

Crossroads

The newsletter of Calvary Lutheran Church



March 2020

MISSIONAL QUESTIONS

In every congregation I have ever known, there have always been a significant number of people who have articulated this or something similar: “We do not have a clear sense of our mission.” Many years ago, hearing such a thing would have been unsettling, and caused me to over-function as a pastor. I would start searching for someone to help us review and/or develop a mission statement (and vision and values, of course) that *everyone* would know and fully embrace, and a strategic plan that would flow from it, putting us on track for missional success. (It makes me tired just thinking of that.)

Don’t get me wrong, I think clarity about mission, vision, and values is important (I’m not as keen on strategic plans, given the expectation of missional nimbleness that these times demand). But asking the question about mission is much better than not asking the question or thinking that we have it all figured out (because we never do). So, let’s just expect that this question will always be with us. There will be times when we feel like we’re nailing it, and times we feel like we need a boost of missional mojo.

We are asking missional questions at Calvary in the midst of the imminent change that is coming in relationship to our building. What I have noticed is that we have *enough people asking the right questions, even if they are not the same questions*. For example,

- How do we maximize the value of our property?
- How important is it to continue to worship in the sanctuary, or on the corner of 39th and Chicago?
- What is the best option for keeping us together as a congregation?
- What is a higher priority, gaining the most value from our property (we’ve already determined that our property is more than we can manage or afford right now, and that we need to act

soon) or having a positive impact on our neighborhood (something that may cut into a potential profit)?

- We say that we must change in order to continue as a congregation. Are we able to articulate “why?” What are we living for as a congregation?

All of these questions—there are many more—have missional implications. I was meeting with the Crossroads Community Organization (CCO) recently. The CCO was formed some years ago to assist Calvary in staying connected to the neighborhood. It has served a concrete function to assist with the funding of neighborhood initiatives, such as the Urban Arts Academy. With the closing of the UAA, the CCO met to discuss whether it was time to disband. It decided not to, at least for now. Not because it is working on something imminent, but because it expects that Calvary will continue to engage the neighborhood in the years to come, and the CCO may serve a yet-to-be-determined purpose down the road.

In our discussion, someone brought up the idea that whatever we do going forward has to have some element of risk, that the safest decision may not be the most compelling. Is anything worth doing that doesn’t force us to rely on faith? Now, of course it’s

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WORSHIP DURING LENT

Wednesdays throughout Lent, beginning March 4
Soup supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 | Prayer
Around the Cross in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.



MARCH WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS



Ministry	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Ass't Minister	Emilie Bouvier	Linda Mundt	Lisa Negstad	Chris Gennaula	Judie Mattison
Acolytes	Lydia Huff	James Hill Connor Swearingin	Jeri Schultz Benji Huff	Josh Moberg Christian Moberg	Judi Linder Jaiana Leggett
Lector	Carol Rue	Judie Mattison	Chris Robson	Kristy Rolig	dorothy lesher
Sacristan	Melissa Brooks	Sam Robson	Anne Boone	Anne Boone	Melissa Brooks
Sound Board	Sigrid Davidson	Dick Peik	Neeve McCarthy	Quincy Aust	Gary Nelson
Counters	Gary Nelson Brian Rolig	Judith Glass Carol Rue	Pat Olson Danielle Hill	Adam Cates Melissa Townsend	Jeri Schultz Mitch Myre
Ushers	Sam Robson Chris Robson	Carol Rue Henrietta Williams Barb Martinsen	Moberg family	McCarthy family	Huff family
Coffee Hour	Tom Johnson Miranda Hong Linda Mundt	Lyle Jaeger Scott & Angie Endo	Nancy Lee Michael Luedtke Judith Glass	Joanne Shepherd Josh & Joani Moberg	Sam Robson Mitch Myre Eli Pollock
Food Shelf	<i>March 7</i> Carol Rue Pat Olson	<i>March 14</i> Nancy Lee Nelson Melissa Brooks	<i>March 21</i> Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	<i>March 28</i> Gary Thorn Nancy Wheeler Adam Cates	<i>April 4</i> Carol Rue Pat Olson

March Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3/4 - Henry Wengerd
- 3/8 - Bettye Brown
- 3/8 - Matthew Youngbauer
- 3/11 - Judi Linder
- 3/12 - Quincy Aust
- 3/13 - Karen Rudrud

- 3/14 - Donnie Robson
- 3/17 - Chris Gennaula
- 3/19 - Chris Van Meter
- 3/21 - Lily Endo
- 3/21 - Benji Huff
- 3/22 - Julian Escher
- 3/23 - Kenney Escher

- 3/26 - Anika Robson
- 3/27 - Ingrid Rolig
- 3/31 - Sarah Zeigler

Anniversaries

- 3/20 - Joani & Josh Moberg

THE MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

The Mission of the Month is the Calvary Lutheran Food Shelf, as a part of the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign.



Hunger Facts MINNESOTA

Nearly one in eleven Minnesotans experience food insecurity.¹

12.5% of children in Minnesota are food insecure.²

9.5% of Minnesotans live below the poverty level.³

Over 3,000,000 visits are made to Minnesota food shelves *each year*.

More than 624,000 Minnesotans are served by SNAP. 45% of those served by SNAP are children.⁴



¹ Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2019

² Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2019

³ U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey.

⁴ Minnesota Department of Human Services, SNAP and MFIP food portion caseload count; <https://mn.gov/dhs/farm-bill/>

(*Missional Questions - continued from page 1*)

also possible to be good stewards of our resources, at the same time that we—as followers of Christ—are willing to give up some of our life in order to save it.

There is lots to consider, and much to be hopeful for, as we attend to God's mission. Thank you for your prayers and investment in this community!

-Pastor Hans

SUSTAINABLE CALVARY STEERING COMMITTEE (SCSC)

The following are some highlights from the SCSC meeting on February 20:

- Confirmed that Sara Joy, Hans, and Josh will meet with CM Jenkins on Monday, March 2 at 9:30 AM during her office hours at Sabathani.
- Following the meeting with Council Member Jenkins, Hans will reach out to Community Housing Development Corporation and Tierra Encantada (Spanish immersion child care) to schedule a meeting during the first or second week of March with Sara Joy and another member of the SCSC.
- Approval given to move forward with Facilities Assessment conducted by ICS for \$2,875.00. Corresponding proposal attached here.
- Pastor Hans and others will dig into church records re: water shut off from the sanctuary meter several years ago.
- Calvary will conduct parking counts for the next few Sundays to begin assessing parking needs for the church as it relates to potential future developments.
- Next SCSC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 PM.

A NOTE ABOUT THE CHURCH OFFICE:

Starting in the middle of March my duties at Calvary will include performing the routine custodial tasks in addition to the office management I have done up until now. The parking lot doors will be unlocked when I am working at my desk and open for all visitors. During the times I am away from my desk performing custodial work I will most likely lock the parking lot doors for security. If there is an event scheduled the doors will be unlocked.

I will still work Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. I encourage you to call the church before dropping in to avoid a wasted trip, unless you have keys for the exterior doors.

- Kurt Posz, Administrator

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE FOR MARCH:

March 1- *Dear Church Follow-Up Event**
 March 8 – Food Shelf/Bread for the World
 March 15 –
 March 22 – The Rev. Angela Khabeb, guest preacher and presenter
 March 29 - MPS Spring Break – no Sunday School or Adult Forum

*This Sunday in adult education we will BEGIN a discussion of “#Dear Church to be led by Cynthia Sarver. We have been hearing much excitement about the book and are looking forward to more discussion and action in the future. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not they have read the book.



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Church Council Members

Anne Boone
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Michael Luedtke
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Linda Mundt
Mitch Myre
Susan Olsen
Pat Olson
Sarah Shepherd

Sustainable Calvary Steering Committee:

Joani Moberg, Chair
Daniel Huff*
Lyle Jaeger
Josh Moberg*
Linda Mundt*
Kristy Rolig
Cynthia Sarver
Hans Lee, Pastor*
*Also member of Calvary Church Council.

**The deadline for submitting information for the
April 2020 issue of the Calvary Newsletter is Tuesday, March 24**