ll be entering it soon, the season of Lent; the gift of forty days, plus six Sundays, where we are called to pattern our lives off of Jesus who — in his wilderness walk exampled prayer, striving for obedience, and suffering for the sake of others. This is dealing with all of life, the good…and the bad.



**Worship**

We are waiting to hear back from the synod about moving forward with the call process, now that both Calvary and St Paul MSPs are completed.

**There will not be a Thursday evening service in March, as there will be service on Ash Wednesday**.

The following is the schedule for the Ecumenical Wednesday services.

All services at 6:30pm.

March 9 - Grace Congregational

March 16 - St Peter the Fisherman

March 23 - TBD

March 30 - Hope

April 6 - Zion United Methodist, Mishicot

Calvary will not be hosting a service, as our sanctuary is too small to accommodate the number of people who may attend.



Changing the clocks – Remember to change your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12. We hope to see you at church at the right time on Sun., March 13!

**Transition Update March 2022 Newsletter**

A reminder that this is a mainly a review of information previously sent out via email.

The Synod has changed their policy and the call committee can include a council member. We now have Joe Bitto joining as an alternate with Brian Jensen, Lisa Shimanek, and Bruce Larson.

We enjoyed the service on Jan 30 led by Pastor Grant Applehans from the Synod office.

The annual meeting is coming up on Feb 27. Annual reports are available at church.

We had a service on Thursday, Feb 3. There will not be a Thursday night service in March, as Lent starts on Wednesday, March 2. That service will be led by Melissa Pagel.

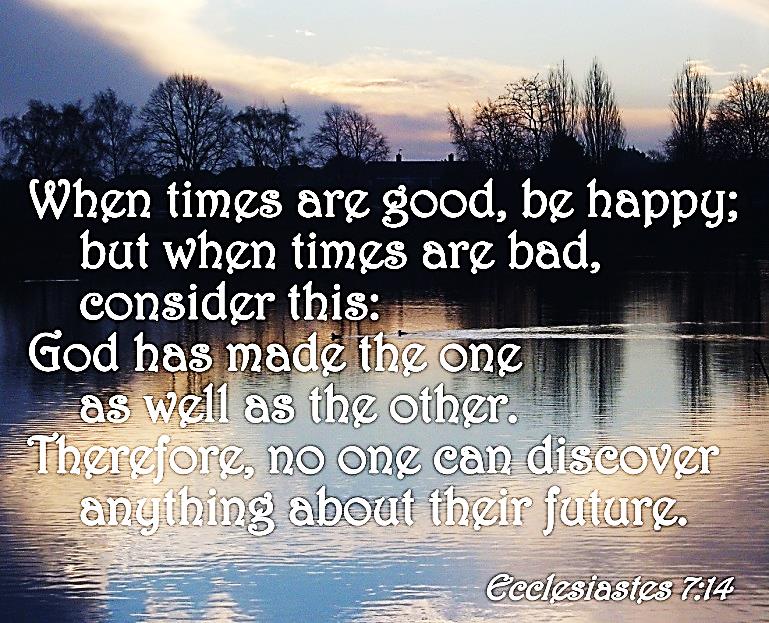
The remainder of March-Melissa on March 6 and 13. Lori Williams on March 20 and Stan Phelps on March 27.

The TREM Lenten services are as follows-all at 6:30 pm. March 9 at Grace Congregational UCC, March 16 at St Peter the Fisherman, March 23-?, March 30 at Hope, and April 6 at Zion United Methodist in Mishicot. Calvary will not be hosting, as our sanctuary is not large enough to accommodate the number of people who may attend.

We mourn with our administrative assistant, Jen Loos, on the death of her son, River.

[1 Chronicles 16:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Chronicles%2016:11&version=NIV&src=tools#_blank)

**Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.**



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SOUP DONATION**

Calvary did a souper job of donating soup for TREP. With soup and cash donations, along with a donation from Extended Ministry, we were able to donate over 125+ items.

Thank you for your generosity!

**A Prayer for Lent**

**Almighty and ever living God,**

**you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.**

**May this time be one of outward focus;**

**seeking you in those we often ignore.**

**Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.**

**Give us hearts hungry to serve you**

**and those who need what we have to give.**

**- Author Unknown**



**Happy Birthday!!!**

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| 14th | Brian Jensen |
| 14th | **Dolores Parker** |
| 15th | **Braylen Ruoho** |
| 15th | **Taylor Ruoho** |
| 19th | **Joan Kocian** |
| 30th | **Louella Hinze** |

**DO IT YOURSELF BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT**

**Calvary has received a limited supply of ELCA World Hunger Lenten Bible Study booklets for our congregation. Participate in the 5 session study on your own, with your family or with a small group (set up on your own). It’s a great way to journey through Lent with your Calvary family from the comfort of your own home. We have 30 copies available so we are limiting the booklets to one copy per household for now. Booklets are available in the Gathering Space. Please sign the “registration sheet” there so we can get your feedback after Lent to see if/ how you enjoyed the study. *In Our Prayers***



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

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 April newsletter is March 15th.**

*During this time of safety at home, prayer requests can be made by emailing the office at* [contactus@calvarytr.org](mailto:contactus@calvarytr.org), *or by calling* *the church and leaving a message for Jennifer. In order to include names on our prayer list, we must have the direct and explicit permission of the person involved.*

Please be aware of winter weather changes on WBAY (channel 2) for TV and WOMT 1240 for radio.

If the schools close, we will also be closed.

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 2021 Council Members:**

***Executive Officers:***

*President: Cindy Schmidt: 920-901-7449,* [*cas3761@gmail.com*](about:blank)

*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*](mailto:bbjensen77@gmail.com); *Rita Kreeger:* [*rkreeger@charter.net*](mailto:rkreeger@charter.net)

**Follow us on Facebook, our website and our weekly uploaded services on YouTube**

Calvary council will be looking for some additional members. Our meetings are currently held via Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month and typically last 30 - 45 minutes. We have seasoned veterans currently serving on council and would encourage others to help in this ministry. Let any council member know if you are interested.



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| **January 1 - January 31, 2022** | | | | |
| **General Budget (GB)** |  |  | **Capital Improvement Fund** |  |
| Income and Expense Report | |  | Income and Expense Report |  |
| General Fund Income | $9,836.00 |  | Beginning Balance (Jan 1) | $18,370.70 |
| General Fund Expenses | $4,671.53 |  | Cap Improvement Income | $1,069.00 |
| General Fund Balance | $5,164.47 |  | Expenses | $0.00 |
|  |  |  | Ending Balance | $19,439.70 |

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| |  | | --- | | **Synod Assembly Service Project**  Calvary council has decided to designate the Lenten offerings to this Synod project. If you are interested in helping out with this project, there is contact information at the bottom of this article. | |

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| |  | | --- | | This year’s Synod Assembly service project will be partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit committed making sure no child has to sleep on the floor by building twin-sized bunk beds. East-Central Synod of Wisconsin will be partnering with SHP in hosting a build day for twenty beds (or more) to be given to local children in need of a proper place to sleep.  Each bed costs approximately $250 to build, including building materials, tools, storage and delivery, and training volunteers. These are solidly built bunk beds meant to last for years.  How can the congregations in our synod help out?  We need help in three different ways:   1. **Donations to fund a build day**. We need $5,000 (or more) to host a build day for this great cause. ($250/bed x 20= $5,000) Your conference and/or congregation could designate funds for this project (perhaps during lent) in the upcoming months. 2. **We also need volunteers**! It would be great to have volunteers from all over the synod gather for the actual build day (to be scheduled) ahead of this year’s Assembly. We’re also hoping at least one person from each conference can join our service project planning committee to share information and build excitement in your area. *We are excited to share that our host site will be St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Oshkosh!* 3. **A bed isn’t really fit for sleep without bedding**! We’re hoping to collect twin-sized sheets and comforters, as well as pillows, to make these beds comfy and cozy for the children who will receive them. Items will then be gathered for the assembly and given to SHP for the beds.   Stay tuned for more specific information in coming communications. Any additional questions? Please contact Rev. Paul Johnson at (715) 201-9090 or [PaulAndrewJohnson101@gmail.com](mailto:PaulAndrewJohnson101@gmail.com) for more info or to volunteer for the synod assembly service project committee! | |

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**Council Commentary**

**February 8, 2022**

**Present:** Cindy Schmidt, President; Joe Bitto, Vice President; Kim Braun, Secretary; Diane Grasee, Barb Jensen and Rita Kreeger

The meeting minutes from January 11, 2022 were reviewed and Joe made a motion to approve the January 11th Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Barb. Motion was carried to approve meeting minutes as printed.

There were no new updates to report for the Statistical Report.

**Old Business**

CARELink Statistical Report for 2020-2021 was provided to Council on the total number of families receiving assistance from January 2020 to December 2021.

Call Team Committee Team Member Update: Calvary Lutheran Call Committee members are Bruce Larsen, Lisa Shimanek, Brian Jensen and Joe Bitto. There has been no meeting date set with Pastor Asher on next steps for the call process.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 27th after the worship service. Rita and Jennifer are working together on the meeting packets for distribution to members.

New Council Members Update: Council is looking for anyone that may be interested in being on the Council this year.

COVID Precautions/Worship Services Update: The target date for relaxing the COVID protocols is the first week in March if COVID numbers continue to trend downward. Also, looking at resuming Thursday night worship services in March. For Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship Services, looking to hold one service at each church. Would also look to hold an Easter service at both churches; details are still being discussed.

**New Business**

The Joint Executive Team consisting of Cindy, Joe and Kim will look to establish meeting time and dates to conduct employee evaluations.

Extended Ministry Update: Monies given towards the Souper Bowl of Caring will be used to purchase soup and Lenten offerings will go towards Synod Project.

A reminder will be published in upcoming Newsletter regarding Daylight Savings Time which is on March 13th.

TREM/Lenten Services Update: Cindy provided update on the upcoming worship service schedule in the February Transition update.

Green Bay Synod Conference was held in January; didn’t have notification of this conference so Calvary did not have any representative attending.

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Update: Cindy had sent an e-mail to Pastor Asher now that the site profile has been completed and submitted. Awaiting response on next steps.

There was no further business to discuss; meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

SCAM ALERT!

From the Synod office:

Recently we noticed an uptick in pastors and church leaders in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin reporting that they were victims of scammers who were impersonating them, contacting members for "gift cards" or confidential financial favors. This type of activity is not likely your pastor or local leader but someone posing as them. Likewise, the synod office will never ask for such favors.  
Unfortunately this is a common scheme. [Church Mutual](https://ecsw.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=adc7611e5cadb04ccc1a934a3&id=94c5825afb&e=87be3fa624)has good resources that make members aware of scams like these and invites people to be proactive in protecting their identity.  
Please stay vigilant, always double check before you share any funds, and if you don't know for sure, be in touch directly with your pastor or church office.  
It is also wise to change your personal or corporate passwords if you think you are a victim of such a scam.

**EXTENDED MINISTRY NEWS**

**The Extended Ministry team continues to meet periodically to review and select applications for benevolent donations / support to various organizations and individuals. To be approved, proposed projects must comply with the Extended Ministry Team guidelines. Our ministry fund is to be given to causes beyond the church budget “that have as their intent proclaiming the word of hope and love we know in Jesus Christ and to meet the needs of people, both physical and spiritual.”**

**If you have an idea for a project that would fall within our guidelines, we would love to hear from you. Examples could be short-term fundraisers like our Souper Bowl Sunday soup collection, one-time events such as speakers, videos or presentations, or supportive donations to area resources that help those in need.**

**Contact any Extended Ministry Team member for more information or to share your ideas: Joe Bitto, Cindy Schmidt, Lori Williams or Rita Kreeger.**

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

**Helpers Schedule\*~\***



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**The Calvary Caller**

1921 Adams Street

Two Rivers, WI 54241

**March 2022**

***A family of Christians***

***growing in faith through worship and service.***