

# The Calvary Call

December  
2010

## It's About Time!

Our Advent Worship this year is titled, **"It's About Time."** We will look what God's timing is for our lives!!

Our Wednesday services will begin at 7 pm and will be under 45 minutes.

**Week 1, Dec. 1:** "Wait Till Your Father comes Home!"

**Week 2, Dec. 8:** "It's Time to Wake Up!"

**Week 3, Dec. 15:** "He Will Return"

**Week 4, Dec. 22:** "Something Is About to Happen"

Please join us and if possible invite a friend. We will spend time hearing God's Word, in prayer, and sing some familiar Advent songs.



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## Hanging of the Greens

Join us as we prepare our building for the celebration of Jesus' Birthday. Following the Mid-week Advent service on Wednesday, December 8 we invite all members to come and help put up the tree, lights, and chrismons around the church

This is a grand time for fellowship and sharing in the joys of Christmas.

## Advent Devotional booklet

Included in this issue of the *Calvary Call*, a devotional booklet called *Home for the Holidays* by Wayne Palmer.

This booklet is provided to us by Lutheran Hour Ministries. We

hope you and your family find that each day's devotion will make your holiday more meaningful, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28, through Epiphany on Jan. 6.

## Holiday Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 28, marks the First Sunday of Advent. Our focus will be preparing for the coming of Jesus.

Mid-Week Advent services *It's About Time* will be Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, at 7 pm.

The Children's Worship is titled: *God's Love at Christmas* and will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve Family Worship is Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 pm. And our traditional Candlelight

Service with Holy Communion will be at 11 pm.

Christmas Day worship will be at 9 am on Saturday, Dec. 25.

We will have our New Year's Eve worship on Friday, December 31 at 7 pm.

We encourage you and your family to attend as many of these special services as possible this blessed holiday season.



## Caroling & Chili, December 12



We invite each and everyone to join us as we go caroling on Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 4—5:30pm!

We will meet at the church at 4 and head out to sing at various members' homes. At 5:30 we will return to the church for a chili supper to warm up.

All ages are welcome! Come join in the fun and fellowship!

Sponsored by the Calvary Care Team

## 19th Annual Cookie Walk, Dec. 4

The Calvary Lutheran Women's League (CLWL) will host their 19th Annual Christmas Cookie & Candy Walk on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.



### Did you know?

Calvary helps with tuition at Lutheran Schools such as St. Paul (Sioux City), one of the 10 Concordia Universities, or two Seminaries.

Gaining a Lutheran education is an investment in one's faith! Contact Cindy Storm, DCE for more information!

### Children's Christmas Service Practice

A baby was born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. Angels from heaven announced His arrival. Shepherds on the hillsides rejoiced at His coming. Wise Men from far-off lands brought Him gifts and worshiped Him. And His mother; Mary, stored all these things in her heart.

On Sunday, December 19 at 5 pm the Sunday School children of Calvary will once again share this wonderful account of God's birth in Bethlehem. Come share the joy and hear the wonder of the very first Christmas and the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

A birthday party will follow the service, continuing this celebration in our community of be-

lievers with light refreshments and fellowship. We will again collect H.U.G.S. (Hats, underwear, gloves, and sock/scarves) to donate to needy children in Siouxland.

Children's Christmas Service practices are Sunday, Dec. 5 & 12 from 12:30 – 2 pm and Sunday, December 19 at 9:15. Please have your child at practice so he or she can rehearse telling about *God's Love at Christmas*.



## From the DCE

Cindy Storm

*God loves me dearly, Gives  
(grants) me salvation,*

*God loves me dearly, Loves even  
me.*

How old are you? Unless you were born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the words to this hymn have been around longer than you. Yet, the words are as true today as when they were written. The message is true and bears much repeating.

*God loves **ME** dearly.*

Our God is a personal God. He loves ME! He loves YOU! As the psalmist writes, "Who am I that God considers me? I am just a speck in the universe." (My paraphrasing) And not only am I a speck, but I, on a daily basis, insult God with my actions. God loves ME and yet I act like I don't know him. I want to think of myself and what I want. I sin. I choose not to follow in God's ways. Not only am I a speck, but a disobedient speck, not worthy to be loved.

Yet, I know God loves me and you. God's love came to us in the being of Jesus, as a baby, humbly laying his head in a cow's feeding trough inside a stable. If that were my story, I would be very tempted to cover it up. I would be ashamed of this beginning.

But God made this choice because He wanted to restore His relationship with us. He wanted to show that He came as our servant, not as a king to be served by us. He came to do what we can not do – to give His life for all our sins.

At the manger I stand in awe of this great gift of love God.

*Therefore I'll say again: God loves  
me dearly,*

*God loves me dearly, Loves even  
me.*



## Christmas Choir



There will be a Christmas Eve Choir. We will be singing a couple traditional four part harmonized pieces. Pastor Travis will direct. Simply come to rehearsal December 15 & 22 from 7:45 PM – 8:15 PM

## Expanding Ministry List

Could you help with one of the following:

- Installing a couple shelves in the Basement Room and Organizing a Closet at Church
- Sorting Old Records
- Rummage Sale Items for CLWL
- Food for Social Ministry's Food Pantry at Calvary

- Food or money for the Social Ministry's Board annual Christmas Baskets for Shut-Ins
- Helping with a Youth Lock-in
- Sharing a Music Talent During Worship

Contact Pastor Travis, the church office or drop off items, if you can help with any of the above. Thanks!

## Playtime is Back!

Calvary Playtime is held on Mondays during the winter months at 9:45. Playtime is open to all preschoolers accompanied by an adult in the Leed's area.

This time is to help preschoolers use their extra energy built up from being indoors due to weather. There is no registration

or fee. We do ask a responsible adult stay with the preschoolers during each session. Playtime is NOT staffed. However, the Called staff at Calvary will present a devotion.

Playtime runs from 9:45 am to 11:15 am with devotions at 10:30 am.

## H.U.G.S.

Don't forget the H.U.G.S!!!!

We are again collecting HUGS for area children in need of the basics of Iowa winters.

H = hats

U = underwear

G = gloves

S = socks or scarves

HUGS will be delivered on December 20 to the Crittenton Center for all the children needing an extra HUG at Christmas.



## Pastor's Notes

### It's About Time:

Do you feel tired? Tired of all the trouble in the world? Tired from all the demands of Christmas season parties, school, school athletic events, programs, or employer sponsored parties, etc? Jesus' birthday has become overwhelming! Ready for Jesus just to come a second time and set everything right? That would be the ultimate Christmas present for believers!

St. Paul has good words for us, *"We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."* 2 Thessalonians 3:11-14

I'll admit most of us are anything but idle! We often have the exact opposite problem in December, but Paul's words still apply: Don't be a "busy body," in other words don't just spin your wheels. Say "no" to events that are purely busy for busy's sake such as that second, third, fourth and fifth Christmas party. Especially say "no" if it is keeping you from doing what is right (i.e. worshipping God, spending time with family and spouse, keeping the 10 commandments, etc.)!

Paul goes on to say, "do not grow tired of doing good." When we get tired, it is easy to just say no to everything including that which is good, (i.e. helping the poor, going to church, spending time with our family, etc.). Resist Satan who would have us just give up and become self absorbed. Yes, rest is important, but give up the busy body activities and do good!

Thank God, Jesus never tired of doing good. He did good by being born, living for others, worshipping on the Lord's Day, and even taking up the cross and taking away all of the bad we do. Why? So that we are His and in turn we never grow tired of doing good in December 2010.

Pastor James Travis



## From the Library:

The Library Committee thanks all who purchased books for the library. The new books have been processed and are ready to check out. All the money raised will go to purchase new books. If anyone has any suggestions for Christian books for the library, please put names of books in the suggestion box on the library desk.

### **Book Reviews:**

*Like Dandelion Dust* by Karen Kingsbury:

This book is a compelling drama of a young boy caught between his biological parents and the only parents he's ever known. Someone must make a brave decision and learn that sometimes the greatest love is in letting go. This powerful story brings fresh awareness to the immense need for foster care and

adoption in the United States. This book has been made into a movie. "This movie will open your eyes, touch your heart and it is my prayer it will move you to act on behalf of children in need of families," Cliff Barlow, CEO Family Christian Stores.

*The Thorn* by Beverly Lewis:

Two Amish sisters divided by one sister's impulsive marriage to an outsider. He longs for the Old Ways she left behind...Rose is unsure of her own heart — devoted to the bishop's rebellious foster son, yet courted by another. Romance, mystery and family drama intertwine deep in the heart of Lancaster County's Amish country. *The Thorn* is Book One in a stirring new saga from Beverly Lewis, "the reigning queen of Amish fiction."

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## Order your Poinsettias Today

Wednesday, December 8 will be the last day to order fresh poinsettia plants to enhance the many services at Calvary during the Christmas season.

The price is the same as last year: \$11 each. Envelopes are available at the church in the pews and the Friendship Room

Delivery is scheduled for Dec. 17.

You may also order by calling the church office at 712-239-1575. Please note: All orders are prepaid. (Plants can be taken home following the Christmas Day service at 9 am.)



## Our Church Family:

### ***Baptism:***

*Sophee M.*

### ***Transferred In:***

*Eva K.*

### ***Transferred Out:***

*Richard & Robin M.*

*Julie V.*

### ***Transferred to the Church Triumphant:***

*Myrtie Long lee* was called to her Eternal Rest on Sunday, October 31, 2010. The funeral service was held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Thursday, November 4, 2010. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.

*Clara "Tudy" Thompson* was called to her Eternal Rest on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. The memorial service was held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.

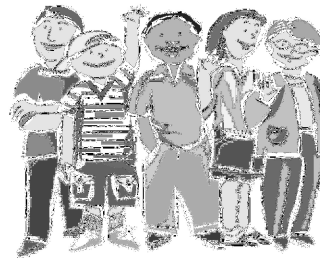
*Harold T. Brodersen* was called to his Eternal Rest on Thursday, November 11, 2010. The funeral service was held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Monday, November 15, 2010. Our prayers go out to Mary Lou, the family and all their friends.

*Viola "Faye" Winkler* was called to her Eternal Rest on Wednesday, November 17, 2010.

The funeral service was held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Monday, November 22, 2010. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.

### ***Released:***

*Shelly (Fey) K.* and children:  
*Austn F. and Christopher U.*



## Book Club News

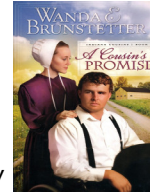
The Calvary Book Club December's read is Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. We will meet on December 24 and 25 for worship and praise for the Good News of our Promised Savior.

On January 25 the club returns to our regularly scheduled meeting of sack lunches at 11:30 am with discussion of *A Cousin's Promise* beginning at noon.

*A Cousin's Promise* by Wanda E. Brunstetter: When a horrific accident cripples Wayne Lambright, he finds it difficult enough to take care of himself, much less Loraine Miller, his fu-

ture bride. Will he sacrifice his happiness to give her a better life? Having already been jilted once, Loraine is terrified of yet another rejection. But does she love Wayne enough to marry him, for better or worse?

When her old boyfriend Jake Beechy returns from exploring the English world, he hopes Loraine will give him another chance. How will God work to give Loraine the desires of her heart?



## Prayer Time in December

We will be opening the church up for Prayer every Saturday, 8:00 AM—Noon.

Each Saturday's prayer time will have a different theme:

Dec. 4 – Members, Friends, Neighbors in the Military, Police, Fire Department, and Government.

Dec. 11 – Shut-ins, Health Care Workers (i.e. Doctors, nurses, CNAs etc.)

Dec. 18 – Jobless, Hungry, and All People.

Dec. 18, the men of the congregation are invited for 8 AM prayer time and donuts!

Come Pray! Pray Unceasingly!

## December Circle meeting changes

Please note the following schedule changes:

Ruth Circle will meet one week earlier than usual on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 6 pm

Rebekah Circle will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 9:30 am.

## Worship Assistants for December

**Elders:**  
 Sun. 8:00 am: Brad C/Bruce L  
 Sun. 10:30 am: Greg W  
 Wed. 7:00 pm: Vic R

**Ushers:**  
 Sundays: 8:00 am: Aaron B, Brian B,  
 Bill B, Rick B, Cody K  
 10:30 am: Stewart U, Greg W,  
 Jeff W, Randy G  
 Wednesdays: 7:00 pm: Clyde W

<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>Sunday, 10:30 am</b>	<b>Wednesday 7 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 8 am</b>		
<b>Dec. 5 &amp; 8:</b>		
Megan B	Dallas B Seth L	Megan K Paige W
<b>Dec. 12 &amp; 15:</b>		
Chris Clayton	Brooke G Allyssa T	Mary B Ana M
<b>Dec. 19 &amp; 22:</b>		
Amelia Duax	Tristin J Taylor J	Spencer B Joseph H
<b>Dec. 26 &amp; 29:</b>		
Chris Clayton	Dallas B Seth L	Savanna B Jessa W

### ***Special Holiday Services:***

#### ***Dec. 19, Children's Worship, 4 pm:***

Acolytes, Torches & Book: Spencer B, Jake, Jacob, Megan B, Mary B

#### ***Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Family Worship, 5 pm:***

Acolytes, Torches & Book: Kylie C, Jordan K, Megan K, Paige W  
 Gavin B, Rylee B.

#### ***Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 11 pm:***

Acolytes, Torches & Book: Shae M, Ana M, Kobey P, Tanner P,  
 Kaylee O. Banners: Jessa W, Joseph H, Taylor, Tristin Jones.

#### ***Dec. 25, Christmas Day Worship, 9 am:***

Acolytes: Brandy S, Brandon S

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Worship Assistants for December

*(Continued from page 10)*

### ***Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Worship, 7 pm::***

Acolytes, Torches & Book: Hunter F, Avery L, Chris O, Connor W

#### **Chancel Guild:**

Sunday, Dec. 5, 8 am:	Annelie S, Nancy H
Sunday, Dec. 12, 10:30 am:	Julie K Dolly C
Sunday, Dec. 19, 8 am:	Julie B, Sandy O
Friday, Dec. 24, 11 pm:	Donna L, Caroline R
Saturday, Dec. 25, 9 am:	Margaret B, Vicki B
Sunday Dec. 26, 10:30 am	Ramona M, Regena K
Friday, Dec. 31, 7 pm:	Julie B, Sandy O

**Greeters:** Sundays: 8:00 am:  
10:30 am: Sharilyn S



## Greeters & Ushers Needed in 2011

**Greeters:** People with warm handshakes and big smiles who welcome all who come to Calvary on Sunday mornings. No experience is needed! Please sign your name to the sheet on the table in the Friendship Room indicating the month and service time YOU would like to serve.

**Ushers:** Men & Women who assist at the Worship services by handing out bulletins, answering questions, assisting worshipers looking for a place to sit, taking up the offerings, and being a welcoming presence for Calvary on Sunday mornings. Add your name to the list in the Friendship Room for the service times you prefer.

Thank you for your willingness to serve God's church at Calvary!

## Calvary Care Team — Diane Krause

Calvary's care team members met Tuesday, November 17.

The Barnabas Project was discussed briefly. It is hoped that perhaps a member of Calvary who is a veteran might agree to be the point person for this wonderful ministry opportunity.

Thank you, thank you to DCE Cindy and to Pastor Travis for starting care boxes for the families of Zach Hansen, Scott Heeren, and Richie Rawson. It is a tremendous blessing to be remembered and appreciated and to know that people care.

Chapter Three of *Christian Caregiving, A Way of Life* focused on how God's presence abounds in caring relationships just as it does when we partake of The Lord's Supper, when we are in God's Word, when we pray, and when we are going about our daily lives. Verbalizing God's presence, being in a mode of continual prayer, being Christ-like in everything we do and say, and actually living out Matthew

25:35-36 provide powerful witness as children of an incredibly merciful and loving God.

We invite each and everyone to join us Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 4:00-5:30 for Christmas caroling to members of Calvary! We will meet at the church for a chili supper immediately following. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and joy this time of year. God's blessings to you and yours as we gear up to celebrate Christ's birth, the Savior of the world.

*"Oh little town of Bethlehem descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel."*

Merry, Merry Christmas from your care team! The next care team meeting Tuesday, January 18, 2011.



## 2011 Offering Envelopes

Be sure to pick up your offering envelopes for 2011. Your number changes every year so you will need to use the new ones in 2011 so that you are properly credited with your offerings. If you have not had envelopes in the past, please call the office.



## Altar Flowers

Commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one by providing Altar Flowers for the worship services in 2010. Sign your name to the poster in the Friendship Room and we will order a bouquet from Terry Lee's Flower shop for a cost of \$32.10 to be delivered to the church prior to the Sunday you select.

If you prefer to provide your own flowers, please let the office know at least one week before your date.



We can accommodate up to 2 bouquets each week. Thank you for helping to make the sanctuary beautiful with flowers.

## Do you pay Iowa taxes?

**Did you know?** You can receive an Iowa tax credit of 65% from a donation to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO). Your total donation may also qualify for federal deductibility.

What is ILSTO? In 2006, the Educational Opportunities Act began allowing Iowa tax payers to make a gift to a School Tuition Organization (STO) and receive an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of the total amount of their gift. The total donation may also qualify as charitable deduction of qualifying income tax purposes. ILSTO awards tuition grants to qualifying families that attend Lutheran elementary/secondary schools in Iowa. Anyone can receive this tax credit, Lutheran and non-Lutherans. C-Corps were also added last year. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

### How it works:

Donor in the 25% tax bracket gives \$1,000 to ILSTO:  
 \$1,000 donation  
 \$250 may be saved on federal taxes  
 \$650 (65%) state tax credit  
 \$900 = Net Tax Savings  
 \$100 = Donor cost per \$1,000 contribution using 25% Federal tax bracket.

There is no limit on the level of an individual gift. ILSTO can accept gifts of any amount on a first come, first served basis until the maximum level of tax credits are gone.

For more information contact:

Dewy Torkelson  
 712-260-2991  
 IDW Program Manager ILSTO



**Calvary Lutheran Church**



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