



Stewardship Update

First Quarter 2021

Calvary Members Respond to God's Provision During the Challenging Days of 2020

Good Samaritan Fund

Did you know that Calvary has a Good Samaritan fund that is totally supported by contributions from members? Since August over \$10,000 has been contributed to this fund which is used when Calvary leadership becomes aware of an urgent needs among the membership or in the community. That need could be a rent payment, a bag of groceries, or a tank of gas - something to get someone over a rough patch. Good Samaritan Fund donations can be made online or by designating the fund on your check. The needs that are met are kept confidential but know that your contribution is put to the highest and best use.

Online contributions increase 91%

The ability to support Calvary through online giving has been in place for several years and can be a convenient option especially when not able to worship in-person. Of course once the pandemic closed down the world in March of 2020, in-person worship was not feasible. How did Calvary members respond? A comparison of the use of online giving between January/February of 2020 to the same time period of 2021 shows a 91% increase. Praise God for the technology that made a way for us to respond to His provision.

Amazon Smile purchases support Calvary

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. You can also let Amazon know to remind you to switch to the correct browser when you are making a purchase.



Recently Calvary was notified that \$81 was earned through Amazon bringing Calvary's total to over \$550. Thank you to everyone who remembers to use Amazon Smile when making a purchase. Those percentages add up!

Highest Level of Support to Date for Calvary Lutheran School SGO Funding

Calvary Lutheran Church and School has established our own Scholarship Tax Credit fund through The Lutheran SGO of Indiana, Inc. For 2020 Calvary members responded by contributing over \$72,000 to benefit 54 school students needing scholarship grants. That amount met the need of every student needing assistance this year. The same household income levels are used for the Indiana vouchers and the scholarship tax credit program.

As you consider your charitable giving for 2021 did you know:

- All of your donated money comes right back to Calvary Lutheran Church and School.
- Businesses and well as individuals can make a donation and earn an Indiana state tax CREDIT. If your state tax liability is less than your CREDIT, that CREDIT is extended for up to 9 years.

If you are interested in contributing or have questions about how this program benefits Calvary students, please call the school office. Information also online at www.lutheranSGO.org. Donor forms are available in the school and church offices and on line. Be sure to identify Calvary Lutheran Church and School, Indianapolis as the recipient of your donation.

Giving Best Practices – By Check

When giving by personal check, please use your individually numbered giving envelopes and write your name and the amount on the front of the envelope. If you don't have your giving envelopes handy, any envelope will do with that information added.



Does your employer match your charitable contributions?

Many Indiana companies have charitable giving programs that match the contributions their employees' make to non-profit organizations such as Calvary and Calvary Lutheran School. Eli Lilly & Co. has a well known matching gift program but other Indianapolis businesses offer this program as well.

- BKD LLP
- Duke Realty
- Milliman

Check with your company's human resources department for their requirements and forms. This is an excellent way to extend the impact of your contribution, especially at the end of the year.



Pastor Ruiz recently shared the news of several baptisms.

Update from Pastor Ruiz and "Luterano Indy" mission

Luterano Indy is led by Rev. Samuel Ruiz, Pastor and Missionary at Large of Indiana District. This mission is connecting with the Spanish-speaking population of Indianapolis by offering support and relief in times of need, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. Services are held Saturdays at 6:30 PM at Our Shepherd, Avon and Sundays 1:00 PM at Trinity in the Eastside. Calvary has financially supported this mission for several years.

Pastor Ruiz also mentioned his work at the Food Pantry in Our Shepherd. He is also preparing classes for new membership and confirmation. Follow the work of this mission on the Facebook page Mision Hispana Jesus de Galilea.

Lent Envelopes will support Calvary scholars

Calvary has a long-standing history of assisting members who are studying for full-time ministry in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The funds to make these scholarship awards will be collected from donation envelopes especially designated for Wednesday Lenten services. Calvary supports Pastor Sam Troemel who is enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor Program and Aaron Levenhagen at Concordia Seminary--St. Louis. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 during Lent to meet our commitments.

Advent services last fall raised \$1035.00. The Stewardship Ministry Team's scholarship fund will continue to support students alongside the Wessler Scholarship Endowment Fund for Education of LCMS Church Workers has an interest balance sufficient to fully support Calvary scholars.

Lenten service contributions support Calvary's Church Worker Scholarship Fund



SAM TROEMEL
Youth and Family Pastor
Completing the Specific
Ministry Pastor program
at Concordia Seminary
St. Louis



Calvary Member
AARON LEVENHAGEN
Who is currently a
Student at the
St Louis Seminary

Christian Stewardship - Your Talents

Christian stewardship begins with the understanding that all we have is God's and we should use it for His purposes. We give our lives to God — our Time, Talent and Treasure. Go online to <https://www.clcs.org/volunteer/> to see opportunities for using your time and talents to serve God and neighbors.

Areas needing volunteers include:

- Adult Ministry
- Education
- Missions
- Outreach
- Worship Support
- Youth

Giving Best Practices – Online

Online giving can be done by credit card or withdrawal from a checking or savings account. A credit card transaction triggers a small fee for the church, but the online system gives you an option to cover that fee. Withdrawal from a checking or savings account does not carry a fee. More details online at <http://www.clcs.org/giving>.



Did you know that Calvary designates a portion of its budget to missions?

Just like we set aside a portion of our household budgets as our response to God's grace and blessings, Calvary as an organization also designates funds for local, national and international missions. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year our congregation is supporting:

- LCMS Synod/Indiana District
- Hispanic Ministry - Luterano Indy
- Indianapolis Lutheran High School
- Tamil Mission - Indianapolis
- Wycliffe Translators
- El Salvador Mission
- India Tutoring/Tailoring Center
- Together in Mission - Schumacher
- Habitat for Humanity Indianapolis
- Lutheran Child and Family Services of IN/KY
- Camp Lakeview
- Worship Anew
- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- LCMS - Rural and Small Town Mission
- Lutheran Public Radio
- LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

Additionally we will also support special requests made known to the Stewardship Ministry Team. That support could be a special door offering or designation of quarterly mission envelopes.