

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2018

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From the Pastor's

Pastor Ken Nelson, Senior Pastor
Calvary Lutheran Church
Office 262.786.4010
PastorKen@calvarylc.com

"But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you see." Deuteronomy 3:20

This verse is part of the "handing over" of leadership in Israel from Moses to Joshua. The more famous "commission" in the Bible is of course Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus' "*Great Commission*" to his disciples. Both that event and the commissioning of Joshua by Moses were done publically so others knew an important task and the blessing of God to carry out that task were being conferred.

On April 7th and 8th during our regular worship services, Scott and Peggy Langelin and myself will be commissioned as Stephen Leaders of our congregation. This is the first of what we anticipate will be many such happy occasions, as we build our Stephen Ministry at Calvary and begin, by this coming fall, to commission our first Stephen Ministers. We will begin our first minister training class on April 4th.

Commissioning gives leaders a starting place – a milestone to look back upon. Jesus' "Great Commission", as well as the one Moses conferred on Joshua specifically identified the work to be done but also contained the promise that God would be a constant presence when difficulties might arise. We want Scott and Peggy, working along side of me, to feel God's pleasure in their work, as well as our support of what they will be leading us in and equipping others to do. It is a wonderful way to express the gratitude of our congregation as well.



OUR MISSION & VISION:

The vision of Calvary Lutheran Church is:

“Sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ”

Mission Statement: Calvary Lutheran Church is a family of Christians, directed by the Holy Spirit, growing as disciples of Jesus through worship, Biblical study and prayer that are shared with the community and world.

Commissioning publically gives our leaders the authority to do this work but also makes them accountable to the congregation – an equally important part of the recognition process. Just as in installing a pastor, or deacons or congregational leaders involves a charge to them to be faithful in carrying out their roles, as well as faithful in prayer, so too will we be asking Scott and Peggy to pray for our Stephen Ministers and care receivers and use well the gifts God has given them for their role.

Commissioning also makes our congregation witnesses that an important new work is being undertaken, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. For example, in baptism we involve the congregation by asking them to *“receive the (newly baptized) as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the Kingdom of God.”* Please remember that we need you to pray for our leaders, ministers and care receivers, actively listen for those persons who might benefit from this ministry and encourage them to reach out to our leadership team.

Finally, and not least, you are supporting me. I heartily endorse this new endeavor at Calvary, and in receiving and participating in it you are blessing me, as I could never give the kind of care that our ministry team will be providing on my own.

Many hands make light work – or so an old saying goes. The task of caring for one another is a shared task, and when done together in this way, we bring light to the lives of others. Nothing could be more

pleasing in the sight of Jesus, than to see his church love like he did.

Because of a cross,

Pastor Ken Nelson



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry
is our congregation's
one-to-one caregiving ministry.
God works through Stephen Ministers
to plant a seed of hope and healing
in a person whose life
seems barren and forlorn
because of some crisis or tragedy.

**To learn more,
contact
Scott & Peggy Langelin
or Pastor Ken.**

Training starts April 4th.

The Calvary Crossroads is published monthly. All news articles should be submitted to the church office by the deadline listed on the church calendar.

Electronic submissions are preferred (email: communications@calvarylc.com).

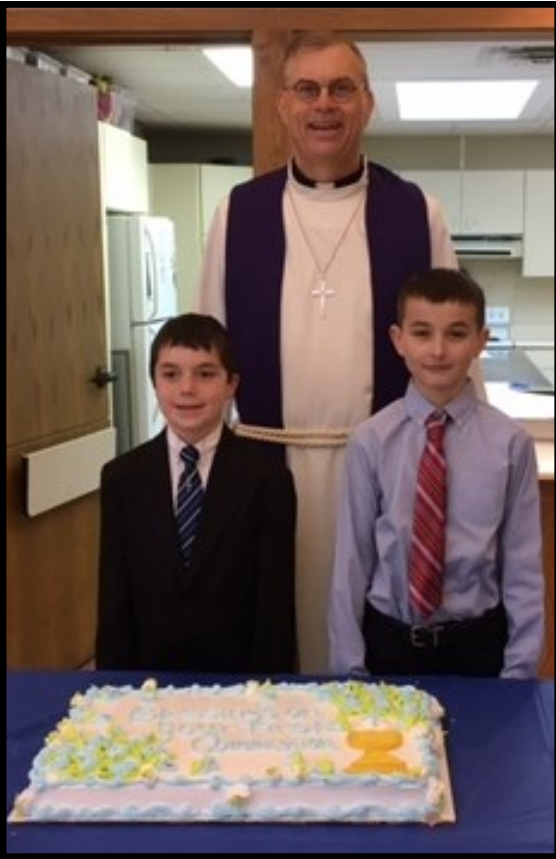
If you received this issue via email only and would like to receive a printed copy in the mail, please contact the Calvary church office. (262.786.4010)

Printed copies are available at the church also.

Congregation News and Events

First Communion Sunday, March 18

Matt Schatz and Jayden Day with Pastor Nelson



Release (burning)
of the First
Communicants'
sins.



More than a dozen women from Calvary enjoyed a six week study of the book **"Prayer..... Does It Make a Difference?" by Philip Yancey.**

The study included a brief video each week and a study guide for participants. The study was available on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings.

Layettes and Quilts Donated to Those in Need

Calvary women collected 20 baby layettes and the Calvary quilters made three quilts all of which were packed and sent to the NALC disaster response to give relief to the families impacted by flooding in the Ohio river valley.

Thank you ladies!



Congregation News and Events



Retirement Celebration for Holly and Kris Saturday, April 14 6 pm, Fellowship Hall

Details posted in the Narthex!
Sign up by April 9

SALT Senior Adults Living Triumphantly May event

Lunch and Tour of Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend
Watch for date and time to be announced soon!



Serving at St. Vincent de Paul

For over 30 years Calvary has contributed meatloaf, rice, fruit, lettuce, and beverage as well as delivering and serving the meal at St. Vincent de Paul on the 4th Monday of the month. Volunteers are needed to make meatloaf and rice—please contact Marge Tyne or Janet Zastrow if you can help! Also, if you would like to participate in delivering and/or serving the meal for this wonderful mission, let Marge or Janet know.

LOST & FOUND!

Check the lost and found box and items hanging above to see if one of the lost items belongs to you! The box is under the coat rack in the Narthex. Unclaimed items will be given to the Goodwill in April.



Congregation News and Events



Calvary's Annual "Kindness through Cookies" For Luther Manor—Month of April

Our Lutheran Love . . . WHY should we be SO EXCITED to provide cookies to the Luther Manor Health Care residents?



- I love to think of our dear Ruth Yankus at Luther Manor - **she turned 100 on March 26th.** Ruth loves to receive the daily coffee, cookie and kindness from volunteers like our own Sue Rowe.
- Calvary is a long time supporter of Luther Manor and Luther Manor is still very LUTHERAN.

Did you know each weekday Luther Manor volunteers take time to visit with the 200+ residents of the Health Care Center while they deliver cookies, coffee and tea? This short visit may be the only contact with someone outside the facility for many of the residents.

Please consider donating homemade or store bought cookies. Softer cookies, without nuts or seeds comply with the dietary needs.

No time for baking? Those soft wafer bars that typically come in vanilla, strawberry, and chocolate, are a HUGE winner for melting in the mouth, and inexpensively available at Aldi or the Dollar Store.

Any day in April, drop off your cookies in the Calvary kitchen.

Please fill out one of the labels located in the kitchen with the following info:

- Approximate number of cookies or number of dozens
- Cookie type and whether nuts or seeds are present, or if gluten free or sugar free
- Your name and the date



LUTHER MANOR
A Life Plan Community

Contact Linda Berger with any questions at (262) 366-5599 or Linda.Berger411@gmail.com



Calvary's "Masters Mini Golf Open" Design & Play April 20 & 21

Watch for more information!
Plan to get involved now!



Men's Ministries

Weekly Wednesday Breakfast

Join the men of Calvary on Wednesday's at 7 a.m. at Maxim's on Capitol Drive for breakfast and fellowship. Come when you can and bring a friend!



Monthly Thursday Gathering

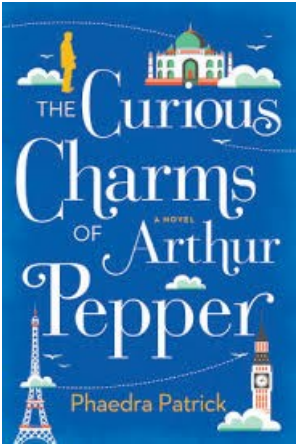
The next meeting is in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, April 26**

starting at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and devotion /discussion time at 7 p.m. Come and join us, share some stories, food and beverages with your Calvary friends. All men are welcome!



Congregation News and Events

Women's Ministry Book Group - April 9, 1 p.m.



Join us on Monday, April 9 at 1:00 pm in Room 110 (Media Room) to talk about The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper by Phaedra Patrick.

One reviewer writes, "In this hauntingly beautiful story of love, loneliness and self-discovery, an endearing widower embarks on a life-changing adventure."

Sixty-nine-year-old Arthur Pepper lives a simple life. He gets out of bed at precisely 7:30 a.m., just as he did when his wife, Miriam, was alive. He dresses in the same gray slacks and mustard sweater vest, waters his fern, Frederica, and heads out to his garden.

But on the one-year anniversary of Miriam's death, something changes. Sorting through Miriam's possessions, Arthur finds an exquisite gold charm bracelet he's never seen before. What follows is a surprising and unforgettable odyssey that takes Arthur from London to Paris and as far as India in an epic quest to find out the truth about his wife's secret life before they met—a journey that leads him to find hope, healing and self-discovery in the most unexpected places.

Featuring an unforgettable cast of characters with big hearts and irresistible flaws, *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* is a joyous celebration of life's infinite possibilities."

A bonus blessing for the afternoon will be a time for sharing any charm bracelets you readers may have!

Please come – and bring a friend – for this outstanding afternoon!

Monday Morning Movie - April 16, 9 a.m.

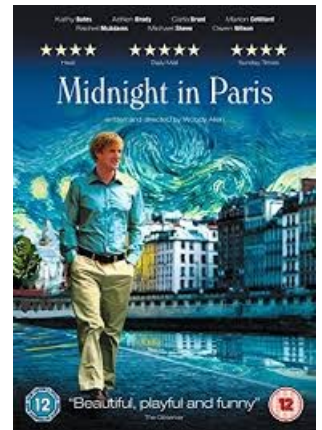
"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Well, it will soon be spring, and we will join all those young men in turning to thoughts of love for our Monday morning movie at 9 am on Monday, April 16 in Room 110 (Media Room).

We'll watch "Midnight in Paris", a 2011 release written and directed by Woody Allen. This film was nominated for 4 Oscars including Best Picture. It was awarded the Oscar for Best Writing, Original Screenplay.

If you have ever looked back at a previous era in history and thought to yourself, "Now, that was a golden age!"? Well, even if you haven't, you're going to like this movie.



Gil is a successful Hollywood screenwriter who is struggling to finish his first novel. He is a nostalgia buff particularly enamored with the golden age of the 1920's in Paris. While vacationing in that city with his future wife and in-laws, he decides he'd like to move there after the wedding (a desire not shared by his fiancée). One evening, he goes for a walk alone after dinner and has an unusual experience that leads to additional midnight walks over the next few nights. Gil discovers the ultimate source of inspiration for his writing, and at the same time comes to a decision about his future.

Please join us for this escape to Paris in Room 110 (media room) at 9:00 am on Monday, April 16 to watch this riveting and compelling film!

Congregation News and Events

April Mission of the Month: Compassion International

Compassion International is a child-advocacy ministry that pairs compassionate people with those who are suffering from poverty. The ministry releases children from spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty. The goal is for each child to become a responsible and fulfilled adult.



Compassion's work has grown from modest beginnings in South Korea in 1952 when American evangelist Rev. Everett Swanson felt compelled to help 35 children orphaned by the Korean conflict. Today it is a worldwide ministry where millions of children are now reaping the benefits of one man's clear, God-given vision.

In addition to child development through sponsorship, Compassion has a Water of Life program that provides safe water for life for a child and family.

Compassion Water of Life, a safe water system goes to the heart of one of the greatest and most urgent needs in developing countries today – providing safe drinking water to children and their families.

Every day over 4,000 children are dying of water-related diseases such as cholera and typhoid that are easily preventable. Many more are suffering sickness, diarrhea and acute stomach pains – illnesses that stop children going to school and growing up into healthy adults.

When you donate to Compassion Water of Life, you are not only giving safe drinking water, you are protecting a child from life-threatening diseases and allowing that child to go to school, to dream and reach their full potential.

The Compassion Water of Life system provides

- Safe water for life (over 1 million gallons) for a child and their family in developing countries.
- Education on improving hygiene and sanitation
- Support for improving community water and sanitation sources where needed.



Each tax-deductible gift of \$79 provides a child and family with a complete safe water system including two buckets, a filter, hose, international delivery, and training on how to maintain the system so it provides a lifetime of safe water.

Give a Child in Need One of The Greatest Gifts – DONATE SAFE WATER FOR LIFE!

Use your weekly offering envelopes, white envelopes in the pew back or give online. Checks should be made out to Calvary Lutheran Church and note: April Mission of the Month.

April Food Sunday



Juices (like showers, only you could use juice) are requested for the next Food Sunday with collection on **April 14-15**. Juices go fast and do not get donated very often. Other items of need are rice, pasta, peanut butter, soups, canned meats, fruits or vegetables, and cereals. If you prefer to make a monetary contribution, please mark your envelope or check with the notation "Food Pantry". Your continued support of the Waukesha Food Pantry is greatly appreciated - thank you!



Youth and Family



Youth Sunday—Next event is April 15 – Gross Games! All are invited. We'll play loopy face, build spam sculptures and experiment with the structural integrity of eggs. Fun for all ages. And lunch too! April 15 from 11:30-1pm.

**GROSS
GAMES**

Confirmation Students

Learn more about our confirmation students by checking out the bulletin board located near the southeast entrance of the church.

Keep them in your prayers.



Calvary goes to camp!

Save the dates: July 8 - 13 for Super Hero Week!

For youth completing kindergarten through eighth grade!



Watch for more information. See Pastor Dawn with any questions.



Congregation News

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

	DATE		DATE
Krause, Jane	1	McGarvie, Norman	16
Rose, Carson	3	Meyer, Susan	17
Sayas, Benjamin	3	Vollmar, Jonathan	17
Stepp, Roberta	4	Ozburn, Emily	18
Marinello, Brittany	5	Schulz, Gerhard	18
Jordan, William	6	Trudell, Mark	18
Anderson, Scott	7	Wahlgren, Cathy	19
Polizzi, Donna	7	Knuth, Jason	21
Spangenberg, Christine	9	Nowicki, Nicole	22
Treadwell, David	9	Sayas, Megan	22
Dentice, Krista	10	Brostowitz, Ruth	23
Treadwell, Carol	10	Busche, Craig	23
Hanke, Dawn	12	Gehrke, Lois	23
Lukasik, Janet	12	Steffens, Bruce	23
Schmidt, Michele	13	Tyne, Lee	25
Skarie, Marjorie	13	Rian, Jennifer Swanson	27
		Thiede, Mary Ellen	27

Anniversaries

	DATE	# of YEARS
Kalupa, James and Jeanette	4	26
Baumgartner, Richard and Tina	20	27
Sadowsky, Thomas and Sue	20	33
Thiede, Thomas and Mary Ellen	24	42
Lukasik, Charles and Janet	25	37
Giuliani, Charles and Norene	26	38
Ramthun, Edward and (Catherine) Way	27	16

Thinking of you

It's About Our Family

Sympathy for: Keith Pierce and family on the passing of his brother, Kard Pierce; former Calvary Pastor Fred Hallanger, died March 5, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Prayers

Please check the weekly bulletin for those people needing our urgent prayers. If you have any prayer requests, please call or email the church office. We ask for continued prayers for:

Long-term Prayer List: Diane Foley; Liz Gjenvick; Lee Hermann; Marge Kressin; Lowell Sonderman; Donna Polizzi; Marge Skarie; Mickey Rash; Bill Rash Jr. (son of Mickey Rash); Casey Clark (grandson of Judy Kestly); Barb Dewey (mother of Sallie Schulz); Elizabeth Ebert (mother of Jonni Roush); and Patricia Cross (friend of Cindy Rooks).

CALVARY CONTACT INFORMATION

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Ernie Kretschmann (Pres.)	262-782-4989
John Lau (V.P.)	262-792-1878
Sue Rowe (Sec.)	262-993-7693
Erik Zipp (Treas.)	262-347-9656
Sue Dindorf	262-786-5484
John Foley	262-781-9076
Judy Kestly	262-782-5286
Brad Meyer	262-893-1290
Tom Thiede	414-704-6314

BOARD OF DEACONS

Rich Baumgartner [Q, R]	262-367-3898
Larry Bonier [F, G]	262-271-3916
Jeanette Kalupa [M, P]	262-784-3114
Jim Kalupa [H, I, J]	262-784-3114
Sheila Kershek [V, W, X, Y, Z]	262-389-0883
Darlene Louison [A, T, U]	262-786-6401
Al Rodriguez [Sa-Sh]	262-784-5027
Rhonda Rodriguez [Si-Sz]	262-784-5027
Cindy Rooks [C,D,E]	262-879-9788
Judy Sayas [B]	262-784-5375
Mary Ellen Thiede [K, O]	414-732-4257
Pastor Jerry Wittmus [L, N]	262-818-6792

STAFF

Rev. Ken Nelson (Pastor)	PastorKen@Calvarylc.com or call/text at 701-818-0353
Gene Traas (Dir. of Music)	Music@Calvarylc.com
Dawn Spies (Interim Youth Dir)	PastorDawn@Calvarylc.com
Holly Novotny (Office Mgr.)	Holly@Calvarylc.com
Kris Molitor (Fin. Secretary)	Kris@Calvarylc.com
Cindy Rooks (Comm. Coord.)	Communications@Calvarylc.com

MINISTRY EMAILS

Council	Council@Calvarylc.com
Deacons	Deacons@Calvarylc.com
Personnel	Personnel@Calvarylc.com

Calendar

APRIL 2018

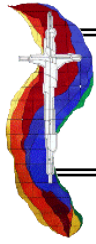
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Easter brunch	2 <u>Off: Pastor Ken</u>	3 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	4 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Amazing Grace Adult Study 12:30 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM Alleluia Choir	5 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Quilters 5:45 PM Divorce Care	6 9:30 AM Mission & Outreach Committee 12:00 PM AI Anon	7 <i>Name Tag Weekend</i> 5:00 PM Worship-Commission of Stephen Minister Leaders
8 <i>Name Tag Weekend</i> 8:00 AM Youth & Family Committee 9:00 AM Worship-Commission of Stephen Minister Leaders 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Choir 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM Church Life Committee 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM Contemporary Musicians 10:30 AM Sunday School 3:00 PM Movie: A Case for Christ	9 <u>Off: Pastor Ken</u> Serenity Inn Meal Program 1:00 PM Women's Book Group 7:00 PM Christian Clowns	10 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Movie: A Case for Christ 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	11 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM Exec Meeting 12:30 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM Alleluia Choir	12 9:30 AM Calvary Knitting Group 2:00 PM Easter Small Group 5:45 PM Divorce Care 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Christian Ed Committee	13 12:00 PM AI Anon	14 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Retirement Event
15 FOOD SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Choir 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM Contemporary Musicians 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Youth Event Sunday	16 <u>Off: Pastor Ken</u> 9:00 AM Monday Morning Movie	17 CROSSROADS DEADLINE 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Rebekah Circle 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Congregation Council 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	18 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 6:30 PM Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM Alleluia Choir	19 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Quilters 4:00 PM Outside group-Parents meeting 5:45 PM Divorce Care	20 12:00 PM AI Anon 6:00 PM Mini-golf set up	21 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mini-Golf 5:00 PM Worship
22 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Choir 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM Contemporary Musicians 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sunday School	23 <u>Off: Pastor Ken</u> 4:00 PM Meal Program	24 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	25 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Alleluia Choir	26 9:00 AM Crossroads Assembly 5:45 PM Divorce Care 6:00 PM Men's Ministry Gathering	27 12:00 PM AI Anon	28 BRING A FRIEND TO WORSHIP 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Council Retreat 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training 5:00 PM Worship
29 BRING A FRIEND TO WORSHIP 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM Sunday School Choir 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Adult Ed 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 10:30 AM Contemporary Musicians 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sunday School	30 <u>Off: Pastor Ken</u>	1 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Celebration Ringers 7:00 PM Families Anon 7:30 PM Non-Smoking AA	2 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Amazing Grace Adult Study 12:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Alleluia Choir	3 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Quilters 5:45 PM Divorce Care	4 12:00 PM AI Anon	5 <i>Name Tag Weekend</i> 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Cinco de Mayo dinner

Serving At Worship

Serving at Worship	<u>April 7/8</u> Sat. 5 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m.	<u>April 14/15</u> Sat. 5 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m.	<u>April 21/22</u> Sat. 5 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m.	<u>April 28/29</u> Sat. 5 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m.
ACOLYTES	Bobby Vollmar Megan Schatz	Jacklyn Warber Megan Schatz	Preston Meyer Scott Anderson	Kian Leonard Bobby Vollmar
ALTAR GUILD	RoJean Holler Ruth Young	Jonni Roush Jan Tschetter	Tom & Sue Sadowsky	Chuck & Norene Giuliani
ASSISTING MINISTER	Lee Tyne	Larry Bonier		
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Mary Baumgartner	Larry Bonier	Natalie Anderson	Pastor Nelson
DEACONS	[Sat] Jim Kalupa [Sun] Rich Baumgartner, Sheila Kershek, Judy Sayas	[Sat] Cindy Rooks [Sun] Rich Baumgartner, Sheila Kershek, Mary Ellen Thiede	[Sat] Jeanette Kalupa [Sun] Larry Bonier, Judy Sayas, Darlene Louison	[Sat] Pastor Jerry Wittmus [Sun] Rhonda Rodriguez, Al Rodriguez, Larry Bonier
GREETERS	[Sat] Mark Trudell, Jeanette Ketelsen [Sun] Bob & Mary Smith	[Sat] Tom & Sue Sadowsky [Sun] Maxine Weisbrodt, Judy DeBruin	[Sat] Ron & Jean Holman [Sun] John & Mary Lau	[Sat] Mark & Lydia Trudell [Sun] Wayne & Bonnie Johnson
LECTORS	Chuck Giuliani	Lee Tyne	Chuck Lukasik	Tina Baumgartner
PPT	[Sat] Lydia Trudell [Sun] Chuck Lukasik	[Sat] Lydia Trudell [Sun] Sue Rowe	[Sat] Lydia Trudell [Sun] Chris Spangenberg	[Sat] [Sun]
USHERS	Tom Thiede Mary Ellen Thiede Ed Ramthun, Jr.	Peggy Langelin Scott Langelin Jan Lukasik Chuck Lukasik	Karen Pierce Keith Pierce	Marty Altmin Chet Elliott Erik Zipp
MUG 'BEARER	Keith Pierce	Marcella Nelson	Mark Trudell	Karen Pierce
ALTAR FLOWERS			Tom & Sue Sadowsky	
HOSPITALITY		Retirement Celebration	Tom & Mary Ellen Thiede	Vollmar Family

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1750 N. Calhoun Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005 ■ Phone: 262-786-4010 ■ E-mail: calvary@calvarylc.com ■ www.calvarylc.com
Calvary Worship Schedule: Saturday at 5 p.m. ■ Sunday at 9 a.m.



**April 2018
Calvary
Crossroads**

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter is also more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

