

## Calvary Cottages

by Terri Olson

As a member of Calvary Lutheran, you are in one. Some of you have met with your group many times, some once, and some of you have not yet even been invited to gather with your group. Last fall when the concept was new to us, many wondered about the purpose of these cottages and if we really needed one more meeting to attend.



Now we have had some experience and I collected the following comments about Cottages from a cross-section of Calvary members:

*"Enjoyable. We divided up tasks so one person had the house, and one the treats etc. I enjoyed getting to know people in the group. We had a Bible Study and socialization; we relaxed and talked and found it very enjoyable."*

*"When our group gets together it's nice, pleasant, with good discussion."*

*"I enjoyed people in the group immensely."*

*"Many people didn't attend. I would have loved to meet more."*

*"Really enjoyed getting to meet people I normally wouldn't have met."*

*"We like the togetherness. It brings up topics we don't always get to discuss at church. We felt spiritual growth as well as mental growth. It expanded our horizons."*

*"I would have loved to meet people of every age bracket, but most at our group were a similar age."*

*"Good chance to meet and get to know people who live in our area. We didn't even know the other couple who were hosts with us."*

*"The number of people who didn't return our calls or acknowledge our invitations was disappointing."*

*"We felt it was one of the few things in this congregation that we can do together as a couple."*

Carrie and Tim Roble (with Jacob and Ryan) felt the support of their cottage when Jacob had his transplant and stayed at Mayo for the summer. Carrie said, "Getting cards, letters and gifts from people was so positive. They were so helpful and thoughtful." Tim added, "Having people drive by and stop and visit to hear how things were going was really positive."

And from a new member who has not yet had an invitation to a cottage gathering, "Moving in from another area it's hard to get acclimated. I am sure the cottage group is a way to do that."

The stories of our cottage groups can be as different as each of us is different from our neighbor, but the word I heard most from those who attended a gathering was enjoyable." There is joy when Christians get together, feel accepted, get to know others and feel free to share.

After the experiences of one year, we have made some changes to expectations for cottage groups. We recommend two gatherings a year rather than three to four, and we have revised some of the membership lists. Duane and Darlene Lysne have created maps with pins to represent each Calvary family and their corresponding cottage. Check out these maps on the wall near the copy machine in the office to get a picture of how the people of Calvary are distributed around the area.

Sometimes the best things happen to cottage groups when they are apart rather than together. It might be that smile and conversation the next time you see a member of your group, or the special attention you pay to someone because now you have a new connection. Make it a goal to learn who is in your cottage and give those people a special place in your heart and your prayers.

## Pastor's Letter

*Dear sisters and brothers in Christ at Calvary,*

*Blessed Advent* is my wish for you in the coming weeks. We are in a new church year beginning November 30 with the First Sunday of Advent. It's a time of preparation and expectation for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas time.

Many complain about how commercialized Christmas has become. I agree with some of that criticism, but it could be worse. It could be like Pentecost, to which nobody pays any attention. Who even knows when Pentecost is approaching? But Christmas—yes, we do know it's coming. So, let's not wish the hoopla for Christmas would go away, but rather let's bend the expectation in a different direction.

Instead of a feverish worry about getting the right gift for everyone, how about preparing for Jesus' birthday with gifts for the least of these? Not all of your gift recipients may understand such a gift, but many would really appreciate a gift in their honor to the Heifer Project (<http://www.heifer.org/>) or the ELCA Good Gifts program (<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Give-A-Gift.aspx>). These web sites have very attractive cards you can send that explain your gift. A gift like that is also a witness to the values that really count for you. Call me at 346-4780 or email me at [pastorphil@calvaryperham.com](mailto:pastorphil@calvaryperham.com) if you have questions.

Instead of spending all your time keeping up with the Christmas rush, how about taking time daily for Advent Devotions. Luther Seminary has a wonderful daily devotions called God Pause which they will send to you daily by email ([www.luthersem.edu/email](http://www.luthersem.edu/email)), or mail you an Advent devotional booklet (641-646-3456). We have Christ in our Home on the Narthex table too.

So, Blessed Advent!



## Life Events

Congratulations to Leah Priebe and Matthew Shonblom who were married Saturday, October 25 at Shalom Lutheran in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Condolences to the family and friends of Greg Gauwitz who passed away Wednesday, November 5. A memorial service was held Tuesday, November 11. Greg is the husband of Carla Gauwitz and father of Nick Gauwitz and Erin Ryding.

Taya Lynn Arvidson joined God's family through Holy Baptism November 16. Sponsors are Jessica Miller and Ryan Rager. Parents are Michael and Lindsey (Miller) Arvidson.

## Christmas at Calvary

Saturday, December 13-5PM  
Sunday, December 14-8:30-10:45AM  
**Christmas Cantata**

Sunday, December 21-10:45AM  
**Children's Christmas Program**

Wednesday, December 24  
**Christmas Eve Worship**  
With Holy Communion 3-5-7PM

Thursday, December 25  
**Christmas Day Worship**  
With Holy Communion 10AM

Sunday, December 28  
**1st Sunday after Christmas**  
College Students lead Worship

## Snowbirds

As you spend the winter in warmer weather, we'd like to know your estimated date of departure, your winter address and your estimated date of return. Contact the church office by phone at 346-4780 or email [halo@eot.com](mailto:halo@eot.com).

## Thank You

For the use of your facility for the October 2008 Blood Drive. We are very appreciative of your support for this worthwhile community event. It takes all of us to make it a success.

Thanks again

Carol Schmitz and Bonnie Sweere  
Red Cross Coordinators

## Christmas Tea December 6

The Women of Calvary extend an invitation to everyone to join us for a morning of fellowship, coffee and homemade Christmas treats of all kinds! Relax and let us do your Christmas baking for you.

There will be crafts, quilts, candies, breads and those wonderful cookie assortments to buy for gifts and for your families to enjoy.

Bring a friend and join us at Calvary from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6.



For all those donating baked goods and/or crafts: please have your items to the church Friday afternoon or Saturday morning by 8:30. If you are baking cookies for the cookie assortments, have them to the church by 3:00 p.m. Friday afternoon.

Thank you! We'll see you on the 6th!

## Service of Silence December 16

**Be still, and know that I am God.**

Psalm 46:10

In our days of constant noise and activity, stillness can be a welcome relief. Or, because it is so rare, we may be uncomfortable with silence even though we often wish for it. We often tell our children, "Sit still and listen to me!"

God gives his children the same message!

There will be an opportunity to practice a quiet time on Tuesday December 16th between the hours of 5 and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come any time during those hours and stay a few minutes, a half hour or more as you feel the need. The church and sanctuary will be silent and lit with candles. A booklet will be available with suggested scripture, hymns and liturgy to read. When you are ready you may approach the communion rail to receive communion and anointing and remain there as long as you wish.

You are invited to experience quiet during this Advent season. May you find such stillness renewing and refreshing.

## Memories for the Jubilee Celebration

The planning for Calvary's Jubilee (50th anniversary) Celebration is well underway and points us to a year-long celebration September 2009 until July 2010. Lisa Peterson is our Jubilee chairperson.

As part of the Jubilee, we have asked Ron Anderson to write a history of Calvary's 50 years of ministry to be available in September 2009.

We invite you to write down your own stories and bring them and other items to the church office.

We can't promise that each will be included in the book, but Ron will carefully read each one and we expect to share them all on the Calvary website.



## In Case Of Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather that makes travel dangerous, listen to the stations listed at the right for worship information.



If weather conditions are serious there may be only one worship service at 10:45 and if extremely dangerous, worship will be canceled.

On weekdays, if Perham Schools are closed or classes dismissed early due to weather, all confirmation, choirs and meetings are canceled as well.

Stay tuned to these local stations for the latest church related information:

KPRW FM 99.5 Radio Perham ..... 218-346-4800  
KWAD AM 920 Radio Wadena ..... 218-631-1803  
WDAY AM 970-WDAY TV 6 Fargo ..... 701-237-5346  
KCCO TV Channel 7 Alexandria ..... 320-763-5166

## Adult Faith Enrichment

The Evangelical Church in America has begun an initiative called Opening the Book of Faith. The purpose of the Book of Faith initiative is to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. And to be more precise: The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

The goal is that congregations use their own creativity and the way they know their own people and needs to make this work. The key is to decide we want to be more at home in scripture. Calvary will be asking the congregation to make New Year's resolutions to read the Bible next year. We will present a 3 session course on how to read the Bible entitled "Rediscovering the Book of Faith," as well as Bibles available to purchase for anyone who needs one. Please prayerfully consider your place in this initiative, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Tracy Bieger at phone 346-4780 or email at [tracybieger@calvaryperna.com](mailto:tracybieger@calvaryperna.com)) or Pastor Phil.



## Sunday School

The Sunday School still needs empty oatmeal and empty boxes to use for the upcoming Christmas Program, "Happy Birthday Jesus!" If you can help out with the program in any way, please contact Tracy Bieger at 346-4780.

The Christmas Program will be presented Sunday, December 21 at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Rehearsals will be December 7 and 14 at regular Sunday School time. They have already begun rehearsing music with Russ and Megan Shipman!



## Calvary Library

The Library Committee wishes to heartily thank all those who participated in our "Kids Can Read" program. We collected almost 500 wonderful books. Thank You! We have distributed the books to several local programs for kids including the Perham and Wadena Head Start and Early Childhood Education programs, the Richville Clothing Ministry, Title 1 Reading Programs, Social Services Parenting Education Programs and a local program for new moms and their babies. Some of the books were in new condition and will be used by these programs as Christmas gifts for needy families.

Have you read a good book lately that you are recommending? Please share it with other Calvary readers. The Library Committee is inviting you to write a brief review of the book so that we can include it in the green binder in the library marked, "Book Reviews." Pink book review forms are available in the library to help you write your review, but feel free to write your own review in your own style. Check out the reviews that other famous Calvary readers have written! Be sure to include your name as well as the name and author of the book you are reviewing. We are very interested in learning what "Calvary is Reading."

## Women's Ministry Happenings

**Women's Christmas Party** December 10 at noon. Join us for a potluck meal, Bible Study led by Pastor Phil and a short business meeting. All women of Calvary are welcome to attend.

**Java Jams Bible Study** meets on Mondays at 8:30AM in the Mary Room at Calvary.

**Nursing Home Devotions.** This is an opportunity to spend quality time with some special folks at the Perham nursing home, assisting them with Bible devotions the first Thursday of each month (except January, February and March). If you'd like to participate in this special ministry, please contact Net Kupferschmid at 346-3315 or send her an email at [kupnet@yahoo.com](mailto:kupnet@yahoo.com).

**Altar Guild.** Are you willing to assist with communion setup and cleanup? Call Sally Awes at 346-7911 and leave a message.

**Christmas Tea & Bake Sale.** The Women of Calvary extend an invitation to everyone to join us for a morning of fellowship, coffee and homemade Christmas treats of all kinds! Relax and let us do your Christmas baking for you. There will be crafts, quilts, candies, breads and those wonderful cookie assortments to buy for gifts and for your families to enjoy. Bring a friend and join us at Calvary from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6. For all those donating baked goods and/or crafts: please have your items to the church Friday afternoon or Saturday morning by 8:30. If you are baking cookies for the cookie assortments, have them to the church by 3:00 p.m. Friday afternoon. Thank you! We'll see you on the 6th!

**Snowbirds.** If you'd like to contribute before you leave, your donations of baked goods (estimated \$15.00 value) or a monetary donation may be dropped off at the church office.

**Cookie Assortments.** We need 50 families to bake 6 dozen fancy Christmas cookies to be brought to the church on Friday afternoon, December 5. 100 assortments of three dozen cookies will be packed in boxes to be sold at the Christmas Tea. Call Dee Anderson at 346-5352 or sign up on the "cookie sheet" in the Fellowship Hall.



## Men's Ministry News

The Fishermen are a group of Calvary men committed to growing the church through ministry to and through men with a variety of social events, educational opportunities and service projects. For more information about Men's Ministry at Calvary, please call Craig Swanson at 347-7926 or call Rand Stolee at 346-3440.

**Nativity Project.** Ron Anderson will be organizing the construction of our outdoor Christmas decorations again. The men will gather to put up the nativity at 9 am on December 13.

**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. Please join us!



## *Calvary Youth & Family Ministry—Alive in Faith*

**Confirmation:** Confirmation continues to go well. We have 38 students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade attending each week. Pastor Phil joined us Wednesday, November 19 to conclude our time exploring the Old Testament looking at the life of David. Starting Wednesday, December 3 we begin the New Testament, which corresponds nicely as we enter the Advent season. *Parents: Attend the Large Group Presentation portion of Confirmation the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Come see what we're teaching your students.*

**Wednesday Night Alive:** 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. is for students in grades 7 to 9. And then 8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. is for grades 10 to 12. This is time where the kids can be in fellowship with one another.

**Sunday Rap:** On Sunday mornings (9:40 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.) the youth in grades 7 to 12 meet in the Loft to discuss our faith. Lately I have been challenging the students to defend their faith, which usually provokes a pretty good discussion.

**Lunch at Schools:** I continue to make weekly visits to the schools during lunch time, as I continue to get to now not only our youth but those in the community outside Calvary.

**Club 180:** I have spent time at Club 180 and consider this a great opportunity to interact with youth who are perhaps not actively attending a church. It is also a good opportunity to be visible in the community and to bump into kids I wouldn't normally meet.

**Calvary Blog:** I continue to write a weekly clip for the website blog. Consider it a running dialogue of my random thoughts.

**Jr. High Gathering:** 20 students in grades 7 and 8 (along with myself and two other brave adult chaperones) journeyed to Grand Forks on Friday, November 21 to attend our synod Jr. High youth gathering. Many thanks to Kim Jordahl and Terry Kalina for their willingness to chaperone.

**National Youth Gathering:** We have 32 youth signed up to travel to New Orleans in July 2009 to attend our ELCA National Youth Gathering. Beginning in January we will start to meet to prepare for the journey, discussing not only logistics but also the spiritual implications of this trip.

**Global Awareness:** In October and November we made two trips to Fargo to attend different events related to the current conditions in Africa. Six students attended an event entitled "Step into Africa," which was an interactive exhibit related to the AIDS crisis. Then a few weeks later some of the same students attended the premiere of a documentary at the Fargo Theatre which told the story of Joseph Makeer, who is a native of Sudan now living in Fargo who escaped the genocide of his country as a teenager. His is a heart-wrenching story of survival. We also visited the Concordia campus to see an exhibit of photographs taken during a mission trip to Joseph's village in Sudan.

**Salvation Army:** On the first Saturday of the month small groups of youth have been volunteering at the Salvation Army in Fargo to serve a noon meal. This is an eye-opening experience as the youth have the chance to engage with a diverse population of people in need.

**Highway Clean-up:** The youth were able to clean our 2-mile section of Highway 10 before the cold weather set in. Amazing (and saddening) to see the amount of trash that exists along our roadways.

**Community Service:** In coordination with the Caring / Social Ministries at Calvary, some of our youth have become active in delivering furniture to those in need. This is an invaluable way to get the youth involved in our community and interacting with people from all walks of life. Just this week two willing guys joined me to deliver bunk beds to a home with many children. A simple act that did not take much effort, but the reward is great knowing that two little kids would sleep in a bed that night instead of sleeping on the floor. In addition, five youth went and raked leaves one day after school for someone in need of a helping hand.

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** On Sunday, November 23 the youth delivered Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need of some good will. A wonderful way to reach out as the holiday season begins.

**Christmas:** The youth are also getting in the Christmas spirit and will help decorate St. James Manor and Briarwood Senior Apartments for Christmas. Russ Bunker is also working with the Carol and Youth Choirs and on Sunday, December 14 the youth will spread the Good News by caroling at each of those places as well as the nursing home.

**God Bless, Rob McNair, Youth Director**

## *Calendar*



### **Confirmation Night**

5:30-6:00pm Teen Meal  
6:00-7:15pm Confirmation  
7:15-8:15pm WNA Grade 7-9  
8:15-9:15pm WNA Grade 10-12

*None on December 17, 24, 31*

### **Thursday, December 4**

3:30pm Christmas Decorating at St. James Manor

### **Saturday, December 6**

9:00am Fargo Salvation Army Service Project

### **Sunday, December 14**

12:00pm Carol and Youth Choir Caroling

### **Wednesday, December 17**

4:45pm Teen Meal

### **Wednesday, December 17**

Peter Eide Concert departure  
Return 9:30-10:00 p.m.  
Confirmation Requirement  
Grades 7-12 welcome



Our Youth Ministry exists through God's love to inspire youth to become Christ-centered, alive in their faith and to make a difference in their church, community and world.

## Three Cheers For Habitat For Humanity!

LEAF RIVER HABITAT  
Mike Kramer Director

CALVARY LUTHERAN

### Construction

Ron Anderson	16
Pam Bruhn	8
Daniel Dahl	8
Steve Dahl	8
Peter Eikren	24
Terri Eikren	24
Gary Hanson*	30+
Ron Heinis	16
John Klema	20+
Harold Legreid*	30+
Duane Lysne	20+
Dana Loken	8
Jana Loken	8
Jim Nordbeck	100+
Mark Olson*	20+
George Palmer	4
Gail Pickett	8
Michael Pickett	8
Char Pyles	4
Jerry Pyles	8
Rand Stolee*	80+
Eileen Tolkinen	8
Erv Tolkinen	16
Gus Ziegler	4

CALVARY LUTHERAN

### Food Preparation

Berta Anderson, Candice Dahl, Ida Gimbel  
Jean Gunderson, Missy Graham, Karen Hasskamp  
Ann Heinis x 8, Dianne Hunt, Dorothy Johnson  
Daidre Klinnert, Char Pyles x 2, Kathy Rehborg  
Pat Shepard, Jill Shipman, Becky Stolee x 3  
Sonja Thimjon, and Marky Van de Streek

\* *Thursday Night Crew*

### COMMUNITY

New Creation Lutheran Church  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Vergas  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Henning  
Heart of the Lakes Elementary School team  
North Emmanuel Luther League  
Faith Lutheran Church - Parkers Prairie  
Trinity Lutheran Church-Deer Creek  
Apostolic Lutheran Church - New York Mills  
United Methodist Church-Perham

150 volunteers donated over 1600 hours!

What a blessing this whole project has been! What a blessing Calvary and all its volunteers have been. What a blessing for Calvary to act with and through the community to achieve God's mission.

## Stephen Ministry at Calvary

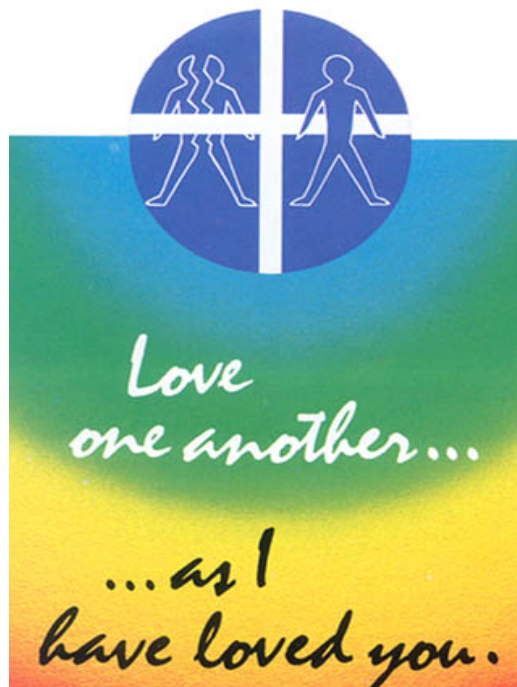
There are currently 28 trained Stephen Ministers who meet each month for education and small group supervision purposes.

There are 18 people in our community that are currently receiving regular services.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday December 8, 2008 at 6:30 PM. This will be our annual Christmas celebration and pot-luck supper.

There also will be the usual exchange of highly irrelevant gifts.

We will conclude with devotions and regular supervision.



## Surviving The Holiday Season After The Loss Of A Loved One



Here are several suggestions for getting the most out of the upcoming holidays. We suggest that you try one or two of them or use them to spark some other ideas that will be personal and meaningful to you. Even though there may be some emotional pain connected with doing activities like these, we believe there will also be a special kind of healing in them.

- ◆ Give a **special gift** in memory of your loved one. Join the gift-giving emphasis of the holidays by giving a gift of some kind, e.g., a flowering plant to a favorite institution like a nursing home or church or temple.
- ◆ Give a **gift of money**, if you can afford it, to others who are disadvantaged and having a hard time of it. Make it clear that the gift is in memory of your loved one. You might choose a cause that was important to your loved one.
- ◆ **Engage in an activity** that you and your loved one especially enjoyed. You might choose to do this alone or with other family or friends. An example of this would be going to a play or taking a little trip.
- ◆ Have a **special gathering** with family or friends during the holiday season. During the time together, have a "sharing of memories" about your loved one. Some of you might speak of the gifts they received from the loved one in times past, with emphasis on gifts of the mind and heart - - things your loved one said or did that meant a lot to you.
- ◆ During the holidays, begin some kind of **new tradition or ritual** that is meaningful to you. An example of this is going to a restaurant on Thanksgiving Day rather than preparing a big meal at home. Another example: light a special candle for part of the holiday season. The candle could symbolize both the one you lost and light for the path ahead of you into the future.
- ◆ To rephrase an old saying, "It is just as blessed (and appropriate) to receive as to give." In that spirit **give yourself some kind of special gift** during the holidays. You might try to imagine something which your loved one would have given you or done for you if he or she were here.
- ◆ **Have some photo albums out**, including pictures of holidays past, and think about what you are going

## Music Ministry—December Joy

### Christmas Cantata

December 13 at 5:00 p.m. and December 14 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., our Senior Choir will present Joseph Martin's Christmas cantata, *The Winter Rose*. You won't want to miss this inspiring work, celebrating our greatest gift at Christmas, our Savior, the Perfect Rose, Jesus Christ.

### Concordia Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7, concert at 3 p.m. We leave Calvary at 1 p.m. There are 40 tickets at the church office for \$9 each. Questions? Call Ron Anderson at 346-5352 or Jill Shipman at 346-5395.

### Other December Music Offerings

- ◆ Our Youth Choir will present a lively African style Advent song for you.
- ◆ Tracy Bieger will be playing the flute at one of the traditional Christmas Eve services.
- ◆ Abby and Amber Kalina will perform a duet on Christmas Day.

Watch your bulletins for exact times and for other special music that you will hear during the Advent and Christmas Season.

May the true reason for this season, our Lord Jesus Christ burn brightly in your hearts and shine through you in all you do.

Merry Christmas!

**Russ Bunker**—The Music Man



## Thanks To Everyone

For helping to send eight boxes to the Republic of Georgia to help warm those in refugee camps there. They will have a better Christmas because we sent the following hand-knit or handmade items: 94 scarves, 76 mittens/gloves, 82 caps, 7 headbands, and 14 quilts. The final shipment is being sent.

Thank you for your loving handwork, knitters, crocheters and quilters!



## Christmas Clothing Drive

For Richville United Methodist Church Clothing Mission. Needs are for children's coats, boots, mittens, children's winter clothing, bedding, pillows and quilts. **No adult clothing.** Bring items to Calvary December 7 to Tuesday noon December 16.

We could use a few people to help unpack the items at the church in Richville on December 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Questions? Contact Lorna Anderson at 346-6284.



## Feed My Starving Children

The Youth and Family Committee along with the Youth are pleased to donate \$1,000 of the money raised from Pumpkins For Purpose to the global mission of Feed My Starving Children.

## A Community Outreach Christmas

*"I bring you the most joyful news ever announced and it is for everyone! The Savior, yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born tonight in Bethlehem! How will you recognize him?"*

Luke 2:10-12

Yes, how will you recognize the Savior this season? This year?

He is the single mom with three little children trying to pay for fuel oil to heat their home. We recognize Him in the little first grader who comes to school in the tattered jacket or the recovering alcoholic with little food in his cupboards.

Jesus the Savior is in the face of the dad trying to hold a job and care for two little preschoolers in a drafty trailer. How will you recognize the Savior, the Messiah? When you pick a need off the T.W.I.G.S. tree in the Fellowship Hall, knit mittens for refugees in Georgia, donate bedding and furniture, make a meal for a friend, haul a bed to a family, fill a bag of groceries for the Food Shelf and the countless other acts of love shown to those around us.

We all become the hands and feet and heart of this man called **Jesus** as we work together to care for our neighbors. Please consider a donation to Calvary's Outreach Ministry so we can purchase food and gas gift cards for families this Christmas. As the angel said, "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced and it is for everyone."

## Lutheran Social Service—To Military Families

- ◆ Will my daddy recognize me?
- ◆ Will my husband be angry when he learns our credit cards are maxed out?
- ◆ Will my wife still love me if I come home in a wheelchair?

When members of military families are away at war for long periods of time, or a soldier experiences trauma on the battlefield, reintegrating back into the family can bring all sort of questions and anxiety. Last year LSS worked with children of military families at week-long camps to help them prepare for their parent's return home from war.

Counselors have also been on site at National Guard armories to provide mental health support and financial counseling to couples. LSS will be expanding its support to military families and veterans by providing individual and family counseling, financial counseling, debt management, addiction and gambling assessments, and in-home counseling. The goal is to help all family members cultivate skills and draw on their own strengths to bring about successful reunions, handle the challenges of daily life, and develop lasting individual and family stability.

Calvary supports Lutheran Social Service through its outreach budget. LSS is owned by the six Minnesota synods of the ELCA. Its services are available to all people regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age. For more information on LSS programs phone 1-800-582-5260 or go to the web at

[www.lssmn.org](http://www.lssmn.org).

## Urgent Need

### For Thrivent Members

As of December 31 our Thrivent group will be without its three congregational coordinators, and thus defunct as a group. This also means that there will be no more funds available for projects at Calvary (\$1500-\$1600 per year).

In the past these have included tree planting and clean-up at Calvary Cemetery; construction and painting of the storage shed; supplying cabinets for the choir room; support of the radio ministry; supplies for Calvary's quilters; support of several mission trips; purchase of insulation for the parsonage; and Christmas gifts for children at the shelter. In addition Thrivent members also sponsored numerous benefits here or in the community for people with various needs.

Hopefully, 3 members will step up to lead our Calvary group next year. Contact Karen Hasskamp for information on the duties of a congregational coordinator. Monthly meetings are not a requirement. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve.

## Calvary Classifieds—Help Wanted

Unless otherwise noted, contact Jeana Nelson at [jeanelson@calvaryperham.com](mailto:jeanelson@calvaryperham.com) or 346-4780.

**Sound Board Team Member.** Run the sound board for contemporary service. No experience necessary, training available. Flexible schedule.

**Drivers.** Can you deliver dinner meals to people who are in need?

**Gifts & Ministries Committee.** Do you enjoy reaching out to others, helping them find joy in serving? Your help is greatly needed.


**Childcare Needed.** A young family is looking for someone to care for two, sometimes three, of their children when Mom may need to attend appointments or fill in at work. Preferably in their home but she is flexible.


**Meal Ministry.** Love to cook? Needed: Suppers delivered to people whose lives for a short time could use some help. Please contact Mary Erickson, Sally Roe, or Jeana Nelson.



**Nursery.** Volunteers to help out occasionally in the nursery during the 10:45a.m. service. Contact Tracy Bieger at [tracybieger@calvaryperham.com](mailto:tracybieger@calvaryperham.com) or Jeana Nelson.

**Pictorial Directory Committee.** Help organize a new pictorial directory. A committee of approximately five people is needed.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a simple choice, a generous response*

You are invited to become part of a new program being offered to Calvary's members—a free program for simplifying and extending our regular giving.

Simply Giving<sup>®</sup> enables us to regularly give our church offerings using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already use EFT to have your mortgage, car payment or insurance premium automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. Now, your gifts to God can be regular and "off the top," just like these other commitments.

*It's very simple. If you'd like to participate, or just want more information,*  
please contact Shirley at the Church Office at 346-4780 or [shirleypauna@calvaryperham.com](mailto:shirleypauna@calvaryperham.com).

## Financial Report

**General Fund** receipts for November to date through the 16<sup>th</sup> were \$26,286 or 76% of the budgeted revenues of \$34,635. There are two more Sundays remaining in the month.

**Building Fund** receipts for November to date through the 16<sup>th</sup> were \$5,330 or 91% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

On an actual year to date basis through October, the net results of the General Fund were behind budget by \$5,899 and the Building Fund was behind budget by \$1,920. Although these results are unfavorable, they have improved considerably from last year. Thank you for your continued support of Calvary's general and building funds.

## The Building Fund

### The Building Fund needs help!

Wouldn't it be great as part of our 50th anniversary celebration in 2010 to burn the mortgage? We can achieve that goal with everyone's help...so please remember the Building Fund with your weekly or monthly offerings.



**Thanks for helping make that happen!**

## Inside This Issue

Calvary Cottages—Pastor's Letter	1
Christmas Tea—Service of Silence—Jubilee—News	2
Book of Faith—Men-Women-Children—Library	3
Youth News	4
Habitat—Stephen Ministry—Surviving The Holidays	5
Music—Outreach—Lutheran Social Services	6
Calvary Classifieds—Financial News	7

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## The Calvary Connection

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

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ♦ 619 3RD AVE SW ♦ PERHAM MN 56573  
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E-MAIL: halo@eot.com VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.calvaryperham.com](http://www.calvaryperham.com)

**To receive *The Calvary Connection* by e-mail please contact us.**

## Address Service Requested

*Join us for these  
exciting holiday  
events!*



**Advent Worship Services**  
Sundays – November 30, December 7, 14, 21  
8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

**Women's Christmas Tea & Bake Sale**  
Saturday, December 6—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Christmas Cantata – “The Winter Rose”**  
Calvary's Senior Choir, directed by Russ Bunker  
Saturday, December 13 – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 14--8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

**Advent Service of Silence**  
(Silent Meditation and Prayer)  
Tuesday, December 16--5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
(Enter and leave as you choose)

**Children's Christmas Program – “Happy Birthday, Jesus”**  
Sunday, December 21--10:45 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
Wednesday, December 24--3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship Service**  
Thursday, December 25--10:00 a.m.

**Christmas Season College Student-Led Worship**  
Sunday, December 28--8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.