

# CALVARY CALLER

## January, 2022

Church Office 920-793-3917  
Office Hours: 11a – 2p, Mon - Thurs  
[contactus@calvarytr.org](mailto:contactus@calvarytr.org)

*EPIPHANY: The Season of Light*  
*Written by Pastor Handstedt*

Years ago, my wife Sherrill and I took a memorable walk in the dark. We were at the cottage and had visited friends for supper. Suddenly dusk was upon us. "We'll give you a ride back to your cottage," they offered. "Oh, we'll be fine, I responded. It's only a ten-minute walk." And so we started out, down their driveway to the gravel road that connected our cottages. It was a cloudy night. No stars, light at first, then almost total darkness. And so it was that a ten-minute walk stretched toward an hour, all the while featuring a husband and wife, now holding hands, almost stumbling in the darkness, and scraping shoes against the surface to make sure they were still on the road. Finally, a faint beam from our cottages floodlight appeared. We carefully let the light guide us home.

We live in the northern hemisphere and these months light is treasured, for darkness reigns. The lights of outside Christmas decorations have been removed. Many of us venture outside less, which can aid a depressive mood. Oh yes, and then there's the internal darkness brought on by the ever-present threat of Covid with its emerging variants. And did I mention the political divide which seems to permeate every new issue? Darkness seems to reign.

BUT A LIGHT INVADES this darkness---and severely diminishes it. Gospel writers put it this way:

*"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." (Mt. 4:15)*

John's gospel, speaking of Jesus, is even clearer:

*"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)*

As a counter to our present darkness, we are now placed in the season of Epiphany, the season of light. The various assigned gospel readings lift up Jesus as the true light of the world. They speak of Wise Men who follow the star and are brought to Jesus. The message: Outsiders are included. The Light of Jesus is for all people.

Then there's the wedding in Cana of Galilee where wine, a symbol of joy, is depleted. But Jesus, by his presence, brings new and finer wine---the greatest of joy---so that the celebration of life continues. Guided by Jesus, people now walk in light, no longer stumbling in darkness

The season of Epiphany includes assigned gospel readings that reverse how we presently see things. Light and joy are found in caring for the poor and for captives, not in the accumulation of wealth (Luke 4:18ff and 6:20ff). Epiphany season end with the gospel narrative describing the Mount of Transfiguration where the voice of God says of Jesus: **"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"**

In our memorable walk in the dark the light from our cottage seemed weak, almost non-existent, at first. But as we moved toward it the way became more and more clear. That's the hope and purpose of Epiphany, that the Light who is Jesus will draw us closer to Him and that His love will be reflected through us to others.



## Worship

Pastor Grant Applehans from the Synod will be preaching on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>!

Please watch the weekly announcements for the current and next week's readings, worship presider and updates to the month!



*The next step in getting a new pastor is beginning the call process. We have two volunteers for this committee-Brian Jensen and Lisa Shimanek. We will need one more person to serve. They will work jointly with three members of St Paul. The initial meetings will be Zoom. If you are interested but are not confident with Zoom, you could "buddy up" with another member on the calls. Please let Cindy Schmidt know if you are interested in this next important part of the journey to a new pastor.*

*Calvary will be having a 6:30 pm service on Jan 6. Melissa Pagel will be leading this communion service. We hope to be able to provide one Thursday night service per month until we get a new pastor.*

*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 to 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.*

## **Our Wonderful Elves keeping busy!!**



**Nancy Klinkner, Bonny Bitto, Bev Schmidt, Cindy Schmidt, and Barb Jensen created Christmas gift bags for our elderly members**



## Happy Birthday!!!

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hannah Shimanek
10 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Bitto
17 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Wirrer
21 <sup>st</sup>	Shirley Puls
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Teri Zipperer
26 <sup>th</sup>	Bella Dow
31 <sup>st</sup>	Jacob Rivest

**Dear Calvary Family,  
Thank you for the prayers for our friend Wayne. He is recovering from Covid and doing much better. He appreciates your kindness in praying for him.  
John and Rita Kreeger**

## In Our Prayers



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

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 February newsletter is January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

*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 – please call the church office

**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](mailto:newsletter@calvarytr.org)

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

**Calvary Lutheran's 2021 Council Members:**

**Executive Officers:**

President: Cindy Schmidt; Vice-president: Joe Bitto

Secretary: Kim Braun; Treasurer: Ken Mittag

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

### **January 1 – November 30, 2021**

#### **General Budget (GB)**

Income and Expense Report

General Fund Income \$76,664.38

General Fund Expenses \$72,820.30

General Fund Balance \$3,844.08

#### **Capital Improvement Fund**

Income and Expense Report

Beginning Balance (Jan 1) \$13,039.94

Cap Improvement Income \$13,406.58

Expenses \$8,331.05

Ending Balance \$18,115.47

**THANK YOU!**

## Council Commentary - December 14, 2021

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

The meeting minutes taken from November 9, 2021 were reviewed and motion made by Joe Bitto and seconded by Diane Grasee. Motion carried to approve meeting minutes as printed (meeting minutes on file).

CARELink Statistical Report was distributed to Council which included the help that was provided to families from July 2020 through October 2021 (Report on file).

Security Committee update -- the doorbell system is installed but currently working on some minor issues with lag times that deal with the signal from the doorbell to the tablet. A new monitor was recently installed for camera security because the old monitor was no longer working.

**Stewardship Committee Update:** Time & Talent sheets along with giving statements have been coming in. It was noted that giving commitments were a bit lower than in past years.

Weekly Announcements are being distributed to the congregation which provides specifics on worship services and other announcements. Cindy Schmidt asked Council for their feedback. A very special thank you to Joe Bitto and Nancy Klinkner for helping out in the office while Jennifer was out.

The Joint Executive Committee meeting minutes taken from November 15, 2021 were distributed and are on file. Once a new pastor is selected, Calvary & St. Paul's plan to work jointly together on more church functions, activities and services.

**Worship & Music:** Becky will be returning to provide music for worship on December 12th.

**Upcoming services for the holiday:** Holden Service will be held on December 19th and a Candlelight Service will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

Council discussed holding a Thursday night worship service and will check with Melissa Pagel to determine her availability to lead worship services.

Cindy is coordinating a listing of all Council members contact information which will be included in the Newsletter for the congregation.

The Ministry Site Profile Committee (MSP) meeting minutes dated November 18, 2021 were provided to Council members. A very special thank you to Brian Jensen for the wonderful write up prepared for submission of Calvary's MSP. Barb Jensen voted to approve the MSP as presented. Joe Bitto seconded; motion was passed by Council to approve the MSP application submission as written. Next steps will be to set up a meeting in the month of January with Pastor Grant. With regards to the Call Committee, Calvary has two volunteers to be on the committee, Brian Jensen and Lisa Shimanek. We are looking for one more volunteer to be on the Call Committee and will put a request out to members. Pastor Grant is scheduled to preach at Calvary on January 30, 2022.

There was no further business and the Council adjourned at 6 p.m. The next scheduled Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11th at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Braun, Secretary



# Transition Update January

This newsletter update is a compilation of the updates sent out weekly via email. Not every member has email, so the newsletter will help keep everyone informed. Those with email will find this to be repetitive of what they have already seen.

The Joint Executive Committee has met twice. We would like to work more cooperatively together. St Paul also does not have many Sunday School children, but they have invited any interested Calvary families to attend their Sunday School. We are now sending each council member the other church's email newsletter. St Paul is planning a joint service/picnic on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Holly Gottstein, her husband, and her son volunteered to work on a cleanup project at the parsonage.

The MSP (Ministry Site Profile) committee has met several times and completed the task. It was submitted to the ELCA on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. In January we will be working with the Synod on the call process. Brian Jensen and Lisa Shimanek have volunteered to work on the call committee. One more member is needed. Thanks to Brian, Lisa, Kerry Rivest, Ben Dow, April Gass, and Cindy Schmidt for their work on the MSP.

Becky has returned to the piano. Thanks to Mari Roedig, Andrea Allington, and Grep Pagel for the beautiful music they provided in Becky's absence.

We have started a weekly announcement page that is sent out to members. It seems to be well received.

Jen has been out of the office quite a bit as she has a child in the hospital. Thanks to Joe Bitto and Nancy Klinkner for filling in. Thanks to Bonny Bitto, Nancy Klinkner, and Barb Jensen for decorated the church for Christmas.

The Calvary Christmas project was completed. Gift bags were given out to 80 year old and older members. The elves for this project were Bonny Bitto (and her friend, Polly), Nancy Klinkner, Bev Schmidt, Barb Jensen, and Cindy Schmidt.

Extended Ministry met and allocated funds to the following: Painting Pathway Clubhouse, The Haven, The Crossing InCouage, Hope House, Crossways, Lutheran World Relief, Gideon's, Melissa Pagel, funds for jackets and snow pants for school kids - and a late addition - to Lutheran Disaster Relief after the recent hurricanes.

We are considering setting up one Thursday night service per month - more information to follow.

January services will be led by: Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> - Melissa Pagel, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - Rita Kreeger, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> - Stan Phelps, and Jan 30<sup>th</sup> - Pastor Grant Applehans (Director of Evangelical Mission at ECSW).

**Jeremiah 29:11 " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' "**

# \*~\*Calvary Lutheran's Worship Service & Helpers Schedule\*~\*

## January 2022

Worship Leader PP/Recorder  
 Ushers Counters  
 Lectors Altar Guild

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<b>2</b> Melissa - WL Doug & Jean Hoffman - U Ben Dow - L Erin DeVore - PP	3	4	5	6 Thursday Evening Service at 6p	7	8
<b>9</b> Melissa - WL Lori Williams - U Ollie Press - L Bruce Larson - PP	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>16</b> Rita Kreeger - WL Doug & Jean Hoffman - U Ollie Press - L Erin DeVore - PP	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> Stan Phelps - WL Brian Jensen - U Caroline Curtis - L Bruce Larson - PP	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> Pastor Grant Applehans - WL Kerry Rivest - U Kerry Rivest - L Erin DeVore - PP	31	Notes				

Calendar Templates by Vertex42  
<https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/>



# **The Calvary Caller**

1921 Adams Street  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

**January 2022**

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