



## A Subversive God

August 2017

On Sunday, July 30, I preached on the Gospel text for the day – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. Jesus tells five little parables about the reign (kingdom) of heaven. One parable is only a single verse (vs. 33): *The reign of heaven is like yeast which a woman hid in three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.* The subversive aspect of these parables is most obvious here. The image of yeast for those who first heard these parables was not little packets of yeast like we may keep in our refrigerators today. Rather, as one commentator writes, yeast then was more like “a rotting, molding lump of bread.” Yeast (leaven) in the Bible is usually a negative image representing bad influence or corruption. Yeast is forbidden in favor of unleavened bread in the Jewish Passover meal. And Biblical priests and the religious leaders of Jesus’ day were all men. Yet here Jesus likens the reign of heaven to yeast, that a woman did what with? Not “mixed in” (as the NRSV translation we usually read says), but “hid in” or “concealed in” an enormous amount of flour. This was a subversive act!

Subversion does not just mean insurrection, revolution or overthrowing governments. “Subvert” is from the Latin “sub” – “from below” and “vertere” – “to turn”. “To turn from below” can be subtle, quiet, hidden. Good parenting is subversive at times. One of the meanings of subvert is “to undermine the power and authority of an established system”. Think how we as parents try to undermine the power and authority of some of the negative influences from culture, from certain peers, and from the insecurities and, at times, fragile self-esteem and confidence in our children’s lives. How do we attempt to do this? By giving them positive experiences and opportunities whenever and however we can in music, sports, art, camps, church youth trips, Scouts, etc.

Think of the subversive impact of the unfiltered Word planted in Martin Luther and the other reformers through Scripture which launched a movement in 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe that could not be restrained and continues today.

I think there is something subversive about an intentional interim time in a congregation when both the interim pastor and congregational leaders make the most of it. The interim pastor’s role includes respectfully holding a mirror that allows the congregation to take a fresh and realistic look at themselves. Then they can assess where things really are today. Alban Institute research says that congregations in interim times tend to be “unstuck” in ways that free them to look at themselves and assess their future in a fresh way. And courageous leaders can then take that assessment and reorient the congregation’s future direction with appropriate steps.

Such seems to be the case for Calvary now. The future will probably look very different than what some have imagined. And yet the point is that there can be a future! Where God’s reign takes hold, it takes on a life of its own and may grow in ways we can’t predict or control. Even when our first reaction to something may be one of being disturbed or even shocked, among the points of the little parables in Matthew 13 is that God is a subversive God. And that’s a good thing. Often God does what we least expect, when and how we least expect it. In the language of subversion, the Spirit may intentionally destabilize, unsettle, and trouble us at times. Why? To guide us in the direction we need to walk and to shape us into the kind of joyful subversives that followers of Jesus ought to be!

With indebtedness to Luther Seminary professor Matt Skinner for his recent commentary on this text, I closed my sermon with his quote: *Preach like you know that the Holy Spirit is grinning. She is a woman striding through in the shadows with flour residue on her hands, twittering to herself, “They’ll never know what him ‘em!”*

What a subversive woman. What a subversive God.

– Pastor Bruce

## AUGUST WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
<b>Ass't Minister</b>	Linda Mundt	Joani Moberg	Emilie Bouvier	Lisa Negstad
<b>Acolytes</b>	Pat Olson Connor Swearingin	Jeri Schultz Irv Elliott	Karen Rudrud Benji Huff	
<b>Lector</b>		Alli Zeigler	Daniel Huff	Felecia Boone
<b>Sacristan</b>	Sam Robson	Sam Robson	Anne Boone	Anne Boone
<b>Sound Board</b>	Neeve McCarthy	Lydia Huff	Gary Nelson	
<b>Coffee Hour</b>				
<b>Counters</b>	Mary Nelson Marilyn Holm	Pat Olson Gary Nelson	Joanne Shepherd Kathleen Gohlke	Michael Weber Jeri Schultz
<b>Food Shelf</b>	Aug. 12 Judith Glass Michael Weber	Aug. 19 Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	Aug. 26 Marilyn Holm Gary Thorn	Sept. 2 Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz

## August Celebrations

### Birthdays

8/2 - Noah Haugstad  
8/3 - Hans Nestingen  
8/5 - Anne Boone  
8/6 - Melissa Brooks  
8/10 - Josh Hill  
8/11 - Ramona Starks  
8/14 - Jeremy Shepherd  
8/14 - Holly Wiedenhoef  
8/15 - Beth Lewis

8/20 - Marcia Haugstad  
8/23 - Emilie Bouvier  
8/23 - Nancy Lee Nelson  
8/25 - Jessy Fabel  
8/25 - Alexander Knowlen  
8/26 - Anders Davidson  
8/30 - Linda Mundt  
8/31 - Josh Moberg

### Anniversaries

8/2 - Daniel & Laura Huff  
8/8 - Robbi Bergan &  
Elaine Christopher  
8/9 - Adam & Saanii Mohr  
8/16 - Kat & Chelsie  
Hansen-Stratton  
8/18 - Jennifer & Steve McCarthy  
8/24 - Geneva Finn & Justin Boeke  
8/28 - Danielle & Josh Hill

## THE MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

### Our Saviour's Community Services

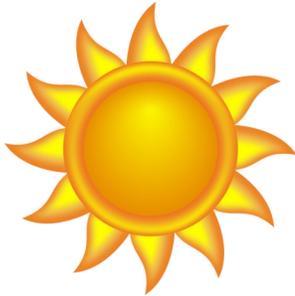
Our Saviour's Community Services walks with people in community in the heart of Philips, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in South Minneapolis.

We provide dignified shelter and housing for single adults and English language classes to immigrants and refugees through our two programs – Our Saviour's Housing and the English Learning Center.



## MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Thurs. Aug. 3 - 6:30 p.m.	Corn Feed Planning
Mon. Aug. 7 - 6:00 p.m.	Mission Support
Mon. Aug. 14 - 5:30 p.m.	Monthly Community Meal
Mon. Aug. 14 - 6:30 p.m.	Committees (Race Equity, Property, Education, Worship)
Mon. Aug. 21 - 6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee
Mon. Aug. 28 - 6:30 p.m.	Council



## WORSHIP OUTDOORS IN THE COURTYARD - AUGUST 6

Outdoor Worship on Sunday, August 6th at 10am. We will be gathering in the courtyard. Bring your favorite lawn chair. Treats will be provided following worship.



# FREE

**CORN & HOT DOGS  
ART ACTIVITIES &  
ENTERTAINMENT  
FOR ALL AGES**

## 37TH ANNUAL CORN FEED &

**ARTiCAN**  
URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL

# 3901 CHICAGO AVE S AUG 13 3:00 - 6:00 PM

For info about volunteering at the Corn Feed,  
please contact us at [cornfeedvol@gmail.com](mailto:cornfeedvol@gmail.com).

**EVENT HOSTED BY CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
URBAN ARTS ACADEMY  
I. F. & A. M. MASONS, INC. & THE O. E. S.**

All are invited to this year's  
**37th Annual Calvary Corn  
Feed on Sunday, August 13**  
from **3:00-6:00 p.m.**

As always, many hands make  
light work, so **WE NEED  
YOU!** Over 40 volunteers in  
various roles are needed to  
make this a successful neigh-  
borhood event. Please sign up  
in the Narthex or online:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/  
go/30E0548ADAF2FAAF94-calvary](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0548ADAF2FAAF94-calvary)

We look forward to seeing you  
at this year's Calvary Corn  
Feed!

Calvary members are encour-  
aged to bring school supplies  
which will be given away at the  
Corn Feed. Items brought on  
Sunday may be left in the nar-  
thex and they will be secured  
until Aug. 13, or bring them on  
Aug. 13 to cut down on the  
need for secure storage.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

You may have noticed as a community Calvary has been going through a lot of change lately! This, together with how quickly our world seems to be changing, can feel overwhelming. Add to this periods of personal change in our own lives – which are a fact of life, whether it's watching our children grow or our loved ones age, job or housing transitions or all of the above – and we have a lot going on.

At our July 24 Calvary Church Council meeting, Felecia Boone led us in a discussion about how we can more effectively communicate and navigate through times of change. She has practical experience to offer. To that end, Felecia is organizing a fall series on facing change during the Adult Education hour. Together we will explore questions like:

- How can we face change with more grace?
- How can we build Christian resilience and live more like Christ as we go through change?
- What opportunities does change offer to us to grow spiritually to grow closer to God?
- How can we grow closer as a community through these times of change?

As congregational leaders, members of the Council are committed to this series and invite you to join us. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any Council member with any questions or concerns.

Grace and peace,  
Lars Negstad, President

### GROWING IN OUR GENEROSITY

Approaches for member and congregational giving

How did the new coach, Dave Brailsford, lead the British cycling team to a win at the Tour de France in three years when they had never had a cyclist win the race before? He used a strategy of incremental improvement, looking for 1 percent gains in a variety of areas. Instead of focusing on a result that seemed impossible, Brailsford switched the emphasis to the decisions, choices and habits that accumulate in the long run to make a significant difference.

Interested in growing giving and Mission Support? For many, the idea of tithing or something greater seems insurmountable. So, what about looking for 1 percent improvement instead?

*Submitted by the Calvary Generosity Team. Reprinted from the Summer 2017 issue of StewardNet, a publication of the ELCA for Stewardship Leaders.*



### SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR NEW CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY POSITION

The committee established to develop the job description for the new Director of Children and Youth Ministry position has completed that aspect of their task, and are now contacting seminaries, colleges, church camps, and other settings where there might be candidates interested in the position. The position is half time if taken in it's entirety, or could be two separate, smaller positions.

A link to the job description and information on applications is available at the Calvary website, [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org) in the "What's New at Calvary" section. Feel free to share this opportunity with all those in your networks. Minneapolis is a diverse and bustling metropolitan area, rich with opportunity. If additional employment is needed, it would not difficult to secure complimentary work. Ideally, we would like to fill this position with someone who can give a two-year commitment.

## SEEKING CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Growing in faith and the way we live it out is an individual and congregational endeavor. So it is with growing children and adults alike. As we look forward to the 2017-2018 school year, the Education Committee seeks adults interested in guiding Calvary's children on Sunday mornings. Specifically, there is a need for a primary or lead educator or teaching pair for ages 4-5 and grades 3-5, and alternates are welcome for all ages. The curricula are chosen; Godly Play for the young children and Sparkhouse for grades 3-5.

The commitment includes submitting to a background check, attending training, working with parents and alternates, and 1 hour each Sunday after worship as scheduled. Please contact Council representative to the Education Committee, Jennifer Halter, in person, via email at [jennifer.halter@cox.net](mailto:jennifer.halter@cox.net), or telephone the church office before August 31, 2017 if you or someone you know is interested in more information.

## CALL COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS WORK

The Calvary Call Committee has received names of candidates from the Minneapolis Area Synod. We continue to welcome your input and feedback throughout the call process. A reminder that Call Committee members must keep information about candidates and the content of meetings and interviews confidential. We remain committed to and excited about representing Calvary's hopes and dreams for our future throughout this sacred work of calling Calvary's next pastor.

Judie Mattison 952-988-6981  
 Scott Endo 612-965-4876  
 Daniel Huff 612-386-4810  
 Linda Mundt [lindaleemundt@gmail.com](mailto:lindaleemundt@gmail.com)

Anne Boone [TheQueen\\_55409@yahoo.com](mailto:TheQueen_55409@yahoo.com)  
 Danielle Hill [djlhill@gmail.com](mailto:djlhill@gmail.com)  
 Lyle Jaeger [lylej.mail@gmail.com](mailto:lylej.mail@gmail.com)  
 Stacia Wick [stacia.wick@gmail.com](mailto:stacia.wick@gmail.com)



**ISAIAH** is organizing a gathering to pursue racial justice conversation with our Hennepin County elected officials. County Commissioners, County Attorney Mike Freeman and Sheriff Stanek have been invited.



The goal of Flower Power is to collaboratively create a circular, field-sized work of art that brings attention to the devastating effects of mass incarceration on the incarcerated and their families.

## Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

### CONNECT WITH CALVARY ON THE WEB:



[www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/Inthiscityforgood>



<https://twitter.com/CalvaryMpls>

### Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

- 612-827-2504
- 612-827-0176 (fax)
- website: [www.clchurch.org](http://www.clchurch.org)

#### Ministry Staff

**Interim Pastor:** Bruce Arnevik  
[pastorbruce@clchurch.org](mailto:pastorbruce@clchurch.org)

**Music Director:** Andrea Sorum  
[andrea@clchurch.org](mailto:andrea@clchurch.org)

**Administrator:** Kurt Posz  
[office@clchurch.org](mailto:office@clchurch.org)

**Food Shelf Coordinator:**  
Henrietta Williams

#### Church Council Members

Melinda Bendix-Horn

Jennifer Halter

Tom Johnson, Treasurer

Linda Mundt

Kristy Rolig

Chris Van Meter

Interim Pastor Bruce Arnevik

Felecia Boone, Vice President

Laura Huff

Josh Moberg

Lars Negstad, President

Jeri Schultz, Secretary

Michael Weber

Kaia Zeigler

The deadline for submitting information for the  
September issue of the Calvary Newsletter is Tuesday, August 22