

2007 Annual Meeting Agenda—February 3, 2008

Potluck at 12 noon with meeting to follow

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. DEVOTION—FRONT COVER
- III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- IV. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - A. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - B. AUDITOR'S REPORT
 - C. FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

- V. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:
 - A. COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT Terry Hepola
 - B. PASTOR'S REPORT Pastor Phil Holtan
 - C. STATISTICAL REPORT Shirley Pauna
 - D. ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT Myron Roe
 - E. YOUTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT Erin Anderson
 - F. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT Mary Paulseth
 - G. MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT Russ Bunker
 - H. STEPHEN MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT Joyce Bunnell
 - I. PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY REPORT Mary Ringsven
 - J. 50TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE REPORT Lisa Peterson
 - K. CALVARY COTTAGES REPORT Bryce Anderson
 - L. CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT Al Krueger
 - M. EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT Laura Neitzke
 - N. EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT Lisa Peterson
 - O. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Lori Meader
 - P. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Randy Jensen
 - Q. SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT Cindy Olson
 - R. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT Rand Stolee
 - S. WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT Melody Scott
 - T. YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE REPORT Cindy Hurt
 - U. WELCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT Dee Anderson
 - V. CALVARY CUT UPS QUILTERS REPORT Leona Rothiger
 - W. WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT Bev Tougas

- VI. ELECTIONS—REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 - A. CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS
 - B. 2008 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 - C. SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES
 - D. ENDOWMENT FUND MEMBER

- VII. APPROVAL OF 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A.

- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. RECOMMENDATION TO LOWER AGE OF FIRST COMMUNION
 - B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAFF POSITIONS
 - C. RECOMMENDATION FOR 2007 OVERAGE
 - D. APPROVAL OF THIS MEETING'S MINUTES BY COUNCIL

- X. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS
- X1. CLOSING PRAYER/OUR LORD'S PRAYER
- XII. ADJOURNMENT



Endowment Fund

In 2007 the Endowment continued the progress towards our initial monetary goal of \$50,000. At the start of 2007, the Endowment Fund balance was approximately \$23,500. On December 31, 2007 our balance had a significant increase to over \$35,000. If the congregation continues to support the Endowment Fund at this pace we could begin disbursements by 2009.

The balance of the fund must reach \$50,000 before any mission distributions can be made. Only then can income and gains be distributed with principal being preserved. All gifts to the Fund are "Gifts of Perpetuity."

Our committee has been meeting and implementing strategies for growth and awareness of the Fund. Among the strategies was the "In Lieu of Flowers" memorial program. Also we had a pancake breakfast as the first fundraiser and plan to continue this successful event in the future.

We would like to thank Pastor Holtan for his strong support for our mission. Finally, thank you to the congregation, soon you will be able to reap what you have sown and minister to those in need both here and abroad.

In Christ's name!

The Calvary Mission Endowment Fund Committee: **Tim Neitzke, Myron Roe, Diane Hepola, Wayne Johnson, Paul Grinnell**



Memorials

Report for the year 2007

Alice Anderson..... Calvary Building Fund
 Alice Anderson..... Endowment Fund
 Alice Anderson..... Radio Ministry
 Arden Anderson..... Youth Ministry
 Ruth Brakhop..... Radio Broadcast
 Joe Delaney..... Endowment Fund
 Jerry Einer..... Music Ministry
 Todd Gilb..... Calvary "Cut Up" Quilters
 Todd Gilb..... Calvary Memorial Cemetery
 Todd Gilb..... Summer Music Series
 Arland Greiff..... Calvary Building Fund
 Arland Greiff..... Music Ministry
 Mildred Hansen..... Summer Series
 Lee Hauer..... Calvary Endowment Fund
 Lee Hauer..... Calvary Women
 Lee Hauer..... Music Ministry
 Lee Hauer..... Stephen Ministries
 Lee Hauer..... Youth Ministry
 Robert Henrikson..... Radio Ministry
 Sophie Hoefs..... Undesignated
 Arnold Hoganson..... Calvary Building Fund
 Evelyn Hoganson..... Calvary Building Fund
 Janet Huber..... Undesignated
 Janet Huber..... Youth Ministry
 Robert Jindra..... Endowment Fund
 Lewis Johnson..... Jacob Roble Benefit
 Don Langren..... Cemetery Fund
 Don Langren..... Radio Ministry
 Don Langren..... Stephen Ministry
 Don Langren..... Music Ministry
 Don Langren..... Calvary Building Fund
 Gwen Meierding..... Calvary "Cut Up" Quilters

Dessie Parks..... Summer Series
 Dessie Parks..... Calvary Building Fund
 Dessie Parks..... Calvary Missions
 Dessie Parks..... Endowment Fund
 Dessie Parks..... Music Ministry
 Dessie Parks..... Radio Ministry
 Dessie Parks..... Stephen Ministry
 Dessie Parks..... Youth Ministry
 Allen Pauna..... Calvary Endowment Fund
 Maurice Peterson..... Music Ministry
 Maurice Peterson..... Undesignated
 Bob Quackenbush..... Radio Ministry
 Bill Rehborg..... Calvary Music Ministry
 Bill Rehborg..... Youth Group
 Bill Rehborg..... WELCA
 Leo Rothiger..... Calvary Endowment Fund
 Leo Rothiger..... Calvary Memorial Cemetery
 Leo Rothiger..... Calvary Missions
 Leo Rothiger..... Music Ministry
 Leo Rothiger..... Psalm 23 Banners
 Leo Rothiger..... Stephen Ministry
 Lucille Seaburg..... Altar Guild
 Lucille Seaburg..... Calvary "Cut Up" Quilters
 Lucille Seaburg..... Calvary WELCA
 Lucille Seaburg..... Music Ministry
 Lucille Seaburg..... Pew Pads
 Lucille Seaburg..... Stephen Ministry
 Lucille Seaburg..... Undesignated
 Jean Veal..... Music Ministry
 Alvin Wanner..... Calvary Building Fund
 Alvin Wanner..... Calvary Missions
 Alvin Wanner..... Endowment Fund

Calvary Statistics for the year 2007

BAPTISMS (21)

Sophie Ann Hoefs
 Braylon Miles Rach
 Ava Marie Johnson
 Annabelle Marie Rieber
 Jarrod Joseph Rieber
 Luke Austin Dye
 Dennis Wayne Dye, Jr. – adult
 Blake Bradley Swenson
 Mirta Marilu Vorderbruggen
 Jordon Tyler Brough
 Caleb Anton Van Meter
 Beau Ryan Nelson
 Macy Jane Tegtmeier
 Max Wesley Buren
 John Wesley Buren – adult
 Jaxon Ray Pickrain
 Kaia Terese Anderson
 Bradyn James Anderson
 Carter James Shippee
 Makena Lynn Richter
 Elsa Lynn Bieger



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (21)

Elena Alice Arvig
 Chelsea Ann Baumgart
 Brittany Lynn Brandt
 Benjamin Daniel Bucholz
 Whitney Rose Delaney
 Shayla Danielle Fulford
 Adam Roger Gronseth
 Kristina H.M. Januszewski
 Robert Charles Kalina, Jr.
 Haley Sophia Karvonen
 Kjrsten Marie Kroenke
 Maddie Lyn McClellan
 Trace Daniel Miller
 Kayla Rae Minge
 Jesse John Mitchell
 Kelly Tyler Nelson
 Robert Morris Propstein
 Leah Lynae Restad
 Kyle Frederick Schock
 Whitney Rae Seaborn
 Jessica Ann Speicher

MARRIAGES (6)

Jodi Swanson & Wade Sjolie
 Cheryl Angela Berg & Tyler Joseph Bormann
 Megan Kremin & Sam Esser
 Naomi Joy Ziegler & Emmanuel Douah

February 22, 2007
 May 12, 2007
 August 11, 2007
 August 18, 2007

Pastor Mike Herrman
 Pastor Matt Peterson and Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Meggan Manlove
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor August Ziegler
 Pastor Darrell Golnitz
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan

Megan Leah Jensen & Daniel John White
 Victoria Marie Thompson & Gregory Scott Nelson

September 1, 2007
 October 6, 2007

DEATHS (9)

Lenora "Lee" Evelyn Hauer
 Kelly O'Brien
 Sophie Ann Hoefs
 Lucille Sylvia Seaburg

January 16, 2007
 January 22, 2007
 February 13, 2007
 February 27, 2007

Donald E. Langren
 Dessie Ann Parks
 William Henry Rehborg
 Janet Eleanor Huber

April 29, 2007
 May 11, 2007
 June 14, 2007
 September 18, 2007

Normajane "Jeanie" Veal

November 29, 2007

Pastor Art Johnson
 Pastor Art Johnson
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Elwood Rieke
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Phil Holtan
 Pastor Marggi Pleiss-Sippola
 Pastor Phil Holtan

NEW MEMBERS (52)

ANDERSON, Dennis & Maryann
 COLLIGAN, AI
 EIKREN, Peter & Terri
 DAHL, Daniel
 DAHL, Pastor Steve & Candace
 DITTERICH, DuWayne & Jennifer; Hunter & Colton
 FLYNN, Larry & Carol
 GREENE, Steve & Lisa; Samantha
 GRISMER, Paula
 HOGLUND, Louis & Janis; Cullen
 HOLTAN, Pr. Phil & Merrie Sue
 JOHNSON, Craig & Judy
 JONES, Dave & Marge

Grace Lutheran Church, Andover, Minnesota
 First Lutheran Church, Mahnomen, Minnesota
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom, Minnesota
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena, Minnesota
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New York Mills, Minnesota
 First Lutheran Church, Morris, Minnesota
 Moe Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minnesota
 St. George Lutheran Church, Brighton, Michigan
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Pequot Lakes, Minnesota
 Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Logan, Utah
 First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

KOVASH, Jeremy & Deanna; Jace, Maddux, Evan
 LARSON, Hans
 MICKELSON, Kevin & Linda; Kyle, Brooke
 MOE, Bob & Shirley
 NELSON, Kermit & Lori; Brandi
 PALMER, George & Ellen
 STROH, Bob & Julie
 ROGNE, Bob & Carmen
 SWENSON, Kevin & Heidi
 ZIEGLER, Pastor August & Betty

St. Paul's Lutheran, Perham Minnesota
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, Minnesota
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Frazee, Minnesota
 Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Mesa, Arizona
 Amor Zion Lutheran Church, Battle Lake, Minnesota
 First Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, Minnesota
 English Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
 Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota
 First Lutheran Church, Baudette, Minnesota
 First Lutheran Church, Audubon, Minnesota

TRANSFERS OUT (32)

BENSEN, Amanda (Baumgart)
 BERG, Chuck & Marge
 BROWN, Tim & Kristen; Nathaniel, Aaron, Nicholas, Allison
 CAVALIER, Cheryl
 FENNER, Janice (Weickert)
 KAUS, Carl & Louis
 KOVAR, June; Makenzi, Brekden, Annika, Kassidy
 LINDBERG, Mark
 OMBERG, Lee & Karen; Benjamin, Karlee
 OSTLIE, Nicole (Ferguson)
 OTTESON, Blake; Collin
 PILGRIM, Eric & Kelly; Olivia
 SHEETS, Steve & Lisa; Holly

Calvary Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 Perham Community Alliance Church, Perham, Minnesota
 American Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milbank, South Dakota
 Salem Lutheran Church, Barron, Wisconsin
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota
 First Lutheran Church, Volga, South Dakota
 New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, Minnesota
 Perham Community Alliance Church, Perham, Minnesota

INACTIVE TO TRANSFERS OUT (3)

HAMANN, Shane
 REFF, Neil & JoAnn

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Shoreview, Minnesota
 First United Methodist Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota

FROM ACTIVE TO INACTIVE (17)

BAKER, Jeff
 MAHNKE, Lyle & Sheryl; Cole, Andrea
 MILLER, Bruce/DALAGER, Joni; Jessica C., Jameson
 NELSON, Michael
 OSTLIE, Nick
 ROOB, Carolyn
 WENAAS, Shelley; Tara
 WENAAS; Teran, Amber, Wade

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2007

BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Membership on 12/31/2006..... 1,256
 Baptisms 21
 Affirmation of Faith 3
 Members Transferred In 52
 Subtotal 1,332
 Deaths 8
 Members Transferred Out 32
 Members Moved To Inactive 17
 Baptized Members on 12/31/2007 1,275

CONFIRMED MEMBERS

Membership on 12/31/2006 973
 Confirmands 21
 New Members Received 46
 Subtotal 1,040
 Deaths 7
 Members Transferred Out 20
 Members Moved To Inactive 15
 Baptized Members on 12/31/2007 998

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS FOR 2007

Average Weekend Worship337
 Average Summer Worship323
 Average Nine Months Worship343
 Average Lenten Worship168
 Maundy Thursday Worship206
 Good Friday Worship161
 Easter Worship651
 Christmas Worship976



Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley Pauna

Office Coordinator

Pastor's Report

God is so good to us, and I am overflowing with thanks for all of you.

Merrie Sue and I want to thank you for a wonderful first year of ministry at Calvary. We could not be more grateful and happy with being with you. Over 200 people from Calvary came to our open house days at our home, and we really enjoyed having you visit our home and shop. We really feel we are at home now after many months of transition and it feels very good. Thank you.

The council, other congregation leaders, the staff and all of you have worked hard this year to accomplish our mission. We have some great signs of the fruits of your labor this year. Good numbers of very gifted new members, 21 baptisms this year, growing worship participation, strong offerings, especially at the end, and phenomenal progress in the endowment. These are only outward signs that there is great ministry going on in the hearts of God's people, with excellent youth and children's ministry, strong music, service in the community and good care, and all sorts of innovative programs. I felt that the Summer Pops series and outdoor worship was received very well and am so grateful for Calvary's willingness to trust me and support that program before it had proved itself. I feel that our relationship with New Creation Lutheran Church has relaxed greatly and we pray for this ministry of our old friends in Christ.

Calvary, you have a real bounce in your step right now that is nothing less than a gift of God.

Now as a new year comes toward us, I have some goals for next year, for me and the congregation:

- ❖ Find time for my own devotions and self care so I will have something to give.
- ❖ Work hard on worship and preaching for I think it is the core of my ministry.
- ❖ Get the nursery better set up to host our young families and their small children.
- ❖ We had spoken of starting a summer ministry in Vergas this year, but I am feeling that we have to work harder on local outreach before we head further afield. Maybe the next summer.
- ❖ Choose a new Gifts and Ministry coordinator to welcome and nurture new members and to cultivate our members who are not so involved here.
- ❖ Close Erin's ministry with a flourish and then work hard to start a strong new chapter in Calvary's youth and family ministry, surely one of the flagships of our ministry.
- ❖ Build on our strong first season of Summer Pops and outdoor worship to make a name for ourselves as a hospitable and exciting community of faith and fun.
- ❖ Expand our Community Outreach program with some new opportunities for service.

Pastor Phil Holtan



Making A Difference In 2008

‘Worship God, Share Jesus, Help Others’

2007 was quite honestly one of the most energetic years I can say I've experienced here at Calvary Lutheran Church. I've been a part of this congregation for 22 years.

But reflecting on what we've accomplished in the past is not my purpose. My objective is to look at the even greater things God is equipping us to do that will help make a difference in His world in 2008.

In April of this past year, our council met and began outlining a vision for Calvary in the next 10 years... to the year 2018. It quickly became obvious that we will not be the same church we were in 2007. Change in the future, just as in the past, will play a significant role in how Calvary continues to grow its missions. But since we are the church, that growth needs to begin with us.

I believe God wants each of us to use the tools He has blessed us with, to do His will, to help change the world one person at a time. We need to want the same thing.

Rick Warren, author of “The Purpose Driven Life”, teaches that the donation of our lives matters more than the duration of our lives.

Do we really want to make a significant difference in 2008? Then we need to commit to doing so. We need to commit to continue growing our personal investment of time and money into sharing Jesus and helping others. That investment will make a world of difference, not just for 10 years, or 50 years, or even 1,000 years; it'll make a difference for eternity.

While 2007 was a great year, I believe God's plan for us to be even greater in 2008, and I pray we “stay energized” to make a difference.

God's peace,

Terry Hepola

Congregation President

Nominating Committee Report

Council Positions

Secretary-2 year term
Connie Mort

Stewardship—2 year term
Sheri Johnson

Education—2 year term
Julie Baumgart

Worship—2 year term
Linda Mickelson

Personnel—1 year to fill out term
Harvey Kraabel

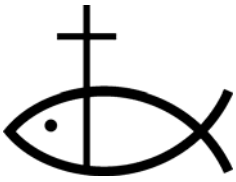
Other Positions

Endowment Fund
Ellen Palmer--First term
Tim Neitzke--Re-election for second spot

Nominating Committee--6 total, 4 at-large positions
Bryce Anderson
Kevin Kupferschmid
David Wodrich
Margot Jelleberg

2 outgoing council spots on Nominating Committee
Laura Neitzke
Melody Scott

Synod Assembly Delegates
Duane and Darlene Lysne
Dave and Marge Jones



Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Your love, God, is my song, and I'll sing it! – Psalm 89:1 (The Message)

Let's Sing!

"How great is our God! Sing with me. How great is our God... and all will see how great... how great... is our God!"

The words of this popular praise song run through my head as I reflect on this past year in ministry with you. We have sung together the choruses and verses of many wonderful songs.

We have sung the Song of Service: With a renewed vision and commitment to being the hands of Jesus in the world, our youth, along with many adults have committed themselves to many different areas. Serving at the **Salvation Army** in Fargo, ND each first Saturday of the month has become a consistent reminder of how we can join together to give a little of ourselves to gain a lot for others. Our youth have an ongoing commitment to serve as the **Worship Teams** for both services at Calvary each first Sunday of the month and it is a joy to see our youth active and participating in all the different aspects of our worship together. Our BUGs & TICKs and our Junior and Senior High Youth banded together in our new **Pumpkins for Purpose** program and with thanks to *Rich and Carol Bucholz, Craig and Liz Swanson, Bruce and Cindy Hurt* and many other adults who joined in with the youth, we raised over \$4000 for youth ministry mission! Some of Calvary's junior high youth made their mark on the world as they helped feed 34 children for a year by packing 12,312 meals at *Feed My Starving Children* while on Calvary's first-ever **Junior High Mission Trip**. Other service areas that we have sung with each other on this year include: the **Adopt-A-Highway Service Project**, our **Wheel Chair Walk** for the Pie and Ice Cream Social, the **Souper Bowl of Caring Offering**, and our annual **Thanksgiving Baskets Service Project**.

We have sung together in education, impact and fellowship events: Our programs in Youth and Family ministry have included wonderful ways to connect consistently in the Gospel. Our **Confirmation** program continues to be strong as we study the *Here We Stand* curriculum and grow together in our small groups led by our adult guide volunteers. What a wonderful group of youth ministers they are! As we studied about missions this year, our confirmation students traveled to Pelican Rapids to hear the songs of the **Watoto Children's Choir** from Africa. **Wednesday Night Alive** continues to be a fun and exciting way to connect with friends, enjoy our wonderful youth room, *the Loft*, and challenge us devotionally as we join together each week in the Word and prayer.

We saw new study and fellowship groups emerge like **Girls Only – No Boys Allowed** and **Senior High Thirst. Sunday Morning Rap** is wonderful place to connect with Christ and each other as we dive into real life issues of faith. We were again touched by the Spirit in many ways at our synod's **Junior and Senior High Youth Gatherings** and our camping ministry with **Luther Crest Bible Camp** had another well attended year. Calvary's Karlie Miller was elected to serve as the Conference 9 Youth Representative on the LYO Board and she has offered her gifts in many ways to our synod. We had a wonderful experience with **Picnics, Places, Prayer**, a weekly Junior High summer program developed and led by Chelsea Hepola. We initiated with Calvary's Senior High Leadership Team the **Pray 4:24** campaign encouraging all of us to take a moment each day at 4:24 p.m. for prayer and to *stay connected to God*.

Our Families must sing! There has been a renewed focus and intentional conversation on the importance of faith being central in the **family** and we hope that as a congregational family, we will strive to be creative on how we encourage, program and support the reality that our most important faith development happens at home each and every day.

We sing now together a new song. It is a song of excitement and new beginnings both for Calvary and for me. It is a song that celebrates the joys and the hurts we have shared together in youth and family ministry the last twelve years. It is a song that includes praise and thanks to all of you who have served in so many different ways... committee members, youth and family chairs, councils, pastors, staff colleagues, friends and mentors and my family... alongside me each step of the way as I have had the privilege to serve as your leader in this area. It is a song that honors the feelings of sadness that is felt with change and new beginnings. A song that crescendos and loudly proclaims the blessing of seeing Christ alive in the youth of Calvary, a song that shouts out loud the gospel gift of grace that we have sung together for many years and a song that has a theme of excitement for the future that God is guiding us in a great way, still in ministry together.

Yes, how great is our God! Sing with me... How great is our God!

Thanks for letting me be a part of the choir,

EA



Children's Ministry

Teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you. Matthew 28:20a

January: The students studied a four-week unit, "Our Christ-like actions show we're Christians." The key Bible verse of this unit was "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

February: The students studied a four-week unit, "Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins." The key Bible verse of this unit was "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

March: The students studied a four-week unit, "God answers when we pray." The key Bible verse for this unit was "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)

April: The preschool through third grade classes helped the congregation celebrate Palm Sunday. The children waved palms and sang two songs at the beginning of the 8:30 worship service on Sunday, April 1. Also, on April 1 the children had an Easter Celebration. The celebration included: The reading of the Easter Story, an art project, treats, and an Easter Egg Hunt. On Sunday, April 22 during the 10:45 worship service the first and second grade classes presented their memorization work. The first grade class recited the Lord's Prayer, and the second grade class recited the Apostles' Creed. The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade presented their memorization work to teachers and guests at a special ceremony on April 22. The fourth grade recited the Books of the New Testament. The fifth grade recited the Ten Commandments. The sixth grade recited the Books of the Old Testament.

May: May 6 was the last day of Sunday School. Also on May 6, there was recognition given to all those who had donated their time and talents to the Children's Ministry during the previous Sunday School year.

June: "Great Bible Reef" Vacation Bible School was held Sunday June 3 through Wednesday, June 6, 5:30-8:00p.m. each evening. The theme for this year's V.B.S. was "Diving Deep into God's Word." And we had 104 children diving in! That is an increase of 24 from the 2006 V.B.S. attendance of 80. New this year was the providing of a light meal at the beginning of each evening. The meal was well received and appreciated. We plan on continuing to offer the meal.

August: The Education Committee, Erin Anderson, and I chose the FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum. We chose this material because it is teacher friendly, informative, and appeals to students. We also added three extra days into our Sunday School calendar year. New this year was Christian Kids' Corner. This program is held Wednesdays 3:15-5:15p.m. The children involved are kindergarten through sixth grade. They are served a small snack and then they participate in a variety of activities (singing, arts and crafts, games, the loft, and movies.)

September: Rally Sunday was held September 9. Rally Sunday included Sunday School teacher/substitutes installation, games, music, relays, and Mara's climbing wall. New this year was a congregational picnic. The picnic was a great addition to the celebration! There were 88 Sunday School students in attendance. That is an increase of 10 from the 2006 Rally Sunday attendance of 78.

October: Sunday October 7, 15 preschoolers received their Beginner's Bible storybook. Later that month, the first Pray-N-Play day was held on October 21. During the Pray-N-Play day, children had fun singing interactive songs. After singing, we watched the Max Lucado movie, "You are Special." The theme was reinforced by coloring sheets of Jesus welcoming and teaching the children. I also read them the story, "God Loves You."

November: On November 18, Laura Neitzke and Mandi Kjelshus (on behalf of the Women of Calvary) presented 8 third graders with a "Young Believer Bible." This is a Bible full of informational helps, "I Believe" statements, and character profiles. The service was made more memorable for the third graders when they along with the preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grade sang the songs "The B-I-B-L-E" and "God is so Great."

December: December was a month filled with Christmas program practices for the Sunday School children. New this year was the opportunity Russ Bunker gave to the children to practice their Christmas songs on Wednesdays during Christian Kids' Corner. These were informal practices that we all enjoyed! The highlight of the month was the presentation of the Christmas program on Sunday December 16 at the 10:45 worship service. After the program, the children each received a treat bag full of goodies and an angel ornament that was hand made with love by volunteers under Michelle Miller's talented guidance.

Thank you to all who have helped the children walk the path God has commanded us to.

Faithfully, *Mary*



Psalms 117 says, "Praise the Lord all you nations. Praise him all you people of the earth. For he loves us with unfailing love; the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever! Praise the Lord!" Calvary experienced that unfailing love and faithfulness again as we traveled together through the year 2007. Calvary's music ministry continues to strive to lift up the Lord with joyous notes of praise. What a year this has been! Here are highlights of music ministry at Calvary in 2007:

Calvary Pops. Calvary's first-ever concert series was born, "music to move your soul." Although we were disappointed to see "Godspell" not happen at Calvary, there were many other wonderful events in this concert series. They include: **Lyra**, the first acapella Russian choir to give a concert in Perham, and were they ever great! **The Brethren** came again and wowed us with their music. **Russ Peterson** from Concordia came and blew us all away with his incredible musical talents on the saxophone and flute. Another gospel group, **The Chancellors**, wowed us as well. A huge crowd gathered outside this summer as area **praise teams** filled the outside of Calvary with praise music...what an awesome outreach event that was...not soon forgotten! The Pops series will even be continuing as I write this, with a fine pianist coming at the end of January 2008, and even more surprises await you...watch your bulletins and newsletters.

Contemporary worship highlights. The summer of 2007 saw Calvary experiencing **great outdoor worship**, with an awesome stage and first class sound system...was that ever fun! **Synthetic drums** were purchased to add to contemporary worship, played for us by Chris Grismer, and now we thank Bob Kalina for joining us, taking over that position. The **contemporary team** has continued to grow, and we can still use more people to get involved, not just to sing but to play an instrument, to help with sound, to help set up and tear down for summer worship services...the list goes on. Come join us! We practice every Wednesday at 5 pm in the sanctuary.

Thanks to all who give to our Music Ministry account. Please help keep this account strong. It provides music for soloists and small ensembles; it provides books for professional growth of your music ministry director; it provides additional software and supplies for music ministry **and** it helps fund our Calvary Pops series!

Thanks for inspiring me, week in and week out, by the way you praise the Lord with your hearts, and for the love and support that you extend to me. Thanks for the way you unselfishly give of yourselves so that we can lift the mighty name of Jesus Christ up through awesome praise in worship. If you want to do something even more special in worship...get involved in some facet of Music Ministry at Calvary! It is so rewarding...and such fun!

Your servant though Christ in Music Ministry,

Traditional worship highlights. We began using our red books, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) in weekly worship. We have already learned at least one new liturgy, and plan to do more in 2008. We have introduced a bunch of new hymns as well from the book. We had another wonderful **Lenten season** using *Holden Evening Prayer*, and are planning to continue that tradition in 2008. Our **Christmas Eve worship** was made even more beautiful by duets with Joan Covington on violin and Jane Stowman on piano, by vocal special numbers by our contemporary group, by Dan and Karlie Miller, and by Josiah Gulden, a 21-year-old college student with an amazing talent who brought tears to many eyes with his rendition of *O Holy Night*.

Choir Ministry Highlights. Our **Senior Choir** has stayed strong throughout the year, and we gained even more new members toward the end of 2007. The choir participated in an ecumenical songfest at St. Henry's in January. A special concert was presented in May during worship, as well as a concert of Advent and Christmas music in December. Our **Youth Choir** sang several times during 2007, and is doing very well. Music from them began the Sunday Children's Christmas program in 2007. Our **Carol Choir** has greatly grown in numbers in the fall of 2007. This is due in part to a new after school program for our youth at Calvary. It is exciting to see double digits in numbers, when just a year ago we had a much smaller group.

Other special music groups. Our women's ensemble, **Sweet Assurance** still practices weekly, and is aiming for a goal in 2008 at singing at least monthly in worship. **Jonah and the Wailers**, our men's ensemble, will again begin practicing weekly in 2008, and will aim also for the goal of singing at least monthly in worship for you. Calvary's **special quartet** brought some neat messages as well in song during 2007.

We have had many others from our church family who have shared solos and duets with us. Thank you all!

Russ Bunker, Music Ministry Coordinator



Stephen Ministry

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

The year 2007 was a milestone for us as we celebrated our 10th anniversary of Stephen Ministry at Calvary. On April 29 we shared anniversary cake during the fellowship hour and commissioned a new class of Stephen Ministers at the 10:45 a.m. service. *Ruth Lange, Mavis Morgan, Odell Nelson, and Terri Olson* joined our team of Stephen Ministers which also includes *Daria Anderson, Dee Anderson, Ron Anderson, Katie Baril, Vi Bergman, Denny Brau, John Bunnell, Joyce Bunnell, Barb Christie, Sara Hanson, Ann Heinis, Ron Heinis, Dorothy Johnson, Jim Johnson, Jim Kroenke, Net Kupferschmid, Wanda Kupferschmid, Pam Mather, Romelle Nelson, Cindy Olson, Dorothy Palubicki, Karen Rise, Bob Sloneker, Paulette Stanislawski, Sonja Thimjon, Bev Tougas, Connie Thompson, and Marky Van de Streek.*

We miss *Lee Hauer* and *Don Langren*, two of our special friends and Stephen Ministers, who passed away this year. May God bless and keep their families.

We are midway through our current training class, which will be commissioned in May. Our class includes *Shirley Moe, Nancy Ferguson, Marcy Sundberg, and Linda Legreid.* Linda has started her training at a church in Arizona while she and her husband are there for the winter months, and will finish training with our group and be commissioned here at Calvary. We foresee that Linda will be an active Stephen Minister both in Arizona and here in our community.

As a result of our Stephen Leaders networking with Stephen Ministry Leaders from other churches in our area, we have been able to help other groups by matching a few of our Stephen Ministers with care receivers from their congregations, and they in turn have helped us. Approximately 75% of our care receivers are members of Calvary, and 25% are people from our community. As always, our Stephen Ministry Program has extended its reach into the community. In 2007, our Stephen Ministers helped 24 different care receivers. Presently, at the beginning of 2008, we have 21 Stephen Ministers matched with care receivers.

We want to thank our ministry enrichment presenters at our Stephen Ministry Small Group Support Meetings who have added to our knowledge and caregiving skills. In 2007 they included: *Pastor Phil*, who spent time getting acquainted with the Stephen Ministers and has extended his valuable support;

If you ever have any questions about Stephen Ministry, the grief support groups, know of someone who may benefit from having a caregiver, or if you have interest in becoming a Stephen Minister, I hope you will stop by the church office and visit with me.

Blessing to you all in the new year.

Tri-County Home Monitoring, who demonstrated phone emergency response; *Tara Giese* from Lutheran Social Services, who reviewed their Respite and Caregiver Support Program; *Pastor Art Johnson* gave a presentation on the 23rd Psalm; *Colleen Sazama*, Multiple Sclerosis Support Group Facilitator, who helped us understand multiple sclerosis; *Karmy Thompson*, from Stepping Stones in New York Mills, shared about their Residential and Outpatient Treatment Program; *Carol Nelson*, a free-lance counselor, spoke on "Depression;" *Darlene Ackerman*, Rural Consultant for Minnesota and North Dakota Alzheimer's Association, gave us a better understanding of this disease; *Karen Harrom*, from The Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Office, demonstrated phone equipment and how people are eligible for free usage.

Five Stephen Ministers attended a seminar in Alexandria in April presented by Alan Wolfelt, author of many grief books, on "Death, Grief, and Mourning: Wisdom Teaching for Caregivers." Another helpful seminar, "It Takes A Village To Say Goodbye," by presenter Doug Smith, a Hospice chaplain, was attended in Fargo by four Stephen Ministers in October.

Bev Tougas attended the week-long Leadership Training Conference in Texas in January, and is now functioning as a key Stephen Leader. We are excited that Barb Christie plans to attend the Leadership Training Conference this spring in St. Louis, Missouri. Adding new leaders strengthens our Stephen Ministry team.

Our Calvary grief support groups continue to be helpful to those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This spring, with the assistance of Hospice of the Red River Valley from Detroit Lakes, we began offering the Kids Grieve Too support group. This group meets at 5:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month—the same time as the Grief Journeys for Parents support group. We begin by eating supper together—a meal graciously provided by Calvary's Meal Ministry. Then we break away and meet separately at the church.

Living with Grief--for Spouses support group meets at 4:00pm at Calvary on the first Tuesday of the month. All of the grief support groups are open to anyone in the community, so it continues to be a great way to provide community outreach.

Joyce Bunnell, Stephen Ministry Coordinator



Calvary's 50th Anniversary Jubilee is Coming!

In just two years, Calvary Lutheran will be celebrating 50 years! An event this big calls for a celebration that's big – and that's what we're starting to plan!

Planning for this big event – or rather this big year – is starting now! A preliminary planning committee has been formed, but is still looking for input and/or interested individuals. We have a few ideas to share with you, but we'd like more suggestions for things Calvary members want to see in our Jubilee Celebration. Here are some of the ideas we've discussed so far:

- *Have the Celebration be a six to nine month celebration, with events happening about once a month.*
- *Bring back one former pastor each month and have him/her share a message from the pulpit, be honored at Sunday coffee, and maybe have a Saturday event with him/her, as well.*
- *Prepare an Oral History of Calvary, in which "founding families" are interviewed and videotaped.*
- *Prepare a collection(s) of photos from Calvary's 50 years—church events, Sunday School, women's events, baptisms, weddings, etc.*
- *Have Calvary 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration banners or signs out for several months.*
- *Have Calvary 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration memorabilia such as t-shirts, mugs, etc. available.*
- *Produce a DVD with pictures, oral history, etc. also available for sale.*
- *The 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration would culminate with a big Jubilee Celebration weekend involving 3-4 events in that one weekend – including a special Sunday worship event, some kind of dinner event, etc.*

Again, this planning is in its infancy, and we are especially interested in gathering ideas from Calvary members and putting these into our plans.

Please contact us with any ideas you have for events, activities, memorabilia, anything!

Also if you **would like to serve** on the planning committee OR on a committee for a specific event, please let us know that as well.

This is ***our family's*** celebration, and we want ***everyone's*** input! So please **contact:**

Lisa Peterson
Jubilee Celebration Coordinator
Phone: 346-4747
Email: lpeterson@frazee.k12.mn.us

Terry Hepola
Congregation President
Phone: 346-6135
Email: thepola@mac.com

Pastor Phil at Calvary
Phone: 346-4780
Email: pastorphil@calvaryperham.com



Calvary Cottages

Report of Ministry in 2007

During the year, 20 cottage groups were formed. The formation of Calvary Cottages was the result of input received by the Unity in Christ Task Force and one of the recommendations made to the Congregation Council in their report. Cottages were formed generally in geographic areas.

This is a product of a committee organized to develop the cottage format who started their work in September of 2006.

The first cottage meetings were held in September and October. Meetings are scheduled in January. The goal is to have at least three or four meetings per year.

Four ways the congregation expects to benefit from cottage meetings include:

Promote better relationships among members by making a personal contact with each member in the cottage, inviting them to join in a group setting and to identify where needs exist.

To promote better communication between the church administration and the congregation by providing current information to the members and to identify areas where members seek more information.

To support one another in our faith journey.

To enrich each other through fellowship and prayer.

There were 34 families who volunteered to be Cottage Hosts and participated in a seminar led by Sue Sailer, Jerry Hanson and Merrie Sue Holtan in August.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bryce Anderson, Mary Ringsven, Lisa Peterson, Jana Loken, Sue Sailer, Pat Shepard, Ron Anderson, Missy Graham, Joyce Bunnell, Jerry Hanson, Pastor Holtan, Terry Hepola



Education

Report of Ministry in 2007

What a blessing it is to see firsthand the benefits of Christian education for our youth. We have all been witness to the proud faces as the children wave the Easter palms, fill the sanctuary with energy during Vacation Bible School, proudly accept their Bibles, and touchingly play out the Christmas story for all to see with the shepherds in oversized bathrobes and the angels wearing handmade halos. Through their eyes we are able to witness their joy in being a part of Calvary knowing that they are each blessed and loved by God and this congregation.

There were many traditional events that took place this year, but many of them with a new twist. Mary Paulseth planned and orchestrated an awesome Easter celebration in the spring with the telling of the Easter story, an Easter egg hunt, craft projects and snacks. Vacation Bible School saw a significant increase in numbers and a full meal was provided for the very first time. Rally Sunday was a party for all in attendance with a barbecue, the climbing wall and games. The Christmas celebration as usual makes us well up with pride. In addition to these traditional events the committee saw several new events take place. During the month of September the idea of Christian Kids Corner was initiated. This is a latch key style program that is held after school on Wednesdays for kindergarten through the 6th grade. It was also decided that we would add three additional Sundays onto the

Sunday School calendar to increase the opportunity for learning by our youth.

Just as it is said that it takes a village to raise a child, one can honestly say that it takes a congregation to educate a child. As our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Mary Paulseth has done a fabulous job planning and implementing educational opportunities and activities that are God-centered. Pastor Holtan, we thank you for your leadership and direction. Erin Anderson has held a vital role in the review and selection of educational materials, not to mention his ability to energize Calvary's youth with music. Thank you, Russ, for your never ending dedication to Calvary's children. Our Education Committee in 2007 consisted of Daria Anderson, Jennifer Ditterich, Missy Graham, and Carrie Roble. There are so many of you that have helped in other vital areas as well. You have given of your time and talents to ensure that our children are offered the most meaningful educational experiences possible. We thank you and bless you for all you have done.

It has been an honor and a powerful educational experience for me to serve as your Education Chairperson. Thank you, Calvary for entrusting me with this responsibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Neitzke, Education Chairperson



Calvary Cemetery

The past year is history--now is the time to inform Calvary's members about happenings at our cemetery in 2007.

It was a very busy year as we undertook an extensive landscaping project that added fifty trees throughout the cemetery grounds. This included 40 Black Hills spruce, six basswood and ornamentals, and four maple trees. The cemetery also received an impressive granite entrance sign donated by the Merle Lange family, and dedicated to the memory of Merle. The family also donated the time and materials to construct a planter around the sign as well as the beautiful flowers that completed the project. The dedication ceremony in November was also a very moving experience, especially the eulogy delivered by Jake Muszynski. Thank you to all the caring members and friends that attended the dedication ceremony.

We also had two burials this past year. Dessie Parks and Don Langren were called to their eternal home, and the families chose to use Calvary's cemetery for their final earthly resting place. What a joy it is to be able to provide for these families.

This year we had an exceptional amount of volunteer help, which included 21 individuals that came out in May to plant 50 trees, and bury an underground watering system to the 38 bordering pine trees. Thank you so much. Thank you to Roger Haugrud, our number one groundskeeper. Roger not only mows and trims, he also maintains the mowers, buys the supplies, and this past year made countless trips to make sure the new trees had plenty of water.

To all of the outstanding help, we give thanks. Thank you to Carol Rethemeier for leading the Landscaping Committee and the countless trips lining up trees, to Bill Parks and his family for donating trees to our project when we ran short, to Ed Delaney for controlling the infestation of leafy spurge, to Marion Gill for removing the lilacs, tilling the planting area, and trapping pocket gophers, to the anonymous donor of a weed eater, to Duane Lysne and Bob Moe for mowing, trimming, and watering, to Haden Shipman for repairing damage to the well, to Dana Loken for the use of the trencher, and to all the individuals that donated the funds that made all of this possible.

Al Krueger



Men's Ministry: The Fishermen

Report of Ministry in 2007

In September 2006, 10 Calvary men gathered for a retreat to determine how to move forward with a men's ministry. We set goals to make our men's ministry more visible and more active while encouraging men to feel comfortable at church, giving them more opportunities for service and basic Bible literacy. Through personal invitation and male oriented activities, the ministry has grown. We have tried to invite men to participate at the level they are comfortable and grow in their faith practice. If you have not been reached by our personal invitations and would like to get involved, contact Craig Swanson or Rand Stolee.

Financial Report. As part of our Men's Breakfast, we collect donations which go toward a sponsorship of a child in Guatemala through Common Hope. We took in \$856 and covered the \$360 sponsorship. This left a balance of \$496. We will use this surplus to make our sponsorship a full sponsorship or get a second half sponsorship in the coming year.

This past year has seen the following ministry activities:

- **Men's Breakfast.** Bible study and fellowship every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
- **Common Hope Sponsorship.** The men sponsor a Guatemalan child
- **Salvation Army.** A group of men helped serve a meal at the Salvation Army
- **Fix-it Ministry.** Handyman help for those in need
- **Luther Crest.** Built a shelter for campers at Luther Crest camp
- **Pastor Move In.** Helped with some of the heavy lifting as Pastor moved in
- **4-Wheeler Event.** Fellowship activity
- **Spring Retreat.** A fishing trip and Bible study opportunity
- **Fisherman Open.** Golf fellowship activity
- **Habitat 500 Bike Tour.** Provided meals for the Habitat Bike team
- **Canoe Trip.** Time for rest and reflection in Boundary Waters Canoe Area
- **Rewind.** Ministry to men in a recovery program
- **Habitat for Humanity.** Building a home for a needy Perham family
- **Pheasant Hunt.** Fellowship activity
- **Bible 101.** An introduction to the Bible Sunday School class
- **Vikings Party.** Fellowship event
- **Nativity and Christmas Luminaries.** Decorating the church

Respectfully Submitted, ***Rand Stolee***, Secretary



Evangelism

"How lovely... are the feet of him who brings good news ...announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness..." 1saiah 52:7

Evangelism is a Greek word meaning "good news." The word has the same root as *angels*, messengers who announce good news.

Evangelism involves a message and a messenger:

- *The message is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.*
- *The messengers are all members of the Christian faith, who are called to be a witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

Evangelism involves:

- *Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ during one-to-one conversations in daily life*
- *Inviting family, friends, and acquaintances to learn more about God's love*
- *Inviting people to join our congregation for worship, study, fellowship, and service*
- *Witnessing to Jesus by living a compassionate, gracious, and loving life*
- *Welcoming guests who come to church activities*
- *Encouraging each other to grow in faith*

While the above tasks are a calling for *all members* of the church, Calvary does have an Evangelism Committee that endeavors to focus on ways to *invite, witness, and welcome* visitors to our church family. Calvary's Evangelism Committee members include Barb Christie, Les and Sue Hansen, Dorothy Johnson, Net Kupferschmid, Terri Olson, Pat Shepard, Ray Masters, and myself. I am so very grateful for these committee members and their generosity in sharing of their time and energy. However, our committee would benefit from the addition of some new members, and we really *encourage you to consider joining our committee!*

These are activities the Evangelism Committee worked on in 2007:

New Member Classes and New Member Sundays. Our committee was excited to see the addition of new member classes (as opposed to the new member orientation of the past) that Pastor Phil organized and directed. We served in a support role for the classes and coordinated the "welcome" at Sunday morning coffee on the New Member Sunday. We welcome to Calvary:

- *In April, 5 new member units (11 persons total)*
- *In June 7 new member units (16 persons total)*
- *In October 10 new member units (25 persons total)*

Monthly Coffee Money Donation to Needy in the Community. The committee chose, on a monthly basis, a group that could benefit from a financial gift from the church. The money came from Sunday morning coffee offerings and went to community outreach needs, Perham's REWIND Center, Calvary's youth attending Luther Crest Bible Camp, and bus transportation for a concert in Pelican Rapids.

Evangelism Committee Mini-Retreat (February).

The Evangelism Committee met for a Mini-Retreat, in which we:

- Established the mission and purposes of the committee
- Evaluated Evangelism at Calvary using a survey prepared by the ELCA
- Brainstormed areas we would like to improve, based on this survey
- Chose three top priorities to work on for 2007
 - *Stronger involvement from sponsors of new members*
 - *Visiting absent/inactive members of Calvary*
 - *Establishing a weekly prayer time, taking place in the Prayer Chapel*

Calvary Pops Concert Series. The Evangelism Committee helped establish and assist in the concert series hosted by Calvary in 2007, providing some money for start-up costs, from the Evangelism budget and served as greeters at the various concerts

Visits with Calvary Members who have been absent/inactive. Evangelism Committee members recruited and joined with Calvary members to receive training for visiting church members in late April, then began individual visits with absent Calvary members in May. A second round of training and visits took place in November. Approximately 40 people were contacted through these two rounds of visits/calls.

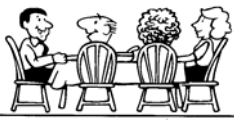
Picnic Following Outdoor Worship. This year's picnic took place at Calvary, rather than Paul Miller Park, since we were already worshipping outdoors at Calvary. The attendance at the picnic was rather sparse, so this project is being evaluated as to how to make it more effective.

Items the Evangelism Committee will work on in 2008:

- Continued support of the Calvary Pops Concert Series for 2008. We have budgeted \$1,500 toward Concert Series costs and will continue to greet and welcome concert attendees and "promote" Calvary at these concerts
- Evaluate "marketing" needs of Calvary and develop a marketing strategy
- Continue visits to Calvary's absent/inactive members
- Improve Visitor's Center/Information for Visitors
- Expand the use of Calvary's Prayer Chapel

Again, our committee is a great one to be a part of! We would love to add some new members, and we encourage you to join us! We look forward to some exciting new projects in 2008!

In His love, **Lisa Peterson,** Evangelism Chair



Personnel-----Report of Ministry in 2007

The Personnel Committee's efforts were focused on two things this past year. First, was to complete the revision of the employee handbook. The Council-approved handbook was distributed to Calvary staff mid-year.

Second, the performance review process was revised. The process included input from the pastor, the standing committee chair to whom the staff member reports, and the staff member. The input was in written form which was then combined by the Personnel Committee into one review form.

A meeting was then held with each staff member to review the information and discuss future goals and aspirations. The meetings were attended by the staff member, the pastor, and two members of the Personnel Committee.

This same process is planned to be utilized in the performance review process for the pastor.

2008 goals include documenting Personnel Committee processes.

Lori Meader, Personnel Chair



Property-----Report of Ministry in 2007

This has been a great year for our property committee. A big thank you to all who made this year so successful through their commitment, time and support. A special thank you for the work of our custodial staff including Larry Hunt, Eldon Bergman and Dave Ferguson. Their tremendous care for Calvary makes everyone's job easier.

Thank you to Duane Lysne for painting the outside Calvary crosses. A thank you also goes out to Bob Horner and crew for the work on the outside stage for our summer services. Many hours of time were volunteered to make outside summer services available for our Calvary family.

Some projects completed this year also deserve mention. The south parking lot was seal coated. A crew of volunteers worked on the back side of the church to eliminate drainage problems the church was experiencing due to roof runoff. A big thank you to those who were involved in assisting with this project.

The church purchased a riding lawn tractor and a push mower. The grounds staff once again needs to be thanked for keeping Calvary's grounds in tip-top shape.

A major project coming up in 2008 is to re-shingle the north leg of the building (old sanctuary).

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jensen, Property Committee Chair



Stewardship-----Report of Ministry in 2007

In April 2007 the Stewardship Committee put on a series of dinners to highlight our stewardship program. The program emphasized the ministries we already support. Many people were surprised to see how many active ministries there are at Calvary. This moved us to make a list of all the ministries of our church. That number came to well over 70.

The program also tried to get more people involved in ministry through a ministry fair. Many people signed up for participation in ministries new for them. That information was relayed to the committees and leaders responsible for the various ministries to try and increase involvement.

Through the year we have tried to express thanks to the congregation for all the time, treasure and talent that have been committed to the work of Christ.

When we evaluate the work of the Stewardship Committee over the year, we can best do this by asking the following questions:

- Did you learn of ministries at Calvary about which you may have previously been unfamiliar?
- Were you asked to commit in a specific way to the ministry of Calvary and the church at large?
- Were you thanked for your ministry?
- Were you moved to give intentionally, give proportionately and to grow in your giving?
- Were you challenged to move from membership to discipleship?

As you move into 2008, consider how you can get involved in a ministry that you are passionate about. Let us help you. Contact one of the members of the Stewardship Committee:

***Karen Hasskamp, Sheri Johnson,
Terry Hepola, Becky and Rand Stolee***



Early in the year, Terry Hepola, our congregational president challenged the council and all of Calvary to consider adopting the phrase “**Share Jesus, Help Others.**” Your Social Ministry Committee has taken that phrase to heart as we minister to those in our Calvary Family and as we respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters locally and globally.

Cradle Roll reaches out to the youngest of Calvary’s family. A very special gift bag is presented to newly baptized children to welcome them into our church family. Notes are sent to the children through their third birthday to nurture the children and their families in these formative faith years. Aimee Nelson is responsible for the Cradle Roll program.

Meal Ministry reaches out to those of our Calvary family in times of joy, grief or recuperation, feeding the body and the soul. Great meals are provided by a large number of great cooks for short and extended periods of time. Mary Erickson coordinates this important ministry at Calvary.

Stephen Ministry under the leadership of Joyce Bunnell, trains new Stephen Ministers and provides ongoing educational opportunities for the entire team of caregivers to provide loving, compassionate care for those who need a listening ear. Grief support groups are also facilitated at Calvary through Joyce’s guidance. Please read a more detailed description of the Stephen Ministry program in her section of this annual report.

Grief Support groups meet at Calvary and Pat Shepard is in charge of a caring group of individuals who prepare a great meal for them each time they meet. Gathering together to share a meal is a vital part of the healing process that the grief support group offers.

Habitat for Humanity is our newest addition to the Social Ministry Committee with Les Gunderson and Gary Hanson representing this tremendous ministry. Calvary members provide weekly participation in the local Habitat for Humanity build going on right here in Perham.

To **all** of you who volunteer in these ministry areas of Social Ministry we say **Thank You** and God bless your caring hearts. If any of these areas are of interest to you, Calvary family, please feel free to join us anytime as we Share Jesus, Help Others!!

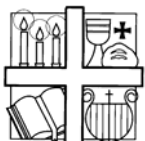
Parish Health Ministry under the guidance of Judy Peterson and an active health committee remind us that the ministry of Jesus was always holistic. His healing was physical, emotional and spiritual. The Health Committee routinely provide monthly blood pressure screenings, promote kitchen sanitation and eating healthy snacks. They provide devotions and communion for residents, families, and guests at the Perham Memorial Home. This group of volunteers also provides visitation and sends greeting cards to congregational family and friends. A beautiful example of sharing Jesus is through their prayer shawl ministry to congregational members and families.

The Mission Team is represented by Carla Gauwitz. This is an active group of individuals Sharing Jesus and Helping Others. Highlights of 2007 included a mission trip to Willmar to help build a Habitat for Humanity House; sponsored 3 fundraising events raising \$5500.00 through the generosity of Calvary members for short term mission and created a short term mission policy for distribution of donations (on the Calvary website). Looking ahead in 2008 includes a Guatemala mission trip with 10 or more Calvary missionaries participating; and in June of '08, another Habitat Build in Willmar.

Community Outreach Ministry continues to work with Public Health, Social Services, Someplace Safe, the Public Schools, Calvary Staff and other concerned people in providing furniture, household items, infant supplies, clothing, gas and good gift cards, or anything individuals/families may need in our area. Cindy Olson coordinates this ministry with the help of wonderful volunteers and support from area churches.

It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. Ephesians 2:10

In His Service, **Cindy Olson**, Social Ministry Chair



Worship Highlights

Report of Ministry in 2007

- Pastor Phil Holtan completed a very successful first year at Calvary Lutheran
- Church Lenten Services were held using Holden Evening Prayer
- Began using the new Red Hymnal
- Restructured the process for Worship Helpers.
- Hosted Russian Folk Group-Lyra in May
- Volunteers built a wonderful new outdoor stage.
- Held regular contemporary outdoor worship using new stage and sound system.
- Enjoyed Successful Summer Concert Series
- Hosted the Brethren Singing Group
- Kicked Off Sunday School on Rally Sunday with hotdogs and games afterwards
- Held Thankoffering Service in November

- Senior Choir did a Concert of Advent and Christmas Songs
- Sunday School Christmas Program presented December 16 led by Mary Paulseth
- Held three Christmas Eve Services with nearly 1,000 total attendance
- Enjoyed performances of wonderful guest musicians at Christmas Eve Services
- Welcomed 52 new members to Calvary

Thanks to all of you here at Calvary!
You make it a wonderful place to worship!

Respectfully Submitted

Melody Scott, Worship Chair



Youth & Family

2007: The Year In Review

As I reflected on the past year, the goals we wanted to meet, our plan of action to reach those goals, I became more aware of what a successful journey we've been on in 2007:

WE LEARN

- ❖ Worship
- ❖ Confirmation
- ❖ Sunday Morning Rap
- ❖ Spring 2007: Sr. High study of "The Case for Christ"
- ❖ Thirst: In-depth study of the book 'Glory Revealed'
- ❖ "Girls Only"
- ❖ Junior and Senior High Gatherings
- ❖ Luther Crest Camp

WE SERVE

- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ 1st Sunday services: Youth ministry team volunteers
- ❖ Youth Leadership team
- ❖ Lutheran Youth Organization board member: Karlie Miller
- ❖ Thanksgiving baskets
- ❖ Adopt-A-Highway service project
- ❖ Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Christmas program
- ❖ Junior High mission trip to Minneapolis
- ❖ "Picnics, Places & Prayer"

WE COMMUNICATE

- ❖ Pray 4:24: Stay connected with God
- ❖ "One Call Now" phone communication
- ❖ Fellowship – Wednesday Night Alive, Sunday Morning Rap, gatherings, camps

WE SHARE

- A designated percentage to specific missions.
- ❖ "Pumpkins For Purpose"
- ❖ Christmas wreaths
- ❖ Lenten suppers
- ❖ Souper Bowl of Caring
- ❖ "Youth Stock" scholarship availability

WE VISION

- ❖ January 2008--Four Keys theme as we head into our Focus on the Family series
- ❖ Goals as determined by Youth & Family Committee at February meeting

WE GIVE THANKS

- ❖ To God
- ❖ To you, our church family, as you support Youth Ministry in its mission "*to exist through God's love to inspire youth to become Christ-centered, alive in their faith and to make a difference in their church, community and world.*"
- ❖ To Erin, for the strong leadership, friendship, mentoring, and teaching that you have shared with our children and our committee both through your position as well as by example. We wish you, Teresa and your family all the best as you begin transitioning into a new and exciting chapter of your life.

Respectfully submitted, **Cindy Hurt**



Women Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

Purpose Statement: *As a community of women created in the image of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.*

As women of Calvary and the ELCA, we seek to serve through the following activities.

- Altar Guild and communion workers
- Cradle Roll, Baptismal banners and napkins
- Luther Crest Camperships
- Bibles for third grade children
- Nursing Home devotions
- Prayer Chain—Email and phone chain
- Shut in visitations
- Serving for funerals
- Quilts for graduates, nursing homes, newly baptized, newborns and those in need
- Spring and fall clothing drives as needed locally
- Lutheran World Relief Projects (91 school kits in 2007)
- Gifts for the Giving Tree and Someplace Safe
- Box tops and soup label collection
- Support a spring Women’s Event (Salad Luncheon)
- July Ice Cream Social (with Praise Team Songfest)
- Christmas Tea and Bake Sale
- Participation in Cluster Activities (Calvary hosted 200 women in 2007)

- Meal Ministry
- Establish a budget yearly to include donations to local and outreach organizations

Attendees at the December Potluck Meeting, empowered the following women to serve as the Executive Board for 2008:

Co-secretaries Margot Jelleberg, Phyllis Sucher
Co-Treasurers Bev Tougas, Pat Shepard
Mission Growth Lorna Anderson
Mission Action Sonja Horner, Jan Johnson
Mission Community Dorothy Nordbeck
Peace Circle Net Kupferschmid
Faith Circle Jackie Langren
Charity Circle Opal Hegle

Thank you to the women of Calvary for your willingness to serve and we ask that you support us with prayer in the year ahead.

2007 Executive Board

The Calvary “Cut-Ups” Quilters

We started our 2007 year of quilting on January 5 and met from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Thursday during the months of January through the middle of April. Later we changed our hours and met from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year we purchased seven large tables and two smaller tables for our use. We always had a great time with 15 to 22 ladies taking part. We also met for four sessions in September and October so some of our snowbirds could help a bit also, and it gave us a good start for 2008. Most of the cutting and putting together is done at the church while the majority of the tops are sewn by the quilters at home. Lots of the material is donated. We accept sheets and leftover fabrics from sewers and quilters (must be clean and usable). We also receive fabric from the Anderson Fabric Company at Black Duck. They gave us about 15 large bags of new remnants at no cost. We usually cut pieces in six, eight or 10 inch blocks. Donations of cash and the sale of a few quilts helps us buy the batting and some yard goods. The sewing and cutting is not difficult and we welcome any help. Thanks to everyone involved.

A ministry of the Women of Calvary

We made 268 quilts this year which consisted of bed quilts, lap robes, baby quilts, and bed throws. Most of our quilts were given to nursing homes, hospital, Crisis Center, Food Shelf, Perham Police, and Richville clothing Center. We gave some to Cindy Olson for some disaster events and various needs. A special guest visited Calvary and spent a morning with our quilting session; Bubba is from the Salvation Army in Fargo and we gave him nine quilts...a very good cause. The breakdown for 2007 is: One king size, 14 large size, 15 singles, 75 baby, 41 bed throws, five lap robes, 30 overseas, nine to Bubba, and 28 were given to our graduates, plus giving to all our babies that are baptized. We hope we do as well in 2008. Since we started, we have made 5,613 quilts.

We displayed our quilts in the sanctuary April 22. A large quilt was given to Pastor Holtan and his wife.

Ruth Miller resigned this year as the chairperson with Leona Rothiger and Denise Schellenberg taking over. Thank you, Ruth, for your many years of leadership.

Leona Rothiger, Chairperson

Council Recommendations

CHANGING THE AGE OF FIRST COMMUNION

The Council recommends that parents be allowed to decide when their child is ready to take communion regardless of age. Pastor Holtan suggests that we first instruct and commune our 5th grade class. Then we could instruct our other children down to first graders (or the age our congregation would decide) and allow their parents to decide when those instructed are ready to commune.

Thinking Points

- ❖ Our young people tend to be precocious and more aware these days, including aware of being left out of communion.
- ❖ Unlike Baptism, we Lutherans and most other Christians do believe that to receive Communion does require some discernment, and therefore some age to be able to build the capability to understand.
- ❖ I Corinthians 11:25ff. is an admonition for discernment of the body of Christ. That does not mean intellectual understanding of communion so much as being inclusive and not divisive, and not leaving out some from the table.
- ❖ Children can understand much about communion—that Christ is really present in the meal, that we belong to each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ, that communion means forgiveness, renewal of baptism, sacrament of remembrance, sacrament of joy and celebration, mystery and miracle, foretaste of glory. Which of those can children understand, or not understand?
- ❖ Lutherans have always believed that parental responsibility for teaching and deciding about communion is primary.
- ❖ From informal survey, most of our neighboring ELCA Lutheran churches have moved to commune younger children, 3rd grade and even younger, and some give communion at a younger age if the parents think the child is ready for it, request it, and go through instruction together with their child.

THE BUILDING FUND

The Council would like to keep the Congregation informed on the current status of the building debt that the Church carries resulting from the addition of the fellowship hall and Sunday-School area. The building debt as of January 1, 2008 is \$195,095.26. The payments are \$5832.00 per month or \$69,984.00 per year. At this stage of the mortgage a larger part of the payment goes to paying the principle and less goes to paying the interest. In 2007, \$54,248.00 was paid on the principle and \$15,736.00 was paid in interest. We are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Calvary in 2009-2010 and it has been suggested that it would be nice to be able to burn the mortgage as part of this celebration.

A NEW GIFTS AND MINISTRIES COORDINATOR POSITION

The Council recommends that a Gifts and Ministries Coordinator staff position be created. This part-time position would be budgeted at 12 hours per week equating to approximately \$7,000.00 per year.

Responsibilities are as follows

- Integrate new members into the ministries of Calvary
- Match the spiritual gifts & needs of Calvary's members with its ministries
- Facilitate the gathering/recording/retrieval/updating of the wants, needs & gifts of members
- Work with Cottage groups and committee to reach out to new and inactive members and to build community at Calvary
- Communicate with committee leaders to help define tasks and assist in writing supporting job descriptions
- Oversee the training, support and encouragement of lay volunteers with committees
- Provide resources to assist in identifying spiritual gifts
- Help committees recognize and support volunteers
- Work with Calvary's Council, as well as its committees, organizations and staff to assist in their ministries

YOUTH DIRECTOR TRANSITION

To all my church family, the youth and members of Calvary Lutheran,

It was just before Christmas when I shared with you the information about the Northwestern Minnesota Synod issuing an appointment for me to consider serving as an Assistant to the Bishop. Many of you have already heard that, through much prayer and consideration, I have decided to accept the appointment. This appointment will be effective March 15.

On Tuesday, with both sadness and joy, I shared with Calvary's Church council my letter of resignation. Today, although absent from Calvary, I wanted to relay this information to you all.

I look forward, even though it's through some tears, with great excitement for Calvary's future and the future of our synod's ministry and I welcome your conversations in the coming months as I continue as your Youth Director.

God is leading. **Erin Anderson**

With both grief and gratefulness, the council has accepted Erin Anderson's resignation as Director of Youth and Family Ministry. As a council we have decided to pursue the following timeline.

- *We will celebrate Erin and his ministry with a series of farewell events, a major one with congregational potluck and the whole community invited, plus additional various smaller events.*
- *In the short term, we will appoint an interim youth director to keep momentum in the program and to allow some space for the congregation and the youth group to grieve before we choose a new youth director- at least until this fall.*
- *After Erin leaves, we will start to review and revise our youth and family ministry management plan to determine what our next step will be: a youth director like Erin, one that combines some contemporary music element, a youth pastor, or some other combination.*
- *We will form a search committee and do a careful search for the new person, working hard to gather a good pool of candidates and involving lots of people in the congregation in the process.*
- *We hope to have a new staff person in place by September.*

• *Calvary Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes—January 28, 2007—12:00 p.m.*

I. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Swanson at 12:24 PM.

II. **Devotions:** Pastor Holtan led the Congregation in devotions and prayer.

III. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Action: Wayne Sachs moved, Dana Loken seconded the following: Be It Resolved that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. **Financial Report:** Randy Graham thanked the Congregation for responding to the deficit that the Church faced during 2006. The deficit was eliminated and the year finished with a \$6401.08 general fund balance and a \$649.76 building fund balance. The mortgage balance at the end of 2006 stands at \$249,000. *Action: Tim Neitzke moved, Wayne Sachs seconded the following: Be it Resolved that the financial reports be accepted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

V. **Comments and Questions Relevant To The Presented Reports:** A question was asked concerning the dollar balance of all the Memorial Funds. It was answered that Memorials given are placed in the dedicated accounts as directed by the person(s) giving the Memorial. The sum of all Dedicated Accounts at the end of 2006 was \$58,852.39. *Action: Wanda Kupferschmid moved, Karen Hasskamp seconded the following: Be It Resolved that the all reports be accepted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.*

VI. **Elections:** The Nominating Committee placed the following names in nomination:

Church Council

Evangelism	2 year term	Lisa Peterson
Personnel.....	2 year term	Lori Meader
President.....	2 year term	Terry Hepola
Property	2 year term	Randy Jensen
Social Ministry.....	2 year term	Cindy Olson
Stewardship	1 year term	Sheri Johnson
Youth & Family	2 year term	Cindy Hurt

Endowment Fund: Wayne Johnson

Synod Assembly: Erin and Teresa Anderson and Phil and Marcy Sundberg

Nominating Committee at Large (4 to be elected): Todd Barney, Missy Graham, Karen Hasskamp, Vonnice Salness

Nominating Committee from the out going Council Members (2 to be elected): Sara Hanson, Kitty Krueger, Mark Olson

There were no further nominations from the floor. *Action: Wanda Kupferschmid moved, Dennis Iverson seconded the following: Be It Resolved that nominations cease and the Nominating Committee's slate be presented for ballot election. Motion Passed Unanimously.*

Election results: The only contest was to elect two of three outgoing Council Members to the Nominating Committee. Kitty Krueger and Mark Olson were elected. The nominees in all other areas were elected.

VI. **Approval of the 2007 budget**

Action: Duane Lysne moved, Tim Neitzke seconded the following: Be It Resolved that the 2007 budget be approved as presented. Discussion: Karen Hasskamp requested that Calvary give a tithe to the NW MN Synod. This would mean increasing the NW MN Synod budget line item from \$25,000 to \$36,350 and increasing the overall budget from \$388,500 to \$399,850. Action: Becky Stolee moved, Jim Hatlevig seconded to increase the NW MN Synod line item to a tithing level. Discussion: Several opinions were expressed. Some supported a tithe to the Synod in 2007 and others suggested that the congregation set this as a goal to be worked toward over the next few years. Action: Paul Grinnell moved, Ron Anderson seconded that the matter be referred back to the Finance Committee for further study. Recommendations of the Finance Committee can then be brought back to the Congregation at a special meeting, or at the next annual meeting. This motion supersedes the previous motion. Motion carried. Tim Neitzke made a plea for the Endowment Fund stating that money given to the Synod was used primarily for missions and if the Congregation concentrated on getting the Endowment Fund to the level where it would start generating fund every year, this would provide perpetual funds for mission work. The question was called on the original motion to approve the Budget as presented. The motion carried.

VIII. **Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

IX. **New Business**

A. **Calvary Music Series:** Pastor Holtan, Lisa Peterson and Melody Scott presented the idea of having a summer music series that would use the musical talents of the Congregation to promote the Gospel. This would be an outdoor series, possibly including the second service, a musical production and various concerts. This was also presented as a way to draw people to Calvary. Some of these events are already taking place and these would be packaged with other events for a full summer program. This idea is in the discussion stage now and more information will be forthcoming.

B. **Budget overages from 2005 and 2006:** Overages from the past two years equal \$11,548.00. The Council recommended that the combined overage be split equally between the Endowment Fund, the general fund reserve, and financial support for the summer music series. *Action: Myron Roe moved, Wayne Sacks seconded the following: Be It Resolved that the General Fund overages for 2005 and 2006 of \$11,548.00 be divided equally between the Endowment Fund, The General Fund reserves, and the anticipated expenses for the summer music series. Motion passed unanimously.*

C. **Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes:** *Action: Wanda Kupferschmid moved, Erin Anderson seconded the following: Be It Resolved that the Council be given authority to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2007 Annual meeting at their next regular Council Meeting. Motion Passed Unanimously.*

X. **Recognition of Outgoing Council Members and Officers:** Sara Paquin Hanson, Kitty Krueger, Mark Olson, and Craig Swanson

XI. **The Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion.**

XII. **Adjournment at 1:35 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Harvey Kraabel