

CALVARY ECHOES

DECEMBER 2009

PASTOR KURT RAU
752-4102



There are some of us...who think to ourselves, "If I had only been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby. I would have washed His linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord laying in the manger!" Yes, we would. We say that because we know how great Christ is, but if we had been there at that time, we would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem...Why don't we do it now? We have Christ in our neighbor.

“Christmas is Jesus’ birthday”

During breakfast this morning I asked my son Matthew whose birthday Christmas is. He immediately commented that it was “Jesus’ birthday”. I then asked if Christmas was his birthday. His response, “Silly dad my birthday comes after Jesus’ birthday.” The Bible says, “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger (Psalm 8:2).” Even though Satan tries every year to hijack Jesus’ birthday with the gods of materialism, meism, and Santa Clausism, the real Christmas hope of God will never be lost or denied. The prophet Isaiah wrote “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end (Isaiah 9:6-7a).” Isaiah doesn’t say “I wish upon a star a child is born” or “I hope against hope that a son is given” as a coin thrown in the wishing well. He boldly states “a child is born” and “a son is given.” When it comes to the promises of God, a promise made is a promise kept.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to reclaim the real meaning of Christmas and the fact that it is not our birthday, but rather Jesus’ birthday. Isaiah states “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him ‘Immanuel’ --which means, ‘God with us’ (Isaiah 7:14).” This is profound because God, Himself, took on flesh to live with His people, died for them, rose among them, and saved them from their sins. I hope and pray that you and your family have a very blessed “Christ-mas”. I pray that the name of Jesus is lifted up during all of the Christmas celebrations. I also pray that the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus, is received by those who don’t know Him. For God, there is no greater birthday gift then when one lost soul repents and turns to Him (Luke 15:7).

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Kurt

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER: There are a few of us who meet with Pastor Kurt for prayer each Sun. morning from 8:30-8:45 a.m. Join us, as partners in prayer, for the awesome privilege of lifting up Calvary, Pastor Kurt, worship, and the needs that God places on your heart.
All Welcome!!

Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (the next Council mtg. will be the budget proposal mtg. Dec. 8th, those highlights will be in the Jan. Echoes)

THE NOMINATING TEAM is in the process of filling positions of ministry at Calvary. Keep them in your prayers and those God would raise to serve him. Please consider if there is an area God is calling you to serve.

PLEASE REMEMBER: ANNUAL REPORTS from chairpersons and leaders of ministry are due Dec. 15th. A lot has happened in 2009 here at Calvary & these reports are a great opportunity to share with the congregation. (**Reports needed:** Pastor, Council President, Worship, Property & Management, Calvary's Closet, Living Free Ministries, Sunday school, Wyldlife, Preschool, Immanuel Home, FLBC, HeBrews, CLCW, Mission Endowment Fund; we have received Community Kitchen report.)

CHURCH DIRECTORY: We are in the annual process of updating our membership directory. Please notify Connie (Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) in the church office (752-4102) if you have ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE CHANGES. If you wish your name to be added or taken from the Echoes mailing list now is the time to let us know. Also, regarding mail boxes in the Welcome Area, if you do not have one and would like one please let us know.

BEYOND THE BUDGET: The furnaces for the Fellowship Hall and the north end of the basement (preschool area) needed repair the week of November 23rd. The cost is \$592.70. If this is an area you could donate to it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

NOVEMBER

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	11018.45
Rod Nelson Funeral Reception B. Use	40.00
Sally Hoyer memorial designated to General Budget	25.00
Give Them Wings/Building Use	404.00
New York Life Annuity Interest	950.00
Parsonage Sale/Payroll Exp.	950.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	13387.45

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in November	13694.78
Unpaid Expenses in Jan. - Oct.	+ 1565.11
Total Expenses	15259.89
Total Expenses Paid in November	- 15259.89
UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN-NOV	0.00

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY (to meet budgeted goal)
11/1	85	2923.00	2793.17
11/8	73	2553.45	2793.17
11/15	92	1859.00	2793.17
11/22	86	2466.00	2793.17
11/29	62	1217.00	2793.17

MONTHLY RECEIPTS (\$12,103.75 needed per mo. to meet budget goal)
 "My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

JAN	10349.10	MAY	13401.90	SEPT	11045.00
FEB	11528.12	JUN	10466.13	OCT	9788.00
MAR	12026.48	JUL	10874.50	NOV	13387.45
APR	11816.71	AUG	13038.00	DEC	

Jan. - November: All Expensed Paid

** \$950 was used from the Parsonage Sale to cover the November payroll.
 ** The Sewer Assessment was paid out of the General Budget in November. (\$490.46)

RECYCLE BINS for aluminum, tin and plastics have been placed in Calvary's kitchen. These will be used to help cut down on the amount of garbage used, as we have been exceeding the containers we have through Evergreen Disposal. Thanks for helping us recycle!!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: at this time are turkeys! Also, anyone who is interested in helping on Tuesday mornings here at Calvary (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) may contact the Main Food Bank at 752-3663. They are short handed and the food bank clientele has been growing! Your support is much needed & appreciated!

“EnCourage” – Calvary's Youth Ministry; ***Where/When:*** Calvary Lutheran Church (Worship Area), Weds. from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.; ***What is it:*** A time/place set aside to spend in prayer, study/discipleship and fellowship for our youth generation; ***For More Details*** contact Jason @ 261-7501(Leader); Alyssa @ 212-0330 (Secretary) Jeff DuPuy @ 471-4170 (Assistant/Crowd Control/Tech)

GIVE THEM WINGS PRESCHOOL

Merry Christmas from the little angels in the basement. We hope you are almost ready for this heavenly season. We can't wait! Life is busy at Give Them Wings. Learning letters & numbers, listening to stories, working in groups & most importantly using our polite school manners keeps us all on our toes! Every day at school is a delight as we watch energy, imagination & friendship abound. Stop by & say hello. We always enjoy visitors. Happy Holidays, Brenda & Sandi

Community Kitchen ‘Feeding the Flathead’ needs your help. We will be giving our guests gifts at the Christmas dinner; Dec. 25th (6-7 p.m.) at Faith Alliance Church. If you would like to give here are some ideas: scarves, shampoo, mouthwash, deodorant, lotions, kleenex, shave cream, socks & men's large gloves. We will pick the items up on Sun, Dec. 13th & wrap them the week of the 14th. Please leave them in the marked box in the entry unwrapped. Thank you! If you have any questions or would like to help please contact Denise Gullickson or Brenda Bauer.

ANGEL TREE In keeping with Calvary's tradition of supporting the Salvation Army at Christmastime, there will be Angel tags in the welcome area again this year. These tags are from wish lists of children whose families are being helped this season. The gifts will be part of a “Toy Shop” that any children from families that aren't adopted through their program, will be able to choose as a gift. By participating this way, our hope is that the people of Calvary will be able to support the Salvation Army, as well as our own ministry of the Community Kitchen. Please return the tags and the gifts to the church by December 20th. The tags have a number and the number needs to be taped on the unwrapped gift when returned. Thank You!

COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

- ◆ The ladies of the church are sponsoring their annual Holiday Cookie Sale.
- ◆ This is a major source of funding for our treasury which provides Calvary's kitchen supplies & other expenses throughout the year.
- ◆ Please support us by donating a batch or two of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies or candy.
- ◆ Please deliver your donation to the church between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., on Saturday, December 19th.
- ◆ The sale will be Sunday, December 20th after the 10:30 a.m. service.
- ◆ We will be selling plates of treats for \$2.50.

THE BOOK CLUB'READ' will meet on Wed. Dec. 2nd at 1:30 p.m. in Calvary's Welcome Area. Sandy DuPuy will introduce the book 'The Ragamuffin Gospel' and give us a brief synopsis. We will also begin reading from Ruth Bell Graham's book 'Legacy of a Packrat'. You don't need to buy books; our aim is to encourage reading those we already have on our bookshelves. Join us for inspiration & good fellowship!

CHURCH DECORATING PARTY WED, 12/2/09, 5:30-8:30 PM – Come kick off the Christmas Season by helping with the decorating of the church. A buffet of pizzas, goodies, cider & punch will start at 5:30 p.m. We will divide into teams & create a festive atmosphere of peace & joy. A sneak preview is posted on the bulletin board. Contact Laurie Smith (257-1271) if you would like to bring pizza or goodies.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: will be Thursday, Dec. 24th, at 6:00 p.m. There will be communion served.

December Birthdays!

- 3 Susan Gensmann
- 4 Jayson Clark
- 10 Denise Gullickson
- 12 Mirth Stedje
Joseph Hall
- 13 Kaylie Roush
- 14 Carol Klain
- 16 Valli Ostrem
- 18 Jeff DuPuy
- 20 Brenda Bauer
- 21 Kaylan Radel
Nolan Jorgenson
- 23 Jane Radel
Joyce Schaumburg
- 26 Agnes Stevens
- 27 Stacey Pitt
Pat Blackwell
- 28 Harrison Ostrem
Gabriel Felton
- 29 Tony Pepe
- 31 Eric Pitt

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family of Patricia Christensen. Patricia passed away on Wed, Nov. 18th. Her funeral was Mon, Nov. 23rd at Calvary, with Pastor Kurt Rau officiating.

DEAR PEOPLE OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us . . . Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. What a pleasant surprise to get something so lovingly crafted and sent to one with your prayers in each knot. I really was touched to tears. Thank you all so very much. I hear from Eric all the wonderful things your church is doing. Love in Christ, Ruth Maisch

THANK YOU to everyone for praying for my oldest sister Margaret, who was 88 years old. Margaret has died from kidney failure. Thank you again for your prayers for her. Evelyn Blair

THANK YOU so much for the thoughtful prayer quilt you gave to my friend's mother. It is touching to know we have such a supportive community. Thank you! Duane B. Karlin

DEAR FRIEND & SPONSOR: The Kalispell Police Department would like to express our sincere thanks for financially supporting our child safety and drug education program.

We feel it is our sworn duty to provide the public with protection and safeguards expected of us. Our planned child safety and drug education program will help us do that. You have recognized that we desperately need to reach our children with accurate and vital facts that will educate and help them grow as safe, happy and useful citizens. The materials and services we have carefully selected are developed exclusively by the National Child Safety Council, a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Because of your generous support, we are able to provide this well-rounded program for our children. Without your help this could not have been possible.

Thanks again, not only from the Police Department but also from all of the young people who will be touched by your helping hand.

Sincerely, Roger Nasset; Kalispell Police Department