

# Callings from the Lakeshore

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

November 2024



## Notes from the Pastor's Chair

It's November, and this month, I start my third year of ministry at Calvary and St. Paul. It's hard to believe that it's been two years already. Several people told me after I started that it didn't seem like I "just started" being a Pastor. I didn't know what to say because so much of what I do as your Pastor comes naturally.

Right after I was approved for ordination—the last step before graduation and starting the call process—my sister asked me earnestly what I did as a Pastor. I interned for a year and worked another year at that church. I had some ideas but not an accurate picture of what my days and weeks would look like. I had seen some of my mentors; work weeks and my internship supervisor's work, but it is different when you are in that chair.

So, what do I do? I preach forty-six Sundays a year. My letter of call states that I have four Sundays off for vacation and two Sundays off for continuing education. Due to the yoked nature of Calvary and St. Paul, there are two additional Sundays each on which I preach only at one church—adding special services like Lenten, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve, totaling 52 sermons a year. The prep work for sermons averages about ten to twelve hours a week between text study on Monday mornings, reading, studying, writing, and preparing.

I plan weekly worship so that Alyssa can prepare the bulletin and PowerPoint (Calvary). Planning worship entails picking the elements for the service and music. Approximately once every two months, Becky (Calvary's organist) and I meet to prepare for the next two months. For the last year, I have tried my best to pick hymns that both congregations know and recently started introducing some new ones. This planning is put onto a spreadsheet that Jeff (St. Paul's organist) can access for practice.

For the last year and until May of next year, I have been teaching confirmation to six of our youth at St. Paul. This is a learning experience for all of us. My internship was during COVID (mostly during the shutdown), and we had no confirmation kids with one family that kept the kids home until vaccines rolled out. Next November, we will be doing another First Communion class.

My call as your Pastor involves me engaging with the Synod. Our Synod has divided the churches geographically into conferences to minimize travel time and create smaller groups of colleagues. Calvary and St. Paul are in the Green Bay Conference, and I am the current President of this conference. Every month from September to May, we meet at various locations in the conference for fellowship, collegiality, and information. It is a time for Pastors to share concerns and seek advice from their peers. As a first-call Pastor, I am required to attend all First-Call events. This means monthly meetings (usually Zoom) and a Fall Retreat. These are times for those new to ministry to seek advice from our senior colleagues, gain educational experience, and have support.

There are church business meetings, council and finance meetings for both churches, periodic Joint Executive meetings, and various committee meetings. I know I have been told that I don't need to attend the committee meetings, but they help me understand what is happening in the church. They allow me to not just read the minutes but hear the discussion and get a sense of how people are feeling.

There are mandatory Synod training events such as Boundary or Racial training, Fall Theological Event, and Synod Assembly. For some pastors, being a part of a bigger Church is not important, but for me, it is. It is in our Creedal statements that we believe in an Apostolic church. We are part of something bigger than Calvary or St. Paul or the two combined. We are part of Christ's body, joined with the other churches in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Our synod with the others in Wisconsin and all the other synods across the nation and the world – we are part of the body of Christ.

As part of wanting to be involved in the bigger Church, I worked on the compensation committee with the synod. Currently, I am in a focus group on our healthcare offerings. These are things that I feel called to have a voice in as your Pastor who wants the church to adapt and change in the face of a culture that is not the same as it was five years ago, twenty years ago, or fifty years ago. The church has been ebbing and flowing, dying and regrowing since it began. I am part of the group of Pastors to help churches oversee it through this step.

Being a Pastor is much more than the things I have listed. Being your Pastor means I worry about how each of you is doing. How are you feeling? If you are struggling, can I do anything to help? When I was young, I spent most of my time around adults and learned they are reluctant to tell you how they are doing or if they are struggling and need help. Part of it is generational. Part of it is our American sense of independence. Part of it is our stoic ethnic roots.

Whatever the reason, as your Pastor, a good chunk of my week is spent worrying

about who I saw in church, who I didn't, whether I am doing enough to keep people coming in the doors, and whether I am the reason that they are not coming in the doors.

Another part of my work is preparing reports at the end of the year that include average attendance. I see the numbers and generally know the faces. People quietly step away, and being new, they have no relationship with me, so they are not responsive to my outreach. But I am left with a few question marks and no way to answer them.

I knew a lot about what ministry entailed before starting down this path. What has struck me the most is how this takes hold of your heart. Even in the short two years that I have been here, I have come to care for you all. I am still finding my way to do that. And I understand that I will never make everyone happy all the time. This is the happiest I have ever been in my career. After a lot of years of "just working" and wondering if I would ever find my calling in life, I did. My family and friends tell me that they see it in me. It may be heavy on my heart and soul. I may spend hours wrestling with questions that have no easy answers. But in the end, how my days are filled is a blessing.  
Peace, Pastor Heather

#### **CALVARY WORSHIP TIMES:**

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

#### **ST. PAUL WORSHIP TIMES:**

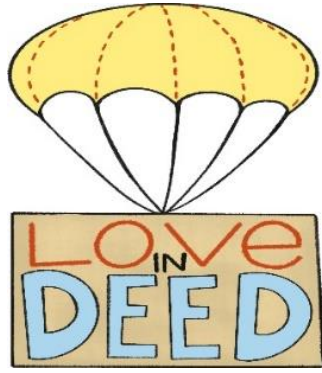
**Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.**



#### **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 November the focus is cookie mix pouches, baking supplies, and frosting** but all donations are welcome. Many recipients do not have storage for flour, sugar, etc. so cookie mix pouches are preferred. 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 church office 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. **Please do not include items that can freeze and explode during winter.** 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! **A few more volunteers would be great! If interested, please contact Jan Chermak.** Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers!

### NOISY OFFERING AT ST. PAUL

The November Noisy Offering will be going towards CareLink at The Manitowoc Salvation Army. This offering will be collected on Sunday, November 17.



### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME BLESSING



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Heather participated in the House Blessing for Habitat for Humanity. This family was blessed with a new home! Please pray that God would bless them in their new place.



**THIS MONTH WE'D LIKE TO BRING EXTRA ATTENTION TO THESE ITEMS.**



### CHRISTMAS SCRIP at CALVARY

Consider using scrip for your purchase of holiday gift cards this year. There are many local and national merchants--grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc., available.



Scrip has local retailers in the scrip box on a regular basis. Many other businesses are available. You can look at [RaiseRight online](#) for a complete listing.

**The final day to special order prior to Christmas is Dec 1. Please have your order to church by the 1st, with orders ready for pick up on Dec 8.**

If you have any special requests or needs, or any questions, contact Cindy Schmidt, 920-901-7449 (please leave a message) or [cas3761@gmail.com](mailto:cas3761@gmail.com).

### **A JOINT SCRIP EXPERIENCE**

Recently, a former member of St. Paul was planning a business meeting and wanted to give out gift cards. He contacted St. Paul, as he wanted the church to benefit from the purchase of nearly \$2,500 worth of cards! St. Paul and Calvary worked together to satisfy this large request on very short notice, benefiting both congregations. **The SCRIP coordinators are happy to help anyone who might have a similar situation. Scrip cards make an appreciated door or raffle prize for your event.**

### **DOSE OF HOPE: STIGMA REDUCTION & AWARENESS FUNDRAISER**

St. Paul is excited to be a sponsor at this year's Dose of Hope event for the Lighthouse Recovery Center! Get your tickets now and enjoy an evening of delicious food & drinks, live music, an art gallery, guest speakers, raffle baskets, & silent auction.

Saturday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
4pm-8pm

Franciscan Center, Manitowoc

- \$50 in advance (\$65 at the door)
- \$30 for LRCC Members (\$40 at the door)
- \$30 for Recovery Ally Award Nominees (\$40 at the door)



**Please note the following changes or out-of-office times for the month of November**

- Nov. 5 – Alyssa out of the office.
- Nov. 6 – Pastor & Alyssa will be back & forth between both churches this day.
- Nov. 7 – Pastor out of office for Boundaries Training.
- Nov. 10-12 – Pastor gone after church for First Call Theological Seminar
- Nov. 28 – Both offices closed for Thanksgiving



### **DAYS FOR GIRLS AT ST. PAUL Monday, November 11 at 1-4pm**



Days for Girls International is a group that helps to provide reusable period products for millions of girls and

women around the globe. No sewing experience (or experience of any kind) is necessary. Men & women are welcome to lend a helping hand.

### **WOMEN OF WORSHIP (WOW) AT ST. PAUL Wednesday, November 6 at 11am**

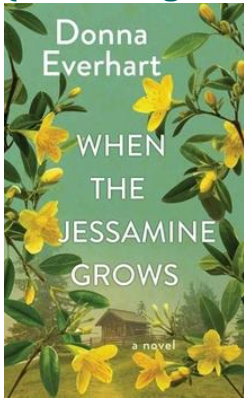
WOW meets monthly at St. Paul for planning of events & fellowship. All women from Calvary & St. Paul are welcome to attend.



### **FAITH CIRCLE AT ST. PAUL Tuesday, November 19 at 10am**

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

**BOOK CLUB AT ST. PAUL**  
**Thursday, November 21st at 3pm**  
**(Date change due to Thanksgiving)**



**In November, Book Club will be reading When the Jessamine Grows by Donna Everhart.** 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.



**Date: Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
**Time: After 10:15am worship service**  
**Place: Fellowship Hall (lower level)**

Hosted by  
Women of Worship



**Friends from Calvary, St. Paul would love for you to join them for their Holiday Brunch.**

**FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS,  
PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR PAGE!**

## CALVARY NEWS

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent benefit member, you have Thrivent choice dollars available to you. You can go online into your Thrivent account and direct that Thrivent donate your dollars to either a charitable fund or a nonprofit organization.

A number of members choose to direct their choice dollars to Calvary. If you decide to support Calvary, check online and see if there are any existing undesignated funds.

### Pastor Evaluation

The council will be conducting a yearly review of Pastor Heather in January. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact any council member to relay your thoughts. All council members' contact information is listed monthly in the newsletter.

### 😊 A LITTLE BIT OF LAUGHTER! 😊





## 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.



**CROSSWAYS**  
CAMPING MINISTRIES

## 2024-2025 Retreats

- Nov. 1-3: Fall Crafting Retreat @ Pine Lake
- Nov 1-3: Jr. High Blast @ Imago Dei
- Jan 31-Feb 2: Winter Camp (grades 3-8) @ Pine Lake
- Feb 28-Mar 2: Family Weekend @ Pine Lake
- Mar. 7-9: Building Youth Groups (Upper Elementary and chaperones) @ Imago Dei
- May 27-28: Rooted (for adults) @ Pine Lake

Registration open now!

Email [info@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:info@crosswayscamps.org) with any registration questions. Go to [crosswayscamps.org](http://crosswayscamps.org) to sign up!



## 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

- Amy, 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)-682-2228.

If you would like prayer but would like to keep it confidential, please feel free to contact us with those as well.



Calvary	St. Paul
5 <sup>th</sup> – Bruce Larson	6 <sup>th</sup> – Jan Chermak
6 <sup>th</sup> – Monica Mittag	7 <sup>th</sup> – Audrey Rasmussen
	8 <sup>th</sup> – Pastor Heather
	16 <sup>th</sup> Paula Revolinski
	20 <sup>th</sup> Cindy Oswald
	21 <sup>st</sup> Carol Chermak
	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jodi Weaver
	29 <sup>th</sup> – Karin Strazny

# Happy ANNIVERSARY

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## **Calvary**

7<sup>th</sup> – Ben & Beth Dow

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

## **Calvary Lutheran Church**

1921 Adams St. Two Rivers, WI. 54241

Email: [churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [www.calvarytworivers.org](http://www.calvarytworivers.org)

Phone: 920-793-3917

### **Church Office Hours**

Wednesdays 9:00am-1:00pm

## **CALVARY CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President & Treasurer, Joe Bitto

[bittohoney@charter.net](mailto:bittohoney@charter.net)

(920) 304-6808

Vice President, Cindy Schmidt

[Cas3761@gmail.com](mailto:Cas3761@gmail.com)

(920) 901-7449

Secretary, Kim Braun

[Kbalma1@charter.net](mailto:Kbalma1@charter.net)

(920) 905-5303

Financial Secretary, Lori Williams

[drlwilliams2010@gmail.com](mailto:drlwilliams2010@gmail.com)

(920) 588-0109

## **CALVARY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Diane Grasse (920) 764-8065

Stan Phelps (920) 901-3887

Bruce Larson (920) 755-4069

Kerry Rivest

Lisa Shimanek

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

2601 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Manitowoc, WI. 54220

Email: [stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com)

Website: **New website coming soon!**

Phone: 920-682-2228

### **Church Office Hours**

Mondays 10:00am-2:00pm

Tuesdays: 9:00am-1:00pm

Thursdays 9:00am-1:00pm

## **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

Shirley Oseiczaneck

Lana Sieracki

Linda Wallander

### **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.

## *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
5 <sup>th</sup>	Voting Day! Alyssa out of office		
	Calvary Quilters	9-11am	Calvary
6 <sup>th</sup>	WOW	11am	St. Paul
	Pastor & Alyssa will be back forth between offices		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor at Boundaries Training		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Gone for Synod Learning Day		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Hour after worship (?) <b>Watch bulletin for details</b>		Calvary
	Confirmation Class	11:45am	St. Paul
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor gone after service for First Call Theological		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Calvary Quilters	9-11am	St. Paul
	Council Meeting	5:45pm	St. Paul
	Council Meeting	6:45pm	Calvary
16 <sup>th</sup>	Finance Meeting	12pm	St. Paul
17 <sup>th</sup>	Noisy Offering	During worship	St. Paul
19 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Circle	10am	St. Paul
	Calvary Quilters	9-11am	Calvary
20 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter articles due		
21 <sup>st</sup>	Book Club	3—4pm	St. Paul
26 <sup>th</sup>	Calvary Quilters	9-11am	Calvary
28 <sup>th</sup>	Office closed for Thanksgiving		