

# Calvary News Update – April 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](http://www.calvarystpaul.org)

## A Deadly Virus

A deadly virus is currently sweeping the world. It's highly-infectious and easily transmitted before people are even aware that they are carrying it. Right now there is no vaccine or cure. Governments are taking extreme measures to contain it. People are hoarding certain products "just in case." Citizens are encouraged to avoid large crowds and take steps to protect themselves. One "expert" said that "It's like trying to control the wind." Right now we are told that it's going to get worse before it gets better.

There is another deadly virus loose in the world today that has been here since the world began. It infects every human being ever born on this earth. The mortality rate from this virus is 100 percent. No one can escape it no matter how hard they try. The best scientific minds in the world and all the medical technology available can't squash it. This virus is called "sin."

The problem with this virus is that many people either don't believe it exists or choose to ignore it completely. In and of itself, this is quite astonishing since the consequence of this virus is not only death, but *eternal* death.

Sometimes I hear people question whether or not we need to hear about sin every week in worship. After all, shouldn't worship be joyful and uplifting?



Many "modern" churches have done away not only with the confession of sin and absolution but even with any mention of sin at all! If there is no sin in us or in the world then what need do we have for a Savior? Why did Jesus have to die on the cross if not for sin?

What do you think? Is sin something we can just assume everyone understands? Does everyone who comes to worship understand that the cure for sin is through God's grace by faith in Jesus?

Speaking only for myself, I can go on my merry way on a daily basis and easily forget that I am totally dependent upon God. I need constant reminders of God's goodness, mercy and love. I also need to remember to be aware of my sinful nature, which is often more concerned about what pleases me and oblivious of what pleases God.

If you track the words of Jesus in the New Testament, you will find that he spent more time talking about sin and hell than about faith and heaven. I'm pretty sure he would not be a popular preacher in a "modern" church. If Jesus took the virus of sin so seriously so should we! For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– Pastor Joe

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*As this newsletter is being prepared, we have suspended worship (Sundays, Lenten mid-week) for at least several weeks. As much as I dislike doing this I do think it's the right thing to do. If this pandemic magically disappears in a few weeks we will resume "business as usual." The AA group is also going to stop meeting for a time, as well as the Karen church that worships at Calvary on Sunday afternoons.*

*I believe that God can use anything negative and make it into a positive.*

*This is a time when we can demonstrate our faith and confidence in God's power by what we say and do daily.*

*While it sounds mercenary to even mention this, our building heat, staff costs, water, sewage, phone bills still exist and need to be met.*

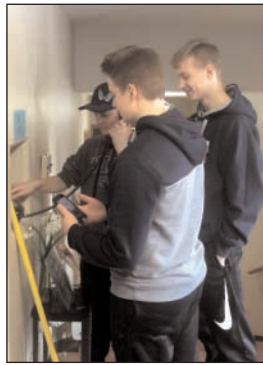
*I'll be sending more info soon via e-mail, and some possibilities for home worship.*

*If you are not on the Calvary email list and would like to be included, please send a message to [office@calvarystpaul.org](mailto:office@calvarystpaul.org)*

Blessings, Pastor Joe



*A group of students (with adult leaders) from Concordia Academy in Roseville came to Calvary recently to offer up some volunteer labor. They helped with some cleaning, and put their strong, young backs to use hauling out some “stuff” that had been in the basement far too long. Thank you, gentlemen!*



*We were able to serve up some coffee and hospitality for our teacher friends across the street during their short-lived strike in March. They appreciated a place to warm up and use the restrooms. Seven teachers joined us in worship March 15 and expressed their thanks. We will continue to reach out in every way possible.*

(Thank you to Karleen Witt for the photos.)



**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, Cheri Olson, 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, John Amacher, Marcie Ann Coville, Steve & Carolee Grumm, Dan & Dawn Hall, Pastor Jay Eberth, Brandon, Isak Jirik (serving in Afghanistan), Amy Lowell, Steve Marsh, the Mart Family (friends of Sally Iverson), Scott McClure, 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 April 15 so that those names will not be removed from the list.



**What’s Going On?**

**Newsletter**

**Submissions to**

**church office by April 15.**

**[office@calvarystpaul.org](mailto:office@calvarystpaul.org)**

**or 651-698-6138**



Sunday Morning Fellowship Serving  
 April 2020  
 Judie White  
 Kay Witt

# APRIL 2020

Don't forget...  
 Pray for Our Troops



**All Services / Meetings / Activities Suspended Until Further Notice**



**5** **PALM SUNDAY**  
 9:00 am Adult Bible Class  
 10:00 am Worship Service  
 Choir Songs  
 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship  
 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship  
 Ushers: Barb Ruuska /  
 Reader: Bob Witt

**12** **Easter**  
**10:00 am EASTER WORSHIP**  
 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship  
 Ushers: Karol Holmquist /  
 Reader: Bob Fett

**19**  
 9:00 am Adult Bible Class  
 10:00 am Worship Service  
 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship  
 Choir Practice  
 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship  
 Ushers: Orlando Hash /  
 Reader: Mike Johnson

**26**  
 9:00 am Adult Bible Class  
 10:00 am Communion Service  
 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship  
 Choir Practice  
 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship  
 Ushers: Charlene & Mark Carter  
 Reader: Gretchen Fett

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>1</b><br>8:30 am Prayer Meeting<br><b>LENT</b> Lenten Service 6:30pm<br>Ushers:<br>Reader:                | <b>2</b><br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm<br>AA Meeting - 7 pm  | <b>3</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm  | <b>4</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm    |
| <b>8</b><br>8:30 am Prayer Meeting<br>Luke Johnson   | <b>9</b><br>Rec. Mtg Noon-1 pm<br>6:30pm Maundy Thursday<br>AA Meeting - 7 pm       | <b>10</b> <b>Good FRIDAY</b><br>6:30 pm<br>Good Friday Service<br>Ushers: Sally Kahn/<br>Gretchen Fett<br>Reader: Bob Fett<br>Rec'y Group 7pm | <b>11</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm   |
| <b>15</b><br>8:30 am Prayer Meeting<br>Newsletter submissions due<br>651-698-6138 • office@calvarystpaul.org | <b>16</b><br>Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm<br>Quilters 1:00 pm<br>AA Meeting 7 pm   | <b>17</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm  | <b>18</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm   |
| <b>22</b><br>8:30 am Prayer Meeting  | <b>23</b><br>Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm<br>AA Meeting - 7 pm                     | <b>24</b><br>Recovery Meeting 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm  | <b>25</b><br>Recovery Meeting 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm |
| <b>29</b><br>8:30 am Prayer Meeting<br>Fred Hall   | <b>30</b><br>Quilters 9:30 am<br>Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm<br>AA Meeting - 7 pm | <b>(May) 1</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm   | <b>2</b><br>Recovery Group 7:00 pm<br>Karen CRC 6-8pm    |

Address Service Requested  
Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly

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**Yes, services have been suspended, but the church year continues.**



*The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, February 28. It continues until Maundy Thursday.*



*Palm Sunday is April 5*

Holy Week:



**And of course, Easter Sunday, April 12!**

*He is Risen!*



**God Has Put Us Here. . .**

One of the most interesting stories in the Old Testament is the story of Queen Esther in the Book of Esther. If you have never read it, or even if you have, you might have the time to read it now.

In it there is a young Jewish woman who is made a queen in a bad situation. The king's advisors want to kill all of the Jews in the kingdom. She wants to help her people but doesn't know how.

She went to Mordecai, her friend and protector. This is his response to her: "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

In other words, God put her there at that time and in that situation to help others.

That's where we are right now. In a place and a time to share our faith and confidence in God's protection and love with others who don't have what we do.

– Pastor Joe –