



## *It's Time to Say Farewell*

January 2018

Calvary, I've been your interim pastor now for exactly one year. But this is not exactly the situation I had in mind for concluding my time with you. My intention had always been to remain with you until your Call Committee had at least identified your new pastor. In fact, that's how it has worked out in every other congregation I've served as interim pastor. But it's probably true that none of us gets to write the whole script for anything. At least part of the script for every story is written for us. In other words, there is much that is out of our personal control and ideal timing. And that seems to be the case here.

My final Sunday with you will be January 14. My last day in the office will be January 15 when I meet with Executive and Council for the last time. On January 23 I'll begin serving Grace Lutheran in Andover as their interim senior pastor. Calvary will have a "bridge interim pastor" following my departure until the time your new pastor is identified, and perhaps until he or she actually arrives on site. The Executive Committee interviewed a candidate for this position last night.

The Bishop's office asked me to interview at Grace in October, which I did. They thought I would be a good match for their situation. It is a fairly large church with a large staff and I have served in comparable situations. The senior pastor and his wife (also on staff), retired after 22 years at Grace. Their final Sunday was November 19 and leaders had announced the interim senior pastor would begin two weeks later at the beginning of December. John Hulden from the Bishop's office (who works with Calvary's Call Committee) said that was impossible and they would need to have a bridge interim pastor first. I finalized my agreement with Grace by mid-November. And I was clear with them that I would not leave Calvary before Christmas. At that time, I felt chances were very good – even probable – that Calvary's new pastor would be identified by the time I actually departed in January. But the nature and timing of the call process is very unpredictable. (And I completely affirm and support the work of Calvary's Call Committee and their commitment

to "not settle" until they find the candidate they believe is the right match for Calvary.)

But there is also more to this story. Following completion of my previous interim position in the summer of 2016, I needed a break after over twelve years of continuous interim work. Without a congregation to provide a sabbatical (and therefore salary and health insurance), self-funding such a break is costly. I was willing to fund a couple months on my own dime, but it turned out to be over five months. And paying premiums to remain on our church's health plan for member, spouse and child (our youngest is under 26) was very expensive, especially without a paycheck.

Quite a number of years ago, both our Mpls. Synod and the ELCA at their respective assemblies passed resolutions to provide intentional interim pastors with health insurance during "down months" without employment. Unfortunately, there has not been the follow through, the political will, nor the funding to make this happen. So it's important for me now to take the job I've been offered and avoid the possibility of multiple "down months".

Calvary, you will be fine. While my departure is earlier than I would have ideally wished, I do believe that my intentional interim work with you is complete. Your bridge interim pastor will preach and provide pastoral leadership and care during the remainder of this interim time.

But now for a more personal word from my heart to yours. It has been a privilege to serve you. For the first time in my years of interim work, I turned down a job offer from another congregation so that I could interview for this position at Calvary. This is where I wanted to be. (I know, be careful what you wish for! And yes, there has been a little craziness at times during our sojourn together!) I'm confident other interim pastors would have served you well. But I felt drawn to Calvary. I even feel that I was meant to be with you during this interim time. (But you are free to disagree with this sentiment!) And this was the second time I

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## JANUARY WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28
<b>Ass't Minister</b>	Lisa Negstad	Danielle Hill	Judie Mattison	Lisa Negstad
<b>Acolytes</b>	Chris Van Meter Lydia Huff	Joanne Shepherd Ingrid Ebbesen	Michael Weber Danielle Hill	Pat Olson Connor Swearingin
<b>Lector</b>	Lily Endo	Nancy Lee Nelson	Freya Ebbesen	Kristy Rolig
<b>Sacristan</b>	Anne Boone	Anne Boone	Stacia Wick	Stacia Wick
<b>Sound Board</b>	Lydia Huff	Gary Nelson	Kenney Escher Julian Escher	Sigrid Davidson
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<i>Sign up on the sheet in the narthex to volunteer.</i>			
<b>Counters</b>	Joanne Shepherd Kathleen Gohlke	Michael Weber Jeri Schultz	Gary Nelson Zac Halter	Mary Nelson Gary Nelson
<b>Food Shelf</b>	<i>Jan. 13</i> Judith Glass Michael Weber	<i>Jan. 20</i> Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	<i>Jan. 27</i> Gary Thorn Stacia Wick	<i>Feb. 3</i> Carol Rue Pat Olson

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays

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

1/14 - Johanna Aust  
1/16 - Greta Rolig  
1/17 - Jeri Schultz  
1/18 - Chelsie Hansen-Stratton  
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



## SHARE A COAT

You are invited to **Share a Coat** for those not able to afford warm clothing this winter! Bring gently used or new coats to church between now and January 7 and put in the drop box located in the nar-

thex. Warm scarves, mittens, gloves, and or hats are also welcome! Thrivent is supporting this as an Action Team project and will provide a \$250 gift card for the purchase of needed coats. Please consider helping provide warmth to our neighbors during this holiday season by donating a coat! On behalf of the Generosity Committee, thank you for living generously!

If questions, contact Deb Paulsrud: 651-308-4379 or [paulsrud@bitstream.net](mailto:paulsrud@bitstream.net).

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

(Worship is at 10:00 a.m.)



## NOTE FROM CONGREGATION PRESIDENT, LARS NEGSTAD

As I mentioned at the December 18 worship service, we fully support our Call Committee in their work, which to date has not resulted in finding the right person for a permanent call.

On behalf of Council, I wanted to let you know that we are very sorry to see Pastor Bruce go and very grateful for his leadership and pastoral care over the past year. Pastor Bruce has brought great wisdom, grace and humor as well as an awful lot of hard work to his time with us. He leaves Calvary as a stronger community. I truly enjoyed working with him and will miss him deeply.

I know this news of further transition will be unsettling to many. I am encouraged that the Synod has already provided us with a name of someone who appears to be highly qualified to serve as a "bridge interim pastor" while we are still waiting for our new pastor. We trust in God's guidance that we will be fine as a congregation. I'm happy to report that we have invited Minister JaNaé Bates to return as a guest preacher on Sunday, Jan. 21.

She will also lead our Adult Education hour that day to lead a discussion on ISAIAH's effort to organize thousands of delegates to flood the precinct caucuses of their choice on February 6. This program, "Claiming Our Voices," is not in service of a particular political or party but rather serves to proclaim and carry forward a bold Faith Agenda to which we will seek to hold all politicians accountable.

Finally I would like to invite you to the Congregation's annual meeting on Sunday January 28 following worship. When I became Congregation President two years ago, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I appreciate the opportunity to have served the church in this leadership role. To be honest, I will also appreciate handing off the responsibility! This community continues to be a very special place to me and my family, and I look forward to continuing to grow closer to truly live as the body of Christ together.

in **THIS**  
CITY for!  
GOOD!

## A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH HOPE!

Happy  
New Year!

We have made good **progress** in our commitments to the mission of Calvary. Our congregation has **resolved to overcome** the danger of not being able to sustain ourselves financially.

You really **followed through** in 2017, as together we fulfilled our intentions in so many ways: financial, outreach to the neighborhood through the Food Shelf, youth travel and fundraising for disaster relief...on and on. Now we look forward to our January warm clothing project! Thanks to you! But most of all, **thanks to God** who inspires us to care about our world, to share our best in time and money and prayer. We thank God who provides all good things and who stays with us through all experiences of life. **Our giving is our worship** of a loving, forgiving, creative God. It is **God** who gives each of us a new year filled with **hope!**

*The Generosity Team*

## SEEING ALL AS GOD'S CHILDREN

A one-hour interfaith service embracing immigrants and refugees will be held on Sunday, January 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 88 17th Street North.

Through our testimony, prayer and music we will recognize our common bond and dignity as beloved children of God. We will celebrate a year of sanctuary; repent for the times we've failed to see each other as children of God; and, moving into the 2018 MN Legislative Session and election campaign season, pledge to see and talk about each other as the family that we are in both our personal conversations and public discourse.



INTERFAITH SERVICE  
EMBRACING IMMIGRANTS AND  
REFUGEES

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interviewed for the interim position at Calvary! The first was when Pastors Tom and Becky Von Fischer were about to leave in 2008. I not only didn't get the job, I never heard back from those who interviewed me! J It also felt good for me to be back in one of our Minneapolis congregations after nine years of serving in the suburbs and ex-urbs. And in the post-election political climate, it's been a gift to be with progressive Calvary for the past year.

Thank you for the opportunity to walk with you during your grief from losing Pastor Brad. Thank you for listening to my perspectives on growing your giving, your need to search for a new and financially sustainable model of ministry, and the need to more equitably share your high building costs with your ministry and building partners, especially UAA. Together some of us have taken the wild roller coaster ride of settling the Gary Mazzone estate which is almost but not quite finished. My gratitude to all who have done so much in regards to this. I have watched your leaders on Council come together and have some difficult but very respectful conversations. And I've been encouraged to see new leaders emerge.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your youth. Joining them on their trip to Flathead Bible Camp in Montana last July was one of my highlights at Calvary. And thanks for allowing me to invite some of my close, personal Old Testament friends, as well as John the Baptist, to preach at Calvary!

Thanks to Kurt, Andrea, and Henrietta as the staff I was privileged to work with and for all they do for Calvary week in and week out. Thanks to the Executive

Committee, Council members, committee members, Sunday morning worship volunteers, food shelf volunteers, and many others.

Calvary will remain in my heart and in my prayers. I care about this congregation and its future. I feel some investment in it. With the vitality that Calvary has, this is one of our local urban ELCA churches that I really believe can and should have a viable future.

Because I've grown fond of you, I'll miss you – individually and as a community. Somehow I think my chances of seeing you again are a little higher than is the case in most of the interim congregations I've served. I'm not sure what that means. But I hope in some way to remain a friend of Calvary. Know that, for now, I'm cheering for you up in the stands!

Because this is a unique situation, I'm open to being "on call" for you. In consultation and communication with your bridge interim pastor – and only until your new settled pastor arrives – I could potentially be available for some form of pastoral care should a personal or family emergency arise. And it doesn't hurt that I live in south Minneapolis not far from Calvary. My cell is in the church directory.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will bring you and the right choice for your new pastor together for the challenging and exciting new chapter of ministry that lies ahead for all of you. Thank you for welcoming me to Calvary and into your lives. It's been a privilege to serve as your interim pastor.

– *Pastor Bruce Arnevik*

## Calvary Lutheran Church

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### CONNECT WITH CALVARY ON THE WEB:



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



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



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### Calvary Lutheran Church

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#### Ministry Staff

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**Music Director:** Andrea Sorum  
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**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  
February issue of the Calvary Newsletter is Tuesday, January 23