

CALVARY ECHOES

NOVEMBER 2009

PASTOR KURT RAU

752-4102



Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

“Don’t worry, be Thankful”

At every meal my family always gives God thanks for the food that we eat. It doesn’t matter whether we are having Cheerios for breakfast or a fancy dinner at Sizzler Steak house. God promises to meet every need that we might have whether its money to pay a mortgage, a shredder found in abandon house for the church office or a telephone call of encouragement to someone who just lost a close friend. The Bible says, “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).” Even though God promises to meet all needs not wants, we still have a tendency to worry more about the things we don’t have rather than be thankful to God for the things we do.

How is it that we have a supernatural God that not only provides for our eternal future, but provides abundant life now that we still worry about things? Is it an issue of control, pride, or a lack of faith? Jesus said, “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:31-33).” Believe it or not, in Christ we literally have all our needs met whether food, finances, relationships, forgiveness, or a worry free life.

How should we respond to God’s rich blessings of grace? Simple response could be “don’t worry, be thankful.” Paul writes, “What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Romans 8:31-32)?”

A year ago many Americans worried about the future of our economy, yet for all the heart ache and anxiety that came from the AIG’s we are still here by the grace of God. In midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln didn’t give up in frustrations or give in to the overwhelming pressure of his day, but rather he wrote “It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”

Amazingly, Abraham Lincoln made the first Thanksgiving Proclamation at one of the worst times in American history. He was able to do these things by a simple idea of “don’t worry, be thankful.”

I want to invite you each day during the month of November to ask God to provide you with a heart of thanksgiving. Every morning when you wake up simply pray, “God please give me a gift of a thankful heart.” By the time Thanksgiving rolls around, it will literally amaze you how much joy and peace you will have in giving thanks to God. In fact, you will be able to truly relate to David’s words when he writes, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name (Psalm 100:4).”

Abraham Lincoln and King David both recognized that everything they had whether food, clothing, property, body, life, relationships, children, or even the air they breathe was a gift of God’s grace. What are you thankful for?

In Christ,
Pastor Kurt

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS Council began with prayer in the Prayer Chapel.

FYI

1. Benevolence Sunday for Neighbors in Need – raised \$194; Military Bible Sticks – raised \$330; Jazz Band – raised \$318: reimbursed general bud. \$60, leaving \$258 towards next years' band
2. Harvest Dinner Update – fed approx. 120 people, \$937 was raised, will receive \$750 matching from Thrivent. (Previously had \$150 donated to the Hearing System.)
3. Jews for Jesus – Liberated Wailing Wall/Fri. Oct 30th, 7 p.m. - \$75 traveling fee and love offering
4. It will be put on Annual Mtg. agenda to discuss the church tithe.

LET'S TAKE ACTION

1. Membership Expectations – a) 101 Class b) 3 month 'get to know each other' for those who transfer; 6 months for new or unchurched. Also, do 101 Class at Council Retreat.
2. Annual Mtg. preparations: **Budget Requests** are due Nov. 1, so Nov. 10th Exec Mtg. can be the budget mtg. Budget planning team consists of the Executive team, 1 council member (Gary Fischer) and 1 congregational member (Al Sylling). Budget will be presented at the Dec. 8 Council Mtg. for vote, to approve for the annual mtg. Need to have a Council Mtg. in Jan, before the Annual Mtg. **Annual Reports** are due Dec. 15th from those in leadership areas. **Nominating Team** is Phyllis Carson, Brent Jorgenson, Kristy Johnson and 2 delegates need to be elected from church council (Vickie Engle, Bob Iverson).
3. Testimonies – was shared the many positive, supportive responses that have been received because of Calvary being willing to stand on the word of God.
4. \$75 will be given to the Kalispell Police Dept. for their child safety and drug education program for children and their parents. Half will come from the Youth fund and half from the general fund.
5. Garbage cans have been overfull, so are charged extra fees each time this happens. We will look in to recycling cardboard to see if this will help. A larger can, 1 ½ yards, would be approx. \$12 more per month, plus a \$47.75 delivery charge. Executive team will research the possibilities further.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting was followed by consultation with Bishop Jessica Crist and Vice President of the Mt. Synod Council.

OCTOBER

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	8263.00
NYL Annuity Interest	950.00
Change for Harvest Dinner	100.00
Reimbursed for Jazz Band fee	60.00
Give Them Wings/Building Use	<u>415.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	9788.00

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in October	11213.89
Unpaid Expenses in Jan.-September	+ <u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	11213.89
Total Expenses Paid in October	<u>- 9648.78</u>
UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN-OCT	1565.11

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY (to meet budgeted goal)
10/4	121	2861.00	2793.17
10/11	71	2187.00	2793.17
10/20	98	1491.00	2793.17
10/25	76	1724.00	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
APR 11816.71	AUG 13038.00	DEC

Jan. - October Unpaid Expenses

Pastor Kurt's Salary	1565.11
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BUDGET INFORMATION: SEWER TAX IS DUE IN NOVEMBER, IT WILL BE \$490.44 *Please keep in prayer!*

FUNDRAISERS: Harvest Dinner for the Hearing System - \$937 plus \$750 from Thrivent; Benevolence Sunday for Neighbors in Need – raised \$194; Military Bible Sticks–raised \$330; Jazz Band–raised \$318: reimbursed general bud. \$60, leaving \$258 towards next years' band.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Amy Lybeck
- 4 Angela Olsen
Darlis Newlin
- 6 Pat Erickson
Ryan Roush
- 16 Courtney Westphal
- 18 Stan Schaffer
- 21 Cindy Skramstad
- 22 Don Wood
- 23 Phyllis Carson
- 24 Luca Pepe Welle
- 29 Matthew Radel
Jason Radel

CONGRATULATIONS & GOD'S BLESSINGS to Robyn Rhodes who was baptized Sunday, Oct. 18th. Welcome to God's family!

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS to the family & friends of Sally Hoye. Sally passed away Tues. Oct. 20th. Her funeral was at Calvary, Sat. Oct. 24th with Pastor Kurt Rau officiating.

Dear Kurt Rau & Congregation; Thank God you are standing on the Word of God firmly. I'm not a Lutheran, but I appreciate your stand, letting down what definitely goes against God's Word; is certainly slippery ground. Down right ungodly! I'm praying for you & your fellow Lutherans that are hesitating to stand firm. All that glitters is not Gold, & now-a-days too many fall for 'fools gold' forgetting we all face judgment day; which may come sooner than we think. God bless you all. Sincerely in Prayer, Ettie Kastle "I am with you, I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you." Isaiah 41:10

CALVARY'S CLOSET: We are out of hats, gloves, warm coats, boots & shoes. Please keep this ministry & those it serves in prayer as the weather gets colder.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS at this time are turkeys, potatoes, cranberries, canned pumkin pie, canned milk, jello, marshmallows, olives, etc.; items to put together Thanksgiving baskets.

“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)

Read	The book club READ had its first meeting on Wed.
Evaluate	Oct. 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Calvary’s Welcome Area.
Ask	Meetings are informal reviews of books in our new
Discuss	church library. <i>Come and join us on the <u>first</u></i> <i>Wednesday of each month.</i>

DON’T LET YUCKY WEATHER weigh you down! Come join us for a gentle firm up & great fun. So far we’ve said good-bye to over 30 pounds, just this summer! Everyone is welcome to our low impact exercise class, Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

COMMUNION PREPARERS and clean up. We are in need of some help with setting up for communion on Sunday’s, then cleaning up after Worship. Please make note on your yellow card or contact the church office.

\$\$\$BUDGET REQUESTS \$\$\$ are due Nov. 1st from the different areas of ministry. The Budget Planning meeting will be held at the Nov. Executive Mtg. (Nov. 10th, 6:30 p.m.) **Annual reports** from chairpersons and leaders of ministry are due Dec. 15th. These reports are a great opportunity to share with the congregation what God has been doing in and through people at Calvary in 2009.

THE NOMINATING TEAM will be meeting to begin 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 that articles for the Sunday Bulletin need to be in the church office by 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and articles for the ECHOES need to be in by the 20th of each month. Thanks!!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD . . .

The world's largest, most ready-to-hear, and most vulnerable people in the world are His children. According to a message sent to us by Sherry Varkonyi who works for the Northwest Regional Office of Operation Christmas Child, there were nearly 8 million shoebox gifts that went to over 100 countries last year. The boxes from the Northwest went to China, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Mexico, and the Philippines. The 10 wk. follow up discipleship course graduated 3.1 million children, and 700,000 of those received Christ.

Use an empty shoe box, standard size, or a plastic container. You can wrap the parts separately. Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or girl, and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Use the special labels that will be in the display at the church.

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You will find special envelopes in the church display. Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop it off at the church between Nov. 14th and Nov. 22nd. It would be helpful to have the boxes on Sunday Nov. 15th!

GIFT IDEAS: School supplies, toys (nothing war related), hygiene items (soap in a plastic bag), hard candy, lollipops (double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights with extra batteries.

PERSONAL NOTE: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may write back.

MOST IMPORTANT: Remember to pray for the child who will receive your gift! (If you have questions, refer to the display that will be at the church, or call Bob Sander at 249-3166.) By thinking about this ahead of time, you will be able to "avoid the November Rush"!

Immanuel Lutheran Home Bazaar Fri, Nov. 13th, 9 - 4: Lefse, Scandanavian Baked Goods, Homemade Crafts, Christmas Gift & Decor Items, Warm Freshly Baked Caramel Rolls. If you have a craft you would like to share, that would be great. Contact Kathy Buffington at 752-9612, ext. 236.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH in Bigfork will be holding its 89th Annual Lutefisk Dinner on Sat. Nov. 14th from 3 – 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For more info, contact the church office at 837-4387, Tues. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

HOPE PREGNANCY MINISTRIES is run primarily on a volunteer basis. Over the past few months we have had a steady increase of clientele coming to Hope for help...praise be to God! Along with that comes the urgent need for volunteers, primarily mentor volunteers, who are asked to commit one four hour day each week. (See brochure on the church bulletin board that explains all the positions needed.) Please pray for Hope Pregnancy Ministries, we know the power of prayer and are blessed to be surrounded by a church body that is supportive of our ministry. Jacquie Jeffcock; Resource Center Director

THE SHORTEST WAY IS not always right, nor the smoothest, nor the safest. Therefore, do not be surprised if God chooses the farthest and roughest, but you can be sure of this -- He will choose the best!

GOD DOES NOTHING IN VAIN

God has created me to do some definite service;
He has committed some work for me which he has
not committed to another.
I have a mission ...
Therefore I will trust him.
Whatever, wherever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him.
In perplexity, my perplexity may serve him;
If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him.
My sickness, perplexity or sorrow
May be necessary causes of some great end,
Which is quite beyond us.
He does nothing in vain.
-John Henry Newman