

Dear sisters & brothers in Christ at Calvary,

I'm writing this the day after the **Feed My Starving Children project**, and I am just overwhelmed with the response of the Perham community to the need of hunger, especially for children. You packed 435,000 meals and fed 1,194 children for one whole year. Every church and club and school participated.

And Calvary was magnificent, fielding 14 teams, and raising \$8200 very early in our project. That gave lots of momentum and helped others join in. Our youth, especially Miss Perham Karlie Miller were the ones who started the whole process. Mary Karkela organized the school's packing program, Ron Anderson did lots of the newspaper writing, Dan and Michelle Miller helped organize our Calvary teams, and Merrie Sue Holtan helped connect us to the TV stations and the Forum to get us such great news coverage. Many of you were also leaders in business teams, club teams, hospital and clinic teams, or teachers with your students. You young people were unbelievable in the exuberant way you packed food and must have set new records for speed of packing. And all of you were so generous with your time and money and were just so positive about the whole experience. All told, I think Calvary probably had 450-500 people packing and raised \$15,000 or more. Amazing. God must smile at your compassion for hungry children and your enthusiasm to respond to hunger with a dream of abundance and love. Thanks so much.

I think this may be another defining moment in which Perham has chosen to be a community of generosity, of solidarity with each other and even with sisters and brothers a world away. We don't intend to do a Feed My Starving Children Project again next year, but perhaps in two or three years we might do it again, with an even larger goal.

In the meantime, we can consider how to provide not only direct food relief for starving children, but two other ways to fight hunger.

The first is assisting in development projects in countries with great need. These are ways we not only provide fish, but teach people how to fish. This is helping drill clean water wells, assistance with agriculture, and all sorts of ways to help people grow their own food and raise their own standard of living.

The second is advocacy. How can we encourage policies that help poor people get what they need.

On Maundy Thursday we will take an offering for the ELCA Hunger Appeal, in which we take that next step in fighting hunger to do not only relief, but assist in development and advocacy.

As always, I consider it a calling from God and an honor to serve as your pastor.

Pastor Phil Holtan

Perham's Feed My Starving Children project photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/calvaryperham/FeedMyStarvingChildren>. You can also learn more about the World Hunger Appeal on page 7 of this issue of the Calvary Connection

Compassion, Community & Children Calvary Answers Christ's Call

Like many of you, last weekend I was privileged to spend two days working with the Feed My Starving Children program. Like you, I still have feelings of pride, excitement, and wonder. How could the simple act of packaging food for starving children be so inspiring? Why would so many people pay to come together on a weekend to work shoulder-to-shoulder to help people they will never see? Why did our students come back repeatedly to work extra shifts? Why would all these people, at the end of a packing shift, gather around the pallets of food to pray that this food will save and change many lives? Why am I so moved and mystified by this experience? The answer to these questions is that the faith community of Perham responded to the opportunity to live Christ's Great Commandment "...to love God with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves." This was our chance to imitate Jesus' life, who "...did not come to be served but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) By our actions, we lived the answer to Jesus' question "Who is my neighbor?"

I am amazed by the numbers we created over these two days. A project that started with a plan for 100,000 meals grew to a goal of 300,000 by February. In March we arrived at a new goal—one that we only dared dream about earlier: 400,000 meals. Since each 100,000 meals costs \$17,000, we needed to raise \$68,000. We are over \$70,000 now and the amount keeps growing. To do this we needed people: 58 teams, each with 20 people answering the call. Calvary alone provided 15 teams and some \$16,000. When the last group stopped packing at 4:00 on Saturday (they ran out of food to pack) 435,000 life-saving meals were loaded on trucks and soon were on their way down Highway 10, the first stage of a long trip to save young lives. On Friday, 1,400 kids of all ages from both public and private schools packed food; beginning Friday night and continuing into Saturday the rest of the community joined in. We counted 1,800 people representing all the churches of our community. That is a two-day total of 3,200 people!

Watching the reactions of the people as they listened to the tragic stories of unimaginable suffering of so many children and saw the DVD of the abject poverty they lived with, I saw many tears rolling down their cheeks and many eyes were tear-filled. I remembered our theme of compassion. It's more than "feeling sorry" for someone, it translates as "suffering with." It's a feeling that drove all who were there to alleviate suffering. For a moment, they suffered with these poor children. They followed Christ's example – what he felt before he fed the multitudes; what he felt before he raised Lazarus from the dead. Then the faith community of Perham went to work its miracles, too. One team on the last shift packed 29 boxes of food—an amount equal to 5,264 meals destined to make a real difference in an impoverished community. We all recall the parable of the rich man and the poor man. Another Lazarus camped outside the rich man's door, hoping for a few scraps. He died unnoticed. All of us who worked at the PACC are rich people, too. But we noticed the "Lazarus" who was there. And we did something about his poverty—and the world is a little better for our efforts. All of us can be proud of our children—what a wonderful example of service they set for us! What a very special, caring congregation Calvary has! What a special, compassionate community Perham is!

The following prayer is one I've used lately, written by Daniel Lee of Lutheran World Relief:

*Your light shall rise in the darkness and
Your gloom be like the noonday.
God of our morning and evening,
The rising light and the growing darkness*

Ron Anderson



Condolences

To the family and friends of:

Carl Seedorf, who passed away Monday, March 2. His funeral was held Friday, March 6 at Calvary. Carl is the husband of Irene Seedorf, father of Paul Seedorf, grandfather of Carter Clayton and Caylee Seedorf and brother of Leona Rothiger.

Arnie Lydeen, who passed away Sunday, March 15. His funeral was held Monday, March 23 at Calvary.

New Members

On April 26, we will receive new members at Calvary. We will have two preparation sessions Wednesdays April 15 and 22, 7 to 8:30 PM in the Matthias Room. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Phil and we will match you with sponsors and begin this process. You will find a wonderful "class" of new members with whom to begin your Calvary Journey.

Pictorial Directory

Photos will be taken the first two weeks in June, so mark your calendars! Sign up will be starting late April. If you are interested in helping out with sign up, please contact Tina Reed at 342-3027 or Jeana Nelson at 346-6429.

Calvary Cottages

Spring is here and cottages are already planning gatherings to reconnect after the long winter. The committee is also planning a gathering of leaders, hosts, contact persons and others who have been helpful in nurturing these neighborhood groups. We want to get feedback on your activities, learn what support you need and look at the future of the cottage ministry. This gathering will be planned for May so watch for more information in the May newsletter, weekly bulletin and online.

Lent and Holy Week 2009

Lenten Services this year have focused on the theme *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*, based on the very sing-able black spiritual by that name (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #325).

Our last Lenten worship on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. features speaker Mike Jordahl.

Come early for the wonderful Lenten dinner served at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall by the Youth. Proceeds of the supper will help offset the cost of the youth going to the National Gathering.

The last Lenten supper on *April 1 is a congregational potluck* so please bring a dish to pass and join us for great fellowship!

April 1—5:30 PM
Lenten Supper

April 1—6:30 PM
Lenten Worship
Speaker Mike Jordahl

April 9—1:30 & 6:30 PM
Maundy Thursday Worship
Speaker Colleen Szama
Holy Communion + World Hunger Offering

April 10—6:30 PM
Good Friday Service of Shadows

April 12—8:30 and 10:45 AM
Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion



Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Calvary Youth will host a pancake breakfast April 5 to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering.

A Musical Journey—Lent to Easter

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our precious Lord, Jesus Christ.

We begin this month with Hosannas that will quickly lead to the pain of the Cross where our Lord bled and died so that we may live with Him forever. Be at worship with us this Holy Week 2009. Walk with Jesus to the Cross and feel His pain and on Easter, rejoice in His empty tomb, giving us the promise of eternal life.

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School children will treat you to special music during worship.

Community Lenten Choir 27th Annual Cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5. This year's cantata is Joseph Martin's very moving *A Time For Alleluia: Seasons In The Life Of Christ*. You can hear it at 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in New York Mills or at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham. Come start your Holy Week reflecting on what Christ has given us.

Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Special Music. If you are interested in sharing special music on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, please let me know.

On Easter the **Senior Choir** will give you a wonderful musical message from the pen of Natalie Sleeth, *Christ Is Arisen, Indeed!*

In His Service
Russ Bunker—The Music Man

CHOIR CORNER

Carol and Youth Choirs will sing again April 19.

Senior Choir will sing a very touching selection called *God Is There* on April 26.

CONTEMPORARY PRAISE TEAM

It is great to see our Contemporary Team so strong. We welcome you to join us! During Lent we meet at 5:15 p.m. and after that practices will go back to their normal 5:45 p.m. time.

ENSEMBLES

Sweet Assurance will resume practice April 15 after taking a break during Lent.

Friends In Faith continues to be active and will sing another fun gospel song soon!

WEDNESDAY MUSIC MINISTRY

3:30pm Carol Choir..... All Month
4:30pm Youth Choir..... All Month
5:15pm Praise Team April 1
5:45pm Praise Team April 8-29
5:30pm Sweet Assurance..... April 15-29
7:00pm Senior Choir..... April 8-29
7:30pm Senior Choir..... April 1
8:15pm Jonah & The Waiters April 8-29

Men's Ministry News

The Fishermen are committed to growing the church through ministry to and through men. 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. Please call Craig Swanson at 347-7926 or call Rand Stolee at 346-3440 for more information.

Recent Ministry Projects. We moved the organ speakers/video screen, worked on the balcony area, made a ramp so wheelchairs can access the altar, and made plans for chair lift access to The Loft.

Take Stock In Our Youth!

Once again, Calvary's youth are inviting you to take stock in the Calvary Lutheran Youth Program. Your support each and every year is so greatly appreciated! Our Youth Stock Program is our primary fundraiser for the year. This fundraiser will provide opportunities for youth that, without you, may not be possible.

The funds from shares in our youth program are used primarily for major events such as the ELCA National Youth Gathering, servant trips, and Synod youth gatherings. It is also used for scholarship money for youth who may want to participate in our events but lack the funds at the time.

Women's Ministry Happenings

Quilting. The Cut-Ups Quilters are quilting Thursdays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We meet each week through April 2. Bring a snack for coffee. Come enjoy some great fellowship! Questions? Call Leona at 346-6633.

Cluster 9 Spring Gathering. Join us for the Cluster 9 Spring Gathering "Bloom Where You Are Planted," to be held at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sebeka Monday, April 20. Registration begins at 4 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by entertainment at 7 p.m. by the quartet "The Chromatic Fore." Registration deadline is April 13. Cost is \$8. Please contact the church office or Circle Chair for more information.

Get Involved! Prayerfully consider becoming involved in one of our women's ministries such as co-chairing the Altar Guild or an event or becoming one of our Calvary women officers. Women's Ministry is for all the women of Calvary...be a part of it!

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip. David Knudsen will take names for a backup list if anyone is interested. Trip is planned for Aug 1-5. Please contact Dave Knudsen at 346-6936 with any questions.

Drivers Needed. The people at Rewind need a ride to a doctor, church or other location occasionally. Ron Anderson has met this need a few times but would like to develop a call list of men who may be able and willing to drive these people. You can give Ron Anderson a call at 346-5352 or email rona@eot.com.

Stocks can be purchased for \$15 per share. Each stockholder receives a certificate indicating they are a shareholder. Rights and privileges include: Praying for, encouraging and supporting the Calvary Youth. Stockholders are also invited to attend the exclusive Shareholders' Banquet which will take place in August. This event provides the youth an important opportunity to report back about the exciting, faith-building experiences that you helped support.

As a member of Calvary you will receive a phone call April 6 or April 7 from one of our youth group members asking, "How many shares would you like?" Please pray about your answer. Thank you for caring enough to take stock in Calvary's youth!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Java Jams meets Mondays at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Room.

Charity Circle meets Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room. Bible study leader is Opal Hegle and hostess is Margot Jelleberg.

Faith Circle meets Wednesday, April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Matthias Room. Bible study leader is Alta Mandt and hostess is Verona Bellach.

Peace Circle meets Wednesday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room. Bible study leader is Terri Olson and hostess is Eileen Tolkinen.

Becoming A Woman Of Faith meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall near the Nursery so feel free to bring your children!



Youth & Family

Youth serve as Worship Helpers April 1. Check the date and worship time on the schedule or contact Rob if you have questions.

Salvation Army Service Project Saturday, April 4. We leave Calvary at 9 a.m. Contact Rob to participate.

Butterbraid order delivery April 5. Proceeds benefit students attending the National Gathering in New Orleans this July.

Special Program! Featuring Nathan & Connie Backstrom Sunday, April 5 at 2pm at First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake. The Backstroms will relate the tragic loss of three of their sons in a terrible crash caused by a drunk driver. Everyone welcome; teens encouraged to attend. A free will offering will be taken. Our youth will leave Calvary for this event at about 1:15 p.m. after having lunch in the fellowship hall following the second service. Join us!

Synod Youth Gathering. The Northwestern Minnesota Synod Sr. High Gathering is April 17-19 at Cragun's. The cost is \$200. Calvary will cover the \$80 registration fee for any student not attending New Orleans. Students going to New Orleans need to cover the entire cost of this event since you will be receiving financial assistance for New Orleans. Sign up sheets are on the Youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please show interest soon; if not enough register, it may be canceled.

Scholarships for graduating seniors are available from WELCA. Students must be graduating with a C average or better and plan to attend an ELCA college. Applications are on the youth board. Deadline is May 1.

Summer Camp 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.



The Library



The purpose of the Calvary Library is to encourage and support members in their walk of faith, by providing informational, inspirational and fictional materials, in print and in non-print formats, which have a Christian focus and ethic. Books can be checked out for three weeks, audiovisual materials for one week. There is a slot in the fellowship hall for easy return of materials.

New! Library Catalog. There is now a Library Catalog to assist you in locating library material. It is in three sections: Title, Author, and Subject. We hope that you will find it user friendly and we welcome your comments or questions.

Read a good book? Please share it with other Calvary readers. The Library Committee is inviting you to write a brief review of the book so we can include it in the green binder in the library marked Book Reviews. Pink book review forms are available in the library to help you write your review but feel free to write in your own style. Check out the reviews other famous Calvary readers have written! Be sure to include your name and author of the book you are reviewing.

The Library Committee. This meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a meeting/work time. Twice a year this is changed to a 5:30 p.m. meeting. Members enter data in the computer, prepare new books for circulation, and display and shelve books.

Study Opportunities for Adults



Runners! Training for the Fargo Marathon? Running for enjoyment? Brent and Sara Hanson will be leading running devotions again this year. All skill levels welcome, short and long runs. Devotions held Saturdays at 9 a.m. through May 2.

Monday Noon Bible Study.

This study led by Pastor Phil will resume April 20 with the book of Ephesians. Bring a lunch and join us!

Fireproof Your Marriage. Couples study led by Rob McNair and Tracy Bieger are held Sunday evenings in the Matthias Room. This is a six-session study based on the movie "Fireproof." Come at 4 p.m. for the study followed by a potluck meal.

New NRSV Lutheran Study Bible from Augsburg Fortress invites readers to experience the Bible through solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and opportunities for faith reflection. Reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging, this is the perfect study Bible for both youth and adults who want to encounter Scripture in a fresh and new way! Copies available for purchase in the office.

Walking With Jesus six-week study meets Sundays between services starting April 5 (not Easter Sunday). **Learn more below—>**

Walking With Jesus DOWN THE GREEN PATH OF STEWARDSHIP

Facilitator: Craig Johnson

Introduction. Ottertail County is a small, beautiful, diverse and fragile part of creation. This special landscape is one reason why many members of Calvary have lived here all their lives, why others have returned home, and why some like Judy and I have decided to retire here. We are all blessed to live in this treasured place. And all are called by God to be stewards of this gift and the rest of creation. Stewardship is a Biblical calling full of challenges and opportunities. This class offers a time to read, study, discuss and seek God's guidance about becoming better stewards of His creation. It is also an opportunity to find ways we can act on behalf of creation, to leave for our children and grandchildren and future generations of Ottertail County residents a healthier landscape than the one we inherited.

THIS BIBLE STUDY WILL:

- Explore the complexity, resilience and beauty of creation
- Describe how we humans have and continue to degrade creation
- Rediscover the Bible's call to stewardship
- Investigate theological perspectives on creation and stewardship
- Discuss how we might become active stewards at many different scales
- Discuss personal and cultural obstacles that can impede our walk with Jesus down the stewardship path

Text: *Earth-Wise: A Biblical response to environmental issues.* Calvin Dewitt, 2005, 2nd Edition, Faith Alive, Grand Rapids, Michigan

CLASS FORMAT

Readings. Each week we will read and discuss a chapter from *Earth-Wise*, (usually about 12 pages of easy reading per week). Also there are suggested Bible readings at the end of each chapter that you will want to read.

Discussion is the most important part of the class. The readings will provide the biblical and scientific context in which to share our personal stewardship experiences, discuss environmental issues of interest to the class and explore solutions.

Calvary Kids Growing in Faith



Palm Sunday. April 5 at the 10:45 a.m. service, Calvary's Grade P3-G4 kids will sing and wave palms. There will also be a fun Easter Egg Hunt!

Easter Sunday. There will be no Sunday School classes.

Grade 1-6 Sunday School students will be tested on memory work April 19 and April 26. If you have questions, contact your child's Sunday School teacher or Tracy Bieger.

Vacation Bible School is just 10 weeks away. Many volunteer opportunities await you! Contact Tracy Bieger if you'd like to help with this fun event. You call Tracy at the church office at 346-4780 or email tracybieger@calvaryperham.com.

The Daniel Fast

Recently on the Book of Faith website I posted this scripture from Deuteronomy 9:18 that I had read, "Then I lay prostrate before the Lord as before, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water..."

This is where Moses has come down from the mountain with the stone tablets and smashes them because he is so upset with his people who are dancing around and worshipping the golden calf. So Moses, in order to quell the anger of the Lord, lies face down before God for forty days and forty nights without sustenance or nourishment. Now you could probably argue for quite a while about whether or not this story is literally true. Did Moses really go that long without food or water? But I think focusing on the physical truth of that story would distract us from the spiritual truth. The spiritual truth is that Moses engaged in physical sacrifices to show his dedication to the Lord. That kind of got me thinking: what kind of physical and spiritual practices should we be engaged in to show our dedication to God?

As I pondered that question over the next few days, I received an e-mail from a friend in the cities telling me about this fast called the "Daniel Fast" that he and his wife were going to do as part of Lent. My immediate reaction was not favorable as I have never been partial to fasting. I tend to get extremely irritable when I am hungry, which my wife and kids can attest to. Hayley often concludes arguments with, "You should go get something to eat!" and one time after sending my daughter to her room I overheard her say to her sister, "Watch out. Dad's hungry." His e-mail included a link to a website and so I thought I would at least check it out. Here is what I learned from the website (www.daniel-fast.com):

The Daniel Fast is a biblically based partial fast. It is a method of fasting that people from all over the world are using as they enter into the spiritual discipline of prayer and fasting. There are two anchoring scriptures for the Daniel Fast. In Daniel 1 the Prophet ate only vegetables (that would have included fruits) and drank only water. So from these scriptures we get two of the guidelines for the fast: (1) Only fruits and vegetables; and (2) Only water for a beverage. Then in Daniel 10 we read that the Prophet ate no meat nor any precious breads or foods and he drank no wine for 21 days. So from this scripture, we get a third guideline: (3) No sweeteners and no breads. Another important guideline is drawn from Jewish fasting principles, where no leaven is used during the fast. So that's why yeast, baking powder and the like are not allowed on the Daniel Fast. Finally, with all the above puzzle pieces, we conclude that no artificial or processed foods nor any chemicals are allowed on the Daniel Fast.

Caregiving Retreat: Putting The Pieces Together

Are you a primary caregiver? We hope you'll join us on Thursday, April 23 for a special retreat, just for primary caregivers, called Putting The Pieces Together. It will be held at Emmanuel Community's Forest Conference Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. To register, please email Mary Ringsven at mk2rings@arvig.net or call 800-939-3046.



As I write this article I am on my third day of the Daniel fast and have persevered through two days with a headache as my body withdraws from caffeine! What I have found interesting is how time consuming this diet is. It is quite a bit of work figuring out and preparing what I can eat. I spent close to two hours the other night trying to perfect making unleavened bread! My family is also embracing this endeavor and making lunch for my girls is difficult to say the least. I expect a call from social services any day now as the school staff must think Hayley and I are out of our minds as they look at what the girls bring for lunch. Today it was popcorn, pickles, edamame (soybeans), an apple, a banana, carrots, and celery sticks. (They refuse to eat my unleavened bread.) But going beyond some of these minor hassles, the Daniel Fast has made my family stop and think about what we put in our bodies. We have to think about what we are going to eat and take the time to prepare it. It has made us slow down and not be so rushed to just shove anything handy and accessible into our mouths. It has also made the kitchen and the dinner table the center of our house as we rediscover and learn about all the foods God has created to sustain and nourish us.

In that spirit I invite you and your family to participate in this fast for 10 days from Thursday, April 2 through Saturday, April 11 (ending on Easter Sunday, April 12). Obviously, you need to take into consideration any unique medical and/or nutritional needs in your family. For example, Hayley and I decided not to eliminate milk from our girl's diet as it is the best source of calcium for their growing bodies. I encourage your families to determine for yourselves what is appropriate and reasonable and give this ancient practice of fasting a try. If not for 10 days, consider doing it for perhaps even a day or two. The hope is that through physical sacrifice we can learn and grow spiritually in our relationship with God.

To help you start this fast, on Wednesday, April 1 (the day before the fast begins) I invite you to stick around after the Lenten Worship and I will teach you how to make hummus and unleavened bread in the church kitchen. Hummus is a Middle Eastern dip made with garbanzo beans (chickpeas) and tahini (crushed sesame seeds). **If you plan to attend, please call and let me know so I can have the necessary ingredients available.**

In addition, so that you do not feel left out during the pancake breakfast the youth are hosting on Palm Sunday, April 5, I will prepare an appropriate alternative breakfast for those people engaging in this fast. **Again, please contact me should you plan to take advantage of this so I can make the necessary proportions.**

Additional information can be found at: <http://danielfast.wordpress.com>

Rob McNair



Seating is limited, and registration closes April 16. Respite care will also be offered free of charge (if registered by April 16) through either Emmanuel Community on site day services at 218-844-9445 or through Home Instead Senior Care in home services at 866-521-8093. Questions? Contact Joy Crouch of Hospice of the Red River Valley by phone at 218-844-1716.

News from Calvary's Stephen Ministry



The Potential of Stephen Ministry In Our Congregation

Stephen Ministry multiplies the number of caregivers by equipping and mobilizing lay people to provide high-quality Christian care. Stephen Ministry strengthens the ministry of pastors. Typically the needs for care far exceed what pastors can provide. Stephen Ministers help meet those needs, freeing pastors to focus on areas of ministry where they are most needed. Hurting people receive quality Christian care, deepen their relationships with their Lord, and feel supported rather than forgotten. Those with gifts for caregiving nurture and use their gifts in ministry and grow in faith as they see God working through them to touch the lives of others. Congregations have a powerful tool for bringing Christ's love to the inactive and unchurched during times of great need. Stephen Ministry congregations become warmer, more loving communities as more people are equipped to care and more lives are touched by Christ's love.

April 13 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of Stephen Ministers will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 13. The meeting will include in-service training as well as regular small group supervision.

Reg Hansen, Coordinator of Stephen Ministry, will report on his experience at the Leadership Training Course he attended in January at Orlando, Florida.

He will also identify and discuss the priority goals for Stephen Ministry at Calvary in 2009 and 2010.

Justice Journeys Work For Habitat



A slight speed bump in our journey--or at least, redirection.

Late in June, a group of "Construction Engineers" will set out from Calvary Lutheran to the Grand Rapids area to work with Habitat for Humanity. Willmar, unfortunately, does not have the work for us this summer. We are very anxious to work with a new group and may be working on a Thrivent Build in Deer River; if not, there are other projects with the Itasca Habitat for Humanity that will require our attention.

No experience is necessary, the mission dates are June 21-25 and is designed for 10 adults; youth 16-17 may attend with a parent.

Cost will be for housing (in the process of being procured) and some meals. This trip is sponsored by the Justice Journeys Mission Team, scholarships to help defray expenses may be applied for.

Interested? Please contact Carla at 346-6486 or 218-841-1175. More information about Itasca Habitat can be found on their web site at www.itascahabitat.org

Needed: RN to become a



According to Judy Peterson and Mary Ringsven, Parish Nursing is one of the most rewarding nursing specialties they have experienced. The week of parish nurse training at Concordia was renewing and uplifting. The opportunity to combine nursing practice and faith practice is wonderful. Becoming a parish nurse is all about a Call to Share Jesus and Help Others. Judy Peterson has moved to Idaho to be with family and Mary Ringsven is considering not renewing her RN license.

Our Parish Health Ministry needs another nurse to receive the Call to serve in this rewarding nursing specialty.

The course requires that you are an RN currently licensed in MN. Concordia College in Moorhead is offering a Parish Nurse Preparation Course May 18-22, 2009 at Concordia in Moorhead.

Concordia also offers the course every February at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and alternates between Rochester and Duluth every October. The registration deadline for this session is May 8, 2009. You will receive 37 contact hours for license renewal. A scholarship to pay for the course was approved in Calvary's 2009 budget.

Please prayerfully consider this Call and discuss this opportunity with Pastor Holtan.

MS-WALK

Once again our MS Self-Help Group is gearing up for our annual MS-Walk. It will be held in Fergus Falls at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College May 3 from noon until 2 p.m. Multiple Sclerosis stops people from moving. Consider a pledge to end multiple sclerosis and support me and our local team the "Go-Getters." Or, why not join me on the day of the event? Become a participant and side by side, we will move together to raise the funds that make a difference. No donation is too small, and keeping us in your prayers is a gift in itself. Join The Movement and help our team make a powerful statement, to keep us moving towards a cure, to give us hope, and to directly help people impacted by multiple sclerosis. For information contact Colleen Sazama at 758-2502.

I greatly appreciate all you do, and would like to say "Thank You, Calvary" for your help, support and prayers.

Colleen Sazama

Financial Report

General Fund receipts for March to date through the 15th were \$21,730 or 60% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,454. There are two more Sundays remaining in the month.

Building Fund receipts for March to date through the 15th were \$3,549 or 61% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

Actual results for February for the **General Fund**, was a net unfavorable variance of \$3,303. Total receipts for the month were \$30,273 and expenses were \$33,576.

The **Building Fund** receipts for the month were \$4,263, which was below budget by \$1,569. Year to Date through February, the General Fund has a net unfavorable variance of \$7,310 and the Building Fund is unfavorable by \$3,147.

Although unfavorable, these variances are better than last year by \$2,341 and \$415 respectively for the General Fund and Building Fund.

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

Hunger Appeal

April 9 Maundy Thursday
Offering to support ELCA
Hunger Appeal.

At our two Maundy Thursday services, at 1:30 and 6:30, we will have an offering to support our ELCA Hunger Appeal.

Just twice a year we take our regular offerings and direct them to a particular ministry outside our congregation. This offering will support the work of our Hunger Appeal, an amazing program that directs money and resources to projects throughout the world.

This is for programs of immediate need, like disaster response or emergency help, and also longer term support for development projects that will have lasting effect on people's ability to support themselves.



You can find out more at the following website:

<http://www.elca.org/our-faith-in-action/responding-to-the-world/elca-world-hunger.aspx>

or we will have information and a link on our website at calvaryperham.com.

Calvary Multimedia Ministry Update

Projection Screen and Balcony Technical Console nearly complete

Thanks to a number of people who are helping with the projection screen and new console in the balcony. Jim Nordbeck, Bob Horner and Erv Tolkinen did the carpentry and cabinet work, Duane Lysne the finishing work, Darrel and Mark Huber the electrical work and Mitch Groethe and Mark Goers are working on the electronic wiring. Our custodians Larry Hunt, Dave Ferguson and Eldon Bergman have helped with many parts of the project.

The projection screen on the front wall is done except for a little painting. The projector is purchased and installed. Within the next few weeks we will have moved the sound board control to the new board, as well as the video projection control and video broadcast. That will allow two people to work at the sound board, better ability to hear the service, new capabilities for a better video broadcast and soon, the opportunity to hear and see the worship service from a link on our website.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the project.

Mitch Groethe, our new sound and video technician, has already greatly improved our worship sound and video quality and will make lots of other improvements as we use the new space and equipment. Our goal is to make our outreach into the community through our radio and TV broadcast even more effective.



Video Projection in the Worship Service

Thanks especially to Rand Stolee for his work on video projection for the two worship services. He puts lots of time, skill and creativity into the presentation and we really appreciate it.

We are still experimenting with the right level of projection for each service. If you have comments or suggestions, please direct them to Pastor Phil or Rand Stolee.

We also invite others who would like to help with our video projection to speak to us and join Rand in this wonderful service to our congregation.

Tree Planting Project for Calvary's Jubilee

As part of the Jubilee celebration of our first 50 years at Calvary, we will plant some trees and shrubs this Spring.

Craig Johnson, a new member of our congregation who is a landscape architect, along with Wayne and Bobbi Sachs and other tree-savvy members of our congregation have helped plan a project to plant trees and shrubs on the West and South sides of the church and on the East and South sides of the parking lot.

They will beautify the church, give much-needed shade for our outdoor services and concerts and provide shelter from wind and hot sun that will save us energy dollars to heat our church.

You may remember that we voted at the annual meeting to proceed with this project.

To pay for the trees and shrubs, we invite you to honor or memorialize loved ones by paying for a tree or shrub in their honor. When the project is complete, we will print their names on a framed commemorative board to hang in the west entry of Calvary, facing the trees and plantings.

We are still determining whether we need to add some watering equipment, but otherwise, we have a very good plan.

There will be a poster in the Narthex in the next weeks that will show which trees we intend to plant and where and invite you to participate.

As people choose to sponsor individual trees or shrubs, we will mark off which are already sponsored, so you can see which remain.



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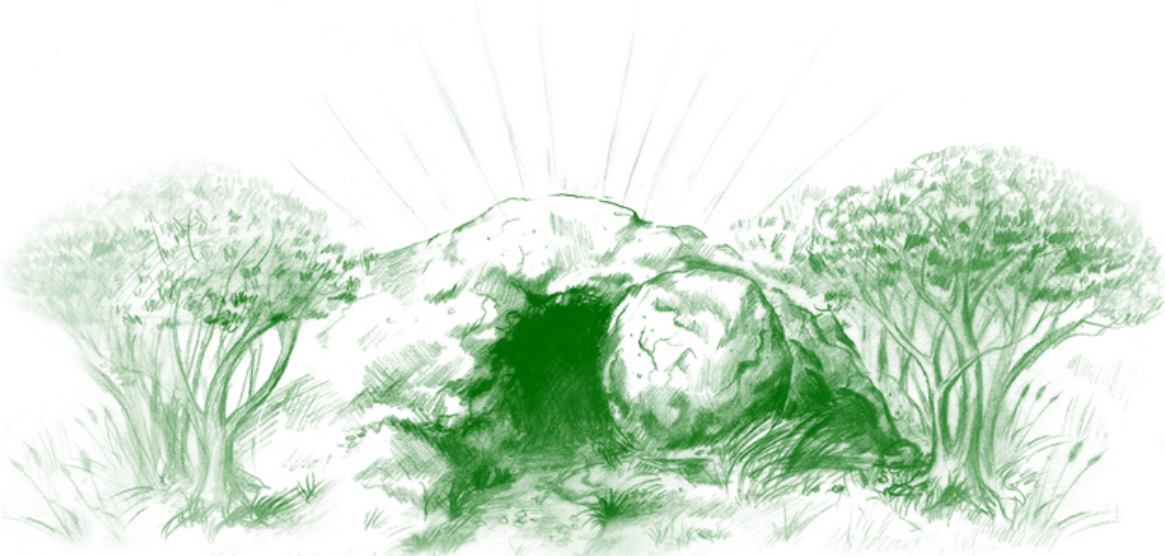
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Calvary Lutheran Church exists to be an example of Christ's love through service to all people, helping everyone to learn and experience God's love in the struggle and triumphs of daily life.

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He Is Risen! Alleluia!