



Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church – Apollo Beach, Florida

CALVARY SPIRIT

The Mission of Calvary Lutheran Church is to Proclaim Jesus Christ to the World.

Volume 26, No. 2

FEBRUARY 2012

Special Items Of Interest

Calendar Items
Page 3

Confirmation
Update
Page 4

Forward in Faith
Page 5

MS Fundraiser
Page 6

Friends & Family
Show
Page 7

Youth Events
Page 11

CLERGY:

Jack Palzer
Senior Pastor

Derek Hoven
Associate Pastor

How Do We Know It's the Real Thing?

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Most of you know me well enough to know that I am always asking questions! Wish I had the answers to at least some of my questions. Recently, I have the following question rumbling **through my thoughts quite a bit. "HOW DO WE KNOW THAT LIFE IN CHRIST IS THE REAL THING?"** Is it something we've been brainwashed to accept? Where does God fit in? How can we possibly swallow that irrational God stuff in a world of computers and satellites, and suffering, starving, dying people?



I speak for myself, yet I can say the same for many of you, we know that Christ IS real, that God IS alive and well and lovingly concerned about each of us, because we have seen Him through the eyes of faith, have witnessed His miracles in our lives or the lives of others around us, and have experienced His forgiving and life-giving love in our own hearts. We know Him; He is real to us, and He is the source of our joy and our hope!

We are in the midst of a three year capital campaign ("Forward in Faith") to receive blessings from each one of you so that God's mission and ministries can continue to grow in and through Calvary. God is calling on each one of us...on Calvary...to LET GOD HAVE HIS WAY WITH US.

This is a holy time for each of us to be in prayer and reflection on how God has and **continues to bless each one of us as well as Calvary to be the "image of Christ" in the world around us.** Do we really know and believe that we have, everyone one of us, been selected and set apart for God and His purposes.

This is something to really celebrate! The blessed Word of God has been enfleshed in us --- and in our sisters and brothers about us. And while we celebrate, we need as well, to continually remind one another of this splendid task and encourage one **another to be faithful to our calling as God's children and servants. Because of our great deliverance from sin and death because of God's grace, we are obligated, indebted to every man, woman and child around us and in God's world.**

I will always be filled with questions! But I also have the answer. God grant to us the faith to claim His saving love-and the courage to proclaim it -- knowing full well there will be those who will listen as well as those who will doubt. as we move **FORWARD IN FAITH...may we all be ready to STEP BOLDLY IN FAITH KNOWING THAT GOD WILL ALWAYS LEAD AND ALWAYS BLESS!**

- Blessings and prayers, Pastor Jack

Update on Calvary's Food Bank

Community Cupboard Receives Grant, Gift

Calvary's Community Cupboard food pantry received a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center "Dr. Charles W and Iona A. Mathias Fund". The total amount of the grant is designated strictly for the purchase of food to feed the needy. This is the third time we have received a grant from this organization. Without these funds, we would have to reduce the amount of food distributed and families that we serve. We are blessed to have their support.

Also, Christmas came early for Community Cupboard in the form of a refrigerator. This was a gift from Alex and Ashley Ullom, and their parents Paul and Dawn. The need was expressed in the December 2011 newsletter. Alex and Ashley agreed to reduce their Christmas wish list so that Community Cupboard could have a refrigerator for the fresh produce received from Feeding America Tampa Bay and distributed to the families served. Thank you!

Community Cupboard Donations

Next Food Drive:

Sunday,
February 5



Food Item: Cereal





SUNDAY, Feb 5:

8AM to 11AM, Fellowship Hall—Youth Breakfast

TUESDAY, Feb. 21:

5PM to 7PM, Fellowship Hall--
Calvary's Men Mission's
Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper

7PM, Sanctuary, Prayer and
Healing Service



WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22:

10AM & 7 PM, Ash Wednesday Services



SATURDAY, Feb. 25:

7:30AM to 4:30PM, Calvary Men in Mission Retreat,
"Courageous Living!" - Christian Retreat Center, Bradenton



WEDNESDAY, Feb. 29:

-6PM to 7PM, Fellowship Hall, Lenten Supper

7PM, Sanctuary, Midweek Lenten Service



Confirmation Class Update

I know you all are dying to hear what is going on in Confirmation Class. So here is a little bit of what goes on every other Sunday night.

***D**uring the mid-week Advent services, our eighth-graders wrote and led the prayers. Thanks to Alex Ullom, Emily Galen, Isabel Hagerman, Taylor Berlin, and John Hagelberg who participated in this activity. Recently, some of the service projects we did were helping Community Cupboard with Angel Tree and Thanks-for-giving.*



So far this year in confirmation class, we have covered the first six commandments. They are as follows:

1. **"I am the LORD, your one and only LORD."**
2. **"Never use the name of the LORD in vain."**
3. **"Keep the day of the Sabbath holy."**
4. **"Thou shalt respect their Mother and Father."**
5. **"Thou shalt not murder."**
6. **"Thou shalt not commit adultery."**

The activities we have done to go with this are creating Sabbath apps (Commandment number four, as stated above). When we did commandment number five, we were separated into three groups and we witnessed six murder courts. We acted as jury to pronounce the verdict. Commandment number five, which is stated above.

So that's your Confirmation Class update. We are always doing servant projects, more to come.

- Natalie Ise, Sixth Grader



FORWARD IN FAITH: *So much more than a capital fund campaign:*

- ⇒ It centers around prayer and fasting through personal devotionals.
- ⇒ It focuses on asking God questions and spending time in personal reflection.
- ⇒ It encourages journaling as a means to chronicle what God is speaking to you.
- ⇒ It appeals to the heart by elevating the priority of our relationship with God.

You have witnessed the commissioning of the Forward in Faith (FIF) Team Leaders and may already be serving on one of 11 FIF teams. (There is still time to volunteer!)

You have heard the first 3 sermons of the 10 week focus on Hearing From God, growing in relationship with Christ and others.

You have received and are using the Hearing From God Congregational Journal to its fullest.

You have begun to fast alone or with a friend, devoting time to listen to what God has in His plan for you and Calvary.

You have attended a Ministry Fair, learning what a new building means to our ministry growth.

You have attended the Winter Congregational Meeting and have seen BGW's architectural drawings and pictures of our new church setting.

March 2nd is on your calendar to participate in the 24 hour prayer vigil at Calvary.

March 18th is on your calendar as the time to offer up our pledges for advancing our mission center on our property in Ruskin, and **CELEBRATE TOGETHER God's Plan for us.**

You are praying that our current property sells, allowing us to move Forward in Faith to build our future home. **"Only God" knows the timing, but we are ready!**

It is our prayer that all the upcoming events planned will be among the most memorable and spiritually inspiring times in your life and faith journey, leading up to our Celebration Sunday on March 18th.

- Kathy Hockemeyer and Nan Ryan, on behalf of all of the Forward In Faith Teams.

Save the Date — Prayer Vigil – Saturday, March 3rd

Be sure to mark your calendars for Calvary's 24 Hour Prayer Vigil which will be held on Friday March 2 at 10:00 AM through Saturday, March 3 at 10:00 AM as a part of our Forward in Faith Campaign. Watch for bulletin announcements and postcards inviting you to come to Calvary for prayer.



TEAM PANGO RIDES AGAIN FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS – COME JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

SCLEROSIS Team Pango will once again prepare for the Multiple Sclerosis annual bike ride from Lake Wales to Orlando.

This is a two (2) day event on April 21st and 22nd. Our team consists of a wide variety of skill levels and you can choose the 50, 75 or 100 mile course. Our ultimate goal is to raise money to find a cure for MS. Did you know that approximately 200 people are diagnosed with this disease every week?

If you would like to join us for many miles of sweat and smiles or be a part of our annual fund raisers, contact Scott or Nancy Seymour at 813-645-0802 or nseymour@tampabay.rr.com.

Other Team Pango Activities—Join Us!

Clay Shooting Challenge

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Cost—After February 1st:

\$70.00 - Individual / \$240.00 per Team of 4

Includes:

- 50 Clay Targets
- Raffle and Silent Auction
- BBQ Lunch and soft drinks

*Practice rounds available.

Bring:

Eye and Ear Protection, Shotgun and Shells.

Location: FishHawk Sporting Clays



2012 Fitness Challenge

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Lake Park | 17302 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

Registration 9:00 am | 5k start time 10:00 am

Fitness challenge 11:00 | noon

1st Wave = Recreation division

2nd Wave = Competitive division

Cost: \$20 plus \$2 park entry fee

QUESTIONS on the above two fund raising activities to raise money for MS? Call Scott Seymour at 813-390-9278.



Friends & Family Night Show & Ice Cream Social

Saturday, Feb. 25th – 6PM

On February 25, 2012, the youth of Calvary would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has and is continuing to support them through fundraisers by hosting a Friends and Family night FREE OF CHARGE to everyone who wants to come. The Pelican Players of Sun City will be performing a show titled "Snow White and the Rockin' Dwarfs" and an Ice Cream Social will follow. Invite your friends and hope to see everyone there!

Big Thanks for Supporting Our Youth!

The Youth of Calvary would like to thank everyone purchasing their stocks to support them traveling to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering July 18-22, 2012. Because of your generosity, many of our young people will be able to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity to serve and worship with 30,000+ youth from all over the country. If you haven't turned in your stocks or would like to purchase stock for youth, we are continuously accepting new stock offers at LEAST through April. Thanks again for your support and keep on buying! - Jordan Palzer



FEBRUARY 2012



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Bev Elliott | 17 | Sharon Olson |
| 2 | Halima Olson | 17 | Justin Stoddard |
| 3 | Gary Olson | 17 | Tracy White |
| 3 | Ralph Williams | 18 | Bill Badgett |
| 4 | Joan Endler | 18 | Eddie Hodel |
| 4 | Mark Palte | 18 | Loren McCollum |
| 4 | Judy Shepherd | 18 | Veronica Valiente |
| 5 | Derek Hoven | 19 | Austin Cochran |
| 6 | Gary Platt | 20 | Hank Buhlinger |
| 6 | Amanda Pope | 20 | Mary Cramer |
| 6 | Ashley Ullom | 21 | Robert Cornell |
| 8 | Donna Bumbarger | 21 | Jack Lathbury |
| 9 | Tim Sutton | 21 | Betty Shay |
| 9 | Kristen Tanner | 22 | Pearl Ashe |
| 10 | Don Ross | 22 | Billy Pope |
| 11 | Mariece Hoefgen | 24 | Beck Funderburk |
| 11 | Norma Kitzman | 24 | Jon Ise |
| 11 | Gary Murtinger | 24 | Sandra Scheefe |
| 11 | Rudy Railey | 25 | Mae Seymour |
| 11 | Bryan Zemina | 26 | Barb Wingert |
| 12 | Martha LaFon | 27 | Carol Mareci |
| 12 | Marilyn Marshall | 27 | Joseph Moore |
| 13 | Melissa Carter | 27 | Daniel Valiente |
| 13 | Iris Williams | 28 | Thomas Popovich |
| 14 | John O'Connor | 28 | John Zemina |
| 14 | Clayton Swalstad | | |
| 15 | Barbara Bickert | | |
| 15 | Daniel Weston | | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | George & Denise Geisel |
| 1 | John & Roberta Novak |
| 5 | Joe & Joan Abrams |
| 8 | Gary & Amy Furey |
| 11 | Roger & Sharon Klasse |
| 14 | Cary & Ginny Blackmer |
| 14 | Ray & Barbara Cowherd |
| 14 | Hank & Karen Hosman |
| 16 | Christian & Renate Bellingrath |
| 17 | Ron & Debbie Peterson |
| 18 | John & Cheryl Zemina |
| 19 | Scott & Mishelle Michaud |
| 20 | Bob & Alice Boose |
| 27 | Eric & Carri Briggs |



If we missed your "special date" please call the church office at (813) 645-1305 and let us know.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

John & Marcie Brierley, John Boose, Lorne Winbigler, Scott Seymour, Carter Ellis, Susan Modica, Randy Hann, Jack Bach, Betty Maravella, Ron & Luverne Zellmer, Connor Hernandez, Don Crothers, Beverly Bolivar, Ruby Wood, Kate Gray, Dorothy Anderson, Milton Helmke, Jim Bloomer, Pam Lydic, Clara Schultz, Roger & Maryann Moore, Bill Hermans, Mary Boorsma, Helen Woods, Hope Senkeleski, Oscar Puffinburger, Kim Heimburger, Charles DeLong, Julian Hamilton, Matthew Yoder, Sherri Strader, Juli Sanchez, Michael O'Connor, Lynn Frassrand, Kathy Schueler, Donna DeLong, Jeanne Gross, Dick Johnson, Kelli Kremkau, Anita Olson, Barry DeCarlucci, Elsie Bosron, Alvin Broemer, Bill & Edith Budney, Courtney Mazzella, Ray Cowherd, Amy Hoijer, Jim Sherman, Reggie and Georgaine Reynolds, Derek Marquart, Liz Charbonneau, Melissa & Preston Mescher, Al DeWolf, Veronica Williams, Al Monauni, Ralph Seymour, Marilyn Marshall, Walt Blue, Alan White, Boki Olden, Mary Warchel, Paul Marsh, Nick Valiente, Adele Wiener, Eric & Stormy Hodel & family, Madeline Arout, Terry Parker, Paula Sabo, Jake Bramlett, Linda Hughes, Bill Smith, Helen Rachel, Charlotte Keck, Lauri Echols, Mikayla Wiles, Dennis Whatley, Galen Johnston, Phil Phillips, Dave Barrett, Dorothy Pruchnicki, Bob Prettyman, Jerry Miller, Sue Steenis, Milton Helmke, Bob Beck, and the men and women of the armed forces.



Kid-Did Servant Project

Saturday, Feb 4 at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

A new ministry opportunity is starting at Calvary. Kid-Did Servant Projects are a wonderful opportunity for the younger youth of our congregation and community to take part in meaningful service activities.

Designed specifically for our preschool through elementary- aged children, each servant project will have a direct impact on our local community. Our first project will be to make bagged lunches for our local homeless and will be distributed that evening. Please join us on Saturday as we prepare sandwiches, bake cookies and decorate lunch bags for our local homeless. No child is too small to help and its never too early to be in service to others. For more information, contact Amanda Pope through the church office.



Easter Kids Celebration

Saturday, March 31 10:30-12:30

Join us for our annual Easter Kids Celebration. We'll have crafts, songs, an Easter message, lunch, and an egg hunt! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors as we joyfully prepare for the resurrection of Christ!

Mark your Calendars for Vacation Bible School!

June 11-14, 2012

Join us for SKY: Everything is Possible with God! VBS will be a fun and faith filled four day extravaganza for kids ages 3 years to 5th grade. Be in prayer about how you can help and be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank all who have encouraged and supported this ministry in the beginning and continue to support and uplift us in prayer. We would also like to thank all who have donated yarn and monetary gifts so this ministry can continue to uplift those in need. Please continue to pray for this ministry in doing so you are uplifting each of us.

In 2011 the Prayer Shawl Ministry made a total of 104 shawls. We have uplifted 60 individuals with the outreach going to our area, to the lower 48 states and Hawaii. If you would like to have a prayer shawl made to uplift someone you know please contact Penny Sutton or the church.

If you would like to become a part of the prayer shawl ministry or know someone who knits or crochets and is not a member of the church we meet the 4th Wednesday of every month in the youth room.

Love and Blessings to each of you — The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank You!

BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAYS – 7:00 PM AT CALVARY
FRIDAYS – 7:30 AM AT SAVA CAFÉ'
ON HWY. 41 NORTH OF CALVARY
NEAR SWEETBAY

HORSESHOE PRACTICE

1 ST & 3 RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH - Feb. 4/18;
March 3/17

FEB 21—SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

5-7:00 PM—\$5 for adults & \$3 for children

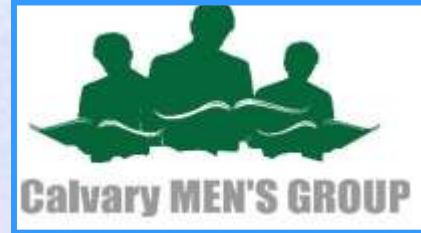
MEN'S RETREAT – FEBRUARY 25, 2011

ONE DAY ONLY - Christian Retreat Center, Bradenton

Theme: Courageous Living | Breakfast & Lunch Provided

25—Sign up Sundays through Feb. 19th

CALVARY MEN IN MISSION



Save the Date - Easter Cantata – Sunday, March 25th

This Easter Season, our Cantata will be performed on Sunday March 25th, one week BEFORE Palm Sunday. It is called "Touched By the Christ" and promises to be as amazing as our past Cantatas. Also, if you are interested in being a part of this group, we will be rehearsing on Tuesdays from 6:30PM until approximately 8PM. Blessings to all. - Peter Farina

Sew Whats Fundraiser - Feb. 29th — 6PM

The Sew Whats Group are having a fundraiser dinner on Feb 29th at 6 pm. This will also be the first Lenten dinner. Come and enjoy a Great meal cooked by Ron Tucker and the Sew Whats women. We will also have some quilts on display for sale. Please come out and support us and enjoy food and worship. -Vicki Tucker

Have you ever gone to church with a Teddy Bear?

No? Well, stay tuned, that might soon be changing.

In His Service,

C.T. Bear



**GET READY!
IT'S COMING!**



YOUTH



Jordan Palzer
Interim
Youth Director

Month of February Activities for JOURNEY!

Small Groups for High School start again

February 5 - Youth Breakfast in support of the Youth traveling to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, July 18-22, 2012.
Breakfast: 8-11AM

February 7 - No SMALL GROUPS

February 12 - Journey Service at Calvary, 5-7PM. Invite your friends for fun & fellowship.

February 19 - Fun Day, 12-2PM, Details TBD

February 21 - Small Groups (high school) at **Karyn's House**, 6:30-8:00PM

February 25 - Youth host Pelican Players event as THANK YOU to church congregation.
Hosted at Calvary from 5-7PM

February 26 — Journey Service at Calvary, 5-7PM. Invite your friends for fun & fellowship.



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**Calvary Lutheran
Church**

5309 U.S. Highway 41 N.
Apollo Beach, FL 33572
Phone: (813) 645-1305
Fax: (813) 641-2815

Sunday Worship

8:00 AM :

Blended

9:40 AM:

Contemporary

11:15 AM:

Traditional

8:45 AM:

Sunday School

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Calling all Wild Women of Faith....Mark
your calendars October 12 to 14 for
Calvary's Women's Retreat. Watch your
bulletins and Newsletters for more
information.

And don't forget, February 14th is
Valentine's Day — remember your
Sweetie!

We're on the Web!

calvarylutheranchurch.net

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