

A Missional Document

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
(Luke 12:34)*

This past fall, amidst the national political conversations on the United State budget, the voices sounded again, “The budget is a moral document.”

Whether it was former Clinton Advisor, Paul Begala, church leader and writer, Brian McLaren, the ELCA Bishops, or Pope Francis, there was a push to recognize that how we spend our money (our treasure) is where our heart is (morals/living).

One member of our congregation, Pastor Rick Rouse, challenges congregations across the country to share a similar line of thought with regard to church budgets. However, rather than calling it a “Moral Document” he invites congregations to think of their budgets as “Missional Documents.” Together we look at how we spend our money in order to live out God’s mission in and through us in the world.

The Executive Committee and Church Council have been working to take this call seriously and to examine our budget in light of how we are living out God’s mission at Calvary here and now. We have examined our missional goals (from our Visioning Statement) and those things that will continue to enrich, engage and challenge us as we are called to live out God’s peace and justice, grace and mercy in the church and the world.

As we prepare for our Annual Meeting in January here are some ways the community at Calvary is invited to reflect on our budget as a missional document. Your thoughts, questions, and ideas are encouraged and invited as we strive to put our treasure where our heart is.

Missional Document for Nurturing Relationships:

- This year the proposal is to maintain funds for Adult Education, Intergenerational Activities, and incorporate small group ministry. The goal is to provide more and better avenues for engagement, learning, and nurturing relationships.

Missional Document for Creation Care

- The Church Council is proposing an initial investment of approximately \$500 to have our electric power coming from wind energy. This is one small step toward looking at renewable resources and greener living.
- The Council is also working with the Property Committee to look at building improvements that will continue to move us ahead in using less power—LED lights, light sensors, weather stripping. This is part of our Property budgeting as we move forward. (This past year we replaced steam traps and received a green energy rebate.)

Missional Document for Justice

- The Race Equity Team has requested becoming a committee (to be voted on at the annual meeting with the Bylaw changes) and to have a budget of \$1750. These funds will be used to bring in guest speakers and educators; provide opportunities for learning and assessment; connect with others doing this work.
- Creating a formal relationship with Isaiah and making a congregational investment. Isaiah continues to be a leader in faith-based community organizing and is working on issues of immigration, worker’s compensation and rights, racial justice, care for our state.
- Social Justice will continue its support and work on the food shelf and connection with local, national, and global ministries.

Missional Document for Children, Youth, and Faith Development

- If you listen to the voices of some of our elder (and not so elder) members of our church you will certainly hear stories of the time when there was one...or maybe two...or, at most, three children in our congregation. Today we have 64 children and youth on the rolls at Calvary. Additionally, we know of several families who are interested in becoming more involved

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JANUARY WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31
Ass't Minister	Beth Pottratz	Linda Mundt	Jennifer McCarthy	Danielle Hill	Judie Mattison
Acolytes	Jeri Schultz Michael Weber	Lydia Huff Pat Olson	Rachel Bjorhus Karen Rudrud	Benjamin Huff Chris Robson	Josh Moberg Christian Moberg
Lector	Carol Ulrich	Ruth Pope	Lily Endo	Isaac Wengerd	Julie Anderson
Sacristan	Steve McCarthy	Ruth Pope	Ruth Pope	Sam Robson	Sam Robson
Sound Board	Neeve McCarthy	Gary Nelson	Sigrid Davidson	Dick Peik	Eliot Aust
Coffee Hour	Melissa Townsend Lars Negstad Hans Nestingen	Steve & Judith Glass Jaye Schaecher Nancy Wheeler	Sarah Lahr Jeremy Shepherd Ruth Pope	Rachel Bjorhus Miranda Hong Tom Johnson	Joani & Josh Moberg Jesse & Ted Fabel
Counters	Joanne Shepherd Verna Lutes	Michael Weber Jeri Schultz	Gary Nelson Ted Fabel	Mary Nelson Marilyn Holm	Pat Olson Danielle Hill
Food Shelf	(Jan. 9) Judith Glass Michael Weber	(Jan. 16) Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	(Jan. 23) Marilyn Holm Gary Thorn	(Jan. 30) Aust/lesher Family Teri Schweizer	(Feb. 6) Carol Rue Pat Olson

January Celebrations

Birthdays

1/1 - Rachel Bjorhus
1/8 - Caleb Moberg
1/10 - Lyle Jaeger
1/11 - Mona Eastman
1/12 - Shari Seifert

1/14 - Johanna Aust
1/16 - Greta Rolig
1/17 - Jeri Schultz
1/20 - Joani Moberg
1/23 - Violet Nystrom
1/26 - Melanie Jackson

1/27 - Jackson Robson
1/28 - Carolyn Youngbauer
1/31 - dorothy lesher
1/31 - Gary Nelson
1/31 - Deb Paulsrud

Bread for Communion A New Opportunity

Communion is an important aspect of life together in the church, and Calvary takes this very seriously.

Over the last several years we have asked sacristans to make or pick up bread. We then expanded to having more families in the congregation provide bread (many making it from scratch at home).

With a new bread baking and delivery family-run business starting up just two blocks from the church, we thought we would give this a try and support a local business in their new venture. If you would like to provide funds to purchase bread for communion from Laune Bread, simply make out a check to Calvary Lutheran Church with communion bread in the memo line. The cost is \$8/Sunday. You can designate the amount for which you would like to contribute for the bread.

Additionally, if you have any feedback on the bread or the system, please talk with Pastor Brad or Judith Glass, Worship & Spiritual Care Committee Chair.

Youth & Parents Planning Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 6:30 pm

Bethel Lutheran Church

For youth currently in 8th-12th grade and their parents or guardians

As we look at plans for our youth (currently in grades 8-12), we are asking youth and parents to attend a meeting on **Thursday evening, January 7, 6:30 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church**. At this meeting we will be looking at possible trips, camps, and activities for this summer and next summer—Boundary Waters trip, national or International trip, local service projects.

This is a great opportunity to meet youth and parents from Our Saviour's and Bethel and continue our work and ministry together. Please mark your calendars now! We look forward to being together in the New Year!

All Church Night - Meetings for ALL Committees

Monday, January 11

You are invited to join committee members from Calvary starting at 5:30 p.m. for a catered community meal. (There is a suggested \$5 donation, or \$15 per family to help defray the cost of the meal).

The council will meet during the meal time (5:30), with the committees meeting at 6:30. **All church committees** are schedule to meet this night, in part to prepare reports for the Annual Meeting on January 31.



EPIPHANY GENEROSITY PROJECT

Coming January 10



As you work your way through the holiday season, ask yourself some of these questions:

Did you or a family member receive a holiday gift (or buy yourself one at an After Christmas sale)?

Do you now have a gently used coat, hat, mittens, gloves, scarf, boots, shoes, blanket that you no longer need?

Would you like to donate the item to someone who needs one and can't afford to purchase it?

IF YES, please bring your gently used item(s) to Calvary on Sunday, January 10 and we will bring them to the Clothes Closet at Central Lutheran Church. All sizes for all ages needed!

If you would like to learn more about the program at Central, please check this website:

www.centralmpls.org/community-ministry/the-free-store/

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at Calvary who have children or youth and want to make sure there are strong opportunities for them to connect. The Executive Committee, in reviewing our needs, our Visioning Document, and our demographics is suggesting the addition of a part-time Children & Youth position. There is a sense that now is the time to step out in faith in this area. For this coming year we would take the first six months to be deliberate in creating the position description, getting the word out, interviewing and hiring with the goal of having someone start mid-summer. This is likely the biggest change in our budget, and one that embodies a deep sense of mission.

Missional Document for Worship & Service

- Calvary has done an incredible job over the last number of years in focus on worship and service. At this point it is felt that the budget is adequate. It is our hope to continue to look at grant opportunities and other ways to continue to enrich these areas of congregational life.

And the ways we support this Missional Document...

The Executive Committee and I have worked together to look at opportunities to reduce some expenses and have made strides.

Additionally, as we continue to work for mutual sustainability the grant amount to the Urban Arts Academy has

been slightly reduced. This has been done in consultation and work together over the last year.

And...the biggest thing to continue to move this forward is YOU. If you believe the mission of this congregation in this time is to nurture relationships, care for creation, do justice in our community and world, raise up children and youth in faith, and continue our commitment to worship and service...then you have the opportunity to vote on this missional document. If you are a member, you can vote, literally, at the annual meeting on January 31 by showing up, speaking, and casting a ballot. Members and friends can vote by making the commitment to give to the church through your offering, time, and talents. You can vote by sharing your testimony about how this work and ministry is changing you, our congregation, our community, and the world. You can invite others to be part of this work!

At the end of the day, you and I know that this is what it is all about. That God has called us in mission to worship and praise, to learn and to teach, to be servants one to another. God has given us a mission and asks us to orient our lives in ways that give life.

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Blessings in this new year as we live out God's mission in this place!

Pr. Brad

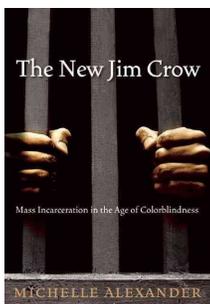
JANUARY BOOK STUDY AT CALVARY

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Author: Michelle Alexander

Book Discussion: Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. - January 7, 14, 21, & 28

And Sundays at 9:00 a.m. January 10, 17, 24, & 31 during the Adult Education hour



“Today,” says Alexander, “a criminal freed from prison has scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a freed slave or a black person living ‘free’ in Mississippi at the height of Jim Crow.”

For more about the book, visit the website: <http://www.cfij.org/new-jim-crow/>

Please sign up for the Book Study on the sheets located in the narthex on top of the new Race Equity Book Shelf. Books are available for purchase for \$15 each Sunday after the worship service.

AMAZING!



As I waited for an appointment, I glanced at the window sill in the office. There was a small plastic vase, with a white and yellow plastic flower on a green stem sticking out from the top of the vase. The small flower moved, back and forth, back and forth. Left, right, left, right. It was a welcome sight in a season of short days and long, dark nights. What was making that blossom move back and forth? It had no electric cord.

Then I realized — it was moving from the power of the sun. Solar power, right there on the window sill. Back and forth, back and forth, powered by light. Sometimes it is the simplest things that amaze us.

Our whole planet relies on the power of the light of the sun. It warms us and gives us plants. The Creator has it all coordinated — an interdependent world; sun, water, air, CO₂, plants, land, creatures of all kinds, and that small but powerful group of inhabitants, human beings. And together, it works! Usually.

There are growing complications that come from climate change and our wild insistence on using more and more petroleum and carbon products. Humans also scarf up resources and destroy species with scarcely a second thought.

So what do we do to help? Each of us is but one person. Well, perhaps we begin with the simple things. We can be amazed! Amazed by the little plastic solar flower, swaying back and forth. Thrilled by how a colony of ants cooperate and live together. And we can promise ourselves to conserve...to protect and save rather than mindlessly consume. We can value the gift of the sun's light and turn off wasted light produced by cherished natural resources. We can reduce our use of finite resources and products like paper...practice good stewardship.

Calvary is looking into how we might creatively conserve and protect the planet which is so beautifully interdependent and which sustains us. We can give the Green Team our support and encouragement. Meantime, we can stop and look at the moving solar flower. Amazing!

Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31, following worship

The Annual Meeting for our congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, January 31, 2016. There will be a potluck following worship in the fellowship hall with the Annual meeting to follow (approximately 12:00-2:00 pm). Children and Youth will be involved in a "Sleep-in Sunday" learning/service activity during the meeting time.

The purposes of the Annual meeting are:

- To receive the Program Report of the 2015 calendar year
- To approve Bylaw changes for our congregation
- To receive the Financial Report for 2015
- To approve the Congregational Budget for 2016
- To elect officers and representatives
 - ◆ Church Council Nominating Committee
 - ◆ Synod Assembly
 - ◆ Augustana Care Corporation
 - ◆ Fairview Association
 - ◆ Luther Park Bible Camp
 - ◆ Gustavus Adolphus College



Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes resume this Sunday, January 10th! 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Sunday School Curriculum Schedule 1st-3rd Grades

January 10	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Peter's Faith
January 17	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Peter's Dream
January 24	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Parable of the Fig Tree
January 31	Sleep-in Sunday @ 12:00 pm	

Sunday School Curriculum Schedule 4th-5th Grades

January 10	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Ruth & Naomi
January 17	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	David
January 24	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	David & Goliath
January 31	Sleep-in Sunday @ 12:00 pm	

Sunday School Curriculum Schedule 6th-9th Grades (Calvary Coco Club)

Curriculum written by Dan Huff and Elayne Lipp (teachers)

January 10	Sunday School @ 9:00 am
January 17	Sunday School @ 9:00 am
January 24	Sunday School @ 9:00 am
January 31	Sleep-in Sunday @ 12:00 pm

Upcoming Confirmation Schedule at Calvary January and February 2016

Confirmation meets from 11:30 am-1:45 pm on Sundays following worship

Day	Date	Theme	Lunch Provider (family)
Sunday	January 10	"Prophets"	Pat Olson
Sunday	January 24	"Exile & Home"	Huffs
Sunday	February 7	"God's Surprise"	Ilesher/Austs
Sunday	February 21	"Manna & Mercy"	Seifert/Brooks

Looking Ahead: Preparing For Lent



This year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will hold Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

The following Wednesdays in Lent (February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16) all are invited to gather for a soup supper in the lounge from 5:30-6:30 pm. We then move into the Sanctuary for Prayer Around the Cross worship services (6:30-7:00 pm).

These evenings are a wonderful time to be together as a community with a simple meal, prayer, and song.



Lenten Home Gatherings

Additionally, this year Pastor Brad will again be coordinating Lenten Home gatherings. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex and he will be following up with households for hosting and attending the gatherings.

The theme this year is *Exploring the Genealogy of our Faith, Family, and Understandings of Race*. It will bring together Pastor Brad's experiences of sabbatical and our own journeys of who we are and how we see the world through the lens of faith.

More information will be available in the bulletin and February newsletter.

Adult Education & Worship with Michael Bischoff

Sunday, February 7, 2016

9:00 am Adult Education; 10:15 am Worship

Healing in Community with Michael Bischoff

Healing in Community, a presentation and discussion with Michael Bischoff. Michael will share stories and reflections of how community has nourished and changed him as he's been facing brain cancer. We'll explore the healing roles congregations and individuals can play in moving with serious illness in ways that draw us closer to God.

Michael Bischoff as guest preacher

Michael Bischoff is a Quaker and dad from Minneapolis. For the past seven years he has worked with religious and secular organizations as they listen for where the Holy Spirit is moving and experiment with new ways of being faithful to where the Spirit is calling. In the fall of 2015, Michael found out he has an aggressive kind of brain cancer, and he's been seeking to be faithful to God's call in that journey. To read about Michael's adventures with cancer, you can visit: www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelbischoff.

LUTHERAN LGBT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ReconcilingWorks Twin Cities invites you to **help the Lutheran Church** send a message of encouragement and affirmation to a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (**LGBT**) student by funding a scholarship for them.

STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP:

- Lutheran LGBT students attending any college
- LGBT students of color attending any college
- LGBT students attending a Lutheran college

Information about this and other LGBT scholarships is available at www.pfundonline.org.

CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF GIVING:

- *Faithful Freshman* (Up to \$49)
- *Spiritual Sophomore* (\$50 - \$99)
- *Jubilant Junior* (\$100 - \$249)
- *Saintly Senior* (\$250 - \$499)
- *Glorious Graduate* (\$500 - \$999)
- *Missionary Masters* (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
- *Divine Doctorate* (\$2,500+)

100% of your contribution will fund the scholarship thanks to a congregational grant to cover administrative costs. The scholarship is administered through PFund. **Please make checks payable to ReconcilingWorks Twin Cities** and in the memo indicate "Scholarship". Please mail your check to:

ReconcilingWorks
c/o Glenn Choquette
34 Greenway Gables
Minneapolis, MN 55403

*ReconcilingWorks (formerly Lutherans Concerned) is a 501c3 Organization.
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For more information, visit www.ReconcilingWorks.com or www.facebook.com/TwinCitiesRWKS

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Administrator: Kurt Posz
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Food Shelf Coordinator:
Henrietta Williams

Church Council Members

Laura Huff, President
Melinda Bendix Horn, Vice President
Felecia Boone, Secretary
Lyle Jaeger, Treasurer
Scott Endo
Kendra McCarthy
Lars Negstad
Chris Robson
Shari Seifert
Chris Van Meter
Michael Weber