

CALVARY CHRONICLE

December 2018

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church



Pastor Gary's Advent Thoughts

Imagine, this month we face another New Church Year together. Last year when I was asked to be your interim pastor I did not expect this to last for over a year. I'm very glad for all of you that God has brought us through the difficult task of healing this past year and that now we are looking to move back into seeing our calling as a congregation to be a light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in San Lorenzo and beyond. Keep Pastor Matt Behrens and his family in your prayers as we ask God to direct Calvary to her new Pastor.

Paris, France is called the "City of Love" for a number of reasons, including its sights, its native romance language and its popularity as a honeymoon destination.

In addition Paris is called the "City of Light." Why? Because early on it was known for its affection of the arts. In addition in 1828, Paris began using gas lights to light its main street. Then during the Great Exhibition of 1889 it placed street lights throughout the city. Having street lights was a massive change. Now people could safely do activities after dark that they could not do before. People were no longer forced to stay inside their homes all night long.

What an idealistic city to visit and that's why Paris is the main tourist city in Europe. However, today many tourists are rethinking a future visit to Paris. Why? Because during the past several years ISIS suicide bombers have come to Paris to kill and maim. The peace on earth that the early street lights afforded do not seem so safe either during daylight or at night because of this ongoing threat of violence.

Lights do enable us to get out more safely at night but they alone cannot guarantee peace. We need a more powerful Light. To provide this Light, God sent His one and only Son on the first Christmas about 2018 years ago. Jesus came to fulfill all the Old Testament promises God made with His people, that a Messiah would come who would bring the Peace we so desperately need. In addition the arrival of the Messiah would bring Hope, Love, Joy and Peace to our lives. To do this Jesus was born for the purpose of destroying sin and death for us by dying on the cross and then to prove his victory over everything that separates us from God by rising from the dead on the third day.

Each year we celebrate Advent that puts into motion God's grace to do just that. Advent is a great time to invite family, friends, neighbors and loved ones to meet the only Hope for real Peace—Jesus. Begin today in praying for God's guidance to show each of us whom we should invite and how to best invite them. And then join us each week to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords who came that we might have eternal life in His name. What an eternal gift we can offer to others. Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Worship is at 9:00 a.m.

Bible Classes at 10:15 a.m.

Communion is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays



December Birthdays

- 1 Carmen Caspersen
- 2 Maren Gianinni
- 4 Howard Goldhammer
- 17 Judi Molini
- 18 Gene Curler
- 25 Susan Hoffman



Anniversaries

None

Please let us know if we missed your dates

Board of Governance

Carmen Caspersen
Sandra Elliott
Steve Ellis
Pastor Gary + one Elder

Meetings on 3rd Monday of the month

Board of Elders

Hank Blank
Gerry Luehrs
Dave Mueller
Dave Schultz

Meetings on 2nd Tuesday of the month



Please join us in the conference room on **Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. – Noon.** If you have any questions, speak to **Virginia Oliver.** Bring your prayer requests and we will offer them up to the Lord.

LWML DECEMBER NEWS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary League)



(LWML) Lutheran Women's Missionary League, is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. For 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. Over \$100 million in mites have been collected in 43 countries since 1942.

We are blessed at Calvary to have a wonderful opportunity for ministry at Wittenberg Manor. On December 1, we again hosted the Christmas Tea. The ladies provided coffee, tea and punch along with homemade tea sandwiches and the congregation shared their talents with homemade cookies. We also did some Christmas caroling and was visited by a very special guest, Santa, aka, Dave Schultz, who entertained the residents with a picture with Santa and a little gift from the LWML ladies. I want to give a special thank you to all of those ladies that have shared their time in preparing for the tea and serving the residents at Wittenberg.

On 17 Nov., 2018 we attended a Zone Rally at Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont. We had a lovely brunch provided by Zion's LWML ladies and a presentation regarding Days For Girls in Uganda. The Days for Girls Kit design is the result of feedback from women all over the world. Listening is an approach that results in solutions that work. That's important, because every washable Feminine Hygiene Kit gives back up to 6 months of living in just 3 years of use. That's 180 days of education, health, safety and dignity. Days for Girls Kits are made with love by thousands of volunteers around the world or by local women filling the need for their own community. Quality matters because women and girls depend on this product, and kits have to endure frequent washing in harsh conditions. Go on the website Days For Girls.org for further information.

BEFORE YOU MAKE A LIST OF RESOLUTIONS FOR 2019 READ THIS:

Read: Ephesians 4:17-24. Saint Paul reminds us to put off our old selves and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. That's why we make New Year's resolutions - right? It is to try to put ON our new self. Research reveals that New Year's resolutions go back 4,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. But in modern times, we know what most resolutions amount to -- losing weight, stopping smoking or other addictive habits, etc. What if we stopped focusing on the bad habits and worked on developing good habits? Of course, healthy eating is a good habit. But what about increased Bible reading/study, more daily prayer time, and working on memorization of key Bible passages? Likewise, we can vow to increase our time "out of the pew" by serving in our communities and professing our faith to those who don't know about Jesus.

Do we need to wait until January 1 to do this? NO. But, we do need to be mindful about the goals we set. Who better to help us with that than the Holy Spirit? Before you make a list of resolutions for 2019, take plenty of time to pray about what God's will is for you in the coming year. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you toward what's most important. While you're at it, take some time for self-examination to identify any "time wasters" that can be replaced with "faith sharing" activities. Consider the magnitude of Paul's commitment in the passage below where, in the NIV version, the word "resolved" is used instead of "decided". That's some resolution!

(And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling. (I Corinthians 2:1-3). Taken from our Gospel Outreach Committee group.

LWML continued:

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Subscribe to the LWML Blog.
- Put the LWML App on your phone or tablet.
- Stay in touch with LWML social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, and Instagram.
- Subscribe to the Lutheran Reporter and get the latest news plus movie reviews and upcoming events.
- Visit the LWML (LWML.org) and LCMS (LCMS.org) web sites at least once a month.
- Visit your district LWML and LCMS web sites at least once a month.



Please join us in Serving The Lord With Gladness. If you haven't been involved in LWML before, please check us out. Look for our emails for information.

Looking forward to the New Year and what God has planned for our LWML,
Barbara Adams, Facilitator of LWML.



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

We continue to make quilts on Wednesday 9:00 - 12 Noon in the Parish Hall. You may join us at any time. You do not need to know how to quilt, we will teach you or offer another task that needs to be done. We offer lots of fellowship time and fun times together. While in conversation with Carmen Caspersen, she shared this poem with me:

FOLLOW IN FAITH

She wanted to learn how to make a quilt, so she bought a book on quilting. How each step contributed to the finished quilt was not always clear to her, but she followed the instructions and completed a beautiful work of art.

As you continue to walk with God, some steps along the way may seem unclear, and that's when God asks you to proceed in faith. He shows you his plan--ultimately life with him in heaven--and in the Bible he gives you his step-by-step instructions on how to get there and live a God-pleasing life along the way.

Continue in faith, and God promises you a beautiful results.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1
We walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Have a Blessed Christmas, Barbara Adams,
Facilitator of Prayer Quilt Ministry



On December 8 at 3:00 p.m. Clara Co and her sister will be holding a piano recital here at Calvary Lutheran. You are all invited to attend. You will hear music by some up and coming protégés. There will be refreshments served after the recital.



Advent Worship Schedule

Evenings of Advent worship will begin with a 6:00pm potluck dinner followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m.

December 5 “Hope”

December 12 “Call Us Back”

December 19 “To Bring Us Joy”

St. Peter’s – San Leandro and Prince of Peace - Fremont are again offering Advent services on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. for those who do not wish to drive at night.



Christmas Eve Worship Service

Please join us on Monday, December 24th at 7:00 pm for worship as we celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, our Savior.



Year End Calendar

Wednesday, December 5 – 6 PM

Soup, etc Potluck in parish hall followed by:

7 PM Mid-week Advent Worship – God is here with us to give us Hope

Sunday, December 9 – 9 AM 2nd Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 12 – 6 PM Soup, etc. Potluck in parish hall followed by:

7 PM Mid-week Advent Worship – God is here with us to Call us back

Sunday, December 16 – 9 AM 3rd Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 19 – 6 PM Soup, etc. Potluck in parish hall followed by:

7 PM Mid-week Advent Worship in – God is here with us to give us Joy

Sunday, December 23 – 9 AM 3rd Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve –7 PM Christmas Eve “Lessons and Carols”

Monday, December 25 – no service instead Off with our families

Sunday, December 30 –9 AM Worship

For all these services, please pray a short prayer asking God if there is someone I can bring to join with us in our time together. I hope you are as excited as I am in looking forward to what God has in mind for us as we wrap up 2018 and enter 2019 together



Poinsettia Donations

Next Sunday sign-up sheets will be available if you are interested in donated poinsettia for the church.