

Mt. Calvary News



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From the Pastor's Desk ...

Hymns of Faith:

6. "How Great Thou Art"

In our series of newsletter articles on treasured hymns of the Christian faith, we focus this month on one of the world's most well-loved hymns. When a recent survey in England asked people to name their favorite hymn, the most common response was, "How Great Thou Art." In a survey of Americans, the same hymn came in second place (after "Amazing Grace").

We will next be singing this hymn, which is number 801 in *Lutheran Service Book*, on September 2.

The Background of the Hymn

The original version of this beloved hymn was written in 1885 by Swedish preacher Carl Boberg. It was originally published as a poem (not yet a hymn), and initially it did not receive much attention. A few years later, Boberg was surprised to hear his poem being sung as a hymn, set to an old Swedish tune (the same tune we still use today).

Stuart Hine, an English missionary in Russia, heard the hymn and wrote new verses for it, resulting in the hymn we sing today. In addition to modifying the opening verse, Hine also added three more verses. According to Hine, the first three verses of the hymn were directly inspired by his experiences in Russia:

- The first verse, which speaks of being in awe at the sound of "rolling thunder," was written during a thunderstorm in Russia's Carpathian mountains.
- The second verse, which speaks of wandering in the woods and hearing birds "sing sweetly in the trees," was written as Hine listened to the songs of birds near the border of Romania.
- The third verse, in which we sing of God sending His Son for our salvation, was written as the missionary Hine saw many people in Russia coming to faith in Christ.

The final verse, which looks ahead with joy to the day of Christ's return, was later written by Hine in England. He had returned home due to World War II, and there he ministered to refugees who were in England because of the war. As he ministered to refugees who were longing for their homes, Hine wrote the final verse of the hymn, pointing them to an even greater home that awaits all believers in Christ at the end of our earthly journeys.

British missionaries took the hymn with them as they shared the Gospel around the world. Eventually, an American heard "How Great Thou Art" being sung in India, and he brought it back with him to the United States. It quickly emerged as a favorite of many, and has kept that status ever since that time.

(continued on the next page)

The Hymn

The words and music of “How Great Thou Art” are shown below:



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim: “My God, how great Thou art!”



Refrain
 Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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The Message of the Hymn

This hymn speaks to us of the incomparable greatness of our Lord.

We see evidence of God’s wisdom, might, and artistry in the wonders of creation. This is reflected in the first two verses of the hymn, in which we reflect on how the natural knowledge of God fills us with awesome wonder.

However, God’s true greatness is seen most clearly in the love God has shown by giving his only Son for our salvation, and in the love God the Son has shown by willingly taking our place on the cross. This is the focus of the third verse of hymn. Nowhere is God’s greatness seen more clearly than in the cross of Christ, our great Savior.

And we can look forward to one day seeing our Lord’s greatness even more clearly. May God strengthen and preserve you in faith until the day we see Christ face-to-face and tell Him in person, “My God, how great Thou art!”

In Christ,

Pastor Aaron Stinnett

**Together in the Word:
 Sunday School and Adult Bible Class**

Our Sunday School and Sunday morning Adult Bible Class (which begin Sept. 9) will use the “*Growing In Christ*” curriculum from Concordia Publishing House this Fall. Using these materials, our children, youth, and adults will focus on the same Bible lesson each week (with study and applications appropriate to each age level). It is our hope that this will help families be able to discuss with each other what they study and learn each Sunday.



The focus of our Bible lessons in September will be:

Sept. 9: Esau Forgives Jacob (Gen. 31:3; 32:1-33:20)

Sept.16: Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37)

Sept.23: Joseph’s Troubles (Genesis 39)

Sept.30: Joseph Saves Egypt (Genesis 40–41)

63rd Synod National Convention *The Delegate’s Perspective*

LCMS Synodical President Kieschnick is quoted in a recent LCMS news release (July 31) as categorizing the 2007 Convention resolutions as commonly adopted with 80 to 90 percent affirmative votes. While it may be true that an “overwhelming majority” of resolutions had high percentage assenting votes, that majority more specifically refers to statements of support, encouragement, or commendations to many individuals, groups and agencies within Synod, or would be attributed to votes to amend bylaws in order to more accurately reflect current operations or interpretations. Realize that even Pres. Kieschnick was only re-elected to his office by a 52.3% vote!

So too, many (although a minority in number) resolutions of importance and long-term significance to Synod prompted far more complex discussions or consideration, which were then subjected to amendments and even substitutions before receiving affirmative votes in the 50% range. There was no clear mandate to Pres. Kieschnick, or to these “priorities” as stated for the next triennium.

The missions program referred to as Ablaze continues, but as one foreign minister questioned “*who can be opposed to mission outreach?*” What caused a lot of discussion is the approach taken to place missions as the TOP priority. There was a fairly

even split in delegate voting to amend a resolution that missions remains THE TOP priority in worker training. The contrast is to “justification” as a top priority in mission worker emphasis.

Pres. Kieschnick promotes recruiting and retaining church workers, with adequate compensation. (He wonders what happened to the tithe in support of church work and workers.) Delegates voted to state that outreach is not the top but ONE priority in worker training. These are subtle distinctions, but they are worth noting, so that parishioners can know that there are significant differences of opinion within Synod, which may not be reflected in the simple statement that a “majority of resolutions” were adopted by large percentages of delegates.

Please, feel free to talk with Karen Maurer or Pastor Stinnett on any areas of interest or questions you have regarding the convention. A general report on the convention to the congregation will be made in September.

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 310,856 quilts. A Lutheran World Relief quilt is special! Each 60” x 80” quilt may bring warmth on a cold night and shelter from the sun on a hot day; even in warmer climates, the temperatures can drop dramatically at night. A quilt may become a bed, a room divider, a backpack to carry belongings, and at times even a home.

Quilts distributed by LWR to refugees and other people in need were first made by recycling old but good clothes, blankets, and other items. Most LWR quilts are still made this way, although often fabric samples, remnants, and new pieces of fabric are also used. Each quilt is one of a kind, with a beauty all its own, made as a gift of hope by caring people.

In 2006, LWR sent quilts to Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Georgia, India, Lebanon, Malawi, Niger, Peru, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda.

Your Opportunity To Help ...

Throughout September, you may donate items for World Relief quilts:

- Thread for sewing the quilt tops; it may be any color and does not need to be a full spool. If you

have partial spools of thread left over from sewing projects or colors you don't use, the quilters would be happy to use them for quilt tops.

- Thread/yarn for tying the quilts; this could be embroidery floss or crochet thread, baby yarn or fine sports yarn.
- Remnants or pieces of cotton or polyester are needed for the quilt tops. If you would like to donate squares of fabric, the quilters prefer 8" squares.
- *You!* The quilters meet every Tuesday morning at nine o'clock and additional helpers are needed. Stop by the LWML room in the basement, and they will be happy to have you help them with laying out and tying quilts.

If you would rather donate money to help distribute the quilts world wide, you are welcome to do that. The approximate cost to handle and ship one LWR quilt overseas is \$2.00.

The August LWML Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by Barb. Nancy Morris led the topic, "It's a Big World" from the *Quarterly*. Betty was hostess.

The group expressed appreciation for the congregation's donations to the Health and School Kits. Sunday School children will assemble School Kits when classes begin. We thank them for their work in assembling 74 kits for last year's drive.

The 5th Sunday Mites donations were \$28.46. We thank the congregation for their support.

Second Sunday potlucks resume in September with a new-member welcome for those members joining during the summer; dessert will be provided.

We will donate \$50 to the Lutheran Blind Mission for preparation of calendars which will include a Bible verse for each month.

Sylvia and Esther were appointed to a committee to plan a Family Advent Event for the congregation.

Barb reported that the Country Store Board voted unanimously to suspend donations to Safe Harbor and DOVES because of their recent support of unchristian activities.

LWML Sunday (October 14) will be planned at the next meeting.

NOTICE: Lutheran World Relief has notified us that they will no longer include toothpaste in their Health Kits.

Key LWML dates for your calendar...

September 28-29

Cane Ridge Retreat

The theme will be "A Rendezvous With God" based on 2 Timothy 2:15. Melissa Johns will lead the activities, and Pastor Stinnett will lead the Bible studies.

October 14

LWML Sunday

October 20

Fall Rally at Whitefish

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

Council & Member Planning Meeting

The announced annual planning meeting was held on August 21, and led by President Chuck Moody. At this well-attended meeting, the Council and other members discussed urgent as well as new and ongoing projects and programs.

The session generated suggestions on nurturing our church body, needs of our facility, and ideas regarding our reach into our community. Both immediate and long-range matters were introduced, listed within one of three categories, then assigned a priority. These categories and the ranked items within each are:

Properties (safety [A], maintenance [B] or cosmetic [C] concerns related to the church and or parsonage):

Handrail along walkway to church entrance

Balcony front enclosure

Add or replace gutters

Repair or replace vacuum cleaner

Sound system in Fellowship Hall

Downstairs floor and drinking fountain

Add second sink in kitchen

Repair or install bookshelves in library

Replace laminate table tops in classroom

Repair faucet in preschool room

Paint downstairs hall and classrooms

Improve parsonage landscaping
 Install air conditioning, first in parsonage and then
 in sanctuary

In Reach (concerned with members’ spiritual grow):

- Care Team Ministry
- Bible studies
- Fellowship
- “Delinquents”
- Lutheran Bible Translators

Out Reach (community ministry and visibility):

- VBS
- MOPS
- Church Support Council
- Church signage (on property)
- Church signage (entering city limits)
- Host the Ambassadors For Christ
- Polson City Chamber of Commerce meetings
- “Working The Crowds”

Several individuals offered to guide one or more of these labors, and many items already have a timeline for their accomplishment. Those matters that need funding will be discussed during next month’s 2008 budget planning session. This list of congregational needs and desires will also now be used to focus our efforts to benefit the congregation and the community.

The Council wishes to extend its thanks to those who participated in this important planning meeting.

From Our Treasurer’s Report

Tithes & Offerings	<i>Year-To-Date (August 21)</i>
Estimated ¹	\$42,466
Received	\$48,603
<i>Weekly Average</i> ²	<i>\$1,429</i>

¹ 2007 “Bare Bones” Budget ² 34-Week Period

Board of Stewardship Message

“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God, and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

During the next three Sundays, the Stewardship Board will be asking each member to complete a

survey. The survey is included in this newsletter. Please read it over and consider 1) your availability, 2) areas of interest, and 3) other ideas for programs and services.

Thank you for sharing your time and talents in

furthering our Lord’s work.

Board of Stewardship

**Sunday School Workshop
 “See How They Learn”**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls will host a Sunday School Workshop on Saturday, September 8, from 1-4pm. Teachers, substitutes, helpers, everyone is encouraged to attend. The workshop will emphasize effectively leading a Sunday School class.



The Montana District Parish Education Committee is partnering with Concordia Publishing House on this workshop, which will be lead by Paul Berg from CPH. This *See How They Learn*-themed training is said to be fast-paced and interactive, filled with tips and ideas to generate excitement about Sunday School ministry. The \$20 workshop fee includes a 1-year subscription to *Teachers Interaction* magazine.

Prayerfully consider including this event on your schedule for September 8, and adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Sylvia Moody and Nancy Stinnett are coordinating registration and transportation to the event.

More Fellowship Events!

We are planning to start up some Fellowship gatherings starting in September. The first one will be at David and Candis Unger's home. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for a date and time.

If you would like to host a gathering in the future or have any other ideas for Fellowship please contact David or Candis.



Anniversaries:

- Chuck & Sylvia Moody 9/10
- Mike & Joyce Shima 9/15

Don & Vonnie Christenson 9/24

Birthdays:

- Claudia Adams, 9/3
- Robert Becker 9/18
- Jennifer Reese 9/19
- EllaMae Brandau 9/23
- Macayla Crandall 9/24

To His Glory

Altar Flowers:

- Sept. 2 - (Still available.)
- Sept. 9 – Chuck & Sylvia Moody (30th Anniversary)
- Sept. 16 – (See Jane about flower “arrangements”)
- Sept. 23 – (See Jane)
- Sept. 30 – (See Jane)

Fresh altar flowers symbolize love, and glorify God.



WWW.MTCALVARY-POLSON.COM

Below are topical links from our web site home page to a great resource from Concordia Publishing House on the proper Christian reaction and response to the prospect of war, and on war itself.

- [Thinking About Going to War](#)
- [Resources to Help Military Personnel](#)
- [Resources to Help Families](#)
- [Resources to Help Schools, Sunday Schools, Confirmation Classes, and Teachers](#)
- [Resources to Help Youth](#)
- [Resources to Help Congregations](#)

These materials, prepared by CPH, are offered with the prayer that congregations and people might be strengthened through God's Word and the sacramental life in these times of fear and anxiety.

When wars and rumors of war abound and when questions about the Christian's role in war arise, the Lord still promises that He "will keep me safe in His dwelling" (*Psalm 27:5*). Be assured that He continues to do this through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, especially as we receive the sacrament.

Two Happy Marriages

Two happily married men were talking about their wives. One husband said, “My prayer is that as we grow older together and death approaches, I’d like to die first. I don’t want to live without her.”

The other man responded, “My prayer is that God will make me and keep me worthy of my wife.”

**October Newsletter Deadline
Monday, September 24th**

Send Submissions To: hobnbazle@bresnan.net

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Vice President:	David Unger
Secretary:	Jane Patterson
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Financial Secretary:	Arlene Cooper
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Librarian:	Mary Lou
Mires	
Choir Director:	Esther Stinnett
Organists:	Joyce Shima Sylvia Moody

(From our website www.MtClavary-Polson.com)

A Message from Our Pastor:

Greetings in Christ! As pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, I thank you for taking this opportunity to learn more about our church.

We are a congregation devoted to God's Word, and to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people. In gratitude for the love God has shown us, we also desire to reflect the light of His love to the world around us.

You are warmly invited to join us in worship and for the study of God's Word. If you are searching for a church home, I would be happy to discuss with you how you can become a part of our church family.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always!

Pastor Aaron Stinnett