

# CALVARY'S CROSSROADS



DECEMBER 2011

www.CLChurch.org

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## Special Points of Interest

- *St. Nicholas Day Celebration*
- *Holiday Giving*
- *Book Discussion*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

*"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest..."*

Many of us have often recited this line at the beginning of meals. In the blessing of food, beverage, and community we invite Jesus to come and be present among us. Come and be our guest, we pray.

As we enter this season of Advent, this simple invitation in prayer becomes our yearning, our longing, our pleading, and our greatest hope. We long for God in Jesus to come and be present in the connections forged, the blessings poured out, and most especially in the reshaping of broken hearts, or wounded lives, and an aching world.

The images we hear and share for the season are varied—even in the scriptures we read and expound.

Jesus coming on clouds

with trumpets blaring.

The Kingly messiah coming

to rescue a broken land  
living through famine and  
occupation.

The great shepherd coming  
to gather the sheep.

The anointed coming and calling  
forth righteousness, justice,  
and peace.

The one foretold by John the  
Baptizer, who will come  
to baptize with holy fire.

The song of the world being  
turned upside down  
by God's coming presence.

Then Christmas arrives. We come together as a community and bring these images, words, and hopes to a manger. We allow our dreams to be dashed—again! The way that God shows up doesn't meet the hype created. Sure, there may be a beautiful choral piece and a harp, but not the clouds and trumpet fanfare. There may be stuffed or, even in some places, real sheep, but still not all of God's people seem fully gathered together and following the same shepherd. There may even be a Christmas offering given to help those in greatest need, but the world still doesn't seem very right, or just, or peaceful. Yet, we pray, come Lord Jesus.

This season of deep promise claims us, broken dreams and all, to draw close to God. And it is not about the grandiose, but rather about encountering God in and through the simple, the broken, the seemingly unimportant.

Advent is very likely my favorite season. There is something powerful to me about God present, yet still to be revealed; of hurt that finds balm in unexpected places; of the deep longing for community that gets all muddled up and includes me...alongside an unwed mother, a group of stinky shepherds, astrologers who bear useless gifts, a bewildered adoptive father, and messengers who sing praises above, and other varied and wonderful folks; of believing that in the midst of despair,

*continued on page two*

Calvary Lutheran Church  
is in the city for good!  
Progressive, Christ-centered  
community called to radically welcome all  
Vibrantly worship God  
Faithfully work for peace and justice  
in our neighborhood and world



*...it is about encountering God  
in and through the simple,  
the broken, the seemingly  
unimportant..*

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## CALVARY'S CROSSROADS

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

poverty and war there is a promise for holy renewal; and that there are songs that lift our hearts to hope.

It is for these reasons and more that I pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." I'm not one to hang my hat on the triumphant vision of Jesus coming on clouds, but I do know that Christ will enter our world again each day filled with grace and truth. Advent reminds us of that. It challenges our expectations and centers us again in a God who is deeply embedded in our lives and hopes—incarnate!

So, again this year we say, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest." And in subtle and not-so-subtle ways we catch sightings of the Holy.

May we truly take the time to pull up a chair to our figurative tables and welcome the guest who will change, challenge, and claim us again in love beyond all measure.

With Advent blessings!  
Pr. Brad

### GRACE OF SILENCE BOOK DISCUSSION

In January Calvary members will gather for a facilitated discussion of the book *Grace of Silence*, written by Minneapolis Native and NPR reporter Michelle Norris. In part, this book is about the experience of an African American family being the first to integrate a block in South Minneapolis near Calvary. The 1st chapter can be downloaded at <http://oneminneapolisoneread.com/> at no charge. There are also several copies available at the Minneapolis Public Library.

Calvary members are encouraged to begin reading the book. Below is an excerpt from *The Grace of Silence*:

*I always knew I was shaped by my parents' expectations and the advice they doled out. What I did not realize until recently is that I was also shaped by the weight of their silence. I now understand that I was molded in myriad ways by those things they never talked about but that nonetheless dictated how they lived their lives. Silence, I learned, had its rewards... and its costs.*

*I hope The Grace of Silence encourages people to think about their own complex family legacies and to consider a core question: How well do we really know the people who raised us?*

### WOMEN'S GATHERING

This is a monthly gathering of women of all ages for conversation and fellowship.

Please join us Monday, December 12 at Judith Anderson's home at 7 pm. RSVP to Judith for directions--phone 612.871.9082 or email [jaawdc@hotmail.com](mailto:jaawdc@hotmail.com)

### GIVING OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Crossroads and Calvary are coordinating a gift drive for individuals and families in need this holiday season. We are excited to report that we received a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans-Care in Community Abounds grant to help us serve more people this year!

#### The following are community giving opportunities for you at Calvary:

1. Pick an ornament off the Blessing Tree December 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>. Individuals have been identified and their suggestions for gifts are on the ornaments. Bring the wrapped gifts to church December 18<sup>th</sup> with the ornament attached. **NOTE:** Attach gift receipt to item, if appropriate.
2. Bake cookies and package a dozen in a re-sealable bag and bring to church on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Carole Chalman for details. Cookies are for the Aliveness Project.
3. Contribute children's mittens and scarves to the Blessing Tree.
4. Purchase a "POP TOP" bracelet and benefit two causes:
  - \* \$5.00 donation to go into Beechwood's Client Emergency Assistance Fund
  - \* Bracelet to be given to a student in UAA's program.

## CALVARY'S CROSSROADS

### EL MILAGRO UPDATE

On Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, Calvary and El Milagro joined together in an "Almost Hallow's Eve" celebration. There was a great potluck, get-to-know-you activities, music, trick-or-treating, a costume parade and more. It was a great way to learn more about one another.

The hope had also been to have an event, perhaps Las Posadas, in December. However, there is so much going on that we are going to hold off on this and plan for more activities in the New Year.

The current plan is that El Milagro's final service in their building will be on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>--Christmas Eve. They will then be taking a short sabbatical and will begin worshipping at Calvary on Sunday, January 8, at 12:00 p.m.

Over the course of the next month or two here are some things to expect:

1) Pastor Judith will begin moving into the office that was formerly the church administrator's office (Mary Gail's office) in December. She will be having office hours at Calvary and will be giving tours of the building to folks from El Milagro.

2) Members of El Milagro and Calvary will be meeting and going over inventories and needs. These folks will decide what, from El Milagro, may be good additions to our joint space. We may be moving dishes, pianos, worship items, etc.

3) El Milagro is in conversation with Luther Seminary Archives about what will go into their storage (old church records, and other miscellaneous items). Other significant items will be brought to Calvary.

4) Worship & Spiritual Care will begin preparing the worship space for joint worship in January.

Beyond these items, on Sundays in January we will begin living into our shared space. Calvary worship will be starting promptly at 10:15 a.m. so that we can end by 11:30 or shortly thereafter. El Milagro will start their worship at 12:00 p.m. Also, meeting space will be shared, so if your task force or committee is meeting, please remember to reserve space with Mary Gail.

There will be more updates soon!

### FUND RAISER UPDATE

Thank you for your support in the recent fund raiser held at the Huff's home on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for Calvary's Emergency Food Shelf. \$3,865.36 was raised! Once matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is received, the total will increase by \$1,000!

Thank you to everyone for your share in helping this effort be such a success!

### BIKER FRIENDLIER!

Thanks to Property Committee and M.I.C.A.H. who saw bikes being chained around the building -- on railings, wires et cetera. They took the initiative to get three bike racks -- a large one in the back parking lot and two smaller racks in front near the sign.

This work was done with matching grants from the City of Minneapolis.

We are now even more biker friendly.

**CALVARY'S CROSSROADS**

**WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER**

	<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	Lisa Negstad	Nancy Lee Nelson	Jennifer McCarthy	Chris Robson	Ramona Starks
<b>Acolyte</b>	Eric Paulsrud	Irv Elliott	Ramona Starks	Nancy Lee Nelson	Jeri Schultz
	Karen Rudrud	Danielle Hill	Kendra McCarthy	Michael Weber	Judi Linder
<b>Lector</b>	Beth Lewis	Josh Moberg	Megan Hertzler	Karen Rudrud	Chris Robson
<b>Usher</b>	Pam Tilseth	Stacia Wick Ingrid Ebbesen			
<b>Sacristan</b>	Melissa Brooks	Steve McCarthy	Steve McCarthy	Felecia Boone	Felecia Boone
<b>Sound Board</b>	George Robson	Mary Nelson	Gary Nelson	Karen Nelson	Mary Nelson
<b>Nursery</b>	Adam Mohr	Anders Davidson	Josh Moberg	xx	Gary Nelson
	Teri Schweizer	Sarah Lahr	Sarah Zeigler	xx	Nicole Falk
<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	***	***	Amy Knowlen	xx	***

**IN OUR PRAYERS**



For members and friends of our congregation with celebrations, losses, or health needs, including: Gladys, Edie, DeAnn, Doris, Suzie, Geoffrey, Pat, Fred, Aria, Matt, Art, Kim, Keith, Paul, Linda, Lisa, Cassidy, Annabelle, Doug, Jan, and Lynn.

**ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION**

\*\*\* Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Saturday, December 3rd  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Children of all ages are invited to join us to make lefse, treats, crafts & other goodies in celebration of St. Nicholas Day (which is December 6th). The festivities will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

**DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS**



*No matter how many candles are on your cake - may all your wishes come true!*

**Happy Birthday**

Soren Davidson	12/2/02	Gladys Robson	12/17
Neeve McCarthy	12/4/02	Samuel Falk	12/19/09
Alissa Frost	12/6	Livia Van Horne	12/22
Maranda Segelstrom	12/6/05	Dick Peik	12/26
Judie Mattison	12/9	Judy Askelson	12/29
Emma Robson	12/13/07	Keely Stanford	12/31
Darold Luze	12/17		

**Anniversary Wishes**



Damon Van Duzen  
& Loren Woodman  
December 19<sup>th</sup>

Donna & James Neubauer  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

Robert & Linda Bowers  
December 30<sup>th</sup>

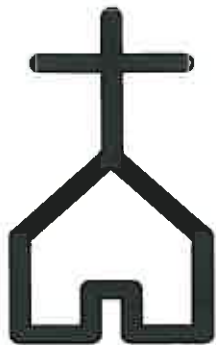
## CALVARY'S CROSSROADS

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE IN NOVEMBER

Education classes begin  
at 9:00 a.m.

Worship service  
begins at 10:15 a.m.

*Everyone  
is welcome at  
Calvary!*



*In the City  
for Good!*

### WEEKLY WORSHIP TEXTS

#### December 4

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
II Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

#### December 18

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

#### December 11

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
I Thess. 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20

#### December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:1-20

### DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

**Thursday, December 1**  
Church Council  
6:00 p.m.

**Monday, December 5**  
Social Justice Steering  
Committee  
6:30 p.m.

Crossroads Community  
Organization  
6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 8**  
Urban Arts Academy Board  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 13**  
Worship & Committee  
6:30 p.m.

**Monday, December 19**  
Mission Support Committee  
9:00 a.m.

Education Committee  
6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 20**  
Property Committee  
6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, January 12**  
M.I.C.A.H. Committee  
8:00 a.m. at Augustana Apts.



### DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Calvary Choir rehearsals  
meet each Wednesday, at  
6:30 p.m.

Calvary Children's Choir  
rehearses each Thursday  
from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Miriam Circle meets the first  
Tuesday morning of the  
month in the Fellowship Hall

Needlework Group meets  
the 1st & 3rd Monday from  
6:30 - 8 p.m. in the Narthex

Urban Arts Academy  
Pre-School meet Monday  
through Friday from 9 a.m.  
to 4 p.m.

Urban Arts Academy  
School-age meet Monday  
through Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.

Encore! & Twin Cities  
Women's Choir rehearses  
here on Wednesday eve-  
nings, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

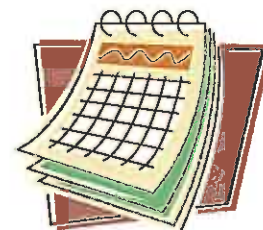
Our Emergency Food Shelf  
is open Saturdays from 9:00  
a.m. until noon.

GBI Minnesota, an Indone-  
sian congregation, meets in  
our chapel Sunday morning.

Twin Cities Metro Bagpipers  
meet Thursday evenings.

BeechWood, Inc. rents  
office space here and has  
various group meetings  
here.

Kim Tong Translators,  
Theatre Pro Rata, Masons  
and Eastern Stars rent space  
for their rehearsals or meet-  
ings.



*Community  
Partners*

## CALVARY'S CROSSROADS

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and explore the lands of the Bible up close and personal with seasoned tour hosts and guides. There is no more spiritually uplifting experience than to visit the site of Jesus' baptism and share communion at the site of the Empty Tomb.

You will be inspired and amazed as you take in the sights and sounds of the Holy Land -- ancient and modern. Join us for a special pilgrimage of faith that may well be for you the opportunity of a lifetime.

**June 8 - 12, 2012**                      12 days

Hosted by Rev. Rick Rouse, Beth Lewis and  
Rev. Ryan Rouse

### HOLIDAY BASKETS

Quilts, Afghans, Throws

Babies -- Adults



**Wanted** for holiday baskets  
**by December 16**

**Bring to:** The Aliveness Project  
730 E. 38th Street  
Minneapolis, MN

Call **612-824-5433**  
for more information

Make this holiday season brighter  
for people affected by HIV/AIDS

### HOLDEN VILLAGE TRIP OUR SAVIOUR'S INITIATIVE- INVITING COLLABORATING CONGREGATIONS

Folks at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church are organizing a trip to Holden Village in the summer, 2012. They will be at Holden from July 28-August 4<sup>th</sup>; transportation time on both sides. They currently have around 40 people interested in participating, and are excited to also welcome folks from Calvary and Bethel to join the adventure.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact either the office at Our Saviour's or our shared Children's, Youth, Family Minister Sandy Troyan.

### THRIVENT MEMBERS

Remember your fund raiser or service project can get Thrivent funding! Let's help our community as much as we can.

Please contact Nicole Falk if you have questions about this opportunity.

### THANK YOU!

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church:

We deeply appreciate your congregation's support. Thank you so much for your gift of \$235. Your gift will touch the lives of the many older adults to whom we provide health care, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Augustana Care continues to address the ever-changing needs of our aging community, advocate for elders and improve quality of life for those who have given so much of themselves. Thank you so much for your role in our pursuit.

Sincerely,

Kay Gudmestad  
VP of Fund Development  
Augustana Care

## ILLUMINATIONS CONCERT



Tickets are now on sale for the Twin Cities Women's Choir Illuminations Concert being held at Calvary on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Join us for an afternoon of reflective celebration of the transformation from darkness to light.

Identical concerts at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. are followed by receptions in the Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are available at the choir's website: [www.twincitieswomenschoir.org](http://www.twincitieswomenschoir.org) or by calling 612-333-8292.



## INVOCATION CONCERT

Join a *cappella* vocal ensemble **InVocation** for their 2011 Christmas Concert series called *Carols at the Spinet...and the Dulcimer....and the Djembe*, benefitting the Emergency Food shelf Network.

The concert is designed to wrap you in the aural equivalent of comfort food..with a little spice thrown in! Almost everything in this concert has likely been sung in a living room somewhere in the world; in fact, we'll have a sing-along of our own, joined by harpist Tonya Anderson.

Concerts take place Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>; Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. See the poster on the bulletin board for locations and times. You can also visit their website: [InVocationSingers.org](http://InVocationSingers.org) or talk to Daniel Pederson for more details.

### Schedule of Services

Sunday, December 4 <sup>th</sup> Worship.....	10:15 a.m.
Sunday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> Worship.....	10:15 a.m.
Sunday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> Worship.....	10:15 a.m.
Saturday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve service.....	5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 25 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Day worship service.....	10:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> Worship.....	10:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 8 <sup>th</sup> Worship.....	10:15 a.m.
El Milagro's First Worship at Calvary.....	noon
Children's Epiphany Pageant.....	4:00 p.m.