

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Your Weekly E-Newsletter February 17, 2021

This Week's Pondering ...

Kyle Jones, Director of Faith Formation



Practice Your Righteousness in Fasting

Scripture records the fasts of numerous people and groups of people. Moses, David, Elijah, Hezekiah, Jesus, and Paul fasted (Deut. 9:9; 2 Sam. 12:16; 1 Kings 19:8; 2 Kings 18:6; Matt. 4:2; Acts

9:9). Jehoshaphat called for the nation of Israel to fast (2 Chron. 20:3). The Gentile king of Nineveh called for the whole region to fast along with their animals (Jonah 3:5). Ezra and the exiles fasted before their return to their homeland (Ezra 8:21). And, Esther and her handmaidens fasted with Mordecai and the Jews in Susa (Esther 4:16).

In Jesus' day, fasting was a form of self-humiliation meant to communicate grief, mourning, and repentance to God and neighbor. It involved more than refraining from food and drink for a set period. It also included a disregard for clothing, general hygiene, and looks; this took the form of sackcloth and ashes. And a disregard for sleep referred to as keeping vigil (Bruce J. Malina, *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*, 360).

Fasting could be a voluntary or involuntary practice. Involuntary fasting happened in response to the unexpected loss of a loved one or a national tragedy which rendered one overcome with grief and to communicate to one's neighbors. On the other hand, Voluntary fasting wasn't in response to an unexpected tragedy, but rather, it was a spiritual habit. The Pharisees practiced fasting twice a week to bring Israel as a nation closer to God. Voluntary fasting was meant to communicate directly to God as a means of piety.

Beyond refraining from food, what does it mean for Christians to fast today? Christians who intentionally fast practice it

Worship Resources

[Live Stream Link](#)

Online Resources

[Calvary Website](#)

[Foretaste of the Feast Podcast](#)

[NALC Daily Devotion](#)

[Online Giving](#)

[Prior Sermons](#)

[Text Study for weekend readings](#)

voluntarily. This means the spiritual discipline is directed to God. Jesus' words in Matthew help us understand what our attitude toward fasting and other spiritual disciplines should be. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven (Matt. 6:1).

Jesus categorized fasting and other spiritual disciplines as practices of righteousness. Righteousness is our right-standing before God, and therefore practicing righteousness is how we live in that standing. How we do that depends on where we think our righteousness comes from. Jesus warns that those who practice righteousness for other's approval will receive just that and nothing more (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16). He says no spiritual habit, no good deed, nor any neighborly endorsement can make us righteous or enough before God. **Our enoughness before God cannot be earned by our piety or bestowed by our neighbor. Our righteousness and our justification come from Christ and His work for us.**

It is in this truth that we can fast in freedom. But, living in the enoughness of Christ proves more difficult than we often imagine. Robert Farrar Capon brings this to bear when he writes about Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and tax collector (Luke 18:9-14).

Capon argues this parable is not about taking "a humble religious stance rather than a proud one; rather it is a warning to drop all religious stances — and all moral and ethical ones, too — when you try to grasp your justification before God." It's this dropping of all religious stances that ...

brings us difficulty. We understand that the Pharisee believed he was righteous because of his works, and his neighbor's approval of them, that he practiced righteousness based on himself. We also understand that the tax collector recognized he had no righteousness of his own to speak of, but instead that he had only the righteousness and mercy of God to lean on. But, as Capon writes, "our love of justification by works is so profound that at the first opportunity we run from the strange light of grace straight back to the familiar darkness of the law."

To prove it, Capon asks the reader to imagine the tax collector back in the temple a week later. Has he improved his behavior? Did he refrain from cheating his neighbors? Did he fast or tithe, even just a little? If not, what if he returned to the temple in the same manner as the week before: eyes down, breast beaten, calling on the mercy and righteousness of God? When God sends this unimproved sinner home justified again, how do we feel? Do we, as Capon puts it, "gag on the unfairness of it?" This is the absurd and beautiful nature of the Gospel that we live in and that we practice our righteousness in, or rather, God's righteousness which is now ours in Christ Jesus. Whether we succeed or fail in fasting, our forgiveness and life don't depend on it. Because it never did.

So what is our fasting for? Or who is it for, if it's not for God or for our salvation? Why fast at all? Let's return to Jesus' words ...

To read the remainder of this article, click [here](#).



† LENT — 40 Days Of Renewal —

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 17

*(The noon service will
also be live streamed and
recorded)*

**NOON
7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Lenten Taize Services

7:00 p.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 1 - 7 p.m. Worship
(will be live streamed)

Good Friday

April 2 - 7 p.m. Worship
(will be live streamed)

*Reservations will be
required for Easter
services. Watch for
more information in
early March.*

NALC Lenten
Devotional

IT'S A GIRL ... Meet Sophia Grace Douglas!



Caleb and Lynnae have Sophia all bundled up to take her home.



Sophia Grace Douglas
was born on Sunday, 2/14 at 4:36 p.m.

She weighed 8 lb., 10 oz. and was 21" long. Sophia and mom are doing well.



Proud brothers Nathaniel, Eli and Joel proudly hold their new baby sister.

Annual Meeting THIS SUNDAY



**Calvary's Annual Meeting will be held
THIS Sunday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m.
in the Sanctuary.**

There will NOT be Christian Education or a 10:15 a.m. service that day. In the event the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the meeting will be held the following

Sunday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m.

To maintain social distancing during the meeting, please sit in the pews marked for the 10:15 a.m. service. Face coverings will be required. Materials to sign into the meeting will be placed on tables outside the entrance to the Sanctuary. A copy of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Worship Information and Updates



**February 20 & 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent**

**ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m.**

PRESIDING MINISTER:

- Pastor Ken Nelson

ASSISTING MINISTER:

- Jessica Dudzik

DEACONS:

- Saturday (5:00 pm): Terry Bzdusek

- Sunday (8:15 am): Sheila Kershek
- Sunday (10:15 am): Annual Meeting - no service

USHERS:

- Sunday (8:15 am): Tom and Mary Ellen Thiede
- Sunday (10:15 am): Annual Meeting - no service

LECTORS:

- Sunday (8:15 am): Sallie Schulz
- Sunday (10:15 am): Annual Meeting - no service

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

- Natalie Anderson

SPECIAL MUSIC:

-

ALTAR FLOWERS:

- Kalupa family in memory of Heidi Hummel

ALTAR GUILD:

- Jonni Roush

POWERPOINT TECH:

- Saturday (5:00 pm): Lydia Trudell
- Sunday (8:15 am): Sue Rowe
- Sunday (10:15 am): Annual Meeting - no service

WORSHIP LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY!

Can't make it to worship? We are now live streaming the 8:15 a.m. service on Sunday mornings, and it's *almost* like you're with us in person.

You can access it at any time from the home page of our website (www.calvarylc.com), or by using the link below.



[Link to Weekly Live Stream](#)

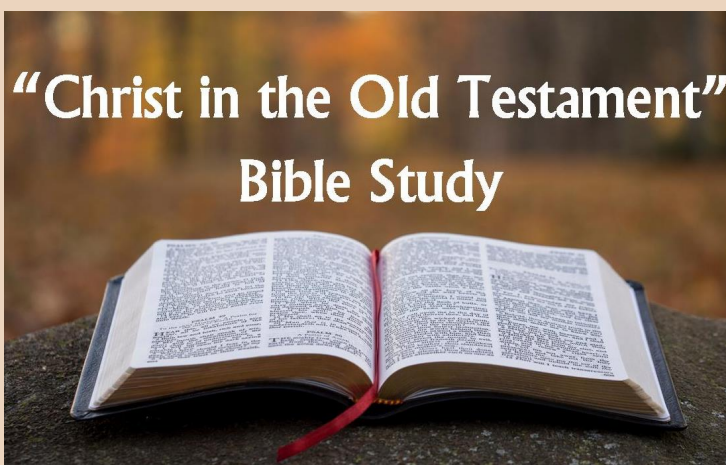
Giving and Worship Attendance - February 13 & 14, 2021

	Attendance
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	20
Sunday 8:15 a.m.	45
Sunday 10:15 a.m.	33

	AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2021		
	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date	YTD Budget
Pledged Offerings	\$14,515	\$80,017	\$95,000
Unpledged Offerings	\$2,081	\$4,843	\$3,200
Income less Expenses	\$4,189	\$35,070	\$15,818
January M.O.M.	\$1,610	\$1,610	N/A

Faith Formation

NEW STUDY STARTS FEBRUARY 24 Pastor Ken's Bible Study Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.



"Christ in the Old Testament" is the subject of a seven-week series beginning **Wednesday, February 24 at 12:30 p.m.** Created by 1517.org, it will feature the teaching of Chad Bird, a noted Old Testament teacher and published author.

This course will examine how readers of the Old Testament are really reading a book that is all about Christ. Whenever Jesus talked about himself (or when his

earliest believers did), he and they did so by way of the Old Testament.

There is no registration required and no study materials other than occasional session handouts. We will meet in the church Sanctuary in order to make use of the large screen and sound capabilities there. It also enables us to host a larger class while maintaining proper distancing. Pastor Nelson will facilitate the study and would be happy to field any questions you may have about it.

Subjects in this Series include:

1. The Bible that Jesus Read
2. Appearances of Christ (Christophanies)
3. Creation and Exodus (there were many of them in the OT)
4. Christ as the Key of David

Our Church Family

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

Wayne Johnson, 2/18
Carolyn Gillespie, 2/19
Connor Voss, 2/21
Sue Becker, 2/23
Bobby Vollmar, 2/24
Jim Brostowitz, 2/25
Luther Himself, 2/25
Eli Douglas, 2/28



New prayer requests: Rose Luther (friend of Nicole Moritz)

Ongoing short-term prayer requests: Maxine Weisbrodt; Bill Krause, Mike Santell (brother-in-law of Judy Sayas); Pastor Jerry Wittmus; Don Heyen; Nadine Schuelke; George Rooney; Grace Gunnlaugsson; Beverly Howe (sister of Joe Grundman); Dave Burgess (Kris Larson's cousin's husband); Dave DeBruine (son of Judy DeBruine); Sheila Bryan (sister of Sue Sadowsky); Jenna Slattery (friend of Sue Sadowsky); Rebecca Cornell (niece of Pastor Ken and Marcella); Debbie and Jens Douglas (sister-in-law of Lynnae Douglas); Debby (friend of Judy Sayas); Pamela Scott (mother of Megan Sayas); Theodore Peelen (grandfather of Tony Dentice); Jim Walters (uncle of Krista Dentice); Denver Green (friend of Janet Zastrow); Karen (friend of Lydia Trudell); Jerry Locy (father of Cindy Rooks); Olivia (granddaughter of Megan Sayas' co-worker).

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); Kevin Butler (son of Heidi Powers, serving in the U.S. Army); Ben DeYoung (son-in-law of George and Kay Sedivec, serving in the U.S. Air Force); 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:* Diane Foley; Bill Jordan; Jeanette Ketelsen; Marge Skarie; Lowell Sonderman; Donna Polizzi; Pat Treutelaar; and Janet Zastrow.

Non-members: Mike Foster (son of Ron Foster); Judy Grosnitz; Elmer Eggert (grandfather of Angie Schatz); Jan Janchan (friend of Jonni Roush); Mary Dresser (Donna Schroeder's daughter-in-law's sister); David Voight (friend of Jonni Roush); Bill Barwa (friend of Megan Sayas); Doug Haus (brother-in-law of Chet Elliott); Christine Elliott (friend of Chet Elliott); 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.

Monday Morning Movie

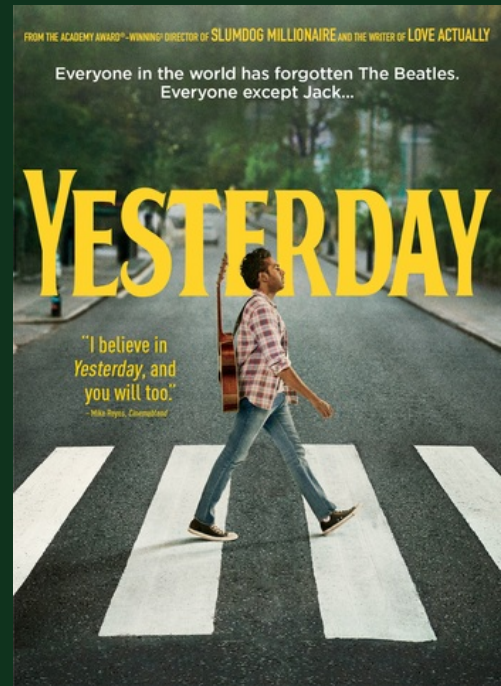
Monday, February 22 – 9:30 a.m.

Join us as we watch the movie “**Yesterday**” on the big screen in the Sanctuary. If you enjoy the music of the early Beatles, this will be a treat. It's an entertaining movie - here's a short recap:

“Jack Malik was just another struggling songwriter . . . but that was yesterday. After a mysterious blackout, Jack discovers he is the only person on earth who remembers The Beatles!”

As he rockets to fame by passing off the Fab Four's songs as his own, Jack risks losing Ellie – the one person who has loved him and believed in him from the start. Before the door to his old life closes forever, Jack must decide if all he needs is love, after all.”

Join us and bring a friend!



Men's Ministry



Weekly Men's Breakfast
Wednesdays at 7 a.m.
Maxim's Restaurant
18025 W. Capitol Drive
Brookfield

The restaurant seating has been reconfigured in compliance with social distancing requirements.

All men are invited to attend!



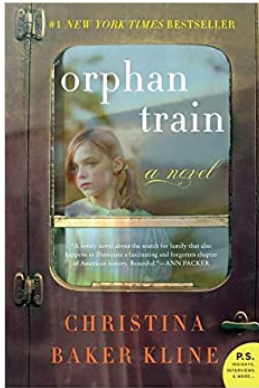
Monthly Men's Gathering
Thursday, February 25
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Come for fellowship, food and devotion time. Dinner will be provided. Invite a friend. Social distancing will be respected and practiced; face coverings are required.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ernie Kretschmann at kretschmann@att.net.

NEW DATE

Women's Book Group - March 8 1:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall "The Orphan Train"



Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude?

February Mission of the Month - Youth Missions



The picture above is from the 2019 high school mission trip to the Virginia/West Virginia border. There, Calvary high school students joined other students from across the country to serve the local community by doing light construction work on homes in the area. They repainted houses, they tore down and rebuilt porches and wheelchair ramps, and they even recoated roofs of mobile homes.

They grew in relationships with each other, with the other students they met, and with the residents they served, most of whom are no longer able to do or afford repairs to their homes. They also spent intentional time in God's word and in worship and grew in their faith.

Every year at Calvary we set aside one of the Missions of the Month for student and youth missions. The high school mission trip is a transformative experience for the students who participate. But the cost of an average mission trip can be steep. Calvary has always tried to minimize the cost to families, but to do that takes a congregation of people willing to support students. And Calvary is one of those congregations.

The registration fee for the mission trip this year is \$468 per participant (students and adults). We ask parents to pay \$250 of that and Calvary aims to cover the rest to make it possible for as many students as possible to participate. While the fee covers food, lodging, and a myriad of other things while we're on location, the overall cost of a mission trip also includes vehicle rental, gas, hotel rooms, and meals while we travel to and from our place of service. It can cost upwards of \$8,000 to take 10 people (8 students and 2 adults) on a mission trip. This year's trip will be to Gilbert, South Carolina from June 18 - 27, 2021.

The students of Calvary are blessed to be members of a congregation that firmly believes that money should not be an obstacle for students called to serve God and their neighbors on a mission trip. As the Director of Faith Formation, I cannot thank you enough for praying for and supporting our students and providing them opportunities to grow in faith through service.

So please remember that when you give to the February Mission of the Month in support of youth missions you are providing more than an opportunity to better the lives of the individuals and communities our students serve, but providing a chance for them to grow ever closer to the God who draws them near in baptism and forgives their sins again and again through the blood of his Son.

In Christ,

Kyle G. Jones

To support this important Mission for the Month, you may include it in your weekly offering envelope or designate the donation as "Mission of the Month" in your online giving.

Community Outreach



St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program Donations Accepted

St. Vincent de Paul's meal program has significantly changed during COVID and serving of their nightly hot meals has been changed to ensure safe transfer of food.

Food is now pre-packaged by St. Vincent de Paul staff and handed out to clients at the doors.

Since the food is not donated as it was in the past, and their budget has had to incur this extra expense, they could use additional funding to purchase the food that is given out.



If you'd like to support this worthwhile cause, an easy way to do so is through your giving envelope, or online giving. Simply designate your contribution as "St. Vincent de Paul" and the church office will make sure it gets sent to SVDP. Last year we forwarded \$1,345 of your generous donations to Saint Vincent de Paul - great job Calvary!



Did you know we have a food pantry collection box in the back hallway near Nicole's office? Food items (*especially the "Big 8" items*) are always needed and can be placed into the pantry box at any time.

These items are used for individuals who



stop by the church looking for food assistance. Surplus items are donated to the Waukesha Food Pantry for their distribution to the community.

Please check expiration dates on items being donated to make sure they are not past date.

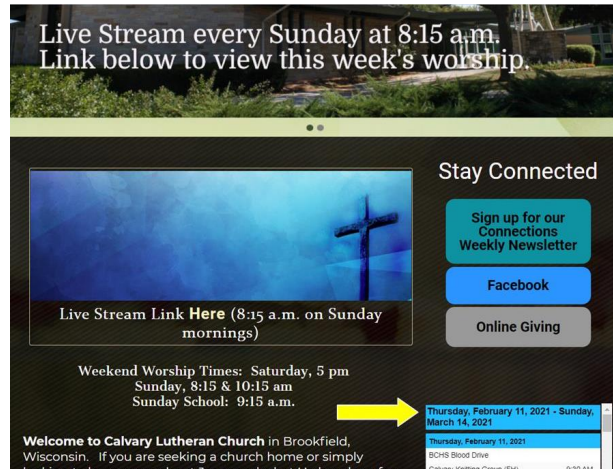
The "Big 8" items most needed are:

- Canned fruits (esp. pineapple and mandarin oranges)
- Shelf stable protein (stews, tuna, chicken, spam, tofu)
- Rice - brown, white and boxed mixes
- Chunky soup (ready-to-eat)
- Canned pasta with meat
- Shelf stable almond or soy milk
- Soaps, laundry detergent, toilet paper

NEW! 30 Days at a Glance (Click here: [CALENDAR](#))

You can now see the church calendar for a 30-day period. At any given time, you'll be able to access the most current calendar items.

This photo shows you exactly where you can find this information on our website (follow the yellow arrow).



**Calvarylc.com
Calendar**

A few reminders

Severe Weather Announcements



With this week's snowfall, we are reminded that weather can definitely impact traveling to church. And with that, inclement weather could necessitate the cancelling of worship.

In the event this should happen, you will receive an e-mail stating that the church is closed. We will also be sharing this with WISN-TV 12 and FOX6 so that it will be included in their scrolling list and on their website of closures.



The right side of the Sanctuary (as you face the altar) is equipped with a hearing loop system which transmits an audio signal directly into a hearing aid via a magnetic field. This greatly

reduces background noise, competing sounds, reverberation and other acoustic distortions that reduce clarity of sound.

Most hearing aids are equipped with a t-coil and connecting to this system is an easy switch on the hearing aid. If you need assistance during worship with this system, please reach

The church office is open **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until noon.** The door that is closest to the office (NW corner) will be open during those hours.

Office Hours

Please check in with the office staff so we know you are in the building.

The office phone number is **(262) 786-4010**. Feel free to leave a message if you call after hours and we will contact you the next day.

out to an usher or any staff member.

Sanctuary Flowers Sign Up

We invite you to sign up for flowers to beautify our altar each weekend. The sign-up sheet for 2021 is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Flowers are \$35 and you may take them home following the 10:15 am worship on Sunday morning. If you'd prefer, you can leave the flowers at church to be enjoyed by the office staff.



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.



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, 8 a.m. - noon 262.786.4010

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