

CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



April 2020 Monthly Newsletter

From the Pastors

Celebrating our Partnership in the Gospel as Partakers in Grace

"3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace... 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:3-11).

I can't find any words more fitting for our current situation as a congregation, than these written above.

As I write this newsletter article, we have recently started our cancellation of public services for online options only. While we give thanks that we are still able to have so many tools at our disposal to meet the needs that we face, it still does not substitute the real thing of being in the presence of other believers in Christ.

I am struck by Paul's words of care and affection for the congregation in Philippi, even as he is separated by many miles and the realities of his situation. The people of Philippi are busy going about their lives as usual, but Paul finds himself under house arrest in Rome, awaiting trial before Caesar. Yet, we see the very heart of the apostle, who even at this time thinks less of himself and more of others. We hear it in his very heartfelt prayers for the people of Philippi. He remembers them regularly. He prays for them continually. He yearns for an opportunity to be with them. He speaks words of blessing over them, as he asks God to pour over them wisdom, discernment, grace, and righteousness.

I can't help but dwell upon these words, as I think over my personal experience of these past few days. It has been strange going about my daily work. School classrooms and hallways which so often are full of life have been quieted now. A sanctuary that has so often been experienced as a place of warmth and welcome seems so still and so silent at the moment. There is nothing that will press that point home more than trying to preach a sermon to an empty church. It's just not the same.

But isn't that what we all are experiencing? Things just aren't the same, even if we are trying to keep things as "normal" as possible. Every one of us has experienced the disconnect of these days. We have felt the oddity of being separated from our normal interaction with others. We have felt the unease and uncertainties of what will be next. God has created us to be relational people. He has formed us to be a connected and united body of believers. Yet, how do we respond when we are met with these challenging circumstances? Too often when we experience loss or stress or grief or change, we try to fill the silence. We try to numb the pain. We try to distract ourselves with whatever can fill our time at the moment. Today, however, I want to invite you to take some time for silence and reflection. I invite you to pause in the midst of the uneasy moments and ask, "What is God teaching me in this situation? How is God desiring me to grow in a way that I would not otherwise have had the chance to without this experience?"

We are living in what some have called the confusing "in-between." We cannot, however, rush past these moments otherwise we will miss the opportunity for God to teach us something. We cannot rush ourselves through moments of fear, worry, grief, or stress. We do not unnecessarily dwell in them forever, but we need to get in touch with them. God is still at work. God is still in control. God is still providing for our care. So, what is He inviting us to learn, even from all of this? I don't know how you might answer that question, but as for me as I stop to reflect, I think of the importance of all those little interactions that I take for granted. I think of all the people that mean so much to me, but I don't always take the time to tell them. I think of the partnership in the gospel that we have in Jesus Christ and the unique way that God is preparing us to serve others. And above all I think of each of you and I pray that even in this time of uncertainty that *"your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God"* (Philippians 1:9-11).

God's Peace, *Pastor Kurt Ebert*

Volunteer Focus

Steve Vandivier



What is your role at Calvary?

Assistant Executive Director

What motivates you to give of your time and talent in this way?

I really care about Christian Ministries in general, and specifically about Calvary Lutheran Church & School. Calvary has had a very positive impact on my own personal faith walk. I've also seen first-hand how this ministry has impacted my entire family, both through the church and the school. Anything that I can do to help others have the same growth experience I've had here, to me, is time well spent.

What is your favorite thing about serving at Calvary?

Serving with the Pastors, staff and all the other volunteers who care so much about this special place.

Favorite Book/Verse of the Bible?

My favorite books are Philippians and Ephesians. My favorite verse is Ephesians 2:8.

Favorite Dessert?

Peanut butter chocolate pie

What is one thing that the people of Calvary can keep in their prayers for your area of ministry?

I would have them pray that our actions as a ministry are faithful to God and pleasing in His sight.

Staff Spotlight

Shari Lipps



What is your role at Calvary?

Church Secretary

What is your favorite thing about serving at Calvary?

I love the people here and watching the kids in the hallways on a daily basis is always an experience.

Who has been the biggest influence on your faith? Why?

My dad. He always has a positive way of looking at things and has helped me through some pretty rough times.

Favorite Book/Verse of the Bible?

Proverbs 11:17—"A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself."

Favorite Dessert?

Pastor & Sarah Ebert's chocolate éclair cake

What is the one thing that the people of Calvary can keep in their prayers for your area of ministry?

That we can all get back to good health and normal operations after the lockdown we've been experiencing.

General

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT CALVARY



Palm Sunday:	Sat., April 4th 6:30 p.m. (online)
	Sun., April 5th 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. (online)
Maundy Thursday:	Thurs., April 9th 3:45 & 7:00 p.m. (online)
Good Friday:	Fri., April 10th 7:00 p.m. (online)
Easter Vigil:	Sat., April 11th 6:30 p.m. (online)
Easter Sunday:	Sun., April 12th 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. (online)

Calvary Connect Contemporary Worship

An online Connect worship service will be offered for the weekend of April 4th and 5th. This service will be posted on the church website in addition to the Calvary Connect Facebook page, [Facebook.com/CalvaryConnect](https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryConnect). We hope you will join us for worship as we begin our "How Great Thou Art" series where we will explore how God moves and speaks through popular pieces of art.

Save the Date—Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 22—Friday, June 26, 2020 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. This year's theme will be "Rocky Railway". PS 3/4 through 4th grade are invited to participate. 5th grade through adults are welcome to serve as volunteers. Registration will begin soon. Be on the lookout for the registration forms in the church office and narthex.



Helping Others be Healthy

Thanks to Nancy Brandt for coordinating this project, and to everyone who donated medicines & supplies for the St. Thomas free clinic. We will be collecting again in June. If you missed the collection or don't want to wait until June, St. Thomas is located at 600 Paul Hand Blvd, Franklin. Call (317) 535-6057, or see www.saintthomasclinic.org for more info.

Community Garden Opens

Calvary Lutheran Church and School again opens up its Community Garden to the residents of the south side. Applications for In-ground plots and Raised-bed plots are now available in the church office at 6111 Shelby Street, Indianapolis.

In-ground plots are 10x30 feet for \$20 per plot. Raised-bed plots are 4x10 feet for \$20 per plot. The weather will determine how soon these beds might be available for planting.

Questions? Contact the church office at 317-783-2000.





Come Join us for our 6th Annual Cross-Walk/Run/Ride



Bike Rodeo

When: Fri. May 8th

Time: K-2 grade 5pm-5:45pm
3-5 grade 5:45pm-6:30pm

Cost: \$15 per child

Includes: Tire inspection,
helmet fitting, skills training and a
t-shirt

Register at: www.clcs.org

5K Run / 3K Walk

When: Sat. May 9th

Time: 9am

Cost: \$25 per
participant

Includes: T-shirt and
swag bag

Register at:
www.clcs.org

If you'd like to help sponsor this event please go to our website www.clcs.org or contact the school office 317-783-2305. All proceeds support Calvary Lutheran School.

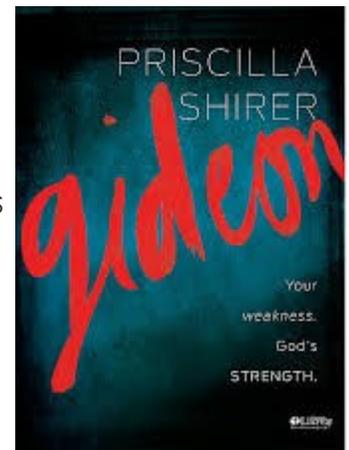
Coming this Summer! Mark Your Calendars! Calvary Women's Bible Study

June 2—July 14, 2020

Book—*Gideon: Your Weakness, God's Strength* by Priscilla Shirer

9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. sessions

When we hear the name Gideon, most of us think about his 300 soldiers or the fleece he laid out under the evening sky. But Gideon's story is so much bigger than that—bigger than any one man and his mark on Israel's history. Like everything else in the Bible, this is a story about God and His people. His love for them, as well as His strength operating in spite of their weakness—even through their weakness. And because God's people includes you and me, Gideon's story is also about us—our lives, our doubts, our struggles, and our possibilities as believers. From a state of fear, weakness, and insecurity, Gideon emerged as Israel's hero, filled with God's presence and His passion for deliverance. This study will encourage you to recognize your weakness as the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life. In what ways do you feel insufficient? Those places create the greatest opportunity to experience the sufficiency of God. Instead of ignoring, neglecting, or trying to escape your weaknesses, see them as the gifts that they are, given specifically and strategically by God to unlock the door of God's strength.



Signal Interference

My vehicle contains the basic AM-FM CD player. When traveling a fair distance I begin to lose the radio signal. The further that I am separated from the station's FM signal tower, the more faded, distorted, and muddled the frequency became. At times I could even begin to hear a different station broadcasting on that same frequency. Then it was time to look for another radio station that was within range.

We have relationships that may be similar to this if used as an analogy. Friends that I knew in grade school, high school, and college are distant and no longer connected. Distance and time have a way of eroding relationships. We need to stay close and connected for all our relationships to grow, thrive, and prosper. Continued communication is imperative for all relationships to remain intact. This same is true with our relationship with God. If we feel that God is far away be assured that He did not drift or roam. We are the ones that moved. God is an ever present help. He eagerly awaits our prayers. Just as I move further away from the signal tower, Satan tempts us to move away from our only source of salvation and life eternal. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are brought back through faith. God's Word, Sacraments, and prayer provide the very heart of God's love. We join with fellow believers for worship. This builds our relationships within His Church.

Even with a basic radio in my vehicle, I have many stations to choose to listen to each time I drive. God has Called us to listen to Him and forsake the world and its beliefs that are contrary to His Word. We ask the Lord to grant to each of us discernment to listen to His voice and Calling. Our first response is one of worship. We are then fed, nurtured, and equipped to clearly see God's leading. Stay tuned in to His love and promises keeping the signal strong! This is ours to share each day with the students and their families.

School Updates

During this COVID-19 pandemic school schedules will be updated as closure notifications are announced through our state and county municipalities. We look to God as our mighty fortress as we place our trust in Him.

2020-21 School Registration

Registrations for the 2020-21 school year are currently being accepted. Staffing and other needs are being planned as we open the doors to a new school year in August. Please contact the school office for additional information. Inquiries are to be directed to our Director of Admissions, Jennifer Skojac.

Fine Arts Fair – PENDING PANDEMIC CRISIS

The 6th – 8th grade choir and 5th – 8th grade band students will be spend part of the day at the Lutheran High School of Indianapolis on Friday, April 24. The students will be under the watchful eye of a clinician. Students from the other Lutheran Schools in the area will join them. We invite you to attend the choir and band concert that evening at 7:00PM.

Student art projects will also be on display during this fine art fair. We thank God for the gift of these talents. An evening of music and art await you. We thank Mrs. Judy Morrison, hand chimes director, Mrs. Molly Troemel our choir director, Mrs. Heather Alexander, band director, and Mrs. Ruth Armao, art department head for their work in preparing this opportunity for our students.



Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. A special chapel service will be held on this day beginning at 8:10AM. We are so blessed to live in a country where freedoms allow for a day such as this. The service is being coordinated through our Prayer Ministry Team. Everyday is a day of prayer. We take it to the Lord.

ILEARN State Test Window

Students in 3rd-8th grade will take the ILEARN test between April 20 and May 29. Students will be taking their ILEARN tests online on their Chrome books. We thank our Tech Committee, Dustin Smith, and Ethan Strange for their expertise and efforts enabling this to occur.

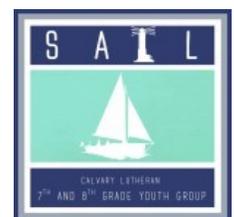
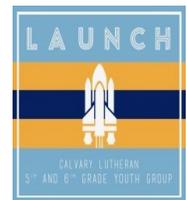
Save the Date

Our Ride Walk Run event is scheduled for Friday, May 8. On Friday evening, May 8, we will have our Bike Rodeo for the younger children and an event in the gymnasium for 5th-8th graders. Come for a grilled meal as well. More details to follow.

Youth Ministry

While youth events are not currently able to take place in person, youth Bible study content is still being created for varying age groups. To make sure that you have access to these materials, please join the "Calvary Lutheran Indianapolis Youth Program" Facebook group by visiting [Facebook.com/CLCSYouth](https://www.facebook.com/CLCSYouth). Please note that you do **not** have to have a Facebook account in order to view this page. Live online sing along events are hosted on Mondays (and posted to watch anytime) and devotional videos are posted on Fridays. We also plan to begin having online Zoom events for different age groups. Meetings times and links will be sent out via e-mail.

We hope to see our kids back in youth group soon!



Women in Mission

Ladies' Saturday Bible Study

We will not be having the Ladies' Bible study in the month of April. Stay tuned for May's lesson.



Extravagant Sharing

Many families received paper towels and tissues through the Sharing Place of Lutheran Child and Family Services because so many at Calvary care about meeting the needs of others. Thanks to all of you who so faithfully reach out with the love of Jesus to those needing help and support in their daily lives. During the month of April let us all share extravagantly by purchasing and bringing boxes of breakfast cereal to the Extravagant Sharing shelves in the narthex. Bless others as God blesses you!



Facilities

Facilities Thanks You!

A BIG Thank You to all of those who came to help change the lighting in the church office to LED. Your help truly is appreciated.

Thank You

Communications

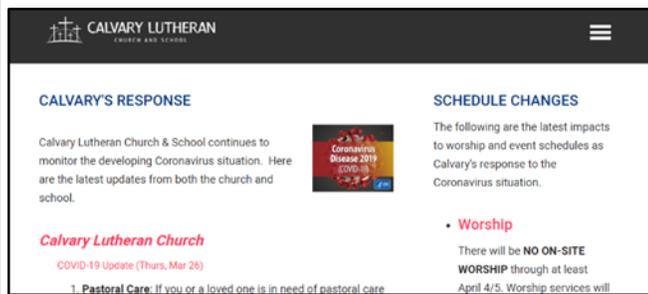
Website Tour—Coronavirus and Video Ministry

Calvary's website is full of useful information about our mission, ministries and events. You can access it at www.clcs.org on your computers, laptops, and mobile devices (tablets and phones). Each month we "tour" different areas of the website.



Coronavirus

We are in uncharted times in our church, community and world. Who would have thought a few weeks ago that we would not be able to worship together at church; that all our worship services and Bible studies would be online? In this new reality, we pray that Calvary's website is a good way for us to keep in touch with you! As we work our way through this pandemic, you can keep up to date on the latest news, schedule changes, online opportunities, and plans by going to the Coronavirus page of our website. The link is clcs.org/coronavirus, and you can find links to it on our homepage in several places including the top of the page rotator, the blue Coronavirus Updates alert bar near the top of the page, and in the Featured News section.



This page has details of Calvary's response to the pandemic. On the left side you will find the latest update from Calvary with information about office hours, worship services, Bible studies and Sunday School, and pastoral care. There is also an option to access all the previous update messages from the church office. On the right side of the page is specific information about schedule changes due to the outbreak. Finally, at the bottom of the page is a form you can fill out and send in to pass on messages to the church office, to request more information, or request assistance for personal needs.



VIDEO LIBRARIES

Click on the picture below to explore the video library for each category.



Video Ministry

In response to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, Calvary has very quickly pushed forward with an online ministry for worship and Bible studies. This ministry has included live streaming and recorded opportunities posted primarily to our Facebook page. Facebook can be confusing for some, so we have also created a

Video Ministry page on our website for quick and easy access to these resources. You can access this page at clcs.org/videos, in the menu under Worship > Online Worship, or by links on our homepage in the @Calvary and Featured News sections. This page has links to the latest Worship and Bible Study videos. It also has links to full video libraries — for Worship Services, Sermons, Bible Studies, and the new Lent 2020 Bible Reading Challenge.

On days when we are having online worship services — Wednesday Midweek Worship or Saturday/Sunday Worship — this page will also include a large section at the top which displays this worship opportunity at the normally scheduled time.

We pray that our website is a useful tool to help members and non-members explore all the opportunities there are to be a part of Calvary's mission and ministries, even in these difficult times. *If you have any questions about Calvary's website, please contact the church office.*

Stewardship Emphasis

Stewardship Update *By Rachel Daeger, Chair, Stewardship Ministry Team*

Until we meet again... online donations

For the time that we are unable to meet in person for services please continue your faithful support of Calvary's ministry through financial contributions that provide funds for staff salaries. Your contributions can be made online as a single contribution or can be deducted on a regular basis by setting up an account through Calvary's website. Go to <https://www.clcs.org/giving/> to indicate the amount and frequency of your donation. You will have full control over the frequency and amount of each donation if desired. If you need assistance in creating your online account or designating the funds you'd like support in addition to weekly envelopes please contact Stewardship at stewardship@clcs.org. Calvary also have a mobile app to make giving convenient from Apple and Android devices. Download the GivePlus app, enter zip code 46227, and select Calvary Lutheran Church & School. If you'd like to send a contribution by mail please address to Calvary Lutheran Church, 6111 S. Shelby Street, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Looking forward to Habitat for Humanity Build Season

Warmer weather means that construction on local Habitat for Humanity projects can begin. Pastor Art Wehrmeister is again serving as our liaison to Habitat and he has already requested possible build dates in mid to late June. Watch the newsletter, bulletin and email for information when sign ups begin. In addition to volunteer labor, Calvary as a congregation also financially supports Habitat.



Contact the church office join a ministry team or volunteer to assist

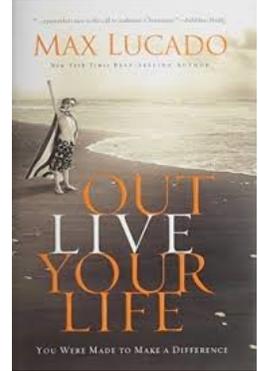
Have you been asked to serve or has the list of Calvary's open volunteer positions in the bulletin sparked your curiosity? I personally struggled for years to try and discern what God's calling was for me. But as pastor recently preached, God is walking beside me where I'm at. So while I was waiting to figure that out that calling I volunteered for the Communications Ministry Team since that is the work I did every day at my job. That just seemed logical. Along the way Calvary started projecting the service details on a screen and they needed helpers. That didn't seem like much of a calling but it was something I knew how to do. If there is something you know how to do, chances are there is a fit for that ability somewhere in the body of the church. Have a question – connect with Calvary's Director of Connection & Engagement Kara Hiatt at 317-783-2000 or connections@clcs.org.

Parish Ed

Saturday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Main will lead a 4-DVD with study guide on "Out Live Your Life," by Max Lucado. This study was a congregational study in 2010. The point of the study is to discover how you can make a difference. Please join us in the conference room at 5:00 p.m.

April 18 through May 9 (pending pandemic). If you are new to this class, please let Pastor Main know of your intention to attend, 317-786-7583 or rmain1938@gmail.com; or put a note in his church mail box.



Sunday School Attendance Awards Winter 2019-20

Faithful

Maddox Bush	Maklyn Bush	Abigail Ebert
Rebekah Ebert	Drew Hiatt	Damon Honebrink
Leyla Honebrink	Tyson Honebrink	Hayden Langhammer
Paisley Langhammer	Ethan Means	Matthew Naing
Sandy Paing	Cindy Shen	Cheri Smith
Sara Smith		



Perfect

Aiden Francis	Grace Hiatt	Faith Levenhagen
Katelyn Royer		

Memorials

March Memorials

In Memory of Mary Lou Favors:

Margie Leive



In Memory of Glenn Holton:

*James Babcock
Steven Jeffris Fan Club
Central Supply Company*



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 Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002 www.worshipanew.org
Sunday 10:00 AM - WHMB-TV 40 Sunday 11:30 a.m. - Direct TV Channel 377

April 2020

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Psalm 118:19-29; John 12:12-19; Matthew 27:11-66

“Palms to Passion” - Sermon Text: Philippians 2:8b - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Holy Week begins on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Jesus procures a donkey and His disciples hail Him with palm branches. They make a royal highway for Him with their coats and shout, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The mood, however, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from triumph to crucifixion. This is no ordinary King. He dies for His people and kingdom. Never has the world seen such a King as this one.

April 12, 2020 – The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

“Tears of Joy” - Sermon Text: John 20:1-18 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

When a military mother is unexpectedly greeted by her child returning from deployment, the shock is overwhelming, and she may burst into tears of joy. Mary's tears of sorrow changed into tears of joy when she saw the risen Savior.

April 19, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

“A Genuinely Tested Faith” - Sermon Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9 - Rev. William Mueller

The Apostle Peter reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ is a genuinely tested faith. This means that through the struggles, various trials, and other griefs that we endure, God is drawing us closer to Jesus. Our faith in Jesus may be tested, but it is genuine!

April 26, 2020 – Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116:1-14; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

“Have It GOD'S Way!” - Sermon Text: Luke 24:13-35 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Does God's gift of faith come from a set menu, or is it served up à la carte? In what ways are we “slow of heart” to believe all that God's Word tells us? In His conversation with two Emmaus-bound disciples, the risen Lord Jesus Christ reveals the challenges and possibilities of a faith humbly determined to *Have It GOD'S Way!*



**CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

6111 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
www.clcs.org
Phone: 317-783-2000

Return Service Requested

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Worship: Saturdays 6:30 PM Sundays 8:00 & 10:45 AM
Family Education Hour (Bible Study & Sunday School) 9:25 AM

Senior Pastor: Kurt Ebert	kebert@clcs.org
Associate Pastor: Joshua Reifsteck	jreifsteck@clcs.org
Deaconess: Emily Spelde	espelde@clcs.org
Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Sam Troemel	stroemel@clcs.org
Tamil Indian Ministry: Pastor Udhay Raji	revudhay@hotmail.com
Principal: Stephen Rensner	rensner@thecalvaryschool.org
Dir. Of Connection & Engagement: Kara Hiatt	connections@clcs.org
Admissions Counselor: Jennifer Skojac	admissions@thecalvaryschool.org
Church Secretary: Shari Lipps	churchsecretary@clcs.org
Church Receptionist: Shari Shaker	churchreceptionist@clcs.org
School Secretary: Amy Andre	schoolsecretary@thecalvaryschool.org
Bookkeeper: Tereasa Camin	calvarybookkeeper@clcs.org
Business Mgr: Gary Bugher	businessmanager@clcs.org
Church Office & Website: (317) 783-2000 www.clcs.org	
School Office & Website: (317) 783-2305 www.choosecalvary.com	