**CALVARY CALLER**

October, 2022

Church Office 920-793-3917

Office Hours: 11a – 2p, Mon - Thurs

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

PASTOR’S PONDERINGS

“ON KEEPING SABBATH”

(or – Mental Health, course 101)

So, summer has ended. Hopefully it included some vacation time or down time, because now it’s September and – in the life of the church – it’s ‘start up time’ again. As a pastor I always looked forward to these early fall months. Sporadic attendance gave way a regular presence of members, especially of young people. Choir practice, youth activities added to the sense of new beginnings. It was a lot of fun, diminished a bit by the onset of committee and board and council meetings. Still, fall was a great time – an active time.

But that was then, and this is now. Secularization, however you define that, has dampened church attendance and involvement. Covid has orchestrated a form of worship and ‘life together’ that is basically counter community. Zoom meetings and virtual worship services place us in front of computers. Helpful, yes, but still counter community.

How have we approached this ominous decline in the last decade or two? We’ve been noble about it. “If at first you don’t exceed, try again.” And try harder! And that’s what church staff and volunteers have been doing.

That’s what many of you have been doing.

And, amazingly, Calvary and St. Paul have survived. There is even the sense that we might flourish, might increase in service to God, services to others.

What follows is not a caution. It’s just my ‘two cents,’ my pondering concerning the absolute necessity of ‘doing sabbath’ in the middle of ‘doing church.’

It was a year into my second ministry and five years after being ordained, so you would think that I had learned by then: learned to balance life, to turn off the various engines from time to time, to momentarily delete the deeper concerns of parish life. Learned to take a ‘walk in the woods,’ to find times of authentic play, to just really be with family.

But I didn’t learn I worked harder and harder, seemingly always pushing uphill to get things done. Okay, to get them done ‘really well.’ Anxiety hit. Profound depression followed, and yes, a brief incarceration (that’s what it felt like) in a mental health hospital ward. Something like this has happened twice in my life so apparently I’m a slow learner.

But I did learn. I learned it enough to attempt to insert humor into most conversations where lament reigned and depression loomed. Love of others from my perspective includes listening well – and seeking to encourage those trapped in work to enhance their lives by moving toward ‘sabbath.’ NONE OF US—are made to work all the time, to toil and strive until all is fixed. At times it’s TIME to just trust God enough to rest.

It’s the Fourth Commandment and it probably gets the most words of explanation in Exodus 20. Parts of it follow:

*Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord you God; and you shall not do any work.For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.”*

We’ve created in the ‘image’ of God. If God rests and enjoys what God brought into being – maybe we should be open to doing the same. Maybe some of life should just consist of frolicking in life’s daily blessing.

By the way, did you hear the joke about the Lutheran pastor, the priest, and the rabbi who walked into a tavern on a Sunday morning?

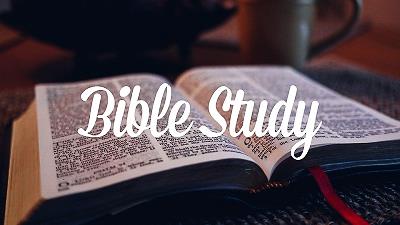
Neither did I.

**Worship**

***October services will be as follows:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Month* | ***Worship Leader*** |
| 2nd | Stan Phelps |
| 9th | Pastor Henning |
| 16th | Pastor Henning |
| 23rd | Rita Kreeger |
| 30th | Stan Phelps |

**Heather Yerion-Keck has graciously accepted the call to be our new pastor!**



Monday Evening Bible Studies will be held at St. Paul beginning October 3rd from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. The ‘plan’ is to visit various books of scripture, spending two or three sessions with each.

To join you can e-mail Joy Carlson ([joycarlson4@gmail.com](mailto:joycarlson4@gmail.com)) or Bruce Hanstedt ([bwhans@comcast.net](mailto:bwhans@comcast.net)).

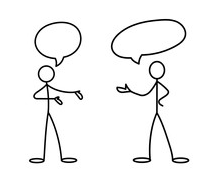
*See the church website or page 4 for more information!*

**Calvary Church News**

During the congregational meeting on Sept 4th, to vote on offering a call to a new pastor, some concerns were raised regarding biblical teachings on sexual orientations.

Retired pastors Bruce Hanstaedt and Dan Johnson have agreed to host a forum focusing on current understandings of sexual preference.

This will occur on Oct 9th, after worship service.



***Please plan on attending this gathering if you have questions, concerns, or would like to learn from these two knowledgeable individuals.***



**Happy Birthday!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5th | Cynthia Phelps |
| 8th | **Kay Puls** |
| 14th | **Gail Winter** |
| 16th | **Roxanne Spiering** |
| 17th | **Connor Manthei** |
| 19th | **Mark Gass** |

**Happy Anniversary!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10th | Jim & Lori Williams |
| 27th | **Rick & Kay Williams** |
| 29th | **Lisa & Cass Shimanek** |

Helen Christoffel, one of our 4 shut-in congregation members, passed away at the end of September.

Please keep the family of Helen Christoffel in your prayers.

Her obituary:

https://www.dejamartin.com/obituary/helen-christoffel

***In Our Prayers***



Scott and Samantha, Jennifer Loos & family, Walter, Pat, Liz

*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*

**The deadline for putting something into the October newsletter is November 15th.**

Keep the kiddos, parents and teens in your prayers for safety during trick or treat and festivities around it!



 **“Take Up And Read” - A Monday Evening Bible Study held at St. Paul**

**Beginning this Monday, October 3rd**

**Weekly from 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.**

“Take Up And Read” was repeatedly heard by Augustine during a time of deep confusion in his life.   
While wondering about the source of those words he saw a biblical scroll nearby, picked it up, and began to read. The reading immediately seemed addressed to him. A deep sense of grace filled his being. His life was changed completely. Thus began the profound ministry of one who became known as St. Augustine.

So, we also will open the Bible, moving through Genesis, John, and various biblical books, knowing that the directive is still “Take up and read.” When this is done – a strong sense of God’s presence, a deep sense of God’s guidance, and the power to serve happen.

And there’s a joy in all of this, especially if you are present. We invite you to join us by e-mailing Joy Carlson ([stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com)) or pastor Bruce Hanstedt at ([bwhans@comcast.net](mailto:bwhans@comcast.net)).

**Women’s Retreat – October 14th- 15th**

We’re looking forward to our women’s retreat for all the women of St. Paul and Calvary at Crossways Imago Dei Village. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex - it's not too late to sign up!

We'll gather at St. Paul on Friday afternoon around 1:00 and carpool to Crossways, share meals together and spend our time growing friendships, some time together in Bible study, enjoying the fireplace, walks in the woods, sharing wonderful food and any other fun we can dream up! We'll be back to St Paul mid-afternoon on Saturday.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joy at St. Paul.





Brain and Barb Jensen have moved out of the area (to Menasha). They are valuable and active members of Calvary. They leave a big hole in our Calvary family and we will miss their enthusiastic involvement. They have committed to fulfilling their duties through the end of the year. Barb has consented to stay on council until May 2023 to fulfill her term. The roles they are leaving will need to be filled. Below they have detailed the duties they were engaged in.

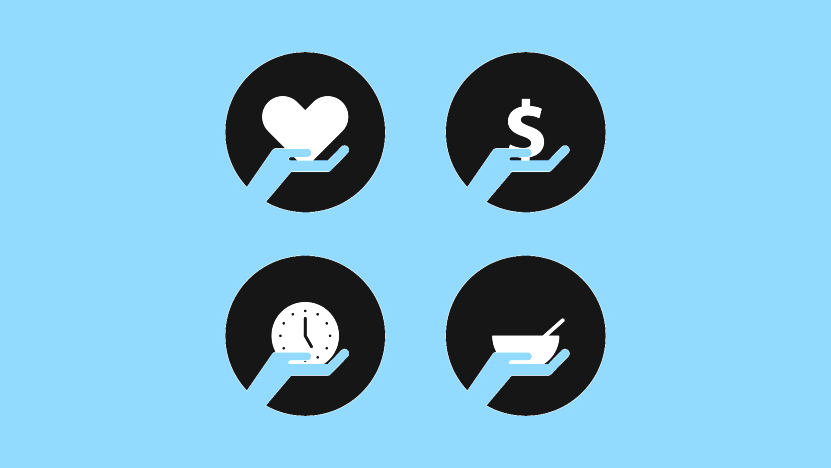
Please pray on these opportunities!

I am happy to see that there have been other volunteers stepping in for the little things such as: banners, decorating the church for Easter, Christmas, restocking envelopes in the pews, etc.

After living in Two Rivers for 35 years, it is definitely our Calvary family that we will miss the most. They are the irreplaceable ones!

At this point in time, most meetings are still via Zoom. I believe TREP is in person and meets monthly. Worship and music is monthly. Council is monthly and seldom takes more than half an hour. Scrip is a job that is done from home, other than selling it after service on Sunday. Extended Ministry meets on as needed basis - perhaps 4 times per year for a short zoom meeting. If you have any questions or might be interested in filling any of these roles, please contact Cindy Schmidt at [cas3761@gmail.com](mailto:cas3761@gmail.com)

See their volunteer information on the next page.



**Brian's** responsibilities include:

* **TREP representation** on behalf of Calvary. I have not tendered my resignation from their board wishing to time it with my replacement.
* I meet monthly with Becky to plan **Worship and Music** settings. My hope is that this can be coordinated better with St. Paul and Pastor Heather with my last meeting planned for October.
* I am also pleased that the **Call Committee** has successfully concluded its appointed task while I was still available

.**Barb’s** responsibilities include

* **Council** and **Extended Ministry**.
* I have also worked with the **Quilters** on Tuesday mornings also and enjoyed it very much. I hope someone does some strong recruiting for more participants. They are a small but mighty group that work very hard and could use extra hands to continue this important ministry.
* While Cindy does the hardest part of the **Scrip** program, I help with placing orders both locally and online through *RaiseRight*. Balancing the checkbook and submitting the required materials for the annual audit.
* I was a **Counter**, but since the pandemic, Lori Williams has been handling that herself. Until this summer
* I tried to help weekly in the church **gardens** also.

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***

**Emergent Pastoral Needs**:

Please contact the office or Cindy Schmidt or Joe Bitto

**Church Office Manager**:

Jennifer Loos

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs.

Regular business hours resume with school! 11 am – 2 pm

My office hours are different than my physical hours.

If my availability changes due to appointments, those updates will be sent out via email.

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

**Calvary Lutheran’s 2022 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)

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**January 1st – August 31st 2022**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Capital Improvement Fund** |  |
| Income and Expense Report |  |
| Beginning Balance (Jan 1) | $18,370.70 |
| Cap Improvement Income | $5,539.06 |
| Expenses | $1,263.99 |
| Ending Balance | $22,645.77 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Budget (GB)** |  |
| Income and Expense Report | |
| General Fund  Income | $50,656.50 |
| General Fund  Expenses | $36,807.84 |
| General Fund  Balance | $13,848.66 |

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| --- | --- |
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**Remember we have script available most Sunday’s after service.**

**Purchasing script supports not only your local stores but also easy fundraising for Calvary!**

**\*\*AL-ANON meetings will also be starting on Saturday’s at 9am in Chilton at the New Hope Center on Oct 1st in addition to the meetings held here on Thursday’s.\*\***

**Council Meeting Minutes – Calvary Lutheran Church**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 - 6 p.m.

**Present:**

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

Diane Grasee and Barb Jensen

**Secretary’s Report** - Meeting minutes from August 16, 2022 were reviewed and Joe Bitto made a motion to approve the August 16th Council Meeting Minutes; seconded by Barb Jensen. Motion carried to approve the meeting minutes as printed.

**Statistical Report -** updated Statistical Report for August 2022 was distributed. There was one loss of membership with the passing of Sue Becker.

OLD BUSINESS

**CARELink Report** – CARELink Report was provided. Thus far, $37,199.94 has been distributed for 2022.

**COVID** - Calvary continues to monitor and will take the necessary steps as needed to keep all members and staff safe. COVID cases are currently in the low category.

**Calvary Website** – Council agreed to only include two months of Newsletter information listed on the website and remove outdated information.

**St. Paul’s Women’s Retreat** – The Women’s Retreat is scheduled for October 14th – October 15th at Imago Dei. Carol of St. Paul’s has been in communication with Heather Yerion-Keck, and Heather is planning on attending the Woman’s Retreat.

**Green Acres Quote** - John Kreeger spoke with Ryan of Green Acres. Ryan is in the process of finalizing the garden maintenance proposal.

**Stewardship Update** - Joe Bitto provided update. Stan Phelps will be mailing a letter to all members thanking them for their continued to support during COVID and to continue with their gift of giving.

**Parsonage Cleaning** - Joe Bitto provided an update to Council. A few additional items are left to update the parsonage for move in and painting needs to be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

**Pastoral Candidate** – A special congregational meeting was held to vote on offering the pastoral position to Heather Yerion-Keck. The next step in the call process would be to hire a moving company for the move. Heather’s potential start date would be November 4th. Heather and Bishop Anne Edison-Albright will coordinate Heather’s official installation. Location of the installation will need to be determined.

**Fall Work Day** – Once Green Acres provides their proposal, they could do some of the major work needed outside of property. Joe Bitto will touch base with Rita Kreeger to see if a proposal has been provided.

**Special Congregational Meeting Notes** – A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, September 11th after the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting was for members to cast a paper vote on offering the position of pastor for Calvary Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church to Heather Yerion-Keck. The Call Committee consisting of Joe Bitto, Brian Jensen, Bruce Larson and Lisa Shimanek unanimously approved moving forward with the hiring of Heather Yerion-Keck. The vote passed with a total of 19 yes and 7 no votes.

UPCOMING TASKS

**November Budget Meeting** – scheduled to take place on Sunday, November 13th.

**Other Business** – Cindy informed Council that Pastor Howard Batts will not be able to fill in any longer for worship services.

There was no further business for discussion and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next scheduled Council Meeting is set for Tuesday, October 11th 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.

Kimberly Braun, Calvary Council Secretary

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

**Helpers Schedule\*~\***



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**The Calvary Caller**

1921 Adams Street

Two Rivers, WI 54241

**September 2022**

***A family of Christians growing in faith through worship and service.***