

# News from Calvary



March 2020

# Table of Contents

Calvary's Mission and Vision	page 3
From the Pastor	page 4
Fast and Feast for Lent!	page 5
Sunday Sermon Series	page 6
Soup Suppers	page 7
Midweek Lenten Worship	page 7
Lutheran Marriage Encounter	page 7
Church Family News	page 8
The Roles of the Church	page 9
Those Who Serve Us	page 12
Birthdays & Anniversaries	page 14

## Calvary's Mission

As God's Children, our mission is to

Know His Word,

Share His Word

and

Live His Word.

## Calvary's Vision

To be a Christ-centered church, alive with worship and meaningful ministries, where the youngest to the oldest are serving and being served, growing and helping others to grow, and connecting with each other and our surrounding communities.



**Connect.**



**Grow.**



**Serve.**

When I was younger, I used to love to skateboard. I wasn't that good at it but I loved doing it. It was also one of my modes of transportation. What if today, with me being a pastor, that was my only mode of transportation? That's not to say that there's anything wrong with pastors who skateboard. But what if that's how I did shut-in calls? What if that's how I got to meetings with other pastors around the state? That would be kind of strange, wouldn't it?

And yet, what goes on in many churches today is also kind of strange. What I mean is that for many people in the church today, the only time they hear the word of God is on a Sunday morning.

When the Devil was tempting Jesus in the wilderness, he knew that Jesus was hungry after fasting for 40 days (see *Matthew 4*). So he told Jesus to just turn some of the rocks that were around into food. Jesus responded to the Devil by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

But, it seems that for so many people in the church, the only time that we consume God's word is on a Sunday morning. We should hear that and say, "That's strange." But for so many people, that's become the norm. We go to church and when we leave, we say that we're still starving. Well, if the only time you eat Christian food is on Sunday mornings, then there's a reason for that.

Because of this lack of nutrition in our Christian diet, we're less likely to share our faith with people, regardless of whether they're inside or outside the church. Inside the church, we argue about different points regarding the church, using only our human logic, rather than using scripture. For those of us in the church, we should look at this and say, "That's strange."

But the good news is that God still wants to feed you. He wants you to know Him. He wants you to know His saving word. He wants your faith to be strengthened. He wants you to be fed with His word.

In this day and age there's no excuse for not daily being fed. Any pastor I know, if you don't have a Bible and you want one, they'll get you one. In our digital age, there are all sorts of apps that can be downloaded onto your handheld device. From your computer, there are all sorts of free websites like biblegateway.com with all sorts of translations of the Bible on them. You can purchase an audio Bible so you can listen to it when you are commuting to work. God wants you to be fed and not just one day a week.

The great part about this is that the more you are fed, the more you understand the depths of God's love for you. That is a diet worth taking on. And that isn't strange.

*Remember my friends, wherever you go, whatever you do, you're on the King's business.*

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kuder*

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## **Lent, a Season to Fast and to Feast!**

*The Lenten season should be more than a time of fasting. It should also be a joyous season of feasting. Let's take this opportunity to fast from certain things and feast on others!*

- Fast from unrelenting pressures;  
    feast on unceasing prayer.
- Fast from self-concern;  
    feast on compassion for others.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
    feast on prayer that sustains.
- Fast from discouragement;  
    feast on hope.
- Fast from discontent;  
    feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger;  
    feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism:  
    feast on optimism.
- Fast from worry; feast on God's providence.
- Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

*Submitted by Edith Conte*



## **Lent: Remembrance, Repentance, Renewal**

**Big Idea of the Series:** This six-week series for the **Sundays** during the season of Lent takes us from a serious reflection on our mortality on Ash Wednesday toward a joyful vision of the New Heavens and the New Earth on the last Sunday of Lent. This pathway—from death to everlasting life—will bring us to a place of expectant hope in preparation for Resurrection Sunday.

**Feb. 23** - Text: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Topics: Sin, Curse, the Fall, the Law, Original Sin

**March 1** - Text: Genesis 2:4-15

Topics: Home, Wandering, Yearning, Citizenship

**March 8** - Text: Psalm 121:1-8

Topics: Prayer, Attention, Despair, Help, Rescue

**March 15** - Text: Mark 1:14-15; Isaiah 6:1-5

Topics: Repentance, Confession, Sin, Forgiveness

**March 22** - Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Topics: Forgiveness, Grace, Mercy

**March 29** - Text: Revelation 21:1-5

Topics: Rebirth, Life, Spirit, New Creation



**Please also join us for our Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:15 pm each Wednesday.**

Our Calvary cookbook has some wonderful recipes and we always need soup makers and dessert bakers!

**Worship at 7:30 will follow** this time of fellowship together. Please contact Ruth Bolger or Anne Daly with any questions.

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# BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED

A Series of Midweek Services  
for the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday: THE WOUNDS OF BLASPHEMY

March 4: THE WOUNDS OF VIOLATING THE SABBATH

March 11: THE WOUNDS OF DISHONORING AUTHORITY

March 18: THE WOUNDS OF MURDER

March 25: THE WOUNDS OF ADULTERY

April 1: THE WOUNDS OF STEALING



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## GIVE YOUR SPOUSE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME – YOU!

Give your spouse the gift of YOU at a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! The Northeast US spring events are scheduled for April 24-26 at the lovely Country Inn & Suites in Ithaca, NY and May 1-3 at the recently renovated Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. (Applications are also being accepted for our fall Weekends: October 2-4 at the Comfort Inn just north of Albany, NY and October 16-18 at the Ludlow, PA retreat center 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.) Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org),







# From Maintenance to Mission: Changing the Paradigm

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Written by New Jersey District President Dr. Tony Steinbronn  
and Paul Huneke

*Twelve years ago, in the winter of 2007, my good friend Paul Huneke and I were asked to write an editorial for Issues in Christian Education on this topic: how to change the paradigm evident in many LCMS congregations from one of maintenance ministry to mission; and thought I would share this editorial in memory of Paul and of his special way of encouraging us to embrace, and live out, His mission in our congregations and personal lives.*

## **From Maintenance to Mission: Changing the Paradigm**

“...and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man...now write what **you see, what is** and **what is to take place hereafter...**”

These words record the time when Jesus was walking through the lampstands of Asia Minor, commenting on what He saw and what was taking place. After describing these things, He offered correction, advice and promises. Each brief encounter closed with these words: **he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Jesus continues to walk among the lampstands and He invites us, those who have been taught of the Spirit and who possess the mind and word of Christ, to write **what we see, what is taking place within the body of Christ** in our specific context and **what is taking place in the world** as we, disciples of the missionary God, “seek and to save the lost.”

There is not sufficient space to present a comprehensive list of what Jesus might say to us but our greatest challenge in moving from **maintenance to mission** is simply this: we are too much of the world and too little in the world. For many of

our waking moments, we forget **who we are** and **why we exist in the world**.

We have built our fine homes, dine on the finest meats and drink good beer and wine, yet we do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph (that is, the steady decline of God's presence and activity in our lives and in the world). We have minimized the Lord's warning that a person's life does not consist in the abundance of his or her possessions but lies in being rich toward God and rich toward one's neighbor. We have often failed to act upon the reality that all of our talents and abilities have been entrusted into our care so that we might prosper the Master's business of making disciples of all nations. We have churches that are well ordered, with lots of rules, restrictions and traditions, but little mission. We spend a great deal of our time and energy defining who is "in" and who is "not in" and little time helping people "get in and stay in" and not perish eternally.

As we reflect on moving from maintenance ministry to mission, Jesus challenges us with these words: **he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**. What is the Spirit of the Lord saying to us?

1: The Scriptures ascribe only one intention to God: to save humankind. Therefore, every task of the Church makes sense, and has a purpose, only as it leads to the mission of "making disciples of all peoples."

2: God is working out His saving plan in and through His chosen and redeemed people and each believer has a responsibility for advancing the saving purposes of God in the world.

3: Each lampstand must realize that it is the Church, the body of Christ, in its locality and must corporately fulfill its mission and ministry in that place. That is, it is to **possess and mediate the mind and word of Christ** and **demonstrate His love and compassion** for the world.

4: The crisis situation for most Christian congregations is that we no longer live in a churched culture but in an unchurched culture. This state of affairs challenges and invites God's people to become more missionary in their posture and orientation toward the world and to possess a proper balance

between **edification** (building one another up in the Christian faith and becoming mature in Christ) and **evangelism** (proclaiming the Good News about Jesus), and fostering a **healthy, vibrant, organic body life** centered in the coram relationships (life lived out “in the presence of God” and life lived out “in the presence of others”).

Anthropologist Anthony Wallace, in his classic definition of a revitalization movement, observed that it is a **deliberate, organized effort** by members of a society to construct a more satisfying culture, **centered in a sacred message**, and **enunciated by a prophet or maximum leader**, stating **what is wrong now, what it should be like in the future**, and **how to get from now to that future**. This sacred message comes from five theological perspectives:

1: An apostolic perspective would ask **what is the condition of the lampstand** and is it built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ being the cornerstone;

2: A prophetic perspective would help God’s people **remember who they are and why they are in the world**, to keep themselves free from idols and to use their lives **to prosper the Master’s business of making disciples**;

3: An evangelistic perspective would encourage and equip God’s people **to reach out to others with the narratives of the Scriptures** so that they can help those who do not know God’s story **to make sense of their story in light of His saving story**;

4: A pastoral perspective would focus on feeding and caring for the body of Christ, of **equipping the priesthood** for their works of service and Gospel proclamation, of **overseeing the work of the Holy Spirit within and among the community of believers** and **cultivating a biblical spirituality in God’s people** (oratio, meditatio, tentatio) as His missionary people to the nations;

5: A teaching perspective would **communicate His Word and His way of life** so that it forms and shapes our entire existence through the daily, intentional, socialization of the Christian faith in our homes and in the ministries of the Church (Deuteronomy 6).

# Those Who Serve Us:

✝ Altar Guild: Anne Daly

✝ Greeters:

**March 1 10:00 AM** Nancy Keltner  
**March 8 10:00 AM** Joanne Arroyo  
**March 15 10:00 AM** Ajit and Jaya Lakra  
**March 22 10:00 AM** Lauren Molinari  
**March 29 10:00 AM** Karl and Luise Wetter



# Those Who Serve Us:

## ✝ Flower Visitors:

- March 1** Jaya Lakra
- March 8** Edith Conte
- March 15** Anne Daly
- March 22** Joyce Sapara-Grant
- March 29** Liz Kuder

## ✝ Ushers:

- March 1** **10:00 AM** John Ricca, Gordon Wickham
- March 4** **7:30 PM** Bob Eucker, John Ricca
- March 8** **10:00 AM** Gbenga Adesokan, John Wickham
- March 11** **7:30 PM** Bill Keltner, Gordon Wickham
- March 15** **10:00 AM** Ajit Lakra, Karl Wetter
- March 18** **7:30 PM** John Ricca, John Wickham
- March 22** **10:00 AM** Brian Keltner, Stephen Molinari
- March 25** **7:30 PM** Bob Eucker, Bill Keltner
- March 29** **10:00 AM** Richard Akers, Abbaccus Dokie

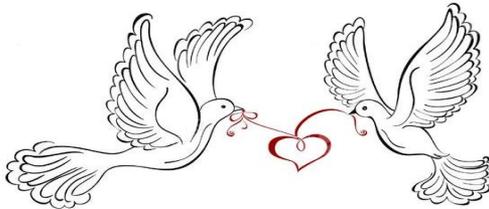


**Many Hands Make LIGHT Work**



# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

March 3	Hannah Bonaguide
March 3	Carol Wickham
March 7	Jereetta Dokie
March 8	Betty Killian
March 11	Sophie Bonaguide
March 16	Chris Houlihan
March 17	Esi Sapara-Grant
March 19	Joy Varnay
March 22	David Eucker
March 25	Nancy Keltner
March 26	Temí Adesokan
March 31	Kerkeh Kassor
March 31	Chris Molinari



## *Anniversaries*

March 10	Gbenga and Sike Adesokan
March 18	Wayne and Claire Scott