

APPEAL UPDATE

NOW IS THE TIME

WELCOME OUR  
EXECUTIVE MINISTER

A watercolor-style background in shades of teal and green. In the center, there is a faint, artistic depiction of a church tower with a steeple. The overall texture is soft and painterly.

# Now

IS THE TIME



# CQ

CALVARY QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
FALL 2019 | SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

Dear friends in faith,

The Bible regularly talks about how again and again there were moments when God said, “Now is the time!” and God did something **NEW!**

God said, “Now is the time, Noah, build a big old boat!” And through Noah’s faithfulness, God did something new.

God said, “Now is the time, Moses, lead God’s people out of Egypt!” And even though Moses doubted himself, God used Moses to do something new.

After years captive in Babylon, God said to God’s people, “Now is the time to go home!” And—low and behold—God did something new again.

And, as the Old Testament closed, God said, “Now is the time for me to do something totally new! Rather than being known as a god who is distant from my people, I want to be close. I want my people to know me intimately.” So, God did something new and came close to us in Jesus.

Again and again, God said, “Now was *the time!*” and did something new.

And here’s what we know: **Now is the time for God to do something new in you!** Friends, we all have those places in life where we feel stuck. Situations that seem hopeless. Relationships that are so torn you’re not sure they could ever be mended. Failures you can’t shake. Schedules that make you scream. Stress like you’ve never known. Loneliness that make you feel hollow. A past that has a hold on you.

Our Fall worship series is designed for people like you and me who lug around this invisible baggage most days. Because here’s what we believe: Whatever you are experiencing — whatever is dragging you down or beating you up — we have a God who is saying, “Leave all that behind. Drop it. Let go of it.

**God is saying to you, “Now is the time for me to do something new in you!”**

And here’s the deal: We know God can do something new. We see it all around us at Calvary. God is leading more and more people to a lifelong faith through Calvary. The growth and excitement is electric! And, now, as we embark on the “Now is the Time” Appeal to raise the funds necessary to renovate and expand, God is—one more time—doing something new Calvary!

Inside the pages of this edition of the CQ you will hear the stories of people who said, “Now is the time to make Calvary our home!” I’m so grateful for their willingness to share what Calvary means to them.

Friends, Now is the Time!



Pastor Hans

*Your faithfulness continues through all generations.*  
Psalm 119:90

## FALL 2019

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## THIS ISSUE

From Pastor Hans  
This Fall At Calvary  
Appeal Leadership Team  
Now Is The Time  
Stories Of Faith

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# This Fall At Calvary

## KID MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE / JAM & DIG

Sunday, September 8

We kick off another year of programming with a kids ministry (birth-3rd grade) open house and launch another year of kid ministry!

## STUDENT MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE / WEDNESDAY WORSHIP BEGINS!

Wednesday, September 18

All students (4th-12th grade) are invited to join us for an evening of worship and introduction to another exciting year of programming.

## "NOW IS THE TIME" WORSHIP SERIES

Now - October 2

God said, "Now is the time, Noah, build a big old boat! Now is the time, Moses, lead God's people out of Egypt!" Again and again, God said, "*Now was the time!*" and did something *NEW!* This worship series is designed for those of us who lug around burdens that weigh us down—failures, loneliness, torn relationship—because now is the time for God to do something new in you too!

## NOW IS THE TIME BUILDING APPEAL

September 8 - 29

To support Calvary's mission of leading all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ, we boldly invite you to make a commitment to support the renovation and expansion of our church building! Now is the Time!

## "RECLAIM THE TABLE" WORSHIP SERIES

October 4 - October 27

The table has long been the place where we daily gather, but somewhere along the way we got busy and our tables now host piles of mail. We eat on the run. But there's something special about that table and the stories it holds—both now and in the world Jesus lived.

## "NOW IS THE TIME" ALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

October 13

We invite you to attend as we give a final report on plans to renovate and expand our church building, the financial appeal, and vote to commence construction!

## NIGHT OF WORSHIP / FAITH FOR LIFE SPEAKERS

October 30

Join us for a special night of worship with Faith for Life Speakers, Dan Scott and Dave Adamson. Dan has worked with kids for over 20 years as a teacher and pastor, and Dave is an online pastor at North Point Church in Atlanta and once was a TV reporter on one of Australia's top sports networks.

## ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

November 2, 3 & 6

We light candles and remember those saints in our lives who are no longer with us.

## "#STORIESMATTER" WORSHIP SERIES

November 2 - November 24

Since the beginning of time, people have told stories, Why? Because stories are powerful. Stories give life meaning and help us to understand ourselves better. Maybe that's why the Bible is filled with stories? God knows that hearing and telling our stories and God's story fills us with peace, hope, joy and new life.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVARY'S BELL CHOIR

November 10

Join us for an afternoon of music as we celebrate and hear the debut of a musical piece commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of Calvary's Bell Choir.

CAN'T BE  
IN CHURCH?

WATCH WORSHIP LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK FEED!



/calvarylutheranchurchalex

# NOW IS THE



## ***Now is the Time*** ***Financial Appeal Leadership Team***

The financial appeal to raise necessary funds for the building renovation & expansion has begun! The three couples below are proudly chairing the appeal and leading the campaign for the congregation. Get to know them and why they want you to support the project!



### **SAM & MEGAN STEIDL**

We've been members at Calvary with our four children for about 10 years. Over this time, Calvary has seen tremendous growth, and continues to get more enthusiastic and vibrant. We are excited to see what the building project will do to bring more families into Calvary. We invite you to invest in this project for the children here today and for future generations!



### **MARK & CARMON WATKINS**

We've been members at Calvary with our two daughters for 21 years. We see the building project as a once in a lifetime opportunity to pay it forward to future generations. The growth we are experiencing can only continue if we have space to welcome those people. We invite you to join us on this journey. It's sure to be an exciting new chapter in the history of Calvary Lutheran Church!



### **DALE & DONNA VOLLMERS**

We've been members at Calvary for 12 years. Many years ago, other generations saw a need to grow the church facility in order to welcome more people. We see the need to do the same so that Calvary can continue to be the thriving, busy, multi-generational church that God calls us to be. We invite you to join us in supporting this project to continue doing God's work!

# TIME APPEAL

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## ***Building Renovation and Expansion Update***

In May 2019, the congregation voted to support taking the next steps in the proposed building renovation and expansion project. Numerous teams of people have been busy this summer preparing for the appeal to raise necessary projects funds, and the pledge process is officially underway. In addition, much progress has been made this summer developing the architectural drawings to prepare for bids and the construction process.

The congregation will be asked to reconvene on October 13, 2019 at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary to learn the results of the appeal, see final design drawings, and hear about the phasing of the project. A vote will take place to determine if construction will begin. The building and financial teams will once again conduct forums leading up to this meeting, so watch for those dates to come soon. You can learn more about the building project at [www.calvaryalex.org/buildingproject](http://www.calvaryalex.org/buildingproject), as well as make your pledge and leave feedback or questions for the building and financial teams.

This proposed renovation and expansion is a response to God's call to make room for everyone so that all might know a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. We are excited about the possibilities this project brings to allow us to continue living out the vision God has given our church—to worship, connect, and serve all with the love of Christ!

*Miriam Svobodny, Alicia Bertram and the Building Planning Team*



© 2018 JLG Architects



Brooke & Brent, Rowan, Scarlett  
Photo by Missy Jones Photography

**"We felt so welcomed by everyone at Calvary!"**

## **Revitalizing Our Faith**

Our family has been attending Calvary for a year, and the connections to the people here are so real—a feeling we didn't know existed in a church. For us, modern worship songs from Nolan and the band have been life changing, and we have a new found love for Christian music. We listen to our Red River Worship CD in the car to gear up for worship and often times you will hear our four-year-old son say "Alexa, play 'My Lighthouse'!"

We have felt so welcomed by members, pastors, and the whole Calvary team. Our family has enjoyed the JAM Program offered during 10:45am worship. Our 4-year-old son is benefiting from the child-based lessons, and it helps my husband and I to focus on the sermon and really hear the message. The JAM leaders are so patient with our timid and shy son who is apprehensive to leave our side, but he always leaves happy and has something fun to share about what he's learned.

Calvary means a lot to us because of the thought, care, passion, and drive put into the message each week. You can always count on the pastors to find a caring and sometimes comical way to connect with all of us. My husband and I continue to leave worship talking about how the sermon pertains to our life. The sermons are raw, real, relatable, and I myself have been brought to tears at worship on many occasions. I believe Calvary is living out its mission of "Leading all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ" by really breaking down the Bible verses so we can truly understand what Jesus wants us to know.

*Brooke Klaahsen*

# ***Would There Have Been Room For Us?***

Calvary has been our church home for the last 6 years. When we were looking for a church to attend, Calvary stood out immediately as very welcoming. Pastor Hans was greeting people entering church and other members had a smile, handshake, or greeting that made us feel immediately welcome. When attending church, we hear and learn more of God's word, feel God's presence, and feel renewed through the service. We enjoy all the special music and love seeing the children during the children's message. We are invested in Calvary's mission and love seeing what we can do both in reaching our community and in world missions. We have met so many wonderful people and found new friendships from the variety of worship activities Calvary offers. We consider our friends and acquaintances at Calvary part of our spiritual family.

Like many families, our church family is growing, and it is apparent we need more space. From the time we joined Calvary we have seen continued growth in membership. As usual, there are many demands upon the church and its resources. We might all wonder—how do we choose what to fund? When we consider this issue, we think of past generations that had to choose between building and benevolence. If those generations had chosen not to build, would there have been room for us 6 years ago? Or for others seeking a church home today?

We believe now is the time because we are thinking of those who are yet to enter the doors. The community is growing, and we have trust and faith that God will be there to continue bringing God's word to the community through Calvary and our mission to lead all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. God has given us what we need to help us make the future for Calvary a church home for even more in our community.

*Chris & Sue Risbrudt*



*Chris & Sue Risbrudt*

***"We believe  
Now is the Time  
because we are  
thinking of those  
who are yet to  
enter the doors."***



Dan & Angie, Elsie, Will, Wesley

## ***Drawn Back To Calvary***

We both grew up in Alexandria and it was our dream to get back to this community when we were done with school. The lakes, the people, and our family were big draws for why we wanted to get back. Our faith has always been important and a big decision for us when we got back was to find a church home. Calvary was the logical choice. Both of our families went to Calvary and Angie grew up in this church. For whatever reason the logical choice wasn't our first choice and for a couple years we tried different churches but we always found ourselves back at Calvary. We were drawn, and are still drawn to the church because of its commitment to being involved in the community and working to enrich the lives of anybody that walks through the doors. Calvary gives us a sense of comfort and belonging that is effortless and we love it! Our kids ask us to go to church!

Not too long ago we decided to make Calvary our church home and it has been one of the best decisions we have made. We wanted our kids to grow up in a church where they felt comfortable to talk about their faith and to bring that faith out into the world. We want that for ourselves too and Calvary provides that through the culture they have created. Calvary has a culture of authenticity that recognizes that no one is perfect. Thank goodness! We can go to church and be free to worship with others that struggle with the same ups and downs of life.

As a young family, now is the time for us to get more involved in church and we are so glad we get to be a part of everything great that Calvary has going on.

*Dan & Angie Einerson*

***"Calvary has a culture of authenticity, that recognizes that no one is perfect."***

## ***Where Faith Is Nurtured***

It is hard for me to believe that I have been a part of Calvary for over 40 years. It's no wonder Calvary is so dear to my heart. I remember in July of 1977 receiving a call to become a pastor at Calvary. To accept that call was a very scary feeling, but I knew it was God's call, more importantly. I had been a pastor in Detroit Lakes for 9 years and had not even thought of wanting to move. God must have had other plans for me, and to accept that was the best thing I could have done. I knew it was in God's hands, and boy was I right.

Calvary has meant the world not only to me, but to Darlene and our children as well. Faith was nurtured here and still today is very vital to them. The many wonderful friends we have had and still have, is it any wonder that Calvary means so much to us? Over the years, many changes have taken place; but in order to remain vital to its members and the Alexandria community, changes had to be made. That was true then, and it is also true today. It took a real effort on the part of all, and it will again now—but it can be done.

Thank you, members of Calvary over the years, who have given so much so that we can have a vital church today. Now it is our turn to step up. I believe God is asking us to take another step to continue to lead people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. It has been done in the past, and we can still do it today. May God bless us as we continue to be the people God has called us to be.

*Marv Larson*



*Marv & Dar Larson*

***"Calvary has meant the world to not only me, but to Darlene and our children as well."***



Kathy, Jim, Annie Lesnar;  
Kate & Cory Pelzel

## ***Thankful For Our Summer Church***

Alexandria has felt like a second home for our family for 30 years as we were married at Calvary Lutheran in 1990 and continued making sporadic visits to our parents who lived in the area. In 2015, a cabin on Lake Ida became our summer home. We were excited about spending quality family time in Alexandria on weekends, but also knew that would mean missing church back home in Worthington. After just one visit to Calvary at the Lake, we knew we had found a summer church home.

The faith community at Calvary is doing an outstanding job of welcoming new people. Although we aren't officially members, we still wanted to be involved during the summer. They make it so easy to volunteer in small ways, and that makes us feel like a part of the Calvary family. We enjoy seeing all the young families that are making a commitment to their faith and appreciate the effort that Calvary makes to accommodate those families.

We also love the worship music at Calvary. As you walk over the hill at Luther Crest and see the beautiful lake, the joy of the Worship Band really sets the tone for the service. And the messages we hear consistently challenge us to live out our faith. Hans has a way of taking scripture and giving us real life applications that allows us to think about our own personal faith and how we want to apply that to our daily lives. We are really grateful for a church who will go beyond "easy messages" to give us a way to dive deeper and grow in our Christian faith and love for one another.

Boating, bonfires and sunsets are great, but our Calvary experience has been one of the highlights of spending our summer and holidays in Alexandria.

*Kathy Lesnar*

***"Calvary is doing an outstanding job of welcoming new people."***

## ***Welcome Angie Larson, Executive Minister!***

Hello Calvary! On September 4, I get to join you in ministry as we together lead all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus. You are likely wondering—who is this Angie Larson? Here's a little about my story. I can't wait to get to know your story!

Faith has been a part of my whole life. Baptized as an infant to devout Christian parents, faith was modeled and expected. Prayers at dinner and bedtime, second pew sitters on Sunday mornings, church camp, volunteerism, and Sunday School. We moved a lot as a kid, five elementary schools and three high schools, because of this I always thought of church as my hometown, something that was familiar when my bedroom and schools were different.

I loved the church and I loved Jesus. I felt called by the Holy Spirit to serve in the church when I was just a teenager. I chose Valparaiso University to attend so I could double major in Theology and Social Work. This, for me, was the perfect blend of being able to care for people spiritually and emotionally. I volunteered for university chapel services and helped lead a young adult worship service. My life came to a crossroads when my boyfriend and I found out we were pregnant at 19 years old. At this point my world came crashing down. Rejected by the campus ministry leadership and pastor, encouraged to discontinue a ministry path by my advisors, I found myself grieving a calling I was pretty sure of.

At this crossroads is when the Holy Spirit took a hold of me, not like a nice dove like we see on Sunday morning paraments, but more like a hawk with talons grabbing me by the neck. This church expression wasn't my understanding of who Jesus was or what the cross meant. It didn't match the grace that I found in the gospel or the new life promised through the resurrection. This hawk Holy Spirit planted a seed of conviction in me to continue a call to ministry. I had my beautiful son, Chase, finished my degree, and was called to the first congregation I served at 22. I've served in the church ever sense.

This call to congregational ministry and parenthood hasn't been easy, but it is my hope that my children and the people I am called to serve can experience the love, grace, wholeness, and freedom that Christ offers through his work on the cross. Calvary, I'm excited to share that with all of you.

*Angie Larson*



*Angie & Ryan Larson, Chase, Mackenzie, Sawyer, Skyleer*



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## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Saturday:** 6pm Relaxed Worship  
**Sunday:** 8:30am Traditional Worship  
10:45am Modern Worship  
**Wednesday:** 6:15pm Modern Worship

JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT CALVARY!



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