

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



WE CAN
DO MORE
TOGETHER

A NOTE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Calvary friends in faith,

Have you ever noticed how throughout the Bible God is constantly making outsiders insiders? In fact, much to the dismay of the religious types of his day, Jesus was constantly pointing to outsiders as the heroes of his stories, as examples of faith and love. Think about all the flawed outsiders God chose to be a part of God's story: David was a murderer. Samson was an arrogant womanizer. John the Baptist ate bugs and hollered in the wilderness. Noah was a drunk. Abraham was too old. Mary was too young. Peter denied him. Jacob a liar. Jonah ran away. And Martha was a worry-wart. These people clearly had issues! But, none of that mattered to God. God said, "These are my people! Outsiders? No way. There are no outsiders to my love." Calvary, isn't that our mission? As we seek to *lead all people to faith in Jesus Christ*, aren't we all about making those who are perceived as outsiders insiders? If you ask me, that's why we exist. And, at Calvary we believe we can best accomplish this Christ-centered mission through:



First, when we commit ourselves to creating **worship** experiences that welcome insiders as well as those who didn't grow up in the church or have had bad experiences with church, we create the opportunity to welcome people into a lifelong faith. When we invite our friends and neighbors to worship, it offers the possibility for them to experience something maybe they've never experienced before in a church. Second, we want all to know the life-changing difference being surrounded by a group of people who love you and love God can make. The best way we know to do this is through **Connect** Groups or small groups, because when it comes to growth in faith, circles are always better than rows! Life is simply better when you are connected. And finally, we want all to ultimately put their faith in action in ways that **serve** our community and beyond. We want to be a church with big hands and big feet.

As you look at our annual report, again this year it is organized around these three key components of our mission because they are at the heart of what we seek to do and be. As we embark on another year of ministry, I'm so thankful that I get to be a part of a church that is boldly reminding our community that there are no outsiders to God's love!

I'm grateful for you and the mission we share!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Hans'.

Pastor Hans

CALVARY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

- 2** Seminary students. Calvary's Endowment Fund pays their tuition and will do the same for Calvary members who follow God's call to ministry! Another 4 members are currently considering seminary.
- 4** unique worship services each week. We are one church, many expressions.
- 33** students & adults traveled to Guatemala and the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this past summer!
- 60** baptisms were held at Calvary over the past year!
- 60** small groups meeting regularly.
- 65** students attended Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer!
- 79** students attend Calvary Preschool for a Christ-centered education.
- 119** new members joined our family of faith over the past year!
- 130** people age 65 and better attended the first PrimeTime event at Calvary, for fellowship and connection.
- 230** students participated in Calvary's free Vacation Bible School with another 100 student and adult leaders assisting!
- 284** children and students participated in youth programs.
- 412** the average weekly summer Calvary at the Lake worship attendance!
- 503** quilts were sewn by hand and donated to Lutheran World Relief, & more than 1,000 mission kits were packed and shipped globally.
- 728** people gather for worship each week on average at Calvary.
- 1,000** tax returns were prepared through West Central Community Action's free tax preparation service held at Calvary!
- 2,149** members consider Calvary their church home!
- 4,800** bags of food packed for hungry students through our Backpack Attack program!
- \$20,000** was given to support Lutheran World Relief in Bihar, India, totaling \$60,000 over 3 years!
- \$26,855** was donated to worthy organizations in our community by Calvary's Endowment Fund.

FROM CALVARY'S PRESIDENT

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. These words couldn't be more true at Calvary. As we look back at 2018, we're reminded of incredible ways we worshipped, connected and served together in God's name. We've experienced great growth in all areas of ministry, and are preparing for exciting next steps as we work to lead all people to a lifelong faith. Calvary is strong and growing, which is an incredible feat as we have recognized the national trend of an accelerated decline in church engagement.

As we close out 2018, it is without a doubt, something special is happening at Calvary. This momentum brings us forward into a year of possibilities and changes. With the possibility of a building expansion to the likelihood of having an Executive Pastor, there is no doubt 2019 will be an equally exciting time at Calvary. On top of this, we are excited God continues to lead more and more people to a lifelong faith at Calvary. We look forward to an exciting future worshipping, connecting and serving with you.

~ Sarah Suchy, Council President

2018 Council: Sarah Suchy, Marc Sugden, Bonnie Schnell, Bruce Luehmann, Dave Ahlquist, Jana Berndt, Deb Dittberner, Tyler Geyen, Brent Iserman, Deb Moorman, Jennifer Rentz, Mike Svobodny, Brooke Zabel

FROM CALVARY'S INTERIM PASTOR

It is hard to believe that I have served as your half-time, semi-retired, interim pastor for sixteen months. This has allowed me the opportunity to get to know many of you, and to share with you in some significant life-events as a congregation and as individuals.

Included in these life-events are a number of weddings and funerals I officiated at; pastoral visits in homes and care centers; confirmations and baptisms. I have also had the opportunity to conduct worship; preach approximately once a month; do monthly services at three care centers; and share in wonderful worship festivities like Christmas, Lent, Easter, Calvary at the Lake, baptisms and renewals of baptism in Lake Carlos.

Thanks for your grace in opening yourself up to my ministry, and for your encouragement along the way. Calvary is a wonderful congregation, with an amazing staff, and it is my joy to serve Christ's mission in this place. May the Holy Spirit bless and empower Calvary in this exciting new year (2019) of ministry together!

~ Pastor Nathan Thompson

EXECUTIVE PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Calvary has been actively seeking a pastor for the past year. We are looking for someone to fill the role of Executive Pastor, and this person will have traditional responsibilities of preaching, pastoral care, weddings and funerals, but will also focus on overseeing the program ministry and staff that help fulfill our mission: to lead all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus.

What we know is that this is a time of tremendous pastoral shortages in the ELCA. Currently for every 400 pastors retiring annually, there are only 200 entering the field. There are 9,128 congregations and only 6,041 pastors at this time. With that said, we knew that entering into the call process would be a lengthy search.

The Call Committee interviewed candidates this past spring, and for various reasons none of the candidates remained in the pool. Under the direction of the Church Council, Calvary hired the search firm SIMA Partners, led by a man named Rick Heltne, to conduct a search of candidates and present us with a qualified pool. Rick has been busy recruiting and vetting candidates. Once the pool of qualified candidates is identified, Calvary's Call Committee will conduct interviews and take the process through to completion.

Calvary is an attractive community, and this is a fantastic leadership position, but the reality is that the pool of qualified candidates is smaller than we'd hope for finding someone quickly. For years, Calvary has taken great pride in raising up our own and being able to support seminary education for our members through the Endowment Fund. Come January, we will have two members of the congregation attending seminary, and we know there are several others considering and applying. As Calvary is seeking a pastor, we are also working to send more into the field.

Please continue to be prayerful about this pastoral role, that the right person feels called and that the other things that need to fall into place to support a move happen as well. The Call Committee looks forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.

~ Lisa Knoll, Call Committee Chair

Call Committee:

Lisa Knoll, Joe Bridges, Mark Christenson, Nolan Kriel, Wally Stukel, Brooke Zabel

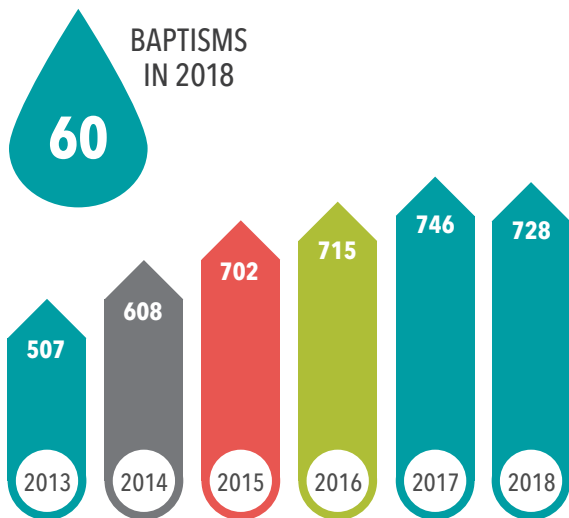
WORSHIP



ONE CHURCH, MANY EXPRESSIONS

We want worship to leave everyone wanting more. You play the most important role in this: welcoming and inviting friends to worship! Your invitations make a difference—approximately 728 now attend worship at Calvary each week! To meet the needs of our growing worshipping community, in 2018 we welcomed to our staff Nolan Weisz as our Director of Worship Arts.

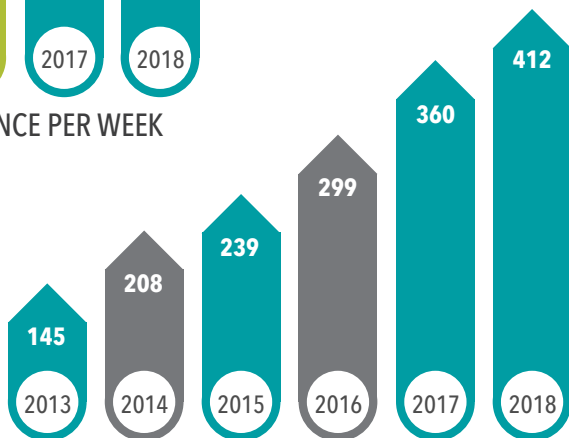
~ Pastor Hans Dahl



AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PER WEEK



NEW MEMBERS IN 2018



AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PER WEEK AT CALVARY AT THE LAKE

Worship is where we are reminded of our first and primary identity—we are children of God, just as we are, whatever we face in life. Worship is also where most people first engage with Calvary. The worship experiences we offer are our “front door,” if you will. Because of this, we strive to create irresistible worship experiences that are welcoming to all—whether one attends church every Sunday or has never entered the doors of a church.



2018 WORSHIP SERIES

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

How can it be that a year has come and gone already! What a beautiful community and congregation we are so blessed to be a part of here at Calvary! First of all, thank you! I am so honored and humbled to be a part of this team and serve as your Worship Arts Director. This year we have accomplished so much!

Here are some highlights:

- Through the meaningful worship series we've had we continue to connect worship and people together.
- We purchased a new sound system for Calvary at the Lake and infrastructure needed to provide an even more welcoming experience all summer long. We also had record breaking worship attendance that made a difference in so many lives!
- This fall we introduced new elements into the worship and music for all services. We have all kinds of wonderful special music groups for traditional worship with new liturgies for this beautiful and meaningful service. We're continuing to work on modern worship and tweak it as we create a service engaging and relevant to connect with more and more people.
- December was a busy month! The traditional Lessons and Carols as well as a modern spin on it were both highlights for me. We held two new events featuring Calvary musicians; Kids & Carols and Carols & Cocktails, out at the beautiful Gathered Oaks Event Center. These two events set the tone for what was to come at Christmas at Calvary. We ended the year with 7 Christmas services, including a preview for folks traveling, and almost 2,300 people came through the doors to worship our newborn king.

~ Nolan Weisz, Worship Arts Director

Worship Staff: Kim Byrne (Worship Leader), Joyce Engel (Bellcanto Director), Kayla Noble (Belle Voce Director), Kirk Gunderson, Jason Peterson, Pat Gwinn (Soundboard Technicians)

CONNECT



LIFE IS BETTER CONNECTED

It's fun to look around to see all of the ways Calvary people are connecting—through Connect Groups, Bible Studies, Women's Circles, GIFT, Prime Time Gatherings, and more. And new this year, we saw the Connect Group model come to fruition in children and student ministry as well. Connections are happening, Calvary! I truly believe we're seeing what research has told us we'd see: people grow in faith when they are connected in small group settings.

~ Katie Dahl, Coordinator of Congregational Ministries to Adults & Families

During 2018, we expanded the resources available for Connect Groups, and several groups have used an online resource/app called "Anthology" which offers 10-20 minute videos for groups to stream and discussion questions to follow. While some groups still prefer to use a book or printed Bible study, these topical video studies are helpful options for leaders who have limited time to prepare each week. Groups of parents can have faith-based conversations about raising kids. Married couples have time to talk about the role faith plays in their marriage. Connecting in this way is so important for people, and I'm proud that Calvary continues to lift up its importance.

Connect Team: Michelle Ahlquist, Lowell Einerson, Maddie Elliott, Blaine & Joanna Green, Pam Miller, Cindy Wagner



CHILDREN & STUDENT MINISTRIES

We've had a fantastic 2018 and we have so much to be thankful for in Children and Student Ministry at Calvary! We spent quite a bit of time this summer working on implementing the new school year curriculum for all of our children and students, ages 2 through 18, as well as planning and having Vacation Bible School. What an incredible week with over 230 kids learning about what God is #FOR!



This fall we welcomed students of all ages to worship, connect, and serve! Starting at age two, JAM (Jesus and Me) breaks down bible teachings into age appropriate songs, fun video stories that the kids LOVE, and engaging activities. For 2-4 year olds, Sundays at 10:45am.



Our traditional Sunday School hour, 9:45am on Sundays, now called DIG (Delight in God) shifted in the fall. This ministry for K-3rd graders moved the kids downstairs and implemented bible videos and lessons surrounding key themes like contentment, initiative, and cooperation. In December we held our first annual Kids and Carols at Gathered Oaks for kids and their families to celebrate Christmas as a Calvary community! Again we were blessed with amazing volunteers who are the driving force behind Children and Student Ministries!



Last year we began a preteen ministry, for 4-5th graders and this year IMPACT continues to grow and wow us with its incredible volunteer leaders! They do monthly service projects like making blankets for Love Inc, Santa for Seniors, and writing letters to veterans. Along with our new curriculum they follow a preteen specific lesson plan, helping to further reach each child at their phase as they gather each Wednesday at 5pm.



ELEVATE, formerly ConfirMission, is a ministry for middle school students, 6-9th graders each Wednesday after worship at 7pm. We are blown away every week at the commitment by each leader to show up consistently and fully for their students. This year we are putting more focus on small groups. With specific series and lesson plans students and their leaders are able to go deeper in their faith and with each other as they create a vulnerable and safe environment for everyone.

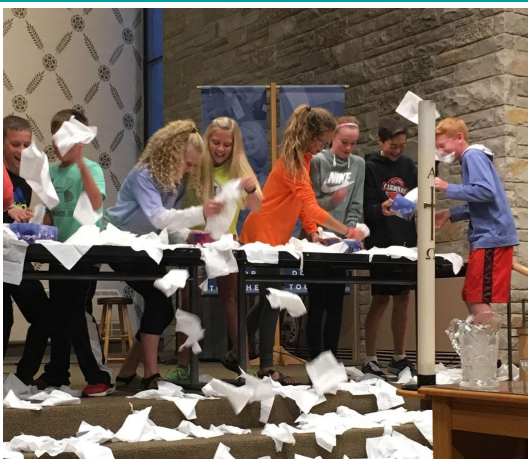
The biggest highlight from ELEVATE this year was small group service week. Each small group planned and executed their own service project after Thanksgiving. From baking cookies for Advent Cheer Boxes, to buying a bike for the Giving Tree, each group made a huge impact on the community. We had groups reach out to other members of the church and work together using Thrivent Action Grants to provide coats and winter gear for kids in our community in need. On October 28, we celebrated 31 students confirming their baptism in Christ.



We are strongly encouraging the students that are going to high school to become involved in FUSE—our high school ministry. This year, they are meeting once a month as a connect group to talk about topics that pertain to their lives and growing in their faith before they leave for jobs or college.

I feel fortunate that I was able to take a step back after my son was born in September, and I'm so grateful to Jennie Hodgson for stepping up, but am very much looking forward to returning to work. We continue to be amazed by the willingness of parents and volunteers to be small group leaders for these kids; influencing these kids faith lives in great ways, walking alongside and equipping parents to lead their children in a lifelong faith. We are looking forward to 2019 with much excitement and anticipation for what God is doing in this place through these children, students and connect group leaders.

*~ Joanna Green, Children & Student Ministry Intern
(with Jennie Hodgson, Support, and Kia Seimer, JAM Coordinator)*



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Women of Calvary are “God’s Work...Our Hands” in action!

Highlights of 2018 include:

- **Quilts** (550+) for Lutheran World Relief and Douglas County Salvation Army.
- **Mission Kits** (1350+) assembled and sent to Lutheran World Relief. These are baby, health and school kits.
- **Funeral Meals** served.
- Knitting and crocheting of **prayer shawls**.
- Knitted **baby blankets** donated to Alomere Hospital, United Way, and Birth Connections.
- **Monthly “coffees”** held at Ecumen Bethany Community.
- Keeping the **library** organized and current.

We have two major fund-raising events—**Höst Fest and Advent Brunch**. Countless hours and a tremendous amount of energy is put into all that it takes to sponsor both of these events. As in previous years, we had a wonderful turnout of people eager to buy the food, treats, purchase a chance for the beautiful quilt and enjoy the delicious salad/meatball luncheon at Höst Fest. The Advent Brunch committee active advertisement resulted in a crowd over of 200 friends and guests. A special thank you to the Calvary men who helped clean up and did dishes and provided babysitting.

Throughout the year the Women of Calvary donated **over \$10,000 in cash and goods** to a variety of causes including Luther Crest, Calvary Preschool, Titus2Ministry, pastor’s discretionary fund, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Someplace Safe and Socks for Souls/Love Inc.

We were also able to donate an additional **\$5,000 (\$1,000 each)** to Elder Network, West Central Community Action Fund, Alexandria Tech food shelf and Alexandria High School food shelf and Someplace Safe.

~ Elaine Larson, WELCA Director

CALVARY CHURCHMEN'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance on hand, January 1, 2018	\$335.00
Receipts:	
Lutefisk Supper	\$10,066.00
Interest on Checking	\$4.00
Men's Bible Study Breakfast Offering	\$939.00
Total Income	<u>\$11,009.00</u>
Expenses & Donations:	
Lutefisk Supper Expenses	\$5,000.00
Boy Scout Troop #412	\$500.00
LifeRight	\$250.00
Outreach Food Shelf	\$500.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$400.00
LOVE, Inc.	\$400.00
Calvary Youth Camperships	\$1,250.00
Calvary Preschool Scholarships	\$400.00
Caring Hands Dental	\$200.00
Douglas County Car Care	\$500.00
Daylight Center & School	\$225.00
United Way	\$768.00
Disaster Response California Wild Fires	\$246.00
Someplace Safe	\$350.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$10,989.00</u>
Balance on hand, December 31, 2018	\$355.00

This years Lutefisk Supper attendance was the highest in 10 years (601 tickets sold) and the net profit for distribution was a record high! The Men's group meets every Wednesday morning at 7am for a spirited Bible study. We have a lot of questions and not so many answers but we feel that we retain a lot. If you have never come to one of our meetings, we urge you to give it a try—we are sure you will love it! The Men's group is a band of brothers in Christ.

~ Chris Worley, Treasurer

SERVE



WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER



In addition to the **\$10,000** Calvary contributed to United Way, we hosted 3 packing events, packing **4,800 bags** of food for their Backpack Attack program. In November, we assisted with a community packing event to help raise awareness of the program and packed **1,100 Thanksgiving break bags**. Because of the publicity for a Calvary packing event, another church contacted United Way and asked to host one as well. This is exactly how we would hope the program to grow!

Backpack Attack Team: Royce & Julie Anderson, Craig & Karen Andrews, Curt & Sharon Finkelson, Cindy Frederick, Bruce & Linda Hanstad, Darin Hoepner, Gary & Shirley Kluver, Cyndi Magnuson, Gary & Deb Moorman, Rick & Diane Nelson, Russ & Mary Ida Oorlog, Liz Paul, Dan & Cindy Perkins, Dave & Jo Petersen, Bonnie Schnell, Roger Schultz, Penny Stender, Bill & Deb Suckow



We remain committed to United Way's Christmas Adopt-A-Family program and collected **324 Giving Tree gifts**. A group of 10 volunteers from Calvary has faithfully organized this project for the past several years.



Calvary serves as the fiscal agent for The Shelf at Alexandria Area High School and collects food in the fall through our Green Bag collection. The Advisory Committee of social workers, teachers, and Calvary members met regularly to assess needs and make sure food, school supplies, and personal care items were getting to students who need them most. Both the Calvary community and the wider Alexandria community have given **\$14,725** generously supporting the Shelf this past year.

The Shelf @AAHS Team: Lizz Ahrens, Sharon Bisson, Tamara Christenson, Mary Beth Farrow, Jess Kriel, Jo Petersen

The commitment to serving our community, world, and church is truly lived by the people of Calvary. While we continue to support partners like Lutheran World Relief and United Way in large-scale projects, we also love to see our Connect Groups engage in more intimate acts of service. In November, Elevate Connect Groups shopped for winter gear for local elementary schools, wrote cards to Calvary's elders, and baked cookies for Cheer Boxes. Serving is an important part of our identity as people of faith.



During January of 2018, Katie Dahl and Julie Anderson had the opportunity to visit Bihar, India with a delegation from Lutheran World Relief. The group met women and visited their farms and cooperatives, seeing first-hand the difference this project has already made in their lives. Calvary's **donation of \$20,000** to the Bihar partnership will greatly affect the next generation of farming communities in that region of India.

***Bihar Team:** Julie Anderson, Deb Dittberner, Angelina Lee, Bonnie Schnell, Jay Sieling, Dave Velde*



And finally, it is important to recognize the many Calvary members who volunteer their time serving inside the walls of the church as well. More than **250 people** serve throughout the year as office support, ushers, communion servers and greeters, offering a warm welcome to members and visitors alike. On Christmas Eve alone, nearly **100 people** volunteered their time to serve the nearly 2,300 worshipers who came to Calvary.

~ Katie Dahl, Coordinator of Congregational Ministries to Adults & Families

CARING MINISTRIES

My name is Paige Good. I am the Caring Minister here at Calvary Lutheran Church. I have many titles that I am proud of—wife, mom, daughter, sister, Christian, aunt, friend...but, Caring Minister is one that embraces who I have been since I was a little girl. I love to love people. And fortunately this is my job now, I get to love people at Calvary, and in our community, helping lead people to a lifelong faith—it's a real gift.

I typically split my time between the local care facilities, Grand Arbor, Bethany, Knute Nelson, and others. I visit those hospitalized. Pastor Nathan and I take communion to Grand Arbor, Bethany and Windmill Ponds the third week of each month. Caring Ministry also runs a program called Friendly Visitors, which connects current members with members that are not able to get to church, they check in with their members as much or as little as they want...the connection is amazing!

This year we launched Prime Time, a gathering for those 65 and better in the community. We had 130 people at our first event! In addition, I oversee Senior Coffee, an informal time for Senior members of our congregation to socialize with the Calvary staff. During the month of December, we made a special effort to visit as many of our elder member as possible, with students, friendly visitors and staff alike, visiting well over 100 members, delivering meal baskets, gifts and Cheer Boxes. Two more programs I am delighted to oversee: First, Calvary Baby Basket program delivers a basket of goodies along with a handmade baby quilt to new mothers in our church family. We had 60 Baptisms this year. Wow! Second, the Prayer Shawl ministry allows me and our pastors to deliver prayer shawls to members who are sick or ailing. God is doing so much through our church family. So grateful and excited to be part of the magic that is happening at Calvary!

~ Paige Good, Caring Ministry Coordinator



CALVARY PRESCHOOL

Calvary Lutheran Preschool has been a vital preschool program in Alexandria for 28 years! We are excited to serve 79 families this year in a variety of classes. We have three year old programming one or two mornings per week. Our four year olds have three or four mornings, or two afternoons per week as options. Any student can participate in early morning drop off or afternoon enrichment if the family is interested.

Teachers guide students to experience the well prepared environments and activities in the classes. Social skills and pre-academics provide a curriculum structure to inform our teaching. We are looking forward to offering some new options for families next year with enhanced curriculum with a rich literacy base including many beloved Bible stories.

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for their generous donation for us to purchase additional curriculum for our children. We know best practice is to have a variety of resources to individualize learning for each student. We are proud to market Calvary Lutheran Preschool as a Christian, developmentally appropriate place where children can thrive and begin their journey of lifelong faith in Jesus.

~ Connie Good, Preschool Director

Preschool Staff:

Connie Good, Jolene Hovde, Megan Steidl, Amy Kent, Marcia Wieberdink, Katie Dahl, Alice Commerford, Vickie Wohlfeil, Lexi Pauls

Preschool Board Members:

Sandy Buckner, Bonnie Holm, Joni Jacobson, Donna Vollmers



SUPPORTING OUR MISSION & VISION

What a wonderful year it has been! In this section, you will see various financial reports, the 2019 budget overview, and a "Now is the Time!" building remodel & expansion update. As you read on, I hope you see two things clearly. First, Calvary is full of faithful and generous people who lovingly give of both their time and treasure. Second, Calvary's people respond to God's call in using those gifts to strengthen and invest in ministries that are leading people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you to the congregation for continuing to invest in all the places that help make that mission possible!

~ Katie Rentschler, Business Administrator

TREASURER'S REPORT

The faithfulness of Calvary members and their generous financial support allows Calvary to continue to grow. Calvary's General Fund Worship Income has grown 53 percent over the past five years, from 2014-2018. This continued growth has only been possible through members' financial giving as well as their gifts of time and talent. All of these gifts allow Calvary to reach within and serve the congregation members with worship and ministries, as well as reach out into the community.

Key 2018 financial observations:

- While the reported 2018 Total General Fund Income of \$1,084,217 is down about \$9,000 from 2017, it is important to recognize that several 2018 member pledges were paid in December 2017 for personal reasons. If these pledges were adjusted from 2017 to 2018 income, Calvary's Total General Fund Income was over 4 percent above 2017 and \$6,300 over budget.
- Total General Expenses slightly exceeded General Fund Income by \$126, however expenses were over \$20,000 below budget.
- Total 2018 Benevolence and Donations were \$109,428, over 11 percent of reported Worship Income. Calvary had over \$228,000 in Designated Funds donations. A large portion of the 2018 Designated Funds Income was from members who chose to give towards the potential building renovation & expansion.
- Calvary's General Fund Reserve checking year-end balance was \$205,000.

Calvary is in a strong financial position as we move into 2019. While the income growth has been positive and the General Fund Reserve is in a healthy position, it is also critical to manage expenses. The 2019 budget has been carefully constructed together with staff to support the congregation within our financial means, and as we look forward to years ahead. Thank you for your generous support of financial gifts, time, and talent as we move forward into the new church year.

~ Bruce Luehmann, Treasurer

BUILDING PLANNING TEAM REPORT

Since 1885, the people of Calvary Lutheran Church (then called Svea Lutheran) have been following the call to share God's love in the community. Throughout Calvary's history, the people have recognized the need to expand, modernize, and build in order to ensure something they believed to be absolutely critical: that Calvary provided a space where all are welcome and invited to hear the story of God's love for them!

We wonder again, is God inviting us to say once more "Now is the Time!"?

The ReNew project in 2013 focused on maintenance of the facility, and from that the Building Exploration Team was formed to study the building and explore the need for remodel and expansion in 2017. In 2018, the congregation saw very preliminary drawings of a potential concept and approved moving forward with the Building Planning Team and Financial Feasibility Team to further develop the concept and gather more information on the financial capacity of the congregation for such a project. We identified the need to address deferred maintenance issues, and create spaces that allow us to worship, connect, and serve in more efficient and meaningful ways.

Both in August/September and November of 2018, the building and financial teams held forums and shared what has been learned through the studies and feedback sessions, as well as revealed further developed concepts of what the renovations and expansion could look like.

The work of the Church Council, Building Planning and Financial Feasibility Teams have reached a point at which we need further permission from the congregation to move forward. Another round of forums will happen in January in order to share information that will be helpful in casting a vote at the **Annual Congregation Meeting on January 27, 2019 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.** At this meeting, we will be asking members present to vote on taking a next step: to further develop the renovation concepts to a point that will give us concrete cost estimates. Council will seek approval to:

- Move forward with the conceptual design recommended by the Building Planning Team.
- Spend up to \$85,000 of dollars already donated to the project to complete work needed to further develop cost estimates, including continued work with JLG Architects, soil boring tests, audio/visual/lighting consultants, and financial coaching.
- Allow the Building Planning Team to interview and recommend a builder to the congregation who will assist in refining cost estimates.
- Authorize the Financial Feasibility Team to prepare for a potential appeal during summer/fall of 2019.
- Convene another congregation meeting in May 2019 to address next steps in the proposed project.

We can't wait for all God has in store for our church family in the coming year - Now is the Time!

***Building Planning Team:** Miriam Svobodny, Alicia Bertram, Matt Anderson, Lowell Einerson, Cory Hodgson, Tom Jacobson, Elaine Larson, Jay Sieling, Marlene Thompson*

***Financial Feasibility Team:** Brent Iserman, Mark Watkins, Jim Eidsvold, Bruce Luehmann, David Kjos, Rick Paulsen, Mike Steidl, Mike Svobodny*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

During the fall of 2018, Calvary conducted the fourth annual Stewardship Commitment Challenge. This was a campaign to fund our ongoing General Fund for both operations support and the further development of ministry activities related to the church's mission: *to lead all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ*. Our stewardship commitments allow us to project a significant portion of our general fund income in 2019 as Calvary continues to move forward with its vision to worship, connect, and serve. One area of significant growth in the past year is the use of automatic giving. At the end of 2017, 24 households were making automatic gifts, and in 2019 we have over 130 households giving automatic gifts. These gifts are easy to set up, so go to www.calvaryalex.org/giving if you'd like to get started. Thank you to all who made financial contributions to Calvary in 2018, and to those who submitted their 2019 commitment!

Total number of commitments received for 2019: **273**

Total amount pledged to Calvary's general fund in 2019: **\$655,316**

~ Katie Rentschler, Business Administrator

Stewardship Advisory Team: Tim Bush, Rick Nelson, Donna Vollmers, Mike Svobodny, Jim Eidsvold, Brent Iserman, Wayne Erickson, Mike Steidl, John Severson, and Bruce Luehmann.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund stands at \$281,775 as of 12/31/18. Investment returns this year have been negative owing to a down year on the Stock Market. Looked at over a longer time period however, the funds has had an average return of 8.4%. The next page shows the gifts made from the fund this year. It is encouraging to note that during this 21st century the fund has donated over \$625,000 to a variety of worthy causes, including over \$200,000 to help fund tuition costs of Calvary members attending Seminary. In the coming year, it is expected that three Calvary members will be studying for the ministry at a critical time when there is a real shortage of pastors in our denomination. There is a vital need for the Fund to grow in order to meet this challenge. Please consider the Endowment Fund when you are planning your estate. It is a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy—a gift that can keep giving—to benefit worthy causes, local and international. If you are uncertain as to how to do this, please contact any of the committee listed below. Thank you.

~ Chris Worley, Endowment Chair

Endowment Committee: Chris Worley (Chair), Nancy Einerson, Mike Svobodny, Bruce Luehmann, Jim Eidsvold, Pam Wilbur, Dale Vollmers, Derek Trosvig, Hans Dahl, and Scott Larson.

ENDOWMENT FINANCIALS

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUNDS *Summary of Activity Report 2018*

Fund Balances and Assets	12/31/2018	12/31/2017	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
Edward Jones Investment Account	\$281,775	\$340,161	\$333,626	\$312,928
Checking Account	\$3,250	\$4,955	\$3,803	\$868
Mina Estate Lot	0	0	\$44,400	\$44,400
Pastor Dahl Note Payable	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	\$4,484	\$8,969
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND	\$285,025	\$345,116	\$386,313	\$367,165

DEPOSITS 2018

Gifts	\$25
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DISBURSMENTS 2018

Seminary Tuition	\$1,755
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Donation Disbursements Made in 2018

ELCA (Steve Friberg)	\$3,000
Lutheran World Relief (Bihar, 3 of 3)	\$10,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000
Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$2,000
Knute Nelson (1 st of 4)	\$1,000
Blissful Serenity	\$3,000
Salvation Army	\$1,000
Elder Network	\$1,000
Calvary Preschool (1 st of 2)	\$3,100
Seminary Tuition	<u>\$1,755</u>
Total 2018 Disbursements from Endowment Fund	\$26,855

PRESCHOOL BUDGET

Calvary Lutheran Preschool 2018-2019 Budget		
Income		
	Registrations	\$ 4,000
	Tuition	\$ 116,055
	Before School Care	\$ 4,150
	Scholarship Gifts	\$ 585
	Summer Camp	\$ 300
	Misc Income	\$ 3,000
Total Income		\$ 128,090
Expense		
	Classroom Supplies	\$ 2,400
	Curriculum & Books	\$ 6,880
	Office Supplies & Postage	\$ 650
	Snacks	\$ 100
	Telephone	\$ 336
	Toys & Games	\$ 800
	Consumables Supplies	\$ 1,800
	Field Trips	\$ 900
	Special Events	\$ 600
	Advertising	\$ 200
	Summer Camp	\$ 300
	Misc Expense	\$ 500
	Staff Continuing Education	\$ 350
	Staff Background Checks	\$ 150
	Staff Recognition	\$ 250
	Staff Salaries & Payroll Taxes	\$ 111,874
Total Expense		\$ 128,090
Net Income		\$0

CALVARY GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS

Calvary Lutheran Church Analysis of Revenues and Expenses - General Fund				
Account #:	Revenues:	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET
10000	General Fund-Worship Offering Income	\$ 992,927.11	\$ 979,829.05	\$ 1,040,000.00
11000	Program Income	\$ 23,569.06	\$ 29,534.55	\$ 14,000.00
12000	Designated Donations	\$ 57,511.28	\$ 61,933.99	\$ 40,000.00
13000-15000	Other Income	\$ 21,860.68	\$ 12,919.13	\$ 6,000.00
	Total General Fund Income	\$ 1,095,868.13	\$ 1,084,216.72	\$ 1,100,000.00
	Expenses:			
30000	Benevolence and Donations	\$ 108,314.28	\$ 109,427.74	\$ 104,000.00
31000	Program Expenses	\$ 92,713.42	\$ 97,206.34	\$ 72,625.00
32000	Staff Expenses	\$ 645,011.18	\$ 699,122.37	\$ 725,023.00
33000	Communication Expense	\$ 5,696.40	\$ 5,378.40	\$ 5,280.00
34000	Office & Administrative Expense	\$ 51,890.33	\$ 58,732.09	\$ 58,400.00
35000	Property Expense	\$ 122,267.32	\$ 104,938.73	\$ 94,000.00
36000	Other Expense	\$ 7,475.76	\$ 9,537.14	\$ 40,630.00
	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 1,033,368.69	\$ 1,084,342.81	\$ 1,099,958.00
	Net Total	\$ 62,499.44	\$ (126.09)	\$ 42.00

* A detailed budget and balance statement is available in the church office



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 27, 2019 - 9:30AM

- I. Call to order
- II. Devotions
- III. Certification of Quorum
- IV. Report of Council Chairperson, Sarah Suchy
- V. Pastoral Report, Hans Dahl
- VI. Treasurer's Report, Bruce Luehmann
- VII. Endowment Fund Report, Chris Worley
- VIII. Other Business
 - 1) Building Planning Team Report and Recommendations
 - 2) Adoption of the 2019 Budget
 - 3) Election of 2019 Council Members
- IX. Adjourn

WE CAN
DO MORE
TOGETHER

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
605 Douglas Street Alexandria, Minnesota 56308