



## *The Fishermen: Enjoying God's Creation*

### Calvary's Fishermen Sponsor Successful Four-Wheeler Ride

*By Reg Hansen*

At 7:30 A.M. on Saturday May , 50 people gathered at Calvary and trailered 39 four wheelers (ATVs) to Tamarac Wild Life Refuge for a 40 mile ride. There were 45 men and five women of all ages; the youngest was a 3-year-old child.

The event was organized and led by Craig Swanson and Joe Esser. (Everyone calls him "Uncle Joe.") By 8:30 the group was fed a fantastic breakfast cooked by Uncle Joe at his cabin north of Tamarac. It is a bit difficult to feed 50 people pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, juice and coffee but Uncle Joe can handle it.

At 9:30 the ride began on the trails through Tamarac. Because of the terrain it takes all day to cover the 40 miles. The slower pace through the woods makes it ideal and safe for young people. There is water and mud available for the younger adult men. The retired folks avoid the mud because they don't want to get their machines dirty.

Calvary's Fishermen is a group of men whose purpose is to promote Christian fellowship and the involvement of people in the ministries of the church. The four wheeler event was a wonderful day of fun and Christian fellowship in a very spiritual setting.

These social and fun-filled events are open to all people. The invitations are extended by brochures in the community, churches and places of business. The Fishermen stress that everyone is welcome. Each month they sponsor an event including a trip to a Red Hawks game, a pheasant hunt, bowling and card games in the winter.

In June the event is a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Watch for your invitation. In early September there is another four wheeler trip beginning with breakfast at Uncle Joe's.



**Birth.** Congratulations to *Paul & Kjersten Hunt* on the birth of a daughter, *Stella Claire Hunt*, on Wednesday, April 29.

**Baptism.** May 10 we welcomed *Eva Dianne Hoaby* into God's family. Sponsors are *Brittnee Hersch and Josh Walczesky*. Parents are *Joshua Hoaby and Ashlee Hersch*.

**Baptism.** May 24 we welcomed *Tait D. Henderson* into God's family. Sponsors are *Jason & Hollie Montiel* and *Lori Weiss* and parents are *Troy & Lisa Henderson*.

**Transfers.** *Shannon Albertson Schafer* to Hayti Lutheran Church, Hayti, South Dakota; *Betty Marweg* to Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, Fargo, North Dakota; *Naomi Ziegler* Douah to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota and *Betty Staebler* to New Creation Lutheran Church in Perham, Minnesota.



**Outdoor Worship.** Contemporary Worship at 10:45 a.m. will move outdoors June 7 through Labor Day weekend. Grab a blanket or lawn chair and join us!

**Pictorial Directory.** Don't forget to go to your picture appointment at Photo Magic-102 West Main Street, phone 346-2141. Please arrive 10 minutes early. If you forgot your appointment time, please check the pictorial directory news link on the Calvary website and that will take you to the calendar of appointments. Just a reminder also that the background is going to be brown.

**Summer Bulletins.** Summer is vacation time for many of you, and it would be interesting to see church bulletins from the places you worship when away from your Calvary home. Bring your bulletins to the church office and we will display them.

## *May 31 we celebrate Pentecost*

If you have something red to wear that day, it would be appropriate. What is Pentecost and why wear red? The word Pentecost means 50, and Pentecost is the Jewish festival that comes 50 days after Passover. When Jesus ascended to heaven he promised that the Holy Spirit would come to the disciples, and it happened when they had gathered to celebrate the festival of Pentecost.

As the disciples spoke to a group, "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." Acts 2:3-4. This was a distinctive miracle and we can celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit by wearing the distinctive color of the tongues of fire--red--to worship on May 31.

## *Parking Lot Project*

As of Sunday, May 17, we have raised \$19,515, and have \$14,367 to go.

That is with 49 family units of our church contributing, about 10% of our total of 500 families.

If you have not given already, we hope you will consider supporting this project, as you are able. We and our neighbors will all be pleased with the beautiful result and with the way we can welcome our visitors even more hospitably.

## *Jubilee Tree Planting Project*

As you read this, we will have planted lots of the trees and shrubs in our Jubilee planting project. Just on the church side of the street, that is 7 large trees, dozens of shrubs, and many perennials. As the parking lot is completed, we will plant 11 more good sized trees on that side. At this point, all trees have been supported, but we would still appreciate gifts to plant perennials.

So, thanks so much for your strong response which totals \$3,322.50 for the plantings. Thanks also to Craig Johnson for the design, Wayne and Bobbi Sachs for many of the arrangements and all who helped to plant. We are still adding names of those honored or memorialized to the framed commemoration sign that will hang in the West Entryway of Calvary.

## *Cell Phone Recycling Project*

Bring in your old cell phones and Calvary will recycle them. We have two reasons. First, cell phones have "stuff" in them that is not good for the environment. Second, many still have value. We will send them to a company that pays for phones that have value and recycles those that don't. Funds paid for cell phones will be used for video and sound enhancement project. The list of prices paid for particular phones by our cell phone recycling company is at: <http://www.pacebutler.com/>.

We don't need chargers, just the bare phone. We expect, if all goes well, that this will be an ongoing project. Just bring your cell phones and deposit them into a box in the hallway between Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Questions? Ask Pastor Phil.

Someplace Safe is another site that can use your old cell phones, and you can also donate them there.

## *Seeking Gifts & Ministries Coordinator to:*

Match the spiritual gifts and needs of Calvary members with its ministries

Help committees recognize and support their volunteers

Integrate new members into Calvary ministries

Communicate with committee leaders to define tasks and assist in writing job descriptions

Oversee the training, support and encouragement of lay volunteers with committees

Work with Calvary's Council, committees, organizations and staff to assist in their ministries

Provide resources to help to identify spiritual gifts

Work 14 hours per week and receive \$8,454 per year

Facilitate the gathering and recording, retrieval and updating of the wants, needs and gifts of members

## Men's Ministry News

**Looking For A Few Good Men.** Interested in being on Calvary's "Grill Team" for Calvary's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration? Contact Jill Shipman at 346-5395 or [ships@arvig.net](mailto:ships@arvig.net).

**Folks at the Rewind Center** often need rides for errands or appointments. Ron Anderson has done this a few times but would like to put together a call list of men willing and able to drive the Rewind Center residents. He is now working on finding them work doing jobs around the house for local people. They will be cleaning a resort. They work for around \$8 per hour. Please contact Ron at 346-5352 or [rona@eot.com](mailto:rona@eot.com) or Mike at Rewind.

**Ottertail Canoe trip** Sunday June 7 at 2 p.m. Gus Ziegler will host a canoe trip on the Ottertail River beginning in Frazee and concluding at his place.

**Boundary Waters Canoe Trip.** Dave Knudsen has a good group this year but will take names for alternates yet.

**Fishing Trip.** A fall fishing trip to Canada is in the works with details still pending.

## Women's Ministry Happenings

**2009 Synod Convention** "Called From The Waters" Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Moorhead. We have been asked to host this event next year and encourage as many Calvary women as possible to attend in 2009 so we may better serve as hosts next year. Registration forms and information are at the church office. Book lodging as soon as possible; there is a soccer tourney in town that weekend. Registration deadline is June 1, 2009.

### Calvary Cut-Ups Quilters

We had a great year making 245 quilts with a total of 6,177 to date. This year we made 31 for Lutheran World Relief, 73 baby quilts, 25 lap robes, 38 bed throws, 30 single quilts, 21 double quilts, 20 queen size and 5 king size. They have been given to the Crisis Center, Food Shelf, Dialysis Center, Perham Nursing Home, New York Mills Elders Home, Frazee Care Center, Richville Closet, those baptized and graduates, Emergency Medical Services and Police, and a few for other functions and fund raisers.

### Thanks to these Cut-Ups Quilters

*Daria Anderson, Robertta Anderson, Estelle Arneson, Mavis Askew, Sally Awes, Mona Denker, Elaine Engen, Joyce Erickson, Ida Gimbel, Karen Hasskamp, Opal Hegle, Sonja Horner, Margot Jelleberg, Jan Johnson, Julie Kraabel, Joan Lange, Ruth Lange, Donna Larson, Donna Lindemann, Mary Medbery, Ruth Miller, Becky Mindemann, Shirley Moe, Clara Nelson, Dorothy Nordbeck, Carol Olson, Margaret Rose, Leona Rothiger (chairman), Denise Schellenberg (co-chair), Irene Seedorf, Darlene Wodrich.*

**The Fishermen** are a group of men from Calvary committed to growing the church through ministry to and through men through a variety of fellowship activities, social events, educational opportunities and service projects.

**Men's Breakfast.** The 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7AM Men's Breakfast meets for great food and a study of the upcoming Sunday's Scripture lessons.

**Questions about Men's Ministry?** Please contact Craig Swanson at 347-7926 or [swanson@arvig.net](mailto:swanson@arvig.net) or Rand Stolee at 346-3440 or [drat@eot.com](mailto:drat@eot.com).



### Bible Studies

**Charity Circle** Wednesday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room.

**Faith Circle** Wednesday, June 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the Matthias Room.

**Peace Circle** Wednesday, June 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room.

**Becoming A Woman Of Faith** Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Mary Room. Bring your children!

### Spring Salad Luncheon June 19

"Quilting: Piece Your Life Together With Peace" is the theme of this year's Calvary Ladies' Spring Luncheon June 19 at noon. Bring a salad or dessert and a guest is always welcome. Jenny and Echo of our Perham Quilts of Valor will be our key speakers. Quilts and quilted pieces will be displayed. If you have a piece to add to the display, please contact Vonnie Salness at 346-2806. We look forward to a colorful display of quilting talent from our Calvary ladies.

## Youth & Family

**Sunday, May 31.** Graduating high school seniors will be honored at a reception between services.

**Saturday, June 6.** Salvation Army Service Project. We leave Calvary at 9 a.m. Contact Rob to participate.

**Sunday, June 7.** Youth serve as Worship Helpers. Check date and worship time on the schedule. Questions? Contact Rob.

**June 7-10. Youth:** Remember helping with Vacation Bible School is a great way to fill your community service graduation requirement! Contact Tracy Bieger if you'd like to help with this fun event.

**June 25-26.** Pathways Lock In for National Gathering Kids at Camp Emmaus. We leave Calvary at 8 a.m. on June 25. Contact Rob for details.

**June 26 at noon.** Grades 7-12 meet at the church for lunch and head out for a fun tubing trip on the Ottertail! Contact Rob for details.

**Summer Camp** forms for Grade 2-12 at Luther Crest in Alexandria and Camp Joy in Dent are on the youth board in the fellowship hall. To offset the cost of camp, the women of Calvary give \$35 camperships and the church gives 25% of the total bill.

## Thank You

Mike's most recent tests showed he is cancer free. Your love and kindness made a most difficult health issue a little easier to bear. Thank you so very much for your thoughts and prayers over the last eight months.

God's Peace,  
*Mike & Liz Lange*

I would like to thank Calvary and Duane Lysne for building the wheelchair ramp so I can acolyte. It really made my day and made me feel a part of Calvary. I will have many more obstacles to overcome, and it's nice to know I have the Lord on my side.

Thanks again!  
*Melissa Barvels & family*

## NEW ELCA SEXUALITY STATEMENT

Our larger church is in the process of a conversation and a vote this summer at the Church-Wide Assembly. We began the process with votes at our Synod Assembly the weekend of May 16-17 in which the overall sexuality statement was strongly affirmed but the vote on the Recommendations on Ministry Policy was defeated by only 2 votes out of almost 500. Pastor Phil and Rob left the assembly early for Confirmation Sunday. How might their votes have changed the outcome?

Our next step is some educational events during June at Calvary. First are two Adult Forums on June 7 and 14 Sundays at 9:45AM. On June 7, Pastor Phil will present 5 options for the "Church and Homosexuality" and also look at scriptural texts, both specific and general, that support the different views. On June 14, also between services, we will look at the Proposed Social Statement and the Recommendation on Ministry Policy. Then, the next 2 weeks, June 21/24 and June 28/July 1, in a smaller venue in the Matthias Room, Pastor Phil will lead identical small group sessions on Sunday between services/Wednesday night at 7 PM to further examine and discuss the issues at more length, so everyone can be heard.

Our goal is that we have a reasonable and civil conversation that honors all points of view and thoroughly explores the issues. Also, that we know what the ELCA statement proposes and that we can pass on conclusions of our conversation to voting members of the Church Assembly in August.

You can access the full text of the Sexuality Social Statement and the Recommendation on Ministry Policy at the ELCA website <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/JTF-Human-Sexuality.aspx>.

The short story is that these proposed statements invite Lutheran Christians of sharply opposed positions to trust each other's bound consciences, and give permission to individual congregations and synods to allow clergy within committed same-gender relationships to serve in their congregation or synod. That would certainly not be pushed on congregations who do not discern that as a positive for them. We invite all of you to be part of this important conversation.

## Vacation Bible School June 7-10!



Vacation Bible School cannot happen without **you!** Join us for summer fun at "Son Rock Kids Camp." Signup forms are available at the church or you can sign up on the [Calvary web site](#). Kids don't have to be Calvary members to attend; invite your friends! Vacation Bible School dates this year are Sunday, June 7 through Wednesday, June 10, 5:30-8:00 p.m. each evening.

VBS volunteers are needed as teacher aides, arts and crafts, games and activities, decorating, and registration each evening 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Contact Tracy Bieger [tracy-bieger@calvaryperham.com](mailto:tracy-bieger@calvaryperham.com) or at 346-4780.

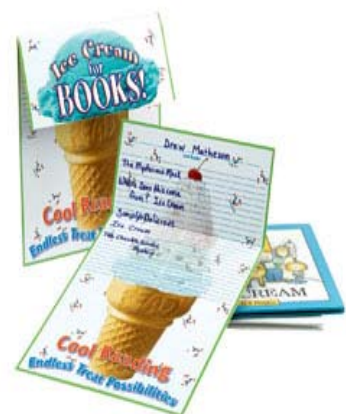
Youth: *Remember this is a great way to get community service hours for your graduation requirement!*

## Ice Cream for Books!



Coming in July and August: our first ever summer reading program for kids and adults!

Wonderful books--old and new--from Calvary's library, story hour on Thursdays, prizes, and a sundae party.



Watch for further details in the bulletins and next month's newsletter.

## Stephen Ministry

On Monday evening, May 11, 18 Stephen Ministers gathered in the Matthias Room for their regular meeting. Tara Giese of Lutheran Social Services in Moorhead was our guest and presented the respite care program of LSS in this region. There are brochures in the main church entrance about this program that you may review. Respite care offers the primary care giver a few hours of free time from the role of caring for their spouse.

## Support Groups

**Grief Support.** Join us at the New York Mills Elders Home Conference Room at 215 South Tousley Avenue the 4th Tuesday each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Lakeland Hospice & Home Care Bereavement Department at 888-820-7885 or 218-998-1400.

**Caregiver Support Group** being held the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 2:00 pm in Conference Rm #1 of the lower level of the Perham Memorial Hospital and Home. For further information call 346-2697. No cost, just come and enjoy coffee, conversation and share experiences. We meet to support and learn from each other.

## Relay for Life Breakfast June 21

The East Otter Tail Relay For Life celebrates its 15th year this July 10. Calvary's Relay for Life team invites you to "Treat Dad To Breakfast" on Father's Day, June 21. This is our major fundraiser so we ask your generous support. Luminaria and cookbooks are also now on sale from these team members: Ron and Dee Anderson, Marky Van de Streek, Vonnie Salness, Pat Shepard, Lisa Peterson, Estelle Arneson, Mary Ringsven, Mary Frendine, Bruce and Ann Ostern.

## Justice Journeys Work For Habitat

A Minnesota Paradise and a new home for a hard working family. The Justice Journeys Mission Team is sponsoring a Habitat For Humanity trip to Grand Rapids June 21-25. There are still more openings and we would love to have you join us! Cost will be for housing and some meals. Scholarships to help defray expenses may be applied for.



After the educational program, the Stephen Ministers gathered in their supervision groups to help each other identify what things are going well and what things may need to improve as they spend time with their care receivers.

**Parkinson's Support Group** being held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2:00 pm in Conference Rm #1 of the lower level of the Perham Memorial Hospital and Home. For further information call 346-2697. The meetings will provide information and group discussion about living with Parkinson's disease, one of the most common diseases of the nervous system.

Additional team members are welcome! Calvary's team sponsor is The Cactus.

For more information, contact Ron and Dee Anderson at 346-5352.

You can play a part in the battle against cancer!



Interested? Please contact Carla at 346-6486 or 218-841-1175.

More information about Itasca Habitat can be found at their web site: [www.itascahabitat.org](http://www.itascahabitat.org)

## Thank You

Praising the Lord! Our Multiple Sclerosis Walk Team "The Go-Getters" would like to **thank** the Calvary family for *Joining our Movement*. **You** contributed to the success of our team through prayers, by walking for us, and donating. Our team was once again the Largest at the Fergus Falls Walk with 30 walkers, collecting almost \$5,000, and I'm confident that we are one of the top teams in the running for the Family and Friends Award. **Wow!** Thank you!

Multiple Sclerosis Walk Team  
"The Go Getters"

From Second Harvest Heartland, thank you so much for providing us space to run the MAC/NAPS [food] distribution in April. Your willingness and flexibility really demonstrate your deep commitment to your community. Thank you again and I hope we have the opportunity to partner again under more planned circumstances.

Best Wishes  
Emily Seddon  
CSFP Site Coordinator

## Thrivent

A Thrivent Meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 7:00 pm at the church. The guest speaker is Craig Johnson, Landscape Architect; he will speak on tips for a "greener" yard and lakeshore. Question and answer after the presentation.

All Thrivent members are urged to attend.

Members are asked to bring a plate of bars, and coffee will be provided. Thrivent coordinators will have a short meeting at 6:30 pm.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund receipts for May to date through the 17th were \$25,814 or 71% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,454. There are two more Sundays remaining in the month.

Building Fund receipts for May to date through the 17th were \$3,922 or 67% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

Total offerings gives to date for the parking lot fundraiser are \$10,915.

Actual results for April for the General Fund, was a net favorable variance of \$190. Total receipts for the month were \$37,903 and expenses were \$37,713. The Building Fund receipts for the month were \$5,389, which were behind budget by \$443.

Year to Date through April, the General Fund has a net unfavorable variance of \$12,116 and the Building Fund is unfavorable by \$3,516.

Thank you for your continued support of Calvary's general and building funds.

### SIMPLY GIVING®

Simply Giving is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and make your offering through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account or credit card. For more information or to sign up, contact Shirley in the church office and she will be happy to help you.

## *Pops Music Series Events!*

**ALL STATE LUTHERAN CHOIR**  
Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Each year high school students all over the state audition for this wonderful 40-65 voice choir. In June, the choir assembles to participate in eight days of rehearsal, Bible study and discussion concerning the meaning of the texts they will be singing on the tour. Join us for inspiring music by these talented young people. Food and housing is also needed for choir members...please contact the church office at 346-4780 or [halo@eot.com](mailto:halo@eot.com) to help.

**BRETHREN GOSPEL QUARTET**  
Sunday, June 28, 2009 at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m

Brethren is a vocal quartet striving to offer hope and encouragement through songs of inspiration that reach the heart and proclaim the love of Jesus Christ. Formed in 1974 as a male quartet of Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, they sang for various college events, produced a recording and shared their faith through song in area churches. Reunited in 1990, they continue to travel, bringing the gospel message alive through song.

They will lead us in musical worship Sunday, June 28 at both services. Please join us!

## *Outdoor Worship Can't Happen Without You!*

As you know, outdoor worship begins June 7. And with the onset of outdoor worship comes a unique service opportunity!

The worship committee is seeking people to help with setup and take down for outdoor worship. For each Sunday, three to four people would be needed to set up chairs, stage, equipment, etc. and take it down after the service.

One important task is to haul the stage into the street, so we're looking for someone with a vehicle with a hitch on it in order to do this.

Outdoor worship has been popular and we would love to see it continue, so prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry! Want to learn more? Contact Kathy Cavanagh at 346-2708 or [kcavanagh@perham.k12.mn.us](mailto:kcavanagh@perham.k12.mn.us).



## *Worship Service Opportunity*

**Calling Men, Women, Couples, New Members, Families!**

Altar Guild is now being chaired by Karen Hasskamp and new members Cathy Nichols and Becky Mindemann (yes, it will take three of us to replace Sally Awes).

We are extending an invitation to men, couples, new members, and those looking for a new way to serve.

We have a special need for help from second service worshippers.

Please consider joining Altar Guild! We look forward to enrolling other new workers in "setting our table" for worship. Thank you.

Karen Hasskamp  
346-4787

Cathy Nichols  
346-7493  
[cathynichols@rocketmail.com](mailto:cathynichols@rocketmail.com)

Becky Mindemann  
901-355-7303  
[becky@mindemann.net](mailto:becky@mindemann.net)

## *A Confirmation Day Message*

Rob McNair, Youth Director

So for you students being confirmed this is our last gathering in confirmation. My last chance to teach you what little I know. So here it is, here's what I know: I feel bad for you guys. I really do. Most of you are around 15 years old, some of you may even be 16, and you are in this No-Mans-Land part of your life. Because you're not a kid anymore but at the same time you are not an adult either, so you are in this murky, gray area in between. I imagine there are some days when you wish you could be an adult and make all the decisions for yourself and not have to listen to your parents, and then I imagine there are even a few days when you wish you could go back in the other direction and be a kid again, so you didn't have to deal with some of the responsibilities and expectations that are being placed on you. You really are at a very difficult time in our life. Research shows that adolescence, the name we give to this murky, No-Mans-Land period of human development, is a critical make-or-break time, a time filled with stress and pressure. Surveys indicate that it's during these years that you will make some pretty big decisions, such as whether or not to use alcohol and drugs and whether or not to engage in sexual activity. I imagine your parents have expressed to you what they think about these decisions and you are left to wrestle with the million dollar question of adolescence: Am I going to do what my parents tell me to do?

I was reading my Bible recently and came across the life of David. What struck me this time was the loyalty that David had to King Saul, his father-in-law. I mean David is anointed by the prophet Samuel as king. Then David goes and kills Goliath with just a sling shot and all the people begin to praise David saying, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands." So the people recognize David and support him and are becoming increasingly loyal to him, to the point of elevating him above his father-in-law King Saul. Obviously this makes Saul jealous and he realizes David is a threat to his throne. So he begins to chase David all over the wilderness trying to kill him. And there is this one part where David is able to sneak up behind Saul undetected and is able to cut off a piece of his cloak without Saul knowing about it. And then David, from a distance, yells to Saul: "My lord the king! This very day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you into my hand in the cave; and some urged me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not raise my hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your cloak in my hand; for by the fact that I cut off the corner of your cloak, and did not kill you, you may know for certain that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you are hunting me to take my life" (1 Samuel 24:8-11).

And this happens a second time, where David is given another opportunity to get rid of his father-in-law, who is trying to kill him, and he doesn't. This time David sneaks into the camp at night and takes the spear that is lying right beside Saul as he sleeps. Now David has a friend with him and his friend encourages him to kill Saul, but David refuses and they sneak out. Then David does the same thing as before and from a distance shouts to Saul and tells him he could have killed him but didn't. David says yet again, "I will not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed." David refuses to overthrow Saul, even though everyone is encouraging him to,

even though all the people support him, even though the prophet Samuel anointed him king, even though Saul is a terribly flawed and imperfect leader. David refuses and remains loyal to his father-in-law King Saul.

So why doesn't David overthrow Saul? I mean nobody would blame him, he has more than enough reasons to protect himself and overthrow Saul. I think the answer is that David didn't believe it was for him to decide. David had faith that God would protect him and make him king when the time was right. And David wasn't going to let his own human ambitions or the encouragement of his peers get in the way, so he left it in God's hands and honored the fact that Saul was not only the king, but also his parent.

Now you students have two, maybe three years until you are an adult. When you turn 18 our society deems you an adult and you gain all the rights and responsibilities that come with that. But for the next two or three years, maybe even longer, I'd encourage you to stay loyal to your parents, even if they are imperfect and flawed like King Saul. Respect them and respect the fact that God anointed them to raise you, even when it seems they are trying to ruin your life. Or put another way, remember the fourth commandment: Honor your father and mother. Remember that this command was placed before all the other commands related to our human relationships. The first three commands are about our relationship with God: (1) Have no other gods before me; (2) Do not use the Lord's name in vain; and (3) Keep the Sabbath day holy. Then the fourth commandment: Honor your father and mother. This comes before the others like don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal or lie, and don't covet. I think there is a good reason God put this one before the others.

Now I know your parents are going to drive you nuts. They are going to want you to do things that you don't want to do. They're going to not want you to do things that you desperately want to do. But be patient like David. Wait for your time. Let God deal with it. The time will come when you will be in charge and make the decisions for yourself.

On Sunday, you will take a step toward that time, as you will make a decision for yourself that your parents made for you many years ago. Most of you were probably baptized when you were an infant, before you could speak for yourself. Caring for you and believing it was in your best interest, they decided to have you baptized. And when you were baptized, God claimed you as his own and you were sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ. Since that time your parents, your family, and the church have tried our best to teach you all we know about God, through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, First Communion, Confirmation classes, and all the other opportunities you participated in throughout the years. On Sunday, you get to affirm that decision your parents made long ago. You get to stand up and in your own voice say, "I do."

I do want to live among God's faithful people.

I do want to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.

I do want to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

I do want to serve all people, following the example of Jesus.

And I do want to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

You see the great paradox of confirmation is that no one confirms you. You actually confirm yourself. And when you do that you become a full standing member of our congregation, which means you have all the rights and responsibilities any other member has. You are invited to any church meetings. You will be able to participate in any congregational votes that take place. You could even run to be council president should you want to. It's important for you to know that after Sunday, in the eyes of the church, you will be considered an adult and your faith will rest in your own hands. So you can see that your confirmation is a pretty important step in your transition to becoming an adult. Perhaps not as cool as getting your driver's license, but nonetheless it is an important step in your faith journey. I hope and pray that you take it seriously and know that I am always here for you.

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## The Calvary Connection

**Calvary Lutheran Church exists to be an example of Christ's love through service to all people, helping everyone to learn and experience God's love in the struggle and triumphs of daily life.**

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ♦ 619 3RD AVE SW ♦ PERHAM MN 56573  
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## *Father's Day 2009*

A Houston newspaper asked readers to send in thoughts about their fathers. Letters flooded in, and what people wrote about their fathers is most inspiring. A few comments:

- Dad was always there for me. He sacrificed to make sure that we had what we needed.
- When disappointment came my way, Dad said, "Son, real life ain't about getting what you want but more about doing something with what you get."
- My dad was disabled, but he worked hard to make sure we children had a good education and lived moral lives. He would say, "I want you to succeed more than I did."
- My dad wanted us to be Christians and took us regularly to church.

**What would you write about your father?**