

# Crossroads

The newsletter of Calvary Lutheran Church



## Re-formation

November 2017

(The following is a re-cap of my sermon for Reformation Sunday, October 29.)

The year was 1982. The Minnesota Council of Churches had just released its “Statement on Homosexuality”. The statement proved to be quite controversial among local churches, Lutheran and otherwise. It raised questions and made comments which challenged traditional church

understandings about gay people. It was one of many things that, slowly over time, led to a change in attitudes toward gay people and same gender relationships both within the church and within the culture. Over the course of many years, through the statements and actions of individuals, congregations, and larger church bodies, through many studies and conversations, and through no small amount of conflict, there has been a “re-formation” in the understanding of many churches regarding LGBTQ people. To be clear, this understanding continues to be in conflict with other churches that have not undergone such re-formation.

But at the same time in 1982, a young, associate pastor, with brown hair and an even darker brown beard and moustache, was in his first year as a rookie pastor at a Lutheran church in south Minneapolis. While he noticed that the MN Council of Churches statement had not caused a stir in his church – at least no one appeared outwardly upset as was the case in many churches – there was something that was disturbing his congregation. And he was responsible. Sure, he worked through a church committee who recommended the change. But through them, he moved the coffee hour from the Lounge into the Skyway. And some people were upset!

The Lounge was nice – big, carpeted, and full of living room-type couches and chairs. And coffee hour was served in there between services. Sunday visitors would need to walk into the Lounge to get coffee and goodies and then either stand there awkwardly as those comfortably seated in furniture stared at them, or find a chair or couch for themselves if something was available. The young pastor clearly had a good idea. How much better for coffee hour to be located in the Skyway area. This was the high traffic area where people were coming and going. Those coming to worship would walk right through the Skyway with coffee right there. People leaving the sanctuary after worship would also walk right by the

refreshments. The Skyway was an open, window-covered, daylight-filled area. It was hub central. And visitors – primarily young people – were used to standing and milling around in other venues. It would be more comfortable for them.

But I was told, “The Lounge was built for Coffee Hour.” And I believe that was, in fact, true. But there comes a time to re-form, to change. Most of us don’t like change, because we’re human. We like what’s familiar and what’s become comfortable. Nothing wrong with “coffee hour in the lounge” (a metaphor for many things). But if something else serves our mission better (such as welcoming visitors and making them feel comfortable), then “getting out of our comfortable seats in the lounge and moving into the skyway” is better, even if “the lounge was built for coffee hour”!

Celebrating the 500 Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther’s

*(“Re-formation” - Continued on page 4)*



## NOVEMBER WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26
<b>Ass't Minister</b>	Linda Mundt	Danielle Hill	Judie Mattison	Joani Moberg
<b>Acolytes</b>	Michael Weber Danielle Hill	Pat Olson Connor Swearingin	Jeri Schultz	Benji Huff
<b>Lector</b>	Judie Mattison	Freya Ebbesen		Nancy Lee Nelson
<b>Sacristan</b>	Anne Boone	Stacia Wick	Stacia Wick	Melissa Brooks
<b>Sound Board</b>	Sigrid Davidson	Dick Peik	Neeve McCarthy	Lydia Huff
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Chris Van Meter	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Counters</b>	Michael Weber Jeri Schultz	Gary Nelson Zac Halter	Mary Nelson Gary Nelson	Pat Olson Danielle Hill
<b>Food Shelf</b>	<i>Nov. 11</i> Judith Glass Michael Weber	<i>Nov. 18</i> Pat Olson Jeri Schultz	<i>Nov. 25</i> Gary Thorn	<i>Dec. 2</i> Carol Rue Pat Olson

## November Celebrations

### Birthdays

11/1 - Ingrid Ebbesen  
11/2 - Pam Tilseth  
11/2 - Kaia Zeigler  
11/7 - Mari Herdine  
11/7 - George Robson  
11/9 - Isaac Paulsrud

11/11 - Benjamin Tripp  
11/13 - Irv Elliott  
11/16 - Jaiana Leggett  
11/18 - Brian Aust  
11/22 - Florence Klobuchar  
11/25 - Michael Luedtke  
11/26 - Miranda Hong

### Anniversaries

11/13 - Brian & Marcia Haugstad  
11/20 - Jennifer & Zac Halter  
11/25 - Geoffrey & Toya Shepherd

## MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Calvary Choir
Tues., Nov. 7	10:00 a.m.	Miriam Circle
Mon., Nov. 13	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Community Meal Committee Meetings: Social Justice, Education, Crossroads, MICAH
Mon., Nov. 20	6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee
Mon., Nov. 27	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wed. Nov. 29	6:30 p.m.	Facilities Task Force

The church office will be closed  
Friday, Nov. 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Fall Fundraiser

Please join us on Saturday November 18 from 7:00-10:00 for an adult gathering to raise money for our food shelf. A donation of \$25 is suggested, but please give as generously as you are able.

This event is held at Laura and Daniel Huff's home, 4048 Elliot Avenue, just two blocks south of Calvary.



Thanksgiving is more than a National Holiday.

It is a proclamation that God is Generous.

It is our impetus to share the goodness— with the Calvary Food Shelf, Urban Arts Academy, and a selection of other ministries we support through your designated gifts to Calvary.



The November Mission of the Month is the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Gifts received at Calvary marked for the November Mission of the Month fund will be forwarded to the ELCA upon completion of the month.

### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE**

There will be a joint Thanksgiving service on Tues. Nov. 21 at First Congregational Church, 500 8th Ave SE, Minneapolis. It will include a combined choir with meal for the choir at 5:30 and rehearsal at 6:00. Service is at 7:00 with pie social afterwards.

*("Re-formation" - Continued from page 1)*

nailing of his 95 Theses (statements of objections) to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg is not a nostalgia trip down memory lane. It's about remembering that the Spirit of God has always been and will always be re-forming the Church and the gospel the Church communicates in ways and in language that's relevant to the culture and context of the day. (For instance, how relevant and revolutionary for Luther and other reformers to translate both Scripture and the worship service into the language of the people – German, in Luther's context.) And the Holy Spirit never works in a vacuum, but always through people – from the brilliant and great ones like Luther to me and you – all of us (including Luther) very flawed and imperfect.

Re-formation means change. Not change for the sake of change. Not change for the sole purpose of making people feel uncomfortable. But change that is needed for our day, our culture, our context. We probably can't grasp the full picture of all the change that may be needed. But when we are given a glimpse of a change that we feel called to participate in, and we step up and do it, the Spirit can use the cumulative efforts of many to work change on a much bigger scale.

From moving coffee hour, to starting a summer program for neighborhood children that would mess up the church kitchen (and receive corresponding complaints), to starting a new jazz-based worship service to reach young adults in the community, to having a new pastor come to lead that same congregation out of its building and then, eventually, return to that same location (this time with two other congregations) to sell and tear down part of the old building and renovate and create something

new with the rest...who knows what the Spirit might accomplish when we set out on a journey that's open to change?

"The Church is not dying, it's changing." And there's a big difference. Conversely, when the Church is not changing, it stagnates...and eventually dies. What's the reason we're able to change? The gospel! The gospel is the good news of God's unconditional love and grace toward us in Jesus Christ so we are set free to be whom and all God has created us to be. The risen Christ speaks to us in John's Gospel, *The truth will make you free, and If the Son makes you free you will be free indeed.* (John 8:32,36). This is not freedom to become someone different, but freedom to become who we've always been deep down. This is freedom to be and do church differently as the Spirit leads us, as we faithfully walk the journey that lies ahead, one step at a time.

While it's true there can be no re-formation, no change without some discomfort, without some controversy, without some conflict, it's also true that re-formation is not something we can force. Rather, I believe, it happens as we faithfully follow the path that emerges for us, as we dare to speak the words and take the actions the Spirit prompts us to take together in community, and as we then leave the rest to the One who has set us free by divine love and grace.

So Happy 500<sup>th</sup>! Thank you Martin Luther and thank you countless men and women of faith down through the ages. May we faithfully carry on their re-forming work in Spirit-led efforts today. And may the Church – including Calvary – have the courage to change and be changed in ways that are needed.

– Pastor Bruce

### **A NOTE FROM THE GENEROSITY TEAM**

We hope people will continue to submit their Intentions for Giving for 2018. There will be a poster in the hall with the tally of giving units. We're off to a good start — let's exceed last year's great effort!

## LET THE LIGHT SHINE: CALVARY STORIES

Our Advent theme this year is "Let the Light Shine," and we will be illuminating the dark of winter with midweek Prayer Around the Cross services as well as candle-lit Sunday morning services. As a part of "Let the Light Shine" I will be sharing stories of Calvary members who are letting the Light shine through their lives through the E-Blast and newsletter and potentially with a small poster display. I would appreciate help learning your stories. If you would like to share your story about how you shine a light in the dark or nominate someone to share their story, please send me an email: [andrea@clchurch.org](mailto:andrea@clchurch.org). It would be nice to also have a digital picture to share as well.

I am not going to define Light--however you see others shining, please share with me! Thank you!

*Andrea Sorum, Music Coordinator*



## SOUP & QUICHE FUNDRAISER

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the Race Equity soup/quiche fundraiser to raise money for David Stark's graduate pursuits! To date we have raised over \$2200 in soup/quiche profits and donations! If you missed the opportunity to previously purchase or you want to stock up on winter foods, we will be selling remaining soups, a few quiches, and pickles after service on November 11<sup>th</sup>!

A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for providing seed money for food supplies, and to our Thrivent Action Team volunteers, under the guidance of Pat Olson, who helped make the soups, quiches, and label/package the goodies! Calvary continues to be a blessing to many through projects that strengthen the places we live, work, and worship. Thanks to all for being a blessing and making a difference in the lives of others!

*A Race Equity Committee supported project*



## Pillsbury House Integrated Health Clinic

A new approach to health care has arrived on the south side of Minneapolis. The Pillsbury House Integrated Health Clinic brings integrated health care to the Powderhorn and Central communities.

This unique clinic brings together medical and complementary and alternative medicine practitioners to serve the health needs of our community. In multidisciplinary teams, students work with patients to determine the most effective treatment for optimal health. Licensed faculty from each discipline oversee this process and work with the students and patients in an environment of teaching and learning.

In the spirit of integrated health care, the overall focus of this clinic is one of engaging the patient in a deeper understanding of health and a more lasting sense of well-being. We use practices and approaches that treat the patient as a whole, recognizing that the mind, body and spirit are interconnected.

We believe that this approach to health care can help people within our community heal from many of the long-term illnesses that lessen our quality of life. This includes conditions such as stress, obesity, fatigue, headaches and indigestion.

Free Health Care is provided at Pillsbury House only during clinic hours: Wednesdays from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - noon. Pillsbury House is located at 3501 Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis. These services include acupuncture and Chinese medicine, massage therapy, chiropractic, counseling psychology, and health coaching. The Clinic is sponsored by Northwestern Health Sciences University, the U of M Center for Spirituality & Healing, and the Adler Graduate School.

## Calvary Lutheran Church

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### CONNECT WITH CALVARY ON THE WEB:



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



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**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  
December issue of the Calvary Newsletter is Tuesday, November 21