



## ***Celebrating Calvary's Charter Birthday and our connection to the Global Church***

An exciting event in our Calvary Jubilee Year is coming up on Sunday, January 24. That date marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that Calvary received its charter from the ELCA (then the ALC) and was officially recognized as an ALC church in Minnesota's Northwest Synod. With that membership came the opportunity to become part of the larger church—the Evangelical Lutheran Church nationwide and worldwide. Calvary went from being a handful of hardworking, determined local people who pursued their dream of an ALC church in Perham to being a congregation connected to Christians throughout the world.

In the fifty years since that "Charter Day," Calvary has not only grown in its own endeavors—in membership, in programming, in facilities, in staff, and in faith-building opportunities for its members, but in its connections to the global church. Calvary has sent mission teams to Jamaica, Guatemala, New Orleans, and cities in Minnesota. Many of our members have also served in mission capacities, either before they joined our Calvary family or while members here – members like Luthard and Vera Eid, Gus and Betty Ziegler, Karen Hasskamp, Rand Stolee, Pastor Phil, former Pastor Dick Kennedy, and many more. We are proud of the work that these people have done in the global community and are happy that Calvary can have these global connections, through the work of these individuals. Additionally, the Calvary family generously supported the Feed My Starving Children community effort last spring, through donations of money and labor, and we support the World Hunger Appeal (through the ELCA) annually. There are countless other ways that Calvary has become an active member of the Global Church, and this involvement is not likely to diminish in the future.

### ***Dear disciples of Christ at Calvary,***

Merry Christmas (until January 6) to you all! It was a great privilege to share the celebration of Christmas with you all. God's gift of the baby Jesus overwhelms and fills us with his love and peace.

**And Happy New Year!** Something about starting a New Year makes us want to start again, to make New Year's resolutions and turn over a new leaf. The forgiveness that comes in Christ makes that not only possible but joyful and freeing. So I invite you to consider those parts of your life that you would like to change and pray for strength and courage to make it happen.

I particularly invite you to come to worship more regularly. This fall our attendance at worship has not been good. I know you are busy with hunting seasons and family trips etc., but public worship of God needs to be a high priority or you are not a faithful disciple. You cannot grow in your faith without the community of God's people. You will not have the faith and strength for the crunch times of your life if you haven't nourished it in the week-by-week worship of God. I know that you have other callings as parent, grandchild, etc that pull you in other directions. But I invite you to consider how you can make worship a priority on most Sundays. If you seldom or never come to public worship in God's house, your confession of faith in God has a hollow ring to it.

The Jubilee Steering Committee is excited about our January event and the opportunity it gives us to celebrate Calvary's involvement in the Worldwide Church. We are excited that Bishop Wohlrabe will be with us that day to preach at worship and to share further through the Adult Forum between services. It will be great to hear about our "larger family" from Bishop Wohlrabe. We are also excited that our focus that day will be on our Global Church Membership and the work that our Calvary members have done in the mission field. We are hoping that those who have done mission work or made mission trips will bring some of their mementos from their "time away" and share their experiences with us. We are also planning to bring this worldwide connection into our potluck for that day. There will be a potluck following 2<sup>nd</sup> service, and we ask you to bring a dish from another culture—perhaps from their heritage or from their foreign travel—or just a "foreign food" they really like. We will be able to also extend our emphasis on the global church through our taste buds that day!

As we look forward to our January 24 event, we ask that you do the following things:

- ◆ Mark January 24 on your calendar and plan to join us that day for worship and the forum with Bishop Wohlrabe
- ◆ Find your favorite ethnic food recipe and prepare it for the potluck that day
- ◆ Contact the church office if you've done some mission travel/work and would be willing to share your mementos and your experiences in an informal setting

It's going to be a great day of celebration on the 24<sup>th</sup>! We hope you will make plans to attend!

**When you must be gone from worship, we want to include you in other ways.** We have upgraded our video broadcast and invite you to join us. It's a poor substitute for gathering together with God's people, but we hope it will help you stay connected. You can either tune in at 9 am on Tuesday morning on Channel 14 or you can go to our web home page [www.calvaryperham.com](http://www.calvaryperham.com) and look for the worship webcast. We can also add you to the list-serve <snowbirds@calvaryperham.com>, which will send you an email each Sunday with a link to that Sunday's web broadcast. Email [suedelaney@calvaryperham.com](mailto:suedelaney@calvaryperham.com) to sign up for that weekly video connection.

**We thank Mitch Groethe**, our sound and video technician, and other volunteers who make it possible to run a three-camera system and make the broadcast much more interesting and more realistic to being there. Mitch is very talented and hard working. We especially thank Jim Hatlevig who has worked with Calvary's video for years.

**Come join us on January 10** for the Adult Forum between services to hear **Dr. Rand and Becky Stolee** share about their medical mission trips to Guatemala.

*Pastor Phil Holtan*

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Arvid Eken who passed away Friday, December 4. Arvid is the husband of Arilda Eken and the step-father-in-law of Shelly Januszewski.

**Transfer:** Jacob Richter and daughter Makena to First Lutheran in Renville, Minnesota.

**Annual Meeting.** Join us on Sunday, January 31 between services.

### Faith 5 Forty



*"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."*  
Deuteronomy 8:3

Congratulations to all the families participating in Faith 5 devotions, but a special shout out to the winners of our drawing on December 20.

**Rob & Mischelle Thompson.** Overnight stay at Arrowwood Resort with water park passes & dinner for 4.

**Lance & Lori Rach.** Overnight stay at Thumper Pond with 4 water park passes.

**Mike & Pam Sondag.** Day passes for 4 to Thumper Pond water park.

**Joe & Amanda Starzl.** Dinner & a movie for 4 (twice, they also won this same prize in the first drawing back in November!)

We truly hope everyone continues their nightly devotions, and if you aren't sure what the Faith 5 is, please talk to Rob or Tracy, they would be glad to help you get started!

## Opening the **book of faith**

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Last New Year a number of us resolved that we would open the "Book of Faith" and read through the Bible this year. Some of you purchased new Bibles. Since I have several different versions, I decided to depart from the New King James, the version I normally use, and use a more modern translation. I felt doing this would: a) provide new insights into Scripture, and b) help slog through some of those bits in the Old Testament more easily! So with reading guides in hand, we began our journey.

That journey has not been the same for any of us, I'm sure, for I believe the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word to us personally as well as corporately. And maybe you've found that a familiar passage suddenly takes on new meaning, even speaking to your present situation. It's then we indeed understand what Luther meant when he called the Word and Sacraments the "means of grace," Spirit ministering to spirit.

So how goes your journey? As I write this (mid-December), hopefully many of us are on the "homestretch," as it were, ready to finish reading in January. Some of you have told me it will be impossible to finish reading in a year.

But I urge you to complete the journey—even if it takes two or three years! After all, the blessing you receive is not determined by an arbitrary time span, but by the time spent with the Lord in His Word. Congratulations to those of you who are soon to finish! I trust you have been blessed in your reading, discovering answers to questions and finding deeper understandings—or finding new questions or deeper confusion. What incentive these should be to continue spending time alone with the Lord in His Word in 2010. Let's build upon the good habit we have formed. As Jesus himself said, *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32 NIV).

If you are completing your journey through the Book of Faith in December/January, will you please do me a favor? Write a note to me, saying when you finished and just a line or two about what this reading of Scripture meant to you. (Or you may e-mail [tracybieger@calvaryperham.com](mailto:tracybieger@calvaryperham.com)). I'd like to share these in a future newsletter to encourage other members of Calvary to also spend time daily in Bible reading. Thank you for doing this.

With you in the Word.....Karen Hasskamp

**Congregational Task Force.** Last year, many of you participated in a congregational survey taken during our worship by an organization called U.S. Congregations. We have received the survey results and are pleased about the strengths it highlighted and want to work on some weaker areas. We are establishing a short term task force to look at the results and recommend some initiatives to strengthen these areas. We want our task force to have two members over 50 years old, two under fifty, and two who have been members less than two years. If you have interest in serving on this Task Force from January-March, contact Shirley or Pastor Phil.

## Faith Enrichment Opportunities

**Sunday Morning Study.** Jeff Tweeton's book group, "Listening for God" will resume Sunday, January 10 between services in the Matthias Room. You can still join, there are extra books in the office for \$10 each.

**Monday Morning Women's Java Jams Study** Mondays at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Room. We welcome anyone to join this informal study at any time. Questions? Call Jill Shipman at 346-5395.

**Monday Noon Bible Study** "Open The Book. Find Yourself." Join us in the Matthias Room as we study Jesus' parable to encourage finding ourselves. Pastor Holtan facilitates the study. This study resumes January 11.

**Tuesday Morning Seekers Study.** More like a college or seminary level class. Expect homework each week to prepare for serious discussion. We meet 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM Tuesdays in the Matthias Room. This study resumes January 12. Questions? Call Tracy Bieger at 346-4780.

**Wednesday Morning Men's Breakfast.** Men's Breakfast group meets at 7 a.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month. Join us for a hearty breakfast and a Bible study centered on the next Sunday's lessons.

**Wednesday Women's Monthly Bible Circles.** Charity Circle meets 9:30 a.m. the 1st Wednesday. Faith Circle meets 1:30 p.m. the 1st Wednesday. Peace Circle meets 9:30 a.m. the 2nd Wednesday.

**Saturday Women's Study.** Becky Stolee will resume Beth Moore's "Jesus the One and Only" on Saturday, January 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room. Feel free to join this great study on the life of Jesus based on the book of Luke. Come along on a life-changing journey which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the Teacher, across the lake with the Master, and finally, on the road toward the cross with the Savior. Get to know Jesus intimately...as though you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. Please contact Tracy Bieger if you have any questions.

## Our Calvary Women

Quilting resumes Thursday, January 7 at 9 a.m. Bring a snack for coffee and a scissor and join us!

Altar Guild will hold a Training Session Saturday, January 16 at 10 a.m. For more information call Karen Hasskamp at 346-4787.

**All-Day Women's Craft/Project Event.** Coming Soon! If you scrapbook, knit, crochet, or just want to organize your recipes, photos, etc. This event will be scheduled sometime in January or February, so keep your eyes open! Contact Tracy Bieger if you have ideas, or are just interested in participating.

**Statistics for 2009.** Calvary women have been busy in 2009: 13 Health Kits assembled, 31 Quilts made and sent to Lutheran World Relief, 214 Quilts made and sold or given closer to home and 33 School Kits assembled.

**Remember to save the following.** We collect them in baskets under the bulletin board in the fellowship hall entrance: Campbell's Soup Labels for Education, Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald and Kemps milk "Nickels for Schools" lids.



## News & Notes

**Spring Potluck Salad and Dessert Luncheon.** Calvary women have traditionally had a potluck salad and dessert luncheon in June. Often a few women have a topic (or speaker) that interests them which they use as a theme, and ideas quickly come together for the rest of the event.

We are looking for volunteers to take on this project for 2010. There are extensive notes from past luncheons for reference and ideas, but if you feel the call to coordinate this event, you may do it all **your own way**. This is my personal favorite women's activity each year so am praying that someone will get an idea and a friend or two to help you make this event possible this year.

The **WELCA Christmas Bazaar** was a great success due to the bakers, crafters and workers. One hundred cookie boxes were packed with three dozen beautiful cookies and they all sold quickly as did the lovely assortment of baked items such as lefse, rolls, etc. The craft and quilt tables did well also. This event could not happen without the participation of Calvary women who donated their wonderful baked items and crafts and allows the WELCA organization to continue to support their local and national



## A word from the 2010 Women's Coordinator

It's a new year and the women of Calvary have created a new job—or at least a new job title: Women's Coordinator. What's the difference between this and job of President of WELCA? Not much, but president sounds formal and complex and no woman could be found to accept that job. In fact no one took the job for at least the past three years. Instead the Bible Study Circle chairs shared the duties of president, and it worked quite well until women became increasingly unwilling to be Circle chairs. So, I will coordinate women's activities and be the contact person for questions about Calvary women and their programs. I encourage you to ask me questions and make suggestions and we will work together to make 2010 another great year to be a Calvary woman!

You will soon find The Women of the ELCA 2010 handbooks in your mailboxes. They have a schedule of women's events and leaders for this year. Those women can answer questions about their respective responsibilities, and I thank them for accepting these jobs.

In an effort to be greener, the list of Calvary Women and phone numbers is not included in the Handbook. If you wish to have that list, just request it from the church office.

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10*

**Thank you** to all the women who used their gifts to serve in leadership positions this past year in women's ministry at Calvary (I apologize if I missed anyone):

Dee Anderson  
Bev Tougas  
Lorna Anderson  
Donna Larson  
Jan Johnson  
Jackie Langren  
Terri Enger  
Leona Rothiger  
Tracy Bieger  
Carol Olson  
Miriam Hatlevig  
Irene Seedorg

Margot Jelleberg  
Dorothy Nordbeck  
Estelle Arneson  
Sonja Horner  
Net Kupferschmid  
Sally Awes  
Shirley Pauna  
Cindy Olson  
Jill Shipman  
Vonnie Salness  
Denise Schellenberg  
Carla Gauwitz

I must admit that I will be a snowbird for the first three months of 2010, but am accessible by email [olson.ter@gmail.com](mailto:olson.ter@gmail.com) and phone (218-849-6590), so feel free to contact me during that time.

**Terri Olson**

## Youth and Family

**Thank you!** We received our first check for recycling inkjet cartridges recently. We sent in 50 cartridges and received \$39.05. We had a few Canon cartridges worth as much as \$3.00 but most others like HP and Lexmark were worth between 25¢ and \$1.00. The money has been saved for the next Feed My Starving Children event to be hosted in Perham. Thanks to all who donated empty cartridges and please remember to bring your empty ones to church and place them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall by the Narthex.

**Ski Trip.** Trip to Andes Tower Hills near Alexandria Sunday, January 31. We leave Calvary at 12:30 p.m., return to Calvary at 7:30 p.m. Cost includes transportation and lift ticket:

\$30 to tube for 2 hours ,  
each additional hour \$4

\$30 if you have your own  
ski/snowboard equipment

\$40 if you rent ski equip-  
ment

\$50 if you rent snowboard  
equipment

It will take 90 minutes to drive to Andes, we arrive about 2:00 p.m. and plan to leave at 6:00 p.m. We'll take an Anderson school bus so are limited to the first 40 people to get money to the church office. All students, families, and friends welcome.

**Fleece Blanket Project.** Bugs & Ticks (K-6) will tie fleece blankets Sunday, January 17 following the 2nd service. Lunch will be provided so please bring the entire family and help us tie up some warmth for those in need!

## Luther Crest Events

January 22-24  
February 19-20  
Winter Youth Retreats  
Grade 4-6 and 7-9

January 29-31  
Women's Winter Retreat

February 13  
Sweetheart Event

February 14  
Annual Meeting

## Marriage Encounter

Weekends Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 5 pm, February 12-14 and March 19-21 in Brooklyn Center; April 16-18 in Duluth or April 30-May 2 in Alexandria. Please register a month in advance. For information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit them on the web at [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

**Thank you** for your prayers for Ev Colby and Marilyn and thanks to a special anonymous someone for the gorgeous red and pink poinsettia.

**Thanks** to all who made the Pancake Breakfast a big success! Thanks to Endowment Committee and Thrivent members for hosting the Pancake Dinner December 6. \$2645 was the total money received, of which \$377 went for breakfast expenses and 20% of the card gifts (\$337) went to Pastor's Phil's designated request for upgrading our video ministry. That gives \$1931 to add to the Endowment. We thank the Endowment for their first ever grant of \$640 for the FaithChest project. We thank our Thrivent chapter for matching what we raised at the breakfast so that \$625 was given to the new FaithChest project and \$625 for the video ministry.

## Men's Ministry at Calvary

### Calvary's FaithChest® Project

Calvary's men's group, the Fishermen, are starting a woodworking project to encourage the faith of our children. They will be building 100 finely crafted FaithChests that we will give to the children we baptize and older children up to 1<sup>st</sup> grade or more. The children can keep their favorite sacred things in their chest: Bibles or Bible story books, baptismal candle, napkin or quilt, First Communion chalice and other items important to them in their faith. They can use the chest as part of their family devotions.

So far, Jim Nordbeck and Lee Mindemann from the Fishermen are taking leadership in organizing our men to build these beautiful chests, but they expect that many other men of all skill levels will join them. This is a great opportunity to support the faith life of our children and grandchildren, learn new skills and have fun and fellowship on wintry days. If you are interested in helping out, even for as little as one day or evening, starting early in January and finishing in March, email [lee@mindemann.net](mailto:lee@mindemann.net) about your interest or call him at 218-758-2323.

We are grateful to our Thrivent chapter and to the Calvary Endowment for gifts of \$1265 to help cover the cost of 100 FaithChests.

## Building Men For Christ: January 22-23, Hope South, Fargo

Take a look at your congregation this weekend and count how many men are at worship in comparison to how many women.

If your congregation is like most ELCA congregations, women outnumber men by nearly 2 to 1. This is a great concern not only for men. Congregations with a higher percentage of men actively engaged also tend to have stronger worship attendance, stewardship and family and children ministries.

Lutheran Men in Mission, along with the Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota Synods is sponsoring a training event for men's and congregational leaders.

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is for every man to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective ministry with men in every congregation. Lutheran Men in Mission has developed the Building Men for Christ workshop in cooperation with Man in the Mirror and Vibrant Faith Ministries (formerly Youth and Family Institute).



**Canoe Trip.** Dave reported that the lottery for permits opens soon so they want to get a list of interested people to determine how many permits are needed.

The canoe trip will be July 31-August 4, 2010. He passed around a sign up sheet but otherwise contact him if you are interested.

**Rewind.** Ron Anderson reports that the guys at Rewind are in need of long term employment once they complete their program. They have few prospects in their home towns and do not want to fall into old habits. Many of them are great workers. If you can help out, contact Ron.

**Fix-it Ministry.** Harvey Kraabel tendered his resignation as the contact person for the Fix-It Ministry. We would like another volunteer to do the job. We have a list of eager volunteers and the contact person calls people off that list as a need arises. Social Ministry asked if Fix-It Ministry wanted to join with them for a Justice Journey project to the Mississippi coast. The consensus is that this is not consistent with the short term commitments this group signed up for. The Fix-It Ministry section of the Social Ministry brochure will be reviewed and information updated as necessary.

Building Men for Christ will take place at the South Campus of Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo 4 p.m. Friday, January 22 to 4 p.m. Saturday, January 23.

The registration fee will cover two textbooks, two meals and conference materials. The workshop will be conducted by Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Director Doug Haugen and LMM Vice President Rich White. Congregational teams will learn what is happening with men and their relationship with the church today and how to build the congregations ministry with men around discipleship. Each team attending will go home with a concrete plan to do more effective ministry with men in their congregation and community.

This is a very important event for our overall ministry as well as our ministry to men.

If you are interested in going, you can let Rand know or sign up on this website:

[http://www.nwmnsynod.org/NorthernLights/building\\_men\\_for\\_christ.htm](http://www.nwmnsynod.org/NorthernLights/building_men_for_christ.htm)

## Music



## Ministry

**Community Songfest.** On Sunday, January 31 at 3 p.m., join us for a Community Songfest at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham. Each congregation will supply a musical group. A free will offering will benefit community projects.

**Music Ministry Wednesdays!** Love to sing? Come make a joyful noise with us in any of our choirs or ensembles that interest you.

**Carol Choir.** Kids in grades 2-5 meet from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. Parents: Please pick up your children promptly at 4:15 p.m. as there is no supervision for them after Carol Choir.

**Youth Choir.** Kids in grades 6-8 meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**Sweet Assurance.** This women's ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**Senior Choir.** For anyone grade 9 through adults. Meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Jonah and The Wailers.** This men's ensemble meets at 8:20 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Contemporary Praise Team.** This group leads music in worship, meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Can't sing, you say? But do you play an instrument? Or would you like to learn how to help with the sound system? Or help with publicity? Then our Contemporary Praise Team needs you! Come Wednesday and check it out!

### One of Calvary's Faithful that Doesn't Quit

Like many of Calvary' people featured during our Jubilee Year, Dee Anderson has been involved in many facets of our congregational life. There is one that is most remarkable, however: She has sung in every choir since it began in 1963--this is her 47<sup>th</sup> year! She has been a soprano and is now an alto. "Wherever they need me," she says. "I'm not a trained musician or a soloist, but I do what I can, like making sure new members get a robe that fits them."

When asked what is her most memorable experience from these years, she has a ready response, "It was for me to sing in the choir with my daughter and my granddaughter--three generations in one choir." How long will she continue? "I'll keep singing as long as I can," she answers. How has the choir changed over the years? She recalls that for most years, the choir had no robes. Early on, since there was no choir loft, singers sat with their families during worship and walked up to the front of the church to sing. At first, there was no music and no budget, so it was hand copied or the choir sang from the hymnbook.

Also, she has liked singing with different directors. "I've been able to enjoy a variety of music. Each director has had his/her own style and taste in music." She recognizes that Calvary is -- and has always been -- a congregation that sings well. "As those my age drop out, we have a need for new voices. They are 'out there' in the congregation--I can hear them. Join us. You'll find it rewarding."

## Happenings in



A huge thank you to the many congregations, families and individuals who bought, sorted, prepared, packed and sent off Christmas lights for the annual Illumination Ceremony that was held at Luther campus in Kumamoto this past week. The lights were received with delight and perhaps no one was more appreciative than the custodians, who had the pleasure of stringing together lights that they could feel confident would WORK! Altogether, the donations totaled over 4,000 lights (that's individual lights) that you contributed. The sounds from those who gathered reminded me of the "oohs" and "aahs" of Fourth of July fireworks. The service was held outdoors. Thankfully, the drizzle that threatened the ceremony all day passed by and the evening was dry and even a reasonable temperature.

Songs from the choir, hymns sung by the attendees, a short message by the Chaplain of the Jr/Sr High School, and a countdown by the Lutheran Kindergarten children all made for an enthusiastic welcome to the advent season.

Blessings, Jackie, Patrick, Emilie, Hannah Bencke

## Missionary Ministry

Members of Calvary's Peace Circle sent 250 of the over 4000 lights described here.

Jackie Bencke is a Hastings High School classmate of Ron and Mary Ringsven's son, Brian. The Bencke family are ELCA missionaries in the same area of Japan as our missionary family, the Sacks.

Calvary has been one of the congregations sponsoring missionaries Carol and Jim Sack for a couple years now. They are missionaries in Tokyo. Tokyo is a city of over 12 million people of which only 1-2% are Christians. Although 96% are affiliated with a Buddhist or Taoist temple, only about 30% are actually religious. In this context, the Sacks are extending our reach to the unchurched. James is a theology professor at the Japan Lutheran College and Theological Seminary. He also is providing education in pastoral counseling. Carol works integrating music with palliative care at the hospice there and helps her church provide for the needs of the homeless of central Tokyo.

We can support our missionaries through our annual budget and through our prayers.

### The Backpack Program: Satisfy The Hunger

We started the school year delivering 30 food bags to children in the Perham schools every Friday. We now deliver 52 food bags each week! Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping to pack food bags in lockers on Fridays, unload the delivery truck, and keep the program organized and running smoothly!!

### Dear Calvary Faith In Action Group,

Thank you so much for the "sweat equity" you put into our schools on your faith in action day. We are very appreciative of the help. It is welcomed always and more so this year due to loss of staff during budget cuts! Thanks again!

Sincerely,

L. Rutten, Fred Sailer, Kari Yates, Scott Bjerke, and Tamara Uselman

### The American Cancer Society Daffodils

A sign up sheet for orders will be in the Fellowship Hall in January. Items include bunches, bears and potted plants. The final order is due in mid February. Donations do help in the fight against cancer. Pick up is March 13-14. Questions? Call Dee at 346-5352.



## Financial Report



**General Fund** receipts for December to date through the 27<sup>th</sup> were \$45,686 or 125% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,454. There are no more Sundays remaining, however, we are optimistic that additional receipts will arrive before year end.

**Building Fund** receipts for December to date through the 27<sup>th</sup> were \$9,348. This already exceeds the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832. The excess will help to eliminate the deficit in the Building Fund.

Actual results for November for the General Fund, was a favorable variance of \$3,865. Total receipts for the month were \$36,793 and expenses were \$32,928. The Building fund receipts for the month were \$11,351, which exceeded the budget by \$5,519.

Year to Date through November, the General Fund has a net unfavorable variance of \$16,000 and the Building Fund was unfavorable by \$2,490. Currently our combined deficit for both funds continues to be significantly worse than last year. Based on the receipts so far for December, it appears that we will eliminate the deficit in the Building Fund and be reasonably close to breaking even in the General Fund. Please review your offerings and if you are able, consider helping us with additional offerings.

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

## Calvary's Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee met at 5:30 on Tuesday December 8 and concentrated on Calvary's congregational focused ministries. The committee then sketched out its schedule of 12 meetings for 2010.

The report from the Parish Health Office reveals that its leadership for 2010 is in a state of transition. Mary Ringsven, Vi Bergman and Sandy Rusten will be providing leadership on a rotating basis through August of 2010. A registered nurse needs to be recruited to fill this volunteer position. Although the position is volunteer, training is available through Calvary and Concordia College in Moorhead.

Kjersten Hunt reported that Meal Ministry is running smoothly with Sally Roe and her as co-chairs. There were 6 complete meals prepared and delivered by volunteers in November and 8 frozen soup meals were delivered by Calvary staff and members. Those frozen soup meals were some of the 62 that were made on Faith in Action Sunday in October. Meal Ministry can always utilize volunteers. If you are interested, please sign up in the fellowship hall or call the church office.

The committee received a report from Reg Hansen about Stephen Ministry activities. You can read about Stephen Ministry in another location in this newsletter.

## Stephen Ministry at Calvary

There are currently 15 active Stephen Ministers providing service to 13 care receivers. There are two women Stephen Ministers available to provide care, but no men available. If you know of someone who is struggling with an issue in their life and perhaps needs a Stephen Minister, please call Reg Hansen at 346-4780.

We have been identifying and recruiting people interested in becoming Stephen Ministers. There are seven people who have expressed interest.

A new Stephen Ministry training class will begin in April of 2010. If you feel that this ministry is for you, please step forward and say, "I can do that."

The annual Stephen Minister Christmas pot luck was celebrated at 5:30 on Monday, December 14. We enjoyed meatballs, hot dishes, salads, sandwiches and desserts.

We exchanged fun-type gifts and ended the evening with our usual peer supervision group sessions.

## Justice Journeys Trash & Treasure Sale

Saturday, January 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., The Justice Journeys Team will sponsor a Trash and Treasure Sale in the Calvary Fellowship Hall. So now would be an excellent time to start cleaning out those closets! We are looking for donations of **GOOD**, used items (except no clothing, old electronics or appliances though; they just don't sell and it is too hard to find a home for them). Donations may be placed in the end of the Calvary's Fellowship Hall January 10-21.

Then, doors will open at 9 a.m. on the 23rd and you will find treasures galore! And remembering that one man's trash is another's treasure-and the fact that you will now have room in those closets (emptied by the "trash" you brought in earlier!), we invite you to shop 'til you drop.

All money raised will go to missions. Thanks so much for your continued support! Questions? Contact Carla Gauwitz at [cgauwitz@arvig.net](mailto:cgauwitz@arvig.net).

## 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. With your help this past month, TWIGS sponsorships included donations for:

- Water deposit for a Perham resident moving into a rental home
- Help with rent
- General fund used for unsponsored needs
- Tuition for Kids' Adventure, a school readiness program

- Collect for Kids coats and boots for area children
- Pharmacy prescription needs
- General fund used for unsponsored needs

We received another thank you from a mother whose child is now attending Kid's Adventure: "Thank you for helping my daughter attend school. She loves and enjoys school very much and with your help she can learn and play with her friends..."

The cards on the tree in the fellowship hall are always changing as we receive new need requests, and as needs are met through sponsorship. All donations are tax deductible, and we thank you for your gifts!

# *A different and deeper kind of love*

Rob McNair

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

This verse from Genesis 2 is a very well known part of Scripture, used many times at wedding ceremonies. As with the verse from Genesis 1 where God commands Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply," it is a passage I have read many times and took it to mean that the couple would become "one flesh" symbolically. That in marriage you are joined together with your spouse in a lifelong committed relationship and the two of you become one partnership.

I believe that to be true, but again I also believe there is a deeper meaning. When my first daughter was born, as I held her in my hands for the very first time, it occurred to me that this tiny infant was perhaps what God meant by becoming "one flesh." That this child was literally and physically the embodiment of my wife and I joining together. She was part me and part my wife all rolled up into one tiny body. So in a way I believe sex is involved in this process of becoming "one flesh."

The use of the verb "clings" is intriguing as it certainly indicates that there is to be a physical and emotional intimacy established between the husband and wife. So it seems reasonable too that teaching us about love was certainly part of God's plan when he commanded Adam and Eve to multiply (or have sex). Through sex we not only experience a romantic form of love with our spouse, but by creating life we eventually experience the unconditional form of love we have as parents. But love is a funny thing because it does come in different forms that we often confuse.

The Greeks had many words to describe love, two of the most prominent being *eros* and *agape*. *Eros* is that romantic, passionate kind of love we feel. The warm, fuzzy feelings we get by being around another person. *Eros* is involved in our sexual attractions and usually has to do with fulfilling our own physical and emotional longings.

Agape, however, is far different. Agape is the kind of love God has for us.

Agape is the kind of love we have for our children. Agape is a love so deep you are willing to sacrifice yourself for the sake of another. It requires you to set your own desires and ambitions aside in order to meet the needs of someone else. It requires you to do things you most often do not want to do.

Agape moves you to work willingly and cheerfully without reward or acknowledgement and watch another person reap the benefits of your labor. Agape is what makes a mother sacrifice her own well being to stay up all night taking care of her sick child. Agape is what drives a frail 85-year-old man to visit his wife of 65 years in the nursing home everyday for years on end. Agape is what causes God himself to come down to earth to die in order that His creation might be saved. Agape is a deep, spiritual love that expects nothing in return.

*Eros* is a love based on conditions and has self-interest at stake. It is an "as-long-as" kind of love. As long as she is attractive I will love her. As long as he does what I want I will love him. As long as we don't argue we will love each other.

Agape is unconditional and completely selfless. It is a "no-matter-what" kind of love. No matter what she looks like I will love her. No matter what he does I will love him. No matter how often we argue we will love each other. It is a love built on sacrifice.

The truth is though that nobody gets married with agape. Let's be honest, marriages happen because of *eros*, and if people waited to have agape before they got married then they'd probably never get married!

Research shows that *eros* will sustain a relationship for about 18 months to two years, but after that agape is needed, otherwise the marriage will begin to suffer and collapse under the weight of each spouse trying to fulfill their own desires. A love based on conditions and self interest cannot last.

**Summary:** Sex, as the way in which God designed for us to create life, also exposes us to a different and deeper kind of love.

**Reflection:** What other kinds of love do you think there are? Talk about the kinds of love you see depicted in the media, such as movies and music.

As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

What kind of love does this sound like? Give examples of when you have experienced the kind of love Paul writes about.

**New Member Sunday** is February 7. There will be two new member orientation sessions on Wednesdays January 27 and February 3 at 7 p.m. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Calvary family, please contact the church office.



**Snowbirds!** As you head south contact the church office at [halo@eot.com](mailto:halo@eot.com) or 346-4780 with your departure date, address and return date.

**Inclement Weather.** If weather makes travel dangerous, listen to the radio and television stations below for worship information. If weather conditions are serious there may be only one worship service at 10:45 a.m. If conditions are extremely dangerous, worship will be canceled. Weekdays if Perham Schools are closed or out early due to weather, all confirmation, choirs and meetings are canceled.

KPRW FM  
99.5 Radio Perham  
218-346-4800

KWAD AM  
920 Radio Wadena  
218-631-1803

KCCO TV  
Channel 7 Alexandria  
320-763-5166

WDAY AM 970  
970 Radio Fargo  
701-237-5346

WDAY TV  
Channel 6 Fargo  
701-237-5346



## *Inside the Calvary Connection*

Celebrating Calvary's Charter Birthday + Pastor's Letter	1
Adult Faith Enrichment + Task Force + Calvary News	2
News from Calvary's Women + Youth & Family News	3
Men's News/Building Men for Christ + Marriage Encounter	4
Music + Missionaries + Backpack Program + Daffodils	5
Social/Stephen/Caring Ministries + Financial Report	6
From Rob McNair + New Members +	7



Volume 18, Issue 1

January 2010

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERHAM MN 56573  
PERMIT NO 15

# *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.

TO RECEIVE *THE CALVARY CONNECTION* BY E-MAIL PLEASE CONTACT US.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ♦ 619 3RD AVE SW ♦ PERHAM MN 56573  
CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE AT 218-346-4780 ♦ FAX AT 218-346-4781  
E-MAIL: halo@eot.com VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.calvaryperham.com](http://www.calvaryperham.com)

## *Address Service Requested*



### *A New Year's Prayer*

Dear Lord, please give me

A few friends who understand me  
and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value,  
without which the world  
would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel,  
even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;  
A sense of humor;  
Time for quiet, silent meditation;  
A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait  
for the coming of these things  
with the wisdom to recognize them  
when they come.

Amen