

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Your Weekly E-Newsletter July 23, 2020

Understanding Jesus' Parables

Kyle Jones, Director of Faith Formation



The complexity of Jesus' parables makes them a challenge to understand. Other obstacles compound that complexity. In order to better grasp the parables, let's look at three of those obstacles.

Aftermarket Titles

Titles can be useful when discussing parables. As we refer to them when talking about the Bible or theology, titles can function as a sort of shorthand. However, the traditional titles given to the parables also do us a disservice. Instead of opening our minds to understanding Jesus' words, they restrict our understanding by directing our focus to a singular aspect of the parable before we've even read it.

"The Parable of the Sower" is a chief example. This parable stands out because each Gospel that records it (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) also reports Jesus' explanation of it. In his explanation, Jesus says little about the sower. So to call it "The Parable of the Sower" sends us in the wrong direction. Sometimes this parable is referred to as "The Parable of the Four Soils." But even that title falls short, because it focuses on the soil, whereas Jesus emphasizes the seed, which represents God's Word.

Jesus never titled the parables. They were added later. They are not divinely inspired Scripture. Therefore, we can freely disregard them. This allows us to come to the parables of Jesus with minds as open as possible, and (hopefully) with fewer assumptions as to their meaning and purpose.

Surrounding Context

One way to combat misrepresentative titles is to recognize the context in which Jesus tells them. He didn't deliver them randomly. Rather, Jesus told them to suit the occasion.

Worship Resources

You can easily access our Home Worship Resources which includes the worship materials of an audio file of the service, the sermon and an order of worship that outlines the service. Click below.

[Worship Resources](#)

Online Resources

Looking for a copy of a prior sermon or podcast? Or did you miss reading one of the weekly e-newsletters? How about the link for online giving? You can find these things and more on Calvary's website ... there's a link below.

[Calvary Website](#)

Daily Devotion

[NALC Daily Devotion](#)

For instance, Jesus told the story of “The Pharisee and the Tax Collector” “to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt” (Luke 18:9). The context, however, doesn’t put the actions of the Pharisee and tax collector at the heart of the story. The key question is where righteousness and unrighteousness come from.

The parable of “The Good Samaritan” comes in the context of a salvation question: “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). Whereas this parable is

Click [here](#) to read the remainder of Kyle's message.



Refresh Project Update

Refresh Project Continues ... the Church office will be closed from July 27-31

The refresh of the carpeting and walls of the church office will be completed the week of July 27, and all staff will be working remotely. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out directly via email to any of our staff:

Pastor Ken Nelson - pastorkken@calvarylc.com
Lynnae Douglas - ldouglas@calvarylc.com
Kyle Jones - youth@calvarylc.com
Nicole Moritz - music@calvarylc.com
Cindy Rooks - finance@calvarylc.com
Sue Rowe - communications@calvarylc.com
Cindy Zilski - office@calvarylc.com

We will be checking the answering machine in the church office daily for any messages that are left from callers.



Phase One - Classrooms and Hallway

During the Refresh process while the hallways, classrooms, Narthex, Fellowship Hall and offices are painted, you may notice the smell of paint throughout the building.

If this odor offends you, please consider utilizing the home worship resources.

Vacation Bible School!

All Aboard!

Virtual Vacation Bible School will be held from July 27-31. Click the video for a preview at what is planned for the "Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pull Us Through".

There will be a video each day with the message of the day, fun songs and special projects for the youth. You can check the VBS link from the Calvary website to see the lessons each day.



Music Ministry



Thank you to those who have completed our music preference survey. If you didn't get a chance to do so last week, please take a minute to share your thoughts and preferences.

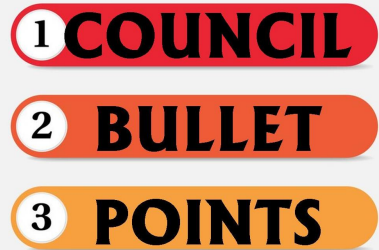
The survey will close on July 31st.

Music Preference Survey

Church Council Updates

Our Church Council met on Tuesday, July 21. Here are a couple bullet points from their meeting:

- An Internship Committee is being formed to provide guidance and feedback for our pastoral intern, Lynnae Douglas.
- Worship schedule will continue with three services per weekend (one on Saturday night and two on Sunday). Additionally, the "Worship at Home" materials will continue to be offered.



Sharing Your Faith ... A "How To" Series

The Share Jesus Questions

It has been said that it takes an average of 7.6 times for someone to hear the gospel before they receive it. How do we know the number of times the person has heard the message? We don't, that's why we have to ask non-threatening probing questions to determine where they are at spiritually. We must listen attentively and you may be able to determine if they are dealing with problems like loneliness, emptiness, pain, or anger.



You will be able to discern how close their heart is to God. The five **"Share Jesus Questions"** you can ask are as follows:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs? Don't ask "Do you believe in God?" because that is often considered offensive. If they respond or not, just ask the next question.
2. To you, who is Jesus Christ? This question separates religious people from relational people. You would hope for an answer that says "He is my Lord and Savior"
3. Do you believe in heaven or hell? Wait for a response and ask the next question.
4. If you died, where would you go? Many might say "Heaven, of course." You might ask "Why would God let you in?" That brings us to the last question to help you get where you want to go. That will give you permission to open your Bible or share scripture.
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know? There are only two possible answers: yes or no. If yes, go on to the next phase. If no, they often say, "Well, aren't you going to tell me?" There are some well known scripture passages you can show them. More on that in next month's article.

You can use these questions as needed. You will be amazed at how open most people are. Just remember your motive for evangelism must be your love for God and love for people. Pray daily for God to put people in your path. As you look around each week ask, "Father, where are you working? Where can I join you?"

You may be feeling that you are afraid to share your faith...and that is OK. The apostle Paul went to share his faith with much fear, weakness, and trembling. But still he went. It will get easier each time you do it. If some people are not open to talking about these matters do nothing. But remember you have not failed. You have been obedient to share the gospel, and the results belong to God. Have fun!

Worship Updates

WEEKEND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

We have taken many steps to ensure as safe of an environment as possible – please use your own judgement in choosing to come. You must do what is most comfortable for you. We will also continue to offer the weekend worship materials via email, as well as delivery of home communion to any member who wishes to receive it. Please call the office at 262.786.4010 for more details or to sign up to receive home communion.

Safe practices are in place for all worship services.

Face masks are strongly encouraged while at worship. We will have a limited supply on hand near the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Social distancing has been established in the Sanctuary with assigned pews for each service, designated by colored tags (see photo). Please sit only in the pew with the tag designated for that service. If you are not sitting with your family, please observe the 6' distance between you and someone next to you (approximately two arm lengths).

All high touch points such as pews and door handles are sanitized after each service. The

Altar Guild follows strict sanitation practices when filling the cups. We are using hosts instead of bread and wine is "self serve". All servers are wearing masks and will wash their hands in the Sacristy prior to serving communion.



Video Equipment Fundraiser with 50% Match

Calvary Lutheran Church is excited to announce a new project aimed at reaching the broader general public and to connect with our congregation at large during the COVID19 pandemic.



We are investigating and investing in technology to provide to bring our worship services and other programs to those unable to join us in person. The plan is to purchase and install equipment that will give us the ability to record, edit and then release a video to the congregation of our worship services, Vacation Bible School, and other events within our church.

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the Video Equipment Fundraiser with a 50% match up to \$2,500. Thank you to those who have contributed so far to this project. Contact the church office ([Cindy Rooks](#)) to inquire about making a donation toward this fundraiser.

Serving at Worship

THIS WEEKEND

8th Sunday after Pentecost

This week's readings

[Deuteronomy 7:6-9](#)

[Psalm 125](#)

[Romans 8:28-39](#)

[Matthew 13:44-52](#)

ASSISTING MINISTER:

- Scott Langelin

DEACONS

- Saturday (5:00 pm): Ed Ramthun

- Sunday (8:30 am): Terry Bzdusek
- Sunday (10:00 am):

USHERS:

- Sunday (8:30 am): Jim Brostowitz
- Sunday (10:00 am): Jane Krause

LECTOR:

- Sunday (8:30 am): Grace Gunnlaugsson
- Sunday (10:00 am): Peggy Langelin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

- Kyle Jones

SPECIAL MUSIC:

- Larry Bonier

ALTAR GUILD:

- Marge Tyne

FLOWERS:

- Keith and Karen Pierce in celebration of their 32nd anniversary

POWERPOINT TECH:

- Saturday (5:00 pm): Lydia Trudell
- Sunday (8:30 am): Grace Gunnlaugsson
- Sunday (10:00 am): Johanna Nelson

	Attendance
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	23
Sunday 8:30 a.m.	34
Sunday 10:00 a.m.	39

Attendance - July 18 & 19

Our Church Family

Prayer Requests

Sympathy and God's peace to: Lois Gehrke and family on the passing of Carroll on July 22.

New prayer requests: Judy Grospitz; Noel Jenke, Elmer Eggert (grandfather of Angie Schatz)

Ongoing short-term prayer requests: Beverly Lawson; Janet Zastrow; Julia, Anthony and baby Serafina Maniscalco (cousin of Kyle Jones);

Melissa Hoag and family (niece of Pastor Ken); and Bishop Emeritus John Bradowsky. Bill Barwa (friend of Megan Sayas); Jan Janchan (friend of Jonni Roush); Chelsea Lee (friend of Noel Jenke); Nancy Waters (sister-in-law of Barb Snyder); Jenna (granddaughter of Wayne and Bonnie Johnson); Mary Dresser (Donna Schroeder's daughter-in-law's sister); Shirl Gordon (friend of Cindy Rooks); David Voight (friend of Jonni Roush); Doug Haus (brother-in-law of Chet Elliott); and Tom Kestly (husband of Judy Kestly).

Serving in the Military: Dan Berger (serving in the U.S. Marines); Nicole Wahlgren (serving in the U.S. Army National Guard); Kyle Pierce (son of Karen and Keith Pierce, serving in the U.S. Army); Alex Olson (U.S. Air Force, grandchild of Ardath Olson); Karmen Thomas (friend of Tony and Krista Dentice serving in the U.S. Army); all military chaplains; and all veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

For All Men and Women Serving: Police Officers, Firefighters, Health Care workers and First Responders.

Serving in the mission field: Our NALC missionaries and missionaries everywhere bringing the gospel to the ends of the Earth.

Long-term prayer list: *Calvary members:* Jeanette Ketelsen; Marge Skarie; Lowell Sonderman; Donna Polizzi

Non-members: Christine Elliott (friend of Chet Elliott); Reidun Asland (friend of Pastor Ken and Marcella Nelson); Sheila Ulsberger (friend of Brad and Sue Meyer); Brad Gabriel (cousin of Jenni Swanson); Jeff Edwards (friend of Ernie Kretschmann); Monica Barchus (niece of Ernie Kretschmann); Michael Rossa (Lucy Dallman's son).

If you have any new prayer requests, please contact the church office at 262.786.4010 or via email to office@calvarylc.com.

Do Not Be Anxious
About Anything
BUT IN EVERY SITUATION
My Prayers
AND PETITION
PRESENT YOUR
• REQUESTS •
to God PHIL 4:6

Happy Birthday!

Emily Berger, 7/23
Barb Snyder, 7/23
Scott Grossman, 7/25
Helga Miedtke, 7/25
Marty Altmin, 7/26
Diane Schmelzer, 7/27
Chuck Giuliani, 7/29
Melissa Griesse, 7/29
Harriet Polzin, 7/30
Megan Schatz, 7/30
R. J. Budnick, 7/31

Happy Anniversary!

Cable and Sarah Gall 7/29 (14 years)
Keith and Karen Pierce 7/30 (32 years)
Darrel and Shirley Schwenn 7/31 (66 years)

Hope Street Ministry

Hope Street Ministry helps broken men, women and children cultivate hope, and provides protection from the outside elements and most importantly supports growth together in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Hope Street Ministry is home to about 40 men, women and children whose lives have been profoundly affected by the toxic environment they grew up in, their own poor choices, or drug and alcohol abuse.

Empowered by the active Grace of Christ, the staff, volunteers, and members create a nurturing community for people to live, learn and develop new habits to flourish.

The organizational roots were developing in the 1990's. By 2000, Hope Street opened its doors at 26th and Capital. In their 20 years, they have developed a place for transformational heart-changing, as well as behavioral modification.

In 2014 they received approval to allow children to live with parents for the healing and learning of healthy family practices. In 2015 generous donations allowed for the basement of the building to include more healthy living areas, including a workout facility, a Bible study room a computer lab, an adult community room, a kid's playroom, a teen room and a laundry facility.

Hope Street takes pride in creating apartments and communal spaces that anyone would be proud to live in -- where environment uplifts dignity, and members learn to cherish and be cherished. A Refuge Garden was created in 2019, and the building of

Shechem (a community center) is forthcoming. Successful members move on to work and independent living with healthy life skills, and a continued connection to their community. Our gifts this month support the work and expansion of offerings Hope Street Ministry provides to members and as a beacon in the community.

This is an uplifting organization moving forward under the direction of Ashley Thomas, Executive Directory, who will be with us at worship this weekend to share more information.

If you'd like to contribute to Hope Street Ministries, please designate "Mission of the Month" on your check or select that category via your online donation.



[Click here to view a video about Hope Street Ministries](#)

Women's Ministry

2020-2021 Books by Month

9/14 - *A Room with a View*
by R. M. Forster

10/12 - *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee

11/19 - *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

1/11 - *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore

2/8 - *The Girl from Berlin* by Ronald H. Balson

3/8 - *Orphan Train* by

BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS

The book selections for 2020-21 were chosen last week and there is sure to be something of interest to everyone. A full list of each month's selection is on the left.

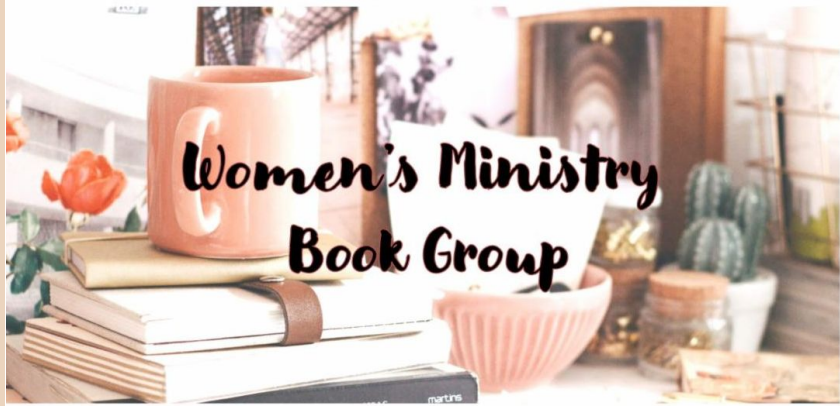
The first Book Group meeting will be held on **September 14 at 1:00 p.m.** at Calvary in a room where social distancing can be practiced. More information regarding the specific room location will be shared as the date gets closer.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Grace Gunnlaugsson at 262.751.8359 or via email at gracemg@mac.com.

Christina Baker Kline

4/12 - *The Secret Garden* by
Frances Hodgson Burnett

5/10 - *The Address* by Fiona
Davis



Men's Ministry



**Weekly Men's Breakfast
Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m.)**

**Maxim's Restaurant
18025 W. Capitol Drive**

The restaurant seating has been reconfigured in compliance with social distancing requirements. Please note the new start time!



**Monthly Men's Ministry
Gathering
Thursday, July 23
6:00 p.m.
Pastor Ken's Home**

Come for fellowship, food and devotion time. Dinner will be provided. Social distancing will be respected and practiced. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ernie Kretschmann at kretschmann@att.net.

A Few Reminders ...

The office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. until noon.
The door closest to the office (NW corner) will be open during those hours.
Please check in with the office staff so we know you are in the building.

The Week At a Glance

Friday, July 24
6:30P Family Movie Night – EVAN ALMIGHTY

Saturday, July 25
5:00P Worship

Sunday, July 26
8:30a Worship
10:00a Worship
4:00P VIRTUAL VBS Kick Off Event (outdoors)

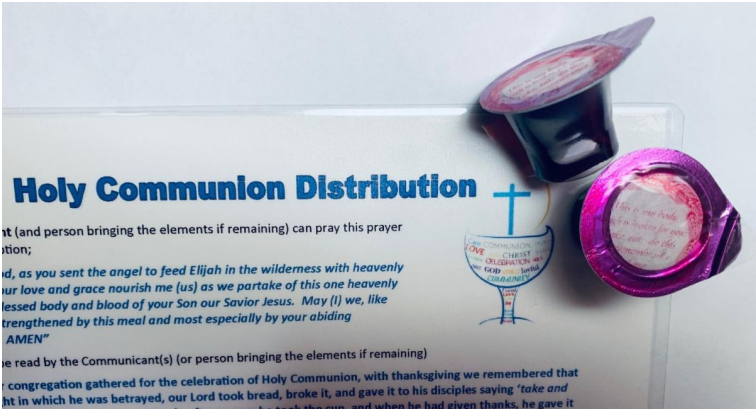
Monday, July 27 VIRTUAL VBS
Refresh Project Continues- OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, July 28 VIRTUAL VBS
Refresh Project Continues- OFFICE CLOSED
9:30a Staff Meeting (virtual)

Wednesday, July 29 VIRTUAL VBS
Refresh Project Continues- OFFICE CLOSED
7:00a Men's Breakfast (Maxim's)

Thursday, July 30 VIRTUAL VBS
Refresh Project Continues- OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, July 31 VIRTUAL VBS
Refresh Project Continues- OFFICE CLOSED
5:30P VIRTUAL VBS WRAP UP PICNIC (outdoors)



**Holy Communion
Home Distribution
Ministry Underway**

If you are choosing to remain at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, any Calvary member, regardless of age or health, can request consecrated bread and juice from the weekend worship service. A sealed communion "kit", along with simple instructions to prepare you for communion, can be dropped off at your home by a member of our home communion ministry team.

If you'd like to get on the schedule for this important ministry, please contact the church office at 262.786.4010 or via email to office@calvarylc.com. You may set up a schedule of delivery weekly, or less often if you choose.

Sanctuary Flowers Sign Up

We invite you to sign up for flowers to beautify our altar each weekend.



During the Refresh project, the sign up sheet will be in the office. If it's more convenient, you can email your request to [Cindy Zilske at office@calvarylc.com](mailto:Cindy.Zilske@calvarylc.com). Please indicate the date you'd like to sponsor the flowers, and if you would like the flowers in memory or honor of someone.

Flowers are \$35 and may be taken home following the 10 a.m. worship on Sunday morning.

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you!

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this important ministry, please contact [Scott or Peggy Langelin](#) at 262.853.0018.



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH www.calvarylc.com

Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-noon 262.786.4010

Questions or comments? Email Sue Rowe at communications@calvarylc.com