

The Calvary Call

TV Free Week – Feb. 7-12

We have events for the entire family and for all ages!!!

We'll have some "old favorites" and several new things for you to enjoy.

Use the special "pull out" in this issue of the *Calvary Call* for a complete list of events, dates, and times.

Don't be left out in the snow – Come into Calvary for fun, fellowship, and food during the "dark days" of winter



TV-Free Theme: The Olympics

The "Olympics" will be our Theme for the week. On Sunday we will have our Opening Ceremony with a torch and parade.

A meal will be served – You may pick up your sub-sandwiches and add a bowl of soup (free will donation for all meals) or get a sandwich and soup (free will) . Each family will also be able to make a flag that represents their family.

After the meal we will have our Opening Ceremony for TV Free Week: We will march around the gym to the Olympic Theme music and place the flags into a

special container. After the parade, Pastor will give us a Rally verse and then there will be outdoor and indoor games.

After the games, we'll finish the day with hot cocoa, coffee, tea and cookies. We plan to be finished by 3 pm.

We hope you all will come and join us for Sunday and all the week's activities.

(PS: enjoy the Super Bowl football game and the super sub-sandwiches Sunday night!)

Inside this issue:

Fruit of the Spirit 2

Silent Auction 2

Soup Supper 3

Lent Mid-Week Series 9

Luther 101 12

The *Call* is 14

Revelation Bible Study 17

The Sign of Jonah insert

TV Free Week insert schedule

The Fruit of the Spirit



The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22

We all know how important it is to eat right and exercise to maintain a healthy body. How much more important is it then

to eat right and exercise our spiritual life so that we are strong spiritually.

Calvary Confirmants are putting up a "Tree of the Spirit" in which everyone is invited to pick a piece of fruit and "try it" to eat right and to exercise his or her spirit.

You are welcome to come back often to pick fruit to grow and maintain a healthy spirit.

You will find the tree in the Friendship Room growing from the Cross.

Silent Auction February 7-17

Youth attending the LC-MS National Youth Gathering in July 2010 in New Orleans will be auctioning off unique products, services, and gift items to the congregation as a **FUND RAISER**. Each youth must raise \$905 to participate in the Gathering. (\$275 for Registration, \$350 for hotel, and \$280 for transportation. They will also need \$200 for food.)

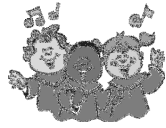
The Congregation may also offer items to auction and donate the money to the youth. Contact Cindy if you wish to donate an item.

BIDDING: Each bidder must get a bid number from DCE Cindy to place a bid.

Bids may be written on the Bid Sheet with your number or by calling DCE Cindy at 239-1575 ext. 2, call the secretary during her regular hours or by emailing you bid to calvarydce@aol.com. Please put "auction bid" in the subject space.

Bidding ceases at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, February 17 following the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper.

Children's Church & Sunday School Choir



The Sunday School children (grades pre-school through 4th) will sing at the 10:30 service on February 14, receive a blessing and then will go downstairs for Children's Church. Children's Church will also be offered on Sunday, February 28 at 10:30 am.



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

The Youth will offer a piping hot soup supper with a variety of delicious desserts, relishes, and crackers on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Free will donation. (A *suggestion* of at least \$5 per person to cover the cost of the food.)



Serving begins at 5:15 pm, ending at 6:30.

Come enjoy fellowship. Come place your final bid on a Silent Auction item. Stay for the Ash Wednesday worship service marking the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Subscribe to the *Lutheran Witness!*

Call the Church Office today (239-1575, 0#) and sign up to receive *The Lutheran Witness* magazine. For only \$18.96, you will receive news and information on the activities of the Lu-

theran Church in our community, state, country and the world.

Your subscription will start with the April issue. Call today! (all orders are pre-paid.)

Praise Aerobics returns

Johnell Petersen will start a new class of *Praise Aerobics* on Mondays & Thursdays at 5:30 pm beginning February 1.

There is no fee for this class, just bring your enthusiasm and

willingness to have a good time.

Brochures and sign-up sheets are available at the church or email Johnell at:

inhisgrce247@hotmail.com



Gongs vs. Trumpets: Pastor Travis

Contemporary Music versus Traditional Music

What is better, a blazing trumpet or a clanging gong? What is better, traditional or contemporary music?

A few years ago a trumpet player to practice while his parents were trying to visit with the neighbors. He was trying to get attention for him self for no particular reason. They were not happy. On another occasion, during warm up, a percussionist gave the gong a good whack. Do gongs need warming up? At this point all of the flute players cover their ears and asked, "Why did you just play the gong?"

In contrast, in the middle of the famous 1812 Overture Finale or at the entrance of the emperor of China, the clang of a gong sends chills down your spine with awe for the entering armor or ruler. Likewise, Jesus describes His second coming signaled by the sound of the trumpet.

Which is better, a blazing trumpet or a clanging gong? Which is better, contemporary or traditional music? So that we are all on the same page, let us de-

fine these terms; **traditional music** refers to music played with organ, flute, trumpet, clarinet, tympani, cantor and choir, etc. with a very metrical style and

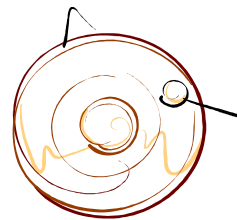


contemporary music refers to music played with electronic piano, electric guitar, drum set, amplified praise

singers, etc. with a tendency to be more rhythmic and repetitive. The words could easily be the same in both!

Two factors need to be considered:

1. What do our church musicians play best and what instruments are our youth learning to play? Has God gifted His local congregation with people who play piano, organ, guitar, or drums? Are we avoiding people's gifts just because we have always preferred one type of music?



2. Do musicians make use of songs that teach false things about Jesus? Do the contemporary songs neglect confession of sins, liturgy, and Lutheran teaching? Likewise, do the traditional

musicians neglect singing the doctrinal, teaching, or hymns which confess sins, etc. all so they only "happy hymns?"

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

If the answer is “yes” in either case, both contemporary and traditional music can be accused of being bad for a congregation and even sinful. Keep in mind doctrinal hymns or songs do not have to be hard, dull, or difficult to play or sing!

Consider the following analogy: We know when a trumpet is bad: Jesus says, “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with **trumpets**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.” (Matthew 6:2; See also Isaiah 7). If you are announcing yourself with a blazing trumpet, it is sinful. Likewise, we know when a gong is used wrongly, “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a **resounding gong or a clanging cymbal**. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2) Here we learn loud purposeless noise is pointless. Noise that does not include the love of Jesus.

Likewise, traditional music can be like a trumpet: blazing merely for show and contemporary music like a gong showing off the singers of the church. If

the purpose is to merely make noise, to draw attention to oneself in either case, then it is sinful: “Did you see the praise choir today? Aren’t they a doing a great job?” Or: “Did you hear that rendition of the *Toccata and Fugue in G minor* by the organist? It sent shivers down my spine. If it weren’t for that organ music, I wouldn’t even come to church.” In both cases, traditional and contemporary music can become gongs and trumpets announcing self. Music done merely to receive accolades and crowds has lost touch with the purpose of worship, namely to receive God’s gifts first and second to respond to them with words, songs, and actions.

Some musicians have gone to the extreme to avoid this. Some organists play with the same registration day after day never “pulling out all the stops.” They avoid sending a chill up anyone’s spine by learning a powerful new piece. Instead of being a blazing trumpet they play without emotion barely helping the congregation sing. Likewise, some praise choirs sing nothing but the praise of God, avoiding confession, avoiding any emotion other than joy to make God merely an object of praise.

Traditional and contemporary music alike must hold and proclaim the fullness of Jesus.

(Continued on page 6)

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This could mean the organist playing with all the stops on Easter with Trumpets sending shivers up and down our spine because, "Jesus is Risen!" Emotion and feelings based on God's Word are good and salutary. Likewise, if a song is about Jesus love I expect to see smiles on the praise singers faces. If it is about asking for forgiveness, I would expect them to turn and face the altar with the rest of the congregation. Otherwise, I would believe they are doubting what they are singing. Good music and good musicians respond to the Words they sing and help the congregation to do the same.

If our worship is all about us, and the message of the service is to be ignored, if there is nothing to announce, If Jesus is not risen from the dead, then the musicians might as well not show up or if they do; they might ask for donations after their performance. Likewise, if we are coming merely for the music, then we are pitied more than the rest of men. After all, music of this nature proclaims "Jesus is still in the tomb."

This discussion points to the answer of the initial question. Is contemporary music or traditional music better? Of course not. The real question is: Does

the music proclaim Jesus? Is the music done with the purpose of loving the Lord and His people? Does the music build up the family of faith fully? What do I mean by fullness? Fullness is not merely a child's song, but music that moves us to increasingly believe all the Bible teaches, as well as help us to confess, pray, praise, teach, proclaim, and lift emotions. If the traditional music is such a servant of Christ, then it is better. If contemporary music is such a servant of Christ, then it is better. If a church can do both together liturgically, using people's gifts, then that is even better.

What about Calvary? We too are far from perfect. No church can boast of the perfect music program. All can be criticized for some sin. Yet, despite this, God wants to give us His gifts every day and every week as a family. Every week we use either traditional or a blended form of worship. Do not look at the musicians as people to be accused and analyzed, but as those seeking to serve God. God calls us to use all the musicians young and old to help make the trumpets more blazing for Him and the gongs more brilliant in His love. That way we can hear Him and respond to Him as His people!

Pastor James Travis



From the DCE: Friendship Cindy Storm

Christi was eight years old when her very best friend moved to New York state. Since the friend's extended family was still in Sioux City, I thought there would be a chance for the two girls to see each other on a regular basis, but was that enough to maintain the "two-peas-in-a-pod" relationship? About that time I read an article about friendship which I found quite interesting.

According to the article, the key ingredient to maintaining a friendship is to continue creating new shared experiences. What does that mean? When you get together with a long-distance friend, don't rehash the past experiences, rather boldly set forth to create new experiences to share.

Think of Christmas cards – how many cards do you send because you once were friends BUT now the only thing you do with the friend is send a card once a year and share what the family is doing? Are you really maintaining a friendship?



To maintain a friendship, you must LIVE the friendship – communicate with and share experiences with the other person. It worked for Christi. When Stacy came to town, the girls lived their friendship through overnights, playing, shopping, going to movies, etc. When they got together it was like they were never apart.

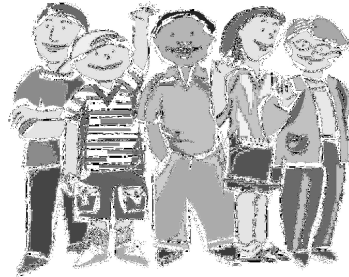


What does that say about your relationship with God? Do you communicate with God on a regular basis? I know God is always there ready for you. When you "get together" with God do you just "write a Christmas card"? Do you tell Him all you've been doing and then walk away?

Or, do you give yourself time "to be still and know He is God"? What kind of experiences do you share with God? Do you "work out" with God so that when you enter into the unchristian environment of your work/school place, you are a free, strong and mature Christian ready to serve and proclaim Him in all you do and say?

God is your truest and most trusted friend. How do you live that friendship?

Our Church Family:



Transferred to the Church Triumphant:

Marie Falk was called to her Eternal Rest on Friday, January 15, 2010. A funeral service was held at Calvary on Monday, January 18, 2010. Our prayers go out to her family and friends.

Book Club News

The Calvary Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 23 to discuss Mary Ann Schaffer's book, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

London 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb.

As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends — and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society-born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans

occupying their island - boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all.

Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Written with warmth and humor as a series of letters, this novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises, and of finding connection in the most surprising ways.

Everyone is invited to pick up the book, read, and come discuss this fascinating book. Bring your sack lunch at 11:30. The book dialogue begins at noon. We are done around 1 pm.

Feb. 7: 5th Sunday After Epiphany—"Fish Stories" Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 14: Transfiguration Sunday
— Guest Preacher:
Chaplain Steve Bensen

Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday —
"God Is Calling" Jonah
1:1-3

Feb. 21: First Sunday in Lent —
"A Journey to War"

Luke 4: 1-13

Feb. 24: Lent Mid-week "Saved
in the Storm" Jonah
1:4-16

Feb. 28: Second Sunday in Lent
— "A Mother's
Compassion"
Luke 13:31-
35



BINGO! Prizes requested

Needed: Don't throw away the "gifts" from Christmas because they didn't quite fit you. Donate them to Calvary's Bingo prizes to be given away at the Tuesday, February 9 BINGO night during TV Free Week. Remember - what is one person's junk is another person's treasure. All donated prizes may be placed

in the return box in Calvary's library on or before February 7. Bingo prizes can be anything you wish to donate from a Tootsie Roll pop to a costume jewelry ring. They can be new or gently used. Prizes should be small enough to fit into a lunch size sack. Thank you for your generosity.

The Sign of Jonah — Lent Mid-Week

Our Lent Mid-week services will follow *The Sign of Jonah* at 7 pm every Wednesday during Lent.

It may sound fishy but it's a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." After three days in the belly of



the earth, Jesus rose with news of God's

prodigal grace.

This series explores the meaning of *the Sign of Jonah* as we follow Jonah on his journey and Jesus on his way to the cross.

The service will include familiar hymns, dramatic readings by our youth and meditations.

Follow the daily devotions in the special booklet included with this issue of the *Calvary Call*.

Care Team Ministry Report Diane Krause

Calvary's care team members met January 19, 2010 with four members present plus Pastor Travis. Dee Clausen led an opening activity with each of us writing down a Christ-centered new-year resolution, each of us resolved to being in Christ's Word on a daily basis.

Pastor Travis presented "Restoring Relationships - Revenge." The basic truth is as Christ loves us so we are to love others, that revenge is not ours to do but God's place alone. It is necessary, though, to confront sin humbly and in love utilizing Matthew 18:15-25. It is important for us to "live in harmony with one another...to live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:6. God will and does take care of everything else.

We continue making connections with families personally, via the phone, e-mail, or written correspondence. In order to secure completed surveys, we also go through it on the phone and hopefully, find a good time to make personal visits.

The Duties, Time and Talent booklets are available for care team members to give to families as they visit. The commitment sheets that go with the booklets are also available for return to the church. Brief zone reports

were shared. Words of encouragement were given to keep at it, to continue committing ourselves, as a community, to helping and caring for the general well-being of those we are serving/touching in some capacity.

The care team will focus on mercy in the months ahead using a study written by Rev. Bernie Seter: *The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy* based on Luke 4:18-19. It has been used as a Lenten Service series to examine the church's corporate life of mercy. You can find it on the LCMS website through the World Relief and Human Care link. As always Calvary members are invited and encouraged to join us.

We LOVE people who are prayer warriors and who are happy to intentionally make time to connect with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at Calvary. 1st Peter 4:10-11, "Each and everyone should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen

Altar Flowers



The new 2010 sign up sheet is on the board in the Friendship Room.

Commemorate a special occasion or remember a loved one by providing Altar Flowers for the worship services in 2010.

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.

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

Adult Confirmation Classes: "Luther 101"

"Luther 101" classes have begun. We have classes on Sundays at 11:30 am and Thursdays at 7 pm.

Not only is this a great class

for "newbies" it's also a good "refresher course" for all of us "old hands!"

There's still time to join the Sunday, 11:30 class!

Guest Speakers & Preachers — 2010

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, Calvary tries to host a guest missionary for the sake of our 5th -8th grade Sunday School classes. Our speakers have much to tell us about happening around the world in missions. We meet in the Parish Hall at 9:15 am and invite everyone, youth and adults, to join us..

This month we look forward to Chaplain Steve Benson (February 14 – Missionary to

Sioux City Hospitals and Nursing Homes),

Next month our guest will be Dr. James Lamb (March 14 – President of Lutheran's for Life).

Since these speakers are also pastors, they will share the message with the congregation during worship services on those Sundays.



On-line Newsletter Joan Mason

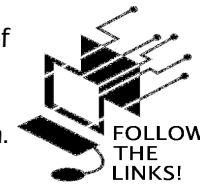
The *Calvary Call* is now available on-line and you have the option of receiving the *Call* either electronically or in paper form through regular mail.



If you prefer to receive just the on-line version, you may call me at 239-1575. You can also sign up for the electronic version directly on the church website: www.calvarylutheransixcityia.org

Did you know that it saves the church approximately \$10 for each newsletter sent electronically?

If you prefer receiving the "hard" copy each month we are more than happy to send it to you. However, if you enjoy this new avenue of communication, we invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to sign up for the electronic version. Just.....



You CAN serve in the mission field!

God is calling...your church is calling...where will you go in 2010? It's the perfect time to start looking into options for a short-term mission trip this summer through LCMS World Mission. There is a great need for teams to serve in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia this summer to lead English language camps. To search our opportunity database, visit www.lcms.org?2870. If you would like to learn more about last year's English camps in Eurasia, read an article from "The Reporter" at www.lcms.org?14225 or view a Picasa photo album [here](#).

Additionally, there is a need for short-term teams to serve in Thailand. For more information on all available short-term service opportunities, please visit www.lcmsworldmission.org/service.

If you know of an individual looking for a short-term service opportunity, volunteers are needed for theological education in Uganda, teaching conversational English in India, and coordination of short-term mission teams in Peru.

Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

From Lutherans for Life: New! Revelation Study!

"I firmly believe that in every situation, no matter how difficult, God extends grace greater than the hardship, and strength and peace of mind that can lead us to a place higher than where we were before." *Andy Griffith, actor and singer, in reference to his painful experience with Guillain-Barré syndrome. This "Life Quote" is from Lutherans For Life – www.lutheransforlife.org.*

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 5:30 pm, we will spend the next 8 weeks looking at Revelation. Come and see what all the "fuss" is about!



Revelation

The *Calvary Call* is published monthly by Calvary Lutheran Church, 4400 Central Street, Sioux City, Iowa, 51108. Information for the next month's newsletter is due the third Monday of each month.
Contact us: Phone 712-239-1575; FAX 712-239-8727; email — Pastor Travis: Rev.Travis@hotmail.com DCE Storm: CalvaryDCE@aol.com; Church Office: CalvarySecretary@aol.com; Church Website: calvarylutheransiouxcityia.org



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