

*Calvary Lutheran Church  
675 Shell Creek Road  
PO Box 159  
Minong, WI 54859*

*Calvary Lutheran  
Knowing Jesus, Making Jesus Known*



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# The Epistle

## April 2019



**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
E.L.C.A.  
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Pastor: Kevin Kaiser**

*Church Office Manager: Victor Hushcha*  
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# Calvary Lutheran Church

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*



Everything in time  
And under heaven

Finally falls asleep  
Wrapped in blankets white  
All creation  
Shivers underneath

Still I notice you  
When branches crack  
And in my breath on frosted glass  
Even now in death  
You open doors for life to enter  
You are Winter

Everything that's new  
Has bravely surfaced  
Teaching us to breathe  
And what was frozen through  
Is newly purposed  
Turning all things green

So it is with you  
And how you make me new  
With every season's change  
And so it will be  
As you are recreating me  
Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring

From "Every Season"  
By Nichole Nordeman

Winter snuck up on us this year. It was mild at first, but then we got hit with thick ice, bitter cold, and heavy snowfall halfway through. No matter how we may be used to it, the danger and discomfort of cold and snow manage to test us every year. Fortunately, as I write this, the snow is melting and the air is warming.

Nature often tells the story of God. The Bible tells us that the Devil "prowls like a lion." In other words, sin and evil sneak up on us. We may think we are ready for them, but they surprise us with their power, and their ability to suck us in every time we encounter them.

Fortunately, there is Jesus. Equally sneaky, Jesus comes into our lives as fast as the "twinkle of an eye." Where sin and evil seek to paralyze us in shame and guilt, Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and freedom.

Just as sure as Winter and Lent are dangerous and brutal, the life of Jesus Christ is refreshing and life-giving.



From all of us at Calvary, we wish you the very best as you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Spring.

# 2019 Easter Message

May I have your attention please!  
MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION for an important announce-  
ment!  
MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR AN IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT, NOW, PLEASE!!!!

What do we have to do to get the world's attention? We've got good news, great news, the best news, but we can't seem to get the attention of those who need to hear it the most.

For a few years in my former parish I sent out post-cards and Facebook posts hoping to catch the attention of those who weren't members of my church and invite them to EASTER WORSHIP.

I used cute designs from OUTREACH.COM. My favorite was a photo of a fuzzy blue stuffed toy bunny with the caption: **Is the true meaning of Easter a little fuzzy?** On the other side of the card was an invitation to worship at Trinity, the church I served. This year they have a photo of an adorable baby wearing floppy fuzzy bunny ears and the caption reads: **Have you heard the real story of Easter?** They also have a post card with the photo of a green field filled with colorful Easter eggs ready for the Easter Egg hunt. The caption reads: **Hunting for more this EASTER?** These clever cutesy cards are designed to get the attention of the world and invite non-members to come to their worship services. It is not a terrible idea to send a postcard in the mail or post on social media inviting people to visit your church, but it is it working? Does sending a card capture the world's attention?

What does it take to get the attention of the world? What does it take to get the attention of the family that lives in the yellow house across the street from your church building?

Some seems to be so distracted, busy, engaged in daily living, or just getting by. Others seem anesthetized

by mind numbing virtual reality activities on their computer, phone or TV screens. A few find time to worship at the gym, yoga class, running, or biking. Sometimes I just want to yell, HEY! LISTEN UP, I've got good news. But I know they won't be able to hear me over the din of daily life.

So what do we do? We know that guilt, shaming, and judging doesn't work. Should we just... Give up. Shut up. Close up? Nope. I'm too much of an optimist for that. I think there is one thing we as a church can do that might get the world's attention. We can sneak up and love them up.

I don't mean sneak up like stalking, that's illegal. What I mean is act like you love your neighbor in little ways so that eventually without you really knowing it, you DO love your neighbor and you can be in a relationship in such a way that you can invite them to know and love Jesus, the real Jesus, the Jesus of Easter.

Maybe the first step is caring enough about the folks that don't know the story about Jesus life death and resurrection to send them a silly post card. Maybe a baby step is caring enough about the children who won't hear the Easter story in Sunday school and inviting them to come to your church for an Easter egg hunt and before it begins tell them about Jesus in some simple way. Maybe you could care enough to get to know the name of the church neighbor in the yellow house and who knows where it will go from there. Care enough to get to know your neighbor, the Muslim family from Somalia that lives next to the grocery store. Care enough to get to know your immigrant neighbor, the Latino family that lives across the street from the school.

Maybe the only way to get someone's attention is to love them. That's how God got my attention.

God sneaks up on us, loves unconditionally, loves the world so much that he gave his only Son, and on the third day he rose from the dead, so that we might have life. That's the real meaning of Easter. That's the good news the world is dying to hear. They just don't know it yet. Maybe YOU can love someone enough to tell them about it.

It's Easter. Let's go love-in Jesus' name,  
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

## The God of Great Grace

by Max Lucado

He doesn't speak. He removes his robe and takes the servant's wrap off of the wall. Taking a pitcher, he pours the water into the basin. He kneels down before them with the basin and sponge and begins to wash. The towel that covers his waist is also the towel that dries their feet.

It's not right.

Isn't it enough that these hands will be pierced in the morning? Must they scrub grime tonight? And the disciples ... do they deserve to have their feet washed? Their affections have waned; their loyalties have wavered.

Look around the table, Jesus. Out of the twelve, how many will stand with you in Pilate's court? How many will share with you the Roman whip? And when you fall under the weight of the cross, which disciple will be close enough to spring to your side and carry your burden?

None of them will. Not one. A stranger will be called because no disciple will be near.

Don't wash their feet, Jesus. Tell them to wash yours.

That's what we want to say. Why? Because of the injustice? Because we don't want to see our King behaving as a servant? God on his hands and knees, his hanging around his face? Do we object because we don't want to see God washing feet?

Or do we object because we don't want to do the same?

Watch Jesus as he goes from disciple to disciple. Can you see him? Can you hear the water splash? Can you hear him shuffle on the floor to the next person? Good. Keep that image.

**John 13:12** says, "When he had finished washing their feet..."

Please note, he finished washing their feet. That means he left no one out. Why is that important? Because that also means he washed the feet of Judas. Jesus washed the feet of his betrayer. He gave his traitor equal attention. In just a few hours Judas's feet would guide the Roman guards to Jesus. But at this moment they are caressed by Christ.

That's not to say that it was easy for Jesus.

That's not to say that it is easy for you.

That is to say that God will never call you to do what he hasn't already done.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Easter Lily** forms can be picked up at the usher area. They are \$7.00. Please return to Connie Visger by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lenten Soup/Suppers** – Our final two Lenten Soup/Supper and Worship opportunities with St Mary Catholic Church and Calvary will be on The following Wednesday evenings with Soup/Supper beginning at 5:00 pm followed by worship at 6:00 pm. Plan to join us for food, fellowship and worship – share the gospel of Jesus Christ – bring a friend or neighbor.

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Calvary
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary Catholic Church

**Nursing Home Visitation – Spooner, Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 PM.** Join us as we spend a hour sharing stories, singing favorite hymns and songs and enjoying fellowship with our nursing home family. If you need a ride or would like to ride share, contact the church office and arrangements can be made.

**Theology on Tap** – Bootleggers on Hwy 53 just north of the Washburn/Douglas County Line, **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:30 pm.** A great opportunity to share what’s on your mind or to just listen with other Christian friends while enjoying a beverage or a meal. Feel free to drop – guaranteed to involve some ideas to think about.

### Holy Week Observances:

vice	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 AM
at	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Maunday Thursday Service 6:00 PM
	April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Service at 6:00 PM
	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday Celebration at 9 AM

**God’s Crew** meets on the following Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:30 PM at Calvary:

4/3	
4/17	
5/1	
5/15	End of the year – Can you believe it?!! Field Trip and Party

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH BALANCE SHEET AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Checking Account – Unrestricted Funds  
\$35,099.50

Checking Account – Restricted Funds  
\$14,501.43

#### Total Assets

**\$49,600.93**

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

#### Current Liabilities

Social Security Tax  
\$ 158.88

#### Total Liabilities

**\$ 158.88**

#### Equity

#### Unrestricted Equity

Retained Earnings  
\$22,447.88

Net income or (loss)  
\$12,651.62

#### Total Unrestricted Equity

**\$35,099.50**

#### Restricted Equity

Building Fund  
\$ 9,027.17

Youth Fund  
\$ 2,913.28

Sunday School  
\$ 972.32

Relief Fund – Tim McCoy  
\$ 287.43

Memorial Flowers (Poinsettias & Lilies)  
\$ 124.50

Garden Group  
\$ 824.85

Wicker Basket  
\$ 183.00

#### Total Restricted Equity

**\$14,342.55**

#### Total Equity

**\$49,442.05**

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

**\$49,600.93**

## Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Present: President, Dennis Visger; Vice President, Curt Olson; Secretary, Sandy Erikson; Martha Larson; Emily Schaefer, and Pastor Kevin.

Absent: Bob Hasse and Shauna Ruud.

The February minutes were approved. The agenda was approved.

Tabulator volunteers for the next month are:

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Emily Schaefer and Martha Larson

March 31<sup>st</sup>: Bob Hasse and Sandy Erikson

April 7<sup>th</sup>: Emily Schaefer and Martha Larson

April 14<sup>th</sup>: Dennis Visger and Sandy Erikson

Old Business:

Stewardship Report:

Connie Visger, Muggs Denninger and Kathy King are learning to run the tech screens for services.

New Business:

Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at 6:00 PM. Easter Sunday Service will be at 9:00 AM as usual.

Jim Quick will fulfill the rest of Roger Wilson's term on the council.

Pastor Kevin will be on vacation April 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>.

The annual meeting will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> immediately after regular services. Some council members terms will be up. Please consider serving on the council.

Synod Assembly will be 1 day only; May 4<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire.

Confirmation will be on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Kevin led us in closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Submitted by Secretary,  
Sandy Erikson