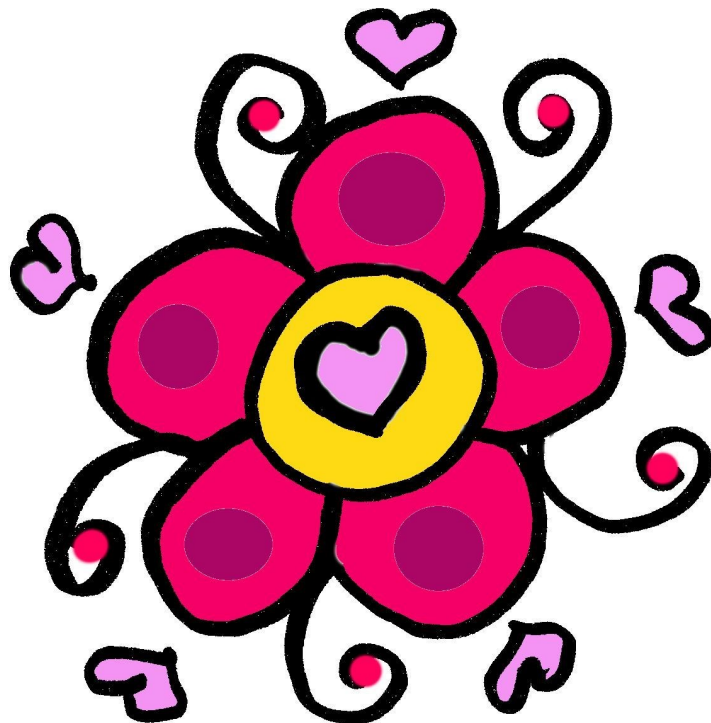


CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



May 2020 Monthly Newsletter

From the Pastors

In Titus, 1 Timothy, Colossians, 1 Peter, and Ephesians we see the apostles encouraging people to live out the Christian faith in clear detail. Children, Husbands, Wives, Servants, Masters, all are given clear instructions for how to serve the Lord and love their neighbors in their own individual circumstances. But this fact has me wondering: What would they say to us if they wrote today, to our circumstances. How would they describe the life of faith in our present situation? Just for fun, I started writing out possible ways that they might suggest we be faithful today during this crisis. As I did, I realized that such a list today would not be targeted at husbands and wives and servants, but to the many situations this virus has brought about in our lives.

If you have been blessed with extra time - Use it wisely! Make masks, call friends or family, join our "Caring Callers" team to bless the people of Calvary, or even do a service project! Social agencies are in desperate need of volunteers right now! There are so many ways that you can use unexpected time to bless the people around you. And don't neglect this opportunity to spend more time with family (even if remote schooling is driving you crazy!)

If you have been blessed with extra money - Whether you're still getting paid and just got some extra through the stimulus or you simply don't need your stimulus check, I encourage you to set aside some or all of that "extra" money to bless someone. Your blessing could be selfless, like a donation to local relief agencies or giving it away to a person you know who's in need, or it could be somewhat selfish: You could spend it on takeout and support a local business or hire a contractor who's short on work. Keep an eye out for the opportunities to give. But set it aside to bless someone else, or it will burn a hole in your pocket and be gone before you know it.

As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9, ¹⁰ "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." In both cases, whether we have extra time or extra money, when God gives a gift, he wants us to use it to bless others. He promises that when we do, he will continue to supply our needs.

But maybe neither feels like it applies to you. You're one of those people whose "essential" status has made life twice as difficult and you're barely getting by. If so, lean on Him. You have been given a mission by God to serve this community through a trying time.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters (Colossians 3:23)." Try not to let the little frustrations get to you. Commend those frustrations and fears to His care. Do your best. He will carry you through this.

From conversations with many of you, it's clear that we're each experiencing this time in dramatically different ways. If I haven't spoken to your situation, I apologize! Do your best to be faithful within your own context. We each have a different cross to bear at this time, but let's fix our eyes upon Jesus. Let's support and encourage one another. Let's come out the other side of this crisis closer to God and closer to one another. We're praying for you! God's blessings.

God's Peace, *Pastor Josh Reifsteck*

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

Vacation Bible School Update

We plan to announce the weekend of May 9/10 our plans for our VBS program scheduled for June 22 – 26. No matter what the coming weeks hold, we will be offering a VBS opportunity for children and their families. We are still finalizing plans, so that we can adapt to whatever restrictions/guidelines are in place at that time. We look forward to connecting with you and your family online and in person, as opportunity allows.



If you are interested in volunteering or providing donations, please contact Kara Hiatt at connections@clcs.org or 317-201-7268.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

The Outreach and Community Garden Teams will again be selling hanging flower baskets in honor of Mother's Day – **Sunday, May 10**. We are selling these beautiful Petunia Baskets for \$20 dollars each, with all the proceeds going to support the Calvary community garden. Given the current situation, all the pre-orders will have to be by e-mail or phone. The baskets will be available for pick-up at the church from 8 AM to 2 PM on **Saturday, May 9**, or we have volunteers willing to deliver the flowers to your door. If you are interested in purchasing one of these beautiful baskets please send an e-mail to Jake Allen (jallen5508@gmail.com) or leave a message with the information below at 317-780-0898.

No. of Baskets _____ X \$20/Basket = Total Sales _____

Name / Phone Number / Email Address and Address for delivery if desired

Thanks in advance for your support of this important Calvary ministry.

Coming this Summer! Calvary Women's Bible Study *(subject to change)*

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.

Compassion Ministry

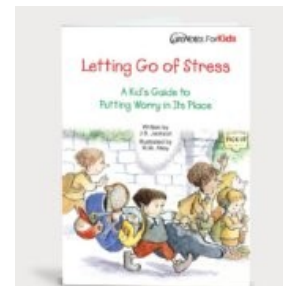
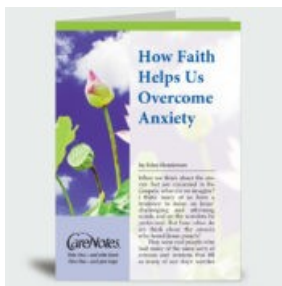
Resources Available to Help

Feeling anxious over the effects of the coronavirus? We are bombarded with helps and suggestions from many angles, but what does God say to us during times such as these? Calling on our God to help and guide is our greatest source of encouragement. The Compassion Ministry Team is making available two pamphlets that may be of help to you:

"How Faith Helps Us Overcome Anxiety"

"Letting Go of Stress: A Kids' Guide to Putting Worry in its Place"

Feel free to pick up a copy in the church office or you may request that one or both be mailed to you. You might also know someone personally who could use some encouragement from God. This might be a way you could reach out to them!



Women in Mission

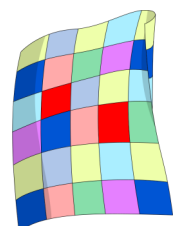
Ladies' Saturday Bible Study

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



BLANKETS FOR BABIES

Our May meeting date has been cancelled. We look forward to being able to meet again in June. Questions?? Contact Susan Daniels 317- 882-3691



8th Grade Graduation

We are proud to announce the 70th graduating class of Calvary Lutheran Church and School. Graduation will take place at a special worship service following the stay at home orders and social distancing decree. 23 graduates will be conferred their diplomas. We are honored to present Rachel Bolton as this year's class valedictorian and Ella Beck as the class salutatorian. We commend these students and celebrate with their families on this academic accomplishment. A reception in the gymnasium hosted by our seventh grade will immediately follow the service. The 70th graduating class of Calvary Lutheran School includes: Micah Alexander, Ella Beck, Rachel Bolton, Dylan Duncan, Delaney Engelking, Caleb Evans, Abby Fitzpatrick, Britt Hoskins, Will Hudson, Ephesus Freeman, Mason Huene, Isac Huerta, Jackson Illingworth, Ryan Jeffers, Hezekiah Jones, Delin Jones, Natalia Longard, Katelyn McClellan, Blake Miller, Kalen Russell, Elena Sanchez, Icelynn Stevenson, and Ethan Wagoner. We ask the Lord to bless these graduates as they continue to glorify their Savior as they pursue higher academic challenges and other adventures.

A NEW Perspective

School. What connotation does that evoke in your mind? School. The opportunity to learn and grow, to share experiences with classmates and teachers, the extra activities like athletics, academic competitions, and art and music all comprise school. As hard as it is to imagine I have heard at times that some students will say that they don't like school. I believe that we have all gained a new perspective about SCHOOL.

The daily alarm clock stirring us for the rigors of a new day of school as the completed homework assignments are in the book bag and breakfast is consumed. The tardy bell rings alerting all to the beginning of a new day. Tests are taken, friends are greeted, kick balls fly, and the delicious cafeteria food aromas fill the halls. The dismissal line files through and another day is done. That is certainly not what school has been the past month.

Our new perspective is one of greater appreciation and love for the community of Calvary Lutheran Church and School. Things we may have once taken for granted are now missed. Work continues, but in a vastly different modality. The work, preparation, cares, and love of the teachers and staff are amazing. The partnership with parents locking arms together for the good of our children is so evident. The difficulties and hardships are endured. The pandemic stay at home order and social distancing decree have rendered much of our daily life with new perspectives.

The Good News is that one thing that has not changed is God's presence in our lives. In fact, many have used this time to seek the Lord through His Word and prayer to a greater degree than before. Through faith we stand united in the full assurance of God's promise to be with us through the good and rough times. May you feel the loving presence of God as we continue to be a part one from another.

National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 7

We share an awesome privilege – PRAYER. God invites us to draw near to Him through prayer. We are also privileged to share the freedom of prayer in this great country. To mark May 7th as a National Day of Prayer provides a clear picture of the freedoms that we enjoy. The students of Calvary Lutheran School will be joining for a remote recorded chapel service. We take it to the Lord in prayer.

Mrs. Kimberly Moore's 35th Anniversary in the Teaching Ministry

We praise and thank God for His gifts bestowed to others through Mrs. Kimberly Moore. Mrs. Moore celebrates her 35th year in the teaching ministry. Imagine all of the students and fellow faculty members touched through the love and care of Kimberly Moore. Her faith has and continues to be shared with others. The recognition reception for Mrs. Moore has been postponed until the fall. We look forward to the day when we are able to join together and celebrate with Kimberly and her family.



Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

2020-21 School Registration

Registration for the 2020-21 school year continues. Classes are filling up very quickly. Openings are still found in most Preschool classes and sessions. We invite you to share this news with colleagues, friends, and neighbors. Please contact the school office for additional information.

The 2019-20 School Year Concludes

The year-end celebrations have been greatly limited or suspended for this school year. A 70th year typically is highlighted due to the decade number. Yet this year will certainly be remembered for another reason. The stay at home orders and social distancing decree has affected so many school ending celebrations and recognitions. Our May Chronicle articles are usually filled with information about scheduled award assemblies, year-end musicals, concerts, athletic events, graduation services, and Calvary's closing chapel service. This year we are planning on recording a closing chapel service as Mrs. Mabel Schwark marks another year by ringing the school bell. This bell has been joyfully rung at all opening and closing chapel services for 70 years. This will be the first year when it will be rung in isolation.

Yet whether we are joined together or isolated, we are still united in God's love, grace, mercy, and peace. We are never forsaken or alone. God reaches out to each of us as He Calls us to trust in Him. The certificates and other awards will not be presented in an assembly as typically done. The spring activities and special events like our 8th grade trip to Washington, D. C. will not be held. Even so we continually celebrate the gifts of our heavenly Father granted to each of our Calvary students, families, faculty, and staff. We rejoice in His eternal love.

Summer Tutoring

Our summer tutoring program is yet to be determined. More information as June approaches.

Memorials

April Memorials



In Memory of Glenn Holton:

John & Deborah Asbury

In Memory of Joanne Heider:

James & Susan Richert

In Memory of Mary Lou Favors:

Larry & Sara Jupin

In Memory of Norma Norder:

Greg & Pam Driver, James & Karen Kresca, John & Beverly Nolin, Joseph & Barbara Peters, Lori Houston, Steve & Rhonda Wetzel, Connie Taylor, Jake & Kyle Allen, Frank & Ruth Acker



Communications

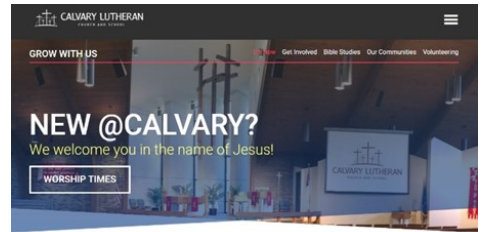
Website Tour—I'm New and Get Involved

Each month we “tour” different areas of the Calvary website at www.clcs.org.

Whether you are new to Calvary or a long-time member, there is information on our website to help you engage with us in worship and ministry.

I'm New

The I'm New page is organized to help those new to Calvary learn more about our congregation and ministries.



What to Expect — gives basic information about Calvary and links to details for: Worship, Kids in Worship, Who We are, What We Believe, Parking, What to Wear, Location and More Questions.

Pictorial Grid — a grid of ministries and opportunities at Calvary: Children, Youth, Adult Ministry, Missions, Bible Studies and Sermons. Clicking on a picture gives a short description of the topic with a Learn More button for complete details.

Welcome — welcomes visitors to Calvary and includes an overview video and links for Ask the Pastors and Membership.

Meet our Pastors — shows pictures of Calvary's pastors. Clicking on a picture brings the user to a detailed biography for that pastor.

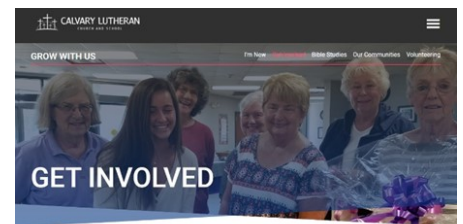
Blog — a section with a highlighted blog post of interest to visitors, such as “Is that in the Bible???”.

Get Involved

The Get Involved page is primarily for existing members who want more information on the *next steps* of how to engage in the ministries of Calvary.

Rotator — Starting at the top is a rotator with links to details on Worship, Bible Studies and Calvary Connect (our monthly contemporary worship experience).

Opportunities — a pictorial grid with links to



Our Communities: groups where people gather for fellowship, fun, service, and support

Bible Studies: the many opportunities Calvary offers for getting into the Word of God

Ministries: details on the main ministries at Calvary, including Children, Adults, Youth, and Missions

Events: a calendar with details of the many events happening at Calvary

Volunteering: listing and details of the many opportunities to serve our congregation & community

Giving: Christian Stewardship and how to support Calvary with time, talents, and treasure

Engagement Grid — links to more information on Membership, Confirmation and Our School.

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*

What the CARES Act Means for Congregations

The arrival of the COVID-19 virus has organizations scrambling. Confident in the Lord's faithfulness, congregations are shifting strategies to deliver the hope of Christ and His grace to a shaken world. The government is seeking to preserve physical and economic life. With regard to the latter, Congress recently passed the CARES Act, which has two important benefits for people who may still be in a position to give charitable gifts this year.

Regardless of whether you wish to give in support of your own congregation, a Lutheran elementary or secondary school (including preschools), any of the Concordia universities and seminaries, missions, human care (mercy work), etc., the following benefits are immediately available:

A partial above-the-line deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions:

This provision encourages individuals to contribute to religious, charitable and educational organizations by creating a new "above the line" deduction for all taxpayers. This deduction will permit them to deduct up to \$300 of annual cash contributions regardless of whether the taxpayer itemizes contributions or takes the new, higher standard deduction. This is applicable for tax years beginning after 2019 and does not sunset after 2020 like the increased limits described below. Again, this new opportunity is available to all taxpayers.

Modification of certain limitations on charitable contributions during 2020:

This provision increases the limitations on for charitable contributions made in cash by individuals who itemize, as well as corporations. Such cash contributions must be made during 2020, and this provision does not extend the due date of the 2020 tax return. In addition, the increased charitable limitations for both individuals and corporations are not automatic but must be elected. For individuals, the 60 percent of adjusted gross income limitation is suspended (removed) for cash contributions made in 2020. Consult with an attorney, financial advisor or qualified accountant before acting on this provision to ensure you are safely maximizing your charitable gifts. For corporations, the 10 percent limitation is increased to 25 percent of taxable income for cash contributions made in 2020.

I also want to share a couple additional recommendations for prayerful consideration during this period, culled from several sources:

- Consider giving less-, least- or even un-restricted donations, even temporarily. Loosening up the conditions under which a gift can be used — or choosing less restricted gift options — boosts the ability of congregations, schools and church-related nonprofits to quickly adapt and shift funding to where the dollars can do the greatest good. This shift also lowers their cost to administer gifts.
- If you've recently (already) provided a donation that was restricted for something very specific, consider giving the recipient organization (like your congregation, a university or seminary, or RSO) permission to use the gift wherever they feel it will do the most good. Paying salaries and health-care benefits may not be a glamorous kind of donation, but a gift to purchase a specific piece of equipment (as an example) won't happen if a school or congregation doesn't have the personnel to use it. Again, these are only recommendations to think about, discuss and pray over. They are comparatively small adjustments that can have a multiplying effect.

Mark D. Hofman, CFRE, MBA Executive Director,

LCMS Mission Advancement The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Note: This communication is for informational purposes only; individuals should seek legal counsel or advice for their own unique situation.

Financial Peace University moves online

Thank you to the Financial Peace University leadership team of Gene Jend, Chris and Kara Hiatt, and Craig Wildauer for switching the course online so that the class can persevere and continue to learn biblical principles of managing resources. What an important lesson to learn during challenging times! Special thanks to Thrivent for the Action Team grant that supports the class needs.

Stewardship Emphasis (cont'd)

Until we meet again...

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 and facility needs. 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 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.

Mail contributions to Calvary Lutheran Church, 6111 S. Shelby Street, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Worship Anew

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002 www.worshipanew.org

Sunday 10:00 AM - WHMB-TV 40 Sunday 11:30 a.m. - Direct TV Channel 377

May 2020

May 3, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-4, 10-11

"The Shepherd and His Sheep" - Sermon Text: John 10:1-4, 10-11 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

May 10, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

"The One Person" - Sermon Text: John 14:2-3 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

May 17, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 119:89-93, 105; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

"Another Helper" - Sermon Text: John 14:16 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

May 24, 2020 – Seventh Sunday of Easter/The Ascension of our Lord Observed

Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

"With Great Joy" - Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

May 31, 2020 – The Day of Pentecost

Psalm 25; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

"Hear Love's Language" - Sermon Text: Acts 2:1-21 - Rev. William Mueller



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 Manager: Gary Bugher	businessmanager@clcs.org
Church Office & Website: (317) 783-2000 www.clcs.org	
School Office & Website: (317) 783-2305 www.choosecalvary.com	