

# *The FaithChest Project*

To encourage the faith of our children, Calvary's men's group, The Fishermen, built finely crafted FaithChests. Thanks to these people who helped with this project:

**Lauris Woessner  
Ron Heinis  
Rand Stolee  
Kal Schellenberg  
Dave Ferguson  
Jim Johnson  
Gordy Nichols  
Phil Holtan  
Patrick & Karen Kilby  
Lee Mindemann**

**John Nelson  
Harold Jelleberg  
Dana Loken  
Eldon Bergman  
Ross & Tracy Bieger  
Mark Olson  
Irv Tolkinen  
Wayne Rusten  
Jim Nordbeck  
Will Anderson**

In April, these 3, 4 and 5 year old members of Calvary received their FaithChests from Calvary's Fishermen:

**Soren Anderson  
Elizabeth Birkeland  
Zachary Dickinson  
Ava Johnson  
Keegan Kostohryz  
Karissa Muench  
Greta Raser  
Meghan Reed  
Anya Roe  
Clayton Seedorf  
Kaia Starzl  
Emily Welte**

**Jonah Bieger  
Jack Birkeland  
Brayden Glorvigen  
Madilyn Johnson  
Evan Kovash  
Braylon Rach  
Joseph Reed  
Maya Richter  
Carter Seedorf  
Sadie Shippee  
Eva Vorderbruggen**

This message to these children placed on the inside of its cover sums up beautifully its purpose:

"This FaithChest has been made by the Fishermen of Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham just for you. That's why we put your name on it. We want it to remind you every day that God loves you and you are precious to him. We made it to store your precious "faith-things," like your Bible, Bible story book or other books, your baptismal candle, certificate, and other things that help you think about Jesus. We hope you will use it when you do your devotions together with your family.

The Three Crosses on the cover of your Faith Chest tell the story of Calvary, both the name of our church and of the place where Jesus gave his life for us, in the center of three crosses.

The Fish on the lid is an ancient symbol of the church and its Greek name "ichthus" was the first Christian creed. It meant, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." And it reminds you that our Calvary men's group, the Fishermen, made this just for you.

This FaithChest is made of black ash wood from the Perham lakes area. Black ash grows down by the water, just like you kids like to play in the water. That is great because we want this chest to remind you of the water of baptism, where God claimed you as his child and promised to love you for your whole life."



## BIRTH

Congratulations to Hans & Becky Larson on the birth of a son, Kellen Philip, Saturday, April 10.

## BAPTISM

Sunday, April 11: Kaylynn Elizabeth Willprecht, daughter of Nena Willprecht. Sponsors are Darrel Willprecht, Kristine Sipe, and Christopher & Tessa Brinel.

Sunday, April 25: Shane Thomas Fisher and Tate James Fisher, sons of George & Heidi Fisher. Sponsors are Pastor Phil & Merrie Sue Holtan.

Sunday, April 25: Maxwell Lee Bjerke, son of Scott & Laura Bjerke. Sponsors are Doug & Julie Durgin and Larry & Belinda Hoffman.

## TRANSFER

Doug & Verona Betlach to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham.

## PASTOR SURVEY

In March the Council, at the request of Pastor Phil, completed a performance evaluation on our pastor. This was an exciting project as, thanks to the hard work of Sue Delaney and her brother Dave Dumbbeck (a computer programmer), this is the first time the evaluation was completed online. It was also exciting due to the high response; 78% of those selected participated in the evaluation. Pastor Phil also completed a self-evaluation. The results were very positive; on a 1 to 7 scale (1 being low and 7 being high), Pastor scored a 6 overall. The results were shared with the Council in April and will be used for ongoing professional development for Pastor Phil. Thanks again to everyone who participated.

## ***Jubilee Weekend: Artisans, Appetites and Attendees Needed***

As summer approaches, the big Jubilee Celebration Weekend (July 24-25) gets ever closer. It's going to be a great weekend! Plans are underway for the July weekend, which will feature an outdoor "Hoedown to Heaven" event on Saturday afternoon and early evening and Sunday worship and dinner in the church building. The Hoedown event includes a barbecued turkey (sandwich) dinner, kids' games, a Christian country band, artisans festival, and much more. The event will be open to the public, with a free will offering opportunity.

The events on Sunday, July 25 will include Sunday morning worship, with former pastor, Rev. Bill Reck preaching the sermon and sharing at the forum between services. At noon, there will be a sit-down dinner and program. Former pastor, Rev. Dick Kennedy will serve as MC and featured speaker for the event. Sunday will be a great opportunity to reminisce with former pastors and Calvary members who've moved away, as the weekend culminates with the dinner.

With these plans are needs Calvary members will need to help with.

We need any Calvary "artisans" to share your talents: Woodworking, quilting, pottery, woodcarving, painting, sculpting, etc. We would love to feature your work at the Artisan's Festival. It will be unique and exciting to showcase the works of our Calvary artists. If you have a talent you're to share, contact the church office.

We need appetites for the weekend! Lots of great food is planned for the Saturday and Sunday events, so please plan to come, and come hungry!

We need people at these events! Mark your calendars so you can join us July 24 and 25. Also contact your family members, your friends, and anyone who has shared part of Calvary's history over the years, and invite them to share these Jubilee events with you. The weekend will be especially exciting if we have people of Calvary's past who have moved away come back to join us for the weekend. Please extend an invitation to your friends who have moved away.

So—artisans, appetites, and attendees—three ways you can help us out for our Jubilee weekend. It's not too early to begin getting these things together on your end! Contact the church office if you can share your artistry, and contact your friends to join us that weekend.

*It will be a great weekend to  
Come to the Water,  
Take Root, and  
Branch Out!*



## ***New at Calvary: New Staff! New Wednesday Night Worship!***

Welcome to Tanya Leiran, our new Gifts and Ministries Coordinator.

The Calvary Council approved her hiring and Tanya began her work April 14 in this position that has been vacant for some months now.

She will work with new members in helping them get connected at Calvary, with the Stewardship Committee establishing a database of gifts and interests of our members that can help match them to ministries, and as time allows, will help to fill immediate needs for Calvary Ministries.

Tanya is a native of Roseau, Minnesota, is married to Keith, and they live with their four children on a farm south of New York Mills. Their children are Savannah, Tristan, Alexa and Daunte, ranging in age from 14 to 7. They have been members of Calvary since 1997, and Tanya has experience teaching Sunday School and serving on the Education Committee.

We welcome Tanya and we will arrange a service of installation in a few weeks.

Wednesday Night Worship: Everyone welcome!

If Sunday morning services don't fit into your schedule, perhaps Wednesdays at 5:45 will work for you. The 45 minute Wednesday night service is considered a third service, so the lessons and sermon will be the same as the previous Sunday. Communion Wednesdays will follow the traditional format, with all other Wednesdays following the contemporary format. A light supper (free will offering) will also be served beginning at 5:00 through May 12.



So join us if you have a scheduling conflict Sunday morning or become a regular on Wednesday night. The schedule is as follows:

4:15pm Wednesday School Grade K6  
4:30pm Youth Choir through May 5  
5:00pm Meal with free will offering through May 12  
5:45pm Worship  
6:30pm Praise Team  
6:30pm Confirmation through May 12  
6:30pm Adult Bible study  
7:30pm Jonah & The Wailers

**Wednesday School.** This is for grades K-6. Classes are 4:15 to 5 p.m.

## *Last Day of Sunday School is May 9*

### Thank You, Sunday School Teacher

Thank you Sunday school teacher  
For opening my eyes  
To the Bible and to Jesus,  
Life's most precious prize.

Thank you special teacher  
For opening my mind  
To God and the Holy Spirit,  
And for answers you help me find.

Thank you Sunday school teacher  
For opening my heart  
To eternal life through salvation,  
The precious lessons you impart.

Thank you, cherished teacher,  
For giving me advice  
So that I can know the Lord  
And be with Him in paradise.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

The last day of Sunday School is Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9. Pre-school-4<sup>th</sup> grade will sing a special song at the 10:45 service, and teacher appreciation will also happen at that service.

Please take a moment to thank these wonderful people who have given so generously of their time to teach Calvary's kids the Word of the Lord this year!

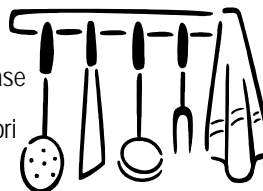
Pre-school: Linda Barvels  
Nicole Barvels  
Trica Johnson  
Kindergarten: Shirley Kalina  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Kim Jensen  
Deanna Kovash  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Lynn Lueders  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Lori Rach  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sally Roe  
Laura Neitzke  
Craig Swanson  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ross Bieger  
Music: Russ Bunker  
Abby Kalina  
Amber Kalina

## *Backpack Program Cooking Class*

Planning is underway for a summer cooking class. Eight families who are currently receiving food bags have shown interest in participating in a six-week cooking course. A meal will be prepared by each family, shared, and then groceries will be sent home for them to replicate.



If you are interested in volunteering to help with one or more classes, please contact Liz Swanson at [swanson@arvig.net](mailto:swanson@arvig.net) or Cori Brown at [cbrown@OTWCAC.ORG](mailto:cbrown@OTWCAC.ORG)



## *Christian Education News*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Pre-school-4<sup>th</sup> grade will sing a tribute to their moms on Sunday, May 9, which is also the last day of Sunday School! The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will receive the NRSV Spark Bible at the 10:45 service on May 9<sup>th</sup> as well. This is the Bible that they will begin using when they enter 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School next year.

### VBS-WE NEED YOU!!

Augustusburg Fortress and Sparkhouse present "ReNew: The Green VBS." Dates for VBS this year are Sunday, June 6-Wednesday, June 9, from 5-8:00 p.m. each night. We will focus on Caring for God's Creation. Help is still needed in all areas, and even if you can't be here, or commit to every night, we can find a place for you! VBS is for age 4-grade 6 (we are not registering 3 year olds this year). Sign up at the web site at [www.calvaryperham.com/signup/vbs.htm](http://www.calvaryperham.com/signup/vbs.htm).

### ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- ⇒ Craig Johnson continues his study on Environmental Stewardship in the Matthias Room between services on Sundays.
- ⇒ Jeff Tweeton's book club meets in the Mary Room between services on Sundays.
- ⇒ Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. an adult topical study meets in the Mary Room. This is not a series, so feel free to come at any time!
- ⇒ Join us for the informal Java Jams women's Bible Study, "Beyond Our Differences," at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays in the Mary Room. All women welcome!



## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Stock.** Thank you to all those who recently purchased stock in our youth program and responded so generously to the youth calling campaign. Your support makes possible opportunities like our mission trip to Chicago and Minneapolis this summer, as well as the National Gathering scheduled for July 2012 in New Orleans. Many youth are already looking forward to these faith-filled trips, so thank you for your generous giving! If we missed you and you are interested in pledging your support, youth stock can be purchased for \$15 a share. Checks can be turned into the church office with "Youth Stock" in the memo. Thanks!

**Wednesday, May 12** is the **last day of Confirmation class.** It is also the last night that a meal will be served before our worship which begins at 5:45 p.m.

**On Sunday, May 23** (in between services) we will have our annual **Graduation Reception** when we recognize our graduating seniors with a brief ceremony and distribution of quilts from the Calvary Cut Ups.

**Recycling Ink Jet Cartridges.** We received another check for \$37.50 through recycling ink jet printer cartridges. We receive anywhere from 25¢ to \$3.00 per cartridge depending on the make and model. Just a reminder that cartridges can be placed in a basket that sits at the bottom of the shelving unit that is located right as you enter the Fellowship Hall from the Narthex. Proceeds will be saved to help support the next Feed My Starving Children event hosted in Perham. Thank you!

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



**Convention at Calvary.** "Grow and Go"—That's the theme for the big Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's convention at our church June 11 and 12. This convention is open to all women and there will be a nursery available.

### Friday June 11:

- Registration 3:00 to 5:00
- Banquet
- Business Meeting for delegates 7:00 p.m.

### Saturday June 12:

- Worship service with Bishop Larry Wohlrabe
- Optional early morning Bible Study led by Pr. Laurie Natwick, assistant to the Bishop
- Keynote speaker: Inez Torres Davis from Chicago whose work relates to racism, cross-cultural understanding and care of creation.
- Silent Auction
- Book Store
- 3 Workshops

Preregistration is required for the meals and programs. Register by June 1--forms will be available in the church office or from Terri Olson, Bev Tougas or Net Kupferschmid. Women between ages 18-45 are eligible to apply for registration fee waivers before May 15.

These conventions include a large area of north-west Minnesota from the ND/Canada border reaching to Warroad in the north and south of Breckenridge to Sauk Center on the south. If you have friends or family within that area this is a great time to invite them to come here and attend the convention with you--a great activity for a girls weekend.

### Women's Executive Board

Meets Friday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the Mathias Room.

### Monday Morning Java Jams

This informal study meets yet in May while school is in session. Join us Mondays at 8:30 a.m. All women welcome!

### Salad and Dessert Luncheon

We have decided not to have our salad and dessert luncheon this June. Calvary women will be busy planning for and hosting the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Convention which takes place at Calvary on June 11 and 12, the Ice Cream Social July 8 and the Calvary Jubilee celebration July 25. Keep checking the Sunday bulletins and bulletin board for volunteer opportunities.

### Summer Circle Bible Study

All women are welcome to attend Circle meetings which continue over the summer months. Faith and Peace Circle Bible Studies will feature the theme "Pray Always" with the following sessions: *June: Persistence; July: Waiting with Patience and Hope; August: Power.*

Charity Circle meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Faith Circle meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Peace Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

If you have not attended or joined a Circle, surprise one or all of the groups by showing up at a meeting—usually in the Mathias Room. They will welcome you into their time of study and socializing.

## 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 three 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.

**ATV event May 8.** Craig Swanson will host another ATV event this May 8. We will meet at Calvary at 7:30 am and drive north to the Tamarack refuge. We'll have breakfast at Uncle Joe's cabin at 8:30. From there you will be led by two seasoned guides on a fun tour of the woods and trails. We will stop on the way to roast some dogs for lunch and also visit a burger stand on the way. We will cover about 30-50 miles before winding up the trip at the Ice Cracking Lodge for supper. Dress for the weather and expect to get dirty.

This is a great opportunity to invite a friend. Call Craig Swanson (347-7926) if you want to attend.

## QUILTERS

The quilting blocks for sewers are now on the table near the Choir Room. Help yourself.

## GREETING CARDS

We sell beautiful cards at 50 cents each and napkins for \$3.00. See the display in the Fellowship Hall.

## JUBILEE HISTORY BOOK

Hot off the press: Calvary's new 50 Year History Book. Told in story form, this book will take you from the roots of our congregation into the present time with pictures, illustrations and quotations along the way. Buy your copy for \$9.00 in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or at the office during the week.

If you haven't belonged to Calvary very long you will enjoy seeing and reading how our church building and people have changed over 50 years. If your children were baptized, confirmed or married here, they will want to have a copy of this history book too.

## NAME TAGS

With spring and summer come visitors. Please wear your name tag to make our visitors feel welcome. If you need a name tag, call the church office.

## AN INSPIRING PERSON

Ida Gimbel is being featured on the Arvig Cable Channel as an inspiring person for her years of volunteering and work in the Perham community, including her contribution as a Calvary Cut-up Quilter. The program will be available soon on the TV 3 web site at [www.lakestv3.com/](http://www.lakestv3.com/)

## RELAY FOR LIFE BREAKFAST MAY 2

Calvary will again have a team in the July 9 Relay for Life at the Perham track. We need your help! Join us if you can do one or more of the following for the American Cancer Society: (1) Walk one hour that night on the track, (2) Raise money (\$100) for the fight against cancer, (3) Help with our fundraiser breakfast on May 2, (4) Attend one short team organizational meeting. Visit our display in the Fellowship Hall to see what we are all about.

## HELP WANTED

Calvary is doing some very exciting things with sound and video and Mitch Groethe, our sound and video tech, is a very good teacher. We invite you to step up and learn to be a helper. We will have special need this summer when our outdoor services start June 20. Please speak to Mitch or Pastor Phil.

## WORK WANTED

Have lawn work, spring cleaning or other odd jobs that need to be done? The folks at Rewind are looking for work. Call them at 346-6117.

## GO GREEN!

Let the church office know if you'd like to "go green:"

- *Receive the newsletter in via email, not paper.*
- *If you don't feel you need to use an envelope for your offering, let us know and we will take your name off the mailing list.*
- *Sign up for Simply Giving, the automated giving program.*

## Calvary receives Servant of Christ Award

Each year Lutheran Social Services recognizes one congregation in each of the six ELCA synods in Minnesota for their outstanding social ministry programs. In 2010 Calvary received the "Servant of Christ Award" in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. The award is based on Calvary's partnership with LSS and its social ministry programs which serve members of the congregation and address needs in the community.

On March 18 Pastor Phil and Merrie Sue Holtan and Reg and LaVerne Hansen attended the award ceremony in Minneapolis at LSS's Center for Changing Lives. The awards were presented to all six congregations by the president of the LSS Board of Directors.

On April 25 Pastor Alex Trietler of Congregational Relations, presented the award to the congregation. Calvary gets to keep the beautiful plaque and display it in a prominent place.



Left: *Pastor Alex Trietler presents the Servant of Christ Award; accepting the award for Calvary is Council Vice President Holley Arvig.*

The Lutheran Social Services judges, who made the award decision, utilized the nomination material submitted about Calvary which included:

- Calvary's financial and programmatic support of LSS
- Calvary's community leadership in "Feed My Starving Children"
- The "Faith in Action Sunday" accomplished by Calvary's members
- The community service projects completed by Calvary's 32 youth who attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Calvary's nine defined social ministry programs.
- How Calvary's TWIGS and Community Outreach ministries meet needs of people with Calvary and the Perham area

This award belongs to all the members of Calvary. As it is displayed in a prominent place, it will remind all Calvary members that they can be exceptionally proud of themselves.

More importantly, the award will underscore Christ's words,

*"When you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."*

## Stephen Ministry News

### Stephen Ministers hold regular April Meeting

On Monday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. 14 Stephen Ministers gathered in the Matthias Room for their regular monthly meeting.

Pastor Phil was present to lead our continuing education session on ministry with individuals facing death and also with their family members. This was a very powerful and meaningful learning experience. Pastor Phil stressed that Stephen Ministers cannot help people face death until they have completed their own grief work and become comfortable with talking about death. Pastor Phil identified that there are some meaningful spiritual tools that can be utilized with people as death approaches, including the resurrection story and what it means, reading psalms of lament, communion and prayer.

Our special thanks to Pastor Phil for his leadership and to Sonja Thimjon for her wonderful strawberry dessert and for her thoughtful and timely devotions.

### Stephen Ministry Update

At the present time there are 18 active Stephen ministers providing care for 12 care receivers. There are 5 Stephen Ministers who are currently inactive for a variety of reasons. If any of you know of someone who might need a Stephen Minister, please contact Reg Hansen at 346-4780. We have female Stephen Ministers available, but no males.

Bev Tougas and Reg Hansen have completed the National Leadership Training Course for Stephen Minister leaders. Barb Christie was in St. Louis for a week recently, completing her training on April 17. We look forward to hearing all her new ideas.

We expect to offer a training class for Stephen ministers here at Calvary starting after Labor Day. This is a 50 hour course that requires a substantial commitment from those who enroll. That commitment will result in a great deal of personal growth and service to others. If you are interested, or know of someone who would make a good Stephen Minister, please contact Reg Hansen at 346-4780.

## The Prayer Shawl Ministry

### The First Prayer Shawl Ministry

For centuries, women have been wrapping themselves in shawls for warmth and protection, comfort and beauty. Babies have been bundled in them, too. In the Jewish culture, men use four-cornered, fringed shawls called tallith during prayers. A shawl is universal, every culture wraps itself in cloth.

*Janet Bristow*

It all began...in 1998, when two women found a simple heartfelt way to reach out to people in need of peace. The intent behind this ministry is not just to knit shawls of comfort for people in sorrow or shawls of joy for those in celebration, but to do so mindfully, lovingly, and prayerfully.

As knitters work their needles...they are mindful of the recipient, whether known or unknown, and think about the person and pray for them. The blessings of the ministry are three-fold: the shawl-maker, the recipient and the community surrounding the ministry.

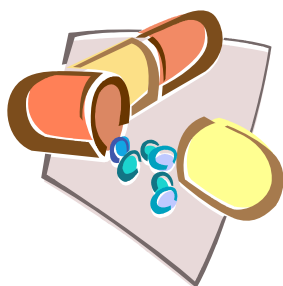
Resource: *Knitting for Peace*

## Medications: *Use, Misuse and Abuse*

Please join us for this important event on Monday, May 10 at Calvary. There will be a meal at 11:30 a.m. followed by a presentation at 12:30 p.m.

Please preregister by calling Carol at 346-2262.

Senior citizens and their adult children are invited to this free seminar and lunch.



Prescription medication use, misuse and abuse are on the rise all across America. Please join us in discussing this very important topic.

Presenters are Renae Lien, Doctor of Pharmacy, NDSU College of Pharmacy, Lake Region Health Care and Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department. Law enforcement will be there to answer questions.

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

TWIGS 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 with donations for:

- Water/sewer for a Perham household facing disconnection. This single mom is now working and getting back on track with finances.
- A minimum propane fill for an area gentleman needing assistance.
- Pharmacy prescription needs.
- Unexpected needs that may arise.
- 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](http://www.calvaryperham.com) and click the link Adopt-A-Need.

Your gifts of generosity are deeply appreciated.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry At Calvary

It all began...in the fall of 2004 when members of the Parish Health Ministry shared information about other congregations who had the ministry and how meaningful and spiritual it was for all involved. The seed was planted.

Yarn was purchased...with parish health funds (knitters and crocheters also donated yarn), patterns printed and knitters recruited. Over the years many shawls have been gifted to people in need of peace in joy and sorrow: members of Calvary, the community and as far away as Texas. A card with an appropriate prayer accompanies the shawl.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues...as knitters continue to work their needles and shawls are gifted. Any member of Calvary may gift a shawl; there is no cost; it is a gift. Shawls for gifting may be found in the Mary Magdalene Room.

Please join us on May 9 as we have a Blessing of the Prayer Shawls at both services.

*For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13*

## Treasurer's Report

**General Fund** receipts for April to date through the 25<sup>th</sup> were \$35,816 or 98% of the budgeted revenues of \$36,544. There are no more Sunday's in the month.

**Building Fund** receipts for April to date through the 25<sup>th</sup> were \$3,959 or 67.9% of the amount needed to make the mortgage payment of \$5,832.

Actual results for March for the General Fund, was an unfavorable variance of \$2,089. Total receipts for the month were \$30,546 and expenses were \$32,635. On a year to date basis, the General Fund is behind by \$13,115.

The Building fund receipts for the month were \$6,018, which was more than the amount needed by \$180. On a year to date basis, the Building Fund is behind by \$4,154.

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.

## Music Ministry at Calvary



**Senior Choir Sunday is May 2.** The Senior Choir will finish its 2009-2010 choir season Sunday, May 2 with a special concert at both Sunday services. You will hear a group of selections that were presented in worship during this choir season and one selection that was not heard this season because of a blizzard. Thanks to everyone who was a part of Senior Choir this year and for our excellent accompanist, Stacie Muench. You are a blessing to the Lord and to Calvary! Here is a preview of what you will hear on Choir Sunday. We hope you come and enjoy as the choir lifts praises through song.

*A Jubilant Song is a joyous praise song written by Joseph Martin just a few years ago. It is very rhythmic, and in one section you will hear different rhythm patterns happening in each part, creating a collage of musical praise.*

*Let's Have Some Old Time Religion is a medley of fun old time gospel songs which are put together by Mary McDonald. Mary created an original tune to begin and close the medley, reminding us of the fun of singing old time gospel songs with our friends and family.*

*Be Filled with the Spirit is a warm beautiful piece based on biblical passages about singing our faith. It is part of a three song cycle written by the well known choral composer, Craig Courtney, about 10 years ago. This particular anthem focuses on Ephesians 5:18-20. As we approach Pentecost, it is a cool thing to remember that we should always be "filled with the spirit."*

*Holy, Holy, Holy is a very creative arrangement by Joel Raney of this classic well loved hymn. You will hear several different moods and styles as the piece progresses. It is an awesome arrangement of a classic hymn which was just published in 2010.*

*Fill-a-me Up! is a high energy piece written by Pepper Choplin, which is reminding us to long for being filled with the Spirit, but in a totally different musical style than Craig Courtney's composition. The choir will sing parts of it in Spanish as a reminder that we are a global church body, all longing for the Spirit of Christ to fill our hearts and lives.*

## Happy Easter! Celebrating Strengths and Working on our Weaknesses

Happy Easter! What a rollercoaster ride to move from Lent into the Easter season. Christ is risen, and God's raising of Jesus gives meaning and a future to our lives and to Calvary's ministry. We thank all those who make our worship and music so excellent. Lenten speakers stirred out souls as they shared about "Outstretched Hands." Easter worship raised the roof, assisted by wonderful musicians in our choirs, soloists, and Russ Bunker, our Director of Music.

Last year we took a very sophisticated survey during a Sunday's worship. As we look now at the results, we now have data supporting our strengths here at Calvary. Our Easter worship is an example of our very strong worship and music. Our support for our young people was so evident in the FaithChests we gave to our 3-5 year olds on April 18. Wow, what a thrill. You also responded generously to our Youth Stock callers and confirmed our survey results that our support of our children and youth is at a very high level. A third strength is our diverse outreach into the community. One example of that outreach is our Backpack program, which others have heard about through TV and newspaper coverage, and now are exploring in at least 6 other communities. Good work.

We also have some areas at Calvary that we need to work on. We have just received the report of a Task Force who spent two months examining and making recommendations in our areas of weakness. One of those is Evangelism. Our council and Evangelism Committee are looking at a plan that would add three subcommittees to Evangelism. The first would be a Publicity group, which would keep Calvary and its programs in the media and in people's attention and help draw them to Calvary in the first place. A second is a Welcome group which would "go all out" to make people feel at home once they visit Calvary. A third would be a New Member group which would work to help those who choose to join us find a niche and get even more connected.



**May 9:** Sweet Assurance will sing (8:30). Carol Choir will join the Sunday School for a fun Mother's day song! (10:45). Youth Choir will sing Joseph Martin's energetic *God Will Be Exalted* (10:45).

**May 16:** Heatherlyn is an inspiring, independent, full-time singer, song artist, poet and communicator. The music she writes is about life, love and being the difference we each can be as conduits of God's peace, hope and love in our communities and throughout the world. She performs locally and nationally for various events, house concerts, faith community gatherings and much more. You're welcome to visit her home on the web to enjoy music, video and interviews and read more about her work at [www.heatherlynmusic.com](http://www.heatherlynmusic.com). Heatherlyn will be providing Special Music at both worship services on Sunday, May 16 and then doing a concert at 7:00 p.m. that same day. All are welcome and invited to come see her perform.

**Recital presented by my piano students.** My private students will be playing in their annual spring piano recitals at Calvary, on May 17 and 18, starting at 7 PM each night. All are welcome to come to either recital.

*As we head toward Pentecost, may this month find you filled with the Spirit, and a burning desire to go out and share it with your neighbor!*

In His Peace—**Russ Bunker**—The Music Man

A second area of weakness is participation and belonging. Our Stewardship Committee is considering how they would step up to the plate to improve how we invite and involve our members. We also look forward to the help that Tanya Leiran, our new Gifts and Ministries Coordinator, can give to connecting our members with tasks that fit their gifts and passions.

Finally, the survey urges us to grow spiritually. We discovered that none of our committees has responsibility for that area. We are grateful that the Worship Committee stepped up to say, "We want to do that." We seek a few good people with real desire in this area to help lead Calvary into a deeper spiritual walk. That may mean prayer groups and retreats, more frequent services of healing, better use of our prayer chapel and who knows what else?

So, thanks for sharing with us in the survey and giving us some clear direction on areas we want to be stronger. Look for an Adult Forum soon to discuss our strengths and weakness. And finally, we ask the power of our Risen Lord to energize our efforts.

**Pastor Phil Holtan**

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## And God Created Mothers

God took a little sunshine, sprinkled it with dew...Tore from the heavens a raindrop...Added a star or two. Snatched the unassuming innocence of a child...And in an instant, created a Mother's smile. On the canvas of the sky, He gently dipped His brush...With the colors taken from the rainbow, painted a Mother's blush. Plucked a flower ever so gently from a garden with care...With the petals from a rose, placed patience and understanding...And the ability burdens to bear. Took the stillness of the thunder, blended it with the softness of a dove...With precision and cunning, created a Mother's love. With a dash of blue from the infinity of the sea, placed in a Mother's heart, truth and humility. Captured gold from Saturn's ring, spun it with silver from a Shooting star...Delicately placed it within a Mother's reach...So for the luxury of her days, she would not have to travel far. And God looked at what He had made...And He was ecstatically pleased, for in all creation there was none as precious as these...Mothers.