



Calvary's Crossroads

From the Pastor's Desk...

As we move into this Advent season we hear words from the apostle Paul in the First letter to the Thessalonians (possibly the oldest writing we have from the early church). Paul says simply, "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" What a wonderful tribute to that community of faith! Because of their life and witness there is a great sense of joy among the early disciples.

Calvary is a smaller urban church in a large metropolitan area and trade center—not unlike the original community in Thessalonica. And similar to the words expressed some 1,960 years ago, "how can one thank God enough for this congregation (you!)?"

Arriving here as your new pastor almost a year ago, it was incredibly exciting to "come home" to the ELCA. It was thrilling to receive the booklet of congregational bios and pictures (still on my desk) and homemade scones from Jeri Schultz. And it was and continues to be more and more a delight to worship, to work, and to serve together. There is so much for which to give thanks.



So as we move through the season of Harvest and Thanksgiving and into the liturgical season of Advent and God appearing and dwelling among us... I would like to take a moment to offer thanks and joy! It seems only appropriate to join with Paul and others to express thanks for a community which lives into the love, life, and hope as we follow in the ways of Jesus. So...

... thanks for committees who care so deeply about this congregation and its ministries; much thanks for those who encourage giving, volunteering, and supporting the Synod, ELCA, and ecumenical outreach; gratitude for volunteers who put in hour after hour to dream about, create, and work for ways to serve others (food shelf, Urban Arts, Crossroads, Our Saviour's Community meals, letter writing campaigns, holiday baskets,

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3901 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55407-2696
Phone: 612.827.2504
Fax: 612.827.0176
Email: CalvaryMpls@visi.com
Web: www.CLChurch.org

Brad Froslee, Pastor
froslee@hotmail.com

Mary Gail Hoover,
Church Administrator
CalvaryMpls@visi.com

Daniel Pederson, Church Musician
Pederson.daniel@gmail.com

David Zopfi, Head Custodian
zot123@earthlink.net

Elvelena Bishop, Custodian
Henrietta Williams
Food Shelf Coordinator

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special offerings, rummage sale, UAA Gala); appreciation for those who take leads in caring for our earth and looking to ways we as a community and as individuals can make a difference; thanks for those who offer ministries of presence and healing (card ministry, healing services, visitation to homebound); thanks for the women's circles and the Men's group; gratitude for the wonderful gifts of music—choral anthems, instrumental and vocal solos, special organ and piano music; great thanks for all of the children and the life and love they bring to the congregation in education, music, Christmas pageants, Day camp, work for God's Global Barnyard and Pennies for Peace...and so much more!; appreciation for fellowship (shared meals, game nights, Intergenerational Vacation Bible School evenings, wonderful coffee hours...not to mention community building over chocolate torte, grapefruit pie, meatless-meatballs, and margaritas); gratitude for those who proclaim the Word in readings and song, set the Table, serve as acolytes, greet, usher, bring gifts to the table, and enrich worship; deep, deep thanks to the Council who meets, plans, and plods to be about the Gospel in this place and the world; gratitude for the work of the staff and their commitment...and much thanks to each of you!!!! How can one thank God enough?!

As we reflect on the church year now past, may we together give thanks for the blessings which have surrounded us and filled us. Then as we turn into this new year let us continue to vision and dream as we hold close all that is good and see God continuing to call, claim, and revitalize us to be a blessing to others!

What joy! What thanks!

Pastor Brad

Aliveness Project Holiday Baskets



Holiday Cookies Wanted...

If you are interested in baking cookies for the Aliveness Project please contact Carole Chalman.

Cookies are to be baked at home and bagged by the dozen. These cookies will be placed in the Holiday baskets for individuals or families living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Cookies need to be at Calvary by December 20th. Carole Chalman is available to answer questions or provide more information at 612-823-7885.

Adopting a Basket

Additionally, if you or your family would like to provide a basket for the Holiday Basket program, there are forms available in the church office or narthex. Baskets may be designated for an individual, adult couple or family. The general rule of thumb is \$35 in gifts for each individual.

Choir, Christmas, and You!

The Advent season is here, and soon the anticipation of Christmas will be complete. We wish to take this opportunity to welcome folks to join with the choir to sing for the Christmas Eve service. We will be practicing the music for this service (as well as Sundays in Advent) on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.



If you are interested in singing with the choir on Christmas Eve, please come to our rehearsals on Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23. Let Daniel know of your interest on Sunday or contact him at 612-205-9806 or pederson.daniel@gmail.com.

****Special Note:** Child care will be available these Wednesday nights in December. Please let Daniel know of your interest in childcare so we have enough caregivers on hand.**

Welcome our new members.....



Rachel Bjorhus is originally from a small farm community in Northwestern MN (Felton, population 216), where she was raised in a tight-knit church family like Calvary. Along with her three younger brothers (all college-aged), and her parents, they run their family farm (with the help of her 81 yr.-old grandmother!).

Rachel graduated from St. Olaf in 2007, and has been working at an immigration law firm since then. During her free time she likes to salsa dance, and volunteer as a refugee mentor with Lutheran Social Service. She also enjoys biking and cross country skiing, dinners with friends, and new opportunities for community. She's excited to be a part of Calvary, and am so grateful to everyone for the warm welcome!

Lisa Luedtke is the youngest of seven children whose mother raised them as a single parent and did a wonderful job at it. Lisa lives in Bloomington by herself and works out of her home for an insurance Company that sent her home to work about 3 years ago. She came to Calvary through Ramona and was pleased to also find the Rudruds also here. She feels so welcomed by everyone here from the very first Sunday when Lisa and her brother, Michael, walked through the door of the church. She has gone to other churches in the past several years but none have felt like she was home (Prince of Glory) as Calvary has. Lisa thanks everyone for the warm welcome and welcoming arms.

Daniel Pederson, Calvary's Church Musician, started his work here in the fall of 2008. He lives with his husband, Dennis Sanders in Minneapolis. Daniel works during the week at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church as their Communications Manager where he is in charge of the website, weekly and monthly newsletters, advertising, outdoor signage and other special projects. He's been there since the fall of 2006, when he moved to the Cities from Grand Forks where he was Music Director at United Lutheran Church. Dennis is the part-time Associate Pastor at First Christian Church, Mpls, and works also for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, so they make quite an ecumenical household! They are both interested in cars (Dennis grew up in Flint, MI), like to travel, and are interested in making efforts to be more "green."

Gary Mazzone comes to Calvary Lutheran with letter of transfer from St Paul Reformation Lutheran Church. *At St Paul Reformation Gary was on the Wingspan Steering Committee, the Library Committee, and the Interim Call Committee.*

Gary lives in South Minneapolis by Lake Nokomis with Emma, his five year old, rescued Yorkie. He works at Borders Books doing community relations for the Twin Cities. In his spare time, Gary enjoys taking long walks with Emma, going to the Firm his gym, and reading. Gary is entering his 24th year for being HIV+ and is very blessed to be a long term survivor.

While attending Urban Art Academy's Gala last year, Gary was seated next to Sam Robson. She gave him a tour of Calvary. Through Gary's work at Borders he was able to secure some grant monies for Urban Arts Academy by doing art exhibits at local Borders stores. Another special connection with Calvary is through member, Pat Olson. Pat catered Gary's partner, Loren's funeral in 1995.

Since 1995 he has participated in 23 cycling events, road his bicycle across America three times, (even completed the fast ride across America in 30 days), and has raised over \$100,000 for various non profits.

Gary is very excited about being a member of this great church and is excited to see what he can offer to church.

Welcome our new members.....



Michael Luedtke started coming to Calvary through an invitation from his friend, Ramona Starks. He is a customer account manager/office manager for a print company in downtown Minneapolis and also teaches ice skating at a couple of local rinks. Michael would like to thank everyone who has made him feel right at home at Calvary.

Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse serves as synod resource staff for the Grand Canyon Synod (ELCA) and was formerly Executive Director for Church Relations and Theological Education at Pacific Lutheran University. An ordained Lutheran pastor for 35 years, Rouse also served congregations in Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington and currently is adjunct faculty at Luther Seminary working with pastors in the Doctor of Ministry program. He currently chairs the new Missional Leadership Academy of the Grand Canyon Synod.

In the fall of 2005, Rouse was invited to serve as a guest professor at the Evangelical Lutheran University in Nuremberg, Germany. During the fall semester, he presented a public program on German POW's in America during World War II. The lecture drew a large crowd from the university and surrounding community, including nearly 100 former German Prisoners of War and their families.

He is author of *Fire of Grace: The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, and co-author with Craig Van Gelder of the newly released *A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation: Embarking on a Journey of Transformation*. Rouse is currently president of the North American Association for the Catechumenate and past President of the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry. He is a member of the Board of Directors at Wartburg Theological Seminary. He is a trained spiritual director, congregational consultant, and a popular conference speaker. He is married to Beth Lewis, President and CEO of Augsburg Fortress.

Michael, Deana, Hannah and Aaron Downs are all very excited about joining Calvary and looking forward to becoming more involved in the community.

Michael started singing in church during his infant baptism and continues to enjoy singing alone and in groups to this day. He sings with Invocation, a local a cappella choral ensemble that raises money for hunger related charities, as well as occasional solo work at churches in the Twin Cities. His day job keeps him busy working as a Technology Architect for IBM. He also enjoys baking bread, cooking, bicycling and keeping the two family dogs entertained.

Deana is a creative person who enjoys pursuing a variety of activities. She loves gardening, plant propagation, cooking & designing jewelry. She currently has an Energy Healing practice in St. Louis Park and volunteers occasionally for North Memorial Hospice. She also has two other children, Rick age 25 and Alexandra age 21, who are both in college and live on their own. Having four children, two dogs and Michael, she is forever amused.

Hannah is a sixth grader at Robbinsdale Middle School in the International Baccalaureate program. An avid reader, she started her own book club with a group of friends two years ago and they continue to read together with guidance from Deana. She also loves singing and spending time with her friends in person and on line.

Aaron is a third grader at the Lighthouse Program in St. Louis Park. Aaron loves to read, particularly fantasy novels, humor and science books. He likes to write and learn about science and technology. He enjoys spending time creating animation on the computer, as well as video games and other computer related distractions.

Welcome our new members.....



Damon Van Duzen grew up along the Eastern seaboard and now makes his home in North Minneapolis with his partner, Loren Woodman. Damon possesses an extraordinary passion for cooking and massage therapy.

He feels he has been raised to love and appreciate all that is different and care for those weaker than himself.

Ruth Pope is a busy widow, mom and grandma. She is Robbi & Elaine's mom and has loved hearing them sing with the Calvary choir. Ruth became good friends with Pat & Nancy and has helped them at various Calvary functions. Even before she joined the church, she appreciated how the pastors were so good to her family when they found themselves having to plan her husband's funeral. She was so grateful to them and the choir members for making the whole process as easy as possible.

Her children live in Minneapolis, South Dakota, Texas and Arizona. Ruth loves spending time with family in Minneapolis (grandchildren: Lauren & Bergan), but is also lucky enough to be able to travel to visit the rest of the family several times a year. She enjoys flying and always having a good book and a Sudoku puzzle tucked under her arm!

Whenever she finds time, she loves a good game of bridge (on the internet or with friends), swimming with grandkids & friends and dining with neighbors. During the summer, her condominium neighbors all walk in the evenings and enjoy a glass of wine on someone's patio. So...she's mostly "on the go" but would thoroughly like to get to know more of the Calvary family.


Amy Knowlen moved to Minneapolis 22 years ago to attend the University of Minnesota. She earned a BA in International Relations and later returned to school to pursue an ESL teaching license from Hamline University and a Master of Education from the University of Minnesota.

For twelve years Amy was an ESL teacher in the Minneapolis School District and currently teaches at Edison High School.

Amy and her husband Michael decided to buy a house in the Powderhorn neighborhood, a block and a half from Calvary, in 2001. This is where they are raising their children Alexander, 8 and Venice, 5. They are proud, active members of this community, and feel so blessed to have found a church home right down the street.

Amy's interests include travel, learning about other languages and cultures, reading, outdoor activities, cooking and scrapbooking.

Alex is in 3rd grade. He loves reading (especially Harry Potter), swimming, learning Chinese, riding his bike and camping.

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
		1 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 10:00 a.m. Miriam Circle 10 - 3 Parenting Oasis 2:30 p.m. UAA After-School 6 - 8:30 p.m. Whittier Parent Mtg.	2 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 2:30 p.m. UAA After-School 6:00 p.m. Encore! rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Church Choir 7:00 p.m. TCW Choir	3 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 2:30 - 5 p.m. UAA After-School 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7-9 p.m. Baggpipers	4 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 6:30 - 8 p.m. Masons	5 9 - noon Food Shelf 9 - 11:30 a.m. TCW Choir Dress Rehearsal 10- 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi 11:30 a.m. TCWC Decorate Fellowship Hall
6 9:00 a.m. Education Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Illuminations Concert & Reception 3 p.m. Bagpipers 4:00 p.m. Illuminations Concert & Reception	7 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 6:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee	8 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 10 - 3 Parenting Oasis 2:30 p.m. UAA After-School 6:30 Worship & Spiritual Care Committee	9 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 11:30 a.m. Ruth Circle 2:30 p.m. UAA After-School 6:00 p.m. Encore! rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Church Choir 7:00 p.m. TCW Choir	10 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. UAA Pre-School 2 - 3:30 p.m. Parenting Oasis 2:30 p.m. UAA After-School 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7-9 p.m. Bagpipers	11 9 :00-4:30 p.m. UAA Pre-School	12 9:00 -noon Food Shelf 10:00 - noon Masons 10-11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
13 9:00 a.m. Education Classes 10:15 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Bagpipers	14	15 10 - 3 Parenting Oasis	16 6:00 p.m. Encore! rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Church Choir 7:00 p.m. TCW Choir	17 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7-9 p.m. Bagpipers	18	19 9:00-noon Food Shelf 10 - 11:30 a.m. Tai Chi 4:00 p.m. Loren Woodman and Damon Van Duzen wedding
20 9:00 a.m. Education 10:15 a.m. Worship 3 p.m. Bagpipers 4:00 p.m. Calvary's Children Christmas Program	21 6:30 p.m. Mission Support	22 10 - 3 Parenting Oasis	23 6:30 p.m. Church choir	24 Church offices are Closed. 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Church offices are closed. 10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service	26 8:30 a.m. UAA Board Mtg. 9:00-noon Food Shelf 10-11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
27 10:15 a.m. Worship 3 p.m. Bagpipers	28 6:00 p.m. Church Council	29 10 - 3 Parenting Oasis	30	31		

Worship Leaders

Date	Deacon	Acolyte/ Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Sacristan	Sound Board	Coffee Hour	Nursery
Dec. 6th	Chris Robson	Josh Moberg Sarah Lahr	Michael Downs	Kim Zeigler Kaia Zeigler	Steve McCarthy	Gary Nelson	Daniel Huff Laura Huff Brian Aust dorothy lesher	Anders Davidson Sarah Zeigler
Dec. 13th	Danielle Hill	Brian Aust Judi Linder	Laura Huff	Irv Elliott Jean Langehough Sage Walen	Felecia Boone	George Robson	Mona Eastman Pam Tilseth Joyce Thompson Marietta Nordstrom	Kim Zeigler Jennifer McCarthy
Dec. 20th	Jennifer McCarthy	Beth Lewis Sarah Zeigler	Carol Rue	Daniel Huff Benjamin Huff Lydia Huff	Felecia Boone	Kim Zeigler	Pat Olson Nancy Grover	Eric Ebbesen Joani Moberg
Dec. 24th 5:00 p.m.	Sam Robson	Irv Elliott	Kendra McCarthy		Sam Robson	Gary Nelson	XX	XX
Dec. 25th 10:15 a.m.	Sarah Zeigler	Michael Weber Ramona Starks	Steve Glass		Sam Robson	Aaron Gebauer	XX	XX
Dec. 27th	Nancy Lee Nelson	Joanne Shepherd Jean Langehough	Hannah Downs	Brian Aust Eliot Aust Johanna Aust	Steve McCarthy	George Robson	Verna Lutes	Aaron Gebauer Teri Schweizer



Happy Birthday

Soren Davidson	12/2/02
Neeve McCarthy	12/4/02
Maranda Segelstrom	12/6/05
Nancy Grover	12/8
Emma Robson	12/13/07
Darold Luze	12/17
Gladys Robson	12/17
Dick Peik	12/26
Judy Askelson	12/29
Keely Stanford	12/31



Happy Anniversary

Donna & James Neubauer
December 21st

Robert & Linda Bowers
December 30th

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Judy Askelson - cancer treatment/health
- Nancy Grover-cancer
- Marietta Nordstrom and her family and friends as they grieve the loss of her husband, Clifford
- For friends of our congregation with health needs, including: Kyle, Barb, Sheila, Sheri, Jan, Amaya, Kelly, Phyllis, Ardell, Bill, Silas and Doris

Our Saviour's Homeless Shelter

We hope you will join us on Monday, December 28th when we will be serving dinner for about 50 people. Please let Chris Robson, George Robson or Nancy Lee Nelson know if you are able to help out.

Adult Education

The Gospel of Luke will be the topic of the adult education class on December 6, 13, and 20th. The two main topics will be Mary's Song in chapter one and the birth of Jesus in chapter 2. See everyone for coffee and discussion at 9:00 a.m.

Thanks

Thank you so much for all the good things happening for the Food Shelf.

Wells Fargo Bank called to ask us to come collect the food from the barrel they're collecting for us because it was so full!

Winning For Life is a group of beautiful young ladies who sponsored a food drive for Second Harvest and our Food Shelf was the recipient!

Loren Woodman, Damon Van Duzen, Daniel and Laura Huff hosted a fundraiser for our Food Shelf this month and it was a blessing!

Along came the **Minneapolis Rotary Club** phone call with a grant!

Pat Olson & Nancy Grover are hosting another fundraiser to benefit our Food Shelf.

You can't tell me God hasn't been blessing us! The kindness and support freely showered on us has been so encouraging!

~ ~ Henrietta Williams, Director

How Green was Gandhi?

Did you know that Mahatma Grande used only one jug of



water each day for all his needs? Even when he was in the United States, he intentionally made this choice because he said that was his fair share.

Long before any one thought of it, Gandhi had installed water-harvesting facility at his Porbandar house. The house has an underground water collection tank and there was a mechanism to allow all rainwater falling in the backyard system to go into that tank. The family used it year-round.

Anyone up for the water jug and/or rain barrel idea?

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Auditions for the musical will be held at Calvary, Thursday, December 3rd after 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6th after worship in the 2nd Floor Music Office. Auditions are open to those 12 years and older and will be general in nature. Come prepared to sing a song of your choosing (Happy Birthday works well...) The musical will be performed at Calvary May 20 - 23, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Elaine Christopher, Nancy Grover or Jennifer McCarthy. Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Fundraising Survey Responses

Thank-you to all who replied to the fundraising survey! Bachmann's gift card fundraiser held twice a year and a bake sale received the most votes for participation. Overall, there was not much support for fundraising. Thank-you for your honest responses as they will help with planning future successful fundraisers.



New Addition to Website

Can't be in church but don't want to miss Pastor Brad's sermon? Just want to hear his sermon a second time? Wish you could share one of Brad's sermons with a friend? Well, you just might be in luck! Most of Pastor Brad's sermons are now being videotaped and can be found on our website. Just look for the appropriate link in the "What's New" column on our homepage (www.clchurch.org). Depending on the speed of your computer and/or internet connection, the video might take some time to buffer, but if you wait to view it until it's completely buffered, you'll likely find the experience less frustrating. Sermons will remain on the website for about a month; if you'd like to view an older one, contact Jeri Schultz at sisi.jeri@gmail.com to receive assistance.

To the Community at Calvary

*Damon Van Duzen and Loren Woodman
request the honor of your presence
at our Commitment Ceremony
on
December 19, 2009
at 4:00 p.m.*

*Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407*

*Reception in Fellowship Hall
immediately following the service.*

Urban Arts Academy Spotlight on Rita Van Allen VISTA Volunteer Coordinator

For the last year and a half I've been working with Urban Arts to build their Volunteer Program and increase visibility in the community—partly by helping to make UAA more accessible to our Spanish-speaking families.

In 2007, Urban Arts completed the grant application process to become approved as a host site for an AmeriCorps VISTA Member. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) has been around since the 60s, and is meant to strengthen non-profits that already exist. We are "capacity builders" in that we work to make structural and sustainable changes that will last after our relatively short member commitment. A commitment is generally a year long, but in August I decided to take on another year of service. It is an exciting position to have and I get to help build a growing organization, while meeting so many interesting volunteers and interns along the way.

I grew up in Eugene, Oregon and I moved to St. Paul, Minnesota in 2002 to complete a BA in Studio Art at Macalester College. I have lived in Minneapolis since 2006.

My personal interests lay in art, gardening, cooking and community. I am a working artist and I generally create oil paintings. The content of my work relies heavily on personal narrative, particularly the pull I feel from my family, heritage, and my home in Oregon. In general, my art is my way of understanding, hypothesizing, and feeling a part of the world in which I live, and so the themes of my work will surely morph over time.

I hope that our students learn to explore the role of expression in their lives, in whatever form it comes.



Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55407-2696

IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

Dare to Dream
January 26
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Earle Brown Heritage Center
Brooklyn Center

It takes courage to step out of our comfort zones, learn about new cultures and extend ourselves as good neighbors to others who don't look like us. Might we, in the church today, dare to dream how we can make a real and lasting difference?

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking conversation. Cost for the day is \$20 per person. Advanced registration and payment are required through mail or online (preferred) at www.faithinthecity.org. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 12 to assure your place at this important event. Questions can be directed to Deborah Hutterer at 612-359-6499. This event is sponsored by Faith in the City and LINC-Twin Cities.

The Practice of Word & World

You are encouraged to read and ponder the Scripture readings for Sundays' worship

December 6

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Phil. 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13

Zeph. 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 20

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Heb. 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:8-20

December 27

I Sam. 2:18-20,
26
Psalm 148
Col. 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52