

Living Our Easter Faith



As you receive this newsletter, we will be in the midst of Holy Week. This is such an important time as we recall the most important festivals of our year, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Happy Easter! We know how the story ends and how the victory over death has been won by God through Jesus. And as we live out that Easter faith, we thank God for excitement and growth at Calvary. Here are some of the ways that we will celebrate God's presence in our lives at Calvary.

Wednesday Night Worship

We are excited that a new worship service on Wednesday night could extend Calvary's mission to serve God in our community. Our survey indicates that offering a year-around Wednesday Night Worship would allow many to come to worship who now cannot: those who work on weekends, who travel out-of-town on weekends, whose kids are very involved in Sunday morning sports or other activities, or who use their weekends for many other needs.

Our survey gave us some interesting and very positive results. 152 of 158 said this is a very good idea. 143 of 160 said they would attend, with 34 saying they would attend regularly and 111 from time to time. As to worship style, 21 preferred traditional, 38 contemporary and 84 wanted a variety of styles. For the meal, 76 said they would sometimes join us for a community meal together, and 78 said no. 27 people said they would enroll their children in Wednesday School, and 53 either had no children or said they would not. And finally, 51 of 144 said they would consider joining a Bible Study at 6:30. This is all very positive.

Therefore, we invite you to join us on April 7 at 5:45 PM for the first of our Wednesday Night worship. And here is something of what you can expect.

- We will offer this worship service as an experiment from April 7 till mid July, then extend it if we feel it has been successful.
- The time of the service will be Wednesday night from 5:45-6:30 PM, and this worship service will be more informal and intimate than Sunday.
- It would be a "Third service," so it will use lessons, songs, celebration of communion and usually the sermon of the previous Sunday.
- Given the preference for a variety of styles, we will begin by making the 2 communion Wednesdays more traditional, and the others contemporary.
- We will expect our confirmation students to attend (unless they attend with their parents on Sunday) and they would be a significant part of the service, often reading, serving, greeting, and attending. Confirmation begins at 6:30 PM.
- For the 6 weeks of our Wednesday night service, while confirmation and public school are still in session, we will have a soup and sandwich meal from 5-5:45 PM with a free will offering. We will not offer a meal through the summer.
- The Carol and Youth Choirs will practice at their regular times of 3:45 PM and 4:30 PM, and we will continue to walk the kids from the elementary school and provide snacks for them before choir.
- We will provide a Wednesday School for kids at 4:15 PM.
- We propose that the Praise Team will practice at 6:30 PM (and sometimes also before worship), Senior Choir at 7:15 PM, and Jonah and the Wallers after that.
- We will plan a Bible Study at 6:30 PM that does not expect that people come each week. We will plan it so Sr. Choir members can attend until Choir starts at 7:15 PM.

Jubilee Event April 11

Pastor Edward Nieman, who was pastor at Calvary from 1971-73, will be here on Sunday, April 11. He will preach at both worships and lead an adult forum between services where he will share some memories and answer questions. After church, we invite anyone who wants to join them at Mulligans for the Sunday brunch, where we can bring as many people as we want with no reservations.

Servant of Christ Award April 25

On Sunday, April 25, Richard Andersen from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota will here to present the Servant of Christ award to Calvary. It is an annual award to the congregation in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod that reaches out into the community most effectively. That day, Reg Hansen, our Caring Ministries/Stephen Ministry Coordinator will speak on our Lutheran Social Ministries and why the gospel of Christ compels us to care for our neighbors.

New Member Sunday April 25

Also on April 25, we will receive new members at Calvary. We have a wonderful group of new members, many with young families, and we are delighted to receive them. We will hold two orientation sessions for new members on Wednesday nights, April 14 and 21 at 6:45 PM in the Matthias Room.

Pastor Phil Holtan



BIRTHS

Congratulations to Nena Willprecht on the birth of a daughter, Kaylynn Elizabeth, on Friday, February 19.

Congratulations to Scott & Laura Bjerke on the birth of a son, Maxwell Lee Bjerke, on Tuesday, March 9.

BAPTISM

Cody James Kostohryz was baptized at Calvary on Sunday, February 28. Sponsors are Joanne & Wayne Cymbaluk and Jaden Lunde Hansen. Parents are Ryan and Celeste (Hansen) Kostohryz.

THANK YOU

Thanks to those who helped install the wiring for the multiple camera TV setup. Thanks to Mark Leslie, Mark and Darrel Huber and Mitch Groethe. Let them know you appreciate not seeing any more cords!

LUTHER CREST

We Love The Earth Day!
Sunday April 18, 1-4pm

God Spa for Women
Friday, April 23 through
Sunday, April 25

Camp Cleanup Saturday,
May 22 9am to 7 pm

65th Anniversary and
All-Staff Reunion
Friday-Sunday, June 9-11

WANTED

Someone to care for our children in our home during daytime hours intermittently through April or May, then one to two days per week. Call 346-2227 if you are interested.

Spring Jubilee Events And Opportunities

As we enter the Spring season, Calvary's calendar features some new Jubilee events and some exciting new things to purchase. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss your chance to take these in.

In April, we'll have an opportunity to visit with one of Calvary's former pastors, Pastor Ed Nieman. On Sunday, April 11, Pastor Nieman will be our guest preacher at both services and will be featured at our adult forum between services that day. Pastor Nieman was Calvary's pastor for a few years early in Calvary's history.

Another new Jubilee opportunity will be available this spring, as well. Calvary's history has been summarized and presented for you in a beautiful history book that is being printed, as you read this article. We will soon have those history books available for you at a very minimal cost (less than \$10!), and you will find both the text and the pictures very interesting! The books will also make great gifts for those of you who have children who grew up in the Calvary family or friends who have moved away. Be watching for these books – they'll be here soon!

As we get into warmer weather, you may want to consider purchasing a Calvary Jubilee t-shirt or sweatshirt. Their bright red color makes them very noticeable and fun. You can place your order at the church office, where you can also see samples of these items. Other great Jubilee items are available at the church office, as well, including pens, charms, Red Wing bakers, Christmas cards and ornaments, and much more.

June and July will contain more Jubilee events as we gear up for our big Celebration Weekend on July 24-25. We hope you can join us for many of the events. It's exciting to celebrate our history and to enjoy the present, knowing that the events and the people of our past have brought us to where we are now. Calvary is a great place for us all to "Come to the Water, Take Root, and Branch Out"!



April Worship and Music Happenings

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday. Worship with us at 1:30pm and 6:30pm with Holy Communion as we remember the Last Supper and contemplate its message to us. The offering will be split between Community Outreach and Someplace Safe.

Friday, April 2: Good Friday. Worship at 6:30pm will be a Service of Shadows. We journey with Jesus to the Cross where he paid the ultimate price to set us free from the penalty of our sin.

Sunday, April 4: Easter Sunday. Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! We worship at 8:30 and 10:45am with Holy Communion.

Choir Sunday is May 2. We hope you come and join us and enjoy as the choir lifts praises through song. Thanks to everyone who is a part of Senior Choir this year, and for our very capable accompanist, Stacie Muench. You are a blessing to the Lord and to Calvary!

Our Praise Team Needs You! Even if you can't sing or play an instrument, you can contribute to this vital ministry! Come any Wednesday evening and check it out.

Wednesday night worship begins April 7! You can get a detailed description of this new worship format and the new Wednesday schedule on the front page of the Calvary Connection.

The schedule will be as follows:

3:45pm Carol Choir
4:15pm Wednesday School P3-K6
4:30pm Youth Choir
5:00pm Meal with free will offering
5:45pm Worship
6:30pm Praise Team
6:30pm Confirmation
6:30pm Adult Bible study
7:15pm Senior Choir
8:30pm Jonah & The Wailers



The Earthkeeping Principle-from The Green Bible

"The Lord took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it."

Genesis 2:15 conveys a marvelous teaching. Adam is expected by God to *serve* the garden and to *keep* it. God expected Adam and his descendants to meet the needs of the garden of creation so that it would persist and flourish.

God also expected Adam and his descendants to *keep* the garden. In the blessing of Aaron in Numbers 6:24, "The Lord bless you and keep you," the word for "keep" is the Hebrew *shamar*, which is translated as "guard," "safeguard," "take care of," or "look after." *Shamar* indicates a loving, caring, sustaining kind of keeping.

When we invoke God's blessing to *keep* us, we are not asking the God would keep us in a kind of preserved, inactive state.

Christian Education News

Sunday. Craig Johnson will begin his five-week adult study, "Earth-Wise: A Biblical Response To Environmental Issues" between services in the Matthias Room Sunday, April 11. Contact Tracy Bieger to register so books may be ordered.

Sunday. Join Jeff Tweeton in the Mary Room Sundays between services reading "Holy Restlessness: Reflections on Faith and Learning." Books are at the office for \$10.

Monday. "To forgive someone can be simple. But this simple act can have powerful consequences and may lead to a personal and spiritual transformation." Join Java Jams, beginning Monday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Room, for a four part series on "The Power of Forgiveness" led by Merrie Sue Holtan.

Monday. "Open The Book. Find Yourself." Pastor Holtan facilitates the study. All are welcome to come, 12-1 p.m. in the Matthias Room.

Tuesday. "Seekers" is like a college or seminary level class. We read some good books and expect homework each week to prepare for serious discussion. We meet 8:30-9:30 AM Tuesdays in the Matthias Room. "The Apostle's Creed for Everyman" is the new topic. Contact Tracy Bieger if interested in joining this study.

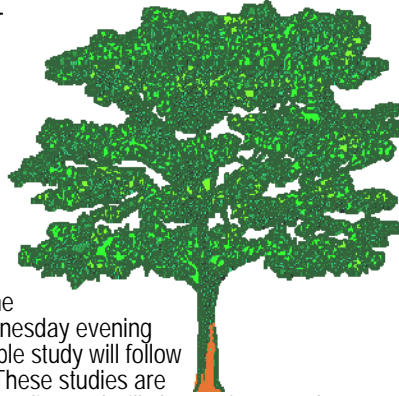
Wednesday. Men's Breakfast 7 a.m. the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month. Study centers around Scripture lessons for the next Sunday.

Wednesday. Women's Circle studies meet Wednesdays, Charity Circle the first Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Faith Circle the first Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and Peace Circle the second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Instead, we are calling on God to keep us in all of our vitality, with all our energy and beauty. The keeping we expect of God when we invoke this ancient blessing is one that nurtures all of our life-fulfilling relationships-with family, neighbors, and friends; with the land, air, and water of the earth; and of course with God.

So too with our keeping of God's creation. Our relationship to creation must be a loving, caring, keeping relationship. When we fulfill God's mandate to *keep* the creation, we make sure that the creatures and other living things under our care are maintained so that they can flourish. They must remain connected with members of the same species, with the many other species with which they interact, and with the soil, air, and water they depend on. As God *keeps* people, so God's people should *keep* His creation.

Tracy Bieger



New!
Wednesday Night Bible Study.

Beginning April 7 with the onset of Wednesday evening worship, a Bible study will follow at 6:30 p.m. These studies are one-session studies and will change from week to week, so feel free to join in any Wednesday evening. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins.

Memory Work. Memory Work for 1st & 2nd grade will take place on Sunday, April 18, between services in the sanctuary. Memory Work for 4th-6th grade will take place on Sunday, April 25, between services in the sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to attend. If you need to know what your child's memory work is to practice at home, please contact Tracy Bieger.

Last Day of Sunday School. Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day!) is the last day of Sunday school. Teacher recognition will take place at the 10:45 service that morning, and the Pre-School-4th grade will sing at that service as well.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting!

"Renew," the Green VBS, will take place this year June 6-9. Please join us in planning this year's VBS, it cannot happen without your help. Help is needed in many areas; Cooking, decorating, leader guides, registration, aides, games, crafts, singing, etc. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you cannot make it, but are interested in helping, please call Tracy Bieger at 346-4780, or send her an email at tracybieger@calvaryperham.com.

Youth Stock

Youth Stock April 5-6. Once again, the youth from our Youth Group 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 generated from your purchase of shares in our youth program are used primarily for our major events such as the ELCA National Youth Gathering, servant trips, youth gatherings and impact events. It is also used for scholarship money for youth who may want to participate in our events but lack the funds at the time. Stocks can be purchased for \$15 per share. You, the members of Calvary, will be receiving a phone call April 5 or April 6 from one of our youth group members who will ask you, "How many shares would you like?" Please pray about your answer. Thank you for caring enough to take stock in Calvary's youth!

Youth Focus

Ben Bucholz has been chosen as a top 25 candidate for Mr. Basketball in the State. He has also been chosen to play in the State All-Star Basketball Game in April, as well as the State All-Star Game in Football which will be held in July. These three nominations are very rare for any player throughout the state to be chosen for even one of them.

Mary Ann Kuebler has been selected to be the Synod Assembly Youth Representative so she will be attending the Synod Assembly in May.

***From Our Women's Coordinator* Terri Olson**

Our annual women's salad and dessert luncheon still needs leadership! I have a speaker who is available to share her message with us, but you may have another idea which would be fine too. Once the speaker or program is chosen, there aren't many other responsibilities because this event is potluck, but you will have to choose a date. If a woman or two would take on this responsibility it would be very much appreciated by the 60 women who usually attend this event. It is such a great opportunity for Calvary women to invite friends and family to share a festive inspirational event. To volunteer to help with this luncheon, call me (Terri) at 218.334.2770 (e-mail olson.ter@gmail.com) or tell someone in the church office who will contact me.

Women of Calvary Executive Board will meet on Friday, April 9 at 10 a.m. at Calvary. Circle Chairs or officers should try to attend. Others who have information to bring to Calvary women or questions to ask may attend the meeting or contact Terri in advance.

"Grow in grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen!" (2 Peter 3:18) June 11-12, women from 287 congregations in northwestern Minnesota will be gathering at Calvary Lutheran in Perham, Minnesota for the Northwest Minnesota Synodical Convention! The theme is "Grow and Go." It is our hope that you will attend this convention and find your faith increased so you will go and share the Good News!



Calvary Men's Ministry Happenings

Canoe Trip. David Knudsen reports that he has the reservations for the trip and has a list of men with 3 on the waiting list. When he asks for deposits next month that list may change.

Canadian Fishing Trip. Rand Stolee offered to host a fishing trip again this year. The best dates were June 12-14. He can host up to 14 men. The food and gas expenses usually come to \$50 per person. Canadian fishing licenses are extra. Contact Rand to get on the list.

Rewind. Ron Anderson reports that the unit is full again. The guys are still looking for work. Some need rides periodically as well.

Fix-it Ministry. Mark Olson and Lee Mindemann that there have been some small tasks accomplished and one in the works. Rand will put the issue in the slide show to raise awareness.

Calvary women will host the convention of over 150 north-west Minnesota women at our church June 11 and 12.

Check your calendar for availability and plan to attend the convention and maybe even help with some of the set-up and hosting tasks. A sign-up sheet will appear at church soon; please consider helping in some way. We encourage young women ages 18-45 to apply for available registration fee waivers; that deadline is May 15, 2010. Forms are available at the office or from Bev Tougas.

We are excited to have Inez Torres Davis from Women of the ELCA in Chicago as our keynote speaker. Inez specializes in social justice assisting all participants in promoting healing and wholeness in our church, society, and world. Inez coordinates the Women of the ELCA grants program, and develops resources, events, and conversations related to racism, cross-cultural understanding, and care of creation. Inez has written several resources and offers workshops and retreats on these topics. We will also have an afternoon of workshops to choose from. We will focus on the three mission areas of Women of the ELCA: Growth, Action, and Community. Ms. Davis will help create a "Sacred Space," Helen Phalen will share tips about her passion to get young people involved, and a representative from Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch will share stories of how their ministry has reached young people in a big way!

Salvation Army. Our church, usually our youth, serves the first Saturday of each month. If you want to join in, contact Rob McNair or Mark Olson.

Faith Chests. Thanks to everyone who has been working so faithfully on this project. On a Sunday morning this spring there will be a presentation of these Faith Chests.

Men Visitation. Dana Loken was approached about the men visiting shut-in men from our congregation. At present, there are four: Palmer Pederson, John Knight, Dayton Jacobson and Earl Miller. We are asked to visit each for 15 minutes or so once a month. Volunteers so far: Lee Mindemann (April), Rand Stolee (May), Dave Knudsen (June).

Dart Ball. Is anyone interested in forming a team to throw darts for "Dart Ball" in a monthly church league September-March? There are teams in the area and they are looking for two or more teams of five to six members on a team to begin this fall. Interested? Questions? Please call Dorvin Wendt at 346-7009.



Women's Happenings

Circle Studies

Wednesday, April 7, Charity Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room.

Wednesday, April 7, Faith Circle meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Matthias Room following an 11:30 a.m. lunch at Mulligan's.

Wednesday, April 14, Peace Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Matthias Room.

Java Jams

"To forgive someone can be simple. But this simple act can have powerful consequences-and may lead to a personal and spiritual transformation." Join Java Jams, beginning Monday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Room, for a four part series on "The Power of Forgiveness" led by Merrie Sue Holtan.

Cluster Meeting

Monday, April 19 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Clarissa. We leave from Calvary at 3 p.m. that day. The theme is "Shine Like Stars," with devotions and Bible study led by Pastor Melissa Erhart and guest speaker Merrie Sue Holtan of Calvary. The \$9 fee will cover dinner, refreshments and materials. Register with Bev Tougas by Wednesday, April 7.

Save These Items

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.

PAY IT FORWARD

When someone is there for you with kindness and support as you experience some troubling times, pay it forward.

Thank the person who helped you, and then express your gratitude further by helping someone else, when you are in a position to do so.

Often, Stephen Ministers are there for care receivers because in the past, someone was there for them when they were in need.

Please continue the cycle of grace and gratitude.

WALK MS 2010

Once again our area team "The Go-Getters" are gearing up for our annual Walk MS. It will be held in Fergus Falls at the Minnesota State Community College May 2 from noon until 2 p.m.

Multiple Sclerosis stops people from moving. Consider a pledge to end MS and support me and our local team. 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 more information contact Colleen Szama at 758-2502.

Stephen Ministry News

Calvary's Stephen Ministers met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday March 8th from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.

The continuing education portion of the meeting was presented by Joyce Bunnell of Lakeland Hospice and Home. Joyce described her work with grief groups that she leads here in our area. Her presentation was received very well and followed by meaningful discussion. Some care receivers that Stephen Ministers work with also attend grief support groups.



Other Stephen Ministers from our Northwestern Minnesota Stephen Ministry Network were invited to attend and there were representatives present from Detroit Lakes, Wadena, New York Mills and Battle Lake. All three Stephen Ministry congregations in Perham were represented; Calvary, St. Paul's and New Creation.

As usual, the last hour of the meeting was utilized for small group peer supervision.

Social Ministry Resource Sharing

Bev Tougas and Cindy Olson represented Calvary at the Lakes and Prairie Conference 9 Spring Gathering at First English Lutheran Church in Menahga on Sunday, March 14. Churches invited to this include all in Cluster 9 of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

The focus of this meeting was congregational resource sharing in the area of Social Ministry. Pastors and lay persons shared programs that have been successful in their churches in the area of social ministry. It was great to hear what is happening in neighboring churches and think of new ventures for Calvary.



Osakis has a wonderful book of faith stories they put together for their confirmands. Clarissa and Henning have projects that promote the livestock purchases for developing countries (Holy Cow, God's Barnyard). Henning uses the trees put up for Christmas and create beautiful wooden medallions with crosses etched on them for the Lenten season. Many others shared stories about their quilt and prayer shawl ministries. Calvary had a good display and brochures highlighting all the social ministry programs we support. Good information was shared with others about the success of these programs.

Erin Anderson was there, representing the synod. It was good for Bev and Cindy to visit with him and learn more about these cluster gatherings. There were very few people in attendance, but the ideas shared were excellent.

Join Calvary's Relay for Life Team

This year's Relay for Life is July 9-10, 2010. This is the American Cancer Society's signature activity offering everyone in the community the opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams take turns walking around a path or track having a team member on the track at all times during the 24 hour event.

There is no required amount of money to be raised to participate in Relay for Life. The American Cancer Society recommends each member set a goal of \$100. We will meet this goal by getting donations for the luminaries in honor or memory of those who have fought cancer. These luminaries light the track during the night of walking. The suggested donation is \$10 for each luminary but any donation is appreciated.



Areas where you can help: Join the team's planning committee; help plan and make theme decorations for the team tent; work at the fundraiser pancake breakfast; help with the luminary Sunday mornings, donate items for the silent auction; help set up the team tent July 9; decorate the tent before 5 pm; help set out luminaries around the track in the afternoon; sign up to walk the track for one hour between 7 pm and 7 am; help with Calvary fundraiser at event (veggie/fruit plates, mug mats); help clean up 7 am Saturday morning.

Watch for more information in the Fellowship Hall. For more information on the Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org.

The Backpack Program... *Satisfy The Hunger*

Surveys to parents and children were sent home in all of the food bags in February and a teacher survey was also given. The comments were very positive:

Teachers all responded that there are no problems with confidentiality and answered "yes" to the efficiency of the delivery of the food bags. Teachers also noted improvements in attendance and energy level!

Comments regarding changes in students participating in the program:

- Student was happy to "find" food in her locker
- Happier
- The students are excited for Fridays!
- They are so happy to be having the food to take home

Community Outreach: *Outstretched Hands*

"Outstretched Hands," our focus for Lent this year is a wonderful symbol of Calvary's Outreach Ministry. All of **your** hands stretched beyond Calvary's doors for others. Each month three to five families are assisted with furniture, household items, and gas/grocery vouchers. Your generous contributions of furniture have filled the garage as we face a busy spring season. As you spring clean, we are in need of bed frames, towels and washcloths, kitchen towels, and pots and pans in good condition.

God's powerful and outstretched hands, creating the world, Jesus' hands outstretched in love on the cross and all of **our** hands stretched beyond ourselves for others: the powerful message of hope this Easter season.

- We are thankful for this service and blessed to have this program.
- This is an amazing program! I am thrilled to have this type of program in our school. Great job and thanks!

Parents felt that the program helped them save money and both the child and parent liked the program. Two of 19 parents requested to be removed from the program. Comments to the question: "How has the program affected your family?"

- Helped stretch our groceries for the month
- Great for sides and snacks
- Helped my child make better choices
- Provides little extras for the weekend
- Four-year-old gets excited when older children bring home bags and helps put the food away!



TWIGS... *Together Winning In God's Service*

TWIGS (*Together Winning in God's Service*) is a blessing to many in our area who are making their way through a difficult time in their life. With your support this past month, TWIGS has helped several people in our area including:

- A donation for a **car radiator** which allows a Perham resident to continue to work.
- Donations for **outdoor work clothing** for a gentleman starting a new job outdoors.
- Donations for **Pharmacy** prescription needs.
- A donation for a time when an **unexpected need** arises.
- Donations for **Kids Adventure School** for area children.

TWIGS strives to meet ongoing needs of individuals and families in our community that cannot be met through traditional resources.

Sponsorship needs are continually changing as we receive new requests and as needs are met.

The TWIGS tree in the fellowship hall has cards ready for sponsorship—you may sponsor an entire need or any amount towards a need.

TWIGS needs can also be found on Calvary's website at www.calvaryperham.com and click the link Adopt-A-Need.

Your gifts of generosity are deeply appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund receipts for March to date through the 21st were \$25,217 or 69% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,544. There is one more Sunday remaining in the month.

Building Fund receipts for March to date through the 21st were \$5,104 or 87% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

Actual results for February for the General Fund, was an unfavorable variance of \$12,124. Total receipts for the month were \$28,818 and expenses were \$40,942. Expenses were higher than normal, primarily due to a semi-annual insurance payment. On a year to date basis, the General Fund is behind by \$11,026.

The Building Fund receipts for the month were \$3,395, which were less than the amount needed by \$2,437. On a year to date basis, the Building Fund is behind by \$4,334.

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

Simply Giving®

This is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to a Lutheran congregation through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account or credit card.

For more information, talk to Shirley at the church office and she will be happy to help you.

Recently, an Environmental Stewardship Taskforce has been organized to take a look at how the church operates and what improvements we can implement to use our resources more efficiently and effectively. Four sub-committees have been assembled and are meeting to address these areas:

- ◆ **Energy.** This group is analyzing our existing energy usage and looking at ways we can conserve and save, taking a look at everything from the gas range in the kitchen to how our thermostats are programmed.
- ◆ **Landscape and Water.** This group is hoping to provide recommendations to minimize our water usage and help control costs on maintaining the landscape at Calvary.
- ◆ **Paper and Recycling.** This group has many goals in mind related to reducing the amount of paper we use at Calvary and increasing our recycling efforts. Did you know that we spend \$1,700-\$1,800 annually on paper alone at Calvary? The vast majority is used for our bulletins and newsletters and we are looking for ways to reduce our paper usage using technology. Reducing the size of our bulletin now that we have the capability to project parts of the liturgy and relying more on electronic delivery of the newsletter are just some of the suggestions we are exploring.
- ◆ **Education.** This group is working on initiatives and opportunities to raise awareness of environmental stewardship at Calvary, as it will take a willingness from all our members if we are to save and conserve.

The exciting part is that these efforts will allow us to have more money available to put toward important ministries at Calvary. A few things you can do immediately to help out:

- ◆ Help us save by turning off lights when at church.

- ◆ Both entrances at church have a set of secondary doors. Help by making sure those doors are shut to increase energy efficiency.
- ◆ Use only one paper towel when drying your hands in the bathroom. If you pull extra towels out of the dispenser, place those on top of the dispenser for others to use.
- ◆ Use washable plates, cups, and utensils to help reduce the amount of trash we create.
- ◆ Return your bulletin to the usher station after worship to be recycled instead of placing it in the trash. We are working on getting recycle containers for the Narthex.
- ◆ Currently we mail approximately 600 newsletters a month, which is a lot of paper and postage. Call or e-mail the church office and request to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail instead of having a paper copy mailed to you. The newsletter is always accessible via the church website so you can always print one at home if you like.
- ◆ Make your contributions to church using Simply Giving, the automated program run by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This reduces paperwork and the expense of providing offering envelopes, while making contributions to the church more consistent. Contact the church office for more information on how to sign up.
- ◆ The church utilizes an automated system to send offering envelopes to all confirmed members. If you do not use your envelopes, call or e-mail the church office and request to be removed from that list.

The goal is to be better stewards of all the resources we have here at Calvary.

We are blessed with your financial contributions to the church and we want to make sure those dollars are being used in the most effective way possible.

Should you wish to be apart of any one of these groups, or have suggestions for us to consider, please contact either Craig Johnson or Rob McNair.

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The Calvary Connection

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH EXISTS TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE TO ALL PEOPLE, HELPING EVERYONE TO LEARN AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE IN THE STRUGGLE AND TRIUMPHS OF DAILY LIFE.

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Our Easter Outlook

During World War II, when the Blitz was at its worst in London, theologian Leslie Weatherhead said there had been no loss of life among the Christians there. Many Christians had been killed in London, but there was no loss of life. People who believe in the risen Lord have true life in him, no matter their earthly trials and circumstances. Because God raised his Son from the dead, Christians are assured of immortality in Christ. Eternal life is ours, thanks to the empty tomb.

For people who believe in an ever-living Lord, every Sunday is resurrection Sunday.

