

Vacation Bible School: Son Rock Kids Camp Rocks!

High above the cluttered schedules and ringing cell phones of ordinary life is SonRock Kids Camp held the second week in June - an adventure camp like no other! As SonRock campers, 88 children learned how their lives can be transformed by God's great love for them: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! (1 John 3:1) Nothing challenges a person to examine his or her identity quite like an adventure in God's great outdoors or inside Calvary's church. Calvary was transformed into an adventure site: A pristine forest to explore.

Campers built bonds of friendship with each other and with caring leaders as they discovered that their true identities are not formed by where they go, what they can do or what others think. Like the apostle Peter, they explored who they are in Jesus Christ - the most important relationship of all. Because of His love for us, He is the rock upon which we can build our lives!

Day 1: Accepted by Jesus/Protected by Jesus
 Day 2: Saved by Jesus
 Day 3: Forgiven by Jesus
 Day 4: Living for Jesus

Our final night concluded with a very nice night for the families to participate with a campfire and making of s'mores.

Awesome music led by Erin Anderson and presented to the congregation the following Sunday and arts and crafts led by Carrie Roble, games led by Linda & Nicole Barvels and ate terrific prepared meals by Sally Roe, Laura Neitzke, Liz Swanson, Hayley McNair, and Tina Reed. Rotations of the events and lessons by our awesome volunteer teachers Shirley Kalina, Lynn Lueders, Trica Johnson, Deanna Kovash, Jennifer Ditterich, Mike Jordahl, Lisa Peterson, Melody Scott and Rob McNair.

A huge 'Thank You' goes out to Dean's Country Market, Service Food and Barrel O'Fun each donated food items for the meals.

Julie Baumgart, Education Chair



I spoke with a number of kids and helpers on the last night of VBS, and asked "What was your favorite part of VBS this year?" Here's some of the responses:

- Tristan Groff: "I can't pick just one thing, it was all good."
- Mirta Vorderbruggen: "I just really like playing outside."
- Leighton Rach: "The games!"
- Maya Roe: "Games...yeah, definitely games."
- Meghan Reed: "Crafts and games."
- Oakley McNair: "I don't know, it was all so good!"
- Soren Anderson: "Singing" (Is he a little biased?)
- Eli Roe: "The bonfire, and chasing girls!"
- Emily Peterson: "All of it...especially the kids!"
- Shiloh Henderson: "The singing."
- Isaac Honer: "Just being outside and playing."
- Brett Lueders: "Crafts."
- Jonah Bieger: "Toasting marshmallows and making s'mores."

Audrey Swanson: "I have a marshmallow in my mouth, but my favorite thing was crafts."

Nicole Barvels: "Well, the games of course, because I helped with them, and I had a LOT of fun doing it!"

Shelby Jordahl: "Everything! I LOVED the singing, and my teacher was the best!" (FYI, her dad was not her teacher!)

Kanyon Edvall: "This campfire and the waterfight." (Those kids were soaked...)

Now I know none of them mentioned their Bible lesson was the favorite part, but I know they all had great teacher's, and great lessons. As for me, I have to admit, my favorite part was also the singing! Thanks to everyone who helped out for a successful VBS, and God bless you during the rest of your summer!

Tracy Bieger, Education Coordinator

LIFE EVENTS

Congratulations to Mary Tufton and Tyler Richter who were married at Calvary Saturday, June 6. Pastor Peter Satren officiated.

Congratulations to Emma Hoglund and Moneer Rifai who were married Saturday, June 6 at Yunker Farm Park in Fargo, Pastor Holtan officiating.

Congratulations to Christina Rethemeier and Luke Schmitz who were married Saturday, June 20 at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham.

Vernal and Janet Olson have transferred to Messiah Lutheran Church in Hoffman, Minnesota.

NEW MEMBERS

On July 19, Calvary will receive new members. We will have two preparation sessions Wednesdays July 8 and 15, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Matthias Room. 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 DIRECTORIES

If you would like to purchase any additional pictorial directories (you will get 1 if you had your picture taken) email Tina Reed at jltreed@arvig.net or 342-3027 with the quantity by July 10. They are \$10 each. Please put money in an envelope marked pictorial directory with your name on it in the offering plate or pay Shirley in the office by July 10.

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.

From the Pastor: "Live Happily Ever After"

We are in the middle of wedding season at Calvary, with 11 weddings on the schedule, some in our sanctuary and others at homes or parks or other places. It's a big job for us, but exciting and worthwhile too. We thank Carla Gauwitz for her great work as our wedding coordinator.

I wanted to share a couple of things that I often share with couples preparing for marriage, but it's good advice for all of us, I believe. Since about 1000 AD and the publication of the first courtly romances and fairy tales, there has been a dominant and romantic myth that has been the foundation of nearly every book and novel written. The myth says that the secret to life-long love is finding the one, right person. Therefore, the great stories are of heroes who go on adventurous quests to find that one true love. Once they find them and marry them, the challenge is over and "they live happily ever after." The myth says that what matters is finding that one person in the world who is right for me and the rest of marriage is easy.

That's a lie. It is good when couples have a good fit, but the hard work of making a marriage only *begins* with the wedding. Our Christian faith says that we are sinners, and that we will be sinners our whole life long. Therefore, in our marriage too, it is a constant challenge to live in love and forgiveness, giving up our own sinful need to be #1 in order to love our spouse, children, neighbors and even strangers. That takes the support of the church, our spouse, friends, and most of all, God.

Every couple I have ever married, hundreds of them, have "bought into" that romantic myth and far underestimated the challenges that would face them in their marriage. They believed that with the intensity of their love, they would just "live happily every after." I hate to tell them it will not be so, but I am happy to tell them that God will provide for them what they need to live a full and happy life together, that will benefit them as a couple, their family and our world. I invite them and you to dig deep into God's resources for a good marriage. Summer might be a good time for you to do a tune-up of your marriage. Our library has some good books on the subject, like "Fireproof," in the section of #306 and up. You might try a Marriage Encounter Weekend, info at <http://www.wvme.org/> or just do some talking with each other or a counselor. Your investment of time and energy will equal a dividend of love. Blessing to you and your relationship.

Pastor Phil

Upcoming Events at Calvary

JULY 5 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your animals for a blessing at the outdoor worship service. All kinds of animals, big and small are welcome...let's celebrate and give thanks for our friends in the animal kingdom.

We encourage those who are able to bring larger animals such as livestock, horses, etc.

Contact Pastor Phil if you'd like to participate with a larger animal.

JULY 9 ICE CREAM SOCIAL & SONGFEST

Bring the whole family for a fun-filled afternoon starting at 3:00! The Songfest features music groups from area churches performing from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Barbecue plates, pies, ice cream and beverages will be available for purchase from 3 to 7 p.m.

Here's a great opportunity to serve and have fun at the same time! We encourage men, women, youth, and families to help with the Ice Cream Social. There will be a sign up board in the narthex with times and places designated to work listed. Thanks for your part in making the Ice Cream Social a success.



A reminder from our Church Council

Our Church Council meets monthly the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of July. Unapproved and unofficial Council minutes will be available by the end of work on Monday the following week. Visit www.calvaryperham.com; click the About Us tab, then Council or ask the church office for a copy.

Women's Ministry Happenings at Calvary

SWO CONVENTION REPORT

It was my privilege to be the delegate for the 22nd Annual Convention NW MN Synodical Women's organization. I thank WELCA for sending me. Bev Tougas and Dee Anderson also attended as non-delegates. It was held in Moorhead at the new Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Nearly 190 women participated in an inspirational time of worship, entertainment and fellowship around the theme "Called From the Waters."

The opening ceremony was at 5:00 on Friday, June 12. After a brief opening we were entertained by nine women of "Heart of Worship" of the Red Lake Falls area with outstanding music; they come from all walks of life and truly enjoy singing for the Lord. The business session began after the entertainment. Guests and SWO Board members and committees were introduced. During this session Elaine Scheer, Hawley, was elected as President and Georjean Johnson, Wadena, as Treasurer. Elected to two year positions on the board were Rhonda Hadedank, Twin Valley; Arlene Teigen, Moorhead; and Rachel Ronnevik, Rothsay. Mission Action Projects such as Quilts, Health Kits, School Kits, Prayer Shawls etc. totals were up from last year. There were 30 High School Scholarships awarded. Three young women were given scholarships to attend the convention. These are things that are available to our young people every year. We should take advantage of them.

Saturday morning started at 9:00 with Worship and Holy Communion. Bishop Larry Wohlrabe preached at the service. After the service the keynote speaker was Ruth Werner who spoke on "Escape from the Red Army", her first hand experience as a child during the end of World War II. We did purchase her book for our Church Library, so look for it coming soon. Pastor Dan Megorden of Good Shepherd led the afternoon Bible Study: Mark 1:4-11. The day ended with the inspirational speaker, Sharon Ness who spoke on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

We were interested to see how things were organized for the convention as our Church will be the site for the 23rd Annual Convention June 2010. Be prepared to take part in helping make it a successful time at Calvary.

Thank you again for allowing me to be our delegate.

Net Kupferschmid

Men's Ministry Happenings at Calvary

Redhawks Game August 6 at 7 p.m. There will be sign up sheets in the sign up area on July 5, 12 and 19. Cost is \$8.25 per ticket and we need the money by July 19 at the latest. We won't be taking a bus as some would have liked because there are too many that just want to drive. Questions? Contact Duane Lysne at ddllysne@eot.com or 346-5378.

Looking For A Few Good Men. Interested in being on Calvary's "Grill Team" for Calvary's 50th Anniversary Celebration? Contact Jill Shipman at 346-5395 or ships@arvig.net.

BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday, July 1, Charity Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. and Faith Circle meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Matthias Room.

Wednesday, July 8, Peace Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. at Linda Legreid's home at 38442 Teal Lane on North Little McDonald Lake.

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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL. The women of Calvary provide funds for many in-house and outreach projects. All women members of Calvary, whether Circle members or not, are part of this group. For this reason we ask your participation for our main fundraiser, the Ice Cream Social on July 9. Each woman is asked to indicate on the sign up sheet your choice of donation for the social, two pies or a cash donation. This sign up will reduce the number of phone calls necessary by the committee. If you'd like to help with this fun event, there will be a separate list on the sign up board; times and places designated to work will be listed. The Ice Cream Social will be serving during the Praise Team Songfest this year from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone for your help in making this annual event a success!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS. This year Calvary women have the choice to make either a health kit or a school kit. The material lists can be found on the WELCA bulletin board and web site. Anyone wishing to make the bags for the school kits can find the pattern on the WELCA bulletin board. When completed, place them in the tote under the sign up table in the fellowship hall. Deadline to complete kits is September 1. Questions? Call Sonja Horner at 758-3057 or Donna Larson at 367-3224.

RHUBARB CUSTARD PIE—Irene Seedorf

1-1/2 to 2 cups rhubarb, cut fine	1-1/2 cups sugar	Nutmeg
3 tbsp flour	1/8 tsp salt	
1-1/4 cups hot milk	3 eggs, beaten	

Mix flour with sugar and add to the hot milk, then stir in eggs. Pour this over rhubarb in an unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle top with nutmeg. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes, then at 375 degrees for approximately 20 minutes. Remove from oven just before it is set hard; custard will continue to set after it is taken from the oven.



The Fishermen are a group of men from Calvary committed to growing the church through ministry to and through men through a variety of activities.

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 or Rand Stolee at 346-3440 or drat@eot.com.

Lilac Cottage

The Lilac Cottage Group will meet at Craig and Liz Swanson's home on July 12 at 5 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to pass. We will be discussing the future direction of the group. If you cannot attend and would like to continue to be a part of a cottage group, please talk to Craig or Liz Swanson at 347-7926 or Gus or Betty Ziegler at 334-6002. We hope you can join us.

Youth & Family

Sunday, July 5. Youth serve as Worship Helpers. Check date and worship time on the schedule. Questions? Contact Rob.

July 1-2. Serve and Scream mission trip to the Twin Cities Wednesday and Thursday, July 1 and 2. Wednesday we will be involved in service and Thursday screaming at Valley Fair. Cost is approximately \$35.

July 10. Tubing Trip Grades 7-12 Friday, July 10! We meet at Calvary at noon, then head out to cool fun on the Ottertail River!

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.

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 weekly bulletins.

Calvary Cottage News

Thirty Calvary members who are hosts, leaders, contact persons, committee members and others with interest in Calvary Cottage activities, gathered in late May. We shared information, gathered ideas from each other, brainstormed, problem-solved and launched the cottage program into its third year.

About 75% of the cottages are organized at various levels and have some activity with their Calvary neighbors. A few cottages have not established a host/leader relationship. However, other cottages have come forward to invite these cottages to join them.

The lengthiest discussion topic related to communication with cottage members. Most send letters or cards and/or call and a few have an e-mail network.

Sooner than you think: Calvary's Jubilee!

It seems summer is just beginning, yet Jubilee events of the fall are not far away and there are some dates you may want to mark on your calendar. Jubilee events will begin in September and go through July 2010. While most of these events are still in the planning stage, we feel excited about them and want to share these tentative plans with our Calvary family now! You may want to notify friends and family members who do not live in Perham about these events too; we anticipate former Calvary members may want to come back for some of these events, so please pass this schedule on to them and encourage them to join us!

It is exciting to see the ideas and plans generated by the various Jubilee committees and the unique gifts these committee members possess. We are blessed to have so many talented people at Calvary and fortunate that they are willing to put these gifts to work in these Jubilee projects. However, we would be very excited to add some new members to our Jubilee committees and we would welcome your input. Our Jubilee committees include the Steering Committee, plus committees for each event: Former Pastor Visits, Kickoff Sunday, Faith in Action Sunday, Marketing/Memorabilia, Archives/History Book, Oral History, Mortgage Burning, Artisans Festival, Publicity, and Jubilee Celebration Weekend. If you'd like to join a committee, contact Lisa Peterson (346-4747), and she will connect you to the committee chair. We'd love your input!

Keep your eyes open for more Jubilee Celebration updates! It's going to be an exciting year--and it's going to be here before we know it!



Several attending wanted to initiate an e-mail list and were also interested in the Group2Call mass calling service from the church office.

A list of members is generated by the cottage host with a single message to be phoned to all members on the list. The charge is 6¢ per call rather than 28¢ per postcard or 44¢ for a letter.

Pastor Phil offered resources to all cottages suggesting they contact him prior to a cottage gathering for discussion topics related to church activities and decisions as well as devotional materials. The committee will send leaders and others a summary of the group's discussion.

Again, the committee thanks all those who are involved as leaders, hosts and contact persons. The cottage mission includes welcoming new Calvary members into our neighborhoods and supporting each other as needs arise.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF JUBILEE EVENTS

Preparatory Projects: Tree Planting, Parking Lot Paving Project and display at Pioneer Festival in August

September 27, 2009: Jubilee Kickoff with worship modeled after Calvary's first service, "old-time" potluck, Duo Piano concert, archives on display and items for sale.

October 11, 2009: Faith in Action Sunday. One church service that morning, a "Sending Service," then all members to go various community service project sites.

November 2009: Gracia Grindel Concert and Hymn Sing, date to be determined. On November 22, Pastor Gary Gilthvedt will preach and conduct Adult Forum.

December 2009: Christmas Tea & Bake Sale with Jubilee emphasis with Jubilee Christmas cards and ornaments for sale

January 24, 2010: Anniversary of Official Recognition of Calvary congregation. Bishop Wöhrabe will preach and conduct Forum. There may be a potluck and/or an old fashioned hymn sing as well.

February-March 2010: May have one or two former Pastor visits.

April 11, 2010: Pastor Ed Nieman to preach and host Forum

Spring-Summer 2010: Pops Concert Series events

June 14, 2010: Pastor Kris Nyman will preach and host Forum

June 28, 2010: Pastor Lee (Myron) Albertson will preach and host Forum

July 8, 2010: Pie and Ice Cream Social with Jubilee emphasis

July 24-25, 2010: Jubilee Celebration Weekend with Saturday "Hoedown To Heaven" afternoon and evening. Sunday Pastor Reck will preach during celebratory services. Catered banquet following with Pastor Kennedy as speaker and emcee.

Social Ministry Adopts New Model

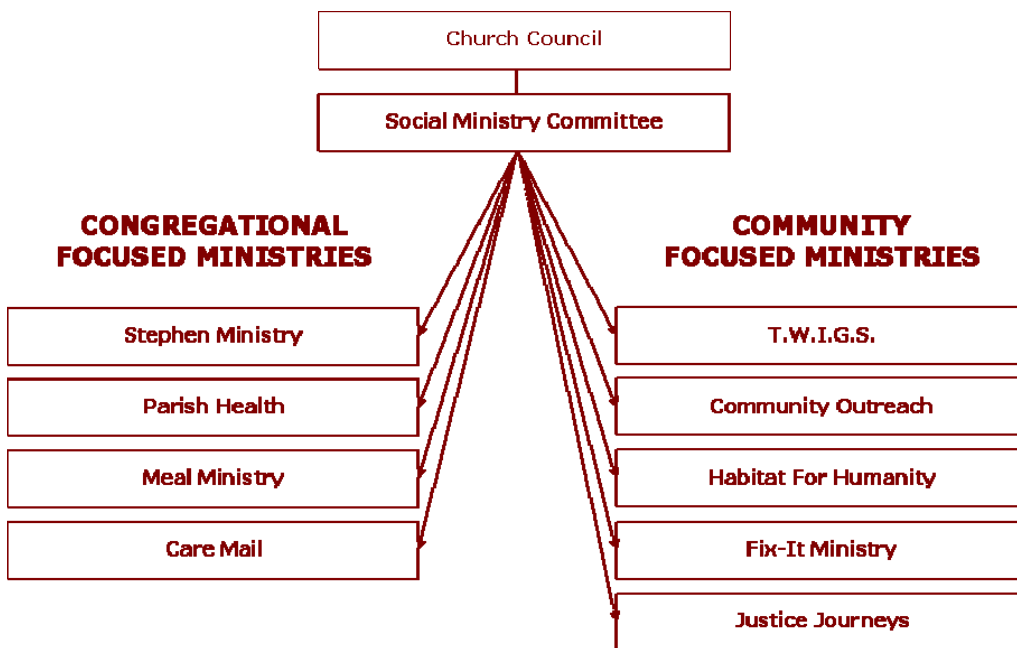
Calvary's Caring Ministries have grown in number, complexity and in the amount of ministry they deliver which has created some coordination issues for the social Ministry Committee. These are great issues to experience but they do require attention. In an attempt to improve the committee's functioning, the Caring Ministries were identified in two groups; Community Focused Ministries and Congregational Focused Ministries. Although these titles are not mutually exclusive, they do provide a handy framework for viewing ministries.

The Social Ministry Committee will be composed of 10 members; the chairperson and one representative of each of the 9 Caring Ministries.

At alternate monthly meetings, the Social Ministry Committee will focus on either Congregational Focused or Community Focused Ministries. In that way, it is expected that the committee can improve and simplify its mission. It also means that committee members will be attending fewer meetings. The Social Ministry Committee will schedule one extended meeting each year with all its members present to focus on strategic planning and allocation of human and financial resources.

An organizational chart is pictured below to visually assist how this new operational model will appear.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Stephen Ministry Happenings

At 6:30 P.M. on June 8th, our Stephen Ministers gathered for their regular monthly meeting. Barb Christie and Bev Tougas shared their experience of attending a workshop about poverty. They explained that poverty can strike anyone suddenly for a variety of reasons. They also explained that different people react differently to poverty and that poverty is often passed on from one generation to the next. After the in-service training about poverty, the Stephen Ministers met in their regular supervision groups to help each other serve their care receivers more effectively.

Stephen Ministers Available. At the present time we have 5 Stephen Ministers that are available to provide help for people who are experiencing crisis in their lives. Stephen Ministers are dependable friends who listen carefully, support and encourage and provide devotionals and prayer as appropriate.

If you are aware of someone at Calvary or in the community that you think might need a Stephen Minister, call Reg Hansen or Pastor Phil at the church office at 346-4780.

CARING MINISTRIES AT YOUR SERVICE

TWIGS, Community Outreach, Meal Ministry and Fix-It Ministry currently have resources available to serve people in need whether they are members at Calvary or not.

- Do you know of someone or some family that would appreciate some home cooked meals in an emergency situation?
- Do you know of someone who has special needs for furniture and/or household goods?
- Do you know of someone who needs help with small repair jobs around the house?
- Do you know some child or family with a special need for assistance?

If so, please call the church office and we will direct you to the appropriate person at 346- 4780.

TWIGS: TOGETHER WINNING IN GOD'S SERVICE

TWIGS is a caring ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church. We strive to meet ongoing needs of individuals and families in our community that cannot be met through traditional resources. Some of the needs that we were able to meet this past month were:

- Soccer summer recreation fees
- Swimming Lesson Fees
- Pharmacy Prescriptions
- College Application Fees

Needs are met with confidentiality of both the receiver and giver. Please check the branches of the tree in the fellowship hall for new sponsorship opportunities. We also appreciate monetary donations for emergency situations where there is not time to post the need. All donations flow through Calvary and are tax deductible. We thank you for the support of this important ministry.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown, it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Music Ministry



Praise Team Songfest and Ice Cream Social July 9. Bring the whole family for a fun-filled afternoon starting at 3:00! The Songfest features music groups from area churches performing from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Free admission. Barbecue plates, pies, ice cream and beverages will be available for purchase until 7 p.m. Please join us!

Summer Special Music. If you have special music you'd like to offer during the summer, please contact Russ Bunker.

Contemporary Praise Team. This group leads music during worship. There are many ways you can be involved in this exciting ministry...come any Wednesday at 5 p.m. and check it out!



Relay For Life

If you can walk, you can help! Calvary's Relay for Life team wants more members! Join your Calvary friends-it's fun, it's festive, it's a way to be a part of the war against cancer. The night is July 10. Call Lisa Peterson at 346-4747 or Ron & Dee Anderson at 346-5352..



Prayer Chain

Do you want an opportunity to serve anytime of day, each day and to grow in your faith by lifting others in prayer? Join the Calvary Prayer Chain E-mail Group or Phone Group, and become a part of this rewarding ministry. We would encourage anyone who is interested or has questions to contact Colleen Sazama at 758-2502 or email sazdent@arvig.net.

Seminary Sunday is July 26

July 26 is Seminary Sunday at Calvary. We continue our partnership with Luther Seminary to help educate the pastors of tomorrow. Luther Seminary provides about one-third of the pastors and an increasing number of lay professionals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). 68% of seminary graduates have student loans when they graduate with an average indebtedness for these students of \$40,658.

At Calvary we have been trying to relieve some of the financial pressure on one such seminarian, Joe Johnson. Joe is about to enter the internship year of his seminary experience. He will be serving a congregation in Kodiak Alaska. He plans to enter the ministry in a rural setting after he graduates next year.

Come hear him preach and offer your support at a special offering Sunday July 26.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:11-15

Recycling Project Fundraisers

CELL PHONE RECYCLING

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. We don't need chargers, just the phone. If all goes well we expect that this will be an ongoing project.

Just bring your cell phones and deposit them in a box in the hallway between the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Ask Pastor Phil. Someplace Safe is another site that can use your old cell phone.

Check out our cell phone recycling company and the list of prices they pay for particular phones at <http://www.pacebutler.com/>.

RECYCLING INJECT CARTRIDGES

Calvary youth are now recycling empty inject cartridges in the bins in the fellowship hall. Each cartridge can earn up to \$4 depending on the type of cartridge.

Proceeds benefit the Feed My Starving Children hosted in Perham.

Financial Report

General Fund receipts for June to date through the 14th were \$18,726 or 51% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,454. There are two more Sunday remaining in the month.

Building Fund receipts for June to date through the 14th were \$3,154 or 54% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

Parking Lot. *Thanks for your great response so far! Total offerings given to date for the parking lot fundraiser are \$25,090. There is \$8,292 remaining to complete this project, with 15 of 62 slots left for purchase. Work has begun and we'd appreciate your help to get us to the finish line on this project. Thank you!*

Actual results for May for the General Fund, was a net unfavorable variance of \$6,206. Total receipts for the month were \$34,020 and expenses were \$40,226. The Building fund receipts for the month were \$4,747, which were behind budget by \$1,085.

Year to Date through May, the General Fund has a net unfavorable variance of \$18,437 and the Building Fund is unfavorable by \$4,600. Currently our combined deficit for both funds is approximately 20% worse than last year.

Please review your offerings and if you are able, please consider helping us catch back up so we can avoid a significant shortfall later in the year.

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

“It is not good that man should be alone...”

It was just over two years ago that my family moved to Battle Lake from the suburbs of Minneapolis. We moved for many reasons but one factor was to be closer to Hayley's 90-year-old grandfather who had just moved into the assisted living apartments in Battle Lake. On May 22, her grandfather, Ed Prescher died at the age of 92.

In the week after his death, I thought a lot about “Gramps” and what his life and death mean to me, and I came to a startling conclusion, which was that Ed Prescher taught me a lot about God. Now this came as a surprise because Gramps was not someone you would call religious. In fact two of his favorite times were cocktail hour and trips to the casino. And Gramps often had trouble with that second commandment, especially when dealing with his cordless telephone and answering machine, which often elicited an inappropriate rendering of the Lord's name.

So how is it that a man like this taught me about God? In Genesis we read the creation story, where God creates the heavens and the earth and everything in between. And after each day of creation “God saw that it was good.” We also read how God created Adam and as the writer states, breathed the “breath of life” into Adam. But a funny thing happens once Adam is in the Garden of Eden. God comes to the realization that, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” So God decides to “make him a helper as his partner” and goes on to say that the two would become “one flesh.”

I think Adam and Gramps had a lot in common, because when Grandma Bette died (his wife of 68 years) it became painfully obvious to all of us how it was not good that Ed was alone. We witnessed first hand the truth of this scripture as Gramps was torn apart and made incomplete without Bette after 68 years of being “one flesh.” You see at the core of his being, Ed was a relational guy, just the way God planned it with Adam. He lived to be in relationship with other people and the one thing he hated most was to be alone. And as we read in scripture, this is exactly how God intended us to be, in relation with one another, not alone.

So Ed would curse his phone when he couldn't get it to work because it was this gadget that was frustrating his chance to be in relation with someone he knew and loved. And leaving a voice mail message pained him I think, because that beep and flashing light only indicated that he missed a chance to talk with someone. And trips to the casino were more than the money and gambling, they were about the people he'd go with and the people he'd meet while playing the slots. Ed Prescher couldn't go anywhere without engaging with people, whether it was the casino, a hospital waiting room, or the grocery store. And cocktail hour wasn't so much about the drinks as it was about putting his work aside and sitting down with those people he knew and loved to be in relationship with them.

On Wednesday, May 20, Gramps was discharged from the hospital in Fergus because there wasn't much the doctors could do for his failing heart. So he was released and our family brought him back to his apartment in Battle Lake. By Thursday night his breathing had become labored and was becoming increasingly shallow. As we gathered around him and prayed in this emotionally intense kind of vigil, it was as if the harder it became for Ed to breathe, the harder it was for us to breathe, as we anticipated his last breath. But then something surprising happened. Unexpectedly, his breathing became more relaxed and comfortable, and with it so did we. We began to move in between his bedroom and the living room, laughing, crying, and sharing memories and stories. At 2:00 a.m. Gage (my brother-in-law) and Charlie (my cousin-in-law) administered another dose of medicine to help keep Gramps comfortable, and I decided to join them in his bedroom. With Charlie on one side of Ed's bed and Gage and I on the other, for the next 25 minutes we talked casually about our lives, our families, and our work with Gramps right in the middle of us. At 2:28 a.m. another unexpected thing happened. Ed, who had been unresponsive and immobile all day, slowly and gently raised his right hand as high as it would go, and just as slowly and gently let it fall back to his side. And with that, Ed breathed his last breath of life.

As we told the others what had happened, Hayley said she believed that Ed was reaching out to take Bette's hand as she welcomed him into his new eternal life. I think that is true. But I also like to believe that Ed was lifting his highball glass one last time in his final toast at his last cocktail hour in this world. As if to tell his grandsons gathered around him, “This is it fellas. Cherish these times when you gather together. Never forget that God created us, as he did Adam at the very beginning, to be in relationship with one another.”

God Bless,

Rob McNair



New Intern for Gifts & Ministries

Hi! My name is Megan Shipman and I am the intern for Gifts and Ministries this summer/early fall! I am excited to be working with all members of Calvary Lutheran Church. I feel that I have so many of my own gifts to share and inspire others to get involved.

For those of you who do not know me, I have been a member of Calvary Lutheran Church since 1998. I have been active in Sunday School, B.U.G.S & T.I.C.K.S., Carol Choir, Confirmation, teaching Sunday School, Praise Team, singing with the K-4th graders, and being the Lutheran Youth Organization vice president. With all of my activities here at church, some could say I was made for this internship. I recently graduated from Perham High School (whoo hoo!) and I was active in school, too. I competed on the swim team for three years, the tennis team for three years, the competitive speech team for five years and finally reached my goal of competing at state where I finished 7th (not bad for a person who was disqualified the year before). I have also been a student council member for six and a half years.

If all of my activities have taught me anything, it is that I need to be true to myself to be able to achieve and be successful. Also, that with leadership there is responsibility. I am a responsible person and am able to be humble about my successes. I want everyone to enjoy the success from Calvary Lutheran together. I want everyone to feel as though they have a place at Calvary Lutheran. I want to inspire members of all ages to take action in Calvary Lutheran and become active.

Inside This Issue

Vacation Bible School Rocks!	1
A Note from Pastor + Calvary News and Events	2
Women's Ministry + Men's Ministry	3
Cottages + Youth & Family + Jubilee + Summer Reading	4
Stephen Ministry + Caring Ministries	5
Music + Relay For Life + Prayer Chain + Stewardship	6
Reflections by Rob + Intern for Gifts & Ministries	7

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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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Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen.