

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: flour, sugar, salt, small cans of tomato sauce, canned fruit, veggies, potatoes and pasta

This past month my family has been busy picking, cutting, and canning both apples and pears. In a normal year, our fruit trees produce enough fruit to keep us busy canning and eating for maybe one lazy Saturday afternoon. However, this year we have had such a bumper crop of fruit we can stay busy for days if not weeks to come. As I compare this year's bumper crop to last year's modest return, I am just awestruck as to what a difference pruning does in a life of a tree and the fruit it produces.

As a tree doctor prunes a fruit tree so too does our heavenly Father prune us so we can produce spiritual fruit which in turn brings God the glory. Speaking on topic of pruning Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful (John 15:1-2)." For many these past couple of weeks has been difficult, confusing and exciting as it pertains to the privilege of standing up for God's Word without compromise. It's as if we have just gone through God's pruning process as a church.

With Calvary now officially being a member of L.C.M.C. (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ), the obvious question becomes where do we go from here? The answer is to continue to follow Jesus' vision for Calvary. Calvary's vision - We exist to gather Together for worship and fellowship, to be Transformed by God's Spirit through discipleship and service, so we can Tell others about Jesus."

Living God's vision will not be easy, but hard especially for a church named Calvary. Always remember nothing of eternal significance came from being easy, but rather through the fires of perseverance and shears of God's disciplining love. Since vision is about looking forward, that is what we must do in the days and months ahead. We do that by picking up God's word daily, cutting off voices of despair or feelings of fear, and canning the hope and grace we have as children of the Most High God.

1	Cyndy Deist	16	Jowell Engebritson
2	Derek Miller	17	Danielle Miller
3	Kali Radel	18	Pat Paulson
4	Mae Engebritson		Brandy Rowe
5	Michael Radel	21	Angela Maisch
7	Bob Iverson	22	Rose Christensen
	Isabel Larson		Drew Lowry
8	Kent Schaumburg	24	Shaun Rowe
11	Sally Hoye	29	Dee Benson
13	Terry Caudill		Shelby Olsen
14	Betsy Engle		Aaron Westphal

LIFE CHAIN Sunday, October 4th, 2 - 3 p.m., at the intersection of Highways 2 and 93, Kalispell. This annual event is sponsored by Flathead Pro-life, for all Christians to get together at the crossroads of Kalispell, the corners of Main and Idaho and pray for an end to legalized abortion and that life will be held sacred in our country from conception to natural death.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD . . . It's a heartbreaking reality. Millions of children around the globe live in difficult circumstances & are in desperate need of hope. They may be slum dwellers in Calcutta or orphans in Johannesburg, and they need to know that they are loved.

Operation Christmas Child is one way you can make a difference in a young person's life. Since 1993, this Samaritan's Purse project has shared the Good News of God's love with hurting children through the simplest of gifts-shoe boxes! Filled with school supplies, toys, & personal items that are packed by caring people, these boxes help introduce children to Jesus Christ. Local believers follow up with evangelistic programs, & many precious boys& girls later receive Jesus as their Savior.

As you pack a shoe box for a child, please pray for the boy or girl who will receive it. Spread the word so others will get involved too. You will be amazed to see how God can use a small gift to touch a child's heart!

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, & 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 & other project costs. You will find special envelopes in the church display. Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box& drop it off at the church between Nov. 14th & Nov. 22nd. It would be helpful to have the boxes on Sun. 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 you 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 Nov. Rush"!

(Pastor's Article Continued . . .)

The Bible says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:9-10)."

Calvary, we are the apple of the Father's eye called and set apart for a great kingdom purpose. Never give up or give in to the voices of this world, but rather with God's help and God's hand we will continue to become who we are in Christ. Remember, God's best is yet to come!

In Christ,

Pastor Kurt

Military BibleSticks! We will be participating in a special offering on Sunday October 18th to purchase Military BibleSticks for our servicemen serving our country. The Military BibleStick is an mp3 player pre-loaded with the entire New Testament. It is rugged enough to withstand tough weather conditions, can be used in low-light situations, and it easily fits into uniform pockets. Faith Comes by Hearing has received many requests for these from our military chaplains across the world. Their goal is to fill as many of those requests as they can by Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information contact Jenny Rau (756-6966) or visit their website www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/military/military-outreach-resources . This is a very powerful way to give the Word of God to those who are serving our country!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Kurt opened with prayer.

Devotion – Council shared testimonies.

Council continued with specific prayer for individuals & the church.

Bible Study – ‘The Healing Model of Jesus’

FYI

1. Subscription to join LCMC has been signed and sent in.
2. Letters have been sent to Bishop Crist to begin 2nd phase of severing affiliation with the ELCA. Bishop Crist has responded, she will attend either the Oct. 27th or Dec. 8th Council Mtg. She will let us know when she can come, per her schedule.
3. Carpets have been shampooed and Fellowship Hall, kitchen and bathroom floors have been stripped and waxed.
4. Harvest Dinner/activities are being planned!
5. Jazz Band ‘Grand Dominion’ will be at Worship Sun. Oct. 4th. We have \$105 towards the \$250 fee.
6. Jews for Jesus musical group ‘Liberated Wailing Wall’ will be at Calvary, Fri. Oct. 30th at 7 p.m. more info to follow. \$75 traveling fee, love offering will be taken.
7. Confirmation begins Wed. Oct. 7th at 5:30 p.m. Jason is leading ‘EnCourage’ Youth Ministry on Wed. nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
8. Boiler needs drain valve. Wish list: water softener.

LET’S TAKE ACTION

1. Council was asked to pray about addressing membership expectations. Possibilities: 1) take 101 class; 2) time frame of attendance for possible members to get to know the body of Christ at Calvary; 3) Sponsors from Council for new members.
2. Year End – Budget Requests are due Nov. 1st, so the Nov. Executive Mtg. can be a budget mtg. The budget planning team consists of Executive Team, 1 council member (Gary Fischer) & 1 member from the congregation (Al Sylling). The budget will be presented to Council for vote at the Dec. 8th Council mtg. Annual Reports are due Dec. 15th from those in leadership areas. Nominating team – Phyllis Carson, Brent Jorgenson and Kristy Johnson plus 2 delegates need to be elected from council. (Vickie Engle has volunteered, need one more.)

QUILT RAFFLE for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. This is a beautiful quality quilt done at the Feb. 2009 women’s quilting retreat. \$1 per ticket/6 for \$5. Drawing will be held at the Camp’s Annual Mtg. Oct. 10. A great way to support the bible camp!

The Annual Corporation Meeting for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp will be Saturday, October 10 at Camp. Lunch will be served at noon with the meeting to follow. Thanks for your ongoing support of the Bible Camp. Your financial help is critical and we are grateful for your partnership in this ministry. (Please keep Calvary’s delegates Ryan & Robin Roush and alternates Gary & Lorrie Fischer, Al & Sue Sylling in prayer.)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES Please join us for our Annual Meeting Sunday, October 25th at Buffalo Hill Terrace, 12:30 lunch; 1:00 meeting. Refreshments and tours following the meeting at the Immanuel Lutheran Home. Come see our new look & listen to the Bavarian Echoes.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Immanuel Lutheran Home will be holding its annual bazaar on November 13th. We are looking for homemade crafts of all types, homemade goodies and extra volunteers that day. Please call Kathy Buffington at 752-9612, ext. 236. with any questions you may have.

JAZZ BAND 'Grand Dominion' will lead worship at Calvary, Sunday Oct. 4th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We have \$190 towards the fee of \$250. If this is a ministry you are called to contribute to it would be much appreciated. Checks may be made out to Calvary Lutheran, (write jazz band in the memo). Join us for an awesome Sunday of worshipping God with Jazz music!

FALL WELCA RETREAT (Women of the ELCA) at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Oct. 16-18. Women of Calvary the fall retreat "Loving God's Way" is fast approaching. You will find info & registration sheets on the bulletin board across from the church office. Please take a registration sheet & send in with your money. You can attend all or part of the weekend activities. The Speaker is Esther Brinkley, info is on the bulletin board across from the office. Registration forms are due to Eidsvold LCW; Box 100 Somers, MT 59932; by Oct. 5th.

GIVE THEM WINGS PRESCHOOL

We're back! We were thrilled to meet our 44 students & to get started on another school year. September keeps us on our toes getting our new charges into the routine of school. Every day gets easier for them & for us. The preschool is up and running Mon. - Thurs. Stop by & say hello if you are in the area. Pastor Kurt, Connie & Ryan always make us feel so welcome. They tell us they like our noise & commotion. Aren't we lucky to work around such a supportive staff! Brenda & Sandi

(Council Highlights continued . . .)

3. Other: *a)* Council will look at doing the 101 Membership Class at their retreat this next year. *b)* Youth will attend a concert Tues. Oct. 27th at the Christian Center. Tickets are \$13.50 for groups of 10 or more. The youth will be asked to contribute \$7 per person, with youth fund paying the balance. *c)* Evergreen School's Parent Organization has asked us to partner with them & the Evergreen Firehall, to support a 7 ft. sidewalk from the firehall to the light by the church. No monetary contribution is needed, but would like us to apply for Round up for Safety thru Flathead Electric to cover the remaining cost. Vickie Engle will pursue the application.

4. Next Council Mtg. will be Tues, Oct. 27th, 7 p.m.
Council closed with the Lord's Prayer

SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	9682.50
Give Them Wings/Building Use	412.50
New York Life Annuity	<u>950.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	11045.00

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in September	11733.92
Unpaid Expenses in Jan.-August	<u>+ 0.00</u>
Total Expenses	11733.92
Total Expenses Paid in September	<u>-11733.92</u>

UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN-SEPT

0.00

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY (to meet budgeted goal)
9/6	71	2591.00	2793.17
9/13	89	2800.00	2793.17
9/20	63	2491.50	2793.17
9/27	68	1800.00	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	10446.13	OCT	
MAR	12026.48	JUL	10874.50	NOV	
APR	11816.71	AUG	13038.00	DEC	

Jan. - September Unpaid Expenses 0.00 PRAISE GOD!!

"EnCourage" - Calvary's Youth Ministry

Where/When: Calvary Lutheran Church (Worship Area)
Wednesdays 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 Sternad @ 261-7501 (Leader)
Alyssa Pitt @ 212-0330 (Secretary)
Jeff DuPuy @ 471-4170 (Assistant/Crowd Control/Tech)

ATTENTION!! - CONFIRMATION TO BEGIN: It's that time of year again to start thinking about Confirmation. If you have a child in 6th-8th grade (whether this will be your 1st, 2nd or 3rd year), please join us Wed, Oct. 7th at 5:30 p.m. to go over the 2009/2010 year. Parents & students are encouraged to attend. There will be a brief meeting; followed with class for the students.

WORSHIP EVENT

Todd Agnew/Building 429/Kimber Rising
Tuesday, October 27th @ 7 p.m. in the Christian Center
We are asking for \$7 per person to contribute to the admission and the Youth Fund will cover the balance!
(groups of 10 or more cost per person: \$13.50)

Come enjoy the family of united believers praising God together as one!
Youth Ministry is attending; see Jason for details.

JEWS FOR JESUS mobile evangelistic team; 'Liberated Wailing Wall' will be at Calvary, Fri. Oct. 30th, 7 p.m. in the Worship Area. Their Jewish gospel music sounds like a combination of Israeli folk and *Fiddler on the Roof*. The lyrics are straight from the Scriptures. The minor key melodies are joyous, upbeat and lively and the music always lifts up Messiah. Come join us! Free will offering will be taken.

HARVEST DINNER AND FUNDRAISER (October 23, 2009; 6-PM Calvary Lutheran Church)

Come celebrate the rich blessings of the season and enjoy some home cooked comfort food for the whole family. Our goal is to raise \$1,100 for a sound system for the hearing impaired so all may hear the word and worship. A variety of music will be played by String Crossings while you dine. The cost will be \$7 per person, or \$12 per couple, or \$20 for family of 4+.

We will have a silent auction of theme baskets. If you would like to put together a basket for the auction please contact Laurie Smith (257-1271). A suggestion list of possible basket items is posted in the welcome area. Sign up for yourself or for your special group (i.e.. study groups, women's groups, Sunday School classes etc.) to create a wonderful and fun gift basket for the holidays.

There will be sign-up sheets posted in the welcome area for those who wish to contribute by donating, decorating, greeting guests, cooking, serving, and clean up. Any and all help is greatly appreciated! We look forward to seeing you and celebrating all the Lord has provided.

Community Kitchen Evergreen Jim & I will be snowbirds, beginning Oct. 8. We'll return in April. I want everyone to know that, although I still plan to keep informed about Community Kitchen through e-mail, anyone interested in helping with or making suggestions to Community Kitchen should contact Denise Gullickson, Brenda Bauer, Rick Ruby or Nancy Benson. See you in April! Jim & I will miss you all! Kim Snell, Community Kitchen Evergreen Director

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG. Sun, Sept. 13th was well attended. The resolution to sever ties with the ELCA was passed by a wide margin. The resolution has been sent to Bishop Crist, with a letter stating Phase I of our constitutional process being completed, and giving option for the Bishop to attend one of the scheduled Council Mtgs. in the next 90 days, to complete the next phase. Once that phase is complete, we will have a final congregational vote, as required by the constitution to complete the process of ending our affiliation with the ELCA. (Copies of the letters sent to the Bishop were mailed to all voting members of Calvary.) **THE EXECUTIVE TEAM** went through the votes again, one by one for accuracy. The vote was broke down to each of the 3 motions made, then counted individually. Results are:

- 1) Join the LCMC.....YES 56 NO 4
- 2) Officially sever relationship with the ELCA.....YES 55 NO 4
- 3) Realign church tithe (10% of Sun. offerings) to LCMC...YES 55 NO 4

LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ): We are now officially a part of the LCMC, as of Sept. 13th, when the congregational vote was passed! We will be receiving a membership certificate soon! We have sent them our Aug. & Sept. tithes. The LCMC will be having their Annual Gathering, Oct. 4-7 in Fargo, ND. A detailed schedule & more info can be found at www.lcmc.net Please keep the LCMC in prayer & check out their website to learn more about this association!

\$\$\$BUDGET REQUESTS \$\$\$ are due Nov. 1st from the different areas of ministry. **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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN! Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. We are excited to start a new year of sharing God's word with the children of His church! Come join us! If you are interested in helping with Sunday school or filling in sometimes, please contact Kristy Johnson @ 752-2235.

Children's Choir We will be starting children's choir again on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:00 p.m. This choir is open to children ages 3-10. We will be doing lots of fun Bible songs with actions and learning a lot about how Jesus loves us! This choir will start on Wed, Oct. 14th. For more info contact Jenny Rau 756-6966.

Read
Evaluate
Ask
Discuss

The book club READ will have its first meeting on Wed. Oct. 7; 1:30 p.m. in Calvary's Welcome Area. Meetings will be informal reviews of books in our new church library. Come and help us get started!!

CALVARY'S CLOSET needs children & men's shoes. Thank you for contributing!

CALVARY ECHOES

OCTOBER 2009

PASTOR KURT RAU

752-4102



difficult to play. Without a moment's hesitation the leader answered, 'The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists. But to find one who can play second fiddle with enthusiasm – that's the problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony.'

We are in danger of forgetting that we cannot do what God can do, and that God will not do what we can do. *Oswald Chambers*

QUOTES AND COMMENTS:

The Son of God became man to enable us to become children of God.
C. S. Lewis

Jesus teaches that human need must always be helped; that there is no greater task than to relieve someone's pain and distress and that the Christian's compassion must be like God's - unceasing. Other work may be laid aside but the work of compassion never. *William Barclay*

My most cherished possession I wish I could leave you is my faith in Jesus Christ, for with him and nothing else you can be happy, but without him and with all else you'll never be happy. *Patrick Henry*

A friend once asked the famous conductor of a great symphony orchestra which instrument in the orchestra he considered the most

Diary of a Church Consultant: Worship wars – are they still around? *By Ken Johnson, consultant*

What do you expect in worship?

When Paul tried to inspire the Philippian church to move forward, he wrote, "... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3: 13-14 NIV).

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

I love that sentence because it has so much meaning. Why is it that some Christians are always behind the rest of the world? Why do we have to worship the same way that people did 30, 40, or 50 years ago? Why can't we realize that when God created the heavens and the earth he continued and created man and woman and gave them brains so they could be creative and produce new things?

Our purpose as Christians is to win people for Christ. Are we doing that when we are fighting over worship styles?

Why do some churches say, "We are not going to change our worship style even if the church dies. If people want to come to this church they will have to accept what we do. If they don't then they need to go to another church." Our culture has changed just like the cultures before us. There is nothing wrong with that; in fact it is important that we transform what we do as our culture changes or the church will die.

In the middle to late '60s we began using choruses in worship and the contemporary Christian music phenomenon began, which for the

"worship purists" was a difficult pill to swallow. In the '70s we began developing many different products like models and colors of cars, literally thousands of different kinds of light bulbs, a wide variety of magazines, and at the same time an amazing evolution in worship began. We became creative in our worship, much to the chagrin of the mainline church.

Worship service length is an area of contention. I haven't found anywhere in the Bible or in any historical writings where it gives the length of the service. So how long should the service be? Is there a magical time limit of 60 minutes?

Bobby Sanderson, minister of music at the First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss., listed these questions in the church newsletter:

1. Is worship about God or is it about what I like?
2. Do I seek God's presence or the comfort of being with friends and doing what is familiar?

(Worship Wars continued . . .)

3. When is the last time God "blind-sided" me and spoke in a way I did not expect?
 4. Am I so contemporary I lose the transcendence of God?
 5. Am I so traditional that I forget God's relevance?
 6. Do I see myself as part of an audience giving approval/disapproval to worship leaders?
 7. Can God use what I don't like?
 8. Am I more into music than the spoken word?
 9. Do I ignore the command to sing just to get to the "message"?
 10. Do I leave worship with a clear sense of what I'm supposed to do?
 11. Is the style of worship more important to me than the object of worship?
 12. Do I love God's presence as much as the songs I sing and play?
 13. Can I worship God when it's hard work and my joy is running low?
- Do any of these apply to you?

If we are worshiping God, and Jesus is the center of our lives, then we should unite, not fight. A church needs to hire the pastor that they feel is right for it and trust that person to lead them in the right direction. This simple strategy would preclude fighting.

Worship, especially corporate worship, is a main ingredient of the Christian faith. Worship time usually includes many different people, each one as important as the other, so the church needs to find ways to minister to all of them. We need to minister to all of the people some of the time, because we won't be able to minister to all of the people all of the time. This calls for variety in our worship.

Why are there different denominations and styles of worship? Are they there so people can choose how they want to worship? The variety makes that choice simple.

I believe that every time Christians worship, God speaks to those people he wants to hear. So you need to provide a wide variety of music and worship experiences to meet as many needs as possible. Go to worship this week with an open mind, looking for God to speak to you and you will go home wanting to go to church again next Sunday.

Ken Johnson is a graduate of Church Central Consultant Training. He heads the Ken Johnson Group, consulting small to medium-sized churches that are struggling to stay alive.

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