

**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)

John Carrier,  
Pastor  
(810) 887-0363  
[pastorjcarrier@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjcarrier@gmail.com)



May  
Newsletter  
2020

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE** (*zoom*)  
Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

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

Mount Calvary Family,

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

A brother in ministry commented not long ago, “This pandemic is forcing us to consider and make changes we should already have made.” I rather look at it as “Coming kicking and screaming into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” It is something very difficult for some of us, especially those of us who grew up watching tv and movies starring heroes of “The Old West” . . . think 19<sup>th</sup> Century (that’s the 1800’s for those of us chronologically challenged). Wouldn’t it be nice to return to “the Good Old Days”? . . . Maybe, if you were among those who had it “good” in those days? Not everyone did. Maybe you don’t want to go back quite so far, perhaps the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century is more to your liking? Say the second decade of that century? You know, the time when the Spanish Influenza we have heard so much about was raging while Europe was caught up in the strife of World War I and the cream of our nation’s crop of young men were sent over to join in the battle for “freedom.” . . . Still too far back? . . . I remember a presidential candidate a few elections back who wanted to take our nation back to the “America of the 1950’s.” Try selling that to an African American who actually experienced that era of our history!

Israel got caught up in that kind of reminiscing in its period of wandering in the wilderness. They found themselves longing for “The Good Old Days” in Egypt where everyone had plenty to eat and they could relax every evening around the fire in their cozy family cottages. What an endearing picture! I can understand why they would desire a return to such a life . . . if it were real. Their longings for easier times clouded the reality. The reality I remember from Scripture is that they were suffering under the brutality of demanding slave drivers under heartless Egyptian masters when God heard their cries for deliverance.

For those of us longing to “get back to normal”, it is important to remember that our “normal” wasn’t perfect either. “Normal” was not necessarily good for all of us – in fact, it was probably “bad” at one time or another for each of us. It is good to remember that “good” only really exists in this world as a temporary escape from the evils of the world. True “Good” only exists in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father where evil is left in the “outer darkness” while the faithful children of God, cleansed from the “darkness” of our lives by God’s forgiving grace in Christ Jesus, live forever in the “light” of God’s presence!

Until we come into that Kingdom we are left to work in the “darkness” of our present reality. Here we are called to shine the “Light” of God’s love and His gift of Life in Jesus into the lives of everyone around us. That is the role of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. This ministry has shined the “Light” of God’s love in Christ Jesus into thousands through almost a century of existence. We have been blessed to be among those touched by God’s love through this ministry. As we look toward the Centennial Anniversary of Mount Calvary, we remember those who have gone before us and the sacrifices they made to share the gifts of God’s grace with us. As we do, it is incumbent on us to consider well how we will one day be remembered by those who follow us. Even though our names may be forgotten, it is my hope that our efforts to serve our community and share the hope of the Gospel that is ours in Christ Jesus will long be remembered. I pray it continues to touch the lives of our community members for many decades (perhaps centuries?) to come. That is why, as we anticipate our Anniversary Celebrations, with first events scheduled for just a year from now, we focus not just on the past but also on the future and what we will do with the heritage handed down to us in this ministry we share.

That is the focus of discussions going on even now between our congregational leaders and the Michigan District. The question before us is whether we will join with the work the District is doing at Charity Lutheran down the street and enter into a shared ministry agreement between the Michigan District, Charity Lutheran, and Mount Calvary? Should we determine that this is the best way forward as Mount Calvary moves into its second century of ministry on Detroit’s east side, it will mean changes for us. As we contemplate that reality, it is good to remember that whatever way we move forward in ministry, it will mean change. Joining in this collaboration with the District would mean that I would soon be moving on to pursue other directions in ministry. If you find that distressing, it is important to note that I will likely be here for only 2 to 3 more years at most. The question is not whether you desire that I remain, but what is the best way forward for Mount Calvary as a mission station for the message of the Gospel from our Lutheran perspective for many years to come? Whether we join in this venture or not, that is the important ministry question before us. As we look to the future, whether under my pastoral care and leadership or that of another, where is God taking us?

I have long believed that planning for the future allows us to review what is truly most important to us -- those things that make up our identity as Christians of a Lutheran heritage – in order to hold onto them. As our world changes, the way we do ministry changes as we have amply seen in this time of COVID 19. None-the-less God, HIS Word and its teachings, and HIS love for us and for those around us never change! These are the things we must consider as of most importance as we look and plan for Mount Calvary’s future. “Buckle-up your seat belt and settle in!” I think we are in for an exciting ride as we “climb aboard” to see where God is taking us and how He will get us there! I only ask two things of you as we consider the way forward. First, keep an open mind and secondly keep your hands folded in prayer. Whatever way we pursue, God already has a plan for us and for this ministry He has entrusted to us!

God’s peace and blessings to all,  
Pastor John Carrier

## **WORSHIP NOTES FOR MAY**

### **“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”**

These words, first spoken in the Old Testament by Job, still speak a strong testament of faith in God. Job, when asked by his friends to curse God and abandon his faith, told them in modern language, "NO WAY"! I will not curse God even though I lost my ten children, my wife, my money, and having my body covered with sores! I know that my Redeemer lives, and I will see Him on the last day!" This most powerful statement of faith, uttered in the Old Testament many centuries before Christ, had another moment in history.

If we fast forward to the 1750's, we find that the writer of this hymn had a similar experience. Samuel Medley, a British Naval Officer, while on board ship engaged in a battle with France, was injured and about to lose his leg. The amputation was scheduled for the next day, but overnight a miracle occurred, and he showed signs of improvement. No surgery was required. The Lord renewed his faith and he became a preacher. Sometime later, he penned the famous hymn, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." There were nine stanzas, but we like most of Christianity only sing eight. After this opening statement and another about the comfort that it brings, we are presented with 28 reasons of what Jesus' resurrection means! The highest point from the list is that He returned to heaven and prepared a place for us.

The choir anthem, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," which we have sung at Mt. Calvary for over 30 years on Easter Sunday and funerals, was written by my college professor, Dr. Paul Bunjes. A few years ago, I was totally surprised when a friend of mine, Mrs. Carol Hawkins, a member at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Eastpointe, told me that Dr. Bunjes wrote the setting for her while on a college choir tour! Carol could sing the descant with full voice and did so for fifty years thereafter. Like so many singers, we have the honor to proclaim the resurrection of Christ, knowing that our Redeemer lives and will take us to heaven!

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 3**

This Sunday, traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday, reminds of what Jesus does as our Good Shepherd. He definitely provides for all our needs and protects us in times of danger. For the Epistle Readings in May, we will hear a series of readings about suffering. Our Master suffered and so must we. Our First Reading tells us about the life of the early believers as they continued to meet for teaching, fellowship, communion, and prayer. We need to follow their fine examples. Hymns that strengthen the church include "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (Irish version); "The Lord's My Shepherd" (Scottish Version); and "Christ Is Arisen, Alleluia" (African tune, having become popular in churches today).

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

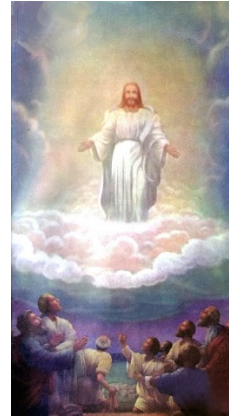
**May 10**

The Church hears the story of Stephen who made a bold witness about Jesus' message of salvation. Eventually the Jewish leaders stoned him. In the Epistle Reading, we are reminded that we are precious stones and a royal priesthood, proclaiming Christ's message to a world that is hungry for His Word. Finally, in the Gospel Reading, we hear that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We must come to Him in order to be saved. Hymns that point us to Him include "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"; "Christ, Be My Leader"; and "You Are the Way, through You Alone."

## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 17**

The First Reading tells us about Paul spreading the saving message to the Athenian men. The statue to an unknown god gave Paul the chance to tell about Jesus' death and resurrection. As we continue in the Epistle, the apostle Peter tells us that baptism saves us by washing away our sins. Finally, Jesus promises to help His disciples by sending the Holy Spirit who will be with them. Hymns that strengthen our faith include "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"; "Come Down, O Love Divine"; and "Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice."



## **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

**May 21**

This is the day we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven; both the First Reading and the Gospel relate the story. As we know, Christ gives us the command to preach forgiveness of sins and make disciples of all nations. In the Epistle Reading, Paul expresses thanks to the Ephesian congregation for their growth in faith. They would become true followers of Jesus. Hymns for this day include "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"; "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"; and "Crown Him with Many Crowns."

## **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 24**

The First Reading tells us that the disciples replaced Judas with Matthias so that they could continue the ministry of salvation. Meanwhile, they are reminded that suffering will continue and that the devil will be actively seeking to devour them for his flock. Finally, we hear Jesus' prayer for His disciples that they remain united with Him as they spread the Gospel message to the world. Hymns that encourage us in the faith include "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" and "Draw Us to Thee."

## **THE DAY OF PENTECOST**

**May 31**

Today we are reminded how active the Holy Spirit is as we boldly proclaim Jesus' suffering and resurrection. On Pentecost Day, God added three thousand to His church. The Holy Spirit used Peter's message to move the people's hearts. Earlier in history, when the Israelites were in the wilderness, the Holy Spirit descended on Eldad and Medad and they prophesied among the people. Hymns for Pentecost include "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"; "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" and "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling."



## **CHURCH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETINGS**

The Church Council is reminded of an important meeting with Dr. Robert Kasper from the Michigan District office on May 4 at 10:00 a.m. Regularly scheduled Church Council meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. on the following Tuesdays, May 5 and 19.

## **JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Your newsletter articles for the June Newsletter will be due on Friday, May 15.

## **ELDERS MEETING**

There will be a Board of Elders zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. and other dates as needed.



**The Council of Lutheran Women (CLW)**  
Women's Auxiliary of the Lutheran Center Association

## **LUNCHEON**

The Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon that had been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 12 is now being postponed until March 16, 2021 at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Here is the recent posting (04/19/2020) on the Council of Lutheran Women's Facebook page regarding the status for the 2020 Luncheon which had been rescheduled for May 12, 2020:

With the current COVID-19 environment, the Council has decided to cancel the 2020 Council Luncheon. We cannot in good conscience ask our guests to put themselves into a potentially unsafe situation. With the uncertainty over easing restrictions for large gatherings, we felt it advisable to wait until March of 2021, praying that the medical community has the tools in place by that time to ensure safety in such a large gathering.

The Eventbrite Coordinator, Candie Sionkowski, will be reaching out to each of the persons who made reservations for their congregation or organization. That person will be asked to forward to each person within

their group who reserved for the luncheon two options: contribute the reservation cost as a donation or ask for a refund. Candie will be asking for a response from the group contact within a two-week window.

The annual Luncheon is the fundraiser to enable the Council to provide monetary support for the two Detroit Food Banks and the Scholarship Program for seminarians from member congregations of the Council as well as two female students at Concordia University Ann Arbor who are preparing for careers in church service. Eventbrite has informed us that the full amount of each reservation will be available for donation or refund. They will forgo the percentage of each reservation for their services. There were some expenses for the luncheon that cannot be returned, however, and will be absorbed by the Council. We therefore ask each person who made a reservation to give their options prayerful consideration. We will look forward to celebrating the 2020 Women of the Year at the Council Luncheon in 2021!

Since Lucie placed all the reservations for Mt. Calvary and Camp Restore Detroit, she will be contacting each of the persons who were planning on attending this year's Luncheon and will ask for their decision regarding their \$29 reservation cost to either consider it a donation to the Council to continue their programs or ask for a refund. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this matter.



**Feeding the  
Community**

## **FOOD BANK**

Dates for the Food Bank in May 13 and 27. Food will be given to participants at the back door until such time as current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted or there is any change imposed. Plastic grocery bags are always welcome!

*Camp Restore Detroit*  
Restoring Hope

April at Camp Restore Detroit certainly looked different than any of us expected! We are following the guidelines of the government and did not have any camper groups this month. However, one or two dedicated volunteers have been working on our Spring Garden Haven, and it is looking beautiful! We are praying our summer will continue as originally planned because we have many community projects our community leaders are excited about and have been planning for months or even years. We are working on ways to maintain connections with our community, so please stay tuned for more! Please keep our community in your prayers as many have been impacted by COVID-19.



**The Council of Lutheran Women (CLW)**  
Women's Auxiliary of the Lutheran Center Association

## **SPRING MEETING**

The LWML Greater Detroit Zone 2020 Spring Rally scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd at Historic Trinity is being postponed until spring of 2021.

## GREATER DETROIT ZONE



May 2020 Michigan District Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes

#2 –Luke Project 52 Mother Baby Clinic - \$25,000

In May, we celebrate Mother’s Day and May flowers. Many of us have a special relationship with our mothers – those who have nurtured us since before we were born. Yet there are those who struggle with nurturing their little ones before birth – and the Luke Project 52 Mother Baby Clinic works to help them. For information on this and all grants, go to [www.lwmlmichigan.org/](http://www.lwmlmichigan.org/). Under Missions, select Grants.

Mother’s Day – and we see many mothers and their children celebrating together. The joy of these families is evident and a blessing to see. Yet in Detroit, the infant mortality rate is 19.9 deaths per 1000 live births. The national average is 6.6. Is there a lack of doctors or medical care in Detroit? No! The reasons are complex, but essentially a higher proportion of women do not use the services. The Luke Project 52 Mother Baby Clinic works to establish a trusting relationship between the mother and the caregiver, and to address the individual challenges faced by each family unit. In 2019, over 450 women were supported through this ministry. Mobile services and neighborhood clinics are helping to meet the unique challenges of these individuals that are not able to be served in traditional health settings. And during this time of a killing virus, this care is more important than ever. We are blessed to be able to support these families with our mites. Let us thank our heavenly father for giving the Michigan District LWML this opportunity! Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the gift you have given us to nurture not only our own families, but others through our mite offerings. In Jesus name, Amen.

### MITES NOW & THEN

As we approach the month of May, with five Sundays, we normally would focus on turning in our mites on the fifth Sunday. But with the crisis among us, the LWML urges you to continue to collect your coins at home and turn them in after the sheltering order is lifted from us.



### MAY BIRTHDAY

- 4      **Autumn Lundgren**
- 12     **Brian Vietzke**
- 20     **Casey Grammens**
- 20     **Margaret Locricchio**
- 21     **Cindy Lundgren**
- 28     **Pat Fritz**



## **FATHER'S DAY HONOR ROLL 2020**

We have included in this newsletter a Father's Day 2020 Honor Roll form. Father's Day this year is on June 21. If you would like to honor the men in your life, please complete the form in this newsletter. Consider making a donation at this time in honor of the names you have listed. You can call the church, email the forms to [mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net), or mail them to the church office. The deadline to submit is Thursday, June 18.

## **HOW TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD ON YOUR RADIO**

Good news for the quarantined for those who cannot attend worship, St. John's in Taylor provides a radio ministry, Martin Luther's Evening Prayer. The half-hour program features sermon and worship excerpts. The program is heard on AM 560 WRDT ("The Word") Sundays at 6 p.m. and on AM 1440 WMKM ("Reborn") Mondays at 8 p.m.



Lutheran Ministries media, Inc. produces a weekly 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called "Worship Anew." It is a great source of comfort celebrating the new life that all people have in Jesus. God's love is shared through weekly Scripture readings, favorite church hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. Tune into the Worship Anew programs at 11:30 am on Sundays on DIRECTV Channel 377. You may also call 888.268.8002.

## **WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS**

The following people dealing with health concerns:

### **From our fellowship:**

Bill and Judy Buchanan, Dina Gilmore, Jeff Kurtz, Diana Lundak, Karolyn Swad, and Dale Vietzke

### **Among our friends and families:**

David Coates, Rev. David Heller, Jill Hupp, 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. We also include medical professionals, especially Bethany Vietzke who is a health care nurse for Ascension Rochester and Rachel Rotar (Pat Fritz's niece) who is a health care nurse for Troy Beaumont.

### **We also pray for:**

The United States military - Kayla and Laura Buchanan (Brian and Terrie Buchanan's daughters), Jack Rotar (Pat Fritz's nephew), first responders, police officers, firefighters of the 9<sup>th</sup> precinct, and the City of Detroit.

# **MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELECTRONIC GIVING INSTRUCTIONS**

During this time when we are not able to conduct our regular Worship Services at our church, we still have many bills that must be paid. Please consider using the electronic giving options below or mailing your contributions and donations to the church office. The address is: 17100 Chalmers, Detroit, MI 48205

There are three options available now for electronic giving:

## **1) Using Mt. Calvary's Web site**

- Go to Mt. Calvary's web site [mtcalvarydetroit.org](http://mtcalvarydetroit.org) and click on "**online giving**"

## **2) Using a Mobile App**

- Load the app "Church Ministry by MinistryOne" from the App Store (it is free)
- Once in the app, search for **Mt Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church**
- Make your donation

## **3) Text Giving**

Mt. Calvary's Text Giving phone number is **313-395-1702** (it has been suggested to add this number to your contacts for future use).

### **First Time Setup**

- Enter Mt. Calvary's text giving phone number in the To: for sending a text
- Enter in the text message area enter the word "**give**"
- Send the text
- The Kindrid app may start automatically. You will know it started if the picture of Mt. Calvary is displayed. If it does not start automatically, do the following:
  - Tap on the "Load Kindrid" message
  - Tap on "Give Kindrid"
- Select Give Now and enter your information for giving (fund choices, your name, credit card or bank information, home address, and email address)

### **Ongoing Donations same fund as initial setup**

- Enter Mt. Calvary's text giving phone number in the To: for sending a text
- Enter in the text message area the amount you want to donate
- Send the text

### **Ongoing Donations different fund**

- Enter - Mt. Calvary's text giving phone number in the To: for sending a text
- Enter - in the text message area the amount you want to donate followed by the new fund name
- Send the text

If you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Ron Varty at 248.543.3720.

# Father's Day Honor Roll 2020

**Father's Day is SUNDAY, JUNE 21st.** This year, Mt. Calvary once again gives you the opportunity to honor and thank God for your father, godfather, grandfather or other significant men in your life by placing his/their names in the church bulletin for Father's Day. A special listing will be prepared and included in the Sunday Bulletin.

Please use the form below to list the name or names of those special men whom you would like to honor. If you need more space, please write additional names on the back. Consider making a donation at this time in honor of the names you have listed.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL  
MEN IN MY LIFE:

---

---

---

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEN  
WHO MADE AN IMPACT ON MY LIFE:

---

---

---

Placed By: \_\_\_\_\_

This form and money may be sent to the Church office:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

17100 Chalmers

Detroit, MI 48205

or email me at [mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtcalvrydet@sbcglobal.net)

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS Thursday, June 18**