

CALVARY ECHOES

Novemeber

2010

Calvary Lutheran Church
406-752-4102



Calvary's website: <http://calvaryinevergreen.org/>.

Calvary's email: connie4@bresnan.net



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Staff Page

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“A MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT”



A Message from Our Pastor



The Bible says, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrews 12:1).” When Jenny and I went to the opening worship at the LCMC national gathering in Golden Valley, Minnesota; we were literally surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses numbering over a thousand, from all over the United States. There are no words to describe what would happen over the next three days.

The opening worship took place in the main worship area of Calvary Lutheran church, which on average weekend worships about five thousand. This blended worship service felt like you were in the presence of God. It was led vocally by a full choir, which was accompanied by a monster pipe organ, and a very cool praise band. Calvary’s senior pastor, Steven Dornbusch, gave a message entitled “The True Elder Brother” based on Tim Keller’s book *The Prodigal God*.

I was utterly amazed at what Pastor Steven said about the story of the prodigal son which is found in Luke 15. Here are some of the insights that were shared. The request of the younger brother to collect his third of the Father’s estate was unheard of in biblical times. In order to accommodate such a request, the father literally has to tear his life apart because he would have to sell off a third of his land. This would alter both his standing within the community as well as his net worth, but because of his love for the younger son he honors the request. Doesn’t this really describe the world we live in today? There are so many that want to experience the pleasures of the Father’s creation, rather than a personal relationship with the Living God.

The second brother in this story usually comes across as an innocent victim, but in reality he is no different than his younger brother. Unlike the younger brother who walks away from the father, the elder brother walks away from the father in his heart by becoming a religious Pharisee. He too wants the father’s wealth without the father, but he plans to earn it through his self-righteous piety not unlike the Pharisees in Jesus’ day. The two brothers alienated themselves from a vital relationship with their father, one by being bad; the other by being good. For Jesus, the two sons both are lost and trying to save themselves by their own means.

Today, we do the same thing when it comes to making ourselves right with a holy God. There are some that think that God has saved everyone so the only thing required is to do nothing but continue to leave a self-focused life without ever receiving Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. Yet, there are others like the elder brother that think it’s by following all the rules and being a good person that one is made right with God. The flaw with both approaches is that it fails to recognize the work of our true elder brother, Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Pastor Steven said that the reason the elder brother got two-thirds of the father's estate was not because he was special, but rather because of this extra responsibility of truly being his brother's keeper. In Bible times, if the younger brother ever wanders off, it was the elder brother's responsibility to do whatever it took to not only find them but also restore them back to their family position. As Christians, Jesus is our true elder brother that has not only come down to earth to find us who are lost and dead in sin, but he alone was stripped so we get the robe. He wore the crown of thorns so we could have the ring of God's kingdom. This story not only describes the pain of being alienated from God regardless of the cause, but also vividly recalls the awesome love of God when it comes to His efforts to restore us back into a right relationship with Him. The best part of this story is that the Father is always waiting for His wayward children to return home.

Calvary, LCMC is an awesome movement of God within the twenty-first century. It is a privilege and joy that we can be part of a church that has a passion for God's word, God's mission, and God's people. The focus of this conference and LCMC is to keep our eyes on Jesus and Jesus' mission within the world, to make disciples. As the Bible puts it, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (Hebrews 12:3-4)." My hope and prayer for Calvary is that at next year's gathering in Iowa everyone here could go and experience what God is doing in the Spirit-filled church known as LCMC.

Brother in Christ,

Pastor Kurt



November Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Amy Lybeck	3	4 Angela Olsen Darlis Newlin	5	6 Pat Erickson Ryan Roush
7	8	9	10	11	12 John Engebretson	13
14	15	16 Courtney Westphal	17	18 Stan Shaffer	19	20
21	22 Don Wood	23 Phyllis Carson	24 Luca Pepe Welle	25 THANKS-GIVING DAY	26	27
28	29	30				

Don't see your name on the birthday list?

If you would like us to know more about you fill out your yellow cards Sunday

Morning and place them in the offering plates.



Announcements

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!!

FOOD PANTRY ITEM OF THE MONTH: TURKIES!!

CALVARY'S CLOSET: Thurs. from 4-6:45 p.m. It would be great to have people monitor and serve the clientele in both rooms. **The Closet is also in need of blankets.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY: We will be beginning 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 **Also**, regarding mail boxes in the Welcome Area, if you do not have one and would like one please let the office know.

HOPE PREGNANCY: Baby Shower to help restock the Baby Boutique. No cake, punch, or wrapping paper for this Baby Shower! Hope Pregnancy Resource Center is registered at Target if you need some ideas of the items that are needed. To find the registry, look up under **Hope Pregnancy**. When you are ready to donate the items, you can bring them to the Resource Center and take a tour; or with you to church and place in the crib. Thank you for helping in this fun way to bless the clients at Hope.

Hope Pregnancy Resource Center provides assistance to clients during their pregnancy and for 18 months after their child is born. Each client is matched with a mentor who is committed to developing a relationship that emphasizes education in areas of healthy pregnancy, parenting, positive lifestyle choices, spiritual growth and many other areas.

Material Needs

* **New baby items for Baby Boutique**

* Diapers Size: **Newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6**

Wet Wipes (Greatest Need in Bold)

Hope Pregnancy Ministries calling out for volunteers The mission of Hope Pregnancy Ministries is to honor Christ by providing an alternative to abortion through life affirming education and intervention, offering help and hope to women in need. Volunteer opportunities are currently available in a variety of areas. No special experience or education is required. Please call Ronalee Skees at 257-6006 or email: ronalee@hopepregmin.org to learn more. Thank you for your consideration and assistance!

Community Kitchen-Feeding the Flathead needs help getting Christmas gifts together for our guests. They need: perfume, lotion, flashlights, scarves, conditioner, dental floss, knit hats, socks extra large men-size 16 and/or women size 12, slippers extra large men-size 16 and/or women size 12, coffee single or 4 cup decaf and/or regular, after shave, tooth paste, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, shave cream men and women, gloves extra large. We'll keep collecting items until close to Christmas. Please put them in the Pantry or give to Connie, Brenda, Denise or Kim. Thanks very much, Kim Snell

\$\$\$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. 9th, 6:30 p.m.) **Annual reports** from chairpersons and leaders of ministry are due Dec. 15th. (***Pastor, Council President, Worship, Property & Management, Calvary's Closet, Living Free Ministries, Sunday school, Wyldlife, Preschool, Immanuel Home, FLBC, HeBrews, CLCW, Mission Endowment Fund, Community Kitchen & 'EnCourage' Youth***) These reports are a great opportunity to share with the congregation what God has been doing in and through people at Calvary in 2010.

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.

'INSPIRATIONAL' WOMEN'S GROUP will meet Wed. Nov 3rd, at 1:30 p.m. in the Welcome Area. We will review a book from our church library, followed by a bible study. Come and join us!

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN HOME'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE Friday, November 5th 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Crafts, Homemade Baked Goods, Gift Items, Lefse (it goes fast) and Freshly Bake Cinnamon Rolls.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH in Bigfork will be holding its 90th annual Lutefisk Dinner on Friday Nov 13th from 3-8 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at 837-4387.

OFFERING OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The women of Calvary ask everyone to praise and thank God by sharing their blessings on Sunday, Nov. 21st. Please bring food items for thanksgiving boxes. A special offering will be collected to be shared with Neighbors in Need and Community Kitchen Evergreen.

If you know of families in our congregation or community in need of a food box, contact the church office (752-4102).

Christmas Decorating and Dinner: We thought we would do things a little different this year. There will be 2 days of decorating the church. The first day will be a preparation day of hauling boxes & getting the Christmas tree in the stand. This will occur Wed. Dec. 1 from 5-7 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Area board for that evening. Then on Friday, December 3rd we will do the finishing touches. Decorating will occur from 5-7 p.m. followed by a celebration dinner so that we may enjoy the fruits of our labor. HeBrews will be sponsoring a nice meal of roast and mashed potatoes with all the trimmings. If you would like to help with the meal preparation & clean-up please see the sign-up sheet or call Laurie Smith at 257-1271. Our thought is that a 2 day set-up will make decorating more enjoyable for kids of all ages. Everyone is invited to come celebrate the season of Our Lord's birth!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD . . .

The world's largest, most ready-to-hear, and most vulnerable people in the world are His children. Operation Christmas Child boxes are one of the most meaningful ways to reach the world's children for Jesus!

PREPARING: 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.

CREATING: 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. 21st. It would be helpful to have the boxes as early as possible!

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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD CONT'D

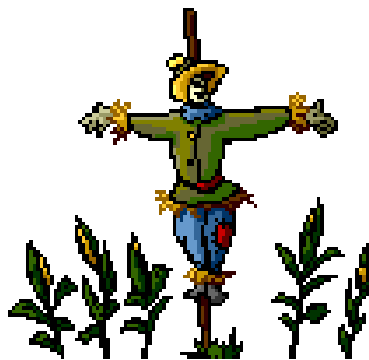
PERSONAL NOTE: In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may write back.

FAMILY NOTE: This is a great project for families to do together. Shopping for the child or children you decide to give boxes to can be really rewarding as you include planning, prayer, and pictures of yourselves!

GIVING: If you are unable to prepare and fill a shoe box yourself, but want to participate, you can donate money for someone else to fill the shoebox, or provide for shipping which is the most expensive part of the project!

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”!

OPERATION Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse. Presentation of boxes to children includes follow-up discipleship programs so children can come to know Jesus as their savior!



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!

Dear Calvary...

Dear Friends at Calvary; Thank you so much for thinking of us with your quarterly ministry grant (Mission Focus: \$540.16). We truly appreciate the relationship that we have established with you and are thankful for all the help that you give the Flathead Food Bank and the customers we help. Thanks again! Lori Botkin, Director

P.S. Thanks to the Town Pump Charitable Foundation, your donation will be matched 100%. Any donation that you make between Sept. 1st and Nov. 30th will be matched. We appreciate this annual gift from the Town Pump Corporation.

Dear Friends at Calvary Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your recent gift from your Missions budget! We appreciate we appreciate your commitment to missions, and want you to know that your gift will make a difference in the lives of men and women right here in your community! Many thanks, Michelle Reimer; Hope Pregnancy Ministries.

Dear Pastor Kurt & Congregation,

Last week when we opened the donation envelope and pulled out \$128 in random bills, we knew there was a story. Among the donations of neatly written checks for amounts like \$50 and \$100, this was a number that didn't make sense...at least not to us. We looked at each other and smiled, knowing that God had spoken and this person had responded, and we realized that we would probably never know the story behind the gift.

A few days ago, a man came to visit. He told us that God had, indeed, directed him to give a gift to Hope. While attending the Hope Pregnancy Ministries Fall Fundraiser, God had spoken and asked him to give *everything* in his wallet. So he pulled out *almost everything*, leaving hidden in its secret place the \$200 he had been saving for that special something. He walked away that evening knowing that he had given what *he* wanted to give, but not what *God* wanted to give. After wrestling with it for a week, this man of God humbled himself and walked in our door. Instead of sending the money without explanation, he told us a story that would make us weep, a story that would encourage us on hard days when we might wonder if we stand alone. He told us a story of sacrificial giving, a partnership with Hope that goes beyond human desire and goes deep. A story that says *we are not alone*.

It is through the gifts of people *like you* that we are able to serve the men and women in our community. Thank you for listening and responding when God asked you to become involved with Hope Pregnancy Ministries. Your story has become a part of our story. You stand with us.

Blessings to you,
Michelle Reimer
Executive Director

Council Highlights

Pastor Kurt opened with pray. Eric Maisch shared a devotion from My Utmost for His Highest, “What is a Missionary” from John 20:21.

Bible Study: Matthew 28:16-20, Matthew 25 - Discipleship

FYI

1. Flathead Food Bank sent a thank you – Calvary’s Mission Focus was matched be Town Pump Corporation. (\$540.16 becomes \$1080.32!!)
2. Doors update – Al Sylling is pursuing
3. Joseph Hall has resigned from council due to health concerns.
4. Bulk mailing account has been cancelled – we don’t use it anymore.
5. Constitution Revision meetings are going well. Team is reviewing and addressing each section, referring to LCMC constitution and Calvary’s 101 statements. Please keep this team in prayer.
6. LCMC Gathering Update: focus is on being Christians 1st, Lutherans 2nd. Gathering was exciting & inspirational. Calvary members are encouraged to attend next year in Des Moines. Pastor Kurt & Jenny will be in Great Falls Fri. & Sat. (29th & 30th) at Faith Lutheran for an LCMC gathering to discuss forming a MT district. There are now 30 churches in MT that are LCMC!
7. ELCA Board of Pensions now has the option of same gender partner coverage. Calvary is looking into other health ins. & retirement options.
8. Operation Christmas Child boxes will be collected Nov. 14th – 21st.

LET’S TAKE ACTION

1. Dave Ebert will continue to do Calvary’s snowplowing.
2. Annual Mtg. preparations: **Budget Requests** are due Nov. 1, so Nov. 9th Exec Mtg. can be the budget mtg. Budget planning team consists of the Executive team, 1 council member (Rod Wendt) and 1 congregational member (Otto Bessey). Budget will be presented at the Dec. 7 Council Mtg. for vote, to approve for the annual mtg. **Annual Reports** are due Dec. 15th from those in leadership areas. **Nominating Team** is Phyllis Carson, Kristy Johnson and 2 delegates from church Council (Gary Fischer & Eric Maisch).
3. Testimonies – many were shared of what God is doing at Calvary: Living Free classes have large attendance with other classes being considered, ‘EnCourage Youth’ is beginning a bible study small group at Jason & Alyssa Sternad’s, Wyldlife has had a student ask if she can pray with other kids, other bible studies, plus needs & concerns being met! There are many people in need in the valley, please keep this in prayer.

Council closed with the Lord’s Prayer



October Budget Report



SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	9974.00	
NYL Annuity Interest		950.00
Church Insurance Refund	393.72	
Give Them Wings/Building Use		<u>394.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS **11711.72**

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in October	11762.25
Unpaid Expenses in Jan.-September	<u>+ 0.00</u>
Total Expenses	11762.25
Total Expenses Paid in October	<u>- 11762.25</u>

UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN-OCT *0.00*

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY (to meet budgeted goal)
10/3	81	2843.00	2937.33
10/10	73	2487.00	2937.33
10/19	82	2228.00	2937.33
10/24	76	2416.00	2937.33
10/31			2937.33

MONTHLY RECEIPTS (\$12,728.42 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	13577.05	MAY	13634.50	SEPT	11925.39
FEB	11968.13	JUN	10852.14	OCT	11711.72
MAR	10753.75	JUL	14662.75	NOV	
APR	11369.75	AUG	12255.13	DEC	

Jan. – October Unpaid Expenses 0.00

God is faithful!!

TID BITS

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

“When one is poor,” wrote Arthur Simon, “he lives where the rent is cheap. For millions of Americans it means there is no alternative to the slums.” Or the streets, or alleys or empty houses or sheds or under hedges or trees or even dumpsters. Many are indeed homeless. In winter the overflowing shelters for the poor often have to turn people away.

How do people get in such a terrible fix? Each one has a story. One was transferred by his company to a new community. After working there a few months, the company was sold and he was laid off. He and his wife and two children needed help until he was working again. Many homeless people are poorly educated, but not all. Some are even college graduates whose physical health has deteriorated leaving them unemployed and broke. Many young mothers have been abandoned by their husbands or lovers leaving them to eke out an existence for their brood. Some are addicted to drugs or alcohol. In short, all, in one way or another, are trapped by overwhelming problems and unable to extract themselves from their dilemma without assistance.

While the problem of the homeless seems insolvable, we Christians have no choice but to confront the difficulties and do what we can to help.

The words of Jesus resonate among us: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)

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