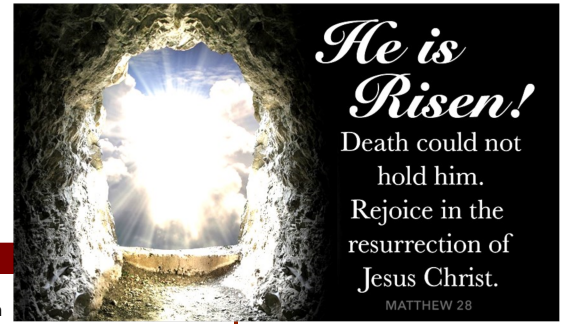


The Calvary Call

April 2024

Calvary Lutheran Church 4400 Central St. Sioux City, IA 51108 — 712-239-1575— www.calvaryleeds.com
Pastor James Travis



Easter Sermon Series: Living Wisely in an Unwise World

For three weeks beginning on April 7, we will be offering a sermon series titled **Living Wisely in an Unwise World**. If we follow God’s wisdom rather than the wisdom of the world, we will see life from His perspective. God’s wisdom leads us to be faithful managers who use our time, talents, and money to His glory. By God’s grace, we seek His wisdom, which He is eager to provide. *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, Who gives generously to all without approach, and it will be given him”* (James 1:5).

Our weekly themes are:

April 7 & 10: Using Sabbath Wisely

April 14 & 17: Using Time Wisely

April 21 & 24: Using Money Wisely

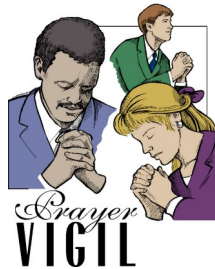
We live in a time when we have access to instant information. Within seconds, we can retrieve the facts on current and historical events. Our access to knowledge is truly amazing. We know, though, that while knowledge provides facts and information, it does not answer the “why” or “for what purpose.”

Knowledge does not help us in times of crisis, despair, or loneliness. God’s Word tells us that *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”* (Proverbs 9:10). When knowledge is combined with a fear—awesome respect—of the Lord, we will have God’s wisdom which transforms panic into peace!

From my experience the world runs our life through foolish disregard for rest, foolish management of time, and pursuit of foolish debt.

It is my prayer this series will be valuable for you as we look to God for wisdom and how Easter continues to transform our daily lives. Invite a friend or neighbor to hear God’s Word with you!

In Christ, Pastor Travis



April 13
8:00 am-8:00 pm

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SIoux CITY ZONE WOMEN’S SPRING RALLY – APRIL 20

Theme: “Restoring Lives” Isaiah 40:31

9:00 – 9:30 AM – Rolls & Coffee

Speaker: Bernadette Rixner – Siouxland Coalition Against Human Trafficking

Who: All Women

Cost: Free-Will

Rummage Sale
Calvary Lutheran Church
4400 Central St.
Saturday April 13
8 AM - 2 PM



The Calvary Call

Youth Events

April 3 - WNAC for All Ages

April 10 - WNAC for All Ages

April 13 - Youth Rummage Sale - All Proceeds go to Youth Accounts to help with future Youth Gatherings/Mission Trips/etc.

April 17 - WNAC for All Ages

April 24 - Last WNAC Class for 2023-24 School Year

May 1 - Examination Day

5:30 PM - Pictures for 8th Grade

7 PM - Church Service

8 PM - Examination in the Sanctuary

May 3 & 4 - Overnight Youth Servant Event at Camp Okoboji

May 5 - Confirmation Day

9:15 AM - Reception for 8th Grade Confirmation Class - The Congregation is invited to Cake & Treats and to meet all of our 8th Grade Youth.

10:30 AM - Confirmation Worship Service



Youth & Adult Servant Event

May 3-4 – Is an overnight servant event for High School Students at Camp Okoboji. Meals and lodging will be covered. Students will get the opportunity to help put together our church owned camp for the 2024 summer season and enjoy Lake Okoboji while we are there. Sign up with Molly Kaiser – 712-251-0894

Mercy Meal Event: Siouxland Youth Connect at Faith Lutheran Church

2:30 Sign-in and Orientation in sanctuary—Hamilton Blvd just North of McDonalds

2:45 - 4:30 PM Packaging

Actual packaging time:1.5 hours approximately

Age to participate with Mercy Meals is 8-11 years with an adult, 11 and older independently (without an adult).

Trustee's Corner

The vent fan in the women's restroom has been replaced.

Electricians are still working out the kinks in the electrical systems so it will pass inspection.

A couple of areas need to be completed—Associate Pastor's office.

Cry Room-wash windows, dust shelving and sanitize toys.

The cabinet for the Friendship Room has been ordered, but it's not yet known when it will be here.

Thanks to everyone for contributing time and money to improve our church. God Bless.

2024

Pastor Travis' Message-

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever met a person with ultimate confidence to live their life as if there is nothing to lose? You might think of Evel Knievel legendary daredevil. Evel is most famous for trying to jump the Caesar Palace Fountain in Las Vegas and countless other canyons with rocket powered motorcycles. He literally had thousands of fractures throughout his career. Yet, Evel all his life was dead. He had no faith and no hope of the resurrection.

Although I'm not a fan of the teachings of the Crystal Cathedral, what happened there is truly a miracle: "On April 1, 2007, Knievel appeared on Robert Schuller's television program *The Hour of Power* and announced that he "believed in Jesus Christ" for the first time. At his request, Evel was baptized during a televised service at the Crystal Cathedral by Schuller. Knievel's televised testimony triggered mass baptisms at the Crystal Cathedral."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evel_Knievel

Evel crossed from death to life so that he now is truly alive. He crossed from death to life that day. We do not die when we stop breathing, no, we died before we believed and then we cross into eternal life when we believed: Jesus says in John 5:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

Likewise Romans 6:1-3 says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

You and I, as we believe, have also come to eternal life. We do not wait till we die for eternal life, but can live courageously for Jesus right now.

I know too many people that think Christianity is simply about believing in Jesus and then waiting till

they die to have eternal life. This is false teaching! We have eternal life now and are called to live mightily for Jesus now. Romans 6 gives instructions, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."



What stunt will you do for Jesus? What fruit will you bear? Don't worry about what others will think, Jesus is with you!

Do you need ideas, start by coming to church regularly to study the Bible. You will be amazed by the guidance God gives, plus we constantly need to be reminded we are forgiven and strengthened with the Lord's Supper and God's Word.

Then pick something for Romans 11, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

I am glad you are resurrected even now!

In Christ, Pastor Travis

Bulletin & Newsletter Deadlines: All information for the weekly bulletins must be turned into the Church Office no later than 12 noon on Thursdays. All information for the monthly newsletter must be turned into the Church Office no later than 10 am on the 3rd Monday of each month. Thank you! The *Calvary Call* is published monthly by Calvary Lutheran Church, 4400 Central Street, Sioux City, Iowa, 51108.

Contact us: Phone 712-239-1575; ; email — Pastor Travis: Rev.Travis@hotmail.com; Church Office: CalvarySecretary@aol.com; Church Website: calvaryleeds.com; Facebook- <http://www.facebook.com/CalvaryLeeds>

The Calvary Call

President Steve Turner (Iowa District West's President)

Dear Friends in Christ,

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-25 ESV)

Saint Paul speaks of the nine fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. He says that against these there is no law. The seventh fruit of the Spirit that Paul identifies is gentleness. When was the last time you heard someone recognized for their gentleness? Gentleness as a virtue is all but lost in our American culture. Our society admires achievement, action, hard work, and materialism. Maybe the most important virtue among Americans is our devotion to "individualism." We have been trained from early in our lives to consider ourselves separate individuals who are responsible for our own situations in life.

A common misconception is that gentleness is weakness or passivity. True gentleness, however, is just the opposite. It is a work of the Holy Spirit that gives Christians the strength and self-control needed to be gentle. Someone who lacks gentleness is often prideful and easily angered or feels the need for revenge. To be gentle, we cannot view ourselves as better than someone else. Rather than asserting superiority, someone who is gentle wants to help others, even when they have been done wrong. Gentleness is not simply a tranquil state of mind. Gentleness is an action toward another person. It describes how we treat others and our behavior towards them.

Gentleness is not a feeling or simply an attitude, it is an action. A gentle person is mild in temperament, kind, and tender to another person. Even in the middle of an argument or debate, they exhibit compassion, patience, and considerate behavior. Gentleness involves mercy, self-restraint, and a willingness to avoid harshness or aggression.

People often confuse gentleness with shyness or fear. They assume that gentle individuals are hesitant to share their point of view or afraid to get involved. Some believe gentleness is a weakness in achieving goals or making an impact. They believe that assertiveness and forcefulness are more effective leader-

ship qualities. Gentleness doesn't mean ineffective leadership. In I Timothy 3:3, Paul specially identifies gentleness as one of the qualities of a pastor. Gentleness is a powerful tool for building connections, resolving conflicts, and influencing others positively.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we have a beautiful and meaningful picture of gentleness when Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey'" (Matthew 21:5). Jesus is fulfilling the prophecy of Zachariah 9:9. But why a donkey? Horses are the animals for kings. Donkeys are beasts of burden. They symbolize meekness and humility. The humble and gentle "Triumphal Entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem stood in stark contrast to the world's expectations of a conquering king. In this simple act of riding a donkey, Jesus revealed His heart—a heart of love, compassion, and gentleness. He came not as a conquering warrior, but as a Savior who would lay down His life for us all.

Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit that exhibits love, humility, and consideration in our interactions with others and with God. It encourages us to respond with kindness and patience, even in challenging situations. Against this there is no law!

Always in Grace, President Steve Turner



2022

Call Process—5 Steps before Call Day

1. Interviews of Students and Spouses

From September through November, the candidates and spouses participate in an interview with the director of placement to discuss their interests in potential ministry settings. This interview focuses on the preferences of the candidates and spouses regarding type of ministry, congregation, areas of specialization, community, leadership style, geographical location and special requests. Deaconess candidates also have one interview with the placement director. This information is then recorded in a database and written profiles are prepared.

2. Interviews by Congregations for Team Ministry

In January and February, congregations may interview candidates for the position of assistant or associate pastor. Interviews for sole pastor are not normally permitted. Congregations should contact their LCMS district president, who will provide a letter outlining the call process. The congregation submits the required documents to their district president, who forwards them to the seminary along with his permission for the congregation to conduct interviews. The placement director will send the congregation written profiles of three to four candidates to interview on campus or by videoconference. Candidates are not allowed to travel off campus for interviews.

Our Call Committee at Calvary interviewed three wonderful candidates. We would be happy with all three of those we met!

3. Council of Presidents Review of Available Candidates

At the February meeting of the LCMS Council of Presidents (COP), the seminary placement officers provide an overview of their respective candidate classes. During the same COP meeting, both placement officers are available for two days to meet with district presidents and explore potential candidates for placement. All appointments include the placement officers of both LCMS seminaries.

4. Preliminary Slotting of Candidates

Congregations submit call documents for Seminary pastoral or deaconess candidates by March 1 to their LCMS district office to be signed by the district president. Calls for pastoral candidates are then sent to

the Pastoral Education office at the LCMS International Center, which shares copies of them with the two LCMS seminaries. Deaconess call documents are sent to the seminary of the requested candidate and that placement director requests COP approval. In March, the placement director examines the call documents, receives input from district presidents and preliminarily slots candidates with calling congregations. In April, the placement director of Concordia Seminary meets with his counterpart from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., as well as with members of the LCMS Ministerial Placement Committee. At this meeting, candidates are preliminarily assigned to calling congregations. In the following days, the committee members present these preliminary assignments to the district presidents of the calling congregations for their consideration.

5. Final Approval of Assignments

The weekend before Call Day, placement officers of both seminaries meet with the district presidents to review the preliminary assignments and make any necessary changes. During that weekend, the COP, acting as the Board of Assignments for the LCMS, gives final approval to the call assignments. The original call documents are then given to each seminary. The announcement of those assignments is made on Call Day.

Call day 2024 is April 23. The Call Day worship will be livestreamed at www.csl.edu and all 50 candidates that were approved by the Council of Presidents will be placed. If we hear we are getting a candidate we will have a watch party at the church on April 23 at approximately 7 PM!

Article Re-printed from Concordia Seminary St. Louis:
[5-step-process.pdf \(csl.edu\)](https://www.csl.edu/5-step-process.pdf)



The Calvary Call

Worship Assistants for April 2024

Elders

Wed., April 3, 7:00 pm: Volunteer
 Sun., April 7, 8:00 am: Brad Cale; 10:30 am: Brian Hickman
 Wed., April 10, 7:00 pm: Volunteer
 Sun., April 14, 8:00 am: Denny Barto; 10:30 am: Dave Powell
 Wed., April 17, 7:00 pm: Volunteer
 Sun., April 21, 8:00 am: Dave Clausen; 10:30 am: Brian Hickman
 Wed., April 24, 7:00 pm: Volunteer
 Sun., April 28, 8:00 am Jim Torgerson; 10:30 am: Joe Osterholt

Chancel Guild

Wed., April 3: Terri Guy
 Sun., April 7: Joan Mansfield, Teri Mevius
 Wed., April 10: Ramona Mehrer, Carol Casotti
 Sun., April 21: Sharilyn Steck, Rhonda Hageman
 Wed., April 24: Diana Lahrs, Julie Clayton



Membership Class

Do you want to learn more about the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod? Do you want to become a member of Calvary Lutheran Church? Do you want to refresh your Confirmation lessons from long ago? Classes are Thursday at 7:00 pm. Each class is about 1 hour long and meets for 10 sessions. If interested please contact Pastor Travis at 712-202-8516 or the church office at 712-239-1575.



Thank You from the Outreach Board

Thank you from the Outreach Board to all who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt a success. Over 3,000 eggs were stuffed thanks to the donations of candy and eggs as well as those who stuffed each and every egg! Thank you to Randy and Teri Mevius and Bary and Mary Ann Betsworth for donating bikes given away at the event. In addition, Mary Ann Betsworth also created beautiful baskets for the door prizes. We want to thank all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this Easter Egg hunt a success. Our members, as well as our neighbors, gathered to hear Pastor Travis' Easter message as well as enjoy the fun hunt of thousands of eggs, refreshments, and crafts. Thank you!

IOWAY—Individual Outreach with Adults and Youth

Here, Near, or Far One of the most beautiful facets of working in Missions is seeing how God blesses and multiplies what may seem like very small things to us for the larger good of others. When people reach out to me through IOWAY and ask, “Do you know anyone who could use _____?”, followed by items they have been making on their own or with a group, it always gives me a spark and the thought of “if I don’t know in the moment, I’ll find someone who can be blessed by this love.”

One of the places IOWAY connects with, through the gifts of making rolled bandages, is Global Health Ministries, an outreach founded by Lutherans. GHM works with 13 countries in Africa for health education, equipment needs, and community life. A recent story they shared was as follows: “Together we support young Christian leaders like Anica to become tomorrow’s leaders. Anica just completed her midwife training. Her heart is fixed on serving in some of the most remote regions of her home country of Madagascar... By this time next year Anica will have been trained and placed in a rural village where she will organize, train, and manage a corps of volunteers that will teach whole villages how to live healthier lives.”

If you are interested in rolling bandages (or have some to donate), making newborn or hospice kits, or donating medical/dental equipment (much can be previously used), please reach out to me at the IDW office or check out About Us — Global Health Ministries (ghm.org)

Julie Mann, IOWAY Director julie@iowadistrictwest.org | 515-408-9696

If your birthday is missing or not correct, please call the Church Office at 712-239-1575 and give us the correct information. Thanks and have a great birthday!



Lutherans for Life

“The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord.” Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransfor-life.org

Altar Flowers

Commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one by providing altar flowers for the worship services through November of 2024, during December we decorate with Poinsettias. Sign your name to the poster in the Friendship Room or call the church office at 712-239-1575 for 2024 and we will order a bouquet from Bittersweet Florals Flower Shop for a cost of \$63.50. Thank you for adding to our services with flowers.

The Calvary Call

Finance Secretary's Report

<i>Income Received for February, 2024</i>		\$
Envelopes.....	\$18,455.30	
Plate	256.50	
Special Service Donations	9,106.00	
Checking Account Interest	9.17	
YTD Envelope & Plate Total:	\$27,826.97	
Designated Funds		
Adult Education	0.00	
Birthday Scholarship	230.00	
Building Fund	100.00	
Church Renovation Fund	0.00	
Donut Stop (Donuts)	30.00	
Flowers (Lillies)	185.00	
Griefshare.....	40.00	
Lenten Meals.....	1,016.25	
Parish Hall Use	36.00	
Pastor's Special Account.....	100.00	
Sunday School Missions	20.00	
Thrivent	11.00	
WNAC Pizza/Projects.....	340.00	
Youth Activities	0.00	
Subtotal Designated Funds.....	2,108.25	
Total Monthly Contributions.....	\$29,935.22	
Deposits:		
Week 1	\$5,798.40	
Week 2	5,659.80	
Week 3	14,113.75	
Week 4	4,343.10	
Thrivent Choice.....	11.00	
Checking Interest	9.17	
Total	\$29,935.22	
2024 Year-to-Date Total:	\$ 29,935.22	

Treasurer's Statement of Income & Expense

<i>February 2024</i>	
Checking Account Balance, 2/01/24	\$233,203.92
Plus Income	\$29,926.05
Less Expense	(34,262.90)
Plus Interest	9.17
Plus transf. from LCEF	0.00
	<u>\$ (4,327.68)</u>
Checking Account Balance	\$228,876.24
LCEF Steward Account Balance 2/01/24	
	\$10,241.79
Plus Transfers In	0.00
Less Transfers Out	0.00
Plus Interest	<u>5.07</u>
LCEF Steward Account Balance 2/29/24	\$10,246.86
Dedicated Funds	
Social Ministries	\$1,520.00
Building Fund	10,343.37
Designated Memorials	5,242.82
Undesignated Memorials	1,010.00
Dedicated Accounts	31,585.52
Outside Purposes	376.81
National Youth Gathering	0.00
World Missions	0.00
Capital Improvement	0.00
Total All Obligated Funds	\$50,078.52
Un-obligated Funds	<u>189,044.58</u>
Total Checking & Savings Funds	\$239,123.10



2023

Our Church Family

Transferred to the Church Triumphant

Marcia Cain-3/29/50-11/28/2021

Jackie Osterholt-6/20/70-3/3/24

Mary Ann Burg-4/22/31-3/9/24

Kent Kilstrom-8/19/53-3/14/24

Clint Utech-10/27/27-3/18/24

Baptized

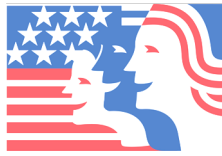
Rodney Weitzel-3/23/24



Our Members in the Military

Please pray for these members:

- Trisha Hansen Goethring
- Taylor Jones
- Riley McFarland
- Cole Barbee
- Timothy Mingo, Jr. (If your family has someone in the Military, call us and we will add their names to the list - 712-239-1575.)
- Colbie Larson
- Collen Larson



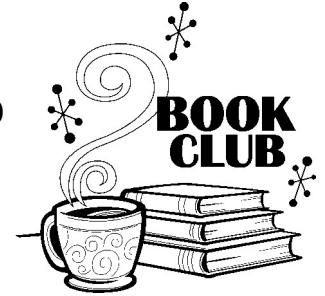
Book Club

Book Club will meet on April 11, at Minerva's at 11:30 am. The Book for April is *The Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku.

Born in Leipzig, Germany, into a Jewish family, Eddie Jaku was a teenager when his world was turned upside-down. On November 9, 1938, during the terrifying violence of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, Eddie was beaten by SS thugs, arrested, and sent to a concentration camp with thousands of other Jews across Germany. Every day of the next seven years of his life, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors in Buchenwald, Auschwitz, and finally on a forced death march during the Third Reich's final days. The Nazis took everything from Eddie—his family, his friends, and his country. But they did not break his spirit.

Against unbelievable odds, Eddie found the will to survive. Overwhelming grateful, he made a promise: he would smile every day in thanks for the precious gift he was given and to honor the six million Jews murdered by Hitler.

Today, at 100 years of age, despite all he suffered, Eddie calls himself the "happiest man on earth." In his remarkable memoir, this born storyteller shares his wisdom and reflects on how he has led his best possible life, talking warmly and openly about the power of gratitude, tolerance, and kindness. Life can be beautiful if you make it beautiful. With *The Happiest Man on Earth*, Eddie shows us how.



Calvary Members at Home

Northern Hills:

Sue Larsen (Member of Trinity Hinton)
Marjorie Doran

Westwood:

Jan Paulson (A Calvary Guest)

Pioneer Village:

Bonnie Oldaker
Nancy Harrison

Storm Lake:

Roger & Judy Rentel

Whispering Creek:

Bel Awe

Valley Lake, Valley, NE:

Eva Kemp

Acura Health:

Barbara Kamradt

At Home:

Sue Weinmann
Mary Lou Broderson
Maryrose McDaniel
Bary Betsworth
Anita Huss
Lois Marquis
Bev Williams
Barb Schindler
Joe Bruce (Member of a sister church in NE)
Ellen Karrer
Clair & Linda Thorsen



Developing Empathy For Those Suffering From Addiction by Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT

In Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch continually tries to instill in his children, Scout and Jem, a sense of empathy by putting themselves in another's shoes. The concept of empathy is hard for them to grasp. For instance, the children view mean Mrs. Dubose as an abusive old woman who yells at them every time they walk by her house, but Atticus reveals to them that Mrs. Dubose is at heart a warrior, battling morphine addiction with every ounce of energy she possesses.

He wants them to see that this battle she fights is very difficult and so they should not judge her. At one point, Atticus explains to Scout, "If you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Wearing Our Neighbor's Shoes

Wearing someone else's shoes, walking around in their skin, even borrowing a different lens are all metaphors for the same thing: learning to view circumstances or events from a new perspective. One of the ways in which we can view circumstances or events in a new way is by developing empathy. We can discuss this best by reviewing Christ's parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). In response to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Christ told the parable of the good Samaritan. A man was robbed, stripped naked, beaten, and left for dead on the road to Jericho. Both a priest and a Levite saw the man and walked by on the other side of the road. Finally, a Samaritan stops and helps, going out of his way to save the man's life.

What is the difference between the three men: the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan? They were all men of seemingly good moral codes. Why did the first two men fail to act? One can speculate that they saw the need of the man and perhaps they thought, when I am done with what I need to accomplish today, when I check off all the boxes of my "to-do" list, then I will come back. Perhaps they thought that their job was to keep holy and pure and not contaminate themselves with a task that might seem "unclean" because of their duties as a priest and a worker in the temple. Perhaps they patted themselves on the back that they had kept themselves untangled from an unsavory experience. We will never know their thoughts or intentions, only their roles and their ac-

tions.

The Compassion of the Good Samaritan

We don't know the occupation of the Samaritan, but we do know that Samaritans were despised by the Jews. For his entire life, the Samaritan man may have grown up knowing that others considered him inferior. Christ emphasizes that the Samaritan was motivated by "compassion" (Luke 10:33). Perhaps the Samaritan had learned compassion through his own experience of being mistreated. He must have known something of what that man half-dead on the side of the road was feeling. While the priest and the Levite focused on something, anything else, the Samaritan looked with lenses refined by his own painful experiences. We call such regard for another's feelings empathy.

Empathy and Counseling

Empathy has been a key factor in my own professional journey as a marriage and family therapist intern. Within the context of empathy, my experiences as a human being have made me a better counselor. I feel empathy for those suffering from mental illness, the death of a loved one, enslaving addictions and other painful losses, because I myself have experienced these things. While I can't share one's pain, I can understand and help. I would like to share four ways in which we can enhance our ability to feel and convey empathy, especially when, like Atticus, Scout, and Jem we see someone in our midst who is fighting addiction.

In counseling, I try to be like Atticus Finch. One cannot adequately help a client unless one has a good understanding of how that client feels. We practice by identifying feelings, asking if our sense of their emotion is correct, and listening to the underlying reason for that feeling. There is nothing quite like being understood by another person. Feeling understood is the first step in establishing a relationship of trust. If one focuses prematurely on identifying and solving a client's problem without first understanding who the client is and what they are feeling, we are bound to fail. Clients, even those with profound addiction problems, have a remarkable ability to find the motivation to solve their own problems once they feel truly understood.

Seeing More Clearly

One of the most empathetic people to live in our lifetime is Mother Teresa, (Continued on pg. 12)

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Travis Family Day	2 10:30 am Griefshare 7:00 pm Deborah Circle	3 9:30 am-Lamplighters 9:30 am-Pheasant Acres 1:00 pm Worship Service w/HC 5:30 pm WNAC 5:30 pm Bible Study-Rick Book 7:00 pm Worship	4 10:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm Chancel Guild 6:30 pm-Griefshare 7:00 pm LCMS 101	5 7:00 pm Gospel Mission	6
	Pastor Travis Vacation					
7 8:00 am Worship w/HC 9:15 am-Sun School, Bible Class, Bells 10:30 am-Worship w/HC 2:00 Siouxland Youth Connect Mercy Meals	8 Pastor Travis Family Day	9 8:00 am Circuit Meeting-Kingsley 10:30 am Griefshare 6:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Trustees	10 10:30 am Northern Hills 5:30 pm WNAC 5:30 pm Bible Study-Rick Book 5:30 pm Dinner Elders 7:00 pm Worship	11 10:00 am-Bible Study 11:30 am Book Club 6:00 LCMS 101 6:30 pm-Griefshare	12	13 8:00 am -2:00 pm Youth Rummage Sale 8:00 am-8:00 pm-Prayer Vigil
	9-4 pm Bring Items for Rummage Sale			9-4 pm Bring Items for Rummage Sale		
14 8:00 am-Worship 9:15 am-Sun School, Bible Class, Bells 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am Board of Education Donut Stop Noisy Mites	15 Pastor Travis Family Day	16 10:30 am Griefshare 6:15 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Elders 7:00 pm Ruth Circle	17 3:00 pm Casa de Paz 5:30 pm WNAC 5:30 pm Bible Study-Rick Book 7:00 pm Worship w/HC	18 10:00 am-Bible Study 6:30 pm-Griefshare	19	20 8:00am -3:00 pm Spring Rally
21 8:00 am Worship w/HC 9:15 am-Sun School, Bible Class, Bells 10:30 am-Worship w/HC	22 Pastor Travis Family Day	23 6:15 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Call Day at Seminary	24 5:30 pm WNAC 5:30 pm Bible Study-Rick Book 7:00 pm Worship	25 10:00 am-Bible Study 6:30 pm CLWL	26	27 Mercy Meals @ Faith 8:30 am & 10:30 am
				PLI Immersion-West Des Moines 2024		
28 8:00 am-Worship 9:15 am-Sun School, Bible Class, Bells 10:30 am-Worship Children Sing	29 Pastor Travis Family Day	30 7:00 pm Church Council	31 5:30 pm—Confirmation Pictures 7:00 pm—Church 8:00 pm — Examination			
					Servant Event Okoboji	

Calvary Lutheran Church
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Bringing Faith, Hope, & Strength to All Christ's

Developing Empathy For Those Suffering From Addiction by Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT

(Continued from pg.10) a Catholic nun who worked with impoverished Indian orphans. She has said, "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat." People are hungry for compassion, for understanding, for caring. There is much more to professional therapy than expressing empathy. But without empathy, you won't get very far as a therapist. So as therapists, we borrow our clients' lenses to see their struggles. Then we lend them our lens to see beyond the dead-end or pit they see themselves in. Our lens is the lens of hope and resolution. Once we see clearly where someone is, empathy is developed further by reaching out to help another. This is exemplified by the Samaritan. He didn't simply sit next to the beaten man and say, "I too know what it is like to feel broken." He did something about the other person's brokenness. And who among us are the broken

and beaten that we walk by?

Developing Empathy for those Suffering

For many, it is those who suffer silently with addiction, either their own or that of a loved one. Through empathy we will know exactly what the other person needs, especially those who struggle with addiction: a friend to call when the temptation to use grows to be too much, someone to attend an AA meeting with, or a pastor to confess to. It might be simply a smile or kind word. Or, it might be information about needed resources. Other times, it might involve boundaries to not enable addictive behaviors. Lastly, when we struggle with knowing how best to help, empathy is enhanced through a prayer to understand another's feelings and how best to help. God knows all that is happening with the person we are seeking to help. We can ask Him to help us hear that person's heart and guide our work together.

SIouxLAND LUTHERAN HISPANIC MINISTRY



Speaking about the Lord of Life who opens door

PRAYERS

+ For our members that they may guide their families to Christ.

+ For the open doors to share the Gospel in our daily lives.

+ For those looking for work that they have the resources they need for their families.

+ For the call process that God send us the worker that He has prepared.

+ For the leaders of the world that they allow Christ's Word to be proclaimed and taught in their countries.

+ For immigrants in all the world that they may find a place to live and have Christ in their lives and homes.



GOD OPENS DOORS ** Mark 16:2-4

² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

The women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with the spices that they had prepared. On the way, they realized that they had a problem. They remembered the large stone which was placed in front of the entrance to the tomb. Who will roll the stone away? They did not have the strength to move it. No one else was with them to help (or so they thought). Soon enough, they saw that God had already resolved the problem. The stone had been removed by an angel (of which we read in Matthew's Gospel). Underlying this problem was another more serious problem: their teacher Jesus had died and was buried in the tomb. Surprise! God had already resolved this problem. Jesus was alive and had left the tomb. The angel said, "He has risen... just as he told you."

We rejoice in our problem-solving God who arranged everything and solved the greatest problem of all: sin and its consequence of death. His Son won for all people the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to life eternal just as He said He would. No other problem is greater, and no other being could resolve it. We thank God for that Good News and the hope that He has given us. He helps us in our problems, "removes stones" that are in our way, reveals His resurrected Son

Supporting Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Thank you to the many congregations and individuals who have supported us over the years. Your generosity has allowed us to continue our ministry of reaching our Hispanic neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The work will continue through the members of the Siouxland Churches along with Pastor Henry Witte, who will serve as the vacancy pastor until a new worker arrives.

Donations may be sent to:

*Hope Lutheran
Hispanic Ministry*

*218 W. 18th St.
South Sioux City,
NE 68776*

to us, and helps us to share that Good News to others. As Paul wrote to the Colossians: *“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...” (Col. 4:3)*

OUR APOLOGIES

Due to some difficulties with our mailing list, many did not receive this newsletter in the past months. We have resolved this problem and offer to send you any previous editions at your request.

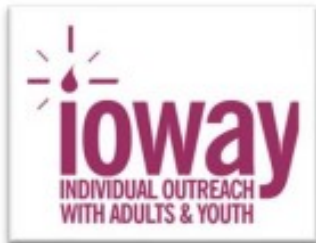
CALL FOR A NEW HISPANIC PASTOR

Pastor Carlos has declined the call to serve the Siouxland Hispanic Ministry. Our committee will continue the process of calling a worker for this ministry. May our Lord of the harvest send workers into His harvest.

MULTICULTURAL FAIR



The 2024 Siouxland Multicultural Fair was held in Sioux City on March 17, and the Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry participated with a booth. Volunteers Diane Harris and Denny and Julie Barto (members of Calvary) shared information about the mission and work of the Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry, from knowing Jesus to participating in ESL and citizenship classes. Sharing Jesus is about developing relationships and planting seeds. We pray that God will work in the hearts of all who attended this event.



Julie Mann
IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
julie@iowadistrictwest.org
515-408-9696

There is a verse in Acts that is very familiar to most of us. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). It is a wonderful verse indeed, however I found out in researching a bit deeper, that I have been not only saying it incorrectly but also attributing it to the wrong person for my entire life. I used to say “better” rather than “more blessed,” which I think are definitely different, and I thought Jesus said it, but in fact it was Paul after learning Jesus’ ways and in speaking to the elders in Ephesus.

It, however, is based on many of Jesus’ words to take care of the people around us and to shine the light of Christ by reaching out and using the talents and gifts He gives to each of us. Recently, one of our district congregations emailed me asking about specific needs that IOWAY was connecting with, and their endowment committee was able to give a gift which helped outreach in four different partnerships. That was definite cause for thanksgiving!

Another blessing was connecting with many other (mostly Lutheran) Christians on the campus of Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix for the Best Practices for Ministry (BPM) annual conference. Over 225 speakers donated their time to share their wins and missteps, encourage others in ministry avenues, and to exchange ideas to better help reach out within our communities with the love of Jesus Christ. It’s a place for lay people and professional church workers to get refilled, both physically and spiritually.

It does feel blessed to give! In my role, I also get to enjoy being the messenger with those gifts (of all kinds) that you share, passing them on to their intended recipients. Thank you for entrusting me with that.

Here are a few of the vendors from BPM that may be helpful resources for you and your congregational groups:

Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org

- (books, music, Bible studies, church supplies, educational materials)

Actually Fun www.actuallyfun.com

- Resources for youth leaders, curriculum, connecting with and beyond the games

1000 Young Leaders www.1kyl.org

- 21-36 year olds who want to be part of lay leadership and desire to grow their faith

Visual Faith Ministry www.visualfaithmin.org

- Connecting to God’s Word in a kinesthetic and visual way (projects, Bible journaling, worship resources)

Red Letter Living www.redletterchallenge.com

- Discipleship challenges all laid out for you (adult, youth, and kid materials)

**MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



Rev. Paul Nelson and Family
Southeast Asia
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
1 PM

Rev. Herb & Markie Burch
Belize
Saturday, April 20, 2024
1 PM



Rev. Jerry Lawson and Family
Riga, Latvia
Saturday, April 27, 2024
1 PM

Rev. Chris Tiews and Family
Leipzig, Germany
Saturday, May 4, 2024
1 PM

