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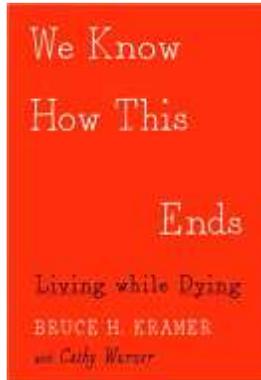
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The Samaritan

*Inspiring Joyful Faith, Building a Loving Community,
Serving Neighbors Near and Far*

AWAKENING TO LIFE - SPECIAL EVENT AT GOOD SAM



All of us will face or are facing serious changes in our lives because of disease or disability. Instead of falling victim to despair and bitterness, what if we decided to live as fully as we can, paying attention to the gifts of joy, beauty and love that surround us, even in the darkest of times?

The late Dr. Bruce Kramer, a member of our Good Samaritan community, who died in March of 2015, spent the last four years, three months and three days of his life with ALS, living life's great lessons and passing them on to a wider audience on Minnesota Public Radio News and in his book, written with MPR's Cathy Wurzer,

"We Know How This Ends: Living while Dying."

On April 28, 2016, 7 pm, at Good Samaritan, our congregation, other UMC congregations, friends and neighbors will enjoy a special evening called "Awakening to Life", a program of music, readings and conversation that will celebrate the beauty of our human experience while exploring the transformative teachings and life wisdom of Bruce Kramer. Special guests include Bruce's friend and co-author Cathy Wurzer of MPR, his wife, Ev Emerson and colleague Dr. Deb DeMeester.

This memorable event is free. Child care will be available.

APRIL SUNDAY WORSHIP

- April 3 Reconciling Sunday
Guest Speaker - Debbie Davis
- April 10 New Member Sunday
- April 17 Youth Sunday with Graduation
Recognition
- April 24 Children's Musical -
"The Old Testament Fast Forward"
9:00 & 10:30 AM



APRIL 2
6:00 PM
See page 6 for details

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LIVING TODAY

A Message from Pastor Ed

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi once famously said "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

It isn't bad advice. If this were your last day on earth, how would you spend it? What would you do? Who would you spend time with? Adopting this philosophy as a part of your life creed might help you to be intentional and self-aware as you go through life.

What if you had a different approach? Instead of living each day as though it were your last, what if you celebrated the good news of Easter and new life by living each day as though it were the first day of eternal resurrected life? The salvation of Jesus Christ begins now and goes through eternity.

I sometimes wonder what Heaven will be like. When a close friend passes away, I am **comforted by my faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. About a week after their passing, I sometimes ask myself, "I wonder what he or she is doing now? Is there an orientation period in heaven?"**

People who claim to have been in heaven for **a short time, before they 'returned,'** describe it as being more glorious and wonderful than words can describe. On the day I pass from this world to the next, I hope I have a similar experience. Being in a new place, surrounded by loved ones and staring at the glory of God himself sounds like the ultimate new beginning and the most satisfying celebration.

If I can live today with the confidence that my eternal destiny is that amazing, then I can look at the problems and challenges of this world as temporary setbacks to my inevitable new life. Living today as though I am a beloved child of God who stands in the presence of the almighty creator at every moment of my life, gives me the confidence

to celebrate each new day.

I hope you can feel the love of God every moment of your life. I hope that you too can look at the uncertain future of this world, and celebrate the good news that God is making all *of us into a new creation!*

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118: 24

~ Pastor Ed ~

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Philippians 4: 4-5

GOODBYE

Hello Good Sam families,

I have made the difficult decision to step down as Director of Families with Youth at Good Samaritan UMC. This was not an easy choice and is one that I've spent a considerable amount of time discerning over. It all really boiled down to me needing to slow down and find a healthier pace. I have been juggling many different responsibilities for the last two and a half years. In addition to my ministry at Good Samaritan, my kids started school and I have also been working hard in seminary. In the midst of this busy schedule I have struggled to find peace.

I've always marveled at, and have been in awe over the love and warmth at Good Samaritan. This is truly a unique community to be a part of and I believe it will continue to be. Although it is difficult to say Good Bye, I know there are brighter days ahead. I will be dedicating my last few weeks at Good Samaritan to a healthy transition.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Jim VerBout

Director of Families with Youth



HELPING A HOMELESS FAMILY

The family readied themselves to go celebrate Christmas with relatives. The house was in a bit of disarray, what with all the preparations, but their minds were on being with family. So, out the door they went, with anticipation and excitement.

After many hours, tired, but with full hearts, they returned home. Up the sidewalk to the front door they went, ready for bed. The middle child tried to open the door, but it was locked. Mom tried to unlock the door, but the key would not work. She tried again. It was still locked. What was going on?

Unbeknownst to them, this family was renting a home that was in foreclosure. They lost not only a place to live, but all their possessions were taken at the time of foreclosure.

Stonebridge School is asking for our help. The family - a Mom, a nephew who is 20 year old (who both have jobs) and five children ages 15, 11, 8, 6 years, and 5 months old, is now in a temporary shelter. They do not have a car.

The Mission Committee will be collecting items for their this family on Sundays April 3, 10, & 17. If you would like to help, please stop by our table in the entry. We will have a sign up. Our goal is to provide needed household items such as toiletries, toys, books, clothes, baby items, mattresses, a van or car, and gift cards for groceries and bus passes. Christmas was a nightmare for this family. Let's make April a very good month for them!

Thank you!



Other mission projects coming soon:

- Sunday, May 1 - MICAH Cookie Sale
- Sunday, May 8 - Simpson Mother's Day SERRV Sale



Put Your Dancing Shoes On...
Hearts & Hammer's Spring Rag

Saturday, April 23
7-10 pm

Surly Brewing Co.
520 Malcolm Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Grab a friend (or several) and come down to Surly Brewing Co. for an evening of fun and **frivolity, including live dance music. We'll** have plenty of food and drink, plus a raffle.

All contributions go to help Hearts & Hammers to refurbish homes for seniors and the disabled who are unable to do so themselves. Last year, our volunteer teams renewed neighborhoods across North Minneapolis and our goal for 2016 is to help 50 new homeowners. Help make that happen.

*Spring Rag - **an Irish phrase for "raise and give"**

Buy your ticket on April 10 or 17 after service in the lobby from Brad Carlin or Mike Hutson.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Founders of the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church Living Trust Fund, now known as The Good Samaritan Foundation, **wanted to ensure a way to "provide support of special ministries, special projects, and special capital improvements or repairs for Good Samaritan structures when those projects are not capable of being funded by the normal operating budget of the Church or by special fund raising."** That intent is still the guiding principal twenty-five years later.

Since 2010, when The Foundation created three separate funds, the Outreach Fund has disbursed \$48,049, the Trustees have used \$85,783 from the Cornerstone Fund for property repair and improvement, and the Evergreen Fund has provided \$12,000 to support the annual operating budget at the request of the Finance Committee.



Foundation Sunday, May 1, will be a time to recognize the many ways support has been given to our Good Samaritan community near and far, improvements to our property, and in support of our annual operating budget. Come to lunch, sponsored by the Foundation Board, see photos of The Foundation in action, and learn of gifting options, tax advantages and how your gift can be donor directed. Step up to the 50/50 challenge. Childcare provided. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and e-news in April.

For more information, you are invited to contact Claudia Boysen, chairperson of The Good Samaritan Foundation Board, at 952-937-0624, and by calling the church office at 952.929.0049, during regular business hours. Additional resources may be found at www.good.org. Search: Foundation

Deadline for the April *Samaritan* is Friday, April 15th.

Please submit articles to: joanie@good.org, and marketing@good.org

REGISTER FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT



The 2016 Women's Retreat will be June 20-23 at Cove Point Lodge in Beaver Bay. There will be ample time for exploring Lake Superior North Shore

attractions and visiting, as well as meeting for the early morning and evening group gatherings. Rooms can accommodate two to four guests and include a microwave and refrigerator.

Registration forms are available on the poster in the lobby and contain more detail. Scholarship funds are available. Retreat!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meals on Wheels - Good Samaritan is scheduled to deliver meals on the first Thursday of the month as well as the third and fifth Fridays. For more information, go to <https://meals-on-wheels.com> or call 612-623-3363.

Methodist Hospital Hospice - Methodist Hospital Hospice will be providing training sessions this spring in May for new volunteers. Volunteers give respite care to caregivers who are caring for terminally ill loved ones in their own private homes, or visit terminally ill patients to provide comfort. Commitment is a maximum of four hours per week - it can be less. The training is four sessions long. If interested, please call Libby Swanson at 952-993-5381.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group



Starting April 14 we will be reading and discussing the book, *A Spool of Blue Thread*, by Anne Tyler, a story which chronicles several generations of a Baltimore family. Join us in the Fireside Room at 1:00 PM for interesting discussion and refreshments.

Questions? Contact Vicki Dunn: 952-930-3431 or victoria.dunn@q.com

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Easter Fun was a huge success! Many children enjoyed the games, activities, Bounce House, face painting and more! Thanks to all who made this event special!



5th- 6th GRADE RETREAT
 April 15-17
 The retreat will be held at Camp St. Croix this year and is open to any 5th or 6th grader. Please contact Heather (heather@good.org) for more information or to sign up.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL - APRIL 24
"The Old Testament Fast Forward"
 9:00 & 10:30 AM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) NEWS



VBS Meeting - April 6th
 ALL invited. Help us make decisions about how VBS will run this year!

VBS Registration Bags will be packed on April 13th and 20th in the back of Fellowship Hall starting at 5:00pm. Come help us pack the bags! Bag pickup will begin on 4/13 but all bags will not be completed until 4/20.

VBS Decorating Party date has been moved to May 6th from 5:30 - 9:00 PM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to help make the decorations for VBS. We will paint, trace, color, build and set up many fun decorations. We need LOTS of help! Pizza dinner and nursery provided.



Sign up for VBS! The 4th - 7th grade program is full but all other age and grade levels have openings. The price for VBS rises on May 1st so sign up now!
<http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/goodsamaritan/>

Heather Miller: Dir. of Families with Children
 952.929.0049 ext.226 or heather@good.org

YOUTH INFO

On March 6, BUZZ and IOTA made fleece blankets for the little angels admitted into **Children's Hospital. Great work Youth!**



ASP Deadline
 The deadline to pay your balance for ASP is coming up quickly - April 24! Questions? Contact Mike Hutson at bmhuts@gmail.com

Youth & Senior Recognition
 SUNDAY - April 17

Confirmation Mentor Night
 April 27 - 7-8:30 PM
 All Confirmation Mentors are invited to the last Confirmation evening with their confirmands. Please join us!

Jim VerBout: Director of Families with Youth
 952.929.0049 ext.129 or jim@good.org

THANK YOU JIM!

A very special thank you to Jim Verbout, Director of Families with Youth for his service these past three years. Jim started at Good Samaritan in August of 2013, and has provided great programming throughout his tenure. Jim has forged wonderful relationships with our Youth, and will be missed.

Jim is resigning his position as of April 10. Please pray for Jim as he journeys forward to serve Christ. Pray for his family as they help him through this transition. And, pray for Good Samaritan and our Staff Parish Relations Committee as they facilitate hiring a new person for this position.

Bless you Jim!

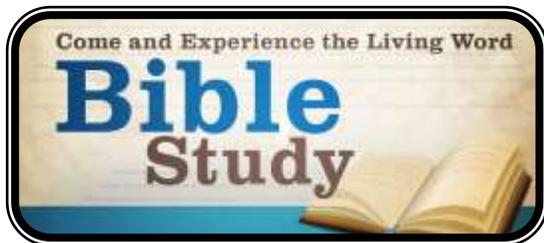


April 2
6:00 PM

Please join us April 2nd at 6:00 PM for an in-church progressive dinner. This event has been a big success in the past, complete with lots of great food and fellowship. How does it work? Attendees are asked to bring either a salad, appetizer, or dessert to share; enough to serve 6 to 8 people. The Adult Fellowship Council will prepare the main dish. Guests will progress from room to room within the church to eat the different courses.

Why not celebrate spring with your friends **at Good Samaritan? No doubt you'll make some new friends too.**

Hosted by the Adult Fellowship Council



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Want to know more about John Wesley? Come to April Bible Study - Tuesdays at 9:30 - 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

April 5 - Overview of John Wesley
April 12 & 19 - Theology of John Wesley
April 26 - To be determined

Prayer, discussion, and refreshments are promised. See you there!

Want to get the weekly prayer concerns or Good Sam e-News blast? Email Joanie at joanie@good.org or call the office.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2016 General/Operating Fund as of February 29, 2016:

	Year to Date (YTD)	Budgeted YTD	Annual Budget
Income	\$226,930	\$220,956	\$954,047
Expense	\$130,591	\$140,920	\$954,047
Net	\$96,339	\$80,036	\$0

Statements for the first quarter of the year will be coming out in April. Please check your statement to see that your information is correct; if not, contact Helen McEvoy-Freeze in the church office or at helen@good.org.

The Finance Committee thanks you for contributing to the mission and ministries of Good Samaritan Church.

SPRING PLANTING TIME!

It is time to prepare the Peace Garden for summer. On Saturday, April 30, the annuals will be planted in the Peace/Memorial Garden as well as in the Upper and Lower Entrance gardens. Planting will begin at 9 AM and should be completed by noon.

Come join in the fun as we create the flower gardens for our summer enjoyment. Bring gloves and trowels- plants, coffee, water, and donut holes provided!



Good Sam's Garden Group will be meeting

Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 PM. Gregg Peterson, current President of the Minnesota Hosta Society will present a program on hostas. Gregg was the perennial plant specialist for Linders for six years and is a Master Gardener. All interested are welcome to attend this meeting. Please contact Mary Lund if you plan to attend: rlund07@comcast.net or 952-929-8075

CHANCEL CHIMES MEMBERS GO TO OREGON

Four members of the Chancel Chimes spread their wings this spring, and headed west to Welches, Oregon to participate in a national ringing event the first week of March. The event, "Distinctly Bronze" (DB), gathers together 100 ringers from around the United States, for rehearsals and a concert on March 7.

Good Samaritan's Jane Baxter, Marlys

Fiterman, Carol Myslivecek and Sue Nissen were selected through an audition process. Former Good Samaritan handbell Director Monica McGowan, a veteran ringer at DB, also attended. In addition to ringing, Monica arrived a week early to make sure all eight sets of handbells were in top-notch ringing condition for the event.



Japanese conductor/composer Toshikazu Yoshida, of Kinjo Gakuin University led three days of rehearsals leading up to a final concert of fourteen pieces, which ranged from

manageable to quite difficult, because of **the music itself along with Mr. Yoshida's** passion for tempo. His style makes for fabulous listening but demands meticulous preparation. Music and position assignments for the concert music arrived in January and all four Chimes members were individually studying and rehearsing.

The four ringers had a wonderful time. All of their hard work rehearsing paid off, and they were very prepared for the ringing. The conductor had an interpreter there and the two of them were lots of fun. The Good Samaritan group met ringers from the United States and Canada.



Mr. Yoshida and his handbell choir are esteemed in the handbell world. Kinjo Gakuin is an all girls school with a graded handbell **program. Many of Yoshida's college choir** performances are available on YouTube and are a treat to watch and hear. This link will **lead you to one of Mr. Yoshida's signature** compositions included in the DB concert - **Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXWbqGShxol>.

TWIN LAKES CSA - APRIL 3

This will be the fourth year that Good Samaritan will host Twin Lakes CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). A CSA is a bridge and a partnership; a direct relationship of mutual support and commitment between local farmers and consumers. Good Samaritan acts as a host site where members who have joined **the CSA pick up organic produce that's been** delivered from local, small family farms.



By becoming a member of Twin Lakes CSA, **you'll receive a share in the farm's harvest.** A box containing 10+ different produce varieties will be delivered for you to pick up at Good Samaritan each week of the season. It is a way to directly support local farmers and come to know those who grow your food. In addition, recipes, meal planning and storage tips are provided each week to help you fully savor your produce.

To learn more, stop and visit the information table between/after services on Sunday, April 3. For more information, you can visit www.ugraze.com or contact **Liz Talley (Twin Lakes' CSA facilitator)** at 952-201-2330 or liz@ugraze.com.





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
5730 Grove Street
Edina, Minnesota 55436

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*Our Vision:
 Inspiring Joyful Faith,
 Building a Loving Community,
 Serving Neighbors Near and Far*

Time Dated Material

Worship at Good Samaritan

Sunday Services
 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM
 Join us in fellowship following
 each service

* * * * *

Nursery for infant-age 3
 Offered during both services

* * * * *

Children's Sunday School

Preschool and K-6
 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

* * * * *

Youth Sunday School at 10:30 AM

* * * * *

Food for the journey . . .



Office Hours:
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday–Friday
 Telephone: 952.929.0049
 www.good.org