

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

17100 Chalmers Avenue (At Seymour)

Detroit, Michigan 48205

Phone (313) 527-3366

Email: mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net

Website: mtcalvarydetroit.org

John Carrier,

Pastor

(810) 887-0363

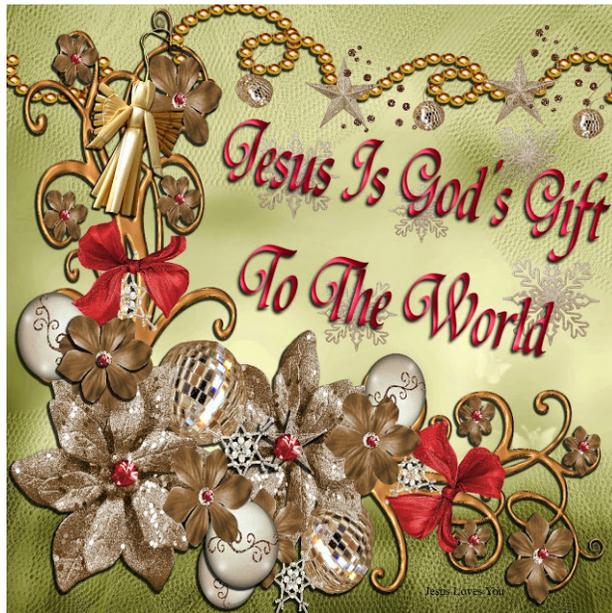
pastorjcarrier@gmail.com

Mrs. Terrie Buchanan

Secretary

(586) 558-9364

Newsletter



**DECEMBER / JANUARY
2017 - 2018**

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk...

Mount Calvary Family,

Andy Williams had it right when he crooned, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." It's a lovely pop tune that, like so many pop culture Christmas traditions, celebrates the celebration more than the heart of the season. As children of God, we celebrate the first snow of the season, the seasonal winter activities we so enjoy, and party times with friends just as do others . . . But we celebrate something more. . . . Each December, during the Christmas season, we celebrate the news the angels delivered on that Holy Night, *"For to you is born this night, in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"* Now that's something to celebrate! Our chief celebration at Mount Calvary comes again at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Do you have a friend who needs that late night reminder of what Christmas is really all about?

Of course, no celebration is a success without preparation. Selecting music and preparing worship services is already beginning as I write this in early November. Our true time of preparation for Christmas, however, doesn't begin until four Sundays before Christmas, counting Christmas Eve this year. December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent as we begin our Christmas preparations in worship and praise of our coming Savior. The color of the season is Royal Purple or Royal Blue. Do you catch the theme? They are "Royal" colors, chosen to mark the arrival of the King and Lord of Heaven and Earth. . . . Lord of the universe and all that lies beyond! He came to our aid in the helpless form of a baby, quite literally "born in a barn". He was laid on a bed of straw in a feed box for cattle and other domestic beasts. Any rational man would question the wisdom of such an approach. The first tactic of His forces' battle plan in this war against sin and death was to retreat in the face of Herod's troops who were sent to the City of Bethlehem to execute every baby boy under the age of 2. In Matthew 2:18, the Evangelist describes the horror using the words of Jeremiah 31:15, *"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."* . . . This is God's idea of a rescue plan? . . . Well, yes. God sent His Son to deliver these young children and other heirs of His promises to Abraham, those of every nation and people who share Abraham's faith in God and His promises.

Just how does this plan work when these children's lives are already lost? . . . It works through the death of the Man into whom this Child grew, Jesus of Nazareth. On Good Friday, Jesus gave His life on the tree of the cross for their sins, for our sins, for all sins, even for the sins of those brutal men who killed those children in Bethlehem by the sword that day, and those who killed Jesus three decades later on that cross. And how does that work? . . . It works through the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, with the power to raise all who follow Him in faith. . . . And it all began with a child wrapped in rags and lying in a manger! . . . Only God could make a plan like that work . . . Thank God He did!

May the hope of Good Friday's sacrifice and Easter's Victory born in the manger that first Christmas fill your hearts with peace and joy this year and every year. *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom He is pleased!"* (Luke 2:14)

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Carrier

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," perhaps the most beloved Advent hymn by the Christian Church today, took 1,000 years to develop. It started as a simple sentence, sung as an introduction to the "Magnificat" (My soul magnifies the Lord) during the evening service from December 17 to December 23. About 300 years later (around 1100 A.D.), an unknown monk wrote a seven-stanza poem in Latin describing each of these sentences. This shaped the familiar hymn. To the English speaking church, it remained unknown for 700 years until the Rev. John Neale, an Anglican minister fluent in many languages, translated the poem into English. He found the current tune in a French hymnal used by Franciscan nuns as a processional during the 1500's. The book with the tune was located in a Portuguese library, where Neale spent time recovering from respiratory problems. Hence, John Neale's publication in the 1850's brought immediate popularity in the English-speaking world and continues to be cherished by many Christians in various languages. Like the coming of Christ, a good hymn, which ironically points to His coming, was definitely worth the wait.

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 3

The church year begins with our long-awaited request for our Lord to come. As a reminder, we are not alone in our request for the Lord to come. The prophet Isaiah wanted the Lord to come with destruction, which will happen on Judgment Day. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that they have grace from God and that would be sufficient when Jesus comes. In the Gospel Reading, Mark wrote that Jesus rode into Jerusalem to earn our salvation. Therefore, because we are saved, we are all set for Christ's final coming. Hymns for this Sunday include "Savior, of the Nations, Come"; "The Advent of Our King"; "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"; and "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You."

2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 10

The coming of the Messiah is suddenly here. The Old Testament prophesy of Isaiah tells us that there will be a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. Mark, in his Gospel, recorded that John the Baptist was that person who fulfilled the prophesy. Peter, writing in his second epistle, tells us that Christ will come like a thief in the night. Hymns that call us to prepare our hearts for Jesus include "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"; "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"; "When All the World Was Cursed"; and "Prepare the Royal Highway."

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 17

When Christ came to earth some 2000 years ago, His ministry was to save the world from their sins and to show people the way to God. One of the ways He did this was to heal the blind, the deaf and the sick. Thus, they could see that love of God changing their lives. In a spiritual sense, the love of God would change them into forgiven sinners, ready for His kingdom. This

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

certainly is a cause for rejoicing as Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. Hymns that rejoice in God's salvation include "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"; "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"; "Hark the Glad Sound"; and "Arise, O Christian People."

4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24

The prayers from the faithful believers in the Old Testament will finally be answered as the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she will bear the Son of God. Mary's response was to ask how it could happen, to which Gabriel responded that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. Mary's response was one of joy and we know that response as "My Soul Magnifies the Lord." God's promise to King David that Christ would establish an everlasting kingdom and bring the salvation of the world, fulfilled the long-promised prophesy. Hymns for this morning include "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"; "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"; and "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns." In addition, the choir will be singing some Christmas music, giving us a foretaste of Christmas that night.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

And extending into Christmas Day

11:00 p.m. December 24

The people in darkness have seen a great light. The grace of God has appeared in human form through the birth of Christ. The angels announce to the shepherds that the Christ Child has been born and they hustle to come to the manger. Welcome to Christmas: Christ is born! Hymns that proclaim the birth of Christ include "O Come, All Ye Faithful"; "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"; "Silent Night"; "Joy to the World"; plus a lot more. Please come and enjoy!

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31

It's time for the whole world to rejoice now that the Savior has come. Isaiah proclaimed that God will make us a beautiful creation, which is a great cause of rejoicing. Paul wrote to the Galatians that God sent us His Son to redeem us from under the curse of the law. Simeon and Anna had waited their entire lifetimes to see God's salvation. Simeon had been promised that Christ would come before he died. Anna held on to this promise for over 60 years! God did not disappoint either one! Hymns to rejoice this Sunday include "Let All Together Praise Our God"; "Of the Father's Love Begotten"; "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"; "Angels from the Realms of Glory" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

WORSHIP NOTES FOR JANUARY

God's love is like a star: it sends out light in our lives and reaches others. Thus wrote Philipp Nicolai, a Lutheran pastor and musician in the sixteenth century through the hymn "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright." This is a picture of Christ that the Church uses to proclaim the Gospel message. You see God's power and yet you see His love, which can change the most stubborn heart. God's love is never ending and one day will transport us to be with Him in glory (Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 395, stanzas 5 and 6). This hymn, declared to be "The Queen of the Chorales," will be sung at the conclusion of the Epiphany season.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7

This is our Lord's first act of His ministry. He insisted that John the Baptist baptize Him, an act which pleased God. As we Lutherans know, the power of baptism does not rest in the water, but in God's Word and our trust in that Word. Thus the Old Testament Reading begins with the first day of creation. God spoke the Word and made day and night. The Apostle Paul wrote that we were buried with Christ through baptism into his death and then were raised to a new life in Christ. In the brief Gospel Reading, we see the Triune God present at Jesus' baptism. The Father's voice and the dove (Holy Spirit) completed the Trinity. Hymns for this festival day include "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"; "To Jordan's River Came our Lord"; the Epiphany hymns, "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"; and "O Savior of Our Fallen Race,"

2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 14

Jesus called His disciples in several events and the Church devoted two Sundays for these callings. In the Gospel Reading, Jesus called Philip and Nathanael (Hebrew spelling) describing the latter's character and the place where he had stood. In the Old Testament Reading, God called the boy Samuel in the middle of the night, giving him a sad message to deliver to Eli. Similarly, Paul wrote a sad message to the Corinthians, asking them to refrain from sexual immorality. Hymns for this Sunday that point us to our calling include "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"; "Arise and Shine in Splendor"; "Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake"; and "When to Our World the Savior Came."

3rd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 21

This is the second Sunday which talks about the calling of His disciples. Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist and after spending a day with Jesus, became one of His twelve disciples. He then brought his brother Simon Peter, having said that he found the Messiah. The Old Testament Reading for this Sunday tells the incredible story of Jonah. The reluctant Jonah finally went to Ninevah to preach God's judgment. To his surprise, that city repented and was spared. What we learn today is that we should never underestimate the power of God's Word and

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

how it can change lives. Hymns for this Sunday include "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"; "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"; "Listen, God Is Calling"; and "Jesus Comes Today with Healing."

4th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28

During the season of Epiphany, we proclaim that Jesus is God. We see His power to heal many types of illness, including demon-possession. The mere presence and the command of Jesus caused the demons to leave the poor man. The Israelites could see that God raised up a prophet like Moses, who would speak God's message to His people. Hymns for this Sunday include "Son of God, Eternal Savior"; "Away from Us! the Demon Cried"; "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal"; and "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise."



CHRISTMAS CARD TREE

The Christmas Card Tree will once again appear in the Altar Guild Room. Please consider posting one card for all of our Mt. Calvary family and use the money saved on cards and postage for the offering envelope or other charitable giving over the holidays.

POINSETTIA PLANTS

The time is running out for you to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel area for the Christmas Season. If you wish to place a plant, you may sign up on the sheet located on the table in the Altar Guild Room. The cost per plant this year is **\$10.00**, and the deadline to order is **this Friday, December 8**. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Riske or Terrie in the church office.

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2018 offering envelopes are in your mailbox in the church office. The last date to submit 2017 offerings in January 7, 2018.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be no Church Council meeting December. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23. If you are unable to attend, please contact Bill.

SCRIP CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Christmas is quickly approaching. There are three order dates in December that will be delivered prior to Christmas they are Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17. Extra order forms are in the folder on the table across from the Church Office. Keep in mind that NO ORDERS will be placed on either Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. Regular weekly orders will resume in January.

Lucie Witte

CHRISTMAS COOKIE REQUEST

We will once again be distributing Christmas gifts to Head Start families through the Gifts for All God's Children program. Cookies are needed for the delivery date when the families come in to pick up their gifts. See the Sunday bulletin for further details.

THRIVENT CHOICE

Many thanks to Marion Kunert for her donation of her choice dollars to Mt. Calvary.

LUTHERAN "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" LUNCHEON 2018

The initial reservations for the Council of Lutheran Women annual Woman of the Year Luncheon will be made on January 15. More details will follow in the Sunday bulletins, but please make your plans to join us for this year's luncheon on Tuesday, March 19 at Wyndham Garden (formerly the Sterling Inn). Additional reservations may be made through February and will still be seated with the initial reservation group. See Lucie Witte to add your name to the list of reservations.

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation of Officers who were elected at the last Voters meeting will take place on Sunday, January 14 2018, during the worship service. The elected officers who will be installed into their positions are:

Secretary	Brian McNally
Board of Elders	Jerry Roy
Board of Elders	Erv Beyersdorf
Board of Elders	Matthew Lundgren
Board of Trustees	Patricia Fritz
Board of Stewardship	Lucie Witte
Board of Education	Brian McNally

We thank them for their willingness to serve and also ask the Lord to give them the wisdom and strength to do His work at Mt. Calvary.

TAKING DOWN CHURCH DECORATIONS

Everyone is invited to help take down the Christmas decorations immediately following the conclusion of our worship service on Sunday, January 14. Your assistance will speed up the process and will be greatly appreciated!

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Your newsletter articles for the February Newsletter will be due by Tuesday, January 16.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

There will be **no** Board of Elders meeting for the month of December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, at 2:00 p.m.

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

CAMP RESTORE UPDATE

I have agreed to write a monthly article in this newsletter to keep all of you updated on happenings at Camp Restore Detroit. Everything is happening so quickly. I do not believe any of the members of the start-up committee ever dreamed of growing Camp Restore Detroit so much by next summer. The response has been crazy. As of the writing of this letter, we have 2279 nights potentially booked for 2018. (One camper for one night = 1) There are 1184 nights confirmed, 475 nights relatively confident (all one group), and 620 nights in process. Amy has been working very diligently to fill up Camp Restore Detroit! Along with the good news of having a lot of campers coming, comes the news that we have a lot to do before they arrive. We need more showers, assurance of heat and air conditioning on the third floor (as campers froze and cooked during the night last year), and at least 30 more bunk beds. (At least these are our more urgent needs.)

CRD also needs to hire a project manager to lead our construction projects, as we discovered this past summer. Amy is also looking into getting interns to help out during the busiest times of 2018. We have discovered that help is needed in the midst of our joy of serving God's people.

A committee has also been formed to begin brainstorming the best way to reach out to the people we are serving. How can we share Jesus with them? How can we cultivate long-term relationships with them? How can this outreach ensure a future for Mt. Calvary? A lot of work needs to be done with God's help.

Please check out Mt. Calvary's website: MtCalvaryDetroit.org. There are new pages under the Events tab with many new pictures. There also are new pages under Camp Restore Detroit. If you have any comments or questions about the website, be sure to let me know.

Lori Carrier

OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Camp Restore will start 2018 with 12 volunteers from Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity for Women. They will be here from January 8-13, 2018. We will need two volunteers for each night during this period.

On January 13-15, 2018 six volunteers from Ferris State University (St. Peter Lutheran Church in Big Rapids) will be coming in for the long weekend. We will need one volunteer for each night of their stay. Your help is needed! Please contact Daryl Witte or Terrie in the church office to sign up.

DONATIONS FOR CAMP RESTORE DETROIT

Please see the updated list of items that are needed for our Camp Restore Detroit ministry. There have been just a few updates and we appreciate any help you or your family and friends can provide!

December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

HEAD START UPDATE

The enrollment as of late November was at 83 out of a possible 90 students. They continue to get inquiries regarding the openings. As in the past, they have 45 students in the morning and 45 in the afternoon. We have been reading stories to all three classrooms in the mornings and afternoons each Wednesday. Bill Buchanan once again took Christmas pictures of the children and they were sent home in a Christmas greeting card from the congregation. The children and staff will enjoy their Christmas break and return in January.

FOOD BANK

Upcoming dates for the Food Bank are December 6 and 10 and January 3, 17 and 31. If you have any men's clothing that you would like to donate, we would appreciate it! Thank you!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We
find
so many
ways to say
it. But the old
familiar words are
somehow always best:
so from all of our members,
we pray that you will have a very
blessed and Christ-centered Christmas
season. We also wish God's rich blessings
for you and your family
throughout every
day in
2018.



December 2017 & January 2018 Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Arnold Karcher
9 Carol Vietzke

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Judy Holloway	18	Jerry Roy
13	Matthew Kurtz	27	Tom Gammerath



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

12/29 Pastor John and Lori Carrier (44 years)