

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBURARY 2012

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406-752-4102



CALVARY'S WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.CALVARYNEVERGREEN.ORG/](http://www.calvarynevergreen.org/)

CALVARY'S E-MAIL: CONNIE4@BRESNAN.NET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	STAFF PAGE
4	A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR
5	ANNOUNCEMENTS
7	LENT SCHEDULE
8	DEAR CALVARY...
9	COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 3 RD , 2012
10	ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22 ND , 2012
12	COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 24 TH , 2012
13	JANUARY BUDGET

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STAFF PAGE

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Have you ever been to an airport and wondered what happens behind those security doors that say “authorize personnel only”? Recently I had the privilege of going behind those doors with Matthew’s Tiger Cub Scout group for a tour of the Glacier International Airport. It began with an airport firefighter giving us a tour of the firehouse and fire trucks. He then followed that up by taking the cub scouts out for a ride in their biggest fire truck; which also included a demonstration of the main water cannon. Afterward, one of the airport administrators met up with us to continue the rest of the airport tour. The first thing he told the group was to stick close together for safety reason. The other reason for staying close together was that the airport had high security standards. As a result, only his photo identification would allow us to go anywhere on the airport premises including through those doors marked with “authorized personnel only”.

When it comes to having access to God especially in Old Testament times, the best one could hope for was to find a prophet, priest, or a king, like David, who was in good standing with God. This type of access would be indirect at best. It would never lead to a personal, one-on-one relationship. However, one person did have a rare occasion in which they could see God in all of His glory but this too had some restrictions. Moses once asked God “‘now show me your glory.’ And the LORD said, ‘I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ‘But,’ he said, ‘you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live (Exodus 33:18-20).’” When it came to having unrestricted access to God in Old Testament times, the best thing an average person could do was to pray as they watched the High Priest go through the temple door marked with “authorized personnel only.”

As a Christian, we follow the administrator of the universe. His photo identification allows us to go behind the scenes and through the door marked “authorized personnel only”. The Bible says, “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known (John 1:18).” In fact Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6).” Being a Jesus follower allows us free access to the Father’s throne room anytime, anywhere, and without having to make a reservation or pay a cover charge.

This February spend some time with your ultimate valentine that being God Himself. Spend some time with God either in your prayer closet, relaxing on a recliner early in the morning and reading your Bible or by joining a small group. Anytime you spend with God will definitely be a rewarding experience both now and for eternity. I like how the psalmist put it “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:4-5).”

Brother in Christ,
Pastor Kurt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD BANK ITEM OF THE MONTH: Cereal

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

BEYOND THE BUDGET OPPORTUNITY: To repair damage done to the church sign & replace the letters; it will cost approx. \$300; *we have received \$60, leaving the balance needed at \$240. One bucket of Epic Floor Cleaner* to do the upstairs women's bathroom, complete the Fellowship Hall & Worship Area floors - \$320. *We have received \$125, leaving the balance needed at \$195.* This will complete all the floors on the main level of Calvary! Please keep these items in prayer for God's provision or if this may be an area you are called to contribute! Thank you for your generosity & prayers.

CALVARY'S QUILTING LADIES: will be getting together to quilt on the 2nd and last Thursday 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 Sunday February 12th, 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 have 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.

BAR SOAP: can be placed in the tub marked for Lutheran World Relief in the Welcome Area. We will send the bar soap with the quilts we make to LWR. Please continue to purchase school supplies and personal items for Calvary's Closet. Thanks!

MAGAZINES FOR OUR TROOPS! There is a box in the Welcome Area for used or new magazines that will be sent to our troops. If you have any you could share, that would be great and an encouragement for our troops overseas!! Thanks ☺

CALVARY'S CLOSET NEWS: Sue Smith will be managing Calvary's Closet. Sue will be at the church on Thursdays and needs helpers from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to process the clothing and prepare for the closet to be opened. She also needs help monitoring during open hours (4-6 p.m.) and help from anyone who is able to take clothing home to launder it. Please continue to keep Sandy DuPuy, Sue Smith and Calvary's Closet in prayer.

EnCOURAGE YOUTH: All youth, ages 13 to 19, are invited to join us every Wednesday night, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., in Calvary's Worship Area. Enjoy praise music, bible study, games, and fellowship with other youth your age. These next few weeks we will continue our study of the book of Ruth!

POP MACHINE: in the basement has been repaired! It is stocked and ready for use. The money from the pop machine will go into the Youth Fund to support 'EnCourage' Youth and Wyldlife. So if you're thirsty and would like to support our youth, please enjoy a soda from our pop machine, only 50 cents!!

SING TO THE LORD! Everyone is welcome to join our choir on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.! If you are interested in singing in choir we would love to have you come, and bring a friend! If you have any questions please contact the church office 406-752-4102.

TARPS FOR TENTS! We put together tote boxes filled with heavy duty plastic tarps, ropes, and tent pegs that can be shipped where needed and used as emergency shelters. If you wish to help by bringing tarps, ropes, or tent pegs, please do. If you have questions feel free to call the church office at 406-752-4102. If you would prefer to donate funds for the purchase of these items, please make the checks out to Calvary Lutheran Church and write Tarps for Tents on the Memo line.

CHRISTIAN MOVIE/ DVD LIBRARY: If you have a Christian movie/ DVD you would like to share with Calvary, they can be brought to our current library of books! We already have a few movies for you to enjoy!

'INSPIRATIONAL' WOMEN'S GROUP: met February 1st, at 1:30 p.m. in the Welcome Area. They reviewed a book from our church library, followed by a Bible Study. Come and join us next month (March 7th).

2012 CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please notify the church office (752-4102) if you notice an error with your ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE, or notice if someone has been omitted. Thanks for your help in keeping our records updated!

PLEASE REMEMBER: that articles 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.

LENT SCHEDULE

February 22nd	6:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00 p.m.	'EnCourage' Youth
	7:00 p.m.	Living Free Study
February 29th	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 Dinner & Worship Events each Wednesday during Lent! We will be having our usual soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. Instead of having worship following dinner, we will have creative worship during dinner. So be sure to come at 6:00 p.m. to get in on the fun! This involves topics for table talks while you eat, a dinner theater drama and we wrap it all up with a song! This is family oriented and fun. So mark your calendars to join us for worship during lent!

'EnCourage' Youth: will continue to meet on Wednesdays through lent. Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will meet right after the Worship Service (approx. 7:00 p.m.) Wednesdays Feb. 29th through March 28th we will meet at 7 p.m. April 4th we will go back to our regular schedule of 6:30 p.m.

DEAR CALVARY...

THANK YOU SO MUCH: to the wonderful helpers who came in & assembled the Annual Report & the Church Directory/ CLCW Booklet. You are much appreciated!!!

Dear Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I am able to share with you a little of my newfound love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most of you don't know me so let's start with a brief introduction. My name is Richard Mongan and several times during my life I have struggled with alcohol abuse. I am currently being held in jail and anxiously awaiting placement in a treatment program. Even though this has been a difficult situation it has also provided an excellent opportunity for me to rediscover God's unconditional love and forgiveness. As a child I grew up with a very basic knowledge of Jesus but even then He was someone that lived inside of the Church and was only to be visited on Sunday morning services.

As I grew up and started my journey through this life, I always seemed to have a certain emptiness and loneliness in my heart that I could never seem to fill. The desire to acquire material possessions and the things of this world soon became the most important goal of my life. I felt that the more money and things that I collected that the more secure that I would become. I now realize that this was only a great deception that was sold by the devil and purchased by me.

In the spring of 2011 I had reached a new low of spiritual emptiness. I quit my job and started to drink. It wasn't long before I found myself in a deep dark hole that I knew that I could not climb out of myself. It was at that point that I realized there was only one thing that could save me. I dropped down on my knees and begged the Lord to save me. I confessed my sins and feelings of hopelessness to Jesus and asked for His help and forgiveness.

A couple of days later I found myself in jail, exactly where He knew that the insanity could stop and the healing could begin. I soon found myself with the Bible in my hands and nothing but time to read it. The last seven months have truly been incredible. I feel as though the Holy Spirit has started an unquenchable fire for the knowledge and understanding for the Lord that continues to grow each and every day. The more that I read the Word of God and put to memory pieces of scripture the greater the desire becomes. With the same passion that I have used in pursuing the worlds pleasures, I have now begun to pursue the Word of God and prayer. I no longer have the same ambitions for success, fame, and material possessions of the world. God has truly made me feel alive again. I still have so much to learn and with the Lord's help I know in my heart that wonderful changes will continue to take place in my life.

I also realize that a continued and constant fellowship with other Christians will be absolutely essential for a successful relationship and walk with the Lord. I pray that when I am finally able to return to my family and home in the Flathead Valley, that you will consider me as a potential contributing member of your church and congregation. Thank you very much for having me on your prayer list. I will also continue to pray that every one of you may have a tremendous blessing and the Spirit of our Lord continues to guide you in everything that you do.

Your brother in Christ, Richard Mongan

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 3RD, 2012

Eric Maisch opened with prayer & shared a devotion from Psalm 97:2 'Clouds and Darkness'.

Bible Study: Pastor Kurt led bible study – Ephesians 4: Jesus is not into redo's, He is into transformations. New Year's Decision: Stop the old behaviors and replace them with following Jesus.

Prayer for needs for Calvary and thanks & praise to God for His blessings.

FYI:

1. Christmas Eve offering: \$1290 (\$400 put in savings for new Worship Area Lights). The lights will be energy efficient and brighter. Thanks to Danny Johnson for pursuing this opportunity!
2. 4th Qtr. Mission Focus designees (\$561.22) Boys & Girls Club, (\$561.23) Ray of Hope & Samaritan House.
3. Motion made and passed to keep Annuity Fund where it is and to receive interest only on a monthly basis.
4. (\$250) to fix front entrance door panic bar, both sides of bar need to be turned when lock and unlock.
5. Duplo printer does not work & will be removed from church office.

LET'S TAKE ACTION:

1. Boiler update/Maintenance Contract: Diamond Plumbing gave a proposal to inspect the boiler 4 times a year, fee is \$350. Boiler is finished and up to code. Old boiler has been completely removed.
2. Evergreen Fire Dept. walk through revealed needs of: Exit sign batteries replaced, more smoke alarms (integrated would be preferable), better lighting downstairs, sound booth surge protectors reorganized, & a panic bar on the inner door of the preschool room.
3. Sound board wiring needs to be repaired.
4. 2012 Budget was discussed line by line.
5. Annual Meeting Agenda was created. Annual Mtg. will be Jan. 22nd at 12:30 p.m. following a potluck meal.
6. New Council will meet at regular time, Tues. Jan. 24th, 7 p.m. Constitution Revision Mtg. will be Tuesday, February 7th at 6 p.m.
7. Testimonies were shared of what God is doing at Calvary.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer

ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING was held on January 22nd at 12:30 p.m. following a potluck. 45 voting members were present. Thanks to all who attended!

Pastor Kurt opened with a devotion and prayer.

2011 Annual Mtg. Minutes were accepted as printed.

2011 Ministerial Acts & Statistics were accepted as amended per a motion that all individuals listed under deaths, not be listed as active/inactive.

2011 Ministry Reports were accepted as written and shared. There was sharing of what God is doing in the different ministries: a huge thanks for Community Kitchen helpers and that even in snowy weather 62 people were served Thursday (1/19/12); a message of appreciation was shared for those who are helping with the clothing ministry. It was proposed to get a washer/dryer for Calvary's Closet in the church. It can be put in the boiler room if properly vented.

ELECTED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL ARE:

2 year term: Koya Olsen

3 year term: Danny Johnson, Olive Lyon, Eric Maisch, Laretta Olsen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Kristy Johnson

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 3 year term: Jueleen Schaffer

LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING: The LCMC Annual Gathering will be in Denver, Colorado; October 8-10, 2012. They are requesting help and prayer for this event, as there are only 7 LCMC churches in the state of Colorado. Calvary members are encouraged to attend.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE:

3 year term: Gary Fischer

2011 Treasurer's reports were accepted as written.

2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Connie Pitt took the congregation through the budget line items & answered any questions. The proposed budget for 2012 is \$155,325. The interest for the New York Life Annuity was 6.05% which decreased to 1.5% on 1/14/12. We will receive interest only from the annuity on a monthly basis, which is a decrease of \$700 per month. The idea was shared to keep attentive to options so as to maintain a higher interest over the life of the annuity. Other options were researched & this is still the best option to date. Many shared that our trust for this year's budget relies on God & taking a step of faith.

(Annual Meeting Minutes continued...)

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Church Boiler: Thanks to Gary Fischer, Stan Schaffer, Tom Foreman, Daniel Erickson and Danny Johnson for all they did in researching & seeing to the completion of the new boiler, which is installed & paid for. Thank God for His provision!

B. Fall Cleaning Update: Thanks to Daniel Erickson for organizing this event. All went well and much was accomplished. We hope to have a spring cleaning in 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire & Safety Report: updates need to be done. We will be pursuing Round up for Safety through Flathead Electric to help with these expenses. Thank you to Eric Maisch for pursuing these needs.

B. Lights in the Worship Area: Lights are bright! Thank you Danny Johnson for pursuing and accomplishing this task. We have changed to CFL lights, which cuts the wattage about in half. Cost for the new bulbs was \$380, with the rebate from Flathead Electric; it will cost the church approximately \$160.

C. Revision of Calvary's Constitution: Thank you to the members of this team: Valli Ostrem, Gary & Lorrie Fischer, Betty Goeddertz, Connie Pitt, and Pastor Kurt Rau. The goal is to have a Special Congregational Meeting to review and vote on the new constitution early/mid spring. *Some of the revisions to the constitution shared were:* majority of members present be the voting standard at Annual Mtgs.; 1 year, renewable terms for Council members, and a Property Team, with 3-5 elected members to oversee upkeep and care of the church building and property.

Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 24th at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 24TH, 2012

Pastor Kurt opened with prayer.

Devotion: “A pure heart and a sincere faith are more important than the outward religion.” Devotion from Mt. 23:23-31; Read by Eric Maisch

Council members introduced themselves & shared highs & lows.

Bible Study: Lead by Pastor Kurt from John 15: Making disciples of all nations. 1. Building relationships, 2. Repentance & change, 3. Allow God to prune us so we can produce more fruit.

Prayer: for needs of Calvary & praises for blessings from God.

FYI:

1. Process of Council Mtg. and Budget Reports discussed.
2. Received (\$240) reimbursement from Flathead Electric for Worship Area lights.
3. Panic bar & exit lights: gathering bids for Round up for Safety.
4. Sue Smith will be managing Calvary’s Closet for Sandy at this time.

LET’S TAKE ACTION:

1. Boiler/Furnaces maintenance Contract: Diamond Plumbing will do, cost is \$350 per year, which includes 4 visits.
2. Annual Mtg. review: active/inactive member status qualifications discussed.
3. Election of officers: President – Eric Maisch
Vice President – Danny Johnson
Secretary – Alyssa Sternad
Co-Treasurers – Connie Pitt & Otto Bessey
Property – Daniel Erickson
4. LCMC Annual Gathering: in Denver, CO; Oct. 8-10. Chartering a bus was discussed. LCMC District Gathering; Richland, WA is the week after Easter.
5. . Constitution Revision Mtg. is Tuesday, February 7th, 6 p.m.; Executive Mtg. will be Tuesday, February 21st, 6:30 p.m.; Council Tuesday, February 28th, 7 p.m.
6. Testimonies were shared about ‘EnCourage Youth’ and Wyldlife.

Council closed with the Lord’s Prayer

JANUARY BUDGET

SUMMARY FOR THIS MONTH'S RECEIPTS

Worship Offerings	12516.50
Give Them Wings/Building Use	439.00
TOPS Building Use	20.30
Restitution	+ 16.32
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>12992.12</u>

MONTHLY OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Expenses in January	12836.60
Total Expenses Paid	<u>- 12836.60</u>
UNPAID EXPENSES IN JAN	0.00

DATE	ATTEND.	WORSHIP OFF.	NEED WKLY
			(to meet budgeted goal)
1/1	60	2779.00	2987.02
1/8	80	3065.00	2987.02
1/15	80	1925.00	2987.02
1/22	79	2822.50	2987.02
1/29	74	1925.00	2987.02

MONTHLY RECEIPTS (\$12,943.75 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	12992.12	MAY	SEPT
FEB		JUN	OCT
MAR		JUL	NOV
APR		AUG	DEC

All January Expenses Paid!!

The January New York Life Annuity Interest we received was \$764.75. This amount is due to half of the month at the 6.05% and half at 1.5%. We did not need to use any of the interest in January to meet expenses! It will remain in our 3 Rivers Account until a General Expense/Payroll need arises.

GOD BLESS

