

2018 SUMMER

CALVARY INTERNS

PRIMETIME

#FOR

CQ

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2018 | JUNE, JULY, AUGUST



FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear friends in faith,

Our mission is to lead all people to lifelong faith in Jesus Christ by worshipping, connecting, and serving God's people together. We want all to know the life-changing difference a life of faith makes!

I've noticed something, though. There is a barrier that gets in the way of some engaging in a life of faith: **Far too often, Christians and churches are known for what we are against rather than what we are for.** When Christians make the news, the stories are commonly about what church people are angry about. Christianity has tended to be known for who it excludes or prohibits.

This is a problem! A problem that goes to the very heart of the message of Jesus. **You see, Jesus' message in the Bible—over and over again—proclaimed who and what God is FOR, not against.** The Bible is clear: In Jesus, God was *for* the poor and the lost. *For* children, neighbors and women. *For* peace, for inviting, for sharing and generosity. *For* thankfulness, peace, hope and love. The only people Jesus was ever against were the people dead set on trying to define who God is against. With this in mind, Calvary's summer worship theme is "#FOR."

Why "FOR?" We want to take the summer to discover all that God is for. We're going to walk through the book of Luke and reflect on how every last story gives witness to the people, things, and life Jesus was for!

What is the "#" all about? To some it's a pound sign, or the symbol for a sharp note in music. To others it's a tic tac toe board. When it comes to social media, though, it's called a "hashtag" and is used to draw attention, make connections, and promote things. We included "#" in our summer theme because we want to draw attention to, make connections with, and get the word out about the people, things, and life Jesus was for. **We want all in our community to know what Jesus was for, and, consequently, who we are "for!"** We are for the old and the young. Those with rough-edges, as well as the straight-laced. For families, couples, divorced, recovering, students, and children. We are #FOR all because God is all. Who in your life needs to hear that God is for them? Invite them to church!

I'm thankful for you and eager to worship with you this summer!



Pastor Hans

SUMMER 2018

Calvary Lutheran Church
605 Douglas Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-5178

THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Hans
Summer Schedule
#FOR MINISTRY
#FOR JUSTICE
#FOR FARMERS
#FOR KIDS
#FOR THE WORLD
#FOR WORSHIP
#FOR LIVING CONNECTED
#FOR AGING WELL
#FOR MOMS

PASTORS & PROGRAM STAFF INFORMATION PHONE: 320-763-5178

Pastor Hans Dahl
Lead Pastor
hans@calvaryalex.org

Pastor Nathan Thompson
Interim Pastor
nathan@calvaryalex.org

Katie Rentschler
Business Administrator
katie.r@calvaryalex.org

Katie Dahl
Adult & Family Ministries
katie.dahl@calvaryalex.org

Nolan Weisz
Worship Arts Director
nolan@calvaryalex.org

Paige Good
Caring Ministries
paige@calvaryalex.org

Jennie Hodgson
Children, Youth & Family Support
jennie@calvaryalex.org

Joanna Green
Children, Youth & Family Intern
joanna@calvaryalex.org



CALVARY 2018 SUMMER THEME: #FOR

Today, most people are more familiar with what the church is against, rather than what the church is "for." We could make a laundry list of all the things the church has been against: smoking, dancing, drinking, gambling. Which is ironic, because Jesus' message in the Bible – over and over again – was all about who God was for! The Bible is clear: Jesus was for peace, for inviting and loving your neighbors, for the poor, for the lost, for community, for children, for sharing, for not fearing, for inclusion, for thankfulness, peace, hope and joy! ...and Jesus was for you! During our summer worship series, we're going to walk through story after story in the book of Luke that gives witness to the people, things and life Jesus was for!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER?

Calvary At The Lake!

Memorial Day Weekend, May 27

Join us each Sunday for lakeside worship on the shores of Lake Carlos at Luther Crest Bible Camp. Brunch is at 10am, and Worship is at 10:45am. In case of inclement weather, we move into the dining hall at camp. Invite a friend, and we'll see you at the lake!

Father's Day Weekend

June 17

Invite your father, mentor or grandfather to church with you. We'll honor all those who have been father figures in our lives.

4th Of July Weekend

July 1

You'll likely have company in town, so bring them to Calvary at the Lake! Brunch is served at 10am, worship at 10:45am, and after worship we will give away root beer floats in a Calvary at the Lake glass.

Calvary Week At Luther Crest Bible Camp

July 8-12

Bible Camp has a huge impact on a young person's faith life! So, we'll celebrate all our young people who will spend the week at Luther Crest Bible Camp. Sign up for day camp or overnight camp today.

Vacation Bible School

July 30 - August 2

VBS is free! We want all young people to experience the joy and love of God. Sign up at www.calvaryalex.org today!

Calvary Youth and Families Travel This Summer

June - July

Pray for our young people traveling to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering (June 25-July 2) and others who will travel to Guatemala on a mission trip (June 15-21.) We give thanks for all God is doing through our youth!

#FOR MINISTRY

Calvary Leaders In Ministry Intern Program



Joanna Green

Children Youth & Family Intern

I am so excited about starting with Calvary as the Children, Youth and Families Intern for the next year! I grew up here in Alexandria and we were members at Calvary while my father, Marv Nysetvold, was working at Mount Carmel Ministries. After graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead, moving to Alexandria with my husband, Blaine, and working for a few years in various jobs, I started to feel a pull to get into ministry.

Having grown up around outdoor ministry, camps, and in the church, then working at Mount Carmel Ministries and Shetek Lutheran Ministries, I grew a love for children and family ministry. I am thrilled to have the chance to explore and discern this calling. I can't wait to reconnect with some of you and get to know many more of you in the next year!



Ryan Moorman

Video Production Intern

Hello Calvary! My name is Ryan Moorman and I will be joining the Calvary team for the summer as an intern focusing on video production. My family has been a part of the Cavalry community for over 15 years now and I can't wait to put my skills to work here at Calvary. I am currently attending Minnesota State University Moorhead for a degree in Film Production and have been interested in filmmaking/video since age of 14 or 15.

I am very excited for the opportunity to expand my knowledge and help the church in the video production area. I plan on creating a lot for the church and here are a few ideas: filming sermons and/or services to share online, creating personal baptism videos, creating original content for the worship series, and filming vacation bible school events.



FREE VBS At Calvary Church!

Calvary's free Vacation Bible School is from 8am-11am, July 30- August 2, for kids in Preschool-5th grade. The theme is #FOR.

We know that Jesus is "FOR" all children! This year, Calvary dives into all that Jesus is "FOR" during VBS. Don't miss Calvary's VBS 2018! Register at www.calvaryalex.org.

#FOR JUSTICE

If you've ever attempted to understand something within the legal system, it won't take you long to realize why some people become experts in the law. Brenda Velde is an established attorney in Alexandria, and for the last 27 years, she has also spent time working with Legal Services of Northwestern Minnesota (LSNM), a non-governmental agency that provides free civil legal services to low income and elderly residents in the area.

Brenda believes this organization is critical in helping the legal system operate more efficiently. "I think that people who can't afford attorneys still have a right to have access to the legal system," she notes. "While anyone could fill out forms online or represent themselves, some have emotional, mental, or physical challenges that prevent them from doing so. This process allows them the accesses they deserve."



Brenda Velde
Attorney

#FOR FARMERS

Since 1984 I have had the privilege to represent the National Farmers Union. The core mission of NFU is to improve the economic and social condition for farmers and their rural communities. As a result of this engagement I have had a tremendous opportunity to represent NFU as a member the board of directors and as vice-president of the World Farmers Organization which is based in Rome. www.wfo-oma.org

WFO is the only international organization that is comprised exclusively of farmers; there are no ag-business members. We represent nearly 80 farm organizations from over 50 countries. The fundamental mission is the same as NFU. We seek to be the "voice" of farmers before various international venues where policy is developed that effect farmers. We regularly appear before the United Nations, FAO, WTO, the World Bank to name a few. The style of farming varies widely across the membership from commercial production to subsistence farming. The cornerstone concept is to focus on the family farm operation. We found that regardless of the style of production or the location of the farm across the globe there are a significant number of common concerns. This list includes: climate change, the ever-growing concentration of economic power, soil and water stewardship and access to information for example.

As we develop policy positions, the debate frequently focuses on our role as stewards of the earth, of the value we place on human dignity, that farmers are producing a product that is vital to human existence. Producing wheat or milk(food) is fundamentally different than producing screwdrivers or furniture. My concept of right and wrong, of fairness, of equality of the genders and the importance of looking beyond the single goal of profit has been formed by my faith.



Dave Velde
Attorney

#FOR KIDS

It's no secret the people of Calvary care about the next generation! They tend to our youngest preschoolers, they seek careers in education to make a difference, and they use their gifts and passions to volunteer in retirement.

As Jesus said to the disciples, *"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children."* Luke 18:16

Whether they are teaching in a classroom, or walking alongside as a mentor, these adults prove how God is FOR kids!

I Am A Volunteer

I do this two mornings a week at Lincoln Elementary School. I am finally the tallest one in fourth grade and the only one sporting a mustache. I assist my two assigned teachers with any of their students in reading, spelling and math (always a trauma). The assistance provided to the students is incredibly rewarding especially when you see the "Aha" moment on their faces. How does my Faith fit in to this, one may ask? Oh, in so many ways. There's the Golden Rule: I do for them what others have done for me. Be kind: They are facing an insurmountable problem and need some understanding to get through it. Be resolute: Together we will get through to the end along with comprehension. Be there for others: An emotional outlet or uplift is always available as necessary (amazing things can be done via stickers). This gig started out for me but has morphed into being about them.



Dave Fiel

4th Grade Volunteer

Called To Work With Kids

Some people just know what they want to be—I was not that person. One day I wanted to be a psychologist, the next a nurse, the next a motivational speaker... and the list went on and on. But in my first year of college, I was forced to make a decision: what did I want to do with my life? A friend of mine said something I will always remember: "You are a helper and a nurturer, that's just who you are." I think that was a message—go HELP people! So, I signed up for my first education class. I have always had a soft spot for kids, and I don't get nervous around them like I do around adults! Plus, I get paid to talk and read, which is a pretty good gig. My passion is to teach my sassy, vivacious fifth graders, and I love every day because of them!



Jade Liebl

5th Grade Teacher

A Vibrant Christian Ministry

God is for kids everyday and every minute at Calvary Lutheran Preschool. Calvary Lutheran Preschool views children and families as a precious resource, given by God, and acknowledges its responsibility to assist parents in providing for their children’s nurture and care. We are a vibrant Christian ministry, a way of meeting the needs of all children and their families, including sharing the gospel and love of Jesus Christ. We are committed to creating a Christian atmosphere in which the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual well- being of children are the utmost importance.

The preschool strives to keep Jesus in the hearts of each preschooler through chapel time, songs, finger plays, prayers, Bible stories and short devotions. Calvary Preschool helps children understand God, by nurturing their inborn sense of wonder.

We encourage their confidence by reminding them that they have an unseen Heavenly Father who watches over and cares for them at school, home, in the car, at a friend’s house, anywhere and anytime.



Jana Rebrovich
*Calvary Lutheran Preschool
Director & Teacher*



#FOR THE WORLD

Ending Hunger In Bihar, India

In January, we traveled to India with 10 other people from around the United States. We each represented churches, like Calvary, who have partnered with Lutheran World Relief to collectively donate more than 1 million dollars to end cycles of hunger in the eastern Indian state of Bihar.



If you've ever traveled abroad to a country where you don't speak the language, you may recall that your senses are on high alert. The colors somehow seem more vivid, and you spend time soaking in every single sound or smell. We were quite humbled by the hospitality we experienced when visiting the villages of Bihar. They greeted us with song and dance and then paraded us to a communal meeting place. The women took turns telling us stories about the ways their lives have changed from this partnership. They were so excited and proud of what they had accomplished, and then they took us by the hand and toured us through their fields. We even sampled some fresh snap peas, which was a nice January treat for these two Minnesotans!

In one village the women had workbooks to track what they ate at each meal to encourage nutritional balance. One woman said she never missed this meeting because it was so important to her. They told us how they felt better and lacked fatigue since they had more access to food and these added health resources. One village even wrote a song and sang it to us. It translated: Because of your collections we can grow more! From the hospitality that we received from people in the villages, to the enthusiastic reports that we heard of increased crop yield, to the smiles that we saw from women and children whose health was vastly improved—our immersion experience made us proud that Calvary has embarked on this partnership.

Julie Anderson and Katie Dahl



Prayer for Guatemala Travelers

We join in prayer for the 16 Calvary students and adults traveling to Guatemala June 15-21: *God of mercy, grant safety in their travels, curiosity in their encounters with a new culture, and openness to the transformation they will experience through you. Amen.*

Teaching English In Tanzania

Last summer I was fortunate to help pilot an English Immersion program in Tanzania. I lived in the middle of the Serengeti for a month, teaching and adjusting the curriculum. Our goal was to make secondary education possible for more students. In Tanzania, primary school is taught in Swahili, but secondary school is taught in English. The transition for students can be difficult because they lack support to learn English. Our pilot program was a huge success and this year we'll send two teams to reach even more students. I was thrilled to be invited back as an assistant dean and can't wait to see what we can accomplish and learn this summer.



Every time I travel, I learn more about our amazing God, His children and the gifts that He gives us! The African animals we encountered taught me more about the beauty of our world; the children taught me to find joy and passion in every moment; and the amazing full-time staff reminded me that God's love has no language—it can spread so darn fast if we just let it!

Erin Ann Schueler

Peace Through Education In Kenya

This summer, we will embark on a 15 day journey to Daylight Center and School in Kapenguria, Kenya. Ten years ago, Daylight started with 30 orphaned children from two warring tribes, and it has since grown to serve 400 children, pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Daylight's aim is to educate a new generation of leaders to serve and transform their communities and inspire sustainable livelihood. They believe children are the key to breaking long-standing generational poverty. Daylight brings together children from nomadic and rural backgrounds to help integrate these deeply divided communities.



During our visit, we will work with children at the school, help adults with on-going projects, and experience the culture of rural Kenya. We believe this experience is a way to participate in God's love across generations and races. Daylight's mission of peace through education is near and dear to our hearts. After we return, we will plan an informational session so others can become involved in the Daylight mission.

Cindy Wagner and Sharon Bridges

#FOR WORSHIP

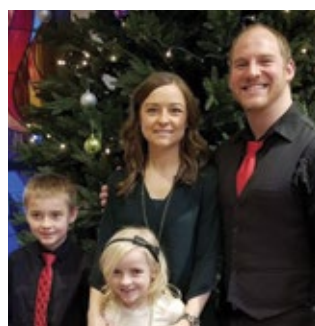
Welcome Nolan Weisz

Hi, my name is Nolan! I am the new Worship Arts Director here at Calvary. I grew up in Hazen, ND, went to school for Music at UND and have worked in music ministry for the past 10 years! I have always loved worship from the liturgies and hymns I used to sing from my Grandma's lap growing up, to the more contemporary worship I learned to love later in life. I just love connecting with ALL people, no matter what genre or style it is. I truly believe God works through music to connect with all people.

When I'm not working at Calvary I am with my beautiful family; Britta, Elin (6), and Ryker (9). I enjoy all the family time I can get and am truly blessed for each and every day with them. I love to write and record worship music. So far I've released 5 albums and I'm recording my 6th next month. Music is how I connect most and am so grateful to share that with others. I have learned how to play over 14 instruments and I try to learn a new one each year. Thank you for welcoming me and my family into this church and community!



Photo by Lacie Weisz



Nolan Weisz

Worship Arts Director

#FOR LIVING CONNECTED

Linda Hanstad and Pam Miller have known each other for many years—since their kids were playing hockey together. Now they're in the middle stage of life, and they're participating in a Connect Group. Why have they chosen to become connected in this way?

"Well," said Linda, "the kids are out of the house, so we don't have the connection with sports parents any more. It's nice to have a group you can trust with prayer requests and other things going on in your life." Pam adds, "Everybody comes from a different place, so when you bring that together it's amazing. That's how we grow—by learning, gathering information, and listening to different perspectives."

And for Pam in particular, this group became a bedrock. When her son, John, passed away, "These people were some of the first to be at my house, to comfort me and to let me know they were there. When you have people like that in your life, you are blessed."

Linda Hanstad and Pam Miller

#FOR AGING WELL

PrimeTime Event

On April 19th, 136 of our 65+ year old members joined us for the first ever PrimeTime event. We feel that this is the prime of their lives and should be celebrated!

It was a special day, with lots of socializing, connecting, and a shared meal. Rachel Barduson joined us for a wonderful program of "What's My Line" focusing on Alexandria history. Rachel was such a treat!

We hope you can join us for the next Primetime event. We plan to have these functions quarterly, with our next gathering happening in July! Call the Calvary Office if you missed this one but would like to attend the next!

Paige Good, Caring Minister



#FOR MOMS

I will be eligible to retire the same year my son graduates from high school. I am a stay-at-home, working mom. My kids are adopted. On occasion, these traits have left me feeling set apart from more "traditional" moms.

Through Moms Connect, I have learned that "traditional" moms do not exist, and every mom can benefit from sharing their parenting highs and lows with old moms and young moms, moms of singletons and moms of many, adoptive moms and those who grew their families the old fashioned way.

Kris Asche

Moms Connect is a great group of women who meet at Calvary at 10:30am every 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesday to share joys, prayer requests, and funny (or not-so-funny) anecdotes from home.



605 DOUGLAS STREET
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA 56308
www.calvaryalex.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Saturday: 6pm Praise Worship

Sunday: 8:30am Traditional Worship

10:00am Brunch at the Lake

10:45am Calvary at the Lake

[JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT CALVARY!](#)



[/calvarylutheranchurchalex](#)



[/CalvaryAlexandria](#)

Download the CQ magazine at
www.calvaryalex.org