

# CALVARY COURIER

May 2024

## Dear St. Peter

Have you ever read one of those advice columns like “Dear Abby”? People write to the newspaper with their problems and the witty, wise, and a little sarcastic advice of the columnist is published for all to read. Imagine you’re going through a rough time. So you write a letter to St. Peter looking for advice. You pour your heart out to him. You’re struggling to see God in your life. It’s just hard. The Apostle Peter publishes his response, “You’re suffering? Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!” Maybe it’s not the advice you were looking for, but hear him out.

“You say you are suffering?” Peter says, “In all this, you greatly rejoice.” He doesn’t even say “You can,” or “you should,” or command you, “rejoice!” Peter simply remarks as a statement of fact, “You are greatly rejoicing!” And here’s why:

You are suffering. It’s fiery. It’s painful. It’s not fun. By no means does it make you feel happy. But in faith, you know this is God’s will. God reveals it is necessary for you to suffer. He promises you that he’s only going to allow what is necessary. It’s temporary. He puts limits on this suffering. This suffering will never go beyond what you can bear.

The point of all this suffering? It shows that your faith is real. Gold is valuable. It was valuable to the ancients and it remains valuable today. Yet even gold fades. Gold will not outlast this world. But we test it. We heat it to 1100 degrees and burn away the purities and when it comes out it is proven and shown to be very valuable. Your faith is far more valuable than gold. Your faith in Christ’s resurrection gives you an inheritance that will never fade. A treasure that will never perish. If even gold is tested, why not your faith? And it is. It goes through 1100-degree fires of suffering in this world and you come out like gold. The result is a faith that is awake to the dangers of this world, a faith strengthened for the last day. So for you, that last day will not be a day of fear and terror, but of praise and glory and honor when Christ is revealed.

Peter and the other disciples had to wonder for three days about Jesus’ fate. They watched him die. They were afraid for their own lives. They were suffering. All they could do was cling to the hope he said he would rise. For three days they didn’t see

Jesus and for three days their hearts were filled with fear, doubt, and a flicker of hope. Jesus showed himself to them in the upper room and everything changed. Their hope became certain.

They have told us what they saw. Our trials and suffering drive us back to their witness. We are driven back to God’s Word and that’s where our skepticism is evaporated by the fulfilled promises of God. Our living hope is nourished and made more certain.

Because of their witness, we have not seen, but we love Jesus. Because of their witness, we have not seen but we believe. We have the same certain hope as the disciples. So we rejoice with a joy that goes beyond even our emotional state. It goes beyond feeling happy. It’s a joy that surpasses all suffering and gloom and doubt. It’s an inexpressible glorious joy. During a fiery trial, we might not be able to put it into words. And yet through the tears, deep in our hearts, a certain and living hope remains. Our Redeemer lives.

For you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Our joy right now is not, “Life is really hard and painful, but I hope things will get better soon.” Instead, your joy is, “I may be going through suffering, but heaven belongs to me. An imperishable, unspoilable, unfading inheritance is already mine.” Only very rarely will you see God’s hand in your suffering. Don’t let that worry you. It’s a reason for you to rejoice. A faith that believes only when seeing is not worth that much. But your faith, your faith believes even when you don’t see. Your faith is more valuable than gold. You cling to a living hope. Jesus lives. Even in suffering, your hope, your inheritance, your joy is in unseen certainties.

Find Peter’s advice in 1 Peter 1:3-9.

Pastor Martin Spaude

### Upcoming Events

WELS Youth Night -Saturday,  
May 4th 6-9PM

Mornings with Mommy:  
Tuesday, May 7th @ 10AM

Book Club Meeting:  
Sunday, May 26th @ 3PM



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We cooked up a lot of fun at our Fun With Food session this April! Three new families joined us in the kitchen. Pastor reminded us that all of our food comes from God, and we read about Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand during story time. The little chefs loved dancing to our food themed song “Apples and Bananas”, baking cupcakes in the rice filled sensory bins, doing a cake walk on the balance beam in the gross motor skill center and preparing food at the play kitchen in our fine motor skills center. They had a scrumptious time decorating chef hats, painting paper plate watermelons, and creating ice cream cones with do-a-dot markers in the arts and crafts center. Everyone went bananas for the build your own mini sandwiches with yummy cheese, meat, and crackers at snack time!

Our next session will be “Flowers, Birds & Mother’s Day” on Tuesday, May 7th at 10AM. We would love to see you there so be sure to register today. To assist any way you are able to with our program, please speak with one of our directors, Bridget Spaude and Rachel Traudt.



### Calvary’s Mission Statement

As members of this congregation, our constant aim is to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people based on the inspired, infallible Holy Scriptures and to exemplify our faith through Christian living commissioned by our Savior.



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Like us on Facebook: CalvaryLutheranChurchChandler

1270 N. Dobson Rd.  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
480-963-9397  
www.calvarychandler.net  
Worship: 6PM Saturday  
9AM Sunday

### Calvary’s Church Leaders

Pastor Martin Spaude 602-903-0035  
Pastor Roger Sprain 480-330-9269  
President: Nathan Traudt 720-354-1951  
Secretary: Rodger Johnson 480-235-0016  
Financial Secretary: David Gannon 480-528-3855  
Treasurer: Blake Corry 480-688-3827  
Evangelism/Stewardship Director: Phillip Cross 480-370-0549  
Education Director: Mark Mundt 602-577-1322

## May Worship

Use this Schedule to Prepare Yourself

<b>May 4 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Easter 6</b>
<p>Liturgy: Service of the Word &amp; Sacrament            Theme: The resurrection reality is that with the same power which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life of selfless love. We love only because he first loved. Us.            Psalm 89            Lessons: Acts 9:36-42; 1 John 4:7-11, 19-21; John 15:9-17            Hymns: Blue: 728, 523, 665, 697                      Red: 497, ---, 742, 458</p>	
<b>May 9</b>	<b>The Ascension of our Lord</b>
<p>Liturgy: Special Service            Theme: Christ's ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world.            Hymns: Blue: 476, 700, 472, 474, 929                      Red: 173, 170, 171, 176, 745</p>	
<b>May 11 &amp; 12</b>	<b>Easter 7</b>
<p>Liturgy: Service of the Word            Theme: Our gracious living Lord promises that one day soon he will take us to a better world. Until that time, his Father will protect us, preserving our faith through the truth of his Word. By God's grace we will overcome this broken world.            Psalm 133-134            Lessons: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; 1 John 5:1-6; John 17:11b-19            Hymns: Blue: 562, 717, 446, 839                      Red: ---, 477, 167, 389</p>	
<b>May 18 &amp; 19</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
<p>Liturgy: The Common Service with Commission            Theme: Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church, along with Christmas and Easter. This day marks the birthday of the New Testament Church.            Psalm 51b            Lessons: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-11            Hymns: Blue: 585, 479, 593, 592                      Red: 176, ---, 183, 182</p>	
<b>May 25 &amp; 26</b>	<b>Trinity</b>
<p>Liturgy: Service of the Word            Theme: We believe in the Triune God without fully comprehending his existence simply because the Spirit has given us faith. Our triune God invites us into the blessed relationship of the family of God.            Psalm 8 (Athanasian Creed)            Lessons: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17            Hymns: Blue: 481, 480, 483, 617                      Red: 241, ---, 195, 334</p>	



## May/June Worship – Easter into Pentecost

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

Our worship follows this pattern.

May 4 & 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter *Jesus’ Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*  
May 9: Ascension of Our Lord *Christ’s Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever*  
May 11 & 12: Seventh Sunday of Easter *We Will Overcome This Broken World*  
May 18 & 19: The Festival of Pentecost *Christ Has Not Left Us Alone*

Starting with the weekend of May 25 & 26 we enter the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. We will see that Christianity tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good—teachings that couldn’t possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

Our worship follows this pattern.

May 25 & 26: Holy Trinity – Pentecost 1 *Only a Triune God Can Deliver What Only a Triune God Can Offer*  
June 1 & 2: Pentecost 2 *Rest Is a Gift, Not Something to Be Earned*  
June 8 & 9: Pentecost 3 *The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins*  
June 15 & 16: Pentecost 4 *From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom*  
June 22 & 23: Pentecost 5 *Our Gracious God Is with Us through All the Storms of Life*  
June 29 & 30: Pentecost 6 *The Living Lord Completely Changes Our View of Death*



The WELS Youth Rally will be held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado this summer, June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. A number of our Christ Teens are going to this rally. The cost for travel, registration, food, and lodging is about \$600.00 per person. To help defray the cost for them, the church council has set up the door collections on the opening weekends of May and June will go to help with this. So instead of having door collections for the Parish Assistance Fund those months, we will be asking for donations to the Youth rally. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.



**WELS Youth Night:** On May 4, 2024, from 6PM to 9PM, Calvary is hosting a WELS Youth Night for all high school aged students in the area. Pastor Pflughoeft will be presenting on "The Christian and Technology," which will focus on helping teens confront the challenges of navigating through current technology as a Christian and explore ways to honor God through the same mediums.

Our congregation will provide snacks, games, and a space for fellowship. Teens, register by going to our website: <https://calvarychandler.net> (scroll down to WELS Youth Night).

Please feel free to invite your friends! If anyone has questions or would like to volunteer, please speak with Blake Corry or Loretta Gannon.



## Sunday Morning Bible Class

### **Leviticus**

**Don't miss this multi-media Bible study on Leviticus: A Study in Sacred Silhouettes!** Good photographers understand how contrasting light and shadow enhances a composition. In a similar way, God has recorded “shadows” of Christ in the Old Testament in order for us to see the light of the Savior more clearly. Unfortunately, many Bible readers find that those “shadows” of Christ leave them in the dark! Open to Leviticus, for example, and rather than being enlightened you might find yourself groping through unfamiliar details and obscure obligations. You wouldn't be the first to skip over books like Leviticus in search of more “digestible” material. However, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...*” (2 Timothy 3:16). God designed and recorded these Old Testament laws for a reason. If we bypass these pages of Scripture, we cheat ourselves of a deeper understanding of God's plan of salvation. This book is intended to help you navigate the Old Testament ceremonies, festivals, and laws with a sense of confidence rather than confusion. And more than that: with a sense of wonder at God's graphic love for sinners!

This Bible Class is based on the NPH book, *The Bloodstained Path To God*.

### *More Than a Negative*

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?” Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by. We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

***You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.***

***What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.***

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

From Calvary's Stewardship Committee

## WELS News

### Conference of Presidents (COP) April 2024 meeting summary:

The WELS Conference of Presidents (COP) met in April for its spring meeting.

Among the items discussed or decided were:

- The COP reviewed the vacancy situation for pastors and teachers. The number of vacancies continues to rise gradually. Assignment days in May will help relieve the situation somewhat, but the problem will continue for the foreseeable future. The COP received a progress report from the Ministerial Recruitment Task Force, which will be making proposals to address the need for more workers.
- The New Teacher Induction Program and the Pastor Partners Program provide mentoring to newly assigned teachers and pastors for the first three years of their service. The cost to congregations has been \$1,000 per year and has not been increased for some time. To more adequately cover the cost of the program, the COP determined that, starting in 2025, the cost will be \$1,500 per worker.
- The COP was informed that a more thorough process for vetting non-MLC trained teachers has been developed. The process will include evaluations of professional competency, background checks, pastoral recommendations, and district president interviews. Final details are still being determined.
- The COP reviewed the current calling process and made no changes to the current guidelines. The COP will continue discussing this issue at future meetings.
- The COP received a report from the committee planning the synod's 175th anniversary celebration in 2025. The committee has produced a pictorial history of the synod and updated the existing book on the synod's history. It is working on developing special video presentations and providing worship and Bible study resources for a synodwide celebration of the anniversary in the fall of 2025.
- The COP was pleased to learn that 96.7 percent of WELS congregations submitted their statistics for 2023 and 99.1 percent submitted Congregation Mission Offering subscriptions for 2024. The COP is grateful for this high level of participation.
- The COP issued the following divine calls:
  - Melanie Giddings was called to serve full time as the coordinator of the new synod K-12 religion curriculum.
  - Ryan Busman was called to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the Western Wisconsin District.
  - Nathan Cordes was called to serve as a Christian giving counselor for the south Minnesota District, the Nebraska District, and the Dakota-Montana District
- The COP will continue to monitor the issue of congregations that are discussing merging or closing. As a part of the COP's desire that these decisions are made in an orderly and legal way, the COP is updating the comprehensive guidelines that can help congregations in this process.
- The COP continued its work on the pastoral brief on the doctrine of the roles and men and women. The brief will be released and distributed as soon as it is completed. Similarly, the COP received an update from the committee addressing justice and critical theories.
- The COP discussed a proposal to make some changes to the procedure for nominating and electing synod officers. A final proposal is expected to be discussed at district conventions this summer.

Serving with you in Christ,

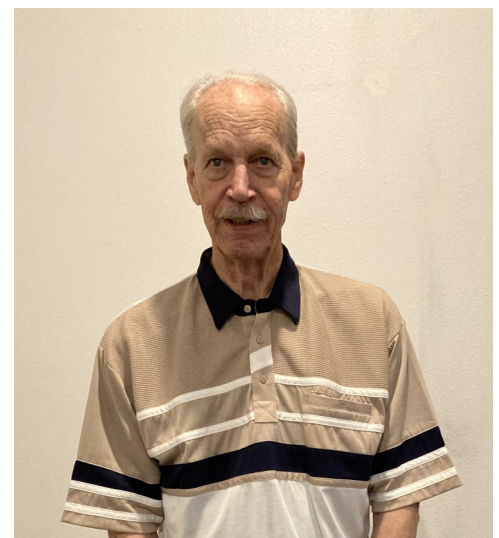
WELS President Mark Schroeder

### Meet Michael "Mike" Everson

Mike recently became widowed in May of 2023. He and his wife, Nancy, moved to Arizona from Minnesota in 2004. They were blessed with three children, one son and two daughters; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. All are presently located in Minnesota, except one son and family, who live in Washington while he serves in the US Army.

Over the years Mike has gone through several medical conditions that have severely limited his physical activities. He loves the Lord and is blessed that the Holy Spirit has led him to Calvary Lutheran Church.

Mike will welcome getting to know members of our congregation, so don't hesitate in welcoming and introducing yourself to this fine gentleman.





### **UPDATE: ALPHA PREGNANCY**



With Summer coming on Alpha will be needing warm weather clothing up to size 4. They always need diapers and wipes, baby bottles, and layette items. Donations can be dropped off at the Blue Playpen in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for supporting Alpha Pregnancy.

**A NEW Refreshment Schedule sign-up** is now on the back counter of church for the months May through August. Please sign up for a date! Thank you!



VBS will be Monday through Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 9AM to noon. The families will be invited to attend worship on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the children will sing a song they learned during the week. The theme for this year will be "Build on the Rock" from a series published by our church's publishing house (NPH). We look forward to the opportunity to help our parents strengthen the faith of their children and also share God's Word with families outside our congregation.

- We are currently looking for volunteers to help either full time (all 5 days) or part time, both during VBS or helping with prep work prior to VBS. The primary roles include being a teacher, a helper, assisting with crafts, music, and treats/break time.
- If you have any questions about the VBS roles Nate Traudt will gladly answer your questions.
- If after prayerful consideration you are led to assist with VBS there is a signup sheet on the narthex counter between the restrooms or you may notify Nate Traudt to add your info to the list.

**The book club** will be on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. We are reading "The Dictionary of Lost Words: A Novel" by Pip Williams. Set during the height of the women's suffrage movement and with the Great War looming, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. Inspired by actual events, author Pip Williams has delved into the archives of the *Oxford English Dictionary* to tell this highly original story. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* is a delightful, lyrical, and deeply thought-provoking celebration of words and the power of language to shape the world. All are welcome. For additional information, please contact Kris Powell at [swrklog@hotmail.com](mailto:swrklog@hotmail.com) or Hilda Kuether at [Offkue@yahoo.com](mailto:Offkue@yahoo.com). Hope to see you there!

## May Birthdays

Best wishes to the following who celebrate birthdays this month:

David Kultala	May 2
Gary Zorn	May 2
Finley Kultala	May 3
Karen Kaniasty	May 5
Charlotte Holguin	May 9
Aaron Mundt	May 10
Ed Anderson	May 11
Ruth Sprain	May 11
Christopher Cross	May 13
Martin Spaude	May 14
Cassandra Warskow	May 16
Deb Reinke	May 22
Philip Warskow	May 24
Ethan Cole	May 24
James Abbe	May 26
Alicia Coker	May 26
Jace Christian	May 26
Lisa Jahnke	May 30



If your birthday is not listed, please email the office manager, Randi at [office@calvaryhandler.net](mailto:office@calvaryhandler.net) so your records can be updated.

## Through My Bible in a Year May

1	2 Kings 4-5
2	2 Kings 6-8
3	2 Kings 9-10
4	2 Kings 11-13
5	2 Kings 14-15
6	2 Kings 16-17
7	2 Kings 18-20
8	2 Kings 21-23
9	2 Kings 24-25
10	1 Chronicles 1-2
11	1 Chronicles 3-5
12	1 Chronicles 6-7
13	1 Chronicles 8-10
14	1 Chronicles 11-13
15	1 Chronicles 14-16
16	1 Chronicles 17-20
17	1 Chronicles 21-23
18	1 Chronicles 24-26
19	1 Chronicles 27-29
20	2 Chronicles 1-3
21	2 Chronicles 4-6
22	2 Chronicles 7-9
23	2 Chronicles 10-13
24	2 Chronicles 14-17
25	2 Chronicles 18-20
26	2 Chronicles 21-24
27	2 Chronicles 25-27
28	2 Chronicles 28-30
29	2 Chronicles 31-33
30	2 Chronicles 34-36
31	Ezra 1-2

**If you would like to submit information for the monthly Courier, please email it to Randi at [office@calvaryhandler.net](mailto:office@calvaryhandler.net) by the 15th of the prior month. Thank you.**