

Crossroads

The newsletter of Calvary Lutheran Church



May 2016

CHANGE

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embrace; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

At the end of my 9th grade year I had completed two years of confirmation instruction, and it was now time to be confirmed. As part of the confirmation process the students, in consultation with the pastors, were to select a confirmation Bible passage. My pastors were convinced I should go with something like Micah 6:8...or Romans 5:1-5...or Romans 8:35-39...or verses from I Corinthians 12 or 13.

Yet, my mind was made up. Perhaps because I thought that the Turtles' "Turn, Turn, Turn" was cool, or because I was caught up in teenage angst and existential thought, or maybe just because I needed to hear words of God being present through all the events in our lives and in the world, I went with Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. No amount of pastoral persuasion could get me to change my mind.

While my favorite Bible verses have changed over time, there are still those times when I am deeply drawn to this text. The text speaks to all that happens within us and around us; the text points to how things change; and, yet, wrapped in Ecclesiastes, we know that God's presence upholds and sees us through.

At Calvary we are in the midst of change. This past Sunday we welcomed 19 new members into the congregation. Our community will never be what it was before Sunday, April 24—there will be new gifts, new questions and wonderings, new aspirations, new hurts and longings. How incredible! Change.

This Sunday we will be honoring and celebrating Daniel Pederson's last Sunday with us as Music Director. Over the last eight and one-half years, Daniel has served faithfully and with great compassion; Daniel has been in musicals, engaged with the Green Team and Race conversations, helped lead work on the organ project and a new piano. Daniel has been lifted up as a "gifted prayer" in choir rehearsals. Yet, the seasons of our life and of the church shift. Change.

The Hiring Committee for the Minister of Children's, Youth, and Family position is busy meeting. Together they have reviewed the position description, prioritized needs, and started in a process to move toward hiring a staff person later this summer. This is a time of excitement, of discernment, of imagining what God has in store. Change.

This week a few of us met to work on the new Church directory activity pages. We pulled out old directories and saw the children and youth of Calvary three years ago...and six years ago. We saw the faces of loved ones who have moved away or passed away. Staring at the pictures we held the joys, the tears, the love, the loss, the wonder that all came back through the photographs. Change.

I realize that for many of us change doesn't come easy. We tend to hold on to the known and comfortable—even when it doesn't quite fit anymore. We tend to want to maintain a status quo.

Yet it is precisely into the stasis of our existence that God comes and rocks the boat. God comes to bring about change—this Easter season we experience a God who will not leave us in the places of the known and bound place of being comfortably uncomfortable. Rather God comes and in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection breaks the mold and changes our lives and existence. God becomes a God of radical change for the sake of new life and promise, both now and into the ages of ages.

Sometimes, today, I think that I sing "Turn, Turn,
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MAY WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS					
Ministry	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Ass't Minister	Linda Mundt	Felecia Boone	Danielle Hill	Judie Mattison	Stefanie Fiser
Acolytes	Jeri Schultz Michael Weber	Rachel Bjorhus Karen Rudrud	Josh Moberg Christian Moberg	Benjamin Huff Chris Robson	<i>No acolytes this summer</i>
Lector	Lily Endo	Felecia Boone	Isaac Wengerd	Kaia Zeigler	Nancy Lee Nelson
Sacristan	Anne Boone	Anne Boone	Stacia Wick	Stacia Wick	Melissa Brooks
Sound Board	Sigrid Davidson	Dick Peik	Neeve McCarthy	Lydia Huff	Gary Nelson
Coffee Hour	Felecia Boone Nancy Wheeler Anne Boone	Irv Elliott Hans Nestingen Barb Martinsen	Eric Ebbesen Stacia Wick Lars Negstad Melissa Townsend	Michael Weber Nancy Lee Nelson Jeri Schultz Gary Nelson	Mary Nelson Karen Nelson Livia Van Horne Alissa Frost
Counters	Gary Nelson Ted Fabel	Mary Nelson Marilyn Holm	Pat Olson Danielle Hill	Joanne Shepherd Verna Lutes	Michael Weber Jeri Schultz
Food Shelf	<i>May 7</i> Carol Rue Judith Glass	<i>May 14</i> Pat Olson Michael Weber	<i>May 21</i> Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	<i>May 28</i> Marilyn Holm Gary Thorn	<i>June 4</i> Carol Rue Pat Olson

May Celebrations

Birthdays

- 5/3 - Bill O'Connor
- 5/4 - Scott Endo
- 5/5 - Eliot Aust
- 5/6 - Kathleen Gohlke
- 5/6 - Antonne Shepherd
- 5/7 - Lucy Anderson
- 5/8 - Amber Bendix-Horn
- 5/9 - Rowan Hill

- 5/9 - Kendra McCarthy
- 5/11 - Delaney Frost
- 5/11 - Kim Zeigler
- 5/12 - August Wengerd
- 5/13 - William Johnson
- 5/15 - Mohali Endo
- 5/17 - Stephen Chalman
- 5/19 - Karen Nelson
- 5/20 - Elaine Christopher

- 5/21 - Charles Tripp
 - 5/22 - Mary Nelson
 - 5/27 - Carole Chalman
 - 5/27 - Samantha Robson
 - 5/28 - Benjamin Youngbauer
- Anniversaries**
- 5/19 - Steve & Judith Glass
 - 5/21 - George & Chris Robson
 - 5/23 - Jonathan & Holly Holtmeier

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: On Sunday, April 24 Calvary Lutheran Church received 19 new members.

Welcome to:

- Cynthia Sarver, Kenney Escher, and Julian Escher**
- Tony Rydberg**
- Mike & Britt Guild, Ayden and Katie Jane**
- Hans & Nancy Lee**
- Kat & Chelsie Hansen-Stratton**
- Amy & Katrina Kumm-Hanson**
- Jim Lengyel**
- Heather Conley**
- Jon Hall**
- Kirstyn & Michael Ouverson**



MAINTAINING THE BUILDING



During the month of April, the door company fixed the parking lot door lock mechanism which was broken, and a badly plugged drain in Fellowship Hall kitchen was cleared. Kurt worked with EnerChange (the company that completed an energy audit earlier) to process rebates from Xcel for LED lights in the chancel and exterior LED lights (anticipated rebate of \$503, with on-going \$371 estimated energy savings per year). The contractor who will be doing brickwork on new courtyard sign pillar was contacted, and he plans to start work in May or early June.

The Mission of the Month for May is ELCA Global Missions, with an emphasis on EPES, Chile. See the bulletin board in the narthex for more information on this mission.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

STEWARDSHIP - REGULARITY

There are ample opportunities for developing good habits like trying to lose weight or exercise effectively. We've heard that an apple a day is good for us and that saving even small amounts of money over a long period of time can build a good nest egg. Many of us struggle with a desire for life improvement which gets undermined by bursts of giving into our passions. We want to lose weight, we eat well for a few days, then we are overcome by our desire for chocolate — or potato chips. We walk daily for a week, and then we forget. It's hard, being disciplined and regular.

In a congregation, we need "Regulars". Regular worshipers, regular pray-ers, regular singers, regular givers. When we let bursts of passion undermine our "regularity", something is lost. We lose our sense of direction, or we lose our reward of satisfaction. We lose the strength that we receive when we worship together. If we are not regular in our giving, the congregation suffers for lack of commitment.

Jesus needed "Regulars"— not wealthy or outstanding leaders. Just regular people who followed him in a new direction. People who tried new disciplines or prayer and outreach. Those simple people created a powerful religion that endures after two thousand years — a gift to us in 2016.

We can be such regular followers, or disciples. People willing to give, regularly. People willing to try a new way of living in all areas of life, including sharing financially with our congregation so that we can serve the world effectively. The more we try to maintain our regular discipline, the less likely we are to yield to passions which undermine our discipleship. And as we gather together regularly we become new people!



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND URBAN ARTS SUPPORTERS!

The Gala Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who donated their time to help make our Gala a great success! We were delighted to have a full house with **250** supporters in attendance. We raised \$95,000 for Urban Arts Programs and enjoyed a delightful evening.

THANK YOU--we couldn't do it without you!



ALL-CHURCH NIGHT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, May 9

5:30-6:30 pm Dinner

6:30-8:00 pm Committee Meetings

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). **All are welcome (not just the committee members)!** Committee meetings begin at 6:30. Meeting this month are:

Race Equity Education
Property Worship



(Continued from page 1)

Turn,” to remind myself that there is always change afoot in the world; to remember that I don’t know all of the “whys” and “hows.” Yet to recognize that amidst the seasons of our lives that there is One whose very being is about changing our narrative and doing a new thing. We live as a Resurrected and Resurrection people—this is change! In our denomination we look to the significance of being a Reformed and Reforming people—this is change!

And it is in the promise of this new thing that we are held secure.

In everything...turn...turn..turn...

God is among us...turn...turn...turn...

Thanks be to this One who changes death into life! The One who brings hope to the hopeless! The One who proclaims the reign of God.

Amen!

Pr. Brad

Adult Education in May

Sunday, May 1, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

During this Easter season, as we follow the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), we are hearing many readings from the book of Revelation. This last book of the Bible is filled with many images, metaphors, and opportunities to explore faith. The book of Revelation has also been misused and abused in many cases.

In adult education on Sunday May 1, we will spend time reading, reflecting, and conversing about this book of the Bible.

Adult Education, Sunday, May 8

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Join members of the Calvary Race Equity Committee to learn about conversations, learning opportunities, and action ideas around the Twin Cities. As we continue to look at ways to engage with and encourage racial justice and equity, the committee would like to keep the congregation abreast of much that is going on.

Adult Education, Sunday, May 15

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Exodus Lending, a non-profit in South Minneapolis dedicated to helping people move out of the “debt trap,” will be at Calvary on Sunday, May 15 to present on the organization, their work, and next steps. All are invited to come and attend.

A little about Exodus Lending: Early in 2012, a payday loan store opened on the corner of East Lake Street and 27th Avenue in Minneapolis, just a short distance from the doors of **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** (the original sponsoring congregation). Having been rooted in the neighborhood for over a hundred years, the congregation took notice and began to inform itself about the predatory practices of payday lenders. Motivated to respond, Holy Trinity started Exodus Lending, a not-for-profit organization committed to providing trapped payday borrowers a just pathway to financial stability.

The Organization’s Values:

Transformation

We seek lasting change for the individual, for financial institutions, and for society at large.

Relationship

We desire a strong relationship with our clients and with community partners who further our shared goals.

Transparency

We aim for clarity with our clients and donors every step of the way.

Faith-Rooted Action

We are people of faith who believe that the work of liberation is central to the traditions we embody.

ISAIAH'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2016

ISAIAH'S WEEKLONG LEADERSHIP TRAINING will allow you to reflect upon your exp training will allow you to reflect upon your experiences and what it means for you to be a leader in the public arena. You will engage with other participants in a learning community that emphasizes self-reflection, introspection, and mutual inquiry.

You can expect to:

- Learn more about yourself, your own stories, and your own motivations
 - Develop the skill of learning the stories & motivations of others
 - Create the capacity to draw other people to yourself in teams
 - Wrestle with what it takes to create change in the public arena
 - Engage in work that analyzes how power operates in public life
 - Discover how to craft and lead effective action that wins real change for real people
 - Learn about the dynamic field of community organizing & your role in creating powerful organizations
 - Build the capacity to raise money to sustain organizations that are vehicles for making our vision a reality in the public arena
- Develop an analysis about racial equity and health as a frame for organizing work

Where: Mankato City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

When: Sunday, July 31-Friday, August 5. Weeklong begins at 4:00 pm on Sunday and ends at 5:30 pm on Friday.

Housing: All rooms will be double rooms. *This means that you will be sharing a room with another participant.*

Cost: \$575 for non-profit members; \$1000 for others. This includes all meals, lodging, and the training. A limited number of scholarships are available.

Other: Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the training. If you need assistance, please contact your organizer, or the person who invited you.

Registration link: www.tinyurl.com/weeklong2016

A FOCUS ON PAYDAY LENDING

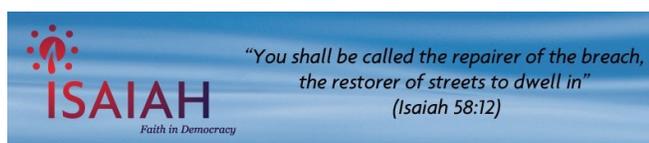
Payday lending is entrenched in Minnesota, with about 40,000 loans, made almost entirely to very vulnerable members of our communities, and extracts \$13,000,000 from their pockets annually, at affective interest rates that can only be called usury. The industry makes large political contributions to our legislators. Most payday lenders are located in or very near neighborhoods of color. They have developed business models that nearly prevent the borrower from breaking the cycle without an intervention by friends or relatives, and now by an NGO or two.

We are still looking for three more people to be trained on the next step of the ISAIAH campaign to make Payday Lending in Minnesota history. The meeting is May 5, at 6:30pm at Zion Baptist, 621 Elwood Ave. N.

At this time we will develop more details about how we engage the neighborhoods and congregations, and have the opportunity to ask for the information we're missing.

One way to be more informed on this issue is reading the Drowning in Debt report on the ISAIAH website, Isai-ahmn.org. Skip the executive report which is very info dense and go right to the full report, which has very informative visuals.

Another is to attend Adult Ed on May 15 and hear a presentation by Exodus Lending. Please respond to this injustice and become informed and active in this campaign.



Sunday School Schedule

Pre-K through 3rd Grade

May 1	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Lydia
May 8	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Paul and Silas
May 15	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	The Holy Spirit
May 22	Sleep-in Sunday @ 11:45 am-Celebration!	

4th through 5th Grade

May 1	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Mary & Martha
May 8	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	The Prodigal Son
May 15	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Ten Out Casts
May 22	Sleep-in Sunday @ 11:45 am-Celebration!	

6th through 8th Grade (Coco Club)

May 1	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Led by Elaine
May 8	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Led by Dan
May 15	Sunday School @ 9:00 am	Led by Dan
May 22	Sleep-in Sunday @ 11:45 am-Celebration!	

***Note that on May 22 there will be an ice cream celebration, games, activities, and a time to recognize the 2015-2016 Sunday School year.**

Confirmation Schedule

Note: Pastor Brad will be contacting the confirmation families about doing one last confirmation session in May. Together with the youth and families they will be deciding on the time that works best. Please stay tuned for more information.

Those completing their 2nd year of confirmation will be working with Pastor Brad and the CYF staff person on Faith Statements in the fall. They will celebrate their confirmation on Reformation Sunday (October 30, 2016).

Calvary Choir Rehearsals

Wednesday, May 4:	Led by Judie Mattison and Tom Witt
Wednesday, May 11:	Led by Tom Witt and Stef Fiser
Wednesday, May 18:	Led by Stef Fiser and Jennifer McCarthy



ADVANCED NOTICE - COMING TO CALVARY IN JUNE
“How Love Won” Documentary Screening
7:00 PM Saturday June 4

How Love Won is a documentary on how Minnesota went from “no” to “yes” on marriage equality. Many people from Calvary were involved in the campaign and Calvary even makes a few appearances in the film. See the below description from the Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival:

“Go behind the scenes and discover the secret psychological weapon Minnesota LGBT activists deployed in this “unwinnable” campaign that had failed in 30 other states. An inspiring story, marriage equality activists went from facing sure defeat to winning more than anyone dared hope. Experience the pain and joy of the campaign that not only changed history but also changed the lives of everyone involved in profound and unexpected ways. How Love Won is a brilliant and emotionally powerful documentary about the moment that changed everything in the battle for same-sex marriage.”

Please plan to come together with Calvary friends to watch together and don't forget your tissues!



Peace ~ Salaam ~ Shalom
South Minneapolis Day Camp

June 27 – July 1, 2016
Bethel Lutheran Church
4120 17th Ave. S, Minneapolis 55407

A progressive ecumenical summer day camp experience in South Minneapolis offering faith formation in a fun, safe, Christ-centered and relational setting. **All 4-year-olds through 8th graders are welcome!**

Day Camp registration forms at Calvary are on the bulletin board in the narthex and in the hallway outside the Lounge.

Calvary Lutheran Church

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Minneapolis, MN 55407

CONNECT WITH CALVARY ON THE WEB:



www.clchurch.org



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



<https://twitter.com/CalvaryMpls>

Calvary Lutheran Church

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Ministers: 225 Members

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Food Shelf Coordinator:
Henrietta Williams

Church Council Members

Melinda Bendix-Horn
Felecia Boone, Secretary
Scott Endo
Laura Huff, Vice President
Lyle Jaeger
Tom Johnson, Treasurer
Kendra McCarthy
Linda Mundt
Lars Negstad, President
Jeri Schultz
Chris Van Meter
Michael Weber