

# Callings from the Lakeshore

Calvary & St. Paul Lutheran: Two Churches, One Body  
July 2024

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## Notes from the Pastor's Chair

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the woman who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the choir member overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics in that song.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the single adult praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenager, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of their mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, and selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church.

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where God resides, and if we ask, God is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church, the days when I am at odds with a sister or brother. When I've fought with my spouse because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for someone to hold or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away. I'll remember, God has never failed to meet me there. (by Jacob Waldron)

This is a poem that I have printed on the inside of my work notebook. I came across it several years ago, and it found a special place in my heart. It found me when the church was not at its best, when the body of Christ struggled to know who and what it wanted to be.

This is still the case for today's church, which is an ever-evolving organism trying to find its footing in a new world. I vividly remember saying to my mentor that I had come too late. The church was not what I knew it to be. It was no longer what I remember from my childhood. This man looked at me and said, "You are right on time for the church. It will be hard and challenging. It will look and maybe even feel different than it did, but Jesus is there. You will guide your own flock of sheep through this next incarnation"

These words didn't feel like salve on my wounds at the time. They felt more like rubbing alcohol. But here I am with two flocks of sheep to lead. I bring this up because it is hard when things change. When the church doesn't look like it did before. When roles shuffle, and the hows are different. We as people don't like change. It upsets the apple cart of our daily lives, and for many, the response is to push back instead of leaning into it.

We started with the poem about how the church is hard. This has been hard since the days of Jesus and the disciples. Didn't Jesus go into the temple, turning over tables and throwing out money changers? This has been hard since the days of Paul, who lived, worked, and preached the Good News, establishing the Church throughout Asia Minor.

Do I miss the "church" I grew up in? Yes. But I miss every church that I have been a part of. There were wonderful aspects of all of them. I miss the mission style building of my first church with its low ceilings and dark beams. I miss kneeling rails during confession. I miss being a part of big bold singing congregations. Yes. I miss all those things that were church to me at some point. But I don't want to miss out on being church here. Change is hard. There have been some changes in the last couple of months. There is one newsletter now. We have one bulletin. And the administrative assistant position is now one position between both churches. It is not two positions. It is a seamless job between the two churches. The work flows back and forth seamlessly. Calvary and St Paul have been yoked together since 2017 and one of the things that I was told when I was called was that it would be good if we worked together better. Having one newsletter and bulletin is a big step. Change for the sake of change is unnecessary but change as a way of making things better is worth exploring. We are all parts of Christ's body, and sometimes the body hurts a bit. But we take care of it together.

Pastor Heather

**CALVARY WORSHIP TIMES:**

**Sunday mornings at 8:30am.**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 6:00pm**

**ST. PAUL WORSHIP TIMES:**

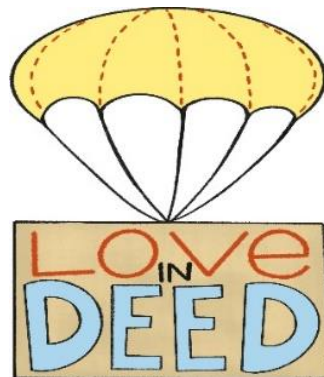
**Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.**



**WORSHIP  
SERVICES  
ONLINE**

Worship services for both churches continue to be

recorded and shared for everyone who is unable to come to in-person worship. Recorded services can be found on each church's website. The link for online worship is included in weekly emails for both churches. If you need help finding services online, please call the church office.



***Sharing  
God's Love  
with our  
Community &  
Beyond***

**MONTHLY TREP FOOD DRIVES (CALVARY)**

Calvary is hosting monthly food drives for TREP. Each month is a specific focus. For July, the focus is on soups, but all donations are welcome. Any items for TREP can be placed in the grocery cart inside the main entrance.

**PETER'S PANTRY DONATIONS (ST. PAUL)**

There is a basket near the entrance at St. Paul to drop off donations for Peter's Pantry. Thank you for all the donations we find in the basket each month! Your generosity to those in need is appreciated.

**BLESSING BOX (ST. PAUL)**

During the summer months, please consider adding non-perishable, easy to prepare items to the Blessing Box. Any items should be able to withstand the summer heat. Any overflow items can be placed in the church office.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Did you know that St. Paul has a wonderful team of people who deliver Meals on Wheels in our community? This service enables the homebound to receive one hot meal and one cold meal each day Monday through Friday. St. Paul has one of the easiest routes as we deliver to about 20 individuals in four or five locations. We always work in pairs, and it only takes about an hour. St. Paul is responsible for one week's deliveries every four to six weeks. When we have enough volunteers, each set of partners is responsible for one day.

Our volunteers find gratification when they give their time to the needs of the recipients and enjoy working with their Meals on Wheels partner! More volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please contact Jan Chermak. Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers!

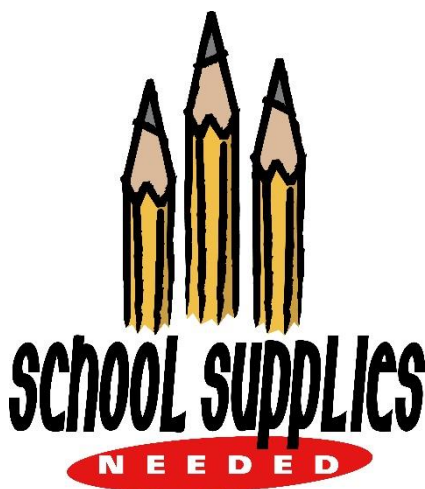


## NOISY OFFERING AT ST. PAUL

The July offering will be going towards Lutheran World Relief School Kits. This offering will be collected on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS AT ST. PAUL

Beginning the first Sunday in July, we will be collecting items to create School Kits which will be distributed through Lutheran World Relief. These kits are given to families affected by ongoing conflicts and severe weather around the globe.



Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that all children, especially girls, can attend school in places where their access is not a priority has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children - and in some cases, adults - continue learning in the face of adversity. That learning leads to a better life, not only for them, but for their families and communities. There will be a

collection area in the narthex for your donations. Items will be collected through Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a great project that the entire congregation is invited to take part in!

## The supplies needed for each kit are:

- (4) 70 sheet notebooks, wide or college ruled\*
- (1) 12-inch ruler (with both inches and centimeters)
- (1) box of 16 or 24 count crayons
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) pair of blunt scissors
- (5) unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers.
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- (1) 2 ½ inch eraser

\*Indicates the most needed item.



## WOMEN OF WORSHIP (WOW) AT ST. PAUL Wednesday, July 3 at 11am

Faith Circle is a group of women who meet monthly for a Bible study along with some Fellowship time. Everyone is invited!

## CALVARY COOKOUT Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Calvary friends, please join us for a cookout at the home of Andy & Alyssa Schmidt! Sign up in the Gathering Space by Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to spending some time with you! Questions? Please email the Calvary office at [churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com)

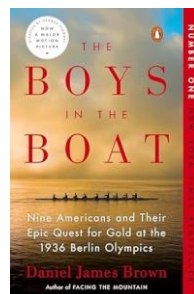
## FAITH CIRCLE AT ST. PAUL Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Faith Circle is a group of women who meet monthly for a Bible study along with some Fellowship time. Everyone is invited!

## BOOK CLUB AT ST. PAUL

Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 3-4pm

In July the book club will be reading The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown. We'll meet to discuss the book in the Gathering Room. If you're interested in joining,





please let Joy know (joycarlson4@gmail.com) and you can be added to the Book Club email list for updates and news. We have library copies available to borrow.

### Women's Retreat 2024 (For Calvary & St. Paul only)

Please save the date! Friday & Saturday, September 27-28 at Crossways – Imago Dei Village

**For a full list of events,  
please see the calendar page!**



### MAESON, WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

On Sunday, June 2nd, Maeson was baptized at St. Paul. We rejoice with Maeson and her mom, Mariah on the celebration of her baptism!

### JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL JOINT- CHURCH PICNIC!



This year the picnic will be held at St. Paul. Worship will begin at 10:30am & picnic to follow. The picnic will be held outdoors, weather permitting. The main course will be provided, and we are asking that everyone brings a dish to share. Please sign up in the

Gathering Space at Calvary and at the Information Table at St. Paul beginning Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ST. PAUL RUMMAGE SALE:



The annual rummage sale at St. Paul will be held on Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 5-7. Saturday all items will be ½ off!

This is a great time to clear items out of the house & bring them in for the church rummage sale. As a reminder, we do not take exercise equipment, electronics, or furniture. Items can be dropped off at church and stored in the classrooms on the lower level. Questions about the rummage sale can be directed to Carol Entringer.

### RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

Do you have ink cartridges lying around? Calvary has a box in the gathering pew for the recycling of used ink cartridges. They take all types except the long toner cartridges from larger printers. St. Paul members if you would like to bring yours in to be recycled arrangements can be made to get them over to Calvary. The more we recycle the less that end up in the landfill!



### SCRIP

It's easy to buy cards and support this ongoing Calvary and St. Paul fundraiser.

- At Calvary see Cindy Schmidt.
- At St. Paul stop into the office before worship.

If you have any questions about our Scrip program or what type of gift cards are available, please ask.

**Scrip gift cards are a practical, easy way to give a little extra to Calvary and St. Paul while shopping for items you already need!** Just a reminder: at St. Paul Alyssa does not currently handle SCRIP. You will need to purchase SCRIP on Sundays.

### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT ST. PAUL

Congratulations to the following recipients of the St. Paul Scholarships for 2024:

- Joey Weaver – UW Green Bay, pursuing a degree Forensic Science Investigation

- Max Strazny – Saint Louis University, pursuing a Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy
- Mia Strazny – Northern Michigan University, pursuing a degree in Biology with a concentration in Physiology



## CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES UPDATES

### The WELCA Fall Retreat at Imago Dei: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made!

This one day event will be held on September 14, 2024. Talented author and speaker, Gaye Lindfors, will be the guest speaker. Cost is \$45 and includes breakfast, lunch, and programming. For more information on registration, please email Chelsea at [chelsea.basset@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.basset@gmail.com)

### Crossways has many events throughout the year for all ages.

Crossways Camps hold events throughout the year for all ages, not just kids! Make sure to check out their events & take part if you are able!



## In our Prayers

### Calvary

- Scott and Samantha Spiering (Roxanne Spiering, family)
  - Mary Keck (Kristin Keck's mother) cancer
  - Harold Keck (Kristin Keck's father) cancer
- Prayer requests can be made by emailing the office at [churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at (920)793-3917.

### St. Paul

- Linda, Mary, Holly, Harold, & Karen
- Prayer request can be made by emailing the church office at [stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com) or by calling the office at (920)-628-2228.

*Prayer list continued.... If you would like prayer for something specific but would like to keep it confidential, please feel free to contact us with those as well. Those requests will not be spoken about on Sundays or listed in the newsletter.*



<u>Calvary</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>
5 <sup>th</sup> – Nicholas Whitehouse	9 <sup>th</sup> – Alan Kiley
5 <sup>th</sup> – Zachary Whitehouse	11 <sup>th</sup> – Beth Seiler
9 <sup>th</sup> – Katherine Wirrer	12 <sup>th</sup> -Lonnie Erdmann
11 <sup>th</sup> – Cass Shimanek	13 <sup>th</sup> – Adam Carlson
12 <sup>th</sup> – Darlene Laurin	13 <sup>th</sup> – Harlan Gaedtke
16 <sup>th</sup> – Jean Hoffman	13 <sup>th</sup> – MacKenzie Plagemann
19 <sup>th</sup> – Barb Jensen	13 <sup>th</sup> – Daniel Schuh
23 <sup>rd</sup> – Cheryl Philipps	16 <sup>th</sup> – Donna Mowrer
24 <sup>th</sup> – Garth Landon	17 <sup>th</sup> – Cathy Johnson
30 <sup>th</sup> – Donald Stutzman	18 <sup>th</sup> – Pamela Campbell
30 <sup>th</sup> – Zachary Whitehouse	23 <sup>rd</sup> – Logan Hofstra
	24 <sup>th</sup> – Cynthia Hofstra
	24 <sup>th</sup> – Mike Schwantes
	25 <sup>th</sup> – Shane Sieracki
	28 <sup>th</sup> - Mitchell Koch
	29 <sup>th</sup> – Tanner Hadler
	30 <sup>th</sup> – Randy Entringer

*If your birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office. Thank you!*



### Calvary

11<sup>th</sup> – Scott & Roxanne Spiering

*If your anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office. Thank you!*

### **Calvary Lutheran Church**

1921 Adams St. Two Rivers, WI. 54241  
Email: [churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com)  
Website: New website coming soon!  
920-793-3917

**Church Office Hours**  
Wednesdays 9:00-1:00

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

2601 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Manitowoc, WI. 54220  
Email: [stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com)  
Website: [sites.google.com/site/stpaulmanitowoc](https://sites.google.com/site/stpaulmanitowoc)  
Phone: 920-682-2228

**Church Office Hours**  
Mondays 12-4pm (Summer Hours)  
Tuesdays: 9:00-1:00  
Thursdays 9:00-1:00

### **Pastor Heather Yerion Keck**

[pastoryerionkeck@gmail.com](mailto:pastoryerionkeck@gmail.com)  
cell: 816-820-4108

**Office Hours:**  
Mondays 1:00-4:00 – St. Paul  
Tuesdays 9:00-1:00 – St. Paul  
Wednesdays 9:00-1:00 Calvary  
Thursdays 9:00-1:00 – Calvary  
\*Other times by appointment.

### **ST. PAUL CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President, Dave Kriewald  
[Dkriewald1@gmail.com](mailto:Dkriewald1@gmail.com)

Vice President, Sharon Schwantes  
[Sharonretired64@gmail.com](mailto:Sharonretired64@gmail.com)

Secretary, Cindy York  
[Cyork9786@gmail.com](mailto:Cyork9786@gmail.com)

Financial Secretary, Julie Dahleen  
Neil Erickson  
Marie Felbaum-Korpi  
Shirley Oseiczaneck  
Lana Sieracki  
Linda Wallender

## ***Calendar of Events***

### **AA & NA meetings happening weekly at Calvary:**

Mondays – AA Meetings 7pm @ Calvary  
Wednesdays NA Meeting 7pm @ Calvary  
Thursdays: Bible Study with Matt from AA in Fireside  
Room 5:30pm @ Calvary  
Saturdays – AA Meeting 6pm @ Calvary

Date	Event	Time	Location
3 <sup>rd</sup>	WOW	11am	St. Paul
4 <sup>th</sup>	Church offices closed. No evening service at Calvary	All Day	Calvary & St. Paul
8 <sup>th</sup>	Days for Girls	1-4pm	St. Paul
9 <sup>th</sup>	Hybrid Council Meeting	6pm	Calvary
9 <sup>th</sup>	NO Council Meeting this Month	-	St. Paul
11 <sup>th</sup>	Calvary Cookout	5:30pm	Schmidt's Home
13 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Worship	6pm	St. Paul
16 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Circle	10am	St. Paul
18 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Worship	6pm	Calvary
21 <sup>st</sup>	Noisy Offering	10:15am service	St. Paul
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Newsletter Articles Due		
25 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club	3pm	St. Paul
28 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Joint-Church Picnic	10:30am	St. Paul

### **CALVARY CHURCH COUNCIL**

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President & Treasurer, Joe Bitto  
[bittohoney@charter.net](mailto:bittohoney@charter.net)  
(920) 304-6808

Vice President, Cindy Schmidt  
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(920) 901-7449

Secretary, Kim Braun  
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(920) 905-5303

Financial Secretary, Lori Williams  
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(920) 588-0109

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Diane Grasse (920) 764-8065  
Stan Phelps (920) 901-3887  
Bruce Larson (920) 755-4069  
Kerry Rivest  
Lisa Shimanek