

Mt. Calvary News



From the Pastor's Desk ...

Hymns of Faith:

8. "Now Thank We All Our God"

As we continue our series of newsletter articles on some of the treasured hymns of the Christian church, we focus this month on a hymn that captures the true spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday: "Now Thank We All Our God" (hymn number 895 in *Lutheran Service Book*).

We will next be singing this hymn on November 18 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving).

The Background of the Hymn

In the early 1600's, Martin Rinckart served as a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg, Germany, for 32 years. Thirty of those 32 years were dominated by the 30 Years War, in which Eilenburg faced repeated attacks from enemy armies. During that same time period, the city was ravaged by the plague and famine. The population was decimated. Every pastor in Eilenburg died, except for Martin Rinckart. As the city succumbed to the plague, he found himself performing funerals for as many as fifty people per day — among them, his own beloved wife.

It was a difficult time to be thankful. Counting your blessings was probably not a very popular activity in Eilenburg during those years. Yet it was in the midst of all that suffering and sorrow that Martin Rinckart one day picked up a pen and composed the following words:

*Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.*

One of the most beloved hymns of thanksgiving ever written — "Now Thank We All Our God" — was written by a man who most people would say had very little for which to give thanks.

But Pastor Rinckart knew what we all need to know. He knew the truth that we all need at times need to be reminded of — that even in the most difficult of times, our gracious God is always with us, and His greatest blessings are always ours.

(continued on the next page)

The Hymn

The words and music of “Now Thank We All Our God” are shown below:

1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,
 Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,
 Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed
 The one e - ter - nal God. Whom earth and heav'n a - dore:
 With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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The Message of the Hymn

The words of this hymn express our heartfelt praise and thanksgiving to the “bounteous God” who has so richly blessed us. When we also consider the circumstances in which this hymn was written, it is a reminder to us that there are reasons for us all to thank our God even during the difficult times in life.

It’s easy to give thanks when times are good. But what about when times don’t seem so good? At times, the world around us might seem harsh or lonely, and at times our world might seem to be falling down around us. But, as we sing in the second verse of this hymn, we can count on our gracious God even during such times to “keep us in His grace.” He will “guide us when perplexed,” and even those ills He does not free us from in this life, He will free us from in the next life.

In addition, we know that there is much more to life than meets the eye, and that even during the most difficult times there is much for which we can truly give thanks. God has given us blessings that we might not see with our eyes, and that we might at times take for granted — but they are blessings that we know in our hearts are beyond measure:

- the forgiveness of all our sins,
- union with Christ,
- the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,
- membership in the family of God, and
- life everlasting.

All of this is ours as a free gift, given to us by our gracious God. All of this is ours by the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. To the eyes of faith, there is always so much to be thankful for!

Oh give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor Aaron Stinnett

Workshop Day: Saturday, Nov. 3

Mt. Calvary Active Christian Teens (ACT) and youth are asking that congregation members join with them on Saturday, Nov. 3 in our Fellowship Hall and Church Kitchen to finish up many craft projects before the *Holiday*

Market to be held on Nov. 16. (See Article in next column.) These projects entail all sorts of skill levels.



We have pie boxes to assemble, requiring some cutting, folding and taping. We also need ribbons cut to length. In addition, there will be garlands to string, Nativity calendars to decorate, and soup mixes to assemble, which will be for sale at the Holiday Market.

Help is also needed to prepare the advertising signs and banners. Several "Colorers" are needed, too.

A group of individuals will also be making lefsa at the church on this day, and may need help rolling out dough and grilling it. (Please see Annette if you have a lefsa griddle that we can use, or if you would like to make a batch of dough beforehand.)

The Workshop Day will begin at 10:00 am and end at approximately 4:00 pm. We will have some refreshments available. Please plan to attend and help for a couple hours during the day. We appreciate you helping us. If you have questions, please contact Annette Schiele at 883-3690.

Psst! Daylight Savings Time ends this year at 2:00am November 4, next Sunday. (Anecdote on page 5.)



November 11th

Enjoy turkey and gravy, provided by the LMWL, "trimmings", brought by members, along with good conversation with your fellow

members. Everyone is encouraged to invite guests to the dinner, too. The dinner will begin after Divine Service, in the Fellowship Hall. Please indicate "the

trimmings" you can bring on the bulletin board sign-up sheet.

October Voters Meeting: 2008 Operating Budget Approved

Based on 2007 actual giving and spending, as well as on anticipated giving, recurring expenses and an inflation adjustment, the Council approved a budget of \$69,739 for 2008, which includes a tithe for Missions. The Council also gave their consent to use some of the available funds in the General Account in the coming months for approved capital expenditures.

Funds in the Restricted (Memorials) Account were also talked about. The newly formed Memorial & Architectural Committee will ensure that the donor's desires for these funds use is accomplished. Also, this Committee will review congregational and facility needs and propose uses of any Memorials funds that are or were given without their use specified.

Holiday Market

Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17

Thank you for your great response so far to the upcoming Mt. Calvary Active Christian Teens and Lutheran Preschool Holiday Market! This event, introduced in an article in last month's Newsletter, was titled *Craft Fair & Bake Sale Fundraiser*.

The Market will be open on Friday, November 16 from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. It will be open again on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 9:00 am until 7:00 pm.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Preschool for renovations needed in the preschool room as well as to help fund the Spring Retreat for the ACT group (6th grade through High School age).

Regarding craft sales, we still have a few tables available (\$15 /table) for you to display and sell items. Or, if you would rather simply donate any craft items, please contact Annette Schiele or Nancy Stinnett.

Included in the Holiday Market will be a pie and lefsa sale. Pie tins and some crusts will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Nov. 11, after our Harvest Dinner at church for those of you who are planning to bake. Remember, we will be doing a PRE-ORDER pie sale and then offering pie by the slice at the Saturday luncheon – so lots of pies may be needed.

Your help with the Holiday Market and your support on behalf of our youth is GREATLY appreciated! If you will be available to help the youth

set up, take down, and or to help with the luncheon on Saturday, please see Annette or Nancy.

Members of Mt. Calvary participate in ministries beyond their church home. One such ministry that eleven women from our congregation have shared in for twenty years is the Country Store. You've likely passed it on Main Street in Polson. Maybe you know people who shop there. Perhaps you have, too.

What you may not realize is the number of hours volunteered by some 100 women (and a few men, too) from ten area churches who make ready, merchandise and sell thousands of items through the Country Store each year, usually at bargain prices.

Volunteers from the following churches are paired to staff the Store, Monday through Friday, on a rotating basis, 10am – 4pm:

- Episcopal
- Immaculate Conception Catholic
- New Life Christian Center
- Polson Community
- Nazarene in Pablo
- Good Shepherd Lutheran
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran
- Polson Alliance
- Presbyterian
- United Methodist

You may not know, also, that the Store has benefited several groups and agencies in the community for nearly forty years, gifting to them, collectively, nearly \$18,000 this year alone.

Entities currently helped financially by the Country Store, either monthly or annually, are:

- Alano Club
- CASA
- Helping Hands
- Lake Co. Animal Shelter
- Lake County Red Cross
- Polson Beautification
- Boys & Girls Club
- Cheerful Heart
- Food Pantry
- Lake County Home Options (hospice)
- Lake Co. Salvation Army
- Senior Citizens

A Board of Directors, of course, oversees the store's operation and administers the financial commitments made to these select area entities. Mt. Calvary women have served on this Board or are on it presently.

Once commitments to these entities are satisfied and after operational expenses are paid, each of the participating churches may receive financial support for their individual Missions programs. Here at Mt. Calvary, these funds are administered by the LWML, and the beneficiaries are routinely noted in the Mt. Calvary Newsletter. This past year more than \$1,200 was disbursed locally, nationally, and internationally through LWML programs. Here's a sampling of these recipients:

- Indian Ministry
- Venezuelan Missionary
- Lutheran World Relief
- Blind Mission
- Bible Translators
- Prison Ministry
- Haitian Lutheran Ministry
- Mt. Calvary Preschool

Space available in this newsletter is simply not adequate to describe the activities that go into the Store's operation, to praise the value that it offers to its patrons or to recap its remarkable history. Nor is there an adequate expression for acknowledging the contribution made to the community by the Store's mission-focused volunteer staff.

Have a chat with one of our congregational women on the roster to work at the Store each week on Thursday. Together, these women (and some of their husbands) devote over three hundred hours annually to staff the Store – not to mention the extra tasks they do away from the Store to ready items for sale. Some have served faithfully for many years. Though some are humble about their years of service in this vital ministry, they will readily share a heartwarming or random story about Store experiences. They will likely tell you, also, that they too are blessed by their charitable acts. We are blessed as well to have these willing, dedicated servants in our Mt. Calvary family.

Would you like to support this ministry in some way? Go shopping! Items for sale range from near-new to hard-to-find goods and treasures. Wares

include clothing, household, novelty, bedding, cookware, games, sewing, books and gadgets. Your purchases will help to fund worthy groups – in our community, across cultures and worldwide.

You can help, additionally, by letting those Mt. Calvary volunteers, as well as those you will meet working in the Store, know that you think highly of their ministry and their individual, selfless labor.

More October Voters Meeting: New 2008 Officers and Appointees

President: Paul Maurer
 Vice President: David Unger
 Secretary: Jane Patterson
 Treasurer: Karen Maurer
 Financial Secretary: Arlene Cooper
 Elder: Chuck Moody
 Preschool Board: Mary Davis; Virginia Nygaard
 Evangelism: Anna Mindt
 Stewardship: Robert Becker
 Trustees: Vern Cooper; Ron Schiele; Dean Berens
 Youth Board: JoAnn Berens
 Sunday School Superintendent: Sylvia Moody
 Librarian: Mary Lou Mires
 Memorial & Architectural Committee: Sylvia Moody;
 Loretta Druyvestein; Ardith Johnson; Terry
 Druyvestein
 Choir Director: Esther Stinnett
 Organists: Joyce Shima; Sylvia Moody
 Congregational Care Team: Robert Mires, Hazle
 Heth; Robert Heth

November Birthdays

Breanna Harrison 11/7
 Kyle Patterson 11/11
 Annette Schiele 11/12
 Marret Christiansen 11/16
 Noah Stinnett 11/18
 Ed Unger 11/19
 Elsa Swallow 11/28



November Anniversaries

Ed & JoMay Unger 11/13
 Vern & Arlene Cooper 11/25

Daylight Savings Time Anecdote

While twins born at 11:55 p.m. and 12:05 a.m. may have different birthdays, Daylight Saving Time can change birth order -- on paper, anyway. During the

time change in the fall, one baby could be born at 1:55 a.m. and the sibling born ten minutes later, at 1:05 a.m. In the spring, there is a gap when no babies are born at all: from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

NOTICE: Prison Ministries has notified us that they may no longer accept copies of Portals Of Prayers sent to them. Thanks to those LWML members who had saved them for this ministry.

The October LWML Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by Barb. Hazle led the topic “Celebrating Life in the Midst of Life’s Storms.”

Annette spoke to us about the upcoming fund raiser for the Pre-School and Youth Group. A Holiday Craft Market and bake sale will be held November 16 and 17. Orders for pumpkin pie and apple pie may be placed until Tuesday, November 13. Annette asked for help with baking the pies and items for the bake sale.

Virginia reported that \$53.00 in mites was received on the Fifth Sunday in September. Thanks to the congregation for your support of LWML mission projects.

Share the Spirit is in need of volunteers to help prepare Christmas gifts for distribution. They may not be able to wrap the gifts this year because of the time required and the lack of volunteer help. At the November meeting, we will discuss scheduling a time when we could volunteer some assistance.

LWML will purchase Advent Prayer Cards to be given to the congregation at the December 1st Advent Event. The cards will be placed in mailboxes so those not attending on Saturday may have theirs Sunday morning. We will also purchase Advent Calendars and give them to Sunday School children. LWML will also purchase pizza for lunch on December 1.

Mary Lou talked with Barb about holding a Fall Tea again this year. It was decided that the fall calendar is too busy; because Easter will be early next year (in March), we will ask Mary Lou to plan a Spring Tea for April.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Bev served refreshments.

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 24,750 sewing kits. Many of the sewing kits are used in vocational training programs to teach young men and women sewing skills that they can use to earn an income.

In 2006, LWR sent sewing kits to Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Niger, Peru, and Sierra Leone. It costs approximately one dollar to send one sewing kit overseas.

Your Opportunity To Help ...

Throughout November, you may donate any of the items below for a Lutheran World Relief Sewing Kit:

- Three yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton-blend fabric; four yards if 36" (no knits or 100% polyester)
- One package of about 10-15 needles for hand sewing (needles purchased in larger packages can be divided by inserting 12 needles into a swatch of felt or thick fabric)
- One spool of matching thread, 300 yards
- One card of 6 or more 1/2" to 5/8" matching buttons

A box for your donations is in the Fellowship area.

Flathead Zone Rally

Seventy-three people attended the October 20th Fall Rally at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Whitefish. Pastor Matthew Nelson of Columbia Falls spoke about his four years as missionary-at-large in Utah; he shared useful information about the Mormon religion and provided important suggestions for witnessing the truth about salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to our Mormon relatives and friends.

Pastor Marty Kaarre led the worship service, and Pastor Darold Reiner led opening devotions. The Whitefish LWML hosted the rally and provided delicious food and a warm welcome for us all. The next Zone rally will be next fall in Eureka.

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.

December 1, 10 AM to 2 PM
Advent Event

Help decorate the church for Christmas, set up the outdoor Nativity set, make luminarias and Advent wreaths, and enjoy the fellowship.

April 12, 2008
World Relief Drive

Things To Do – Today, This Month



Join A Study Group

Praise,
Glory and
Thanks
Be To

God!

Altar Flower "Arrangements":

Nov. 4 – (Available.



Nov. 11 – Bob & Hazle Heth
(Veteran's Day)

All
Saints
Sunday
)

Nov. 18 – Esther Stinnett

(Noah's Birthday)

Nov. 25 – Vern and Arlene Cooper

(Wedding Anniversary)

Looking Ahead: Christmas Program

Plans for this year's youth Christmas program are being formed, with the rehearsal schedule in December (probably two Saturdays) yet to be finalized. Here is a first-look at the program.

The title of the program is "Jesus, Born for Us! Alleluia!" This program celebrates the reason, purpose, and fulfillment of Jesus' incarnation. In Jesus Christ, God became man for us and for our salvation. The program incorporates readings from the Book of Luke and other New Testament passages. The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, along with Martin Luther's explanation from the Small Catechism, is the organizing feature of this program.

The program also introduces Martin Luther's great Christmas hymn, "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth". This hymn, though not well-known in many congregations, is worth learning! The children will

also be reciting verses from the text of "Christmas Night, Fair and Bright" by Julie Stiegemeier, published by Concordia Publishing House. The children connect these parts with their singing of Christmas carols accompanied by finger plays and other motion.

Thrivent: Care in Congregations®: Multiplying The Good Done Together

Below are examples of Care in Congregations activities guided by congregational Service Teams. Talk to Sylvia Moody about these, or your own ideas for supporting the congregation's and our community ministries with such fund-raising events.

- **Taste of Trinity (Lutheran Church).** Samples of different types of food were sold to congregational members after Sunday church service.
- **Jazz Service.** Professional musicians were joined by congregational members to lead a special jazz service. Funds generated then were used to support Evangelism programs.
- **Toy Sale.** Gently used toys were donated by parents of children attending a Lutheran preschool. The toys were sold to the community, and the profits were used for minor repairs at the preschool.
- **Crystal Ball.** Fund-raiser where youth members prepared and served a fancy dinner to "formal" adult diners and then hosted a dance. The evening consisted of appetizers, dinner, dessert and entertainment.
- **Floor Tile Party.** Thrivent Financial members and congregational members installed new floor tile in the church fellowship hall. This hands-on service activity included pulling up old carpet, preparing floor, applying glue and placing tile.
- **Recycled Relics.** A special sale of used items.
- **Stained-Glass Crosses.** In celebration of a 125th congregational anniversary, stained-glass crosses were made from the stained glass windows that were salvaged from a tornado that destroyed the church. The crosses were sold on Easter Sunday to members of the congregation and then offered for sale to the public.
- **Homemade Ice Cream Social.** Youth of the church prepared and hand-cranked homemade ice cream. Funds were used for Sunday school materials and youth activities.

- **Movie and Dinner Fund-raiser.** Members provided a dinner and then a movie. Funds were put toward new handicap-accessible construction.
- **Consignment Sale.** A consignment sale was held to benefit the preschool. Funds were used to help pay for playground equipment.
- **Hosta Sale.** Congregational and Thrivent Financial volunteers potted thousands of hostas and sold them to the community.
- **Living Beyond.** As a hands-on service activity, members of Thrivent Financial and the congregation did painting, yard work and small construction projects for people not from the congregation.

Quotes From Great Minds

Lord, make me see thy glory in every place.

—Michelangelo

Our daily what?

A woman from Uniontown, Ohio, told some fellow Christians that when she was a child learning the Lord's Prayer, she did not understand that the words were "daily bread." She thought the line was "Give us this day our jelly bread."

**December Newsletter Deadline
Monday, November 19th**

Email Submissions To: hob@bresnan.net

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (LMCS)

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Secretary:	Jane Patterson
Treasurer:	Bob Becker
Financial Secretary:	Arlene Cooper
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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 are very glad for the presence of all visitors. Please know that we are pleased to have you worshiping with us. We encourage you to introduce yourself to others, and participate in our time of fellowship.