

Calvin Connection



December 2016

Note:

Page 2 - Church group
outing to Martin Luther art
exhibit at the MIA

Page 5 - Annual PW
Christmas party

Page 7 - December calen-
dar



Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastor's Corner | 2 |
| Worship | 3 |
| Youth | 4 |
| Education | 4 |
| Serve | 5 |
| Care | 5 |
| Connect | 6 |
| Music | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 |

The Season of Advent

Advent: from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.”
First observed around the 4th century as a time of preparation
for the birth of Christ.

Today it is ob-
served as the four
Sundays preceding
Christmas.

In worship it in-
cludes weekly light-
ing of candles on
an Advent wreath,
as we prepare for
Christ's coming
into our world and
our lives every day.



Every Sunday in
Advent and
through Epiphany
we are taking time
in worship to
consider the music
of the season,
learning more
about the hymns &
carols
we all love to sing.

This year Christmas day falls on a Sunday – join us for an informal worship service
complete with coffee, juice, and treats





Window at St. Paul's Withington,
Manchester, England

Pastor Carol's Corner

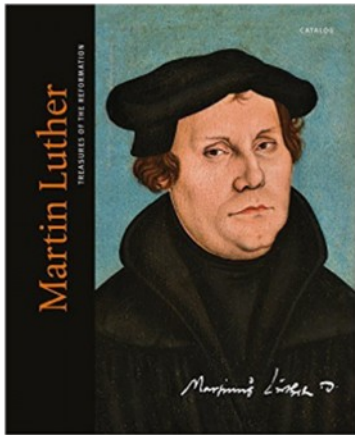
Every year Christmas seems to come more quickly. Halloween is hardly over and Christmas decorations are up and we are serenaded with carols in the malls. Advent always feels a bit counter-cultural to me. Most of the country, even those for whom Christmas is a secular celebration, dive right in, while in the church we inch our way week by week preparing for the birth of our Savior.

I am writing this on a dark, dreary November day that we so often have in Minnesota. The daylight hours are shortening considerably until we reach the winter solstice. Some overcast days it feels like the sun hardly comes out at all. We need the extra lights of this season to brighten our lives. We need the warmth they offer to remind us of the *Light of the World* who comes to our lives.

In the midst of what can become a stressful, busy time, the church gathers every week to offer a quiet place of reflection and music and worship of the Christ who brings light and hope.

Blessings in this season of light, love, and peace,

Carol



500 years ago a German priest took a stand that shook Europe and changed the world. Martin Luther's stand to reform the Catholic Church began a reformation not only of the church but also began a time of huge cultural and societal change. **The Minneapolis Institute of Arts** is hosting an exhibit of artwork and historical objects from this era of change, many traveling outside Germany for the first time. We are fortunate it is happening in our own city.

Join a group from Calvin Church to visit the exhibit on **Monday, January 9th** (due to demand for this exhibit the MIA is opening on Mondays.) Group rate is **\$16/adult**. We will carpool from the church lot at 9:30 and have time to visit other parts of the museum or have a bite of lunch before returning. We need to make reservations quickly to ensure we get a spot; there is a **sign-up sheet** in the Gathering Hall. **Invite a friend**; we need 10 people for the group rate.



Long-time Calvin Church member Hilda Bignall passed away on November 15 at Presbyterian Homes, Spring Park. Her family chose not to have a service but our sympathies and prayers go to her children Pam, Alan, David, and their families.

Another long-time member and former neighbor of Hilda, Betty Gillum, emailed the church office after learning of Hilda's death. Betty shared this remembrance: "Shortly after we moved [to the Wayzata Villa] Hilda asked if she could come to church with us — she had visited several churches since immigrating to the US [from England], but hadn't found one she liked. Bob and I were greeters the first day, so we told her she could just sit in a back pew while we did our job. She sat there for about 2 minutes, then all at once she was up and talking to people - she immediately felt at home."

Hilda's photo is included in the Veteran's photo collage hanging in our Gathering Hall. Hilda served in the Royal Air Force in England during World War II.



Calling all Holiday Helpers!

Hanging of the Greens is Saturday, December 3rd at 3:00pm, followed by a soup & sandwich supper and carol sing in the sanctuary.
The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Hall.

Greeter/Liturgist Schedule

December 4 - Communion

Greeter - Ron Bowman
Liturgist - Candy Bowman

December 11

Greeter - George Funk
Liturgist - Judy Rogosheske

December 18

Greeters - Denny & Joyce Anderson
Liturgist - Susan Manro

December 25

Greeter - TBD
Liturgist - TBD

*Our Advent candle lighters this year are our Session members.



STEWARDSHIP

Pledge cards are still being received. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed to church, or given to the financial secretary.

The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church, meaning we aren't an independent entity but part of a denomination. To support the ministry of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Synod of Lakes & Prairies, and General Assembly (the entire denomination), we are required to pay a yearly fee for each confirmed member.

The Per Capita amount per confirmed member for 2017 is \$33.75. That amount is then divided as follows: \$20.95 to the Presbytery, \$7.50 to the General Assembly, and \$5.30 to the Synod of Lakes & Prairies.

Winter Schedule

9:00am Adult Education, Fellowship Hall

9:30am Chancel choir practice, Choir Rehearsal Room

10:00am Worship

10:00am Sunday school (for the 1st Sunday of the month), all other Sundays the children will be in worship until the children's message

11:00am Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Activities

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| Sunday | 9:00am | Adult Education |
| | 9:30am | Chancel choir rehearsal |
| | 10:00am | Worship/Sunday school |
| | 11:00am | Fellowship time |
| Tuesday | 3:00pm | SPARKS program |
| Wednesday | 6:00pm | Handbell practice |
| | 7:00pm | Chancel choir practice |
| Thursday | 3:00pm | SPARKS program |

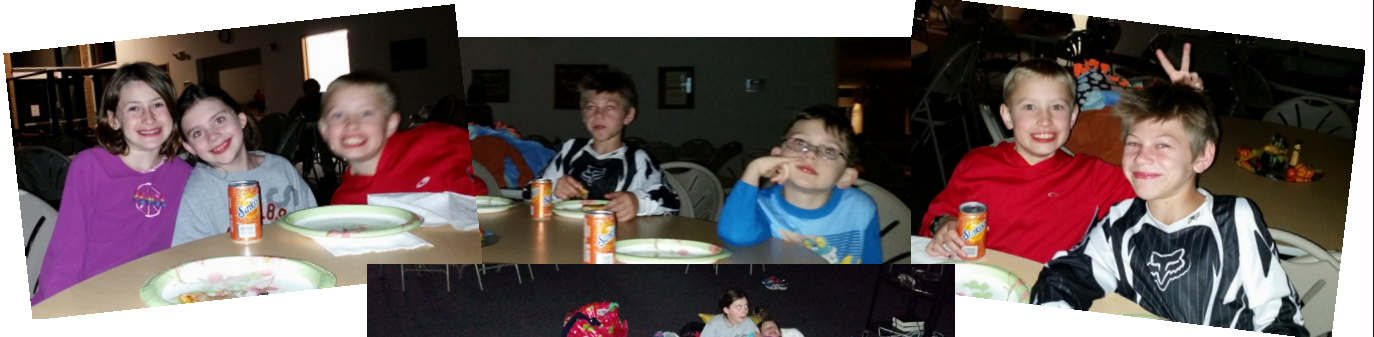
Monthly Activities

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Men's Breakfast | 1st Monday | 8:00am |
| Feed My Starving Children | 1st Tuesday | 2:30pm |
| Session Meeting | 1st Tuesday | 6:30pm |
| Lunch Bunch | 1st Wednesday | 12:00pm |
| PW Meeting | 3rd Monday | 9:00am |
| Ruth Circle | 2nd Thursday | 2:00pm |
| Mary & Martha Circle | 4th Wednesday | 9:30am |



THANK YOU

Thank you to Kathy Berg for all her work and creativity making the cornucopia and creating such a beautiful arrangement that we enjoyed on the Communion Table this November.



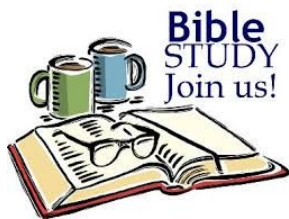
Photos from Youth Movie Night on Friday, Nov. 11th. Everyone got cozy with their blankets, pillows & pj's and enjoyed watching "Ratatouille" with some pizza, popcorn & treats.



The Little Star: A Christmas Fantasy by Georgene Meddows - The children will perform their Christmas program on Sunday, December 18th during worship. Practice is Sunday, December 11th following worship (11am), and Saturday, December 17th at 9am for the dress rehearsal.



Save the date for a fun afternoon of family game time and a potluck! Our Fellowship Committee is hosting a family game night on Sunday, January 15th at 3pm, with a chili potluck after the games. Everyone is welcome!



ADULT EDUCATION

Fellowship Hall - 9:00am
Everyone is welcome!



A Bible Study Series on the theme
CREATION AND SALVATION

Unit One: The Saviour Is Born

Rev. Chamberlain is needing to take a break from teaching due to back issues. We will hold him in prayer. In the meantime, Rev. Reed will lead the adult education class.

- Sunday, December 4 - Lesson 1, The Promise of a Saviour -- Luke 1:26-38
- Sunday, December 11 - Lesson 2, The Promise Affirmed -- Luke 1:39-56
- Sunday, December 18 - Lesson 3, The Forerunner of the Saviour -- Luke 1:8-20
- Sunday, December 25 - **No Adult Education class**



What will you get this Christmas for someone who has everything? We can help: give a gift to a mission project in honor of someone on your list. Shares are available in various amounts to purchase things off the wish list of agencies our church supports such as Bibles for Clearwater Forest, honeybees for Heifer Project, a container garden or farming tools for Presbyterian Church (USA) mission projects, or meals for children and families through Feed My Starving Children. Gift prices vary from \$10-\$75.

The church provides a card and an explanation about each gift you purchase and your donation goes to the agency you choose. "Shopping" has begun and will continue through Christmas. You can find the Gift Board in the Fellowship Hall.

Birthdays

- December 7 Sarah Settles
Darwin Swanson
- December 8 George Funk
- December 13 Jim Dillman
Charlotte Oliver
- December 16 Glen Fry
- December 21 Jennifer Schadewald
- December 23 Krista Berbig
- December 30 Angela Coccoluto



Celebrate!

Anniversaries

- December 8 Joel & Sarah Settles
- December 21 Dave & Gay Kearin

Operation Christmas Child



We are assembling boxes for OCC again this year and our boxes will go to countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Items needed for the boxes are small toys (nothing depicting violence/war), games, hard candy and/or tootsie rolls, mittens & hats, t-shirts, flip flops, plastic drinking cups & silverware, hair care items or jewelry, toothpaste, soap and washcloths, anything that would fit in a shoe box (no liquids). We prepare boxes for children ages 2-16, so there is a wide range to shop for. If you don't have time to shop, you can donate cash. We are asked to contribute \$7/box to help defray shipping costs. Please bring your gifts to church in a box marked "OCC". We will assemble the boxes on December 9th at 1pm.

PW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual PW Christmas Salad Supper is on Monday evening, December 12th, beginning with refreshments at 6pm. Our entertainment will be storyteller extraordinaire, Bob Gasch. We will also be honoring a special group of knitters from Ridgepointe. Our Christmas party is the PW gift to the women of the church, but we do allow them to bring their male friends. Dinner is provided by the PW board. Mark your calendars for this fun evening!



Adopt-A-Family (IOCP)

Please check out the registration list on the "Giving Table" in the Gathering Hall. There are copies of the wish list on the table for you to take. Please help if you can. All gifts need to be returned by Friday, December 9th, when we wrap them.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Ruth Circle** No December meeting
- PW** No December meeting
- Mary & Martha Circle** No December meeting





Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, December 7th at 12pm. Bring a dish to share, **but no need to bring your own place settings**. Going forward we will be using kitchen supplies from church to simplify clean-up afterwards. Join us - everyone is welcome!



To the members of Calvin, I was so glad for the thoughtful cards! I'm feeling well and doing what the doctor says, getting out to walk and enjoying the good weather. Thank you so much; I'm certainly feeling prayed about! ~Love, Sue Manro



Poinsettia orders and payment are due to the church office by Tuesday, December 6th. Plants are \$11.00 and order forms are available in the Gathering Hall (as well as in Sunday's bulletin announcements). We will have an assortment of poinsettia colors to choose from again this year.



Coffee Fellowship - Please take a moment to look at the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Hall. There are open Sundays in December and January for hosting coffee hour. If you would like to simply bring treats or snacks, juice and coffee will be made. Just note "food only" next to your name on the sign-up sheet.



Dear Friends in Christ, We sincerely thank Calvin Church for all the cards and notes we have received from so many of you expressing your care, concern and prayers for us and especially Dwight. They are very touching to read. Dwight has two fractures in his lower spine which have caused stiffness, soreness and pain in his back and hips and has affected his mobility. He is receiving wonderful medical help and is also being referred to Mayo Clinic for further examination and evaluation. The healing process will take a long time. So we are waiting on the Lord with good hope for healing and recovery. We miss you all very much and all the opportunities we have to serve our Lord together. Thank you so much for all your expressions of love for us in this time of need.

~Your Friends in Christ, Dwight & Bette Chamberlain



Greetings again from the Music Department! We are so grateful for your support of another very successful Music Sunday. It was such a joy to share some beautiful (and difficult!) music with you as we work to make meaningful contributions to our worship service. Advent has already begun! We will be doing a special candle lighting ceremony every week with music by Joel Raney: I hope you find it a calming and centering addition to our services. We are looking forward to a beautiful Christmas Eve service, and some special music on Christmas Day! Wishing you all a wonderful, calm, and blessed Christmas time!

~Mark Bilyeu, Music Director

Do you love to sing? The Calvin Chancel Choir is always welcoming new singers! No experience is necessary—only a love for music! There's also no need for a long-term commitment. Join us for one rehearsal and see if you like it. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the music room.



DECEMBER 2016



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
|  <p><i>Fellowship Time is on Sundays at 11:00am (following worship)</i></p> | | |  | | 1 3-5pm SPARKS | 2 | 3 3pm Hanging of the Greens/ Supper/Carol sing  |
| <p>4 Communion</p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school</p> | 5 8am Men's breakfast | 6 2:30-4:30pm FMSC 3-5pm SPARKS 6:30pm Session | 7 12pm Lunch Bunch 7pm Choir practice | 8 3-5pm SPARKS | 9 | 10 | |
| <p>11 9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school 11am Children's Christmas program practice</p> | 12 6pm PW Christmas Party | 13 3-5pm SPARKS | 14 7pm Choir practice | 15 3-5pm SPARKS | 16 | 17 9am—11am Children's Christmas program practice | |
| <p>18 <i>Children's Christmas program</i></p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school</p> | 19 | 20 3-5pm SPARKS | 21 No choir practice | 22 7pm Choir practice | 23 | 24  5:30pm Christmas Eve worship service | |
| <p>25  10am Worship</p> | 26 Office closed | 27 | 28 7pm Choir practice | 29 | 30 | 31  | |

NOTES:

CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

177 Glendale Drive
Long Lake, MN 55356

Phone: 952-473-5419

calvinchurch.net

Connect with us!



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
10:00am - 2:00pm

*Pastor Carol is in
the office Tues - Fri
(or can be reached at
her home phone #)*



Please recycle

*We extend a most cordial invitation
to you to participate in worship,
study and the many other activities in
the life of our Calvin family.*



Church Staff

- Pastor - Rev. Dr. Carol Reed
- Parish Associate - Rev. Dwight Chamberlain
- Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Douglas Potter
- Clerk of Session - Walter Baker

- Music Director - Mark Bilyeu
- Handbell Director - Mark Bilyeu
- Choral Accompanist - Taylor Burkhardt

- Office Administrator - Angela Coccoluto
- Treasurer - Pat King
- Financial Secretaries - Marj Eisinger & Tammy Wenz
- Custodian - Dave Zajac

Email address contacts:

- Carol Reed carol.reed@calvinchurch.net
- Angela Coccoluto angela@calvinchurch.net

Calvin Connection deadline: Second Friday of the month
Sunday Bulletin announcements deadline: Thursdays at 10am
Email articles and/or announcements for the Calvin Connection & Sunday bulletins to Angela (see email address above), or drop them off in the church office. Any questions, please call Angela at 952-473-5419.