

Calvary News Update – February 2020

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church • 341 Hamline Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55105 • (651) 698-6138
Rev. Joe Marsh • A Member of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC) • www.calvarystpaul.org

Spiritual but Not Religious

The phrase that people often use today to shut anyone up who asks them about their church membership, denomination or worship life is “I’m **spiritual but not religious.**” It sounds kinda good doesn’t it? It’s usually a conversation stopper.

This cop-out phrase fits into the same category with “My truth” instead of “The Truth” and “My faith is a matter between God and me.” It sounds somewhat mysterious, as if the person has some secret, personal knowledge that no one else has. I would agree with at least part of it because all of us are truly spiritual beings. Everyone on earth has an immortal soul which makes us all “spiritual,” and it is also true that many are not “religious.”

I recently found a term that describes home-made religions. The term is “Sheilaism.” The term was coined from a woman named Sheila Larson, who is quoted by Robert Bellah and Richard Madsen in their book *Habits of the Heart* (1985) as “following her own little voice” in a belief system she calls “**Sheilaism.**”

There are many problems with home-made religions even if they don’t call them religions.

1. Which God are they talking about? Are they talking about the “she” god of many liberal Christian churches? One of the many gods of the Hindus? Satan?

Maybe some good questions might be “How many gods are there to choose from?” “Can a human being create a god or is it a god who created us?” or “Isn’t everything in the universe just a gigantic accident?” So which God are they referring to?

2. If I believe something, does that make it true? For instance, if I believe that I have hair like

Elvis does that make it true? If I believe the earth is flat does that mean it’s true, or is it just true for me? If I don’t believe in gravity does that mean I am able to fly? You get the point – just believing something doesn’t automatically make it a scientific or theological fact.

3. Is there any outside (other than my own thoughts) evidence for my belief? For decades people have been searching for the Loch Ness monster, tracking Bigfoot, and trying to photograph UFOs.

Every year a new batch of “evidence” and television documentaries appear. In spite of all the “questionable evidence” and tens of thousands of believers, there is no hard evidence for any of these popular myths. For people who have created their own Sheilaism there is even less “evidence,” only what people have made up and call their “religion.”

I understand why people are averse to “religion.” Jesus was against “religion” too, and so were the prophets of the Old Testament. Too often “religious” means just going through the motions, following dead rituals, or mindless worship. That’s no

more true religion than shooting baskets is a real ball game.

Christianity is not based upon human fantasy, made up rituals, or just “belief.” It is historical. It is time-tested. It is based upon God’s revealed Word rather than human ideas. It’s not Sheilaism in any sense of the word. Christianity is for those who want to know the one and only real God. It is for those who know that we are all sinners and need salvation. It is for those who believe and trust in God’s Son who died that we might live. Christianity is much more than a system of belief, it is a lifestyle.

– Pastor Joe



Ash Wednesday • Feb. 26

Communion Service at 6:30 pm

Lenten Services on Following Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



Thank You, Mary!



Mary Gardner was recognized Jan. 12 for her decades of service as organist and choir director.

Thank you, Mary!

A Note from Mary:

To My Friends at Calvary,

I am truly humbled by your graciousness and the kindness you have extended to me in thanks for my years of service at Calvary. Your cards, gifts and messages made my heart feel the years of dedication were well worth the time.

My years of service were selfishness on my part because to me it was a way to express my love to Jesus and you, friends, were always kind with words of encouragement.

I know I was never the artist/organist most churches have, but in my defense, it was heartfelt.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Mary Gardner

Galatians 5:13 . . . "You have been given freedom, not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other."

Let Us Pray for One Another:



Please pray each day for the following people of Calvary who have special needs: Fred Hall, Sandy Hall, Orlando Hash, Sally Kahn, Jack Lightfoot, Chris Steiner-Lightfoot, Bill White and Kay Witt. Please pray for Pastor Joe Marsh, for God's powerful guidance. Also please pray for other family and friends: Pastor Tom & Mary Aadland, Debbie & John Amacher, Marcie Ann Coville, Dan & Dawn Hall, Pastor Jay Eberth, the Mart Family (friends of Sally Iverson), Scott McClure, Rita Schenk, Dawn Stewart. If you know one or more people on the "other family and friends" prayer list in this newsletter, and you think that their names should continue on the list, please let the church office know not later than Feb. 19 so that those names will not be removed from the list.

Annual Meeting Held January 12

A 2020 budget of \$124,765 was approved. Mike Johnson was elected to the council; Sara Bauer re-elected. Karol Holmquist is leaving the council, and was thanked for six years' service as congregation president. We also enjoyed a potluck lunch and good Christian fellowship.

2020

Council Members:

OFFICERS

President:

Joan Sedlacek

Vice President:

Bob Fett

Secretary:

Sally Kahn

COMMITTEES

Elders:

April Taylor

Mark Carter

Deacons:

Sally Kahn

Sara Bauer

Trustees:

Bob Fett

Mike Johnson



**What's Going On?
Newsletter**

Submissions to























church office by Feb. 19.

office@calvarystpaul.org

or 651-698-6138

Sunday Morning Fellowship Serving
 February 2020
 Betty Anfinson
 Karol Holmquist

FEBRUARY 2020

<p>2  Groundhog Day 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service Choir Sings  11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Charlene & Mark Carte Reader: Bob Witt</p>	<p>3 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Karol Holmquist / Sally Kahn Reader: Betty Anfinson</p>	<p>4 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>5 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>6  Quilters 9:30 am Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>7 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>8 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p>9 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Karol Holmquist / Sally Kahn Reader: Betty Anfinson</p>	<p>10 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Karol Holmquist / Sally Kahn Reader: Betty Anfinson</p>	<p>11 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>12 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>13 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>14  St. Valentine's Day 1 Cor. 13:13 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>15 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p>16 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Orlando Hash / Reader: Mike Johnson</p>	<p>17  Presidents Day  Charlene Carter</p>	<p>18  Helen Meeks</p>	<p>19 8:30 am Prayer Meeting  Newsletter submissions due 651-698-6138 • office@calvarystpaul.org</p>	<p>20 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm  Quilters 1:00 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>21 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>22 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p>23  Ash Wednesday 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Communion Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Charlene & Mark Carter Reader: Gretchen Fett</p>	<p>24 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Communion Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Charlene & Mark Carter Reader: Gretchen Fett</p>	<p>25 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>26 8:30 am Prayer Meeting  LENT Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm</p>	<p>27 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>28 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>29 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p>(March) 1 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service Choir Sings  11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Gretchen & Bob Fett Reader: Bob Witt</p>	<p>2 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service Choir Sings  11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Gretchen & Bob Fett Reader: Bob Witt</p>	<p>3 8:30 am Prayer Meeting </p>	<p>4 8:30 am Prayer Meeting  LENT Lenten Service 6:30pm</p>	<p>5  Quilters 9:30 am Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>6 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>7  Daylight Saving Time Begins Tonight clocks ahead Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>

Address Service Requested
Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
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St. Paul, MN 55105
(651)698-6138



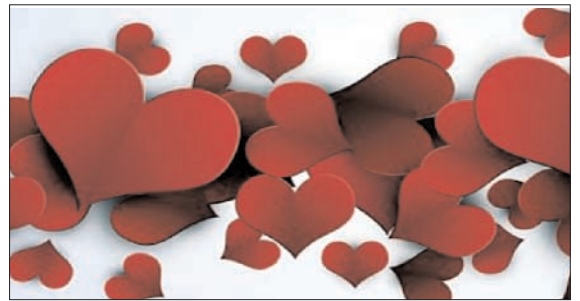
Valentine's Dinner – Sunday, Feb. 9

*Calvary's annual Valentine's dinner –
for singles as well as couples.*

DeGidio's Restaurant

4:00 pm • 425 Seventh St. West • St. Paul

Sign up at church – or call Sally Kahn at 651-291-1568



He Loves to Tell the Story



Pastor Joe wows the youngsters with his children's message on Christmas Eve.

Short Takes...

Take Note(s): As requested, a “sermon notes” form is now available for your convenience. Ask for it at the ushers’ table.

A **Funeral Planning Worksheet** is now available on the ushers’ desk in the narthex.

Enlarged copies of the Sunday scripture readings are available from the ushers. Please ask an usher if you would like an easier-to-read version of the week’s Bible verses.

Printed Copies of Sermons are Available: If you’d like a printed copy of the sermon available to you on Sunday mornings, please let Pastor Joe know and a copy will be available for you at the ushers’ desk in the narthex.

Prayer Request Forms: The ushers have forms you can use to make a prayer request *prior* to the beginning of Sunday worship. If you like, request some forms to take home with you to prepare for the next week. During the week, you may e-mail prayer requests to office@calvarystpaul.org.