



VICTORY OVER HATE

September 2017

Joseph – the Biblical character himself, son of Jacob and Rachel – preached at Calvary on Sunday, August 13. You could say that Joseph was the victim of a hate group. Only the hate group was his own family – his brothers, jealous of their father’s favoritism towards him. Ready to murder him, instead they sold him to traders who then sold him as a slave in Egypt. Fast forwarding through the story, Joseph rose from a slave to becoming Pharaoh’s right-hand man. He administered the entire Egyptian economy through years of famine. When the famine reached Canaan where his father and brothers still lived, his brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food from Joseph. But they didn’t recognize him. On the second such visit, Joseph revealed his identity to them and extended his forgiveness.

Joseph perceived divine plans and purposes fulfilled even through the painful events in his life of betrayal and abandonment by his own family. He perceived that it wasn’t entirely by accident that he ended up in his powerful position so that he could preserve life for Egypt and the surrounding nations during a prolonged famine; and, in particular, so that he could provide for his own family and allow the future people of Israel to come in existence. Perceiving this divine presence at work, he says to his brothers... *it was not you who sent me here, but God.* And later, after Jacob dies and his brothers again fear revenge from Joseph, he reassures them of his forgiveness and declares, *Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good.*

I don’t believe that terrible things that happen in the world and in our personal lives are “God’s will.” I don’t believe that God causes atrocities for some reason or to create some meaning. And I



don’t believe that’s how we should understand Joseph’s words. Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, wrote, “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forward.” In Joseph’s story, it was some 20 years from the time of his betrayal by family to his reconciliation with them. Looking back on his betrayal, he perceived something more than just their evil intent and what they did to him.

There’s nothing automatic about such perception. Painful, tragic life experiences can deepen faith, or destroy it. They can create character, or beget bitterness. Some marriages/partnerships are strengthened by walking

through crisis, and some collapse.

Paul wrote to the Romans, *In all things God works for good for those who love God...* (8:28) I don’t like the translation, *All things work together for good...* because terrible things don’t automatically work for good. But I believe there is sometimes a truth to be perceived about the power of divine grace to bring some kind of good out of what only seems evil – things we can’t understand, don’t have to “explain”, and never have to defend as being “God’s will”.

One of our adult chaperones on our recent youth mission trip to Montana gave me the Spring 2017 issue of *Intelligence Report*, the Southern Poverty Law Center’s (SPLC) magazine. I read it on the train ride home. It’s subtitled, “The Year in Hate and Extremism”.

By now you may have seen information in that magazine quoted by news sources since the events in Charlottesville the second weekend in August. The SPLC lists 917 active hate groups in the United States in 2016. This is double the number

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SEPTEMBER WORSHIP & MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Ass't Minister	Danielle Hill	Judie Mattison	Joani Moberg	Emilie Bouvier
Acolytes		Joanne Shepherd Ingrid Ebbesen	Michael Weber Danielle Hill	Pat Olson Connor Swearingin
Lector		Isaac Wengerd	Felecia Boone	Linda Mundt
Sacristan	Stacia Wick	Stacia Wick	Melissa Brooks	Melissa Brooks
Sound Board	Lydia Huff	Gary Nelson	Kenney Escher Julian Escher	Sigrid Davidson
Coffee Hour	Anne Boone Felecia Boone	Michael Weber Nancy Lee Nelson Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	Carolyn & Matt Youngbauer	<i>Sign up in the narthex to volunteer</i>
Counters	Gary Nelson Ted Fabel	Mary Nelson Marilyn Holm	Pat Olson Danielle Hill	Joanne Shepherd Kathleen Gohlke
Food Shelf	Sept. 9 Judith Glass Michael Weber	Sept. 16 Gary Nelson Jeri Schultz	Sept. 23 Marilyn Holm Gary Thorn	Sept. 30 Aust/lesher family Teri Schweizer

September Celebrations

Birthdays

9/2 - Judith Glass
9/2 - Tamara Tripp
9/5 - Alexander Jackson
9/6 - Brian Rolig
9/9 - Freya Ebbesen
9/9 - Lisa Lundmark
9/10 - Britt Guild
9/12 - Lisa Negstad
9/16 - Sandra Nekola
9/17 - Zoe Hocum

9/17 - Darcy Luze
9/17 - Jennifer McCarthy
9/20 - Allison Zeigler
9/21 - Brian Haugstad
9/23 - Asher Mohr
9/26 - Chris Robson
9/26 - Sarah Lahr
9/27 - Stella Byng
9/27 - Elayne Lipp
9/29 - Melissa Townsend

Anniversaries

9/17 - Isaac Wengerd & Anne Williams-Wengerd
9/21 - Shari Seifert & Melissa Brooks
9/26 - Jayne Schaecher & Heidi Schreiber



MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5 - Miriam Circle 10:00 a.m.
Sept. 6 - Choir Rehearsals begin each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 10 - Rally Sunday 10:00 worship, 11:15 Sunday School Open House
Sept. 11 - Community Meal 5:30 p.m.; Committee Meetings 6:30 p.m (Social Justice, Education, Crossroads, MICAH)
Sept. 17 - Confirmation 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 18 - Executive Committee 6:30 p.m.
Sept 23 - Race Equity Concert 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Sept. 25 - Council 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

At our August Council meeting, Joani Moberg briefed us on the work of the Facilities Task Force. Given the important issues the Task Force is exploring, we plan to make this a regular part of our monthly Council meetings. We are grateful for Joani's leadership and all those volunteering on the Task Force.

We also heard a presentation by our Office Administrator, Kurt Posz, who has completed a detailed analysis of the building usage. One of the key things we are learning is that Calvary incurs building-related expenses far above the rent we receive from Urban Arts Academy (UAA). With the blessing of the Council, Pastor Bruce has initiated conversations with UAA leadership to inform them about this situation. As a next step, Calvary's Executive Committee will meet with UAA Executive Committee in early September to begin brainstorming solutions.

Treasurer Tom Johnson laid out the schedule for preparing the 2018 budget over the coming months. He will be leading a discussion of Calvary's budget during the adult education hour on Sunday October 1, so we hope you can attend that to learn more.

The Generosity Team is getting ready to launch our "Journey to Generosity" this fall. As part of this effort, Pastor Bruce has challenged the Council to be bolder in our leadership around giving. He presented anonymous data showing the Council's giving in 2016 and estimated giving for 2017. Collectively, we increased our giving by 38%. As leaders of the Congregation we will be making our estimate of 2018 giving by the end of September, so it will be announced prior to Commitment Sunday, which will be October 15.

Please join us in offering prayers for our Call Committee as they begin interviewing six candidates for Pastor over the coming days.

Blessings on you and yours as we prepare to enter the school year and embark on the next phase of our journey together!

- Lars Negstad, President

LIFE JOURNEYS

Life is a sequence of journeys. We usually measure them by days and years. We like to think we've "arrived" at times, but it's only a matter of time before we realize that things have changed again and off we go!

Another decade is more than a measure of time, it's a measure of change. We grow older or stronger or taller or, we hope, wiser. As we leave summer behind, we wonder where all those warm (or rainy) days have gone?

It's always exciting to watch children head off for school in the fall. They have filled their backpacks with supplies and hopes. They will reunite with friends. Usually they are eager to start over.

We dig our feet in a bit. Change!? Do I have to change again? We who resist, sometimes miss the opportunity that comes with new relationships, new ideas, new locations, and new growth. Like bushes we need a little pruning for new growth. Sometimes it comes with tossing out old clothes or "stuff". Sometimes it means thinking about how Jesus taught us how to live, which might mean tossing out and pruning and finding new growth.

One of our growth areas is how we feel and act toward money. Most of us feel quite possessive of what we earn or have — "that's mine." This fall we can try to prune that resistance away and see that new growth means we are able, with our money, to do FAR more to help the world than we can do keeping it for ourselves. The change of autumn can mean that we reassess our values and habits, toss out the old stuff that cramps our minds, and take on the refreshing change of being more generous than we thought we were able. It's part of the journey to change ourselves for the better as we fill our backpacks with generosity. A good change to enliven us on our journey.

-Calvary Generosity Team



SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH – DISASTER RELIEF

Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast of the United States on Aug. 25, 2017, threatening millions of people in coastal Texas and Louisiana with multiple days of heavy rain, winds and rising tides. While many have evacuated, significant damage is still expected, and thousands of people may be housed in shelters for an extended period of time.

Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together, we have a strong history of working with Disasters in the Gulf Coast area. The road to recovery will be long, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster.

We invite you to stand by our neighbors on the Gulf Coast during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by this disaster for years to come. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

**May God's healing presence give our sisters and brother
peace and hope in their time of need.**

Gifts given to Calvary Lutheran Church for the September Mission of the Month will be forwarded to ELCA Disaster Response upon completion of the month. Individuals may also give directly to the fund by visiting the ELCA website:

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/US-Hurricane-Relief>



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE RALLY SUNDAY

Enrollment is open for the 2017-2018 Christian education year! Children from 4 years old to Confirmation (grade 8-9) are encouraged to participate. Registration forms are available in the narthex or on the Calvary website, in the What's New at Calvary section (www.clchurch.org) if you care to pre-register your child(ren). A Rally Sunday Open House is scheduled at 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sep 10, 2017. Parents/guardians may register children that day. All members of the congregation are encouraged to visit the classrooms on Rally Sunday to get to know the Christian education volunteers and the students.

("Victory Over Hate" - continued from page 1)

in 1999, but below the peak of 1,018 in 2011. (This list doesn't include activism that takes place only online by individuals or groups which is a growing phenomenon among extremists.) Of these 917, the group breakdown is as follows: 130 Ku Klux Klan; 99 Neo-Nazi; 100 White Nationalist; 78 Racist Skinhead; 21 Christian Identity; 43 Neo-Confederate; 193 Black Separatist; 52 Anti-LGBT; 101 Anti-Muslim; 100 General Hate.

Heather Heyer was killed in Charlottesville and many were injured as a young man affiliated with some hate group drove a car into a crowd of counter-protesters. Two state troopers also died when their helicopter crashed while monitoring the violence. Thirteen were killed on August 17 when an apparent ISIS-affiliated driver of a van drove into a crowd in Barcelona. The Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington was firebombed on August 5. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Terrible atrocities. Evil acts. And we all know there will be more. People will continue to commit evil deeds out of their own particular fears, hatreds and twisted ideologies. And they will win battles. But when we are tempted to think that evil is winning the day, we need to remember the gospel. We need to remember that that love of God revealed in Jesus Christ will eventually win the war against hate.

In WWII, the original Nazis won many battles. But they lost the war. But the gospel's victory will not come about

by the power of American military might. It will come by the triumph of God's love over all the hatred and evil deeds that we humans are capable of. As Jesus says in Matthew 15, *What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder...*

Heather Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, has said she hopes some good would come out of her daughter's death. She said that what they did to her has already magnified what she stood for. What did she stand for? Anti-hate. Pro-love.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, according to my theology, declares that God's love is bigger than even the worst tragedies and evil atrocities that flow from hate-filled human hearts. A Lutheran "theology of the cross" perceives the presence of God even amidst human acts of hate.

What is the gospel? It's the message that after the Roman execution of that peasant, Jewish preacher – Jesus of Nazareth – there was a resurrection. Out of the ashes of death and grief, new life will emerge... again and again and again.

As people of faith, let's not forget the ultimate triumph of God's love and resurrection power. Let's remember who will get the last word.

– Pastor Bruce



Come sing with us!

The Twin Cities Girls' Choir invites you to join us for our 2017-2018 season! We are a diverse community that sings, performs, and affirms girls' voices by fostering personal development, musical growth, and an inclusive, fun community. Participation in TCGC is tuition-based, with full and partial scholarships available. No student will be turned away due to inability to pay. The Choir rehearses at Calvary Lutheran Monday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m.

Students in grades 2-12 are invited to learn more by visiting the TCGC website: www.twincitiesgirlschoir.org for registration information.

#DECOLONIZELUTHERANISM

BENEFIT CONCERT

SEPT. 23RD
6:00-7:30 P.M.

A special benefit concert to raise funds
for #Decolonize17 November gathering
in Philadelphia and other activities.

Calvary Lutheran Church
3901 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

www.facebook.com/decolonizelutheranism
for more details.




REFORMATION FESTIVAL 2017

Oct. 27-28, 2017

- Join in presentations and workshops by more than 20 theologians and musicians on Luther Seminary's campus.
- Attend a performance by the National Lutheran Choir of "Holy Spirit Mass," a new choral work commissioned for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- Worship at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis with presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching and massed choirs from area churches.

Registration opens Feb. 1, 2017. Please plan to join us for this historic celebration! www.luthersem.edu/reformation

Hosted by Luther Seminary and the National Lutheran Choir and sponsored by Central Lutheran Church.

 LUTHER SEMINARY

THE NATIONAL
LUTHERAN CHOIR 

SAVE THE DATE!

Calvary Lutheran Church

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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
October issue of the Calvary Newsletter is Tuesday, September 26