October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his Ninety-Five Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany—an act that sparked the Lutheran Reformation. Rather than restricting the observance of this anniversary year to the calendar year, Calvary by the Sea Lutheran has chosen instead to follow the Liturgical Year. Welcome to this Lutheran Year—the 500th anniversary of The Reformation!
An Advent Explanation

The Western Church Year is structured around the two great celebrations of the Christian Church—Easter and Christmas. Easter, based on the Jewish Passover, is determined by the phase of the moon. It is a “moveable” date. Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date determined in the 4th century to coincide with the pagan observance of the winter solstice, which at that time fell on December 25.

In the early church there was much diversity in regard to rites and calendars. Local churches were not always in sync with one another. Even today there is not uniformity in the observances of the Church Year, especially between the Western Church and the Eastern Church.

In 2006 The Advent Project (theadventproject.org) began as a continuing seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. This ecumenical project proposes to expand the observance of Advent from 4 Sundays to 7 Sundays in order to reclaim Advent “as the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time even as we welcome his appearance in our weekly assembly and in the world to which we are sent.” This expansion of Advent to 7 Sundays is an attempt to enable the Church to focus once again on the full manifestation of the reign of God.

The Advent Project does not change any of the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. The majority of the readings in November already have an end-time focus. The final three Sundays of the 2016 Church Year (6, 13, 20 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea because our current Advent Worship observances are curtailed by the Honolulu Marathon and by PAC Sunday. Thus, in expanding Advent to 7 Sundays we are able as a community of faith to explore more fully and completely what it means to “long for the Lord’s coming.”

This is the second season that Calvary joins The Advent Project as we all strive to follow Jesus more closely both as a community of faith and as individual disciples.
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

A note of joyful expectation marks tonight's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us: in word and holy supper, in song and dance, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ, Tom

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

GREETING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: How long, O God, must we endure our brokenness?
ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, and make us whole!
KAHU: The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
ALL: And also with you.
CONFESSION OF SIN, *Kahu Tim*

**KAHU:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**ALL:** Amen.

**KAHU:** Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all time,

**ALL:** you know us through and through—better than we know ourselves. You claim us as your own. Yet we doubt you and question your grace.

We cling to our own abilities, and trust in our own skills. We think we know better for our lives than you. We rely on our own achievements and elevate personal desires to universal importance. We put ourselves above your command to love and serve.

Remake us into your people. Rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice living in your peace. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**KAHU:** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

**ALL:** Amen.
PRAYER OF THE DAY *standing*

**ALL:** Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING OF GUESTS *and* SHARING OF ALOHA *standing*

**KAHU:** May God’s aloha be with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

WE HEAR THE WORD

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 6, *Kahu Tim*

FIRST READING  
Isaiah 35: 1‒10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

**ONE:** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a
fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM 33 standing

REFRAIN

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

VERSE

1. Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God's
2. We who reverence and find hope in our God live in the
3. God of creation, we long for your truth; you are the
SECOND READING

James 5: 7‒10

In anticipation of the Lord’s coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

ONE: 7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION standing

“Rain Down”
John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

KAHU: 2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him,

ALL: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

KAHU: 4Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, Kahu Tim
"My spirit sings of wondrous things!"

SERMON HYMN 723 standing
"Canticle of the Turning"
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *standing*

**ALL:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *standing*

**KAHU:** As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For the church and all messengers of the gospel, for all who call upon the name of the Lord, and for congregations throughout the world, and especially for this congregation, the Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church;

**ALL:** *let us pray that God work through us to bring harmony and reconciliation.* Aloha ke Akua (God is love; love is God).

**KAHU:** For rain forests and deserts, for oceans and reefs, for wilderness and developed land, for islands and continents, for plants blossoming and dormant, for animals active and hibernating, for all birds and sea creatures migrating;

**ALL:** *let us pray that the splendor and diversity of creation proclaim the glory of the Lord.* Aloha ke Akua.

**KAHU:** For our government, for the military and international relief workers,
and for those who care for the stranger, widow, and orphan;

**ALL:** let us pray that God raise up leaders who work for the protection of all. *Aloha ke Akua.*

**KAHU:** For the hungry and homeless, for those in captivity, for the fearful and sorrowful, for those living with HIV/AIDS, and for the sick;

**ALL:** let us pray that those who help others serve with patience and grace. *Aloha ke Akua.*

**KAHU:** For all who call this community home, for those visiting from near and far, and for those preparing for and those stressing over the holiday season;

**ALL:** let us pray that the advent of Christ make our hearts and minds rejoice. *Aloha ke Akua.*

*W.H.A.L.E.*, *a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.*

**KAHU:** In thanksgiving for the departed who were faithful to God's word;

**ALL:** let us pray that their words and actions direct us to the one who prepares a way for us. *Aloha ke Akua.*

**KAHU:** Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**ALL:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.*

**PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, Tom**

**DOXOLOGY standing**

“Come Ye in Five”

“Ho‘onani i ka Makua Mau”


OFFERING PRAYER standing

KAHU: Savior of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love,
    that our faith shine ever new
    and our lives reveal your light.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE FED

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN standing “What Bread of Life”
(Sung to VENI, EMMANUEL, “O Come,…Emmanuel”)

What bread of life is offered here? What wine of love is given now?
It is Christ’s body and his blood, the sweetest gift of heav’n come down!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
    God’s chosen one, Immanuel, draws near.

GREAT THANKSGIVING standing

KAHU: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.
KAHU: Lift up your hearts.
ALL: We lift them to the Lord.
KAHU: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Kahu: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” In a similar manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(contemporary)* *in unison*

*All:* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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**At Calvary by the Sea** all those who have a relationship with Jesus Christ and those who are seeking such a relationship are invited to experience the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to follow the direction of the Kahu and come forward to encircle the altar area. There are kneelers for those who prefer to kneel. Dip the bread in either the red wine or the white grape juice and then eat the element.

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *seated*

*Kahu:* God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All:* Amen.
WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN standing

“Choose to Hope”

Marty Haugen composed this Advent 2016 song-hymn for his home church, The Mayflower Community Congregational Church (UCC) in Minneapolis, MN. He is sharing this song with the world as an advent gift.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness,
shore upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, 
bless you now and forever.

ALL:  Amen.

KAHU: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

ALL:  Thanks be to God.
Tonight, December 10, 2016

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea
KAHU: Tim Mason
WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole
Advent Worship Ahead

Sunday, December 11—Advent 6
“Marathon Sunday,” 7 pm Worship
(NO MORNING SERVICES)

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Handbell Choir; Calvary Choir
Dance, Sacred Moves

Friday, December 16—Blue Christmas
7 pm, Calvary Sanctuary
A Service for All Burdened by Holidays

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Nackil Sung, Martha Staff, Monika Day

Saturday, December 17—Advent 7
6:30—7:30 pm, Sunset Worship in ‘Ohana Hale

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Amie and Tom

Sunday, December 18—PAC Sunday
Performing Arts @ Calvary offers their Christmas Musical
“The First Leon”
at both morning services