

Calvary Communicator

March 2010

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

"Missional congregation" is the phrase we hear more and more these days. It's been around for a few years, but God's mission and His church are as old as the hills. Nothing new there. I am ever grateful for those congregations that give "missional" a good representation. They are on my ever increasing list of people who "get it" by word and example. Along the way I have seen many congregations in the Eastern District doing projects and programs that are community focused. Centered on the cross, they are doing little (and not so little) things that reach into the lives of neighbors in a friendly and caring way - just to get a "foot in the door." Along the way, they tell these neighbors about the love of God in Christ Jesus and/or they invite them to their fellowship of worship, Bible Study, and the like. That's where the work of the institutional church is after all, in the local congregation. We know that the attractional model for the local congregation will not work in a culture that is suspicious and into themselves (ah, the Old Adam rears his head again). People simply do not and will not seek out the church. Understanding that there are obstacles, real or imagined, missional people and churches go to where people are, much the same way God did not wait for fallen sinful man to come to Him when He sent His Son to this Earth to reconcile us to God. Missional people are sent people. They go and they share the Good News in winsome ways. The culture around us is different than 30 years ago. The speaker at a recent conference of nearly 700 high profile, active, and dedicated churchmen and women was a national celebrity who was raised in a LCMS home. Her family took this young lady to church all through her young life. She went to Sunday School faithfully, was confirmed, was active in her youth group and rarely missed a Sunday morning church service until a year ago. But now, because of her hectic appearance schedule, she was unable to attend church services. "That's OK," she commented, "I don't believe you have to go to church to be a Christian," and then she went on with her presentation. Heads turned, people bent down low to whisper to their neighbor, and afterward some were vocal in their disapproval of this young lady's declaration. Well, like it or not, that's where many people are these days, and many more so than years ago. She made a representative statement about our culture and her age group. People are seeking the church but they are not looking for it in church buildings. Some people want a closer walk with the Lord and they are not finding it in conventional and traditional ways. I admit, it's difficult for me to get my head around this, but in order for me to be a more effective missional person I need to come to terms with it and respond in an inviting way. That's the challenge before us. The greatest competition to your congregation is not the Christian church down the street any more. It's Walmart and the ball field and the community and civic events that replace your congregation's joyous actions for the Gospel.

Rev. Chris Wicher, President,

Eastern District, LCMS

"Dear Calvary Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and other expressions of sympathy during Dad's illness and passing. They brought us comfort during this difficult time. We are blessed to be part of this Family.

In Christian Love,

Diane, Tony, Jess, and Tony Laurito"

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The ladies continue to work on shawls in preparation for another Blessing of the Prayer Shawls soon. We are thankful for the newest member of our group, Barbara McIntyre who joins the rest of us: Kris Birus, Dottie DiEugenio, Susan Fox, Ruth Greer, Pat Jackson, Debby Kallaher, Sue Kemper, Diane Laurito, Jessica Laurito, Patti Orlic, Laura Rehkopf, Loretta Schultz and Kitty Skaritka.

One man who received a shawl wrote: "Thank you so much for the blanket. I use it all the time." If you know of someone in need of comfort or encouragement, speak to Sue Kemper or any member of the group and we will help you choose a shawl. If you would like to become a part of this ministry, speak to Sue.



FASHION SHOW:

Tables have been reserved for Calvary ladies and their friends at the Symphony East Luncheon & Fashion Show '*Fashion & Frolic*', Wednesday, April 14, 10:45 am to 2:30 pm at Westmoreland Country Club. Formal fashion are by Linda Bucci of Shadyside and casual fashion by Christopher & Banks in Monroeville. There is also a Gift Auction/Raffle, Share the Wealth Raffle and Boutique Shopping. Tickets are \$35.00 with proceeds benefiting the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. (Make checks payable to Symphony East.) All Calvary ladies and friends are invited to join us for a fun day out. Tickets are available from Sue Kemper. Reserve your ticket now!

TIME TO STOP WAITING

It's time to get God's love to your friend, your neighbor, your coworker.
No. Wait. That's not good enough! It's time to get to EVERYONE!
Stop waiting on *The World to Change*. Go get 'em! They need your help.
Not tomorrow – today!



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Calvary's next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Monday March 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The need for blood continues to be great. Weather conditions have slowed the donation process. The American Red Cross is in need of volunteers to help with warming shelters, fire responders, etc. , blood center volunteers, even bulk mailing volunteers are needed. If interested call the Red Cross office at 724-834-6510 ext 102. Anyone interested in helping with Calvary blood drives or greeters as canteen workers please contact June Neuman at 724-837-5488.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Calvary Family

As its mission project, our Sunday School continues to sponsor Sara Silva from Brazil through World Vision. The following letter is from the coordinator of the **MANDACARU project** which receives our Sunday School donations and provides the support to Sarah and many others like her. The following describes some of the details of this effort.

Dear Sponsor,

May the **PEACE** and **HOPE** that your sponsored child and children have in their day to day be with you, **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** It is with great **JOY, PEACE AND HOPE**, we come to congratulate those who are part of this little story/experience, which is solidarity, love and citizenship. I, Maria de Lourdes Barreto – coordinator – have been working with social movements for over 27 years and the team with 14 members, is a diversified journey where altogether we form the **MANDACARU project**, located in the backwoods of Alagoas in the Northeast Brazil. We try to bring joy, salvage knowledge and sow hope among a very complex situation of denied rights from children, young people and adults from 86 communities in this city that we follow up. Spreading the word of God throughout this reality is not easy. But when we sow the seed of life, which takes the form of workshops for construction of knowledge relating to public policy, championships with the children, where we take joy, as well as the reading chest which contributes to the resourcefulness and knowledge of them following up small projects, which are a perspective to help the family income, the caravan of faith to encourage and strengthen the religion of one. So many are the seeds which we sow. However, nothing would be possible without you sponsors being also farmers, which with your small contribution makes a difference and as a result changes in the lives of children, contributing to inclusion such as the **School of Digital Inclusion and social Mandacaru**, which assists children, adolescents, young people and adults with basic and advanced computer science course, Internet, which currently assists 223 students with 10 computers. We know it's little, but significant due to the absence of this service which is vital for them. Thus, we ask our Father Creator who always bless and protect all who spread peace, life, each in his own way, according to their capacities, because together we can make some difference. And we will know that the seeds sown multiplied thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times before our every action in seek of LIFE. We, who are part of this project, appreciate the great opportunity that has given us, to sow this land where we want to build the **kingdom of God**.

We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Maria de Lourdes Barreto

Area Development Program (ADP) Coordinator



EASTER PRAYER VIGIL



An Easter Prayer Vigil will be held at Calvary this year from 6:30 p.m April 3rd until 8:30 am April 4th. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up for a one-hour time period.

BASKETS

Any group or individual who would like to donate a basket for the Calvary Early Learning Center Pasta Night Silent Auction or Chinese Auction, please contact Laura Schumm. Baskets can be any size or theme, i.e., books, tools, coffees and teas, Steeler stuff, etc. Baskets should be submitted by March 18, 2010. Thank you.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Yosef Thiem
- 6 - Kelly Kibel
- 7 - Debby Kallaher
- 8 - Carena Hall
- 9 - Marty Alsing
Paul Rehkopf
Kimberly Skaritka
- 10 - Audrey McVeigh
- 11 - Jacob Fleischmann
Lorri Nixon
- 12 - Tony Laurito
- 13 - Joan Weldon
- 14 - Lynn Larkins
Tim Rehkopf
- 15 - Mary Wilk
- 17 - Tim Alsing
Kelly Paal
Debra (Orth) Ryan
- 18 - Irene Ferguson
Dan Kibel
- 22 - Rita Corrado
- 24 - Eric Larkins
Jacob Larkins
Kylin Smith
- 25 - Lauren Alexander
Martin Weiss
- 31 - Eric Holzman
Chuck Saybel

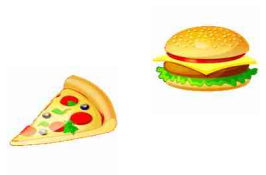


MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 - Debby & Ken Kallaher
Audrey & John McVeigh
- 28 - Shirley & Bill Zachar
- 29 - Rita & David Corrado

MEALS NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider preparing a meal to help the Nixon family. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Calvary family pictures. Please have your meals here on Tuesdays by 5:00 p.m. Any questions, contact Joy in the office. .





PRAYER REQUESTS

Carol & Chester Klingensmith - recovery

Patty Orlic's nephew Brian – needs kidney transplant

Lorri Nixon

David Darlington - nephew of Bob and Ruth Greer, receiving chemo treatments for cancer

Teddy Emberg – sister of Debbie Forschner who has had a stroke

Brian & Mindy Siley

Jackie Appelt – chemo therapy for lymph node cancer

Debbie Brodahl - Bruce and June Neuman's son-in-law's brother's wife, stage 4 cancer

Mona Scafuri – for family and friends who are seeking jobs

Chrissie Akarman – safe delivery and stop early labor pains

Bob Humbert – home recovering from hand surgery

Pastor Douglas Spittel - First Trinity-Oakland, has had a heart attack

Brian – Karen Papay's nephew who had a stroke

Marion File – heart failure

Ryan Fasnacht - healing for a broken wrist

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS

Eric Hall, William Menhart, Dan Tauche, Stevan, Lance Corporal Vincent Massella (USMC), Private Garrett Pardoe (USMC) is now deployed to Afghanistan, Major Benjamin McBride (US Army Reserve), Landon Woody(deployed to Afghanistan), Ben Thompson (deployed to Afghanistan), William Fox, Jr. (Army Reserve), Joseph Lynch (Navy Reserve), Joel Sterniak to Qatar, Lance Corporal Howie Laur (Marine in Afghanistan)

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Jim Masengill, Jim Weldon, Bill & Lois Furniss, Hilda Heyn

CALVARY LUTHERAN YOUTH PLANNING CALENDAR - 2010

MARCH

6th Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
– FRHS; 7:30 p.m.

10th Lenten Supper: Spaghetti ALL HANDS

APRIL

TBD Spring Clean-Up at the Church ALL
HANDS

MAY

2nd Confirmation Sunday

8th Sunshine Kitchen bag packing; ALL
HANDS

22nd Pirates vs. Braves 7:05 PM

JUNE

12th School's Out (we hope) bonfire!

28th VBS Setup ALL HANDS

JULY

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Pioneer 24th Youth
Service (outdoors) ALL HANDS

25th Kennywood

AUGUST

14th Murrysville Community Day

29th Blessing of the Backpacks

SEPTEMBER

TBD Steelers Tailgate Party

OCTOBER

11th CROP Walk

NOVEMBER

13th Monster Golf

DECEMBER

HOLD THE DATE

Calvary will be participating in the following events this year. We're going to need your help. Please mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

May 31st – Export Community Parade

Join us as we throw candy and blow kisses to kids of all ages along the Export Community Parade route on Memorial Day. What fun this will be!

June 6th - Mammoth Fest

Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation will be holding Mammoth Fest at Mammoth Park on June 6th from 11am – 7pm. We will have a booth. The event is a family oriented festival with entertainment, children's attractions, and an Arts and Crafts show. What better way to reach the community than to be in its midst!

August 14th – Murrysville Community Day

Just as last year, we'll have a booth at Murrysville Community Day. We'll give away popcorn, paint some fun faces, and be friendly neighbors to all who attend. Come see for yourselves how exciting it is to see all the smiling faces go by!

August 29th – Calvary's Annual Blessing of the Backpacks

We will be inviting everyone from the community to Calvary's backyard for a Blessing of the Backpacks. What better way to kick off the new school year than a blessing? We are so blessed at Calvary. This is our chance to spread the LOVE!