

# Calvin Connection



May 2020

Note:

Page 2 - Pastor Carol's  
Corner

Page 5 - Rummage sale &  
Salad Supper updates

Page 6 - Community Meal  
information



## Inside this issue:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastor's Corner | 2 |
| Worship         | 3 |
| Youth           | 4 |
| Education       | 4 |
| Serve           | 5 |
| Care            | 5 |
| Connect         | 6 |
| Music           | 6 |
| Calendar        | 7 |

## When can we re-open the church?

Unfortunately, that is a nearly impossible question to answer in the midst of the changes that keep coming every day. We simply cannot plan ahead. We are truly living one day at a time just now and even when we can return to church, it is likely to be incremental changes rather than a grand re-opening.

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is advising churches when we can re-open based on discussions with the Minnesota Council of Churches, and the Minnesota Department of Public Health. They are currently saying we should not plan on returning to "normal" anytime during the month of May and perhaps much later. But again, time will tell. As Rev. Jeff Japinga, our Executive Presbyter recently wrote: "To be honest, while we all have opinions, nobody really knows what next week, or next month, or next year will look like." <sup>1</sup>

The Minnesota Department of Public Health put out a very thoughtful document on April 14<sup>th</sup>: Guidance for Faith-Based Communities. It is worth looking at because it includes links to a number of other helpful resources. You can reach it from the link through the Presbytery website at: [http://ptcaweb.org/images/Documents/Guidance\\_Faith-basedCommunities\\_1.pdf](http://ptcaweb.org/images/Documents/Guidance_Faith-basedCommunities_1.pdf)

Basically the state advised doing what we are already practicing: stay connected to your faith community; make phone calls to other members; participate in worship services offered online (or in our case alternatively available on an audio CD); no gatherings of over 10 people and then ensure there is at least 6 feet distance between people (which we have been practicing in our pre-recorded services).

These are difficult times. We need to continue to be patient with ourselves and with one another. Be supportive of one another. Stay connected; phone calls mean a lot. Keep praying for those who are struggling in a myriad of ways just now. And keep believing that God is traveling with us through all the changes we are all experiencing.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone...Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:7*

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<sup>1</sup> Jeff's Jottings, April 24, 2020



## Pastor Carol's Corner

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ~Acts 2:1-4*

This year Pentecost falls on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Pentecost is the day we in the church always read from the book of Acts of the Apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and other believers. We hear how after receiving the Spirit, they were empowered to share their faith with others.

I have been thinking about the nature of worship this past month. We are accustomed to worshipping together as a community when we gather in the sanctuary at Calvin Church. With our present reality that has all changed. We now worship as a diaspora, like a community scattered by the need for social distancing. The Session approved us to even share in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper remotely.

Something else very different is happening as we have added others to our worshipping community. I have heard from friends all across the country, and even outside the country, that they are joining us in worship. I know there are others who have invited people at a distance to also join us in worship, and others still who have found their way to us on their own.

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church. It certainly was the time when the believers, guided by the Spirit of God, began a new way of being together. They knew the Good News had to be shared outside their small community of people. It would still be some time before those first believers went from calling themselves followers of *The Way* (as in the way of Jesus Christ) and began to call themselves *the church*.

The New Testament was first written in Greek and the word for church in Greek is *ekklesia*. It is a compound word: meaning "out of" and "to call out". I interpret that meaning to say we are a gathering of people who are called out to share our faith. The first *church* had absolutely nothing to do with where the people gathered. It was all about worshipping God and preparing to serve Jesus Christ by sharing their faith out in the world.

This extraordinary time is calling us to rethink many things, including how we gather to worship as the church. Who knows what new thing God may be doing in our midst?

*And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." Matthew 18:20 – The Message*

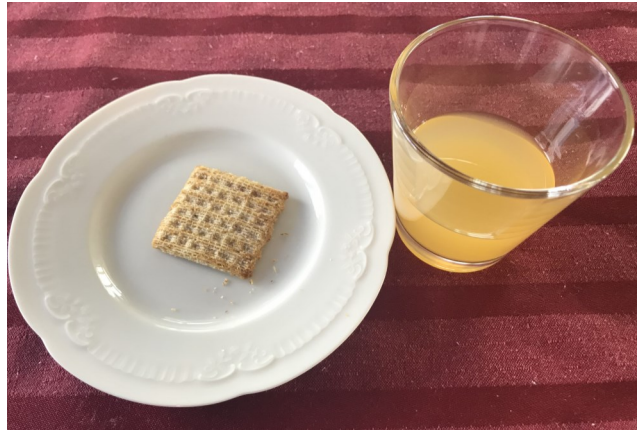
Blessings,  
Pastor Carol

Carol

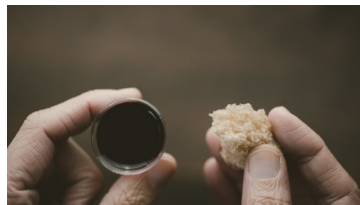
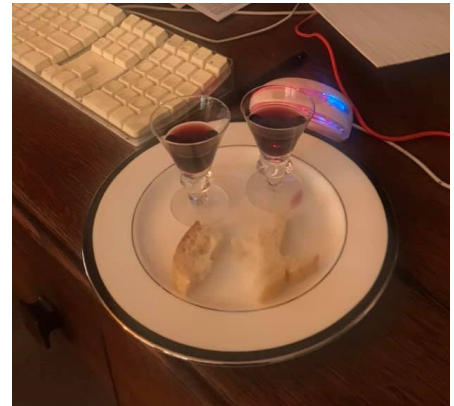
\*Let Angela or myself know if you are not able to access the online services and would like to receive them another way.

### May Worship Update

At the time of publication of this newsletter, our public health officials and the Presbytery recommend no public worship or gatherings through the month of May. Watch our church's website ([calvinchurch.net](http://calvinchurch.net)), Facebook page, and your emails for updated information as we move through the month. Sunday worship services from are available to watch on our website or our Facebook page. If you are unable to watch online, ask a Deacon about getting an audio CD of the recorded services.



*Various members and friends of Calvin shared photos of their elements that were used for at-home communion on Easter Sunday, April 12th.*



PENTECOST COLORING PAGE





This year, a total of 147.1 lbs. in food, paper products & baby items was collected in March and April for the MN FoodShare campaign. Monetary donations totaled \$2,171.00!

We donated the items to Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf, WeCan, Westonka Food Shelf, and IOCP. Checks in the amount of \$542.75 were given to each of the food shelves from our church members generous donations and fundraising efforts with Art2Heart, coordinated by Donna Fike. The Calvin Women's Association agreed to match up to \$1500 for the food drive, so an additional \$375 was donated to each group, bringing the total to \$917.75 given to each agency. Thanks to all who donated goods and/or funds to this campaign!



In light of MN Governor Tim Walz's updated Stay at Home order (extended to Monday, May 18th), the Women's Association has made the hard decision to cancel the Salad Supper that was scheduled for May 18th. Once restrictions are lifted to allow larger gatherings, we will set a new date for the Salad Supper. Until then, everyone stay home and stay healthy!

## Birthdays



*Celebrate!*

- May 1 Vanessa Gagner
- May 3 Jeff Brown
- May 6 Bob Gehrman
- May 9 Lois Potter
- May 11 Evan Manro
- May 13 Lucia Stubbs
- May 14 Marj Kvale
- May 17 Wilma Hagan
- May 29 Rachel Wenz
- May 31 Doug Potter  
Ed Oliver



The Calvin PW Rummage Sale originally scheduled for May 7th-9th, is postponed until June 4th-6th, with set up beginning May 28th (times will remain the same). While we are optimistic that we will be able to have our Spring Rummage Sale this, we will monitor the current recommendations in Minnesota, and the country to make sure that it is safe for our workers and shoppers to proceed with the new dates. Updates and additional information will be sent out as the date approaches. Thanks for your understanding!

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW** No May meeting  
**Ruth Circle and Mary & Martha Circle**  
 No May meeting





Thank you to all who have been able to continue to support the church financially. Some of our expenses have lessened, but we continue to pay all our staff and your contributions have continued to make that possible. We want to remind you that it is easy to still give to Calvin and our missions in any of the following 3 ways:

1. Put a check in the mail. The USPS continues to deliver! The church's address is 177 Glendale Drive; Long Lake, MN 55356.
2. Set up a recurring automatic direct deposit or bill pay with your bank. You may already use this service for paying bills, so now may be a good time to include Calvin. Just talk to your banker.
3. Venmo (Venmo.com) has been chosen as our online option. Our user name is Calvin-Church, or [www.venmo.com/Calvin-Church](http://www.venmo.com/Calvin-Church)

You will need an email address & mobile number to set up an account, and this can be done on your computer or by downloading the Venmo app on your smartphone. Once you have set up your account, payment to the church needs to be through the app on your smartphone. Members have the option of putting a description in the memo line if they want to designate their contribution. If there is no designation, we assume it is part of your giving to the general fund.



Thank you to our 'gardening angels' who cleaned up the garden adjacent to the parking lot. Weeds will not stop growing this spring. Anytime you need a bit of gardening therapy, there are other gardens that need weeding!

Among the things that are disrupted just now are the community meals. Trinity Lutheran Church is working to continue this in a different capacity by providing weekly pick-up only meals. Trinity received names from SPARKS, the after-school program we host twice weekly, realizing many families may currently be struggling.

- May 7, 5:30-6:30 pm - Sub sandwiches (from Coborn's), chips, clementine, and cookies. Extra - we have some snack food people can take for each household.
- May 14, 5:30-6:30 pm - Purchasing from McGarry's 100 meals (soup and beef brisket tacos). Extra - a frozen lasagna dinner (serves 10-12 people).
- May 21, 5:30-6:30 pm - TBD (St George is helping staff this meal). Extra - TBD
- May 28, 5:30-6:30 pm - Trinity's regular community meal night. Grilled hamburgers/hot dogs, chips, fruit and dessert (still finalizing). Extra - TBD

*NOTE: Extra on May 21 or 28, we are thinking of a bag of basic food items and TP (if we can get it). We will collect from members and are looking at a suggested list from IOCP's emergency food bag listing (example- PB, jelly, bread, box of cereal, cans of tuna/chicken, granola bars, etc.). Still TBD*



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Lenten special offerings. We received **\$425.00** for One Great Hour of Sharing, a portion of which also goes to hunger programs through our denomination in this country and around the world.



The next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11th at 6:00pm via Zoom. The meeting link will be sent out to all Session members prior to the meeting, so be sure to check your emails.



*Congratulations to Jac Carver (left), and Scotlyn Carver (right) that will graduate from Wayzata High School this spring. Their commencement will take place at Mariucci Arena on the Univ. of MN campus on August 1st.*

*Jac will be playing football and majoring in Finance attending Concordia University, St. Paul in the fall. Scotlyn will major in Education and is undecided where she will attend.*



*Congratulations!*



*Congratulations to Anna Brokofsky who is graduating from medical school at the University of Minnesota on May 1st (via a virtual commencement ceremony). Anna begins her residency at United Hospital in St. Paul with orientation on June 15th and work begins on July 1st.*



*And congratulations to Brian and Anna Brokofsky, who were married at Calvin Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 21st. Because of social distancing and other restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, only immediate family was in attendance with other guests able to watch the ceremony virtually.*

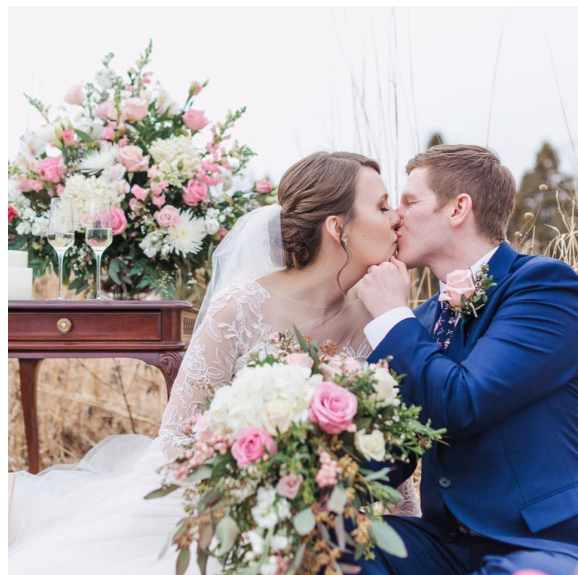


Photo credit: Alexandra Robyn Photo + Design, LLC

CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

177 Glendale Drive  
Long Lake, MN 55356

Phone: 952-473-5419

*calvinchurch.net*

Connect with us!



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday  
10:00am - 2:00pm

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



Please recycle

*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.*