Visitor-gram

JULY 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

COVID-19 has changed so many things and continues to impact the world. Yet, as people of faith, we continue to have hope and adapt to some of those changes. God remains with us and has not changed.

We are beginning to see many things opening up including in-person worship services. The pandemic may be easing up in some places yet we are still hopeful and grateful. Although some in-person activities are resuming, some people prefer to participate virtually for now. No matter the situation, we are a church together.

I want to extend our appreciation to all the volunteers who helped with the Parking Lot Polka Music Night. There were over 120 persons in attendance. Marge Pavlowski said, ***"the polka party was spectacular and the weather the same. It was so pleasant to enjoy seeing families out together having fun, young, old and everyone in between. How interesting to see babies, toddlers and children receive their first polka lesson!"***

We wish you and your family a joyful Fourth of July! Freedom is great and it's worth celebrating. ***"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1*** The Bible tells us many stories of people whom God has brought from bondage. Let us rejoice in the fact that our King Jesus Christ is our Liberator.

As you spend the Fourth of July time with family, relatives, neighbors, and friends, let us take the time to offer up a prayer of thanks to God and the people in our lives. Please contact the church office if you need Holy Communion or a pastoral visit. I hope this summer we will explore more opportunities to spend time outside enjoying nature.

May the Almighty God bless you richly. Amen.

Pastor Rufus

Who Is My Neighbor?

"Hi Neighbor" - now with whom might we share this phrase? Is it the people who live across the street or down the block? Well, sure it is! How about the person who checks you out at the grocery store? Yes, once again. It is also the delivery person, the kids with the lemonade stand and the lady who walks her dog past your house. So much for identifying the easy-to-like neighbors.

Now we need to know how to treat these neighbors. What might be a good resource to determine this? How about Mark 12:31 where Jesus says: "Love your neighbor as yourself". WHAAAAAAT! I am supposed to love THEM as much as I love ME? Yup. Jesus never said it was going to be easy to be a Christian. Okay, got it… love my neighbors just as much as I love myself. EZ-PZ.

But wait there is more! Remember that guy who cut you off on the highway? Oh yes, that is your neighbor too! Annoying or not, they are still your neighbor. Okay, but what about that person who supports the OTHER political party? Oh man, you mean I also must be nice to them? This is getting difficult. Take a deep cleansing breath and read on.

Remember that new immigrant that speaks a language other than English most of the time? NEIGHBOR! Then there is the person who does not even look like me. NEIGHBOR! Yes, Jesus wants us to even love the Bears fans among us. NEIGHBOR!

Alright I think I am getting the message. EVERYONE is my neighbor. But it is SO hard to be a neighbor to them all. Yes, it is. But the human heart has an unlimited capacity to expand in love. Have you ever added a new family member? Didn't your heart immediately expand to love them? Did you ever adopt a new pet? Once again, I bet your heart just expanded with newfound love. When we accept the people we encounter as our neighbors, we extend our love and make the world a better place. Just as Jesus taught us.

Love you, Neighbor!

(from Jerry Lapinskas and the staff at Calvary)

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2021!

Kayli Anderson, Megan Behnke, Colton Blanchard, Lyla Frailing, Braiden Frisch, Allison Gillis, Tyler Graf, Hallie Hatfield, Thomas Heisel, Emaly Jadin, Ariana Jansen, Griffin Keller, Callan Lapinskas, Cadin Marohl, Leah Maitland, Megan McLaughlin, Gretchen Paulsen, Thomas Riendl, Tyler Russell, Claire Schumacher, Kade Swenson, Vince Van Mieghem.

SHP

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

On June 12th, our chapter took part in ***Bunks Across America*** which is an annual event where many of the SHP chapters build beds on the same day. This year, 143 chapters built 5,239 beds with the assistance of 7,238 volunteers. I'm happy to report that we were able to build 60 beds for kids right here in Brown County with 85 volunteers. Thank you to everyone who either helped with the build day, donated the funds to purchase materials or donated bedding for us to deliver with the beds. ***We continue to be blessed with amazing support from the entire community!***

That now means we have built 126 beds since February and have given over 70 kids a bed to call their own. Believe it or not, ***Child Bedlessness*** is a problem right here in the Green Bay area and we will continue to try and be a part of the solution. If you'd like to help support our local chapter, you can always make a monetary donation to Calvary and just write SHP in the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Vermeulen (920-737-0359) or at dan.vermeulen@shpbeds.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @shpdepere

"No Kid sleeps on the floor in our town"

DRIVE-IN MOVIES AT CALVARY

Once again, Calvary will be hosting drive-in movie nights with the big screen in the parking lot! Save the dates for the Wednesday nights in August (except August 18th) and the first Wednesday night in September. The parking lot will open at 5 p.m. and the featured movie will begin at 6 p.m.

Be sure to bring a lawn chair and enjoy free refreshments during the movie. All are welcome and please invite your neighbors and friends. If you have any questions, please contact Katy at katy@calvarygb.com. Thank you!

HELP NEEDED THIS FALL

Please contact Pastor Rufus or Melanie Brown if you are interested in teaching Confirmation or Sunday School this fall starting September 12th! The Education Hour will run in between the services beginning at 9:15 a.m. Also, please let us know if you are able to help for a short term or long term (one month/two months/ three months).

Thank you so much for considering serving in this important ministry!

CONFIRMATION UPDATES FOR FALL

Confirmation and Sunday School classes begin on September 12, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. The confirmands' retreat will be held on September 26, 2021 at noon in the MPR. Confirmation Sunday is October 10, 2021 at the 10:30 a.m. service. The confirmation registration form is now available in the office for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Please contact the church office (920-494-2431) if you need the form mailed or emailed to you. Thank you!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays (beginning September 12th) 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Confirmation and Sunday School

Mondays (beginning September 13th) 5:30 & 7:00 p.m. in the chapel