

2019 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter



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Excerpts from Pastor Carrier's Christmas Letter...

Mount Calvary Family,

As I write this note it is hard to believe that it is already the third anniversary of our arrival at Mount Calvary! I don't know how it can be, but it seems at the same time as though it has been both much shorter and much longer. Time moves fast when you are busy, as we have been with the Lord's business. God has gifted us with great opportunities to reach out to our community with HIS love through Camp Restore Detroit's (CRD) ministry. God has also introduced us to many new brothers and sisters in Christ (both Lutherans and others) with hearts to assist us in this new outreach endeavor.

One of our new friends, Mark Kaline, has been working hard to help us acquire the White House (no, not the one in D.C., the one next to our playground), to house offices and new outreach efforts sponsored by Mount Calvary and CRD. Before year's end we should hold title to the White House, the lot next door, and 2 lots on the corner of Seymour and Chalmers (expanding our planned community garden area). In addition to child and adult classes, I suspect the space will be especially helpful in pursuing the opportunity recently presented to us to host an outreach effort to our addicted and sexually trafficked neighbors living on the streets of our community.

Another friend, Debra Ellinger, who leads Ellie's House ministry to reach out to the sexually trafficked has agreed to work with us as has Rev. Malcolm Griswold, a young pastor working to begin a new Baptist church near us. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we explore how we might work together in a God-pleasing way and reach out to our neighbors without overextending our financial, spatial, and especially our human resources.

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So many gifts of God to celebrate! Still, the entire catalog of God's other gifts cannot begin to compare to the One most gracious gift of Jesus we celebrate December 25th! May your celebrations be filled with Joy in the assurance of God's grace as you mark the birth of our Savior!

Pastor Carrier

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WORSHIP NOTES FOR JANUARY

"Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:51. What a fantastic Christmas for Mary! A visit from the angel Gabriel to announce that she would bear the Son of God! A 70 mile donkey ride to Bethlehem in her last month of pregnancy! A visit by shepherds who heard from the angels that the Son of God was just born! Eight days later a visit to the Temple in Jerusalem for the circumcision, naming, and dedication of her first-born Son. Simeon blessed God with the famous words, "Lord, let me depart in peace, for I have seen your salvation."

Sometime between three months and two years later, a group of stargazers (astrologists), coming from Arabia or Persia, stopped in Jerusalem to ask Herod where the new king was born, for they had seen His star in the East and had come to worship Him. The Bible scholars told them to go to Bethlehem, about five miles further south. The star stopped over the house where the family was staying. The stargazers brought their precious gifts and returned home. Joseph, having been warned in a dream, took his family to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. When the angry Herod died, Joseph then took his family to live in Nazareth, in Israel. As you can see, God protected His child and used Mary and Joseph to accomplish His Will.

During the months of January and February, the Church will spend eight weeks in the season of Epiphany learning about Jesus as God's Son. He was no ordinary man. In the next three weeks, we will hear that at His baptism the voice of God was heard from heaven. At the wedding of Cana, He changed the many jugs of water into wine, thus saving the bridal couple the embarrassment of running out of this good beverage. It was much better than the prime wine served at the beginning of the reception. When He preached at the Nazareth synagogue, many of the leaders were angry at His message, but He was able to walk through the mob without getting injured.

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EPIPHANY OUR LORD

January 6

Once every seven years, we get to dedicate the entire service to the arrival of the Wise Men to worship the Child. In the Old Testament Reading, Isaiah prophesied that God's glory will shine on everyone--both Jews and Gentiles. Similarly, the Epistle reinforces the message that the Gentiles will come to salvation--part of God's mystery now revealed in Christ. Finally, the Gospel tells the story of the Wise Men who brought precious gifts to Jesus, the King. Hymns that help us rejoice include "As with Gladness, Men of Old"; "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"; "The Star Proclaims, the King Is Here"; and "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning."

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 13

Baptism is the first act done by our Lord to begin His ministry. He went to John the Baptist and made the request. It is noted that the God's voice from heaven and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, indicated approval. Two other baptismal readings remind us of God's great salvation in baptism: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you and called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you..." and "We were buried with Him by baptism into His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Hymns that celebrate Christ's and our baptisms include "To Jordan Came the Christ Our Lord"; "Father Welcomes All His Children"; "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"; and "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized."

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2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 20

The first miracle that Jesus performed happened at a wedding in the town of Cana. The festivities lasted about a week and wine was needed to cover the full period of celebration. The wine steward tasted the wine and remarked that it was better than the first.

The Old Testament Reading for this Sunday contains Isaiah's prophecy that the nations will see Israel's glory as shown through Christ. The other reading tells about the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to the Church: these include wisdom, knowledge, healing, and working miracles. Hymns for this Sunday include "Come, Join in Cana's Feast"; "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"; "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives"; and "From God the Father, Virgin- Born."

3rd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 27

When hearing the Word of God, we get both Law (how we have fallen short of God's expectations) and Gospel (how God loves us, forgives our sins, and helps us to follow in His footsteps). The reactions to this message can either be acceptance or rejection. In the Old Testament Reading, Ezra's reading of the Law produced a major repentance: the Israelites became very faithful to God. In the Gospel Reading; the people of Nazareth strongly rejected Jesus' message and took Him to a cliff for stoning. The Epistle Reading tells about God's great love that He gives: "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things; it never ends." Hymns that point us to Christ include "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"; "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"; "God Has Spoken by His Prophets" and "Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels."

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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 6. Your assistance will speed up the process and will be greatly appreciated! Please plan to stay and join us for fellowship and food!

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Recently elected officers of our congregation will be installed on Sunday, January 13, 2019, during the worship service. The following individuals who will be installed are:

Chair of the Congregation	William Buchanan
Board of Elders	Adam Kurtz
Board of Elders	John Hupp
Board of Trustees	Lorraine Roy
Board of Stewardship	Marion Kunert
Board of Education	Susan Riske
Board of Education	Carol Vietzke

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

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Your newsletter articles for the February Newsletter will be due by Tuesday, January 15.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Elders will be held on Monday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jerry Roy.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The January meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 10 a.m. If you are unable to attend, please contact Bill.

THRIVENT CHOICE

We thank Judy Holloway, Marion Kunert and Linda Spahr for their designation of Thrivent Choice dollars to Mt. Calvary.

SCRIP NEWS

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you who placed SCRIP orders as part of your Christmas gifting. Those orders raised almost \$250 for our Food Bank efforts here at Mt. Calvary.

Please keep in mind some of the retailers you gifted to and that they can be ordered for your personal use as well. There are several gas companies available (Speedway, Marathon, Shell, and 76 have \$25 and larger cards); BP, Sunoco, Arco have \$50 and larger available; regional companies such as KWIK Trip, Exxon, Circle K, Pilot Flying J, and Sinclair are also available for travel); grocery & general merchandise (Meijer, Walmart, Sam's Club, Whole Foods, Target, GFS, Valuland and regional Albertson's, Sprouts, Piggly Wiggly, Safeway, and Winn Dixie); fast foods and casual dining (most national chains); entertainment (AMC, Game Stop, and iTunes);

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drug stores (CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens); home improvement (Home Depot, Lowe's, Menards); and countless other retailers.

Please consider ordering a restaurant or gas station card that you frequent and then reorder as you need. Every order generates a profit for the SCRIP account. See Lucie for a current order form or to place an order.

Lucie Witte

LUTHERAN "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" LUNCHEON 2019

The Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon (CLW) will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Burton Manor, located at 27777 Schoolcraft in Livonia (just off the service drive of I-96, between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads). Our honoree for the "Woman of the Year" celebration will be Elizabeth Parrish, so make your plans to join us for this special event.

The cost for reservations is \$29 per person and Lucie is taking names (and payment, checks payable to MT. CALVARY please) so the initial reservation can be made January 15.

The program begins at 11:15 am. The speaker following our delicious lunch will be Gayle Sommerfeld, one of the founders of MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short-Term). She has shared her story in her book "Beyond Sight". MOST is perhaps best known for their ministry using old eyeglasses, but they are active in other ministry fields as well.

This luncheon not only provides an opportunity to honor ladies (like Elizabeth) who are making a difference in the churches and organizations where they serve, but is the major fund-raiser for the CLW which allows support for scholarships for seminarians and deaconess students from the member congregations of the CLW plus two memorial scholarships for two ladies preparing for full-time church work at Concordia University-Ann Arbor.

Please pass this invite along to any former Mt. Calvary members and friends that you think may wish to join us on March 19.

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HEAD START UPDATE

The staff will be returning from their holiday vacation on Wednesday, January 2. The children will be returning to school on Monday, January 7. We will be glad to have them back in the building and the reading program for the children will resume this month.

FOOD BANK

Dates for the Food Bank in January are the 9th and 23rd. We were blessed to receive a large donation of food from St. John Fraser recently and so appreciate their help!

CAMP RESTORE UPDATE

We need your help! We need you! Yes...you, to get familiar and go on Camp Restore Detroit's social media accounts. Currently, Camp Restore Detroit is on and the following:

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mcalvarydetroit/>)

Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/camprestoredetroit/>)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CampRestoreDet>),

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPB7WCwEC-63kkghlMTgzwg/>).

Please spread the word about Camp Restore Detroit's social media. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Mostly right now, we need your support to excel our YouTube channel. For those that don't know what YouTube is, it is a website to share videos. Currently our YouTube web address name is only a bunch of letters and numbers (see above). We want those letters and numbers after "<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>" to say CampRestoreDetroit. In order to do that, we need to have 100 subscribers. We're currently in the mid-thirties. Please go on YouTube, create a YouTube account and press that red "SUBSCRIBE" button on Camp Restore Detroit's YouTube channel. Also, don't forget to share all social media links with your friends and family.

Adam Kurtz

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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