

Interim Process ~ the next phase ~ update from Council President Nicholle Bieberdorf

Greetings, Calvary! Our season of Advent ended in a whirlwind of pastor flurry. Just after making the announcement of Pastor Sue's final Sunday being December 4, the Council voted to extend her contract to the end of December, allowing us time to secure our next interim lead pastor, Pastor Paul Svingen. (See his introduction also in this newsletter). Pastor Paul comes to us with extensive interim ministry experience and will join us at Calvary on January 16. Pastor Paul and his wife, Susan, make their home in Hackensack, MN. Welcome, Pastor Paul!

Introducing Pastor Paul Svingen ~ Interim Senior Pastor

Dear Friends and Members of Calvary Lutheran Church,

I am delighted to accept the invitation of your church council to come and serve Calvary as your Interim Consulting Senior Pastor during the remaining days of this interim period. Following the December 30 conclusion to my most recent 17-month call as Intentional Interim Senior pastor at Ezekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls, WI, I will enjoy time with my wife at our home on Island Lake between Pine River and Hackensack, MN. Upon the recommendation of NWMN Synod Bishop Bill Tesch, I will begin my brief interim pastorate at Calvary on January 16. My discussions with your church council revealed that there is important interim ministry yet to be accomplished together.



Ordained by the former American Lutheran Church on July 27, 1975, I have served in the roles of parish pastor, mission developer, organizing pastor, correctional and chemical dependency hospital chaplain and intentional interim pastor and consultant to pastors serving congregations experiencing pastoral leadership transition. Since 1979 I have served as the intentional interim pastor in more than 37 congregations spanning ten states and nineteen ELCA synods. In 1998-99 I served as interim associate to the Bishop of the ELCA's Pacifica Synod in Yorba Linda, CA. and have served alongside nineteen ELCA Bishops. I was privileged to lead the professional training program for intentional interim ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul for 32 years.

Previous congregations I have served include: Bethany Lutheran/Cherry Hills Village, CO; Good Shepherd/Duluth and Normandale/Edina, MN; First English/Appleton, Bethel/Madison, First Lutheran/New Richmond, Bethany/Rice Lake, Bethlehem/Mosinee and Cross Lutheran/Roberts WI; Bethlehem/Aberdeen and First/Sioux Falls, S.D.; Newport Harbor/Newport Beach, CA; Our Savior's/Lake Oswego, OR; Holy Trinity/Ankeny and St. John/Cedar Falls, IA; Trinity/Crookston and Trinity/Long Lake, Trinity/Stillwater, MN; Sheridan/Lincoln, NE; House of Prayer/Richfield and Richfield Lutheran/Minneapolis, MN; Trinity/Ann Arbor, MI; Abiding Savior/Mounds View, MN; and Olivet/Fargo, N.D. In addition to my multiple interim pastorates I have continued to lead educational events on behalf of the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors.

A native of Benson, Minnesota, my undergraduate degree was from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. The degree led me to Luther Seminary where I received the M. Div. and the D. Min. degrees. As grandparents to three sibling granddaughters living in Elkhart Lake, WI, my wife Susan and I live with our three English Springer Spaniels, Micah, Rosie and Lizzy on the shores of Island Lake located near Pine River and Hackensack, MN. Susan serves as a mental health therapist for autistic students in the Pine River, Mn. schools and as an employee of Northern Pines Mental Health Services. We are members at Salem Lutheran Church, Longville, MN.

I look forward to our brief journey of healing and ongoing congregational renewal together.

Pr. Paul N. Svingen



Call Committee Update

We have exciting news! The Call Committee has voted to recommend calling a candidate for the senior pastor position at Calvary! This vote followed a second in-person interview with the candidate in mid-December. The Call Committee has submitted its recommendation to the Calvary Council.

Stay tuned! More news to come!

The Call Committee requests that the Calvary community continues to keep the members of the committee, the Council, and staff in their prayers as this process continues. Likewise, we'd respectfully request prayers for this candidate and their family as they, too, journey through the steps ahead. Thank you.

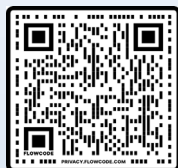
Christmas Un-Decorating - January 8

Please plan to come and help us take down all the beautiful Christmas decorations and get them stored for next year. Un-decorating will begin after the 10:45 service. Bring a dish to share for a potluck right after worship, and then we will get everything all packed up. This is a great time of fellowship and many hands making light work.

Online Church Directory!

Calvary's church directory is online, and it's not complete without YOU! Check it out at members.instantchurchdirectory.com and create a login using the email address the church office has on file for you (if you don't know what that is or need to update it, contact the church office). The contact information we have on file for you is pre-loaded, which you can edit and add a family picture! [Click HERE](#) or scan the QR code to check out the blockbuster tutorial video featuring Pr. Jeremiah for step by step instructions.

This directory is available through any web browser, or the app (search for Instant Church Directory). Have your church family with you everywhere you go on your phone or other mobile device!



Following in Lydia's Footsteps

Have you ever dreamed of a trip to Turkey and Greece? Wondered what the world looked like for the first followers of Jesus? Maybe like me, you have been fascinated by this obscure woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth who was baptized by Paul outside the walls of the Roman city of Philippi. If so, I am leading a pilgrimage to walk in Lydia's footsteps (the Apostle Paul's too) with a lifelong friend who just retired from the faculty of St. Olaf! The dates are August 10-19, 2023. The journey begins in Istanbul, then to Izmir on the Turkish coast of the Aegean Sea. We will stop at Ephesus and Thyatira, take a ferry to Kavala in Greece (ancient Neapolis) and pause at Lydia's baptismal spot, quiet and soothing. Flights home will leave from Athens. Please contact Pastor Sue (pastortjornehoj@gmail.com), if you are interested or have questions.

January Worship schedule

All are welcome to come and worship! Our Sunday morning traditional worship is at 8:30 am, and our contemporary service is at 10:45 am. We will continue worshipping in a contemporary style on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

We will have one traditional worship service on New Years Day at 10:00.

Our Gospel texts for the month are:

Jan. 1 ~ Matthew 2:13-23

Jan. 8 ~ Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 15 ~ John 1:29-42

Jan. 22 ~ Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 29 ~ Matthew 5:1-12

Thank You

So many thanks to so many people - guess that's the way of the Christmas season!

Thank you to Sally Steele and Jane Furuseth who delivered the Angel Tree gifts to the schools before Christmas. Thank you to all those who purchased Angel Tree gifts! Together you made almost 100 area youth, ages K-2nd grade smile as they received your love.

Thank you to the Calvary Choir for their beautiful music as they told the story of Christ's birth. Thank you to Mary Thoreson for her beautiful accompaniment for the choir!

Thank you to all those that shared their musical gifts with us on Christmas Eve and through the month of December: Ashley, Braelyn and Brynlee Holmgren, Heidi Fladeboe, Brad Kuyper, Katie, Wendy and Morgan Mellema, Brittini Odland, Wendy and Brett Carter, Amanda Willis-Martin and Wade Martin, and Evan Wild. You helped make our worship services so beautiful!

Thank you to all that helped ring the Salvation Army bell at Lueken's South!

Thank you to all that helped with Blue Christmas, especially Erin Kossivi! What a meaningful way to worship while recognizing our deep grief.

Thank you to all those that make our worship or our office flow more smoothly: Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, Hosts, Office Volunteers, Choir, and AV Techs. We really couldn't do all the things without you!

Thanks so much to the Kingdom Kids and C.L.U.B. for making most of the props, to Heidi Fladeboe for narrating, and to every single person in worship for making the Pop-Up Nativity so much fun. We hope it was a meaningful and uplifting part of your Advent/Christmas season.

Thank you to Judy Westerman and Cheryl Harms for applying for and receiving Thrivent Action Grants to help cover the costs of decorating and Blue Christmas!

Thank you to Kathie Ochowicz and Nicholle Bierberdorf for delighting the "Christmas Eve staff" with a lovely meal between services.

Thank you to all those that supported our grieving community this month, through food service, baking and cleaning up, as Calvary hosted three memorial services in one week.

The Refuge GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Calvary is hosting a grief support group for those who have experienced a death related loss. This is a continuous support group called The Refuge. Group meetings are from 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursdays in Room 1 at Calvary. No need to pre-register. Contact Erin at (813) 417-7678 with questions!

MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ CHURCHES UNITED

Calvary's monthly ministry partner for January is Churches United! All of us have both spiritual and physical needs, and Churches United is one place where God is working to provide especially for the physical needs of our neighbors. Located in the old Lincoln School on 4th Street in Nymore, Churches United is a place where people can go to receive material and financial assistance in the name of Jesus. Around twenty area churches work together through this ministry to provide gas and food vouchers, bus and laundry tokens, and other gifts for community members in need.

To support Churches United (or any of our other monthly ministry partners), you can donate online through RebelGive choosing "second offering monthly partner," or by mailing a check to Calvary with "Churches United" in the memo line.

Churches United reports that they are in urgent need of sturdy gloves and mittens for adult men and women. Toothbrushes for both adults and children are also in demand, as are men's razors. Any donations can be dropped off in the baskets in the entryway at Calvary, or at the Churches United office located at 414 Lincoln Ave. SE. Between noon and 4 pm on Mon, Tue, Thurs or Fri. Volunteers are also very much needed! To volunteer, contact Wanda at 218-444-1380.



Help Wanted:

Daytime Custodian: Please check out our website or contact Garrett in the office if you or someone you know would be interested in working in this great place called Calvary!

Calvary Alive Cooks and Clean Up Crew: If you would like to volunteer to help cook or clean up after meals, please contact Garrett! You can get more information or sign up to help in the office, or by emailing gfultz@calvarybemidji.org. This is a great way to support our Calvary community!

Four more Sunday School Teachers: We are having so much fun diving into God's word in each of the age groups that it's time to double-up the teaching (in order to make scheduling easier). I'm stealing a friend's description of the Triple-A Teachers we need. Available, meaning totally with the kids when you are here sharing such an important message. Authentic, meaning just be you. Bring the real you and the real Spirit will shine through. Affirming, meaning knowing the kids and loving them through the ups and downs of their lives with positive encouragement. If that's you, we want you to offer your help to be just one more of the many safe relationships our kids will have with Calvary members. Call, text, email, or send your pigeon to Brett to let him know you can help out. 218-210-2622 or bcarter@calvarybemidji.org

Tubing update

Well, another attempt at youth tubing at Buena Vista was thwarted by weather, this time, too much of it—ice and snow! Watch for a rescheduling later this winter. We want to make this happen for Confirmation and C.L.U.B. youth, so we will do our best weather praying to make it so!

Adult Education Opportunities!

Adult Education topics are discussed and decided by a small working committee of lay persons, along with Pastor Jeremiah (thank you for your work). Adult Education happens each Sunday at 9:40 back in room 12, so bring a cup of coffee and join us for some great learning and conversation!

- January 8: A Biblical approach to poverty
- January 15/22: The humor of Christ
- January 29: The faith of Lincoln

Amazon Smile

This past year, we have received \$189.06 in donations from the AmazonSmile Foundation. These donations are as a result of AmazonSmile program and AmazonSmile users. If you shop online, please consider shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and designating Calvary as your charity. If you do, Amazon will donate to Calvary!

Calvary Happenings

This article featuring New Members, Deaths, and Baptisms is updated monthly as a way to stay informed of what is happening in our congregation.

- **Baptisms:** none
- **Deaths:** Kyle Hennum, Sue Engel

See Calvary's January Birthdays Here!

[View this newsletter on the web and follow this link to see who to wish a happy birthday this month!](#)

Meal Schedule for Calvary Alive

- January 4 – Chicken Tortilla Soup
- January 11 – Lasagna
- January 18 – Chili
- January 25 – Tacos

Donation Statements

Unless you have requested otherwise, your 2022 donation statement has been sent out via email to the address we have on file. Please review your donation statements to ensure the donations shown match your records. If they don't, reach out to Garrett by January 31 to make any adjustments or corrections.

FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST-JULY

General Fund – November

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$97,585	\$101,461	\$360,573
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$86,678	\$106,961	\$355,597

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$9,557)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$255,515

November Ministry Partner: Lutheran Campus Ministry - \$1,499

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$51,449

Our fiscal year's first quarter income includes deferred revenue totaling about \$25,000. This money shows as income now but is designated to be paid out for a specific purpose in the future. Taking this into account, Calvary has around \$30,000 more in expenses than revenue so far this year. We wanted to take this opportunity to explain where Calvary stands financially through our fiscal year's first quarter and encourage any remaining households that have not yet donated to Calvary to do so. Every little bit helps!

Getting to Know Calvary Council Member ~ Ashley Brue

"Hello Church, I am council Member-at-Large Ashley Brue. You may know me from behind the computer in the back of the church Sundays at 8:30. My children have been enjoying Sunday school this fall and we are so thankful for all the Sunday school leaders. As Pastor Susan has completed her interim contract, please join my family in praying for the staff and church during this transition time. And as always, continue to keep the call process in your prayers!"



January New Member Orientation and Welcome

Being a member of Calvary is a good way to stay up to date on everything that's happening around the church, as well as provide opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation. We're always excited to widen our church community! Please note that if the scheduled times below don't fit into your schedule, we are always open to meeting with you individually to discuss membership, and we can arrange for a time during any worship to welcome you into our church family. If you or someone you know is interested in membership at Calvary, please contact Rayne or Pastor Jeremiah for more information at rheck@calvarybemidji.org & revholst@calvarybemidji.org.

- New Member Orientation - If you are interested in membership, join us Wednesday, January 18 at 5:30 pm in the lounge. You'll meet other folks joining Calvary, learn more about Calvary and how to get involved, and more!
- New Member Welcome - in worship Sunday, January 22 or Wednesday, January 25!

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

AUTHENTICALLY. AS YOU ARE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH. LOVING GOD, LOVING EACH OTHER



All are welcome in this place

During the listening session with the Explore Team in early 2022, the team heard clearly your theme of Calvary being a welcoming place. A council subcommittee, led by Mitch Eickman, began working with Vicar Jami to put into words our statement of welcome. You can find our welcome statement on our Calvary website. While we are still living into this statement, the purpose is to recognize Christ in our neighbors and to say all people are welcome here at Calvary. Period. No labels, no exceptions. Welcome to the body of Christ just as we are, to worship together, to serve together, to be the hands and feet of Christ with our neighbors.

Godspeed, Pastor Susan!

Pastor Susan Tjornehoj shared her last words as our Interim Senior Pastor on Christmas Day, 2022. She led us through so many great things over the course of the last 13 months. We are thankful for her great work, her daily presence and her consistent energy to do God's work here at Calvary and beyond. We wish her and her husband, Dave Wangaard Godspeed in the next legs of their journey.

Here's a note from Pr. Sue: For the wonder of community and welcome, the privilege of entering into times of amazing joy and sorrow, to proclaim some good news and imagine God's future, for a Staff and Council that are over-the-top passionate about Calvary and its mission, to love, to laugh, for the cards and treats and quilt and gifts, what can a pastor say but THANK YOU! You will always have a place in our hearts and also our home. This is our new contact information. Please use it!

Prs Susan Tjornehoj and David Wangaard
1611 Fernwood St.
St Paul, MN 55108
pastortjornehoj@gmail.com
6128340107

And if you have ever dreamed of a pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece following in the footsteps of Lydia in August, contact me immediately.

With hope and delight in the new year,
Pastor Sue

