

Calvin Connection



August 2020

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worship dates



Corn Days To Go

Saturday, August 8th
11:00am - 6:00pm

Church of St. George
parking lot
(rain date: August 9th)

Get your Corn Days
sweet corn to enjoy
from the safety of
your car!

Free will donation
greatly appreciated.
www.CornDays.com



*Make a joyful noise to the
LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with glad-
ness; come into his presence
with singing. - Psalm 100:1-2*

We have one more Sunday where we will be worshipping with the wider church. On Sunday, August 2nd, when you join the Calvin worship service you will hear voices coming from chaplains in our Presbytery and the preacher will be from our national church offices in Louisville, Kentucky. This is being done so our church staff are able to take summer vacations. You can continue to watch our worship services on our website, calvinchurch.net, on our Facebook page, or listen through the phone by calling #952-208-6020.

We have been blessed during these months that COVID-19 has kept us from worshipping in person with the skills of Joel Wenz, who has been our videographer. If you watch other churches, you realize the quality of our pre-recorded services is indeed very professional! As the weeks have turned into months, Joel finds his own busy work schedule requires him to pull back from producing our Sunday services, so he has designed a way for us to do the recordings ourselves that will be easy and efficient. We will lose some of the special touches and technological wonders Joel does, but we are very thankful for all he has done to get us launched to stand on our own. Calvin received a technology grant from the Presbytery which has covered the majority of equipment costs that will be purchased so we can do recording in-house.

We are also thankful to those who have helped in worship from week to week: Mark Bilyeu for arranging the music that has been such a blessing, Kiley Hazelton and Miles Herr as well as Gigi Stroncek who have been our singers, Jared Miller who has stepped in when we needed an extra pianist, Tammy Wenz, Dave Shaughnessy, and Maighread Shaughnessy who have been our standing (and outstanding) liturgists since late March. We are all blessed by all the hard work they are doing!

We continue to be uncertain about when we will be able to return to church and to worship and activities together. Dr. Michael Osterholm, University of Minnesota Director for Infectious Disease Research has said:

“Churches should embrace virtual worship and be prepared to gather that way for the long haul. COVID-19 is transmitted through aerosols breathed in, so anytime multiple people are gathered in a single space, everyone present is at risk—particularly because symptoms of coronavirus typically don’t show up until several days after someone is infected. Virtual worship is as perfect as you can get right now for what we need. Additionally, all congregations should continue to suspend in-person worship beyond Gov. Walz’s order because COVID-19 will still be spreading—and any indoor gathering, no matter how many precautions we take, will still present a significant exposure risk.”

July 2020 Finance Committee Report

2020 has been a year of reckoning for Calvin and for many other churches. Our challenge has been, first and foremost, keeping ourselves together as a Christian community in the age of Covid-19. In order to do that we have had to innovate our services and intra-church contacts.

Part and parcel of keeping us together is keeping the checkbook balanced. Through the first half of the year we have actually fared quite well, compared to other churches. On the whole, our income and expenses are close to meeting budget. In some respects, our expenses have dropped but in others, they have increased. For instance, our utility expenses are down because no one is at the Church most of the time. And so, cleaning the Church is far less necessary. However, we pay Joel Wenz for his wonderful video services in putting on our worship services and meditations and that is an expense we never had incurred in the past.

To meet our 2020 budget we need to receive just over \$14,000 per month in pledges and other giving that goes into the General Fund. The Finance Committee is happy to report that for January through June we have met or exceeded our monthly giving goals in every month except May. In May, for whatever reason, we only received \$7,680.00, in giving dollars or a little over half our monthly budget goal.

However, we have also received some grant-like financial support from important sources. First, we applied for and received \$22,500.00 in the form of a Payroll Protection Plan ["PPP"] loan from the federal government to protect our ability to make payroll and pay utilities. This "loan" is forgivable provided we keep our payroll going. Second, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Presbytery for general purposes and another \$5,000.00 grant from it to purchase technology. The \$5,000.00 will be used to purchase our own video recording system. Finally, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has forgiven three months of pension and medical plan contributions associated with Rev. Dr. Reed's compensation package that are normally paid by Calvin. As a result, through the first half of this crazy year we are in relatively good financial shape.

Having said that, these "subsidies" are likely "one-offs" which means that we, as a Congregation, cannot afford to let our individual pledges fall behind. Please, please do your very best to maintain your pledge giving on a regular basis! We also need to be thinking of our long-range financial future and how best we can meet the coming challenges associated with our attrition in numbers. This is a subject which is about to be given some serious study.

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You All!

Arlo Vande Vegte, Finance Committee Chair



Pastor Carol did not take her reading week in July and will now take August 6th-9th off as a reading week of study leave.

NEWS FROM SESSION

- The next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10th
- The roof in the Gathering Hall/Narthex has been leaking again this spring and summer. Building & Grounds (Ron Bowman) has been working to get bids for a roof replacement for that part of the building. It will be a large expense, but thanks to the Olson Memorial Fund, we can cover it. The session will be voting on the project at their August meeting and if it's approved, the work will be done in August.
- Like all churches, Calvin is required to prepare a COVID-19 plan. We must have it in place before we consider returning to the building for work, worship, or for the building to open to outside groups. The session will be working on this plan in the month ahead.



Trinity Lutheran Church has coordinated weekly meal curbside pick-up for SPARKS families and others in the community who are currently struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Calvin Presbyterian Church is volunteering on Wednesday, August 26th

Anyone able to volunteer contact Shelly Dressel or Carol Reed. The food will be ordered so the meals just need assembling for pick-up, then handed out in the drive-thru at Trinity

At the time of publication there were 165 meals served on July 15th and 179 meals served on July 22nd. Trinity has also been collecting household items to distribute (paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc). Contact Carol Reed if you have a donation to make. Finally - if you are sewing masks and have extras, Trinity reported people were requesting them (especially children's sizes).



Please join us for Music & Meditation at noon on Wednesday, August 12th and August 26th. Available on our Facebook page, website (calvinchurch.net), or over the phone by calling #952-208-6020. If you miss one they are archived and available to view anytime after they premier.



Calvin Presbyterian will once again be a host site for an Orono Lions/Long Lake Fire Dept. Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 18th from 1pm-7pm. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to register.



*I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die.
~John 11:25-26*

**Lois A. Potter
May 9, 1930-July 10, 2020**

We wish to express our deep appreciation to Pastor Carol and Dwight, and the Calvin members and friends for the many cards, gifts, and words of love and support we received during the recent loss of our beloved wife and mother.

Sincerely, Doug, Beth, Lynne, and Karen

August Birthdays

- August 11 Ken Pratt
- August 12 Teri Wood
- August 13 Pat Headley
- August 20 Sara Headley
- August 29 Candy Bowman



August Anniversaries

- August 13 Jeff & Martha Brown
- August 18 Walter & Susan Baker
- August 23 Rob & Tammy Wenz

CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

177 Glendale Drive
Long Lake, MN 55356

Phone: 952-473-5419

calvinchurch.net

Connect with us!

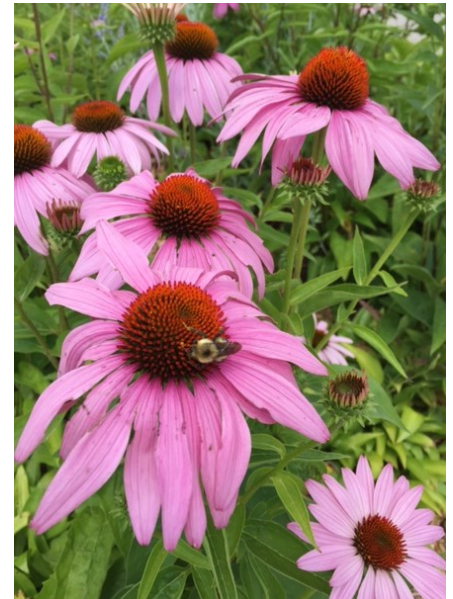


OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
10:00am –3:00pm

*Pastor Carol is in
the office Mon - Thurs
(or can be reached at
her home phone #)*

*We extend a most cordial invitation
to you to participate in worship,
study and the many other activities in
the life of our Calvin family.*



Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Carol Reed
Parish Associate - Rev. Dwight Chamberlain
Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Douglas Potter
Clerk of Session - Walter Baker

Music Director - Mark Bilyeu
Choral Accompanist - Jared Miller
Choral Scholar - Kiley Hazelton

Office Administrator - Angela Coccoluto
Treasurer - Pat King
Financial Secretaries - Marj Eisinger & Tammy Wenz

Email address contacts:

Carol Reed carol.reed@calvinchurch.net
Angela Coccoluto angela@calvinchurch.net

Calvin Connection deadline: Second Friday of the month

Sunday Bulletin announcements deadline: Thursdays at 10am

Email articles and/or announcements for the Calvin Connection & Sunday bulletins to Angela (see email address above), or drop them off in the church office. Any questions, please call Angela at 952-473-5419.



Please recycle