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July 2020

Newsletter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT CHURCH
Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONS (*zoom*)
Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. with fellowship

Mount Calvary Family,

**From the Pastor's
Desk...**

We are experiencing some tremendously difficult times. In the midst of our battles with COVID 19, we once again see communities torn apart by issues of racism. It is a difficult struggle to deal with effectively at any time, but especially so amidst the heightened sensitivities of this pandemic. To find a way forward, I believe we must look for common ground shared by those on all sides of the issues before us. I say “all sides” because I don’t believe the issues before us are so simple as “two sides”. Even if you break it down to its basest form, right vs. wrong, it is not so simple as a right side and a wrong side. There are those with good points and bad on all sides of the issues.

I believe we can find common ground in the words of Sandra Turner-Handy, one of the leaders in our community. Sandra writes:

“While we stand in solidarity for the nonviolent protests, shoulder to shoulder against the injustices of harm, danger, and death against people of color, as a community of hope, faith and peace. We will not support any acts of violence upon members of our community or police precinct or any destruction of property. We send prayers of strength and peace to the George Floyd family and the countless other families of victims of police brutality.”

I understand the fears many share when they consider involvement in our community. Our neighborhood has experienced some difficult times that have left it desolated and largely deserted. Having said that, I believe the words of Sandra are far more representative of our community than many may expect. These words could easily have been written by anyone of us. They proclaim the validity of the Black Lives Matter movement’s message, that Black Lives indeed matter as much as any other because each life is precious to God. Too often, that message is missed because, when we hear the words declaring, “Black Lives Matter!” we miss the context in which they are spoken. That context is one in which many suffer beyond those of other races because of skin color. People often fear the dangers around them, and because of the value they place on their own lives, they fall prey to the temptation to devalue those they fear even when they are no danger at all.

As we stand with our community in pursuit of justice for all, I am reminded of Martin Luther’s writings during The Peasants’ Rebellion. Luther spoke out against an unjust system that was not fair to the peasants of Germany. Then, when the peasants revolted with extreme violence, Luther spoke out encouraging the German aristocracy to act in defense of innocent people, put down the revolt and restore order. The aristocracy responded with such great violence that Luther promptly spoke out against them as well. I believe God calls us to take the difficult place in the middle with Luther, “sitting on the fence” between warring sides and calling each to repentance when they employ excessive force.

We must indeed acknowledge and hold police officers and others accountable for acts of excessive force. We do, indeed, need to speak up against a system which devalues certain segments of our society and individuals who use excessive force against others. At the same time, we must condemn the equally unjust responses of victims, their families and friends when they attack the innocent. We need to “sit on that fence” but we cannot sit there passively or indefinitely. We must stand and reach out our hands in both directions to draw together and affirm the values of all those whom God in His grace has created to be His children whom God desires to join Him in His eternal Kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Lord.

We are also thankful that we are part of a community that has a great relationship with our police officers, as Sandra’s statement declares, and can readily turn to them in times of need. We must stand with these men and women as well and celebrate that they are indeed a positive force in and part of our community. We must celebrate that Blue Lives matter as well and pray for their safety as they concern themselves with their responsibility to

serve and protect our community. We are indeed blessed by those whom God has brought to serve our community.

It is often said in these circumstances, “If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.” We are thankful for the opportunities to put God’s love in action through the efforts of our community partnerships with our Camp Restore ministry. We can be part of the solution with our actions, relationships, and service right here in our community. May we indeed be part of the “solution”, and may it be a “solution” grounded in God’s love and care for every life He has created. May we “speak the truth in love” in such ways that everyone hears God’s warning of coming judgment on sin and with it the loving compassion of God that caused Him to send His Son, Jesus, to bear that judgment that we might experience God’s grace through faith in this His Son!

May we indeed acknowledge that “Black Lives Matter” because “All Lives Matter to God!” John 3:16-17 says it all.

May God bless you as you serve Jesus in all you do,

Pastor Carrier

WORSHIP NOTES FOR JULY

Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,
My pearl of incomp'able worth.
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.
Lord, give us Your grace and the pow'r of the Spirit,
To value this treasure aright
That, never allured by the world, I inherit
Your kingdom of glory and light. LSB Hymn 654 stanza 1

This hymn, written by David Rogner only a few decades ago, summarizes the thoughts of the seven parables in the Gospel of Matthew. Many of these parables will serve as the Gospel readings during the month of July and help us to focus on the kingdom of God. Jesus wants us to look at these parables, gather their meaning, and apply it to our lives. For example, in this parable, the kingdom of God is compared to a highly expensive pearl. The merchant saw its value, sold everything he had, and bought the pearl. In the same way, we need to see the eternal value of God's kingdom and make every effort to be a part of it. Although we cannot buy our way into heaven, we can trust Jesus and focus on bringing the Gospel to many people.

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5

Many of us get mentally and physically tired, trying to keep up our house, our church grounds, our family's needs. And the list continues... To this long list, Jesus offers the advice to come to Him and get some needed rest. Only through Him will our burdens be lifted, and our activities be blessed. Hymns that support rest in Jesus include "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"; "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"; and "Just As I Am, without One Plea."

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12

In the Old Testament Reading, God promises that His word will not return empty, but will accomplish what He wants. Similarly, in the parable of the sower, he scatters seed on rocky ground, on trodden paths, and on fertile soil. He rejoices when the seed that fell on the good soil produced a great crop. So it is with those that hear the Word of God. Hymns that keep us focused on God's Word include "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"; "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"; and "Almighty Father, Bless the Word."

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19

In the parable of the wheat and weeds, Jesus describes the situation that has existed since the fall of man. Jesus has planted good seed (faithful followers) and the devil later plants weeds in the same field (followers of evil). It is impossible to do weeding because the two types of plants are intertwined in the soil. Jesus will have to wait until Judgment Day to do the separation. Meanwhile, please be confident that the Holy Spirit prays for you as you await God's final harvest. Hymns for this Sunday include "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"; "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"; and "On What Has Now Been Sown."

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26

This Sunday culminates the parable section in the Gospel according to Matthew by presenting four small parables, each one encouraging us to recognize the incredible value of God's kingdom. Like the Pearl of Great Value (written above), the man found a Hidden Treasure and immediately bought the field. In the Parable of the Net, the men dragged their catch of fish to shore and immediately separated the good from the bad. In the last parable, the master of the house brings out his old and new treasure. It is implied that he separates and saves what is most valuable. Hymns for this Sunday include "All Depends on Our Possessing"; "Be Still, My Soul"; and "In Thee Is Gladness."



**Feeding the
Community**

FOOD BANK

Dates for the Food Bank in July are the 8 and 22. We will continue passing out bags via the back porch throughout the summer. Your donations of plastic grocery bags are always welcome!



VOTER'S MEETING

Mount Calvary Voters' Assembly will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7 at 7 P.M. As most of us are aware, Pastor Carrier is called to Mount Calvary in an interim capacity to help our congregation find ways to better serve our community and prepare for a new long-term, mission/outreach minded pastor. This is a special meeting to consider the Church Council's recommendation that we accept the proposal from the Michigan District to join in a partnership with the District and Charity Lutheran Church in calling a full-time Missionary-At-Large to serve our northeast area of Detroit. The plan calls for this missionary to lead worship and ministry at both congregations while leading outreach efforts to the community of which we are both a part. He will serve on the Board of Directors for Camp Restore Detroit but will not be Camp Director. All confirmed members of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, age 18 or above (Michigan's legal "age of majority") are eligible to vote. If you are eligible and desire to participate in the discussion and vote but have not received an invitation to the meeting, please contact Pastor Carrier via phone or text at (810) 887-0363. If you know of anyone else who is eligible and interested in voting, please share this information with them and ask them to contact Pastor Carrier.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Church Council meeting has not been determined. Amy Fanta is expected to be here for that meeting. Please watch the announcements in the Sunday bulletin for the exact date.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING

There is no Board of Elders meeting for the month of July. Please watch the August Newsletter for the next scheduled meeting.



AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Your newsletter articles for the August Newsletter will be due by Wednesday, July 15.

SCRIP NEWS

SCRIP order forms continue to be available from Lucie. There have been a couple new additions to the form. Panda Express now offers a \$25 gift card at 8% and Home Chef offers egift certificates through SCRIP NOW in any amount from \$50-500. The full list of retailers is always available by visiting www.shopwithscrip.

Thank you to those who continued to use your KROGER CARD for purchases. The check from the Kroger Community Rewards program was recently received (\$40.95 for 16 households making purchases from Feb. 1 through April 30). The SCRIP account continues to make a monthly donation to the Food Bank account thanks to the support of a faithful few who make weekly or occasional orders. Any orders delivered to Lucie on Sunday will be available for delivery by mid-week or the following Sunday if preferred. Please consider ordering gift cards for restaurant, gas, or shopping needs for those retailers that you tend to frequent. Restaurants tend to give the higher percentage rebates but if you regularly shop at Target, WalMart, Home Depot or Lowes, gift cards are available for these and more. See Lucie for an order form or to place an order.



GRANT DONATION RECEIVED

THANK YOU to those who have been turning in their MITE boxes for emptying. Lucie was able to send off a check for \$70 this week for LWML. Seventy-five percent of that amount will support the Mission projects selected by the Michigan delegates at our upcoming virtual convention on July 11. The other 25 percent supports the national LWML selections, including Camp Restore Detroit, which recently received a partial payment of \$25,000 towards the \$100,000 grant selected at last summer's Convention in Mobile, AL.



All grants for 2018-2020 were completely funded. Lucie will be voting as a delegate from Mt. Calvary to help select the mission grants for the next two-year biennium. The results of balloting will be announced as part of the virtual Convention held on Saturday, July 18. All the delegates from the Greater Detroit Zone are being invited to view the Convention together at Historic Trinity. Lucie will share the results of the elections following the Convention. Please feel free to route your MITE boxes to Lucie anytime, especially if they are filled to capacity!

NEW MICHIGAN DISTRICT GRANT PROJECTS 2020-2022

The year has been very different than in the past, and the Michigan District LWML is hosting its first virtual convention. While some are likely disappointed in the need to be separate at this time, we can praise God for the opportunity for so many of us to share in the blessings of a convention at a reduced cost for those who need such to participate as well as those who cannot travel. This year affords us the opportunity to share the LWML mission with others in new ways!

For information on this and all grants, go to www.lwmlmichigan.org/. Under Missions, select Grants.

Busy, busy, busy – are there enough hours in the day to do everything that needs to be done? Are you one of the many women who “have it all” – the joys and trials of a family, career, and work to serve your Lord? The busy schedules we sometimes bemoan are the legacy of many church women over many years. In the Feb 1872 issue of *Der Lutheraner*, a seminary president expressed concern about women desiring roles outside of the home and perhaps not being able to dedicate the necessary time to their families. Women’s auxiliaries began to form, providing women with more freedom and the opportunity to exercise leadership skills. In the LCMS, local societies began in their communities. Through the years, our predecessors worked behind the scenes, tirelessly supporting missions however they could. Today, we have the freedom to contribute to the spreading of God’s Word in so many ways – and the joy of fellowship with women in our state, nation, and throughout the world. So attend the virtual convention – and reach out to a friend and have her join you! Let’s practice the time management skills God has also blessed us with, recognizing that all of the challenges are really gifts from our Lord. Then celebrate the gift God has given to share in the ministry and fill the mite box!

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have blessed us with the joy of fellowship and service. Help us to celebrate and use the gifts you have given. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Hello everyone, Elizabeth Parrish here! I am so excited to be working for Camp Restore Detroit once again! I cannot even begin to tell you how much I have missed you. I look forward to the day that I can see your faces and hug all of you again!

Even though we have suspended overnight campers for this season, there are lots of exciting things happening here at Camp Restore Detroit! As a staff, alongside our community, we have created a Virtual Week of Camp. Throughout the week, our viewers will learn about different aspects of Camp Restore, the lens we work through, the history of Detroit, and so much more! Each day they will meet one of our incredible community members who will share a bit of their story! They will even have the opportunity to have staff and community members join them over zoom 1-2 nights to answer any questions they might have. We had one group go through it last week and they loved it! We are staying busy trying to improve this program as we go along, as well as connect with our community as much as possible. Please continue to pray for our neighbors as we walk together through these uncertain times. God's blessings and I cannot wait to see you all again soon!

Elizabeth Parrish



JULY BIRTHDAYS

3	Diana Lundak	14	Nicholas Rappold
3	Maxwell Grammens	16	Alex Yee
12	Zacary Lundgren	27	Sylvia Wallace



WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS

The following people dealing with health concerns:

From our fellowship:

Bill and Judy Buchanan, Dina Gilmore, Margaret Locricchio, Diana Lundak, Karolyn Swad, Dale Vietzke, and Daryl Witte

Among our friends and families:

Delores Carrier, David Coates, Cheryl Dunten, Rev. Jeff Fritz, Rev. David Heller, Jill Hupp, Mary Karlewski, Sue Richardson, and Izzy Sherman (niece of John Duff of Redeemer, Birmingham)

Special Prayers:

For the United States of America as we work to defeat the COVID-19 virus and for those who have been affected by it and the flu viruses.

Birthday Prayers for the month of July:

We include Diana Lundak, Maxwell Grammens, Zacary Lundgren, Nicholas Rappold, Alex Yee, and Sylvia Wallace who will celebrate their birthdays this month.

We also pray for:

The United States military – Kayla Buchanan, Laura Buchanan, and Jack Rotar, first responders, police officers (especially police officer Daniel Woods), firefighters of the 9th precinct, and the City of Detroit.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELECTRONIC GIVING

Remember you can continue to give online. If you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Ron Varty at 248.543.3720 or Terrie at the church office.