

## 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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# February Newsletter 2019



## 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### From the Pastor's Desk...

Mount Calvary Family & Friends,

January in the Church is the season of Epiphany; this year the season extends through February. It's the time of year we hear readings sharing with us how Jesus *showed forth* HIS identity as God the Son. It is also the time of year we are reminded of our responsibility as God's People to *show forth* in our lives and conversations that Jesus is God's Son, our Savior. That's the essence of evangelism, *showing Jesus to and sharing Jesus with* the other people whose lives intersect with ours in ways great or small. Our Camp Restore Ministry and the different roles we play in the ministry *show* our Detroit neighbors the love of Jesus at work in our hearts and lives. As we share the story of Jesus' ministry and its impact on our lives, together with HIS promise to share God's forgiving grace with them as well, we *share* the love of Jesus at work in our hearts and lives. That is the essence of "Evangelism," the "Outreach" ministry of the Church.

We have a Board of Christian Outreach at Mount Calvary to lead our efforts as a congregation, but the responsibility to share God's gracious gifts with others lies with all of us. Matthew 28:19-20 is often referred to as "The Great Commission" . . . "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" . . . We are "commissioned" by Jesus to go in HIS Name with the message of grace and peace in HIS Name. It can be an awesome and fearful responsibility, thus it is great comfort to hear Jesus' promise to "be with [us] always!" It can also be an awesome and amazing experience when we see God touch someone else's life with HIS love and hope in Christ Jesus.

Elizabeth and I are currently working with Debbie Ellinger on a project to reach out to the prostitutes in our neighborhood. We also have a young Baptist pastor, Malcolm Griswold, interested in working with us on the project. Pastor Griswold is actually the one who brought the idea to us originally. We hope to begin in the next few weeks. The Council approved our general plan at its last meeting, only requesting that we move it from our intended Thursday evening plan to Saturday afternoons when there are not generally campers in the building. Members of the Council were generally excited at the prospect of this new outreach effort, but at the same time concerned for the safety of all involved. My own first

## 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

reaction was that I really didn't know what to do or how to begin . . . and my plate was already pretty full . . . which is why the first call I made was to Debra Ellinger. Some of you know Debbie from her work with "Gifts For All God's Children". Debbie has stepped out to begin a ministry to assist trafficked young women who want off the streets and make a new beginning through her "Ellie's House Ministry".

Our plan is to offer a meal, give participants an opportunity to share the struggles in their lives, and introduce the young ladies to God and HIS grace in Christ Jesus. Debbie and her group, and potentially Pastor Griswold, will lead the Bible Study and discussion portions of each meeting. Elizabeth and I will arrange the meal. We are anticipating small groups, probably 3-5 initially and growing to perhaps 10. We anticipate assistance from the Neighborhood Policing Officers (Officer Wade & Company) from the 9<sup>th</sup> Precinct to provide security for both the young ladies and program leaders, and anyone else in the building. Debbie and her group will also employ the monitoring practices they regularly use to ensure that participants are not free to roam the building and are monitored during their participation in the events.

While I know most of us are already stretching our limits to assist with the needs and opportunities presented by the ministries of Mount Calvary and Camp Restore Detroit, I still should offer: If you would like to help with our new outreach endeavor, or just to learn more about the ministry, please speak to me or to Elizabeth Parrish.

How amazing do you find the many different doors God is opening for us to share HIS Love? I think, "There is no way we can do it all!" Then I remember the words of Saint Paul, "*I can do all things **through God** who strengthens me!*" (Philippians 4:13). These ministries God has entrusted to us may be challenges for which you and I indeed are not capable, but as we have seen in all we have accomplished so far, when we find our sufficiency in Christ Jesus HE opens doors and makes a way . . . often that way is opened by surrounding us with brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ from other places. When we are looking for a way, it is good to remember that Jesus is always, "*The Way, the Truth, and the Life!*" (John 14:6)

God bless you as you serve Jesus in all you *say* and in all you *do!*

Pastor Carrier

## **2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **WORSHIP NOTES FOR FEBRUARY**

During the month of February, the common theme taken from the readings is the love coming from Christ. As the hymn writer, Stuempfle, Jr., so adequately penned in hymn 535 in the Lutheran Service Book, the love of Christ reaches in width, length, height, and depth. It's to the point that no one could possibly dream. Consider its width--it covers everyone, from all times and places. Consider its length--it can and will endure through tough times and also through eternity. Consider its height--it covers the noblest ideas and resounds in heaven. And finally consider its depth--it covers Christ's death on the cross. As Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13, it will outlast faith and hope.

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

**February 3**

The opening Old Testament Reading sends comfort to all when Jeremiah reveals that God knew us and loved us before the creation of the world! Jesus, in His ministry, showed us His love, as He healed many people of their illnesses and diseases. Finally, Paul wrote that the greatest gifts of speech, money, sacrifice, and human endeavor are worthless unless they are done with the love of Christ. Hymns that carry the love of Christ in our lives include "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"; "Where Charity and Love Prevail"; "Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels"; and "How Wide the Love of Christ."

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

**February 10**

The love of Christ radiates inside His followers and moves them to ministry. Isaiah saw the angels, was touched by a hot coal to be purified, and then exclaimed, "Here am I, send me!" Jesus called His disciples to become "fishers of men." Paul wrote that spiritual gifts given to believers must edify fellow believers so that their faith will be strengthened. Hymns that fortify this message include "Faithful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"; "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"; "'Come, Follow Me', the Savior Spake"; and "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying."

## **2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY** **February 17**

Love from Christ will give us the strength to withstand tough times--persecution, hatred, poverty, etc. Jesus tells us to rejoice because the kingdom of God will be ours. While on earth, we need to be like trees; they are planted firmly and can withstand the worst weather. Finally, we can rejoice because our bodies will be resurrected on the last day and we will be with Christ. Hymns for this Sunday include "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"; "The Man Is Ever Blessed"; and "We Know that Christ Is Raised."

### **7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY** **February 24**

God's love moves us to forgive others. This includes both family members and our enemies. In the Old Testament Reading, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, saying that it was God's purpose to bring them to Egypt so that they could be fed during the time of extreme famine. Although the brothers had sold him into slavery, God helped Joseph to forgive them of their past deed, thus preserving the family. In the Gospel Reading, Jesus tells us to love and do good to our enemies and that our reward will be in heaven. Hymns for this Sunday include "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"; "Praise to You and Adoration"; "Hail, O Source of Every Blessing"; and "Blest Are They."

## 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

# CHURCH



### MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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

### RELATIONSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Relationship Committee will be held on Friday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Fritz

### BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Elders will be held on Tuesday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jerry Roy.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next scheduled Church Council meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 26, at Mt. Calvary.

## **2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **LENT**

Lent is approaching with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Please note that worship for all Lenten services next month will be held at 7:00 P.M. Lenten dinners will once again begin at 6:00 P.M.

### **CAMP RESTORE DETROIT**

There are lots of exciting things happening here at Camp Restore! First, our walls are down upstairs as we prepare to rebuild our dorm rooms. We are grateful for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Birmingham, Hope in Warren, and Grace Fellowship in Romeo who have helped make this building project possible. The week of February 18, we are looking for many hands to help put the new walls up! Grab a friend and come on down; it will be a great time! If you would like more information or you are interested in helping, please contact the church office at 313.527.3366.

Looking ahead, we have a group of campers coming March 15-21 from Cabot, Arkansas. We look forward to the work that God has set aside just for them that week. Please continue to pray that our summer would be filled with lots of campers who are ready to work for the Lord right here in Detroit!

Elizabeth Parrish

### **SCRIP NEWS**

SCRIP orders take place every week. Please consider ordering your favorite gas card, fast food restaurant, Sam's Club, Walmart, GFS or other retailers that you know you will frequent. SCRIP is not just for gifting; it's also for your everyday shopping needs. Its money you're going to spend anyway, and the rebate we earn from Great Lakes Scrip Company does double-duty and provides us with some revenue towards our Food Bank expenses. See Lucie for an order form or to place an order.

Lucie Witte,  
SCRIP Chairperson

## **2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

### **GFAGC AFTERGLOW LUNCHEON**

Once again, we will be hosting the “After Glow Luncheon” for the volunteers from all of the organizations who helped with “Gifts For All God’s Children.” The luncheon will take place here at Mt. Calvary on February 15 at 11:45 a.m. Bill Buchanan is making the main course, but desserts are needed. Last year we had over 60 volunteers for lunch. Please contact Terrie in the church office if you can donate a dessert or help with parking lot security.

### **FOOD BANK NEWS**

The dates for the Food Bank in February are the 6th and 20th.

### **HEAD START**

The children continue to learn the alphabet, one letter at a time. Carol, Elizabeth, Sylvia and Sue are continuing to read stories to the children each Wednesday. There will be no school from February 18 through February 22. Staff, however, will be in the building Tuesday through Friday of that week. They will be doing home visits and parent teacher conferences. Regular classes will resume on Monday, February 25.

### **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.



## 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN WOMEN LUNCHEON

Lucie is still accepting reservations for the Luncheon taking place on Tuesday, March 19 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Reservations @ \$29 will be accepted up until the first week of March. Copies of Gayle Sommerfeld's book *Beyond Sight* will also be available at \$12.19 but must be ordered in advance and then picked up the day of the luncheon. Her book tells the story of how MOST Ministries came to be (Mission Opportunities Short Term). MOST was initially known for its work in providing eyeglasses through mission trips throughout the world, but it has evolved into many varied mission projects. Come and be inspired by her story.

We will also be honoring our DCE Intern, Elizabeth Parrish, as our Mt. Calvary "Woman of the Year". Come help us applaud this remarkable young lady for all she does on behalf of our congregation and Camp Restore Detroit. See Lucie to make your reservation or to order a copy of *Beyond Sight*. Please also pass along the information about the luncheon to any friends or former Mt. Calvary members that might like to join us for this special event.

Attendees of the luncheon are encouraged to bring donations for the many mission projects in our area including two Detroit Food Banks, baby items for Operation Layette, eyeglasses for MOST, Easter basket supplies for Gifts for All God's Children, paper supplies for Camp Restore Detroit and Family of God, plus cash donations are also welcome. A more complete listing of suggested donations is available on the Council webpage, <http://www.clwmichigan.com>.

# 2019 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day