

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHAPEL

701 State Street, Madison IW 53703 • 608.255.7214

Winter 2020

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1920 - 2020

100 YEARS

Sharing the love of Jesus in the UW campus community

Calvary – 100 Years Later

Calvary is celebrating 100 years of sharing the Good News of Jesus in the UW-Madison Campus Community! While Calvary may have had many different “looks” both in ministry and facility over the years, we are blessed to know that the lives of many students, community members, and the international community have been touched by Jesus through Calvary’s continuing Word and Sacrament ministry and engagement of the UW- Madison campus area.

Currently, Calvary is a very active congregation with two worship services scheduled weekly. At the 11am Sunday worship service, you will find students involved as greeters, ushers and readers as well as participating in the praise band. We have many musicians in our congregation who participate in leading the hymns, contemporary songs, and liturgy under the direction of our music director, Josh Vaughn. After each service

during the school year, there is a free fellowship meal provided by local LCMS churches that will gather 30 or so students for fellowship.

Wednesday worship is one of praise, worship, word and prayer. There is also a free fellowship dinner before each Wednesday service provided by Calvary. Relatively new to Calvary are Connection Groups which are small groups of 4-6 students and congregation members that meet weekly for Bible Study and fellowship. This semester, we are studying the book of Proverbs. Once a month Calvary hosts a Brunch & Bible on Saturday when all the groups are encouraged to meet for a home-cooked breakfast and to discuss the Proverbs study together. Along with our weekly activities, we have special events such as Home Fellowship, which is an evening of food and fun shared in a member’s home. Calvary has been engaging the State Street community with assistance by providing meals and clothing for

those who are in need. Calvary also continues to engage the international students and their families through the ministry of the International Friendship Center. I have the privilege of leading one of the Bible Studies for the IFC and have been blessed to be able to share the message of Jesus with many who have never really heard the Good News! Another Bible Study that I lead is the Freshman Bible study. This gives me the opportunity to get to know our freshman students better and help them connect to Calvary! But I will let one of our very own freshmen tell you about this study.

An Update on the
Freshman Bible Study
Written by Anna Brookens



Over the past semester, Pastor Dan, Owen, and I have been studying the Book of Job for our Freshman Bible Study. We meet once a week in Pastor Dan’s office, and sit down to read and reflect on the Bible. We have been considering the nature of suffering and how our relationship

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Calvary appreciates your prayers & financial support to help us sustain our ministry. You may donate online at calvarymadison.org or mail to Calvary.

Calvary Connection Groups

are a great time of fellowship, learning, and delving into God's word. As a Connection Group leader, it is a privilege to gather with the members of my group, many of whom are among my closest friends, to enjoy time together discussing the nuances of Christianity each week. With guidance from Pastor Dan during monthly Brunch and Bible meetings, Connection Groups offer insight into the continued relevance of the Lutheran worldview in a constantly changing world. It's a blessing to be able to have these kinds of discussions with other people in a supportive environment, especially with the adversity that our faith often faces today. All in all, it's a really wonderful time to build and explore my faith and the faith of others in the context of such a supportive group!

Jonah Mudge



International Friendship Center Christmas Party, December 2019



Our Hope is in the Lord

by Judy Tang, Director
International Friendship Center

The International Friendship Center has continued to remain strong with 19 classes each week and 2-3 cultural activities each month. We continue to have students from China, Turkey, Congo, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, Croatia, and others. We had an amazing International Christmas Party with 235 students and volunteers, a wonderful Chinese New Year Party learning to make homemade dumplings, and an exciting Superbowl Party.

The last couple months have been challenging for our Chinese friends, especially those in Wuhan, China. I have several students who are from that area or have relatives or friends in that region. Specifically, one of my students' parents who live in Wuhan are unable to leave the house and are surviving on rice and soy sauce. My heart breaks for so many in China and around the world who have been affected by the coronavirus.

In John 16, Jesus tells his disciples that he will be going away, that the Spirit will guide them in truth, and that their grief will be turned to joy. He concludes the chapter with v. 33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus has overcome the world and even in the midst of trials and sorrows, he can, does, and will give us peace!

This international situation has provided more opportunities for spiritual conversations with all the international students. So many times, we ask questions like, "Why is this happening?" "Why does a good God allow this to happen?" "Is God even a part of these circumstances?" A pastor in Wuhan recently wrote: "The situation is so critical, yet [we are] trusting in the Lord's promises, that his thoughts toward us are of peace, and not evil (Jeremiah 29:11),

and that He allows for a time of testing, not to destroy us, but to establish us. Therefore, Christians are not only to suffer with the people of this city, but we have a responsibility to pray for those in this city who are fearful, and to bring to them the peace of Christ.” This is such a difficult situation for our Chinese friends and their families, but what a blessing and comfort to know that God is in control. As Jeremiah 29:11 (which is also Calvary’s theme verse for this school year) states: “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Through my Bible studies and conversations with the internationals and volunteers, I have been able to share the

comfort, peace, and hope that is found in Jesus. God is indeed in control and loves people. He wants everyone to seek Him and find Him. This has been especially evident in the Genesis Bible study that I’ve recently begun. Several students have begun faithfully seeking God and I can see the Holy Spirit working understanding of the Trinity, creation, sin, and God’s awesome love and power in the hearts and minds of several international friends.

What an incredible blessing and opportunity we have at Calvary to reach the world at our doorstep with the Good News of Jesus! Please continue to pray with us and for us as we continue to connect internationals to life in the U.S. and life in Jesus Christ!



Anna with Pastor Dan

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with God affects our prayers as well as our actions. We also tackled questions such as why and how suffering takes place in our lives and the lives of others. We sought to grasp the ways in which God handles human frustration in response to hardship and came to understand that God has given us the ultimate arbiter in the person of Jesus Christ. This Bible study has given both Owen and me the chance to really become part of the Cavalry community as well as the chance to remain connected to the Word on a secular campus. It has also provided a space for us to be able to reflect and gather our thoughts. We can ask vital questions and receive guidance through Biblical concepts that apply to our daily lives in poignant ways. We look forward to continuing our studies in the Book of Job and are excited to see our numbers possibly increase in the future!

Winter Retreat Reports

My experience on the 2020 Calvary Winter Retreat was unlike any experience I've had before! It was a very special opportunity to gain more intellectual perspective on my faith, and through questioning I feel more enlightened. The topic, Church vs. State, was a very thought-provoking contrast to dissect, and in the process, I learned a lot more about how these two spheres in my reality ultimately work together. Aside from intellectual stimulation, the opportunity to get to know some of the kindhearted people from Peace and Calvary was very embracing and I definitely felt the camaraderie and invitation from all to be a part of the group! Through this retreat I've definitely grown in my understanding of how religion operates and how I can be an active part in spreading God’s kingdom on earth.

~Melanie Sona



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This was my very first Christian retreat. Although I grew up in a religious household, I never had the opportunity to participate in such activities. With that said, I was very thankful to stumble upon Calvary Lutheran Chapel when I was a freshman. The church’s welcoming congregation and the strengthening, yet thought-provoking, sermons from Pastor Dan really nourished my soul and have made me ponder on how I can be more proactive in my faith. Thankfully, Calvary was generous enough to allow their student congregation to go on an all-expense paid retreat

(for first timers) to Camp LuWiSoMo. I was nervous at first to engage in the retreat because I had never experienced anything like it before, but I’m pretty happy that I did. The fellowship that followed through each day on the retreat allowed me to open-up personally with like-minded Christians about my faith while also taking the time to view Christianity from a different lens. I had an opportunity to get to know people from my congregation on a more personal level while deepening my faith. It also opened doors to hold conversations about God and to hear about His works through all of us. Overall, the winter retreat taught me more about the importance of fellowship and how unique faith is for each individual. The lessons I have learned through this camp will resonate within my heart and make me prouder to be a Christian.

~Tricia Frances

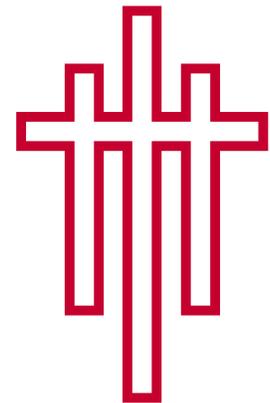
CALVARY STAFF

Pastor Dan Anderson
dan@calvarymadison.org

IFC Director Judy Tang
ifc@ifcmadison.org

Music Director Josh Vaughn
josh@calvarymadison.org

Admin Asst. Joan Ostrowsky
calvary@calvarymadison.org



Calvary Lutheran Chapel

701 State Street
 Madison, WI 53703

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