

NEWSLETTER

Calvary Lutheran Church

VOLUMNE XXVI NO 12

DECEMBER 2005

Dear Members and Friends of Calvary,

I struggle as I sit here at my desk writing this note to find words that can adequately express my thanks for the grand farewell on Sunday, November 6. As usual, no one went hungry as we feasted at the sumptuous potluck dinner so many provided.

The gift of the beautiful desk clock and calendar are prominently placed on my desk so that as Sheila stated so well, "You can remember us all the time". Your generous gift of money, cards and prayers have carried our family through this time of transition.

Thank you to the Luther League for the "lefse keychain". I will always remember the annual lefse bake each time I reach for my keys. Thank you also to the Calvary Senior Fellowship for the beautiful new clergy shirts. I have already put your thoughtful gift to work. All who made the 6th of November such a memorable day, thank you.

Your many cards, prayers, gifts and conversations have sustained me and my family through my mother's extended hospitalization and death. You have been my strength through many transitions in a short time.

Please stop and visit if you are in Rochester.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 4:3 - 6

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bill Meiers

DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE

Wednesday, December	7	--	6:45 pm	Luther League Rosettes w/Gail Gremel
Sunday, December	18	--	5:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program
			6:00 pm	Congregational Chili Supper
Saturday, December	24	--	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

CALVARY LUTHERAN HUB UNIT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

	Greeters	Lector	Coffee Hosts
12/04	Ingvalson Family	Gail & Dennis Gremel	Gail & Dennis Gremel
12/12	Gail & Dennis Gremel		Diesch Family
12/18	Chad & Heather Pasbrig		Chad & Heather Pasbrig
12/24 EVE	Luther League	Luther League	

USHERS

12-04	Jon & Shelly Wingen
12-11	Gail Gremel, Joel Brude, Alex Coopman & Jerry Schwantes
12-18	
12-24 EVE	Luther League

ACOLYTES

12-04	Courtney Pestka
12-11	Cece Scharping
12-18	Taylor Johnson
12-24 EVE	Brent Krosch

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Laura Berg
7	Danielle & Raina Townsend
9	Catherine Jones
10	Mary Larsen, Billy Quaday, Glenn Sherwood
11	Jeremy Huebsch
12	Arlen Ostermann
14	Brady Wendt, Bev Bindig
15	Jerry Schwantes
16	Athena Diesch, David Swing
17	David Schultz, Jenny Schultz Nathan Miller
19	Andrew Kranz, Dennis Huebsch
20	Pam Mayfield
21	Jana Pestka, Peder Tryhus
22	Carol Larson, Dennis Scharping Eric Oslund, Dennis Coopman
23	Chelsey Hoeft
24	Lance Ellis
25	Shannon Heller, Carol Reedstrom
27	Mark Krosch
28	Vickie Schweim
29	Tara Stilwell, Jim Gustafson
30	Patti Tryhus

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2	Doug & Laura Berg Myron & Paula Pasbrig
12	Claude & Sophie Ziegler
19	Jon & Shelly Wingen Troy & Mary Sherwood
27	Arlen & Karen Ostermann
29	Aaron & Carrie Urke

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for news items and announcements for the January Newsletter is Wednesday, December 21. Please turn in all items to Carla by due date or put them into her church mailbox.

JANUARY HUB UNIT TO MEET DECEMBER 11

January Hub Group Members and Leaders are asked to remain following the Worship Service on Sunday December 11, at 11:15 am to organize parish leadership for the month of January.

Leader:

Dennis & Paulette Nelson (1, 11) 278-3507

Leader:

Dennis & Barb Huebsch (1,3) 278-3934

Roger & Monica Grannis (1,2) 546-3512

Ken & Theresa Hannem (1,3) 388-0729

Anne Hokenstad (1,6) 351-7306

Roy & Betty Laborde (1,3) 278-3221

Steve & Darcy Larvick (1,2) 278-3548

Scott & Amy Malvin (1,6) 278-3402

Cynthia Marso (1,7) 278-3305

Karen Mitchell (1,2) 625-8149

Mac & Donna Richards (1,2) 278-3256

James & Rhonda Roesch (1,12) 674-3464

Kyle & Sarah Schweim (1,2) 625-6820

Steve & Patti Tryhus (1,11) 278-3186

Nathan & Mary Ulrich (1,4) 278-3176

Jon & Shelly Wingen (1,3) 278-4408

HUB LEADERS PLEASE NOTE: Copies of the Hub Unit Responsibilities sheet which are filled out each month at these meetings are available in the compartment above the guest book in the Narthex. Please give completed sheet to Carla for the next newsletter by December 21.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE IN WORSHIP AND GIVING

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS
11/05	152	
11/13		
11/20	95	\$1,677.50
11/23(Thanksgiving Eve)	25	390.30

ALL YEAR END DONATIONS

All year end donations to Calvary Lutheran Church must be in by 12:00 p.m. December 30, 2005.

DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Our church sanctuary will be decorated for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, December 4th following the worship service. All are encouraged to remain during the coffee hour as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

CALVARY GIFT ITEMS

Christmas gifts or gifts for any occasion are available through our congregation. 1999 marked the 125th Anniversary of Calvary Lutheran Church. A commemorative cookbook is still available for \$8.50 each. Other Calvary Anniversary items include: mugs, pens, letter openers, note cards and directories. Please speak to Ester Kunz, Paulette Nelson or Pastor Meiers to see or purchase any of the above mentioned anniversary items.

KEYS, KEYS, WHERE ARE THE KEYS?

The Church Council asks that anyone having keys to the church report to Jodie Miller for an inventory.

CLCW CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Thank you to all who donated time and worked at the Madison East Craft & Bake Sale. The CLCW raised \$462.85 from this event which will be put toward new flooring in the church kitchen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 18

The children of Calvary will present their annual Christmas program on December 18, at 5:00 pm. Please note the schedule listed below for the upcoming rehearsal and program schedule. Thank you to Julie Miller for spear heading the Christmas Program, and all who provided music for the program.

Saturday, Dec 10 th	10 - 12	Grades 3-12
Sunday, Dec 11 th	9:00 am	all Grades
Saturday, Dec 17 th	10 - 12	all Grades
Sunday, Dec 18 th	9:00 am	all Grades
Sunday, Dec 18 th	5:00 pm	Christmas Program
Sunday, Dec 18 th	6:00 pm	Congregational Chili Supper (served by the Calvary Luther League)

All are welcome. Each family is asked to bring 2 dozen cookies for the Chili Supper that will follow the program on December 18th.

LUTHER LEAGUE SPONSORS CHILI SUPPER, DECEMBER 18th AT 6:00 PM

Calvary Luther League will provide a chili and soup dinner following the Sunday School program on Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 pm. Come for our Sunday School program at 5:00 pm and let our Luther League provide supper and do the dishes. A free will offering will be received. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide matching funds.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 5:30 pm

A Christmas Eve Worship Service will be celebrated on December 24 at 5:30 pm. This will be a Candlelight Communion Service of Lesson and Carols. Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we

"Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing."

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**Josh Erickson who had surgery in November.

**Rick Buck who continues his recovery.

**Tim Overas who is home recovering.

OUR SYMPATHY TO

Pastor Meiers and his family at the passing of his mother, Shirley Meiers.

Musicorum

presents its
10th Anniversary Concert

"A Decade of Christmas Treasures"

Friday, December 9th at 7:30 p.m.

@

First Lutheran Church
1111 West Traverse Road
St. Peter, MN

&

Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m.

@

Good Counsel Chapel
170 Good Counsel Drive
Mankato, MN

Admission for the concerts are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets will be available at the door. The concert will feature Christmas choral masterpieces from the Renaissance to the 20th Century, including selections with harp and organ.

For more information:
www.musicorum-mn.org

Or call

625-1357

Mankato Children's Chorus
Winter Concert

at

Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College
St. Peter

Sunday December 18, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Tickets available at the door
Age 13 to Adult \$5.00
Age 5 - 12 and Seniors \$3.00
Under age 5 - Free

The Mankato Children's Chorus is a non-profit organization with members from Amboy, Courtland, Eagle Lake, Good Thunder, Kasota, Lake Crystal, Mankato, North Mankato, Nicollet and St. Peter. The chorus provides an opportunity for young people in grades 1 - 12 to enjoy singing, develop healthy vocal techniques, and experience public performance.

Repertoire includes: Folk, ethnic, classical and seasonal choral music.

For more information: juane@hickorytech.net or
jaune1@isd77.k12.mn.us or 934-4550

Church Council Meeting. Tuesday November 15, 2005.

The council interviewed two interim pastor candidates, John Hagen and Charles Ortloff.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m.

Members present: Sheila Scharping, James Pestka, Karen Ostermann, Erica Kittelson, Jodie Miller, Karen Mitchell, Larry Dunker, Leslie Davis and Joel Brude.

The council discussed the interim pastor interviews.

Joel made a motion to hire Pastor Hagen as interim pastor. Starting date December 8th. Contract to be drawn up and negotiated. Karen Ostermann seconded. Motion approved. Sheila will work on the contract.

Erica read the October meeting notes.

Leslie Davis made a motion to approve the notes. Jodie Miller seconded. Notes approved.

Financial Secretary Report:

- Larry handed out and explained the Financial Secretary report. He will check on the status of the Katrina relief funds. If it hasn't already been done, \$1430 will be moved from the Special Project Fund to the Designated Fund. A check will be given to Jay Swalve so he can send the funds.
- \$365 was moved from the Youth Fund to the Designated Fund two times (total of \$730 moved). \$365 will be moved back to the Youth Fund.

James made a motion to approve the Financial Secretary Report. Leslie seconded. Report approved.

Treasurer Report:

Karen Ostermann presented the Treasurer report.

Leslie made a motion to accept the report. James seconded. Report approved.

Old Business:

- Joel sent the letter stating that Calvary has adopted the Isanzu Church in Tanzania.
- Jodie is working on the list of duties for Sunday coffee hosts.
- Sheila has talked to Dean Ulrich about plowing the church parking lot this winter. He has agreed to do the plowing.

New Business:

- Sheila announced that Tess Goodyear has resigned as Financial Secretary.
- It was mentioned that MinnStar Bank now requires an adult be on the Luther League account.
- Sheila said that there is a Common Ground meeting on December 1st. Karen Mitchell will attend.
- Green Lake fundraising and fees are items that will be discussed at the December meeting.
- Sheila read a letter from the Little Knights Preschool in Lake Crystal. The preschool is asking for donations to provide full or partial scholarships. Their program has run out of money. The council decided not to donate.
- Sheila read a letter from the Luther Memorial Home in Madelia. The home board made a motion to raise the rates of their rooms. Calvary representative to the home is no longer active. The council position is to say no to raising rates.
- Sheila read a letter from Zurich Insurance company. The letter referred to a visit on 4/15/05. From that visit the insurance company recommends the church install an electronic fire detection system, replace missing shingles and schedule a shingle replacement for the entire roof.
- Sheila asked if anyone knew where the key to the MinnStar safety deposit box is. Larry will look through the Financial Secretary files.
- Karen Ostermann asked about the status of a call committee. She also asked if the church should look for a full-time or part-time pastor. The council decided to have a special meeting on December 7th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a call committee and the status of a new pastor.
- James suggested finding out who has keys to the church so that a list can be made.
- Jodie asked who will pick up the church mail and check phone messages. Joel is checking the email.
- Larry asked about a choir director and stated that he had contacted the music directors of Bethany and MSU to ask for information on possible student candidates. Other options were discussed.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry seconded. Meeting adjourned. 9:45 p.m.