

# 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

## MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

17100 Chalmers Avenue (At Seymour)

Detroit, Michigan 48205

Phone (313) 527-3366

Email: [mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [mtcalvarydetroit.org](http://mtcalvarydetroit.org)

1

**John Carrier,**

**Pastor**

**(810) 887-0363**

**[pastorjcarrier@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjcarrier@gmail.com)**

**Mrs. Terrie Buchanan**

**Secretary**

**(586) 558-9364**

# February Newsletter 2018



## 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Mount Calvary Family & Friends,

Jesus said, *“I Am the Light of the world. The one who follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

Light is a necessity to life. Darkness is a necessity to growth. Just a little junior high biology, if I remember it correctly, may help illustrate those thoughts. Plants thrive on light; it is the driving force of photosynthesis. But the same light that provides energy and sustains life kills the growth tip. That’s why the plant grows toward the light it needs, the dying side of the tip causes it to lean in its direction. Growth comes only in the darkness. The plant needs both darkness and light to grow. Constant light may leave a plant strong and healthy, but unable to grow. Constant darkness will leave a plant pale, sickly, and ultimately, dead.

People also need a little “darkness” in their lives to grow. It is facing challenges that lead to growth as we see that we do indeed have the resources to “deal with” the issues life throws at us. Between the gifts God has given us and the gifts God has given others He brings into our lives, we discover new strengths and grow in our relationship with God. . . . Unless we fail to see the “light” God brings into our lives, then our faith too will weaken, fail to thrive, and ultimately, may even die.

In order to grow stronger through adversity and the challenges life offers us, we too need to “bend toward the Light.” Jesus is the “Light” toward which we need to “bend”. We need to see God’s presence and work in our lives. We can see that “Light” when we spend time in God’s Word, the Bible. We can see that “Light” in unexpected ways when we are surprised by unanticipated resources or opportunities that enable us to overcome. We can often see that “Light” and its source most readily in God’s people who come to our aid.

It has been amazing to see how God’s people have come together and discovered new gifts or learned new skills that have brought us success thus far in our Camp Restore efforts. Every time it seems as though dark shadows are rising and threatening our efforts,

## 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

something or someone is raised up by God to enable our forward movement. I've been surprised by people in City Government who have applauded our efforts and offered helpful advice on the best path forward (imagine, people from the government who *really are there to help!*. . . although I suspect that really is the goal far more often than we realize). I've seen it in financial gifts to help and assist our movement forward (we recently received an unexpected \$1,500 gift to assist in our loan payment for Camp Restore, and that's just the most recent example). I've seen the people of Mount Calvary rise up to lead tasks I am confident they would have balked at just a year or two ago. . . God has indeed been shedding His gracious "Light" on our little enterprise. May He continue to guide and bless us as we move forward!

While I am at it, it would be remiss of me not to note, with thanks, the "Light" of God's love in Christ Jesus shed into our personal lives as many of you have supported Lori and me through the loss of her Mom, and now her Dad. Your gracious understanding and support for the Sundays I had to miss, the cards we received, the presence of many of you at their visitations and at her Mom and Dad's personal Easter celebrations at Saint Mark Lutheran were all deeply appreciated. We cannot thank you enough.

I need to thank you as well for remembering us with individual gifts and a gift from the congregation over the Christmas season. We both deeply appreciate the personal support you have shown for Lori and me.

May God grant you amazing blessings through this New Year!

Pastor Carrier

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **WORSHIP NOTES FOR FEBRUARY**

In February, worshipers at Mt. Calvary find themselves in the midst of Epiphany and are preparing for Lent. They will hear readings that tell about Jesus ministering to people and showing them that He is God. Then two weeks later, when Lent begins, they focus on His humility. It happens to be part of God's plan. He, as the Almighty and sinless God, came to earth, die for our sins, and then return to life--doing all this to save His human creation. The words of Rev. Stephen Starke, LCMS pastor and author of the hymn, "The Tree of Life" (LSB hymn 561, stanza 3) summarized it best:

What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need--  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head.

### **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**February 4**

It's time to hear another great promise from our God. Those that wait for the Lord will have Him renew their strength like an eagle, so that they will never fail. The Old Testament Reading will also be enhanced in the choir anthem, "Have You Not Known." In the Epistle Reading, we hear that Paul was a minister who reached many people with the Gospel of Jesus so that they might be saved. In fact, God saved His people while they were still sinners! In the Gospel Reading, Mark wrote that Jesus preached God's saving news to many people and healed their diseases, showing them God's mercy and caring for their needs. Hymns for this Sunday include "O Son of God, in Galilee"; "Rise, Shine, You People"; "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"; and "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun."

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

**February 11**

This is the Sunday in which we hear about how God gave some of His closest followers glimpses of heaven. The brilliance of that light cannot be tolerated by sinful men, so God has to place filters to make these moments possible. In the Old Testament Reading, Elisha was permitted to get a glimpse of heaven, when God took Elijah home in chariots of fire. Moses talked with God and when speaking to the children of Israel, had to wear a veil over his face so the people could see him. Peter, James, and John were allowed to see the transfigured Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah. After a while Jesus returned to His earthly appearance. Hymns that describe the glory radiating from God include "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"; "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair."; "Alleluia, Song of Gladness"; and "'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here."

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 14**

The 40-day period of Lent begins with the solemn call to repentance. God, Himself, calls us to repentance, asking us to be humble in our prayer requests, having us give generously to the needy, and to lay up "treasures in heaven." Most Christians do this automatically throughout the year, but our Lord wants us to be aware that our sacrifice is a reflection of His ultimate sacrifice on Good Friday, giving His body for the salvation of the world. Hymns for this day include "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"; "Glory Be to Jesus"; "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"; and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**February 18**

In the Old Testament Reading, we hear about Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son Isaac to fulfill God's command. As much as it hurt Abraham to kill the only offspring that God Himself had promised, yet Abraham was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. Fortunately, God intervened by providing a lamb of sacrifice. We, as Christians of the New Testament, cherish the greatest sacrifice, Jesus, God's only Son, for our sins. Furthermore, in the Epistle, James tells us that sin starts out as a temptation, turns into a deed, and ultimately results in our death. We can thank God for His forgiveness that breaks the power of sin and restores us to a wholesome life with Him. Finally, in the Gospel Reading, we hear how the Lord defeated the three temptations of the devil. Each time Jesus used Scripture to combat these temptations. He thus set a pattern for us: use Scripture to defeat evil temptations. Hymns for this Sunday include "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"; "The Lamb, The Lamb"; "O Lord throughout These Forty Days"; and "Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay."

### **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

**February 25**

The most important lesson we learn in Lent is that we need to trust in God for everything, including our salvation. In the Old Testament Reading, we hear about the faith God gave Abram. As a childless old man, God asked him to be perfect and walk before Him. God promised Abram many children, but had not yet delivered. Finally, at the young age of 99, God fulfilled His promise with the birth of Isaac. In the Epistle Reading, Paul reminds us that we are justified by faith, not by doing anything for our salvation, but trusting that God would come through. He did, even when we were ungodly and had not deserved it. Hymns for this Sunday include "Chief of Sinners, though I Be"; "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"; "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"; and "Lift High the Cross."

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **CHURCH**



### **MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Your newsletter articles for the March Newsletter will be due by Thursday, February 15.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next scheduled Church Council meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, at Mt. Calvary. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please let Bill know.

### **LENT**

Lent is approaching; starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Please note that worship for all Lenten services will be held at 7:00 P.M. Lenten dinners will once again begin at 6:00 P.M., beginning with Wednesday, February 21.

### **THRIVENT**

Many thanks to Rev. Gerald and Lillian Grimm, David Habedank, and Jack and Judy Holloway for donating their Choice dollars to Mt. Calvary!

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **CAMP RESTORE DETROIT**

The camping season began early this year for Camp Restore Detroit (CRD). Two groups of campers came and served in January. The first group was twelve members of the Kappa Alpha Theta nationwide fraternity. They came from many different locations. This group served the entire week at Second Mile Center of Detroit located at 18391 Morang. It was founded in 2006 by the Presbyterian Women in Detroit and offers many programs, the largest being free after school programs. A smaller group of six came from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Big Rapids, MI. St. Peter is the host church for the Ferris State Campus Ministry. This was a returning group from 2017 and holds the honor of being our very first group. It was great to have them serve again. They spent their time helping CRD prepare for upcoming groups. They took down falling ceiling tiles in classrooms and made bunk-beds.

CRD has now hired a project manager. A lot of Mt. Calvary members know Chris Trehwella as he has volunteered at Mt. Calvary with Octane Ministry and as an individual. His job description is long, but centers around construction projects for the campers. Please take the time to welcome him onboard when you see him around.

Amy Fanta is working diligently in her role at CRD. Not only is she filling camp and working with non-profits, she is in conversation with Concordia, St. Paul, who may supply us with an intern who would be working with Mt. Calvary and CRD in outreach efforts.

It's a very busy time in the life of Mt. Calvary. Please ask how you can help, if you are not already involved. Whether you are able to volunteer or are not able to, please pray for Mt. Calvary and the new Camp Restore Detroit ministry as God can do amazing things.

Please check out Mt. Calvary's website: [MtCalvaryDetroit.org](http://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

## 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

<b>Ash Wednesday</b> “Portrait of Denial”	(February 14)	Matthew 26:74-75
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Midweek</b> “Portrait of Narcissism”	(February 21)	John 11:49-53
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Midweek</b> “Portrait of Escapism”	(February 28)	Luke 23:8
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Midweek</b> “Portrait of Expediency”	(March 7)	Luke 23:23-25
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Midweek</b> “Portrait of Ignorance”	(March 14)	Luke 23:33-34
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Midweek</b> “Portrait of Hope”	(March 21)	Luke 23:42-43
<b>Palm Sunday</b> “Portrait of a King”	(March 25)	John 12:13-15
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> “Portrait of Love”	(March 29)	John 13:23
<b>Good Friday</b> “Portrait of Darkness”	(March 30)	Luke 23:47-48
<b>Easter Sunday</b> “Portrait of Victory!”	(April 1)	Mark 16:1-8

## 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### SCRIP NEWS

The paper order form has had a thorough check for outdated information. The Shopwithscrip website is always a good source for a complete listing of all the retailers that are available, and there are many more that can't be included on a single sheet order form. Be sure and pick up a new copy of the order form if preparing to place an order.

The review of our earnings in 2017 through the SCRIP program as well as the Kroger Community Rewards Program showed an increase of almost \$200 over the previous year. Way to go Mt. Calvary! The total received through the Kroger Program totaled \$277.65 and the total of the checks delivered to Mt. Calvary for Food Bank expenses in 2017 totaled \$1,761.04. Since Kroger has made it easier to enroll participants in the Community Rewards Program (we no longer need to do the yearly renewal), we can continue to increase the number of participants. If you have any family members or friends that you feel might consider supporting this effort, ask them to open a Kroger account if they don't already have one, and then take the link to enroll their Plus card to support Mt. Calvary. When asked to identify the organization they'd like to support, they just need to start typing in Mt. Calvary and we should appear in the drop box that appears. It's that easy!

THANK YOU to each and every one of you who has linked your Kroger PLUS card or have made SCRIP purchases for family, friends or yourself. Since we started using the SCRIP program and Community Rewards back in 2009 to help fund our Food Bank efforts, a total of \$14,348.54 has been raised. It really has made a big difference without taking extra funds from our pockets, making extra use of funds we were already spending! That's fund-raising in the best way!

Lucie Witte,  
SCRIP Chairperson

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN WOMEN LUNCHEON**

The Women of the Year Luncheon for the Council of Lutheran Women is Tuesday, March 20 at Wyndham Garden in Sterling Heights. If you already made your reservation, be sure to mark it on your calendar. If you did not reserve a seat, please speak with Lucie Witte by the beginning of March. We are into a second table of ten with our initial reservation, and reservations made by March 9 will still be seated with the initial group. The cost of the reservation is \$24 and includes a \$2 donation to support seminarian scholarships and the CLW supported food banks. The festivities begin promptly at 11:15 a.m. so plan to arrive by 11. The entertainment for this year's luncheon will be Elaine Bickel, "A Child of God", educator and author, and humorist.

Our Mt. Calvary Honoree will be Lori Carrier. Attendees of the luncheon are encouraged to consider bringing donations to support the Detroit area food banks, baby items for Operation Layette, eyeglasses for MOST, sheets and towels for the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministry, and a variety of other items are requested by some of the Inter-Congregational members of the CLW that serve the Detroit area. A flyer of suggested items will be posted in the Altar Guild Room as soon as it's available, and a detailed listing is also available on the CLW website at [www.clwmichigan.com](http://www.clwmichigan.com). Students will again be available to deliver donations to the collection room, and containers for cash donations will also be available. There will also be several tables for vendors (including the Lutheran Bookstore) and displays by many of these Inter-congregational groups. So plan some time to view the displays, renew old acquaintances, and make new friends in addition to some good food, entertainment, and fellowship.

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **FOOD BANK NEWS**

Dates for the Food Bank in February are the 14th and 28th. The Meijer store at 13 Mile and Little Mack gave us a \$250 gift card in December. This will be used to purchase meat to give to our participants.

### **HEAD START**

Thanks to a coat drive at St. John Rochester, we were able to give many coats, boots, etc. to our Head Start staff to use when children are in need. Their program requires a bit of "fresh air" each day, weather permitting, and at times children do not have warm clothing. Head Start is in the process of their license renewal which is required every couple of years. The Wednesday reading program continues and the children are enjoying the stories they hear!

### **HEAD START SCIENCE & MATH FAIR**

Our Head Start students will once again be participating in their annual Science & Math Fair on April 26th. We would like to support them in this effort by making a contribution from Mt. Calvary. As was done last year, if you would like to make a contribution, you may write the check out to "Mt. Calvary" and Ron will write one check to Head Start for our total contributions. Last year we received a special acknowledgement given to groups or individuals who gave \$500 or more. We hope to achieve that goal once again. Please note on your check "Science/Math Fair" and give it directly to Ron or place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

### **SUMMER CAMP (VBS)**

Dates for this year's camp will be June 25 - 29. We will be working with a Camp Restore group coming from Missouri to develop the program and are very grateful for their help! More details will be available soon.

## **2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **GFAGC AFTERGLOW LUNCHEON**

The “Gifts for All God’s Children” annual luncheon will be held at Mt. Calvary on Friday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m. If you can assist with preparation, cooking, and/or clean-up please contact Carol Vietzke or Terrie. You are all invited; please contact the church office if you are planning on attending.

### **CLEAN-UP DAY**

Our next “clean-up day” is scheduled for this Saturday, February 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The major task will be preparing the two remaining classrooms needed for Camp Restore. Included in the agenda are: removing ceiling tiles from one room, tearing apart all the pianos and placing them in the dumpster, and the removal of any other unwanted items. If you know of anything that is of value in those two rooms, please remove them prior to that day. Please let the church office or Pat Fritz know if you will be able to help.

### **LENTEN DINNERS**

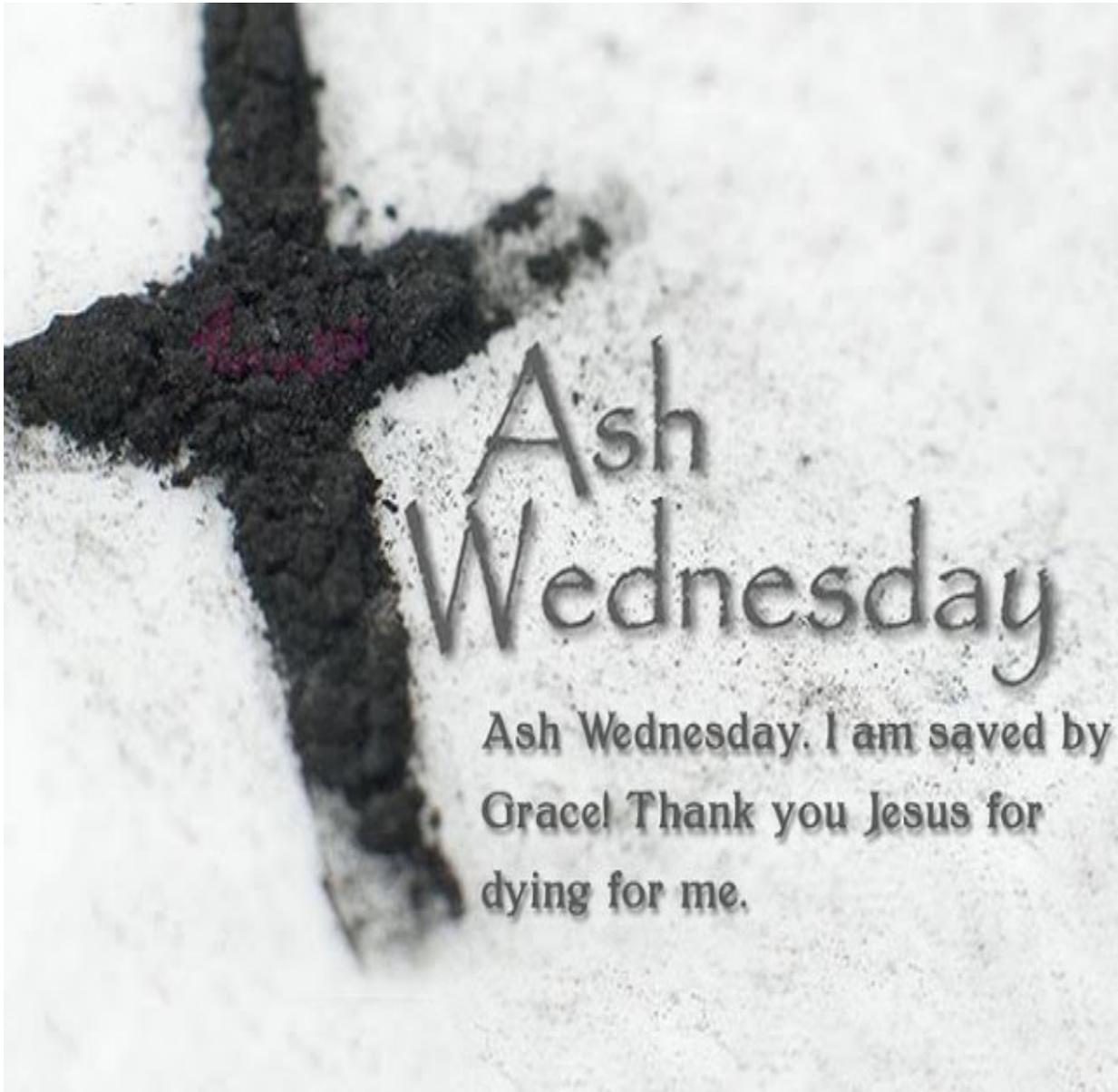
Once again this year, we will have dinners preceding the Lenten Worship Services (except for Ash Wednesday). The dinners begin at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m. If you are able to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact Carol Vietzke at 248-229-2220.

## 2018 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>6</b>	<b>Sally Sykes</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Judy Buchanan</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>John Hupp</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Bill Buchanan</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Matthew Lundgren</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Marion Kunert</b>



# Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday. I am saved by  
Grace! Thank you Jesus for  
dying for me.

# FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	2	3
4 <b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b> 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Time 10:30 pm Bible Study	5	6 Camp Restore meeting 9:00 am	7 Reading Program 10:00 am & 1:30 pm	8 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	9	10
11 <b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Bible Study	12	13	14 Reading Program 10:00 am & 1:30 pm  Food Bank 11:15 - 12:45  Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm	15 Choir Practice 7:00 pm  March Newsletter Articles due	16	17
18 <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Bible Study	19	20	21 Reading Program 10:00 am & 1:30 pm  Lenten Dinner - 6:00 pm  Lenten Worship - 7:00 pm followed by choir practice	22	23	24
25 <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Fellowship Time 10:30 am Bible Study	26	27 Church Council meeting 10:00 am	28 Reading Program 10:00 am & 1:30 pm  Food Bank 11:15 - 12:45  Lenten Dinner - 6:00 pm  Lenten Worship - 7:00 pm followed by choir practice			