

CALVARY CHIMES ~~~ December 2019

Calvary Lutheran Church (ELCA) ~ Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Our mission is to nurture discipleship to serve our community³ with God's love and forgiveness.

~~~ FALL/WINTER WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES ~~~

Pastor Doug Holtz

Service Times are Sundays @ 8:00 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.

Midweek Worship Service begins @ 6:00 P.M. every Wednesday ~ Gathering Place

Preparing for the Promise!

Advent gets a bad rap. During the four weeks in December, we try so hard to get literally everything in that didn't happen in the previous eleven months. There's the mad rush of last-minute shopping for that perfect gift that may or may not fit the bill come the Christmas celebration. In business, there's the finalizing of the books for everyone's favorite time of year, tax season. School holiday concerts abound, along with specials on television that seem syrupier every year that passes. The season becomes so busy that we forget just why we are preparing, choosing to let the time spin out of control as we try to somehow make it, as Johnny Mathis sings, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

So take a deep breath. Breathe in the hope that comes in knowing the Savior will come again to bring an end to sadness and desolation, a reversal to strife and discord, an antidote to wandering and anger. Breathe out the hysteria of the season, the tension of having everything just right, and the fear of not being enough.

Because this is God's season: the season to prepare our hearts to receive the good news of a Savior who not only came in the past, but lives today and in the future will welcome us home. It's the season to spend time in God's word and let that word rebuild and reinforce our earthly temples, the very bodies in which we dwell.

Restoration, reinvigoration, recalling. That's a big emphasis of our theme this Advent. In our readings, we'll hear God's Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah, words of comfort to God's people lost in the wilderness, the overwhelming joy of rebuilding the (our) temple, and a song to celebrate the one who came to prepare the way of the Lord.

Look at the announcements and calendar in this newsletter. It's filled with ways to help prepare for the coming of Christ. Maybe you'll join us for caroling, take in the children's program, or enjoy the choir celebration. Whatever you do, take time for God this December, pay close attention to what God is doing in the world, and celebrate the sure and certain hope that Christ will come again!

Advent blessings!

Pastor Doug

Looking Ahead to January

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, there will be one (1) worship service. Mark your calendar now. This is the day for Calvary's Annual Church meeting. Worship time will be at 9:00 A.M. and there will be Sunday School at 9:00 A.M. also. The Annual meeting will start at 10:00 A.M. A movie is planned for the children at this time so parents can attend the meeting. We look forward to having all voting members attend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M

Remember to walk your child into and out of their Sunday School class. Make sure their teacher is present before you leave them in their classroom. We look forward to spending the hour in Christian education with your child. Questions? Contact the Sunday School Superintendents at: calvaryssoshkosh.@gmail.com

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY IN DECEMBER

Please plan to join us for fellowship between worship services on Sunday, December 8 in the narthex. This morning we are celebrating the almost one year anniversary of Pastor Doug's arrival to minister to Calvary. We are also welcoming new members to Calvary's church family.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS MONTH?

Please remember to STOP and take a PEEK at the bulletin board located in the hallway between the secretary's office and the Gathering Place. New things are going up on the boards weekly. There might be something of interest for you and your family . . . concerts, events, who knows?

LOOKING FOR FELLOWSHIP? A CHURCH ACTIVITY?

Check out the bulletin board in the church hallway near the Gathering Place

Please remember to check out the hallway bulletin boards located between the secretary's office and the Gathering Place to sign-up for Men's Club, Coffee fellowship, and the Flower Chart, to list a few. Events can change weekly. This is a great way to ENGAGE yourself and your family here at Calvary.

CALVARY MEN'S CLUB ~ MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 5:30 P.M.

Calvary's Men's Club — an informal group — will hold its monthly gathering Monday, December 9 at 5:30 p.m. for supper and some fun activities to get everyone in a festive mood. Hosts for the evening will be Steve and Jack. A "fun" gift exchange —designed to bring laughter and merriment— will again be featured. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Call the church at 233-3800.

CALVARY MOMS GROUP Tuesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Activities will be planned for the little ones so the moms can have time to relax and talk. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Call the church at 233-3800.

Calvary Christmas Adoption Program

Gifts due to the church on or before December 8

Nurture and Outreach will be meeting Monday, December 9 at 6p.m. to organize all gifts for distribution.

This Christmas season, Calvary is adopting the children of the residents of Terra House in Oshkosh. Terra House is a halfway house for people, mostly from Winnebago County, that are living with addiction issues. We are also adopting a family in need in the Oshkosh community.

There are still a few tags left on the tree. Please take an ornament off the tree, buy the gift or gift card, wrap the gift, attach the tag (tree or wreath) securely to the outside of the wrapped gift. Please put GIFT CARDS in an envelope with the amount noted on/in the card and place it in the offering plate. Please have all gifts to the church on or before Sunday, December 8.

If you prefer to give cash, please make your check payable to **Calvary Lutheran Church** and specify **NURTURE & OUTREACH/BRIGHTER CHRISTMAS** and place in the offering plate on or before December 8. Thank you for your very generous hearts! Nurture and Outreach Committee

COOKIE PLATES FOR CALVARY SHUT-INS

It is that special time of the year to give a treat to our shut-ins. Please make an extra dozen or two of cookies or candies to bring to the Calvary Kitchen on Sunday, December 15 or by Monday, December 16 at 9:30 A.M. Place them in the Kitchen, marked "Cookie Plates". We will be assembling the cookie plates on Monday, December 16 beginning at 9:30 A.M. We have enough cookie tins, large plates, and ribbons for this year. We are also in need of holiday greeting cards for the cookie plates. Any questions, contact Connie at 420-4079 Thank you for remembering our shut-ins.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS! ~ Do you love to knit, but have run out of projects? We are in need of infant hats for our Baby Care Kits. There is a basket in the Narthex loaded with yarn for you to use and a pattern if you need one. Any questions, contact Connie at 420-4079

HOW TO FEED OUR COMMUNITY FAMILY

The Nurture and Outreach Committee would like to thank all who continue to support our local Lutheran food pantry. Without your generosity, many would go without the necessary staples to feed their families.

We continue to **'fill our cart'** with non-perishable, unexpired food donations. These items may be brought at any time to the church and placed in the *We Care Enough to Share* shopping cart located in the narthex.

The pantry also accepts **'monetary donations'**. These may be placed in your giving envelope under "OTHER". Please be sure to designate 'Lutheran Food Pantry'.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Lollie and Judy would like to remind us that they are available to receive prayer requests. There are three ways the church can pray for you or your friend or family member. The first option is to have the person receiving the prayer announced during the church service to the entire congregation and posted in the Sunday bulletin. You will need to provide the first and last name of the person receiving the prayer to avoid any name confusion. You may contact the church office directly for this type of request at 233-3800.

Another option would be to contact Lollie, Judy, or the church staff to have your prayer added to the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain will offer prayers with/without the person's name being listed in the bulletin.

The final option is the Prayer Group. This group will offer prayers at your request. The people in this group are the only ones who are aware of these requests and all requests are kept highly confidentially. Please contact Lollie or Judy directly for this type of request. Please contact: Lollie @ 233-8491 or Judy @ 216-0116 for prayer requests or questions.

LOOKING FOR A SIMPLE GIFT TO GIVE? LOOK NO MORE.

We still have Calvary Cookbooks available to purchase from the church office. The price is \$15.00. Consider giving one to a college student, future bride, your neighbor, a friend or just an extra one for the just in case you need an unexpected gift.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET

There has been a price increase for the 2020 altar flowers. The new price is \$40.00. The sign-up sheet is up and located on the hallway bulletin board. Remember the sign-up sheet is first come first serve. We ask that when you place your name on the sheet, you also complete the form, and attach your check or cash to the form immediately. This eliminates the need for the office to contact you. Your assistance is appreciated.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Calvary has some items in excess that could be of value to a member. The items are a Sentry file safe, a Sentry safe, and 2 Banvil Envirofan ceiling fans. Items will be on display in the Gathering Place. Anyone interested can submit a bid to the Administrative Assistant **no later than Friday, November 29**. Funds will be deposited to the Building and Maintenance fund.

CALVARY CARPET CLEANING—Church Office Closed

Please note on your calendars: December 26, 27, and 28— Calvary will be having all of the carpet cleaned in the entire building. This is usually a very slow time for meetings. The carpet cleaning is planned to only take one day, however, we prep the day before and replace furniture the day following the cleaning. Please plan ahead as the less traffic we can have on the wet carpet, the better the result. Thank you all for forward planning.

Building and Grounds Ministry, Brenda, Chair

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Winter is upon us. Please follow these directions in the event of inclement weather being forecasted prior to coming to the church. 1-Check your **Email**, 2-Call the Church office at **233-3800**, 3-View **Channel 2 WBAY-TV**, or 4-Look at **Facebook**. If you are concerned about conditions, please use your own judgement.

WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY: If school is closed all day or released early, there will be no confirmation class. If weather worsens after school, we will decide by 4:00 PM for confirmation class and Wednesday evening church service.

****Sunday Worship:** We will attempt to post closings as described above. Again, please use your own judgement.

REASONS TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE at 920-233-3800

•You or a family member becomes hospitalized. •A loved one has passed away.

We would love to be a support for you, but can only do that if you let us know what is going on in your life.

AND / OR

•You moved •Changed your phone number •Changed your email •Changed your marital status
•Birth of child

We can not keep in touch with you if you do not inform us when changes occur

MEDIA DISCLAIMER

Any person attending a Calvary Lutheran Church function automatically grants permission to Calvary Lutheran Church the use of names, photographs, images and/or videos taken for use in materials that include, but may not be limited to printed materials such as Brochures, Newsletters, Videos, and Digital Images used on the Calvary Lutheran Church Website and Social Media Pages such as Facebook. If you choose not to grant permission, it must be in written form to the Administrative Assistant of Calvary Lutheran Church.

OF NOTE: This policy does not apply to children enrolled in Sunday School as they have a questions on the Sunday School registration form to “OPT OUT” of photograph permissions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES/EVENTS

Sunday, December 8: Special worship music by guest performer Pamela Pamperin, harpist **ALSO** Coffee fellowship between service to welcoming new members and celebrate Pastor Doug's 1 year anniversary ministering at Calvary (official date is December 18).

Wednesday, December 11: Join the Confirmands at 6:00 P.M. as they carol for our shut-ins. Meet in the Gathering Place at 6:00 P.M. to receive instructions from Pastor Doug.

Sunday, December 15: Join us for a special treat at the 10:15 A.M. worship service as the Calvary's Sunday School helps Pastor with worship and provides music for all to enjoy.

Sunday, December 22: Join us at the 8:00 A.M. and 10:15 A.M. service as all of Calvary's Choir provide music to enhance and celebrate our worship services.

Tuesday, December 24: Please join us for Christmas Eve worship at 2:00P.M., 4:00 P.M., or 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 25: Celebrate Christmas Day worship with us at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday, December 29: Please note only one (1) worship service today at 9:00 A.M.