

Mt. Calvary News



From the Pastor's Desk ...

Hymns of Faith:

7. "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

In our series of newsletter articles on some of the great hymns of the Christian faith, we focus this month on one of the most influential hymns written by Martin Luther: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word."

We will next be singing this hymn on October 28 (Reformation Sunday).

The Writer of the Hymn

Through Martin Luther, the Lord has blessed the Christian church in many ways. To offer just a few examples:

- Most importantly, Luther played the central role in returning the church's focus to the Biblical teaching that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone, and not by our own works.
- He also had a tremendous impact on the spread of God's Word by translating the Bible into German, which made the words of Scripture accessible to the laypeople of Germany for the first time.
- In addition to bringing the words of Scripture to the people, Luther also helped people understand the meaning of Scripture more clearly by writing his *Small Catechism* (which since then has been translated into more than 200 languages and is still used in homes, churches, and Christian schools around the world).

But some of his most influential accomplishments were in the area of worship and church music:

- Luther reformed the liturgies of the church by translating them into German and by keeping those traditional elements that were good and Scriptural while removing any parts that contradicted the Bible.
- At a time when the laypeople said and sang very little in the church services, Luther restored singing to the congregation. He produced the first German-language hymnal in 1524 (and wrote four of its hymns).
- In all, Luther wrote 37 hymns, of which "A Mighty Fortress" is the best known.

The Background of the Hymn

Some of Luther's hymns were written in response to specific situations. For example, his very first hymn ("A New Song Here Shall Be Begun") was written in 1523, as a tribute to two young monks who had been burned at the stake for their support of Luther's teachings.

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" was also written in response to specific circumstances. In 1541, the Turkish army had overcome large portions of Europe and was threatening Germany. Concerned about what might happen to Christianity in Germany if the Islamic forces of Turkey were successful, Luther wrote "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" as a prayer that God would protect His people and keep them faithful to God's Word.

(continued on the next page)

As Germany faced the threat of attack, special prayer services were held throughout the nation. This hymn was written especially for one of those services, held at the church in Wittenberg. The hymn was originally entitled “A Children’s Hymn,” and was first sung by the children of the congregation.

The Hymn

The words and music of “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” are shown below:

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise c - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and Music: Public domain. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

The Message of the Hymn

This hymn is a prayer to the Holy Trinity, seeking the Lord’s protection:

- The first verse asks God the Father to protect us from those who seek to destroy the Christian church.
- The second verse asks God the Son to defend us so that we may always sing His praises.
- The third verse asks God the Holy Spirit to give us peace both in this life and the next.

The opening words — “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” — are vitally important. With these words, Luther is acknowledging that the greatest threats to the church are of a spiritual nature and that the greatest defense against these attacks is also spiritual. The greatest damage that can be done to the Christian church is to separate us from God’s Word. The greatest way the Lord can protect the Christian church is by keeping us faithful to His Word.

This should be the prayer of the church throughout the ages: that the Lord would keep us steadfast in His Word. As long as we have the truth of the Gospel and its life-giving power in our lives, nothing can overcome us. Even if it reaches the point that our lives are taken from us, we can trust that the Lord will “support us in our final strife, and lead us out of death to life.”

The fact that this hymn was originally written for children is also meaningful. Luther cared deeply about faithfully passing down the truth of God’s Word to the next generation. Luther’s concern that children learn God’s Word was demonstrated in his own family life, where he led daily devotions at home, discussed the Bible at the dinner table, and sang hymns with his family (often accompanied by his lute-playing). His concern for children’s spiritual growth can also be seen in his writing of the *Small Catechism*, which was written to help parents teach their children. With this hymn, Luther again shows his desire that children be taught to pray and that they be taught meaningful hymns that can strengthen their faith and help keep them steadfast in God’s saving Word.

May the Lord keep you steadfast in His Word, now and forever!
Pastor Aaron Stinnett

Lutheran World Relief: To Others, Through Others.

In 2006, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) distributed 1,334 tons of materials worth more than \$10 million, including 71,444 pounds of soap, in addition to the soap included in Health Kits and LAYETTES. People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. While living in exile, it may be impossible to find the most basic daily needs. A brand new bar of soap signals dignity and cleanliness, and helps fight deadly diseases.

In 2006, LWR sent soap to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Malawi, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda. In addition to this international distribution, soap was distributed to people in the United States recovering from disaster situations.

Your Opportunity To Help ...

Throughout October, you may donate soap for Lutheran World Relief. The bars will be used to complete LAYETTES and Health Kits. Any bars not used for those kits will be sent simply as soap for distribution worldwide. LWR accepts **new full-size bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping.** Bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) are highly preferred.

A box for your soap donations is in the Fellowship area.

Key LWML dates for your calendar...

Every Tuesday at 9 AM

Quilting in the

LWML room in the church basement.

Additional helpers are needed and appreciated.

October 14

LWML Sunday

October 20

Fall Rally at Whitefish

Rev. Matthew Nelson of Columbia Falls, former LCMS missionary-at-large in Utah, will be guest speaker at the Rally.

April 25-27, 2008

**Montana District LWML
Convention in Billings**

The September LWML Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by Barb. Virginia led the study based on materials from the Sunday School Teachers' Workshop presented by Concordia Publishing House at Columbia Falls. We were all encouraged to pray regularly for our Sunday School teachers and their students. Virginia was hostess.

The group will pay the registration fee for those attending the LWML retreat at Cane Ridge West.

Suzanne Crawford, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, has encouraged us to send her Mission Grant Proposals for the next LWML District Convention by October 30. The proposals will be presented at the District Convention in Billings next spring, when the Mission Projects for the next biennium will be selected.

LWML Sunday will be October 14. We do not plan anything special with the food this year, but we will display quilts in the church and World Relief kits on the tables at the monthly potluck that day.

JoMay is assembling the World Relief LAYETTES at her home, and Ardith and the Stinnetts will assemble the Health Kits. The quilters continue to assemble the Sewing Kits, and the Sunday School students will assemble the School Kits. The World Relief item for donations for October will be soap. Bars of soap are included in LAYETTES and Health Kits, and may be sent as an individual item, also.

Attendees were reminded to take home some of the fruits and vegetables brought by Ardith and Hazle.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

NOTICE: Lutheran World Relief has notified us that they will no longer accept donations of toothpaste for Health Kits. The toothpaste will be purchased by LWR and added at the warehouse to assure freshness.

Board of Stewardship Survey

Have you already filled in your survey? If so, the Stewardship Board thanks you for taking time to identify areas of interest to you and for ideas on programs and services that would further our Lord's



work within the congregation. Thanks also for indicating where your time and talents might help serve these needs. Your input and involvement is a vital part of personal stewardship.

If you haven't passed along your survey to a Stewardship Board member, please do so soon. If you've misplaced it, please ask for another, complete

it then make sure it gets to a Board member. (The names of the three Board members are listed on the last page of this Newsletter among other church officers and Board members.)

To God Be All Praise and Glory!

Altar Flower "Arrangements":



Oct. 7 –
(Available.
ble.
19th
Sunday
after

Pentec
ost.)

Oct. 14 – (Available. Speak to Jane.)

Oct. 21 – Esther Stinnett (Birthday)

Oct. 28 – (Available. Reformation
Sunday)

Fall 2007 Sunday School Report

We enrolled 26 students in our Sunday school program this fall. In addition, we have had some visitors, either friends of the students or children of co-workers. Welcome to you all!

Here is our teaching staff for the 2007-2008 year:

Preschool: Nancy Stinnett and Candis Unger

Kindergarten & 1st grade: Paul Maurer

2nd grade: Nancy Morris and Dawn Morris

3rd – 5th grades: Joann Berens and Amanda Berens

6th – 8th grades: Annette Schiele

Substitutes: Mark Bobb, Esther Stinnett, and Sylvia Moody

Please remember, Sunday School begins with our opening at 9:30 AM, when we have a seedlings devotional talk, prayers, offerings and songs.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

On the Thrivent bulletin board you will see a new wooden Christmas ornament. This ornament is the 4th in a series of 5. The Chapter Board is now taking orders for this ornament or any of the previous year's ornaments. The cost is \$15.00 per ornament or \$50.00 for a set of 4. There is a sign-up sheet on the Thrivent bulletin board if you would like to order one or more. If you are a current Thrivent member of Lake/Sanders county you should have received a letter explaining more about the ornaments, and where funds raised from sales are used. You can also visit with Sylvia if you have any questions.

Reminder: Our *Care in Congregation* and *Care in Communities* programs still have funds available to use this year. There is a deadline to make requests for either of these programs, so let's seize this time to do

something with the offered funds. Talk with Sylvia Moody for information on these two programs.

LWML-Sponsored Fellowship Planning for Advent and Christmas

Advent Event activities will begin at 10 AM on Saturday, December 1, as families gather at Mt. Calvary to decorate the church for Christmas and to participate in some craft activities. Lunch will be provided. Activities will be completed by 2 pm.

Plan to come for the entire time, or stay for as long as you can. We will make luminarias for use at the church on Christmas Eve. Those there that day may also make Advent wreathes to take home with them. Everyone is asked to save empty 15 oz. or larger cans. Luminarias will be made from these cans.

We are also planning to have a display of Nativity sets. If you would like your Nativity set to be included in the display, bring it to the church the week of

November 25. Everyone will be able to take theirs home again on December 9.

Misplaced: A Favorite Cardigan

JoMay Unger last remembers her white cardigan sweater with wooden buttons hanging over a chair in the Fellowship area. If you might have seen it, please let her know where she could recover it.

Craft Fair & Bake Sale Fundraiser Preschool, and Active Christian Teens

Excitement is building for the annual Preschool craft fair/bake sale fundraiser. This year the new youth group, ACT (Active Christian Teens), will also participate in the event. The date for the fair and sale is set for this November – Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 17. The event will be held in the Mt. Calvary Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars! Come help, buy, and sell!



Monies from this event will help fund some of the Preschool room projects and upgrades identified during the 2008 planning meeting held in August. It is our hope that the Preschool will again be staffed and

active for the next school year.

Funds raised also will help defray costs for the ACT group's spring retreat. ACT group members (6th grade through High School age) will help with the craft fair/bake sale by selling, baking, and creating items for sale.

We are doing things a little differently this year, but we still need help from the congregation. Craft tables will be available for \$15 each. Monetary donations will also be requested, at the end of the fair.

Alternatively, members may make and or donate sale items, like baked goods (pies are a great seller), craft items, ornaments, canned goods, breads, Christmas items and jewelry. Finally, we will need helpers for set up, to sell, and possibly to serve a light lunch.

Please watch the message board for more details. Questions? Please contact one of the event's organizers, Annette Schiele, Virginia Nygaard or Candis Unger.

October Birthdays

Dawn Hoffman 10/02
Patti Patterson 10/12
Sylvia Moody 10/16
Joanne Unger 10/16
Bryce Johnson 10/21
Esther Stinnett 10/21
Dean Berens 10/23
Breanna Bobb 10/27
Walt Patterson 10/28
Hans Brandau 10/29
Mark Bobb 10/30



Oops.

The masthead in last month's Mt. Calvary News identified it as the October Newsletter. Sorry for the goof. This is the *real* October Newsletter. Honest.

Member Phone Directory

This month's Newsletter has attached a sheet with pictures and the names of our newest members, along with their addresses and phone numbers. Please attach this separate sheet to your copy of the Directory.

Though all of these new members have attended our services and events for awhile, you may not have had the chance to introduce yourself, so extend your personal welcome to them.

A Verb! Games! Cookies!

Fellowship events are a time-honored tradition among Lutherans. Here at Mt. Calvary fellowship is a verb. I'm sure you'll agree, we certainly have had some yummy and enjoyable events. They offer a chance to get to know our fellow members, as well as taste-test someone else's cookies (or share a fish catch, or try your family-friendly or partner-puzzling game-playing skills, or simply open your home for a visit or for "modeling" guest's hobbies).



Thank you, Candis and David Unger, for hosting the September Saturday afternoon Fellowship.

This aspect of our shared life in Christ was one of the topics discussed during the recent 2008 planning meeting, identifying ways to embrace our connection and enhance our spiritual growth.



Probably because it's so easy to us here, there is no standing board of Fellowship. So, it's up to us, individually and collectively, to cultivate these events. David and Candis are eager to help develop your ideas, and with planning. Here are three to get you thinking more about this:

- Movie night in – with popcorn, of course
- Uplifting Christian songfest & guitar pickin'
- Mystery, (along with a progressive dinner)

December's Fellowship event will be at the church – preparing for Advent and Christmas. See “LWML-Sponsored Fellowship” article in this Newsletter.

Plans are only tentative for events before and after this one in December. Let's hear your ideas! Don't hesitate, the cookies will go fast.



Dean, whose firm installed the siding, withheld his own fee for the project, and both he and Joanne put the final paint touches on the siding and trim.

Before the fellowship meal, Pastor Stinnett honored the Berens with a Certification of Appreciation for their commitment and the gift of their labor. A portion of their labor's fruit is seen in the photo at the top of the next column.

An ample number of salads and other tasty dishes brought by appreciative membership supplemented the succulent BBQ chicken and hot dogs provided by the Stinnett family. The well-attended feast was suitably consumed, as is our custom.

November Newsletter Deadline
Monday, October 22nd

Email Submissions To: hobnbazle@bresnan.net

Board Of Trustees Labors

Along with supervising the recent building residing project, the Board of Trustees recently completed other maintenance items, including the three below. Trustees, we all appreciate your efforts. Thank you.

Adding clear safety panels to the balcony railing.

Replacing a sanctuary windowpane.

- Fixing the drain spouts just outside the kitchen.

The barely visible, concise message on the chalk board on the back wall in the upper picture says, “*Thank You, Berens!*”

The message is a token expression of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Berens, Joanne and Dean, from Mount Calvary's membership for the gift of their time and talent on the recent building residing project.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (LMCS)

Polson, MT 59860

(406) 883-4041

Pastor: Rev. Aaron Stinnett

(406) 883-1644 Home

email: pastorstinnett@yahoo.com

President:	Chuck Moody
Vice President:	David Unger
Secretary:	Jane Patterson
Treasurer:	Bob Becker
Financial Secretary:	Arlene Cooper
Board of Education:	Nancy Stinnett
Board of Elders:	Robert Mires Walter
Patterson	Reynold Unger
Board of Preschool:	Mary Helen
Davis	

Board of Evangelism:	Candis Unger Karen Maurer Anna Mindt Mark Bobb Edward Unger
Board of Stewardship: Mires	Mary Lou
Board of Trustees:	Paul Maurer JoAnne Unger Vernon Cooper Roy Davis Del Mindt
Board of Youth:	JoAnn Berens Dawn Morris Annette
Schiele	
Sunday School Super:	Sylvia Moody
Librarian: Mires	Mary Lou
Choir Director:	Esther Stinnett
Organists:	Joyce Shima Sylvia Moody

Words Of Welcome

We delight in your presence at worship. May we all grow in our love for God and for one another as we present ourselves before our Lord. Welcome.