

CALVARY NEWS

Our mission: *Providing a community where all can receive and share God's love.*

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From Pastor Zach

Lent greetings Calvary,

As this season began, a feeling arose in light of the gospel for the first Sunday in Lent: the devil tempts Jesus in the wilderness three times, and each time, Jesus refutes the temptation. There's a message about discipleship in there, but I couldn't find language for it.

Then, in listening to a podcast called *Jesuitical*, a Jesuit priest put words to this feeling. Father Patrick Gilger, S.J., said: **We don't get to choose whether or not we're going to worship something, but we *do* get to choose what we're going to worship, and how.**

Continue reading on page 2...



...From Pastor Zach, continued.

Take a second to read that again, if you need (sorry about the page flip if you're reading this as a hard copy!).

There's plenty of stuff we *could* worship: power, money, sports, alcohol, politicians, being well-liked, keeping the status quo, things we've been told to believe, our own opinions—none of these are necessarily bad or sinful. But sin *does* happen when these things pull us from loving our neighbor.

What Lent focuses on, again and again each year, climaxing during the Three Days of Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection in Holy Week, is who it is we worship, and what God at work in the world looks like.

The God we worship became incarnate as Jesus, and loved this entire world to the point of death, yet rose again despite our violence. Along the way, in the example of Jesus' life, through the voices of scripture's prophets, and in the scripture stories of people throughout time, God calls us to a life of discipleship.

We are called, by nature of who we say we worship and in whose name we are baptized, to clothe the naked; welcome the stranger and immigrant; care for the most vulnerable; look after widows; provide for the poor; visit the imprisoned; set the oppressed free; love our enemies; pray for those who hate us; and bring healing to a hurting world. That ain't easy, friends! We sometimes—maybe even often—fall short. But if, despite the biblical history and witness of the Church, that doesn't all sound like good news, God might not be the only one being worshiped.

Which is to say, in the words read on Ash Wednesday: "Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

This season, there's plenty of opportunity to do just that!

Pastor Zach ✚

Meet Calvary's New Council President

Calvary's council is led by a lay-member president. At the last council meeting, Jackie Narkiewicz was elected. Congratulations and thank you, Jackie! *The next council meeting is on March 9.*

1. What inspired you to put your name forward for President?

I decided to throw my hat into the ring to be Council President because I wanted to get more involved with Calvary and to deepen my relationship with God.

2. What excites you about Calvary?

Being part of an amazing church! I felt so welcomed when I first set foot in the door 18 months ago. I've known Deacon Bob Lewis for years and he knew I was looking for a new church. He invited me to attend the service the next Sunday. It was such a wonderful experience and everyone was very kind and supportive of me that day, and I decided to stay.

3. What do you do professionally?

I am an Adult Reference Librarian at the Huntington Public Library — Station Branch. I've been a public librarian for over 20 years and absolutely love my job. I wear many hats at my current job — I process passports, notarize documents, answer questions while I'm on the reference desk, and also book adult programs for my patrons. It's very busy and every day is different, which I love.

4. What is your favorite book?

How can I pick just one? My favorite book as a child was *Madeline and the Bad Hat*, by Ludwig Bemelmans. I adored Madeline books from the time I was four years old, and had wanted to go to Paris ever since I read about the little French orphan. I finally made it there 50(!) years later and it was everything I dreamed it would be. My favorite book as an adult is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. It's a memoir about her very dysfunctional childhood and how she overcame many obstacles to become a successful writer. It's an amazing read.



Did you know? Adjusted for population, Lutherans make up just about the same percentage of the population of the U.S. as we did a century ago. At the last council meeting, we explored what that means for congregations like Calvary. There are more church buildings than there were 100 years ago, and more expectations of having committees, all because of how we've built the structures of running churches around the Baby Boom of the 1950's and 60's. It was a hopeful conversation that centered us not on decline, but on the reality that ***where the church is today is a more normal place than the mid-20th century boom!***

Worship Leadership

Altar Guild

- 3/1: Bob Hallam
- 3/8: Ellen Hoffman
- 3/15: Alison Kearns
- 3/22: Lori Boyle
- 3/29: Mady Riedell & Ellen Hoffman

Ushers

- 3/1: Laura Aupperle & Jane Hafner
- 3/8: Bob LaRocco & Erich Schwarz
- 3/15: Bob Munder & Mady Riedell
- 3/22: Liz & Dave Bender
- 3/29: Eva & Michael Decker

Assisting Ministers

- 3/1: Bill Bushman
- 3/8: Ellen Hoffman
- 3/15: Eric Pentecoste
- 3/22: Karen Kraemer
- 3/29: Bob LaRocco



March 17, 7:30 PM at Calvary

Continuing the discussion on the seven deadly sins. All welcome!

Feel free to bring a snack and a beverage.

Save the Date: April 18, 1:00 PM

Mark Nocero will be set apart as a synodical deacon in the Metro NY Synod by Bishop Katrina Foster at United Lutheran Church—Gloria Dei, 22 East 18 Street, Huntington Station.

Apart from it being a historic day for us involved at Calvary, it is also the largest group of people being made deacons in years. Over 20 people will receive the church's status as deacon! This will be a wonderful celebration of ministry in many forms as Mark receives the prayers of the Holy Spirit alongside so many gifted people. An installation at Calvary will follow.

Left: Mark leads Calvary's council in an afternoon retreat back in September.



The
Women's Group

of **Calvary Lutheran Church**

invites you to the 2026

Annual Communion Breakfast

March 28

9:00 AM

GUEST SPEAKER: The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster, our Bishop!

Service of Holy Communion, 9:00 AM

860 Townline Road, Hauppauge

Freewill offering to benefit The Healing Center,
an organization committed to serving women, children,
teens, and older adults affected by domestic violence.

Breakfast, 10:00 AM at Calvary, catered by *Farm to Table*,
a full service, LI-based catering company that provides
outstanding, handcrafted, local cuisine!

Cost: \$20.00 per person; please pay at the door.

RSVP to: Calvary by April 25th!

Sign up and invite a friend! Thank you!

Laura Aupperle, Organizer



Palm Sunday & Easter

March 29 & April 4, 10:00 AM

We begin the week that stands at the center of the church year by waving palms in celebration as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. We end the week in celebration of new life! Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine.



Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter

April 2, 3, 4 | 7:30 PM

Every Sunday in worship, we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On several key days, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, encompassing the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as we make the passage through death to life.

The Three Days begin with a simple soup supper at 6 PM on Thursday, April 2.

This ministry of hospitality, led by Heavenly Hosts, needs 3-4 people to bring soup, salad, and bread! If you are willing and able to lend a hand, please speak to Jane Hafner or Pastor Zach. To share a meal together as we enter into the Three Days is a holy communal act!

Until Holy Week, evening prayer continues on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.

Social Ministry *through Lent*



Calvary is working with Ronald McDonald House!

Help us collect the following items for families at Stony Brook Children’s Hospital by March 29!

Individually Wrapped Snacks: chips, cookies, mac n’ cheese cups, mini cereals, ramen noodle cups, canned tuna, peanut butter & jelly crackers, hot chocolate packs, coffee k-cups, juice boxes.

Toiletries: travel toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lotion.

Activities: coloring books, stickers, small toys.

Capital Campaign

beginning in April

An exciting time is coming! At the annual meeting, we voted to begin a fundraising effort for our building: repairing bathrooms, updating the kitchen, repaving the parking lot, and creating a space that better serves our ministry and the many community groups that call our building home. Our building is for community, and this effort is an act of faith in our future!

Stay tuned for the theme of this major event in the life of our congregation.

The goal: 100% community participation

The estimated cost of work: \$500,000

The fundraising timeline: 3 years

Important Dates: 4/19, campaign launch; 6/14, commitment day

Sundays in between we will pray, worship, and contemplate our part!

Pews and Chairs

an upcoming change at Calvary

At the annual meeting, the congregation voted to purchase chairs for our worship space. While six pews will be kept, the existing pews need new homes! Four of them are starring in “Sister Act” at Northport High School, before they are used for material in the school’s shop class. The pews that are not rehoused will be headed to a reclaimed wood worker. **If you would like a pew, a portion of a pew, or the end of a pew, please let the church office know!** 4’, 9’, and 13’ feet sections are available to be claimed. Estimated chair arrival: end of April.

What will Calvary look like with chairs?

See the images below of two Lutheran congregations with the same chairs we are purchasing. Imagine Calvary with six pews, plus chairs just like those!

How will we acknowledge this change?

During worship the last Sunday before chairs arrive, a special send off will be given to our pews that have held us for so long. **Your participation is needed!** Advance notice will be given once we have an arrival date for chairs.



PRAYER LIST

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, for hardships or joys, please tell the church office.

In Our Prayers

To add or remove names, please notify the church office.

Art Schaeffler; Isabela Delgado (Cheryl Gittens); **Agnes Mulick, Ruth Elsener** (Paul Elsener); **Teri D'Amico** (Laura Aupperle); **Eileen Hausle; Grayson Danielski** (Colleen Oriano); **Jay Kamean, Kwok Mak, Olivia Carone** (Jackie Narkiewicz); **John Stuerzel; Ed DiMarco; Seminarian June Bradshaw; Jennifer Hubbard** (Pat Sheridan); **Gail Riedell, Diane Toto, Nicholas** (Mady Riedell and Bob Munder); **Kim Lauricella, John Malley** (Paula DePaul); **Aleya Warner** (Barbara Morecraft); **J.R. Hoffman, Ellen Thompson** (Ellen Hoffman); **E.J. Beach, Barbara Hansen, Jim and Keith Hansen** (Marion Arnecke); **Carol Manganaro** (Lewis family); **Beverly Strada-Bushley, Brooklyn Reed, Holli Phillips** (Pam Vanek); **Larry Shen** (Bob LaRocco), **Patty Cesaro; Easton Clarke** (Dianne Davis); **Holly Schank; Kathy Fuchs, Judy Boyle** (Patty Cesaro); **Nitza Greco** (Jeannine Comito); **Mark Dyer; Eileen Walter; June Buttner-Stransky, Heather Williams** (Holly Schank); **Sal Oliveri** (DiVilio family); **Ray Jackson; Doris Peterson**

Visited at Home

Larry Bomgardner, Paul Chmara, Marion Arnecke, David Catchpole, Arlene Pisano, Janine and Mel Smith, Doris DeVoe, Flo Walsh, Joann Hansen

In the Military

Thomas Juliano; Will Downey, Jr. (Einsfeld); **Kyle Satterwhite** (Dyer); **Tram Walter**

Ministries & Organizations

Hauppauge Fire Department; United Lutheran Seminary; Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries; Metropolitan New York Synod

March Events

Weekly worship, Sundays at 10:00 AM!

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 AM, Bible study on Zoom — *no Bible study on March 31.*

March 4, 11, 18, 25, 7:00 PM, evening prayer

March 5, 7:30 PM, finance committee on Zoom

March 8, 6:00 PM, youth group

March 9, 7:00 PM, council on Zoom

March 17, 7:30 PM, Bibles and Brews at Calvary

March 28, 9:00 AM, Women's Communion Breakfast

March 29, 10:00 AM, Palm Sunday

The Three Days worship: April 2, 3, 4, 7:30 PM

Lesser Festivals and Commemorations

Lesser festivals in the church calendar celebrate the life of Christ, the witness of those who are accompanied and testified to him, and the gifts of God in the church. *Commemorations* illustrate various aspects of the church's life and mission through the lives of people who have followed Christ in succeeding generations.

March 2: John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church. Charles wrote more than six hundred hymns, including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (ELW 270), "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (ELW 553), and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (ELW 631).

March 7: Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

March 10: Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

March 17: Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there. Patrick's famous baptismal hymn to the Trinity, "I bind unto myself today" (ELW 450), can be used as a meditation on Lent's call to return to our baptism.

March 24: Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

March 25: Annunciation of Our Lord

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

March Calendar

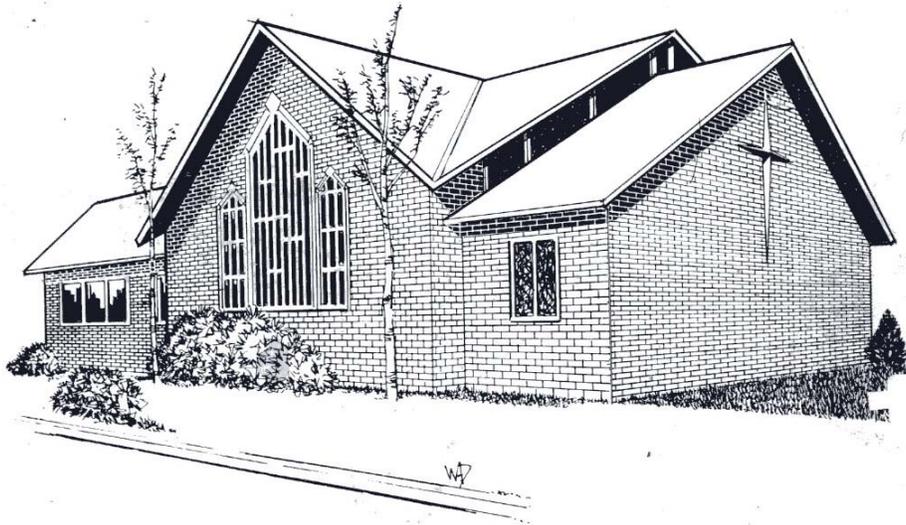
Plug in to Calvary's ministries this month! Need a Zoom link for Bible study? Reach out to the church office. Have something to submit to next month's newsletter? Do so by February 20. Worship and praise God every Sunday at 10:00 AM!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 10 AM worship | 2 | 3 10:30 AM Bible study 7 PM RIC conference | 4 7 PM evening prayer | 5 7:30 PM finance | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10 AM worship 6 PM youth group | 9 7 PM Zoom council | 10 10:30 AM Bible study | 11 7 PM evening prayer | 12 All day clergy conference Lent retreat | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10 AM worship HIHI food packing | 16 | 17 10:30 AM Bible study 7:30 PM Bibles/Brews | 18 12:30 PM Senior Lunch 7 PM evening prayer | 19 | 20 Newsletter deadline | 21 |
| 22 10 AM worship | 23 | 24 10:30 AM Bible study | 25 7 PM evening prayer | 26 | 27 | 28 9 AM women's communion breakfast |
| 29 Palm Sunday 10 AM worship | 30 | 31 No Bible study | 1 April | 2 6 PM soup 7:30 PM worship | 3 7:30 PM worship | 4 9 AM decorate 7:30 PM worship |



Calvary Lutheran

a welcoming and nurturing church



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longislandlutherans.org

A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Calvary is committed to fostering a diverse community—one where all can receive and share God’s love, and this means everyone, including you!

Calvary welcomes... people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; all races, ethnicities, cultures, citizenship, and immigration statuses; any physical, mental, and emotional abilities; any shape, size, and age; anyone struggling with addiction or on a recovery journey; and whatever your marital status, family structure, political affiliation, faith tradition, education level, economic status, employment, or talents!

Regardless of who you are, there is always a place for you here.

As a community of faith, we encourage and provide opportunities for one another to learn and grow together, so that the values of justice, racial equity, and accessibility continue to expand and embrace all people.

Join us in answering God’s call to be a more welcoming and nurturing church!

Easter Flowers



PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____
(Circle one)

Easter Lily \$13.00 _____

Daffodil \$10.00 _____ **Tulip \$ 10.00** _____ **Hyacinth \$10.00** _____

Hydrangea \$23.00 (select color)

Pink _____ Blue _____ White _____

Toward Cost of: Bulletins \$ _____ Greens \$ _____

Your total: \$ _____

_____ I will pick up flowers after Easter Sunday

_____ I will donate flowers to be gifted to a shut-in person

Please return this form along with your donation to Janet Read or leave in
the office no later than **March 19, 2026**

Thank you.