

Mt. Calvary News



From the Pastor's Desk ...

Jesus Christ: The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Some Things Change

Much has changed since the last time we celebrated the beginning of a new year:

- Some changes have been welcome — such as the addition of some wonderful new members to our church family.
- Some changes have not been so welcome — such as an increase in the price of gasoline of about seventy cents per gallon.

Each of us has also experienced changes in our personal lives:

- Perhaps some changes in your life were blessings — such as an addition to the family.
- Perhaps some were difficulties — such as an unexpected illness.
- Some changes might have been both at the same time — experiences that brought you difficulty, but through which you grew and were ultimately blessed.

Changes can be wonderful, but they can also be difficult. And living in a world where things can change so rapidly and unexpectedly can be a source of worry and discomfort.

In a world where change is an ever-present reality, it can be reassuring to know there are some things we can count on to be the same.

Christ Stays the Same

As we are told in God's Word, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). So, in the coming year, we don't know how gas prices might change, and we don't know how our health might change. But this we do know: Jesus Christ and His love for us will never change.

While we don't know what surprises might come our way in the coming year, we do know this much about 2008 with absolute certainty:

- Jesus, our Immanuel, will always be with us.
- Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will continue to guide, protect, and feed us.
- Jesus, our Savior, will continue to forgive all our sins and love us with an immeasurable love.

May you find comfort and joy in the assurance that the year we are entering will be another year of living in God's amazing grace!

— Pastor Aaron Stinnett

The December LWML Meeting

The meeting was opened with prayer by Barb. Virginia gave the Treasurer's report: She paid Delegate fees for 15 members, ordered 25 copies of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, and 22 copies of the *Montana Missive*. She reported that the quilters received \$150 from the quilts sold at the Holiday Market fundraiser. That money will be used to buy supplies for making more World Relief quilts.

Each December, the members select a number of agencies and individuals to receive Christmas donations. This year, the following were chosen:

1. The Kurt Marquart Fund for Theological Education in Haiti -- a fund established in memory of Professor Kurt Marquart (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne), who during his life was involved in the early development of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and who taught several pastoral education courses in Haiti. The Lutheran church in Haiti has only 7 ordained pastors to serve 102 congregations. This fund will buy books and theological materials, host training courses, and send teachers to Haiti to assist in pastoral education.
2. California Fire Relief fund through LCMS World Relief – The 2007 fires in California destroyed thousands of homes and hundreds of businesses. At least 25 of the homes were owned by LCMS members. LCMS World Relief works through churches in the area to bring assistance to those affected by the fires.
3. Park Timber, a member of Circle of Life Lutheran Church in Lame Deer, who is preparing for the full-time ministry to Native Americans in Montana through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology conducted by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.
4. Rev. Ted Krey, a missionary in Venezuela, who conducts a number of classes and oversees the training of Venezuelans for full-time ministry in the Lutheran Church of Venezuela.
5. Rev. Dan Jacobs, Crow Lutheran Ministry, Crow Agency, Montana.
6. Rev. Dennis Bauer, Circle of Life Lutheran Church, Lame Deer, Montana.
7. Chaplain Gale Everson, Boulder, Montana.
8. Lutheran Bible Translators

9. Lutheran Prison Ministry

10. Lutherans For Life

Some recipients will receive \$100; others will receive \$50. It was also decided to set aside \$100 to purchase Bibles for distribution by Ryan Shima.

Elections were held; the new officers are:

President, Nancy Morris
 Vice-President, Barb Patterson
 Secretary, Esther Stinnett
 Treasurer, Virginia Nygaard

Barb passed around the sheets for planning the 2008 schedule. The January topic will be led by Nancy Morris, and Anna Mindt will be hostess.

The group packed and delivered 28 Cheer Boxes. Thank you to all who donated items and suggested names for recipients of the Cheer Boxes.

Lutheran World Relief: *To Others, Through Others.*

Members of Mt. Calvary have had an opportunity to donate items for each kind of kit Lutheran World Relief distributes around the world. Between now and the annual World Relief Drive in April we will feature each of the kits once more.

Your Opportunity To Help ...

We invite you once again to donate items for the health kits. The items most needed now are:

- Washcloths and hand towels, dark color recommended.

A box for your donations is in the Fellowship area. After-Christmas sales may be a great time to find these items!

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.

April 12, 2008.....World Relief Drive

April 25-27, 2008.....Montana District LWML Convention in Billings

2008 Congregational Leaders

See an updated listing of elected and appointed positions on the last page of the *News*, along with the names of those serving in these positions.

Officers and Board members serving the congregation for 2008 will be installed at Divine Service on Sunday, January 13.

Children Visit St. Joseph Residents

Our Sunday School children visited residents at the St. Joseph Assisted Living Center on December 18, sharing our Christmas program with them.

The children sang all of their program songs, and various students read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke and other New Testament passages. We joined in singing a couple Christmas hymns with the residents at the conclusion of our program.

The students then gave residents each a candy cane, accompanied by a poem about the meaning of the candy cane shape and its colors. Afterwards, while we continued our visit, the Center treated us to punch and season goodies. All in all, it was a great evening for everyone.

Sound System Extended

Speakers were recently added in the Fellowship area. Adam Moody, home from college for the holidays, coordinated the purchase and installation of the additional speakers.

Now, when the sanctuary is filled and Service attendees are seated in this area, they will be able to hear the order of Service and music just as those seated in the sanctuary do. Also, recorded programs or music can be directed just into the Fellowship area, if desired.

This facility project was approved at our annual planning session in August. The speakers were purchased from unrestricted funds in our savings account.

Is Your Directory Info Current?

Please let us know if your street address or phone number changed since the Members Directory was last printed. This applies to your email address, too. (If your email address was not listed in the Directory and you would like it to be, let us know that, too.)

Just note your info and place it in the Heth's mailbox, or address an email to

hobnbazle@bresnan.net with the information.

Changes identified will be published in the February *News*, so everyone is aware of them.

A New Year ... A New Opportunity Be Enriched by God's Word

With the beginning of a new year, people often think about new ways to grow. Perhaps you've even considered making some formal "New Year's Resolutions." Whether it's a formal resolution or not, there certainly is no greater goal we could have than to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word, and in our personal commitment to the Lord and His Word.

As the disciple Peter once said, only Jesus has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). These words have been given to us in the Scriptures, so that we may study, take to heart, and be molded by these words. All of this begins with our setting aside time in our lives to open up our Bibles and dive into the Word.



So that we may grow together in God's Word, everybody is invited to participate in our Wednesday evening Bible studies, which will be starting again on January 9 at 7 PM. This month, we'll be studying God's Word together using a new Bible study from Concordia Publishing House, entitled

"Comfort for Christians." The study will include four sessions:

Jan. 9: "Comfort for Troubled Sinners"

Jan. 16: "Comfort for Troubled Marriages and Families"

Jan. 23: "Comfort for the Despondent"

Jan. 30: "Comfort for the Grieving"

We look forward to seeing you there and finding comfort and encouragement together in Jesus Christ and His Word!

Gifts and Offering Envelopes

A boxed set of envelopes for use in 2008 recently was placed in member mailboxes. Your name should appear on the top of the box. If you didn't find yours, or if someone else's name is on the box you have, please tell Arlene Cooper.

You are encouraged to use your "giving envelopes"

when making a monetary contribution, especially of cash. Using these envelopes is helpful for accurately posting member records, as well as for the Financial Secretary to prepare quarterly and year-end reports. Many members rely on these important records to report charitable contributions on income tax returns.

One suggested remedy for forgetting envelopes at home on Sunday morning is simply to keep the boxed set in your church mailbox, quickly available.

As a reminder to all, records of monetary gifts and tithes are managed as confidential records.

Birthdays:

- Stewart Schiele 1/05
- Bob Mires 1/09
- Larry Hoffman 1/10
- Maxwell Upton 1/12
- Gary Patterson 1/15
- Devon Morris 1/19
- Reynold Unger 1/22
- Bob Chambers 1/22
- Paul Maurer 1/23
- JoMay Unger 1/26
- Cory Davis 1/30



Anniversaries:

None

Praise, Glory and Thanks Be To God!

Jan. 6 – Available
(Epiphany Day)

Jan. 13 –
Available

(Baptism of Our Lord)

Jan. 20 – Available
(2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

Jan. 27 – Available
(3rd Sunday after Epiphany)



A January social event for Mt. Calvary members and friends is not

scheduled, but it's not too late to add a notice for one in the bulletin. These events are always enjoyable. See the October News for nine fellowship ideas. In the November News, twelve more great suggestions that include fund-raising were given. Got a new idea for events and snacks in January, or 2008?

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- President: Paul Maurer
- Vice President: David Unger
- Secretary: Jane Patterson
- Treasurer: Karen Maurer
- Financial Secretary: Arlene Cooper
- Board of Education: Nancy Stinnett
- Board of Elders: Chuck Moody
Walter Patterson
Reynold Unger
- Board of Evangelism: Anna Mindt
Mark Bobb
Edward Unger
- Board of Stewardship: Mary Lou Mires
Bob Becker
JoAnne Unger
- Board of Trustees: Vernon Cooper
Dean Berens
Ron Schiele
Roy Davis
Del Mindt
- Board of Youth: JoAnn Berens
Dawn Morris
Annette Schiele
- Sunday School Super: Sylvia Moody
- Board of Preschool: Mary Helen Davis
Virginia Nygaard
Candis Unger
- Memorial & Architectural Committee: Loretta Druyvestein
- Librarian: Terry Druyvestein
- Congregational Care Team: Sylvia Moody
Ardith Johnson
Mary Lou Mires
Bob & Mary Lou Mires
- Bob & Hazle Heth

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.

February Mt. Calvary News Deadline Monday, January 21st

Email Submissions To: hob@bresnan.net