



Calvary's Booster

Volume 9190

Summer 2014

Issue 7

Vacation Bible School JUNGLE SAFARI July 28 – August 1

The preparation has begun on lesson plans, decorations, music, crafts, and t-shirts. Now we need STUDENTS! Please enroll your children and grandchildren, and invite their friends and your neighbors!

An adult class will be led by Pastor Irwin from 7 – 8 p.m. each night, Monday through Thursday. The opening for all children begins at 6:15 p.m., and the evening session ends at 8:30 p.m. On Friday, class begins at 6:15 (with no opening), and our closing program begins at 7 p.m. in the church.

Come learn about how God is Creator, Provider, Protector, Savior and King!



Catechetical Class Invitation

Calvary is organizing a new catechetical class for 2014-15; youth in grades 7 and up are eligible to attend the classes. A Parents' Orientation Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 17, at 2 p.m. in the Schaeffer Room. The catechetical class schedule and requirements for the program will be discussed. Requirements include classes, worship and Sunday School attendance, and volunteer service.

If you would like your son or daughter enrolled in the catechetical program, please fill out a registration form prior to the meeting. Forms are available from Pastor Irwin.

Mark Your Calendars

Save the Date for Dinner and a Movie at Calvary on
Sunday, August 31: Light supper at 6:00 pm, movie follows.



Church Council

() = year term expires.

Church Directory

All phone numbers are 610 area code

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Phone..... 929-9606
Email.....contactcalvary@verizon.net
Web.....
www.calvarylutheranlaureldale.com

Staff:

Rev. Thomas F. Irwin Jr.
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Joy V. Gerhart, Associate in Ministry
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President:..... Carol Wertz (2014)
Vice President:.....Steve DeTurck (2016)
Secretary:Anne Hain (2014)
Marcia Conver (2014)
Sean Wyland (2014)
Eric Rusak (2015)
Terese Reppond (2015)
Brianna O'Neil (2015)
Linda Boegner (2015)
Eileen Murphy Schmehl (2016)
Lori Green (2016)
Connie Kretz (2016)

Calvary's Booster

Published monthly to share information with the friends and family of Calvary Lutheran Church, 1009 Elizabeth Ave., Laureldale, PA 19605. Donation: \$10 annually. Articles received after the deadline may be included in the following issue. **Deadline** to submit articles for the next *Booster* is the first week of the month. Submit articles to the church office. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to The BOOSTER, Calvary Lutheran Church, 1009 Elizabeth Ave. Laureldale, PA 19605.



Yard Sale at Calvary

On Saturday, Sept. 6, Calvary will open its parking lot to members for the Laureldale Community Yard Sale. The borough has waived permit fees for the day.

Calvary is making the lot available to its members to sell their wares on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Spaces are free of charge, but donations are welcome. You are required to register in advance to secure a space. If you would like to reserve a space or need more information, please call Kathy Sanders at 610-929-3761.

Congregational Notes



On Sunday, June 22, at the 10:30 a.m. service we welcomed two new members to our congregation.

Carter Ryan Kline, son of Christopher Kline and Nina Cirulli.

Emily Grace Nass, daughter of Andrew and Michelle (Cirulli) Nass.
Sue Cirulli, Emily's grandmother, is her sponsor.

May God richly bless these children and their parents in the years ahead.

Memorial Gifts

Contributions to the Memorial Fund may be made to Calvary and mailed to the office.



In memory of Grace Herbein...
Nancy Sharp

In memory of Jamie Dallessandro...
Nancy Sharp
Paul & Helenirene Kuehne
James' Preschool teachers: Linda Schmehl & Kathi Fritz

In memory of Douglas Nagle...

Jim & Bunny Sowers
Don & Kitty Wise
Gary & Doris Rismiller
Carol Schoener
Richard & Katherine Zvitkovitz
Eileen Tumminello & Bob Dudek

Timothy Strausser
Margaret & Theodore Smith
Mary Crocus
E. Stewart Degler
Pat Owens-Pietruszynski

God Is Calling Us To The Playground...

Our autumn "Caring for our Community" event will be at the Laureldale Playground on Elizabeth Avenue, near Manor Care on **Saturday, September 6, 10:00 a.m.** The borough has asked us to paint and stain the playground pavilion. So gather your brushes and rollers and join the fun of being a blessing for our neighborhood! Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex at church during the month of August.



For her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, Lauren Spease established a Military Families Food Pantry at Keystone Soldiers in Leesport. Lauren and her advisor, Kyle Lord of Keystone Soldiers, started the pantry for military families. The pantry has non-perishable food, baby food, diapers and hygiene items.

Lauren chose her project because she wanted to help

support the men and women who have served and continue to serve our great nation and who now struggle to put food on the table for their families.

Through the last six months she and her volunteer team have spent many hours collecting donations, stocking shelves, and taking inventory.

The Pantry is open twice a week for military families. Lauren hopes to complete her project in the next few weeks once the stream of donations is self-sustainable. If you wish to contribute items, contact Keystone Soldiers directly at 610-698-2122 and ask to speak to Kyle.

Gods Work, Our Hands

Can you find Juli Pfautz and Lori Green in this picture?

Western Berks Relay for Life 2014 was held at Wilson West Middle School on June 13 and 14.

Juli and Lori were one of 69 teams that raised over \$251,000 (and counting).

Donations are still being accepted through August.

Juli, Lori and another sister (you did know they are sisters, right?) are three of the four *Little Mitchie Girls* (sisters) who were diagnosed with breast cancer; all are now cancer survivors! They will continue to raise cancer awareness, prevention and funds in 2015





The Catechism Corner

A continuing series for the Calvary newsletter
by Pastor Thomas F. Irwin Jr.

“God is great and God is good, and we thank him for our food” may be familiar words at your dinner table, but that would not suffice for Luther. His table blessing includes prayers before AND after the meal. I experienced this with a host family in Holland when I was on a European choir tour as a youth. It was apparently commonplace in their home – but it wasn’t until years later that I realized it was Luther’s blessing since it was all in Dutch!

Take the time at a meal to try Luther’s table blessing with your family. But be sure to prepare them; it’s going to take a little more time!

TABLE BLESSINGS

according to Martin Luther

The children and the members of the household are to come devoutly to the table, fold their hands, and recite:

"The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature."

Then they are to recite the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

"Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Similarly, after eating they should in the same manner fold their hands and recite devoutly:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever. God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry. God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner, but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God's steadfast love."

Then recite the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer:

"We give thanks to you, Lord God our Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord for all your benefits, you who live and reign forever. Amen."



Join us on Sunday, **August 24**, at Muhlenberg's Jim Dietrich Park for Calvary's annual church picnic. Starting at 2:00 p.m. there will be games for all ages. We'll also play bingo, so please bring some appropriate bingo prizes.

Our famous CAKEWALK will be at 4:00 p.m. Cakewalk participants walk around a circle of numbers until told to stop; if your number is drawn, you win the cake of your choice. Participants donate 25 cents per round to walk. The more cakes donated, the more fun it is. The money raised helps offset the cost of the picnic.

The meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. Depending on your last name, you will be asked to supply a meat dish, cold side, hot side, or dessert and snack item for our supper. Soda and water along with paper products will be provided.

Please feel free to bring your own table cover and/or lawn chairs for your comfort. And for everyone's comfort we are making a plea to any who have an oscillating pedestal fan to bring them along so that we may use it to keep away those pesky bees. ☺

Reservation forms will be available in the narthex. Please fill out and turn in by August 17 at the latest so we can plan appropriately. This is a rain-or-shine event. In case of **severe** weather, the picnic will be held at the church.

If you have any questions or wish to help in some way, please call Ann Miller at 610-929-0301.

Directions to Jim Dietrich Park:

From the church, head west on Bellevue Avenue to Rt 61. Turn right on 61 to Reading Crest Blvd (at the WAWA). Make a left on Reading Crest and follow to Tuckerton Road. Turn left on Tuckerton to Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road. Turn right on Stoudt's Ferry Bridge and follow to the signs. Jim Dietrich Park is on the left. Follow the park driveway down to the large pavilion up on the hill to the right.



Giant A+ Reward Program

Help our Preschool earn cash by buying your groceries at Giant. All you need to do is either log on at www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/ and "Designate Your School" as ID#05685 *Christian Calvary Preschool*, or use the sign-up sheet in the rear of the church to list your name and Giant number, and we'll do it for you. This does not affect your own bonus or gas points. Online registration begins September 1.



Muhlenberg Community Blood Drive

Wed., August 13, 2:30-7 p.m.
at Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Help supply our community's needs—be a donor. Contact Wendy Sharp in our church office, 610-929-9606, for information or for an appointment

When asked, **17%** of the people who don't donate blood cite, "They never thought about it" as the reason for not donating. **Think about it!**

*Make a difference. Save lives.
Donate blood.*

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the wonderful congregation of friends here at Calvary that made the Strawberry Festival a great success. Attendance doubled from last year and there were many new faces both during the festival and during worship.

We want to personally thank all of you who came out and sliced the berries, set up and cleaned up, ran the games, served food, and those who donated cakes, tents, tables, saw horses, and coolers.

Special thanks to these members who provided items to be used: Lori Green for the use of her snow-cone machine, cups, and grape, cherry, and blue raspberry syrups; Melanie Kummerer, who donated the strawberries; Carol Wertz who bought ice cream; Robin Gardner, who purchased the bottle water, Terese Reppond, who provided the pancake mix and paper products; and Mark Reppert, who purchased table clothes and two waffle machines.

Thanks go out to Wendy Sharp for handling the advertising work.

We were also blessed by Rosedale UCC, which donated ice cream and provided help in the kitchen; Alsace Lutheran Church, which loaned us their games; and Epiphany, which set up a duck pond stand and gave out their own prizes.

If it weren't for the wonderful support of volunteers, this event would not be possible; so again, thank you so much for all you did! ***How heart-warming it is to be in the midst of so many JOYFUL GIVERS!***

Sincerely,
Ann Miller (chair person) and the Outreach Committee

Youth News & “A Night of Music” August 15

We are still catching our breath from our whirlwind June 28-29 weekend of fund raising and fun. July will be devoted to preparing for Vacation Bible School and rehearsals for “A Night of Music,” which will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 15.

“A Night of Music” will feature both vocal and instrumental music performed by our youth and some adults. We may see a few “specialty acts” as well. There is still time to volunteer to participate if you are interested. The music performed does not have to be religious. Please call Joy Gerhart, 610-370-1683 or Brianna O’Neil, 610-781-5827.

Tickets for “A Night of Music” will be sold in advance; the ticket price is still being discussed. Delicious refreshments will be available for sale during the intermission. All money raised will help fund the trip that four of our youth are taking to Detroit in July 2015 to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

Invite your family and friends to hear our talented youth (and adults) perform all types of vocal and instrumental music. Come and enjoy a night of music.

Muhlenberg Churches Food Pantry

The Pantry summer food distribution days are Thursdays, **July 17** and **August 21**, from 4-6:00 p.m. (third Thursdays). Location is Good Shepherd Lutheran, at the corner of Tuckerton and Stoudt’s Ferry Bridge Roads.

Do you know of someone—friend or neighbor—in the Muhlenberg Township area who could use our help? No advance registration is required—the brief enrollment process can be completed that day.

Dear Good People of Calvary Church:

It was a delightful surprise to be honored on the 35th anniversary of my ordination (I also considered a celebration of the first four years at Calvary Church. I became your pastor on June 21, 2010). The food and fellowship were terrific. The comments from family, friends and colleagues were as good as it gets - considering the subject matter. It was very thoughtful to invite friends from former congregations and it was great to see them again. God has truly blessed me in these 35 years to serve people who love God and give thanks for his gifts of Grace among us.

Your generous gift will help me replace vestments and the clergy stoles I have used for these 35 years. My original stoles, which Tucker made for me by hand, will now be reserved for special occasions.

I thank God for you and the ministry we are able to do together in His name,
Pastor Irwin





book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.
by Joy Gerhart

The Book of Acts seemed so unfamiliar to me for many years. I didn't remember hearing passages read from Acts in church, and even if I did, I didn't really remember them. (Often the summer Sunday School curriculum covered the book of Acts, so maybe that's why I never learned much about it.)

The Acts of the Apostles starts with the Ascension of Jesus, a bit more detailed than the brief account in Luke 24. (You do know that the same author who wrote Luke also wrote Acts, right? Compare Luke 1 and Acts 1, which have similar introductions.) Then we quickly proceed into the exciting Pentecost event in Acts 2, the coming of the Holy Spirit and “the beginning of the Christian Church” with the baptism of 3,000 believers. The rest of Acts follows the mission of the original disciples, especially Peter, and the conversion and mission of Paul.

Peter and John heal a lame man in Acts 3 using the miraculous power given them by the Holy Spirit. Stephen, a newly appointed deacon and called to serve people like widows who need daily distribution of funds, is captured by the Jewish authorities and stoned to death while a man named Saul looks on (Acts 7). Philip is called by the Holy Spirit to speak to an Ethiopian who cannot interpret the scripture passage he is reading. When Philip interprets the Isaiah passage, telling him about Jesus, the Ethiopian asks to be baptized (Acts 8:26-40).

Saul's dramatic conversion occurs in Acts 9. He sees Jesus in a vision on his way to Damascus. Jesus asks Saul why he is persecuting him. Saul is left blind and led to a brave Christian man named Ananias, who knows Saul has been capturing Christians and putting them to death. Ananias heals Saul—now called Paul—and Paul becomes an indomitable force in spreading the gospel of Christ Jesus. Paul makes three missionary journeys, primarily reaching out to Gentiles (non-Jews). He has different travel partners; portions of Luke's writing sound like he also was traveling with Paul. (These are called the “we” passages.)

Acts 10-12 returns its focus to Peter and his gospel-sharing mission, then Acts 13-28 shifts back to Paul. Here we find some memorable stories: Paul converts Lydia in Philippi, and Paul is imprisoned with Silas in Philippi (Acts 16). (Maybe you remember this story about the earthquake setting Paul and all the prisoners free, but they don't escape, and the jailer and his whole household are baptized.)

We find two poignant passages about early Christians living in community together sharing all their possessions and living in harmony: Acts 2:43-47 and Acts 4:32-37. I guess it can really happen.

Have I gotten you interested enough to open the Bible to Acts yet? I'll leave the rest of Acts for you to explore yourself. Enjoy this sequel to Luke's gospel and learn about the beginning of the Christian church.

Finance Update

Endowment Loan - YTD

Balance January 1, 2014	4,801
Borrowed:	40,000
Paid Back:	3,369
Loan Balance on 5/31/14	41,432

General Fund Account

Beginning Balance 1/1/14	(63,177)
Income for Jan – Mar	73,645
Expenses for Jan – Mar	97,049
Balance on 3/31/14	(86,581)
Income for April + May	54,743
Expenses for April + May	57,511
Balance on 5/31/14	(89,349)

Included in the income numbers:

- Fund Raising Committee transferred \$6,000 towards the deficit.
- Monies have been received from Epiphany Lutheran Church for pastoral services in the amount of \$3,568 (year to date).

Included in the expense numbers:

- Payment of Worker's Compensation insurance for the balance of year: \$1,267
- Expenses for Synod Assembly: \$1,109
- Gas bill for heating has averaged \$2,450 a month from January to April. May's bill was \$821, so we should see a drop in expenses for this line item until the temperatures start to drop in the fall.

If you have not already done so, please bring your offering envelopes up to date.