

CALVARY ECHOES

PASTOR KURT RAU 752-4102

FEBRUARY 2010



“HOLDING ON TO FAITH”

On January 24th 2010, Calvary formally had its second vote to end its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). The vote passed by 96% which is an overwhelming majority and clear mandate from God. The next question in many people’s mind is where does Calvary go from here? Do we go back to “business as usual”? Do we deserve a break today and take a trip to Walt Disney World? Do we continue to fight “the good fight of faith”?

The apostle Paul answered this question in his instruction to young Timothy, who was the pastor of the church of Ephesus. Paul writes “Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:18-19a).” Timothy was a young pastor who struggled in shepherding God’s church because people didn’t take him seriously because of his youthful appearance. Paul said the key to following Jesus or “fighting the good fight of faith” lies not within our knowledge, our youthfulness or usefulness, our ability to stand on God’s word against a church whose faith is shipwrecked; but rather holding on to faith and a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:19). The only way a follower of Jesus can “hold on to faith” is by having a growing relationship with the living Jesus Christ. Why? Because Jesus alone is the only source we have for God’s love, truth, and grace (1 Timothy 1:14).

The answer to where Calvary goes after the realignment process is simple. We continue to do “business as usual” that being “God’s business” which is to first invest ourselves totally into the building of God’s family which is the Church (Matthew 6:33). We do this living out the vision God has given which has been revealed through the name God gave us “Calvary”. Calvary comes from the Latin meaning “skull” (Luke 23:33). God is calling us to be the “people of the cross”. God’s vision for Calvary is “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. God’s vision is like a rudder on a ship, it’s the way God guides His church to His intended purpose or destination in life. God gives us His vision because it serves as His tool to aid a church on deciding what we as a church do or not do. The Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he (Proverbs 29:18a).”

God doesn’t want us to guide His church using human opinions because it’s an unreliable source for God’s truth. The Bible says “All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way (Isaiah 53:6).” “There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death (Proverbs 16:25).” As God’s vision is His intended destination for Calvary, it’s God’s Spirit using God’s Word that keeps us walking daily with Jesus and He leads us along the path of accomplishing God’s vision for the church. Again, the Bible says “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105). I will be saying a lot more about what God’s vision for Calvary is in the weeks and months ahead. For now, continue to “hold on to the faith” with the help of the Holy Spirit.

See you in church,

Pastor Kurt



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Echoes Online! Starting in March the echoes will no longer be mailed out. They will be placed in the newly updated mail boxes outside the Worship Area and will also be available online. Please visit our website: <http://calvaryinevergreen.org/>. Contact the office (406-752-4102) if you have any questions, concerns or if there is a need to have the Echoes mailed to you.

NOTE: The church email is connie4@bresnan.net If you have an article you would like in the bulletin or Echoes newsletter or have a message for the office, please feel free to email us. Thanks!

RECYCLE BINS for aluminum, tin & 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 from Evergreen Disposal. Thanks for helping us recycle!!

PLEASE REMEMBER that articles for the Sun. bulletin need to be in the church office by 1pm on Wed. & articles for the ECHOES need to be in by the 20th of each month.
Thanks!!

ALBERTSONS FUNDRAISER – Over the past several years, we have offered the Community Partners program, among several other programs, as a way to help keep our communities vibrant. After much thought and discussion, we have decided to discontinue the Community Partners program and refocus our efforts on a few key areas to help tackle some of the biggest issues facing our communities, namely hunger, health & nutrition. We feel these areas best match our unique resources of products, expertise & skilled volunteers and through our focused support, could be truly impacted in a positive way in every community that we serve. You will still be able to raise Community Partners funds through Jan. 31, 2010 and you will receive a final payout in mid-to-late Feb. 2010.

Thank you for your participation in the Community Partners program. It has been a true pleasure to support your organization through this program and we look forward to continuing to support you through our other community programs. And if your organization fits one of these three focus areas – hunger, health or nutrition – we also encourage you to apply for a community grant by visiting our *In the Community* page at www.albertsons.com

Regards, Dana Swanson; Director, Marketing; Albertsons

SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 9–10 AM Glen and Laurie Smith will be showing DVD/videos from different Christian authors & comedians in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a casual get together for whoever can attend. Come enjoy breakfast & some interesting discussion on a variety of topics.

REMEMBER: HEBREWS CAFÉ is open 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings!

'READ' Book Club will meet on Wed. Feb. 3rd, at 1:30 p.m. Book reviews will be on 'Jesus makes me Laugh' and 'America, God shed His Grace on Thee'. Join us for fellowship & stimulating conversation!

The church library has added several fiction books to its collection. There are many good books of all types. Look them over and take one or more of them home to read. Just sign your name in the notebook and check it off when you return the book.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LOW IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS will discontinue meeting at this time. If/when the need arises we will be happy to look at starting up again. Let the office know if you have any questions. Thanks!

CALVARY'S CLOSET is only able to accept clean, slightly worn clothing at this time. Thanks so much for all you have contributed!

QUILT RAFFLE – The Quilters were given a hand pieced quilt top which was made some time ago. With some TLC it has become a beautiful 81 inch by 92 inch Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt. It is on display in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a raffle quilt with the proceeds to be used for supplies for making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Ticket sales will start Jan. 24th and the winner will be drawn on Palm Sunday. Tickets will cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5, available at the church office, the Sunday breakfast staff & the quilters: Yvonne Nelson, Lorrie Fischer, Meta Robidou, Jueleen Schaffer, Lauretta Olsen and Susan Iverson.

CALVARY'S QUILTING LADIES will be getting together to quilt on the 2nd & last Thurs. of the month at 9 a.m., through May. Join us in tying knots!

ALL WOMEN & GIRLS OF CALVARY are cordially invited to our annual Valentine's luncheon on Sun., Feb. 14th, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Secret Sisters from the past year will be revealed, so bring a small Valentine token for her if you wish! We will also have an opportunity to choose new Sisters for the upcoming year.

We will again be having a separate Secret Sisters drawing for girls 18 years & younger. With a Secret Sister, you are encouraged to keep her in your prayers, drop her a note to let her know you're thinking of her, or maybe send or leave her small gifts throughout the year.

Even if you are not a participant in the secret sister program, you are still encouraged to attend & spend some time with all the other women & girls of the church. This is a great opportunity to learn more about all the areas of ministry the women of Calvary are involved with. Lunch is completely provided, so please come and eat and fellowship with one another.

WORLD RELIEF It is time to focus on bringing items for world relief! The pick up for Lutheran World Relief supplies will be the end of April. Needed for Health Kits are:

*Hand towels & wash cloths

*toothbrushes

*wide tooth combs

*fingernail clippers with file

*soap, soap, soap, soap!

(Soap is more valuable than medicine in 3rd world countries.)

Thank you for all you contribute!

THERE IS A DROP OFF BASKET IN THE WELCOME AREA



ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday

February 17 4:30 Kid's Choir
 5:00 Praise Band
 6:30 Ash Wednesday Worship

"EnCourage" Youth will meet immediately after the Ash Wednesday service

Wednesday Evenings during Lent! Come join us for a new way of doing Wednesdays during Lent! We will be having our usual soup suppers at 6:00. Instead of having worship following dinner, we will have a new creative worship during dinner! So be sure to come at 6:00 to get in on the fun! This will involve topics for table talks while you eat, a dinner theater presentation on the topic of the cross, some prayers, and we'll wrap it all up with a song! This will be family oriented and fun. So mark your calendars to join us for a new way to worship during lent! If you have a group of people who would like to present a short dinner theater drama, please contact Jenny Rau at 756-6966. These are short dramas about 8 minutes long with about 4-5 people needed for each. The material is easy to learn and fun. You can do staging however you can imagine it! See you Wednesdays starting February 24th!

EnCourage Youth will continue to meet on Wednesdays though lent. On Ash Wednesday we will be meeting right after the worship service. The following Wednesday (Feb. 24th) through Palm Sunday (March 24th) we will be meeting at 7pm.

TID BITS

GIVE THEM WINGS PRESCHOOL We are sending you a little love from Give Them Wings. We hope you get lots of valentines. What a sweet job we have! We watch new little friendships bloom & grow. Our tikes are learning that to have a friend, you must first be one. We also observe our youngsters fostering a love for learning. Eager each day to explore & to discover letters, numbers, stories, projects and group activities. We have lost some students since Christmas due to the economy. We pray for families as they struggle to make ends meet. We hope spring will bring jobs & renewed spirit to many in the valley.

Gratefully, Brenda and Sandy

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES There are opportunities to volunteer in a variety of areas at Immanuel Lutheran Home and at Buffalo Hill Terrace. Currently we have are in need for manicurists on Thursdays at 2:30. If nail polishing isn't your "thing" but you'd love to volunteer in another way, there are many other needs. Please call Kathy Buffington, 752-9612 ext. 236.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED VALENTINE LUNCHEON: Fri. - Feb. 12^h, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., at Northridge Lutheran Church. The cost is \$8 per person, \$10 per person for delivered lunches. There will be spaghetti, garden salad, garlic bread, homemade pies & a beverage. Take out orders may be made by calling 752-7266. The purpose of Neighbors in Need is to give aid in the name of Jesus Christ, who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, freed the oppressed & met people's physical & spiritual needs. This organization is run solely on donations & volunteer support. Any & all donations are gladly accepted. Your help is greatly needed & appreciated!!

Evergreen Food Bank food item of the month: Cereal



THANK YOU S

All of us in Community Kitchen Evergreen would like to thank all of the folks at Calvary Lutheran Church. The Thanksgiving offering that you donated to Community Kitchen Evergreen will help us reach out to "the least of these" in love. It will help to keep our Pantry stocked so we can continue providing our guests with the wonderful hot meals that we want to prepare for them. Kim Snell, Community Kitchen Evergreen Director

God Bless You, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16 If I were to make a list of all your special qualities, words like thoughtful, caring and loving would come to mind...Today and always, I thank God for having you in my life. Thank you for giving a little girl a very special Christmas and making her so happy. You will never be forgotten. God Bless You, Belinda & Selena

THANK YOU SO MUCH to the wonderful helpers who came in & assembled the Annual Report & the Church Directory/CLCW Booklet. Also to those who have helped so much with preparations for this years Special & Annual Mtg. such as: mailings, updating membership records, mailboxes & many other details that can go unnoticed! Much has been accomplished and updated this year thanks to all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED the 101 Membership class: Betty Goeddertz, Verlyn & Sharon Krumland, Robyn Rhodes and Brenda Miller. We celebrated the new members and renewed commitment during worship Sunday, Jan. 17th! Keep each one in prayer as we grow together in our relationship with Christ!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

		14	Trevor Caudill
		16	Gary Fischer
4	Kay Hatton	23	Brenda Miller
	Sue Iverson		Eric Gullickson
8	Nancy Benson		Zachary Nelson
	Matthew Rau	24	Dustin Bauer
9	Lowell Nelson		Tommy Lybeck
12	Kurt Rau	27	Lorrie Fischer



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 5TH MEETING

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS from January 5th meeting.

Pastor Kurt opened with prayer.

Devotion: 'Have you ever been alone with God?' Mark 4:34

Bible Study: 5 New Year's Resolutions for any Christian leader.

-Rick Warren

FYI:

1. Christmas offerings – Good Samaritan Fund: \$143.50
'New' Evergreen Food Pantry: \$198.50
2. Further research will be done before 'New' food pantry would be able to open. The Evergreen Food Pantry name is registered to the Flathead Food Bank. Other options are being looked at to meet the needs of the community & to compliment the mission of the Flathead Food Bank, since they now meet only the 1st & 3rd Tues. (Dial a ride?)
3. Other – Tony Pepe had shared interest in there being one traditional service once a month. Discussion ensued; motion was made to empower Executive team to look at establishing a worship team.

LET'S TAKE ACTION:

1. Lutherans for Life – 'Bathroom Ministry' was approved: they supply plastic holder and pamphlets to be put up in the women's bathroom.
2. North West District of LCMC would like an article for their newsletter about Calvary, suggested to take Pastor's article off of our website.
3. Council will meet for prayer after worship (1/24/10) 11:45 a.m. to pray for Special and Annual Meetings.
4. Annual Mtg. agenda was set.
5. Council members are to stay after the Annual Mtg. for a brief meeting
6. Several testimonies were shared.
7. Other: **a.** petition for constitutional amendment - 'personhood' starts from conception; to be put on election ballot. Announce in bulletin, place on bulletin board to allow those to sign who wish to do so. **b.** 12 absentee ballots for the Special Mtg. were voted on and unanimously approved.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 26TH MEETING

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS from January 26th meeting.

Pastor Kurt opened with prayer.

Devotion: Matthew 6:30; 'Look again & consecrate' – separate self from everything except what God wants you to do.

Bible Study: 'Affirm the potential of those you lead'. -Rick Warren

FYI:

1. Haiti Relief from Calvary - \$628.67
2. Special Mtg/final vote to end affiliation with ELCA: 69 yes, 3 no
Letter will be sent to Bishop Crist to inform of the results.
3. Annual Mtg. – there were good suggestions for Mission Focus designations; meeting went well and questions were answered.
4. Food Bank changes: was shared the new grocery style disbursement of food is well liked; 1st & 3rd Tuesdays is working, with Super 1 food certificates offered to those in need on off Tues.
5. Other – Council will pray and discuss other options and whether to continue support for Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Immanuel Home has other denominations involved with their ministry. Time will be taken to research each organization.

LET'S TAKE ACTION:

1. Election of officers:

President – Eric Maisch
Vice President – Al Sylling
Secretary – Valli Ostrem
Treasurer – Connie Pitt

Kristy Johnson is financial secretary, helps count money and does giving records.

2. Council Retreat: Council will do 101 Discipleship Class
3. Several testimonies were shared.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – JAN. 24TH

THE ANNUAL MEETING was held on January 24th at 1:00 p.m. following a potluck. 46 voting members were present. Thanks to all who attended!

Pastor Kurt opened with devotions.

Minutes of 2009 Annual Mtg. & 2009 Treasurer's reports were accepted.

ELECTED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL ARE:

2 year term: Alyssa Pitt

3 year term: Al Sylling, Joseph Hall

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Phyllis Carson

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Bonnie Gagnon

REPRESENTATIVES TO FLATHEAD BIBLE CAMP:

Ryan & Robin Roush, Gary & Lorrie Fischer

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN HOME DELEGATE: 3 year term: Tony Pepe

LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING: Pastor Kurt & Jenny Rau, Bob & Sue Iverson

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Bob Iverson

2010 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The 2010 budget was gone through. Synod benevolence (10% of Worship Offerings) was changed to LCMC (5%) and Mission Focus (5%). Discussion ensued and suggestions were made of where the Mission Focus amounts could be disbursed. The freeze on salaries remains, with slight increase for secretary to cover increased hours and year round assistant secretary. Youth Coach was added to budget, \$2400 per year. There is a slight increase in Office Supplies to cover copier maintenance agreement and Property Maintenance & Improvement to cover boiler/furnace maintenance agreement. Decrease in Telephone/Internet due to change of carrier. The budget was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Parking Lot Resurfaced – mud puddle by sign comes from melting snow removed from the highway and built up along our property. It will drain as the ground unfreezes and will not get larger as it flows into the drain in the parking lot.

B. 10 Commandment Signs are complete and in place.

NEW BUSINESS

A. New Budget Line Item – Mission Focus 5%. Suggestions were made as to whom to disburse these funds to: Samaritans Purse, Evergreen Community Kitchen, Projects inside the church such as women's quilting for LWR, Bible Camps, Salvation Army & Neighbors in Need. We will also continue with our Benevolence Sundays four times per year. Council will discuss the options.

B. Revision of Calvary's Constitution – remove ELCA wordings and references; check LCMC constitution for guidelines.

C. Comments, questions and concerns were shared.

D. Other –

a. It was discussed whether to continue to support Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, concerns were shared, plus other camp opportunities.

b. There was a question as to the use of the basement and rooms that are locked. A TV was stolen within the last couple years; resulting in the decision to lock certain rooms with valuables in them. Also, was concern that too many things are stored, thus taking up rooms that could be used for other purposes. Council will take this under advisement to see how rooms/storage can be done more efficiently.

c. Quilting ladies need a door for there supply room.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.



BUDGET NEWS

JANUARY

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	11277.05
Give Them Wings/Building Use	375.00
New York Life Annuity Interest	950.00
Parsonage Sale/Pastor's Salary	950.00
Gift for Office Supplies	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	13577.05

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in January	12400.06
Total Expenses Paid	<u>- 11541.46</u>
UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN	858.60

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY <small>(to meet budgeted goal)</small>
1/3	75	1977.00	2932.52
1/10	79	2518.00	2932.52
1/17	76	2058.00	2932.52
1/24	77	2591.05	2932.52
1/31	73	2133.00	2932.52

MONTHLY RECEIPTS (\$12,707.58 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	11277.05	MAY	SEPT
FEB		JUN	OCT
MAR		JUL	NOV
APR		AUG	DEC

January Unpaid Expenses

Glacier Wholesalers	
(Janitorial & worship supplies)	171.69
Anytime Lock & Safe	185.90
2010 Offering Envelopes	126.01
Snowplowing	<u>375.00</u>
Total unpaid	858.60



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

THOU SHALT accept thy place of service, believing that God needs you where you are.

THOU SHALT do thy very best - - not thy second best.

THOU SHALT seek to learn thy job and understand what it involves.

THOU SHALT be faithful to the services of thy church and to the God-called, church-elected responsibility.

THOU SHALT study the Word of God and spend some time in prayer each day.

THOU SHALT pray for the unfaithful and seek to lead them to Christ.

THOU SHALT speak well of thy church and joyfully lead others to do likewise.

THOU SHALT work with the entire program of the church and cooperate with the pastor and staff, as well as other leaders.

THOU SHALT follow God's plan of Christian stewardship.

THOU SHALT seek the leadership of God in all matters and follow that leadership above all else.

...Borrowed

