

# Calvin Connection

Winter 2018

A quarterly publication for friends of Calvin Community

## A heartfelt thank you is a great reward!

I have often commented how thankful I am for our many dedicated employees who serve our Calvin Community residents each and every day! Too often the extra effort, care, and consideration that they consistently demonstrate goes unrecognized, and it is easy to take such exemplary performance for granted.

One of my great rewards as the leader of Calvin is when I can share particular heartfelt thank you sentiments that I receive with our staff. These are much appreciated and help remind all of us here why we do what we do.

We recently received such a note from the daughter of one of our previous residents on behalf of the family. Included in her kind words, she wrote "My dad's journey was not an easy one for him or us, but everyone at Calvin assisted us kindly every step of the way. We as a family do not have adequate words to convey our gratitude for all that was done for our dad, but I had to try. I will continue to pray for you all as you serve the elderly and their overwhelmed families so well. God bless and keep you all!"

God has indeed blessed Calvin Community for 54 years, and we are thankful for the opportunities He gives to us to serve others!

*Mark Teigland, President/CEO*

## Making a difference, leaving a legacy

In the fall of 2006, my world was shocked when my late wife, Anne Zimmerman, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. She was bright, vibrant, and young – just 65 – and a committed Calvin Board member. Back then, my exposure to Calvin came through Anne's work on the board and my affiliations with Central and Westminster Presbyterian Churches.

In 2009, two years after her death, that changed when I received a phone call from two Governing Board members inviting me to consider joining the Calvin Community Foundation Board.

I wasn't sure I was ready to join anything. They reminded me that Anne was one of the Foundation's founding board members, and had a real love for Calvin and its residents. Several weeks later as part of my exploration, I met with Administrator Eldred Kingery. Eldred told me

about the impact a resident family had on the lives of our residents by making a foundation contribution, which made the backyard sidewalk a reality. When I heard how a simple sidewalk enhanced the quality of life of our residents, I was hooked and joined the Board of Trustees in 2010.



Kent Zimmerman

I can honestly say that my work on all things Foundation has helped me deal with Anne's loss. It gave me new passion and purpose, and the opportunity to help

move the Foundation forward... one of my favorite things to do. It gave me a picture of Calvin, its needs, and opportunities, and most importantly how it cares for its residents. The Foundation offered me a way to honor Anne's memory by giving to a cause that was greater than the two of us.

Before her death, we also made the Calvin Foundation one of the pri-  
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Learn about Catholic Youth Choir of Central Iowa inside this issue

# New chaplain Gundar Lamberts

Pastor Gundar Lamberts is Calvin Community's new chaplain as of November 2017.

He leads weekly Devotions on Thursdays, weekly Bible Study on Fridays and remains available to residents and staff as needed.

He has spent time throughout his more than 40-year career and volunteer service in senior living communities, and really enjoys spending time with older adults. Pastor Gundar has a wonderful voice, and sings often throughout his services, along with the congregation and on his own.

"I am looking forward to and



Pastor Lamberts

excited about this opportunity to make a difference and let my light shine for the Lord."

He connected with Calvin in his service to Westover Baptist Church and began to develop resident and staff relationships as he volunteered to fill in when a service needed to be led.

Pastor Gundar is the first of his family born in America. His parents are Latvian and he grew up in suburban Chicago.

He and his wife Kathy moved to Des Moines more than 2 years ago. Their four children and 12 grandchildren live in Iowa, Montana, Minnesota and Latvia.

## Youth Choir seeks, spreads joy

The Catholic Youth Choir of Central Iowa has performed many times at Calvin Community. The selection of sacred and traditional music is much enjoyed by the residents. The choir was established 10 years ago. Gail Johll, Director of Music at St. John's Basilica, also directs the Youth Choir.

The participants are all homeschooled students age eight through high school from the Des Moines Metro, as well as Ames, Indianola, Nevada, Adel, Winterset and other communities. A total of 70 students participate in the program based on age and/or an audition to confirm they are able to match pitch. Students are placed as appropriate in Prep Choir, Select

Choir, Seraphic Singers and Bosco Boys Choir.

Some students also play instruments, usually strings or flute. Often they also participate in the Des Moines Symphony Academy or are enrolled in a school system for choir or band/orchestra experience.

The Basilica provides rehearsal space, and in return the choir sings at noon mass every First Friday. They also sing occasionally on Sunday and Holy Day masses plus two annual concerts. When possible, they also share music with Calvin Community (see photo on cover) and others.

The goal of this choir is to help students gain skills to enjoy singing for their entire life. Director of Music Gail Johll states she feels privileged to be a part of their musical journey.

## Meet Emily Huss

The new year brought a new addition to the Social Services Department at Calvin Community. We are pleased to welcome Emily Huss, LMSW, to the team. Emily has been training with current Director of Social Services, Amanda Jaramillo Ayon, as Amanda prepares to go on maternity leave.

Emily grew up in Gilbert, IA, just north of Ames. She attended Wartburg College, where she met her husband, Kevin. Emily graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She then attended St. Ambrose University and completed a Master's Degree in Social Work in 2015.



After graduating from St. Ambrose, Emily and Kevin moved to Ankeny, where Kevin began working at John Deere as a tool design engineer and Emily began working at Trinity Center at Luther Park as the Director of Social Services. Emily then moved on to a Social Work position at the VA.

Emily recently had a daughter, Rylin, who is four months old. Emily also has a dog named Ellie. Emily enjoys spending time at home on their acreage just north of Ankeny.

Welcome to the Calvin Community family, Emily!

Be sure to visit our website  
[www.calvincommunity.org](http://www.calvincommunity.org)  
We're also on Facebook!

# Resident spotlight: veteran trombonist Vern Hintze

Vernon Hintze moved to Calvin Community with his late wife Dee on April 13, 2016 into a Calvin West apartment. Vern, as he likes to be called, has a rich history as an Iowan, a veteran, and an accomplished trombone player.

Vern grew up in Davenport, Iowa, and met his wife in the 100-piece high school band. She played clarinet, and he played trombone. While in high school, Vern was a part of the "Swing Stars", a group of juniors and seniors in high school who played around the Quad Cities area.

In 1941, Vern was dating Dee, working full time, taking Accounting classes at Augustana College, and playing in a band. The band was planning to go on the road that year, so Vern decided to leave the band and enlist in the Army Air Corps.

Vern was drafted the day after Thanksgiving in 1942, and spent time at Fort Dodge, before leaving for Basic Training at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. After training Vern was off to California, he was in Sonoma and Monterey County. Having Accounting experience from Augustana College, Vern worked as an Accountant for the military, and also joined the "Dance

Band" and "Military Band". Vern commented that he wouldn't consider those to be Big Bands, though, because of the insufficient saxophone section.

Vern was later promoted to Sergeant, and was in charge of interviewing musicians to be recruited to the military band, and finally there was a beefed up saxophone section, enough to call



Vern Hintze

it a Big Band. While on a short leave from service, Vern and Dee got married on January 9, 1944. In the spring of 1944, Vern was shipped out to Seattle and then Shemya of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.

Following his time in the service, Vern attended Drake University and completed an Accounting degree in January 1949. Vern worked as an Accountant in Des Moines, and him and Dee began raising their family. Vern and Dee

were married for 72 years and have two children, Gary, who lives locally, and Ken, who lives in Ohio, as well as one grandchild and six great-grandchildren. Vern's great-grandchildren have a variety of interests including academics, sports, singing, and one has recently joined the Marines.

Vern took a series of breaks from playing trombone, but after retiring from his career as an Accountant, he played in seven different bands all across Des Moines, simply because he loved the music. While speaking with a friend, Vern planted the idea that he wanted to form a veterans band in Des Moines, to play the music of Sousa, King, Berlin, and other great American composers. The "Iowa Military Veterans Band" was formed, with the idea that they were playing one concert, for the dedication of the Iowa World War II Memorial at the Iowa State Capitol in November 1996. Vern recruited a 49-piece band for this performance, and it went so well that the band is now in its 23rd year with over 100 Iowa veteran musicians!

Vern has created a lasting legacy with a wonderful family and great musical talent and foresight. We are glad to have Vern as a resident of Calvin Community!



## New giving: vehicle donation

Thinking about selling your car? Why not donate it to the Calvin Community Foundation?

When you donate your vehicle to our Foundation you will be supporting our Good Samaritan fund. And

you will receive a tax deduction for the amount of the appraised value of the vehicle.

Please contact Jamey Cox at 277-6141 for all the details. Note: to qualify, your car must be in working order.



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Ann's Activity Calendar

# Join us for winter events!

All events held in the Main Lounge unless otherwise stated...

**Community Education:** Embrace Aging series continues with "Supporting our Parents" Tuesday, February 13 at 10 am

**The Chocolate Affair** returns Wednesday, February 14th at 1:30 pm

**Art Therapy Program** with Roberta Victor of Grandview University on Saturday, February 17th at 10 am in the Rec Room

**Music** by Switchback on Tuesday, February 20th at 1:30 pm

**Folk Dancing** performance on Monday, March 5th at 6:45 pm

**Music** by Joe Klinefelter on Monday, March 12th at 2 pm

**Community Education:** Embrace Aging series continues with "Caregiving in a Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Environment" on Tuesday, March 13th at 10 am

**Music** by Mike Lozano on Tuesday, March 27th at 2 pm

**Easter Service** with Pastor Gundar Lamberts – Sunday, April 1st at 2 pm in the Rec Room

Visit [calvincommunity.org](http://calvincommunity.org) for the full events calendar.

## Legacy (continued)

mary beneficiaries of our estate, but it wasn't until I got directly involved with the Foundation that I understood why. She had a vision for how it could help Calvin's future.

I can safely say that "our" association with the Calvin Community Foundation gave and continues to give meaning and purpose to Anne's memory and my life. At the start of a new year I invite you to join me in supporting the work of the Foundation and including it in your estate plans. While it is a simple act, it is one that will give meaning and purpose to your life and the life of your family, and the lives of our residents. We can all make a difference by leaving such a legacy.

*Kent Zimmerman chairs the Calvin Community Foundation*