



Because
You
Matter

September 17, 2020

Greetings Calvary Family. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I hope you are safe and well, and making the best of these frustrating and challenging times. Daily I see how God is at work in our midst, growing the church even now, and seeing us through the challenges and uncertainties resulting from this pandemic. While much has changed, the fundamentals of our faith in Jesus Christ have not, and I am unwavering in my belief that God is good - all the time!!

You are in my prayers constantly, and I miss you! While it has been good to see some of you in the parking lot or at various small group prayer or serving events in the past weeks, it has been quite a while since we have all been able to freely gather in person. Unfortunately, this is a reality that will probably not be changing completely very soon, even as we continue to open our facilities gradually this fall. We are nonetheless "better together" as God's people, even on Zoom, and we continue to fervently reach out to our hurting world with the love and peace of Jesus in creative ways. Please continue to share with us your needs and ideas for ministry, and engage as much as you can in our ministries. I am especially excited about our *40Days - Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace* spiritual growth journey, and I can't wait to see how God will use it to grow us as individuals and as a family of faith in Clarkston, White Lake, Pontiac, Lapeer, Pinckney, and far beyond!

As you know, Calvary has never been closed and our ministry has continued to expand these past months largely online. Now we are carefully returning to some more in-person opportunities as well. I know that we are each at various places regarding our perceptions and comfort levels about the threat of the virus and the important safety protocols we have, by necessity, implemented to keep you and our community as safe as we possibly can. I so appreciate your willingness to abide by our safety protocols whenever you are present on any of our campuses. This is one of most important things we can do to keep moving forward in reopening our facilities, and in following Jesus' command to love others and Paul's admonition in *Philippians 2: Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

As we return to offering more in-person worship and groups, I want to assure you that we will continue a strong online ministry presence as well. I do not want anyone to feel any pressure to return to in-person gatherings before they are ready, and for some that could be quite a while. For as long as it takes, we will do everything we can to stay connected with you and fully engaged in growing together in faith, both online and in-person. I also trust that you will continue to be patient, understanding, and very flexible as we move forward, knowing that at any time our plans might need to be altered for the sake of safety, the best utilization of resources (time, personnel, funds, etc.), and to ensure the greatest impact and reach of our life-giving and world-transforming ministries. Thank you so very much for your continued prayers and generous support during this unprecedented time!

On the back of this letter you will find our current Fall Worship and Ministry Plan. This is a plan that we will revise as needed and as new opportunities become possible. In the meantime, it is a way forward, that helps us gather in multiple ways as safely as possible. The second sheet in this mailing is the latest version of Calvary's safety protocols. Please take a few minutes to thoughtfully and prayerfully review both the plan and the protocols. Please also let me know if you have any additional thoughts or questions. I am eager to be with you online and/or in-person, and I hope you will continue to share our faith in Jesus and invite others to join with us as we move into these *40Days - Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*, and all that the future will hold.

In Christ's Service - Blessed to Be a Blessing!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jonathan A. Heierman".

Pastor Jonathan A. Heierman
Senior Pastor

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston MI 48346 • 9101 Highland Road, White Lake MI 48386 • 267 Ferry Avenue, Pontiac MI 48341
248.625.3288 • fax 248.625.3625 • CalvaryInfo.org • GoodNews@Calvary-Lutheran.org

CALVARY FAMILY OF CHURCHES

Christ the King Lutheran Church • Lapeer, MI • CTKLapeer.com • Shalom Lutheran Church • Pinckney, MI • ShalomLife.org

Calvary-Clarkston Fall Worship & Ministry Plan - September 2020

This plan will remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances and may be revised at any time. It will change if Michigan goes backward in phases, the state issues specific directives impacting our plan, or we have a spike in cases or a specific outbreak in Clarkston or at Calvary. This plan is contingent on our region of Michigan being in phase 4 or above and will also change if Calvary's current COVID-19 protocols are not consistently and conscientiously followed by all leaders and participants during worship and other ministry activities.

Sunday, September 20 - 40Days Begins

- 9:30am Online Live Stream Worship
- 11am In-Person Parking Lot FM Worship. Worship will be led from inside the Worship Center and broadcast to the parking lot through our local FM radio station. Pastor(s) and/or other leaders will greet and be present outside as available before, during, and after worship.
- 11am PILOT In-Person Indoor Worship with 50-person pre-registration only limit

Beginning Sunday, September 27

- **Sunday 9:30am Online Live Stream Worship**
- **Sunday 11am Outdoor In-Person Parking Lot FM Worship.** Worship will be led from inside the Worship Center and broadcast to the parking lot through our local FM radio station. Pastor(s) and/or other leaders will greet and be present outside as available before, during, and after worship. Parking Lot Worship will continue into the fall as long as participation warrants.
- **Sunday 11am Indoor In-Person Modern Worship.** Preregistration of up to 1/4 of worship center seating capacity (up to 75 people including pastors, musicians, other assistants, etc.). Prior registration required - only if capacity limits are not met through preregistration will those not preregistered be accommodated.
- **Sunday 4pm Indoor In-Person Traditional Worship.** Preregistration of up to 1/4 of worship center seating capacity (up to 75 persons including pastors, musicians, other assistants, etc.). Prior registration required - only if capacity limits are not met through preregistration will those not preregistered be accommodated.
- **Midweek Small Group Indoor In-Person Prayer & Holy Communion.** Groups of 10 or less, including leader(s) will meet in the Worship Center on **Tuesdays at 4pm and Thursdays at 10am.** Prior registration required - only if capacity limits are not met through preregistration will those not preregistered be accommodated. While all are welcome, these brief services are designed especially for vulnerable people or those uncomfortable with larger in-person worship gatherings.
- Indoor In-Person Special Worship Events (Baptisms, Confirmation, 1st Communion, weddings, funerals, etc.) with up to 1/4 of worship center seating capacity (up to 75 persons including pastors, musicians, other assistants, etc.). Preregistration encouraged when possible. We will accommodate persons not preregistered on a first come, first seated basis, and will seek to make additional auxiliary seating areas available as needed.
- Outdoor In-Person community service, small group, and special events of up to 100 persons with registration encouraged.
- Indoor In-Person Small Group gatherings of about 10 people, including leaders - prior registration is required.

Additional Considerations

- Self-serve individual Communion packets will be distributed with wine or juice and gluten free options available
- Singing and congregational responses will be limited during in-person worship at this time.
- Ushers will seat people according to distancing protocols and Communion will be received while seated.
- As needed, auxiliary seating areas (such as the Fellowship Hall) or additional worship opportunities will be provided according to demand or in response to varying comfort levels. We will continue to offer high quality Online Live Stream Worship for those not yet comfortable with returning in person, and for anyone, anywhere, at any time.
- It is important to help all feel connected and involved, either in-person or online. Congregational contact and communication efforts will be further enhanced to ENGAGE all.
- We will ensure that all staff/leaders are generally not present at the same time in an effort to limit the potential impact that a COVID-19 exposure would have on our ability to continue worship and other ministry activities.
- 40 Days Growth Groups with 4 options - 1) online; 2) in-person up to about 10; 3) a hybrid that meets both in-person and online at the same time; and 4) a pod of established and regularly gathering persons meeting in-person in a home (applies to other small groups too). Meeting outdoors also remains an option as long as weather allows.
- Engaging children effectively so they stay with parents and do not run or congregate.
- Youth & Family Ministry to begin online this fall and will determine, with schools, when/how to move to in-person.
- BOTH/AND is the "new normal" as we seek to offer both in-person and online options for our ministries. This will continue going forward even after pandemic times.
- HVAC fans to run continuously and finer filters to be installed to limit spread by airborne aerosols.
- We will continue to seek safe and creative uses for our facilities during these times - for example, to assist Clarkston Community Schools with space needs as they reopen, provide space for pods of online students/families, other ideas?