

2018 JULY & AUGUST 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

July & August Newsletter 2018



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Mount Calvary Family & Friends,

From the Pastor's Desk...

Saint Peter strongly encouraged hospitality among the brethren. He wrote to the people of God scattered throughout Asia Minor, “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (1 Peter 4:9) The author of the book of Hebrews also wrote, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:2) In Genesis 18 we read how Abraham entertained 3 men, one of whom turned out to be the Lord Himself and the other 2 angels. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25, “Whatever you do for one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it for Me.”

I remember young seminarians talking about church fellowship activities as unnecessary diversions from the ministry to which we were called. It wasn't many, for most of us at least enjoyed being fed. It was essential to us to eat whether those meals were essential to the ministry or not. However, I believe we see a reflection in God's Word of something I have learned through my years of ministry. Table fellowship is very important to those who, work and serve together. Those cooks in the kitchen, the decorations committees, the people who move the chairs and tables to create the right set-up; all are important roles to ministry.

I pause now to reflect on the importance of meal times together as we are in the midst of a very busy and heavy schedule of meals at Mount Calvary for our Camp Restore efforts. I want to share a word of thanks for everyone involved. We hear repeatedly from our visitors to Camp Restore that they are amazed by the efforts to which our members and partners go to see that they are well-fed while here, especially the large home-cooked dinners when people from our congregation and community gather with them for meals.

It was the community meal hosted by Hope Warren last summer that first led Philonese Walker and Sanquise Powell to visit with us. At our most recent community barbecue, hosted by Trinity Clinton Township, I was introduced to a young mother enquiring about baptism for her preteen children. As we make contact with our community and campers through food and fellowship, I cannot help but believe God is using that time powerfully to build ministry

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connections that will help move Mount Calvary forward into its 2nd century of ministry! Thank you to all who are a part of that experience as we work and serve together.

Of course, it is not just eating together that matters. The involvement of Mount Calvary members in every aspect of our ministry is tremendously important if we are going to connect with our community in new ways and continue as “stake-holders” in the redevelopment of our neighborhood. From blight removal – to home repair – to visitation in homes and nursing homes – to children’s activities on and off campus – to water run-off resolution - to community gardens and the beautification of our own property, we are finding ways to “entertain” our neighbors as we invite them to our property and events to celebrate and work with us, and as we step out to join our neighbors in rebuilding our community. In so many ways, God is laying the foundation for our 2nd century ministry through your work and efforts! Thank you one and all!!!

I know you have heard it before. I am becoming quite repetitive I am sure. Still, I am constantly amazed by all that I am seeing happening at Mount Calvary. I truly cannot keep up with it all myself and am tremendously appreciative of all that everyone is doing in ways great and small to support our Camp Restore Detroit ministry at Mount Calvary and all that is happening here on so many levels. I can’t help but believe that this is the sort of thing Jesus had in mind when HE said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be My *witnesses* in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world!” (Acts 1:8) It hasn’t been that long since our community seemed like “the ends of the world” right here “in our own backyard” . . . all that is changing as we step out in faith into our “Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria” to serve God in new and exciting ways as we see our community rebuilding all around us!

May God continue to give us the faith, wisdom, and strength to move forward and out in this ministry we share.

Pastor John Carrier

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WORSHIP NOTES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Why Is There a Church Year?

This question has frequently been asked, and the response is that it has a long history. Early in the Church, conversion was usually done by families. Easter was an every-Sunday celebration. Once Christianity became the legal religion of the Roman Empire (around 325 A.D), there were a lot of people who wanted to join the Church. Church leaders needed to teach these people about the life of Jesus. Hence there was a six-month cycle which covered His birth (Christmas), His miracles showing He was God (Epiphany), His suffering and death (Lent), and His resurrection (Easter). On Easter Sunday, Baptism granted them admission into the Church. Thereafter, they continued learning about Christ.

As the Church grew and moved into the Middle Ages, infant baptism became quite popular. It was necessary to have Christian education after the baptism and to prepare young Christians for a confirmation of their faith. Hence the entire church year was developed. Half of the year continued to be focused on the life of Christ, preparing them for confirmation (Christmas to Pentecost); the other half of the year centered on growth of the Christian faith--adult Christians getting ready for Christ's final coming. Every Sunday of the year was filled in with an event in Christ's life or an event within the Church. The last Sunday of the church year was reserved for the final coming of Christ. The next Sunday prepared the Church for the coming of Christ as a child. Thus, the Church had a yearly calendar which focused on Christ.

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6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 1

July 1 is a continuation of our growth in faith. Christians need a constant reminder to see that God's love lasts forever. Every morning His mercies are new, and we can live our lives seeing God's generosity (Old Testament Reading). We, in turn, reflect God's generosity as we give our offerings to support Christian endeavors. In the Epistle Reading, Paul had to remind the Corinthians to give generously so that they could support the Jerusalem Christians who needed considerable help. In the Gospel Reading, we can look to Jesus who healed a woman with a blood disorder and brought Jairus' daughter back to life. Hymns that show us God's generosity include:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
We Give Thee But Thine Own
Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 8

The Christian life is not always a rosy one because the devil and our sinful nature want to prevent us from Christ's love. All three readings tell us about this struggle. Ezekiel in Old Testament times, even though the Spirit entered into him, still had to face his inward self, which often refused to hear God's Word. Paul, in the Epistle Reading, described the "thorn in his flesh" as a tool of God to keep him from boasting about himself. God kept Paul humble and therefore helped him focus on the message of Jesus' love. In the Gospel Reading, Jesus Himself was rejected by the Church leaders of Nazareth. They refused to see Him as the Son of God. Hymns to provide comfort to us include:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
On Galilee's High Mountain
O Christ, Our True and Only Light

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8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 15

As a continuation of last week's message, we Christians need to be prepared for even greater amounts of bad news. God expects us to confront evil, expecting us to bring His message of love to those who don't want to hear bad news. Amos told them to "shape up or get shipped into exile." The message was not well received for the Israelites did not change and the exile happened. Please look at John the Baptist, who proclaimed to Herod that it was sinful to marry his brother's wife. When Herod offered a reward for some excellent dancing, that wife requested John's head on a silver platter. In contrast to the bad news in these two readings, Paul relays God's extreme comfort and spiritual blessings to the believers, including the statement that they were saved before the creation of the world (predestination). Hymns that provide God's reassurance include:

Jesus, Priceless Treasure
O Holy Spirit, Enter In
Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 22

God provides great comfort to Christians, and He does it with great care. Jeremiah compares the believers to a flock of sheep that is faithfully watched over by a caring shepherd. In the Gospel Reading, with only five pieces of bread and two fish, Jesus fed 5000 people who had come into a desolate place to hear Him preach. In the Epistle Reading, Christians experience the Church as a place in which they are no longer strangers, but citizens gathered around God's love. Hymns that proclaim God's greatness and care include:

The Church's One Foundation
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Christ Is Our Cornerstone
Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

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10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 29

God shows His great promises to us and has control of catastrophes. When He sent a flood to destroy the extreme wickedness of the world, He promised Noah that a rainbow would be a sign that He would not destroy the entire world with a flood. Similarly, when a storm arose on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walked on the water and brought calm. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote that we should pray for spiritual strength to know the love of God in every situation. Hymns that show us God's love include:

Jesus Savior, Pilot Me
Eternal Father, Strong to Save
Give Thanks with a Thankful Heart
Our Father, by Whose Name

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 5

The month of August begins a three-week discussion concerning Jesus as the Bread of Life. In the Old Testament, God's people were fully familiar with His providing of manna daily to the Israelites as they wandered in the desert for 40 years. When Jesus fed the 5,000 people in an desolate area, people requested that He provide them with bread for life. His response was that He was the Bread of Life and that He would fill them spiritually with all that they need. Paul, in the Epistle Reading, reassures the Ephesians that Christians have unity in the body of Christ, for He provides the one hope for eternal life to those who have faith in Him. Hymns that show us Christ as the bread of life include:

Feed Thy children, God Most Holy
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
O Living Bread from Heaven
I Am the Bread of Life

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12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 12

When Jesus proclaimed that He was the bread of life having come from the Father, He met opposition from the Jewish leaders. They saw Him only as an ordinary man, ignoring all of His miracles. Jesus stated that their ancestors, having eaten manna in the desert eventually died, and that His spiritual bread would allow them to live eternally. As expected, the message was not well-received. The large crowds eventually left Him. The parallel reading in the Old Testament comes from I Kings 19. There we are told that Elijah had to escape the wrath of Queen Jezebel, since he had destroyed her idols and killed the evil prophets. The crowds continued to follow the idol worship and abandoned Elijah. Paul encourages Christians to give up their old evil ways of sinful conduct and follow Christ in His righteousness. Hymns that point us to Christ's way include:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Where Charity and Love Prevail
I Am the Bread of Life
Be Still, My Soul

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 19

Jesus concluded His teaching on the Bread of Life by reminding the people that He was speaking spiritually, reaffirming that all people must come to Him if they want to seek the Father. As stated above, a large number of the crowd no longer followed. In the Old Testament Reading, Joshua encourages the Israelites and us to serve and follow God instead of idols. Likewise, Paul encourages us to walk as children of the Light. In all three readings, following Jesus can become difficult, because there may not be an immediate reward on earth. However, the ultimate reward--a crown of life in heaven--cannot be obtained through any other means. Hymns that give us the right encouragement include:

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O Word of God Incarnate
O bless the Lord, My Soul
You Are the Way through You Alone
Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 26

Following Christ presents us with many challenges, but we sometimes let other things get in our way. Even religious people need to be reminded that we are to follow Christ. In the Old Testament Reading, Isaiah tells his readers that people honor God with their lips, but do not give Him their hearts. This is not God-pleasing. Paul tells us that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved His Church and gave His life for it. He also tells wives to submit to their husbands, as the Church submits to Christ. Finally, Jesus tells His listeners that following traditions or socially accepted patterns of behavior and attitudes can impede people from doing the will of God. Hymns that show God's desires for us include:

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
Love in Christ Is Strong and Living
Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens
My Faith Looks up to Thee

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CHURCH



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE CONVENTION

The LWML Michigan District Convention will be taking place in Port Huron from July 20-22 under the theme, "Shout for Joy to God." The main item of business is the selection of the Mission Grants to be supported by MITES gifts for the next two-year biennium. The previous goal of \$235,000 was met by the April deadline and the 23 grant proposals being presented to the delegates will need to be condensed to a number that will meet whatever goal the delegates also select for the coming two-year period.

"Gifts From the Heart" ingathering for the convention will include: 1) paper products for Camp Restore Detroit; 2) new socks and underwear for Kids in Distress in Port Huron; 3) diaper ointment, baby wash, and baby first aid kits for Blue Water Pregnancy Services in Port Huron; 4) diapers, sizes 5 & 6 for St. Paul Community Mission in Pontiac; and 5) Walmart gift cards to be shared with students at the St. Louis and Ft. Wayne Seminaries.

Additional needs for Servant Events on the initial day of the Convention include: 1) white sheets for rolling bandages; 2) 8" crochet hooks and balls of cut bags for making sleeping mats; 3) 2 yard cuts of fleece for making Heart Pillows; 4) envelopes with stamps (not trimmed) for Stamps for Missions; and 5) towels, toothbrushes, combs, nail clippers, bars of soap in original packaging for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

If you would like to make donations of any of the items listed above, route them to Lucie before she attends the Convention. Lucie will be representing Mt. Calvary as a delegate for the Convention. Please keep attendees in prayer for safe travels, joy-filled worship and Bible study, and wise decisions in the use of God's gifts.

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SCRIP NEWS

The Back to School sales will soon be upon us so please check the weekly bulletins for updates on bonus offers that will be available for select retailers. It's not too late for ordering gift cards for some late summer treats such as movie theaters, a meal out, gas cards, or a last home improvement project. See Lucie Witte for a current order form or to place an order. Orders placed on Sunday are available for pick up by the middle of the week.

FOOD BANK

Upcoming dates for the Food Bank are July 18, August 1, 15, and 29. We will be going down to Historic Trinity in July to pick up food from their Food Pantry. Donations of plastic grocery bags and men's clothing are always welcome!

HEAD START

There were 21 students who are going on to Kindergarten in the fall. Ten children and their parents participated in a special "Science Play and Learn" program the week of June 18. At the conclusion of the four-day program, those who attended all sessions were given a tablet to aid in their continued learning. We will be meeting with the Head Start administrators in July to discuss and sign the lease for the 2018-2019 school year. We pray all the staff, students and their families will have a safe and happy summer!

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SUMMER CAMP (VBS)

As of this writing, 61 students were registered for our Summer Camp which was held June 25-29. We pray that the Lord sent most of these children to our midst to hear the important message of God's love through this year's program - *Splash Canyon*. A very special thank-you to the group from St. Paul in Des Peres, MO who helped us with the program and the new sports camp that was added this year. Special thanks too, to Elizabeth Parrish and all from Mt. Calvary who are always so faithful each year in helping with this important outreach program.

FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR CAMP RESTORE DETROIT

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m.** for the first annual fundraiser for our Camp Restore Detroit ministry. We plan to have a meal, silent auction and other activities and hope you and your family and friends will join us! More details will be in the bulletin and in the September/October Newsletter.

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CAMP RESTORE DETROIT SCHEDULE FOR JULY AND AUGUST

The following churches and or groups will be with us through July and August for Camp Restore Detroit.

July 1 – July 7	Old St. Patrick’s Church Chicago, IL
July 8 – July 14	St. Paul Lutheran Church Hamburg, MI
July 8 – July 13	Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Avon, IN
July 9 – July 13	Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group Davison, MI
July 11 – July 15	Community Lutheran Church Flat Rock, MI
July 19 – July 22	Orange Nation LCMS
July 27 – July 31	St. Paul Lutheran Church Bay City, MI
July 22 – July 28	Riverside Presbyterian Church Riverside, IL
July 22 – July 27	Zion Lutheran Church Cincinnati, OH
July 22 – July 25	Trinity Lutheran Church Muskegon, MI
August 5 - August 11	Association of Fraternal Leadership Values Fort Collins, CO
August 5 – August 10	Hope Lutheran Church Adrian, MI
August 5 – August 8	Zion Lutheran Church Holland, MI

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“GIFTS FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN” CHRISTMAS IN JULY

You are invited to attend GFAGC “Christmas in July” celebration. This event will be held on Tuesday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Villa Penna, 43985 Hayes Road in Sterling Hgts. Discounted tickets: \$35 (Regularly \$70) if you RSVP by July 6th to pattij@giftsforallgodschildren.org or you can mail checks to: GFAGC, P.O. Box 71017, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. You may also make a donation of \$35 at www.giftsforallgodschildren.org For further information, please see the flier located in the Altar Guild Room.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

From long and short term savings plans to traditional and Roth IRAs, investments in the Church Extension Fund help fund your future and the future of congregations right here in the Michigan District. To learn how you can make a difference call CEF at 800.242.3944 or visit them online at www.mi-cef.org.

LUTHERAN SENIORS CONNECTION

Lutheran Seniors Connection is a new group that wants to provide opportunities for seniors in Metro Detroit to gather together in a variety of activities providing fellowship and enrichment of mind, body, and soul. Their first official gathering will take place on Wednesday, July 25th at 6 pm as part of the Detroit Zoo Wild Summer Nights with a concert by the Michigan Opera Theatre. Concerts take place in the Main Grove from 6:30-8 pm. Concert-goers are invited to bring a blanket or a lawn chair, and either pack a picnic or take advantage of food, snacks, beer, wine and soft drinks for purchase from Zoo concessions. Concerts are free with Zoo admission. Look for a red and white poster with **LSC-Lutheran Senior Connection-** at the picnic tables under the tent. If you'd like to offer suggestions for future outings or are willing to help plan and organize activities, feel free to contact Sue Boyle at 248-320-3413 or smvboyle@gmail.com or Sally Barnett at 734-464-0965 or sbarnett0965@sbcglobal.net.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Maxwell Grammens
- 7 Leona Varty
- 27 Sylvia Wallace

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Nancy Roemer
- 17 Kennedy Grammens
- 21 Kristin Miller
- 22 Adam Kurtz
- 30 Jennie Yee

JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	2	3	4 Church office closed in observance of Independence Day No Food Bank	5 9:30 a.m. Camp Restore Meeting	6	7
8 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	16	17	18 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Food Bank	19	20	21
22 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	30	31				

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Food Bank	2	3	4
5 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	13	14	15 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Food Bank September / October Newsletter Articles due	16	17	18 Community BBQ hosted by Hope, Warren
19 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time	27	28 10:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting 11:45 “Gifts For All God’s Children” Luncheon	29 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Food Bank	30	31	