

CALVARY ECHOES

March 2011

Calvary Lutheran Church
406-752-4102



Calvary's Website: <http://www.calvaryinevergreen.org/>
Calvary's E-mail: connie4@bresnan.net

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Staff Page

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Jenny Rau	Music Director	jenny@calvaryinevergreen.org
Connie Pitt	Secretary	connie@calvaryinevergreen.org
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A Message from our Pastor

As many know I have lived most of my life in and around Baltimore Maryland area. The first house I grew up in was this really cool red rancher in the west side of Catonsville, a southwest suburb of Baltimore. I lived in that house for over twenty-five years. While living there, I would complete most of my schooling from kindergarten to college, work my first job at the IRS, and drive two gorgeous fire engine red mustangs. I had a really neat bedroom which was a really dark blue it was the second largest of three bedrooms within the house. Since I was the first born child I had first dibs on the largest children's bedroom.

In 1994, my parents wanted to move to Ellicott City to a comparable house. This house too was a rancher containing three bedrooms. The move went great or as great as moves can go and I had assumed like before that I would get the second largest bedroom since I was the oldest child. What a wrong assumption I had! My parents decided that it would only be fair if my younger sister had the second largest bedroom since she had to put up with a smaller bedroom for over twenty years. Besides that they said with her being a girl she needed more living and closet space.

I protested their decision trying to point out that I was still the oldest child and the only child paying rent for room and board. However, my powers of persuasion failed miserably with my parents' decision to give the second largest bedroom to my sister. At the time, I think the only family member I could persuade was the family dog, who would do anything if food was involved. At that point in my life, I thought my parents were totally unfair and unreasonable to not give me the bedroom that I deserved. Are there areas in your life that you just find to be unfair or unreasonable whether it's an issue with your parents, a spouse, or even God?

When it comes to God's gift of salvation which God freely gives to all who will receive Jesus, we too sometimes see that as unfair especially to those who receive Jesus later in their life. We sometimes say to ourselves "God why is it that person who did whatever ungodly thing they wanted, got away with it, and now get the privilege of receiving what they certainly do not deserve. God, that's so unfair especially when you consider all the things I've done for you including being a good person, going to church all my life, and even being on the church council for several terms. God what's the deal?"

In the parable of the vineyard workers, Jesus in very simple language explained to His disciples the nature of God's grace when it comes to salvation. He taught them that when it comes to God's grace anyone who receives the gift of Jesus will become a member of God's family.


In the parable of the vineyard workers the owner of the vineyard gave everyone the same pay regardless of the tenure, work done, or titles given. However, those that worked the longest and hardest complained saying, "These who were hired last worked only one hour ... and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day (Matthew 20:12)." God's response to the laborer's grumbling was simple, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous (Matthew 20:13-15)?"

When it comes to God's grace, God's love, or God's forgiveness, we always need to remember that it's God's prerogative to do whatever He wants even if it means being generous with His grace. If one really thinks about it, I would rather have God be generous with grace than His wrath, which is what we really deserve because of our sin. During the month of March, I want to invite you to really embrace who you are in Christ, that being a sinner saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10).

There are many things in life that aren't fair be it a bedroom you grew up in or the gift of God's grace to the undeserving. However, instead of focusing on what God should or should not do, let's focus on what God is doing; seeking and saving the least and the lost in the world.

~Brother in Christ, Pastor Kurt

March Birthdays

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Kathy Hall	2	3 Tom Carson	4 Glen Smith	5
6	7 Meta Robidou	8 Christian Ostrem	9	10	11	12 Russ Miller
13 Sue Sylling	14	15	16	17 Tana Lowry Cherie Reyes	18 Candice Olsen	19
20	21	22	23 David Gullickson	24 Renae Roush	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Lorn Eid		

Don't see your name on the birthday list?

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

Sunday morning and place them in the offering plates.

Announcements



Flathead Food Bank: Food of the Month: Rice

Congratulations to Those Who Have Completed the 101 Membership class: Dan Erickson, Tom & Katie Foreman, Eric Pitt, Rick Ruby, and Nancy Tucker. We celebrate the new members' commitment during worship Sunday, Feb 6th! Keep each one in prayer as we grow together in our relationship with Christ!

1st Communion Class: If anyone is interested in participating or having your child attend this class, please contact the church office at 752-4102. We will then schedule a time to have the class. The students will participate in their first Communion during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday.

Lent Schedule

March 9	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:15 p.m.	'EnCourage' Youth
	7:15 p.m.	Living Free Study
March 16	6:00 p.m.	Dinner & Worship Events
	7:00 p.m.	'EnCourage' Youth
	7:00 p.m.	Living Free Study
March 23	6:00 p.m.	Dinner & Worship Events
	7:00 p.m.	'EnCourage' Youth
	7:00 p.m.	Living Free Study
March 30	6:00 p.m.	Dinner & Worship Events
	7:00 p.m.	'EnCourage' Youth
	7:00 p.m.	Living Free Study

Wednesday Evenings During Lent! Come join us for our new way of doing Wednesdays during Lent! We will be having our usual soup suppers at 6 p.m. Instead of having worship following dinner, we will have a new creative worship during dinner! So be sure to come at 6 p.m. to get in on the fun! This will involve topics for table talks while you eat, a dinner theater drama 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! Our drama this year is called "whose crown is it anyways?" This is in the same series as the one last year and we will see the return of the JPS man! We still have some openings for parts. If anyone would like to participate please call Jenny Rau at 756-6966. See you Wednesdays starting March 16th!

'EnCourage' Youth will continue to meet on Wednesday though lent. Ash Wed, March 9th, we will meet right after the Worship Service, approx. 7:15 p.m. Wednesday s, March 16th through April 13th, we will meet at 7 p.m. April 20th we will go back to our regular schedule of 6:30 p.m.

'Inspirational' Women's Group will meet Wed. March 2nd, 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!



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!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Benefit Members have until March 31 to contribute their 2010 Choice Dollars. These are real dollars that will greatly benefit your chosen organization(s), such as your Congregation, a Lutheran Bible Camp, or Immanuel Lutheran. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the local Thrivent Office at 756-7797 and your Thrivent Financial Representative will be happy to work with you. You can also call Thrivent Financial at 1-800-847-4836 and ask for "Choice Dollars" or go online to www.Thrivent.com and make your contribution. Thank you for your support of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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

- Combs
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Fingernail Clippers with File
- Soap! Soap! Soap! Soap!

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



We also need someone to make bags for the items. Contact Sue Iverson (862-2825) or Lorrie Fischer (752-4718) to find out the size or pattern for the bags. Thank you for all you contribute!

THERE IS A DROP OFF BASKET IN THE WELCOME AREA

'Be Still & Know' W.O.W. (Women of the Word, LCMC) Event to be held at Peace Lutheran Church; 203 Jackrabbit Lane in Belgrade, MT, April 16th, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch is provided: cost \$5. Registration will be from 10:00-10:30 a.m.; lunch at 12:00 p.m.; program begins at 1:00 p.m. We will provide some housing in homes for those who would appreciate staying Friday night. We will provide child care if we can get an RSVP by April 1. To RSVP: Church 406-388-1358 or doddy@littleappletech.com

Lutherans for Life 40 Days:-- Many volunteers are needed for the prayer vigil at All Families Healthcare on Meridian. The 24 hour vigil begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th and ends on April 17th. To participate, contact Karen Trierweiler at 890-2297 or trierw@bresnan.net. The website is 40daysforlife.com/Kalispell. Pray that life will be held sacred from conception to natural death in our county and country.

The Annual Lutherans for Life SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION will be held Sun. April 19th from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church. A free-will offering benefits Lutherans for Life projects: Hope Pregnancy Ministries, pays for KALS "Life Issues" program, contributes to A Place of Refuge Home, provides pro-life materials for churches, provides confirmation cards with baby "feet" pins for confirmands, and other projects. Items needed for the silent auction: crafts, baked goods and also any items in new or excellent condition. If you or your business can donate, contact Carol Freeman, 752-8464. Auction items are needed by April 4th so that the bid sheets can be made up. Also, help is needed to cook and set up on the evening of April 9th and for serving and clean up on Sunday. If you can help with this, please contact Linda Jackson, 756-8344.

Next Mtg: Sun. March 13, 1:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran-405 Liberty Street

Remember: Hebrews Café is open 8:30a.m. - 10:00a.m. Sunday mornings!



Calvary's Website! Remember to check out our website for your echoes online, Pastor's sermon, individual staff e-mails, and lots more information about the happenings here at Calvary! Please visit our website at: www.calvaryinevergreen.org. Contact the office (752-4102) if you have any questions, concerns or info you would like shared on our website! **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.

Please Remember that article for the Sunday bulletin need to be in the church office by 1 p.m. on Wednesdays & articles for the ECHOES need to be in by the 20th of each month. Thanks!!



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today? Life Line Screening will be at Calvary Lutheran Church on Wed, May 4 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. 1) carotid artery blockage (stroke) 2) atrial fibrillation 3) abdominal aortic aneurysm 4) peripheral arterial disease 5) osteoporosis (bone loss) These screenings are recommended for anyone 50 & older, or 40 & over with cardiovascular risk factors. They are non-invasive, painless, & take 60-90 minutes to complete. The results, which are mailed directly to you, will help you & your doctor protect your health. Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm Package are for \$139. To be more proactive about your health & live longer for yourself, your family, & your community, call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners. You can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action!



Living Free's Newest Study

WHERE IS THE IMAGE OF GOD IN YOU?

Expressing Character Traits in Godly Ways

This small group curriculum is designed to help participants see how some of the different character traits can be used constructively by living more and more in the image of God. The topics in this study are:

The Image of God in You - Relating to:

*Perfection, *Performance, *Pleasure, *Determination,
*Servant hood, *Passion, *Inquiry, *Examination,
*Peacefulness, *Your Neighbor, *Your Family,
*Your Spouse and God

Testimonies of those who have participated in this study:

*I found Brad Rymer's small group curriculum to be not only informational but also transformational. God used this incredible study to reignite my call and passion for ministry.' *Myron Wilkins, Pastor*

*Truly transformational in that learning how I relate to others and how others relate is a wonderful revelation. I am excited about the opportunity to have such a tool. It is exciting to know that God's Word applies to so many aspects of our personality, helping Christians be all that we can be for the glory of God.'

April Taylor, Marriage and Family Therapist

This new class will begin Sunday, March 20th, at 9 a.m. in the large room downstairs, below the Worship Area.

A donation of \$10 for the workbook is suggested.

For more info or to sign up for this class, contact the church office or make note on your yellow attendance card.

*The author of this curriculum is also the editor of the
Living Free Peacemaking study.*

Dear Calvary...

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your 2010 donation to Samaritan House totaling \$527.75. With donations such as yours we were able to provide shelter and related services to 967 homeless individuals while they tried to resolve their crisis. Our facilities allow us to provide much needed shelter, transitional and low income housing. The Samaritan House, which I direct along with a staff, is a community-sponsored organization governed by a board of directors. Again, thank you for your support of this much needed and worthwhile program.

Sincerely, Chris Krager; Executive Director

My Dear Friends; A world of time has gone by & I felt terrible about not getting around sooner to thanking you & Dwayne for this lovely lap blanket you sent me when I was hospitalized in Great Falls. I spent a long time there but I have to say all the prayers & love that was passed down to me helped me get a grip on life. With loads of med. they finally found the right ones. That was 11/09; then I went to Bozeman hospital & I was there for a month – I had 3 small strokes as I had just had open heart surgery in '07 & I developed heart failure, viral pneumonia & lung cancer, but with all my spiritual help I survived. I took 7 months of chemo. But I'm in my apartment & my loving daughter LaVonne has been my life line. Again Thank You God.

Love You, Elizabeth Limpus

Dear Friends, thank you so much for thinking of Habitat for Humanity and your very generous gift of \$150.

Sincerely, Sharon Shropshire

Dear Kristy and Calvary Lutheran Church, Thank you for your willingness to house an Angel Tree. Because of the generosity of our community and having businesses such as yours partner with us, The Salvation Army was able to help over 1,400 people with toys, clothes, food and other items this Christmas season. We saw great need this Christmas, as many families in the Flathead Valley are hurting. Their thankfulness and relief was evident as they left with toys and clothes for their children and food for Christmas dinner. Thank you for all you contributed to make Christmas a very special time for others. God bless you in this New Year.

Carla Brandt, Angel Tree Coordinator



Council Highlights

February 22nd, 2011

Pastor Kurt opened with prayer.

Devotion: 'The Discipline of Spiritual Perseverance' read by Eric Maisch

Prayer: for individuals and needs of Calvary. Thanksgiving for the blessings and the ministries God has placed in His church.

Bible Study: 1 Timothy 3 "Well done good and faithful servant": Growing in your own relationship with God, being a reflection of Christ for others (is your life a good picture for Jesus?) It's all about a relationship.

FYI:

1. Council Officers: President - Eric Maisch, Vice President - Al Sylling, Secretary - Alyssa Sternad, Treasurer - Connie Pitt
2. Living Free Ministries: Awesome growth in numbers and in interest! Continue to keep in prayer and pray about joining a group.
3. Boiler update: Met with inspector. Estimate needed: \$25-30,000
4. Looking into changing the mechanism on the entrance door by the office.
5. Mission endowment interest has been dispersed: HeBrews-\$100, Quilting-\$200, Habitat for Humanity-\$150, Good Samaritan Fund (at Calvary)-\$125, Good Shepherd Fund (at Calvary)-\$125, Calvary's Closet-\$200, Living Free Ministries-\$100 = Total of \$1000
6. Sandy DuPuy will be receiving a washer for the clothing ministry.
7. Habitat for Humanity: Gary will check on credit through Thrivent for Jeff's volunteer hours.
8. Other: Pastor's from around the Flathead Valley will be meeting Wed. 2/23, to discuss teaching the same book & chapter of the Bible for 4 weeks this fall.

LET'S TAKE ACTION:

1. Easter invites (contain the message of salvation and a CD with the New Testament) Cost: \$1 per bag; order 100 to hand out.
2. RBC Ministries booklets (share the truth of who Christ is). Payment is a donation, will order 50.
3. Flowers for the ladies on Easter, Gary will look into this opportunity.
4. Constitution Revision - lots of interest to help, schedule meeting for March. Plan: simple is better!
5. Testimonies: There is immense spiritual and relational growth in the youth of EnCourage Youth!
6. Other: * Prayer about opening an acct. with Sysco. Leader needed to oversee. * Tom Foreman has access to cleaning supplies for the kitchen floor, will clean it on Mon. 2/28.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

February Budget

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	9809.00
NYLife Annuity Interest	950.00
Give Them Wings Building Use	400.00
Community Kitchen/Electric Use	120.00
Parsonage Sale Fund/Pastor's Salary	<u>1250.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	12529.00

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in February	12729.26
Total Expenses Paid	<u>12349.26</u>
Unpaid Expenses	380.00

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>WORSHIP OFF.</u>	<u>NEEDED WKLY</u> (to meet budgeted goal)
2/6	83	2898.00	2898.12
2/13	83	2602.00	2898.12
2/21	78	2176.00	2898.12
2/27	72	1693.00	2898.12
	(additional tithe given)	440.00	

MONTHLY RECEIPTS (\$12,558.50 needed per mo. to meet budget goal)

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

JAN	12161.00	MAY	SEPT
FEB	12529.00	JUN	OCT
MAR		JUL	NOV
APR		AUG	DEC

Jan. - Feb. Unpaid Expenses

KALS (Yearly advertising fee)	175.00
Snowplowing	<u>205.00</u>
Total Unpaid	380.00

"EACH OF US SHOULD GIVE WHAT HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART TO GIVE, NOT
RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

II Corinthians 9:7

Tid Bits

Do what you can, and then pray that God will give you the power to do what you cannot. -St. Augustine

For An Improved Relationship with God

Say a prayer the moment your alarm goes off.

Set aside time each day to read one small portion of scripture.

Pray for each member of your family. Let them know you are praying for them.

Pray a prayer of thanks each day for something you've never given thanks for before.

Get involved in a Bible study group at your church.

Imagine God wants to spend time with you just like any other friend does. Treat God like you'd treat your best friend.

-Lehman Memorial United Methodist Church Hatboro, PA

Without Cost

It costs nothing but creates much; it enriches those who receive it. It happens in a flash and sometimes the memory of it lasts forever. Yet, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen

For it is something that is no earthly good to anybody 'til it is given away. So in the rush of our daily efforts, no one should be too busy to give you a smile.

May we ask you to leave one of your? For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none to give.

