

Calvary News Update – May 2019

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

Why Are We Doing This?

I attended a funeral in Wisconsin recently and on the way home stopped to fill up the gas tank. I went in, bought a bottle of water and a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup (2 in a package). Got back in the car and started happily driving again while eating my candy. I suddenly realized what I was doing.

First of all, I wasn't really hungry because I had just eaten lunch. Secondly, I didn't really need the calories or the sugar. On top of everything else, I'm on the fast track to becoming a diabetic. So why did I buy the candy in the first place? Plain and simple – habit. I have trained myself to buy that kind of candy when I stop for gas on a long trip.

At our last Elders/Deacons meeting we were talking about worship, music, changes in the culture and how we can attract people who don't know Jesus yet. We talked about our recovery groups, Girl Scouts, the Karen group, etc. Someone asked a really good question, "Why are we doing this?" What a great question!

Truth is, we should always be asking ourselves that question as a congregation and as individual Christians. It is estimated that 30-40 percent of

everything we do on a daily basis is simply out of habit. I would guess that's also true when it comes to ministry. Whenever some event comes up in the church we often default to, "What did we do last time?" It's easy, it's probably fine most of the time, but maybe a better question would be, "How or what can we do to make it better this time around?" or even better, "Why are we doing this at all?"

I read a book a few months ago entitled, "Atomic Habits." The author suggested that we write down all of our daily habits and evaluate how useful those habits really are. Is buying a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup (and gulping it down) on a long drive a useful habit, or is it perhaps detrimental?

I certainly don't have all the answers when it comes to my own habits. Nor do I have all the answers to whether our church habits are all beneficial either. As members and leaders of God's church, we are not answerable to ourselves (and our own preferences) for what we do or don't do with what God has given to us. We are answerable to the Lord of Life. So maybe we need to ask ourselves and our church that uncomfortable question more often, "Why are we doing this?"

– Pastor Joe



Sunday's Coming . . .

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.

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.

Save the best for our guests! Please remember, if you are able to walk a little farther, to leave the closest parking spots for guests and visitors. Thank you for your cooperation. Plenty of space is usually available on Wellesley, just on the other side of Hamline Avenue.

He Is Risen! Easter 2019.



A good crowd enjoyed Resurrection Celebration Easter breakfast and fellowship prior to the service.



Thank you to Erna Olson for making 60 square nail favors for the Easter Breakfast, to remind us that "He did it for us."



Easter

Pastor Joe learned during his children's message that it's easier to get kids' attention with candy than with words!



Let Us Pray for One Another:



Please pray each day for the following people of Calvary who have special needs: Lorenda Brown, Fred Hall, Sandy Hall, 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, Pastor Jay Eberth, Rita Schenk, Dawn Stewart, Marcie Ann Coville, Dan & Dawn Hall. 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 May 22 so that those names will not be removed from the list.



What's Going On?

Newsletter

Submissions to

church office by May 22

office@calvarystpaul.org

or 651-698-6138



Want to Hear it Again?
Share it with a Friend?
SERMONS ONLINE
www.calvarystpaul.org

MAY 2019

Please remember to let the church office know if your address, phone, or email address changes.
Let us know at: 651-698-6138
office@calvarystpaul.org

<p>Sunday Morning Fellowship Serving May 2019 Mary Gardner Bob & Gretchen Fett</p>				<p>1 8:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm • Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 Quilters 9:30 am Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>3 Carman Johnson Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5 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/Charlene Carter Reader: Sandy Hall</p>	<p>6 Girl Scouts 6 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm • Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>10 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>11 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>
<p>12 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Reader:</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm • Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm Quilters 1:00 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>17 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>18 April Taylor Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>							
<p>19 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Reader:</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Kenny Lease</p>	<p>22 8:30 am Prayer Meeting Newsletter submissions due 651-698-6138 • office@calvarystpaul.org 7:15 pm • Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>24 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>25 Couples Recovery Group (All Day) Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>							
<p>26 1917 COMMUNION 9:00 am Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Communion Service 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 1:00 pm Karen CRC Worship Ushers: Reader:</p>	<p>27 MEMORIAL DAY Drew Johnson</p>	<p>28 Joan Sedlacek</p>	<p>29 8:30 am Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm • Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 Recovery Meeting Noon-1:00 pm AA Meeting - 7 pm</p>	<p>31 Recovery Group 7:00 pm</p>	<p>(June) 1 Karen CRC 6-8pm</p>							

Address Service Requested
Time Dated Material - Please Deliver Promptly

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Check out our new website at
www.calvarystpaul.org.

You can sign up for events, subscribe to Pastor Joe's sermons in print, and hear them online.

The church office email is now:
office@calvarystpaul.org

Short Takes...

There have been a number of deaths in the Calvary family this spring. Please remember their families in your prayers, thoughts, and actions.

A funeral service for **Carole Sunde** will be held at Calvary on **Saturday, May 11**, with the service at 3:00pm, followed by a dinner reception at church. Carole went to her heavenly reward on April 1.

Norm McClure graduated to heaven on **April 24**. His funeral service will be held at Calvary on **Monday, June 3**.

A funeral service was held at Calvary on April 6 for **Art Braun**, brother of Helen Miels, and son of former Calvary pastor the Rev. Arthur Braun. Art graduated to heaven on April 1.

Herdis Hash went to be with the Lord on **March 24**. A funeral service was held April 2 at Living Word Lutheran Church in Eagan.

Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival July 19



A Celebration of Arts & Lifelong Learning

Lyngblomsten Mid-Summer Festival, a day to celebrate how Lyngblomsten is promoting artistic exploration, wellness, and lifelong learning for older adults 365 days a year, will be held July 19. The busy day will include an Arts Showcase featuring works created by older adults, make-and-take art

activities, live music and entertainment, food, games, and more! Admission is free and food and activities are priced for affordable fun! The event brings around 1,000 people to the Lyngblomsten campus each year and allows the community to see and experience how Lyngblomsten is helping older adults live vibrantly in body, mind, and spirit. Lyngblomsten is a Christian nonprofit organization providing healthcare, housing, and community-based services for older adults since 1906. Lyngblomsten is located at 1415 Almond Ave., St. Paul.

His Mission for Us:

**This is our best understanding of
why God wants us here as a congregation!**

"Changing Lives by Sharing Christ!"

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