



MN ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE CHOIR

On Sunday, April 14th, we will be hosting the MN Adult and Teen Challenge Choir. They will sing and share testimonies during the 10:30 AM Worship Service. Please note, we will not be Livestreaming this service as requested by Teen Challenge. We will be hosting a fellowship meal after the service. We will bring in chicken, we but are also asking congregation members to bring the other parts of our meal. Last names beginning with A through G, please bring a dessert to share, H-N please bring a side/main dish (pasta, potatoes, casseroles, etc.), and O-Z bring a salad.

ALASKA MISSION TEAMS

Calvary has two teams going to serve at the NET coffeehouse ministry in Naknek, Alaska. Jeff and Lori Kress, Laurie Nash, Linda Saurer, and Brad and Kari Tollerson will go from June 22-30. Jim and Marsha Johnson, Joleen Lentz, and Wayne and Sylvia Swenson will go from June 30-July 8. The teams will be serving the Calvary Coffee Connection on April 7th and 21st. You are encouraged to come and interact with the team and hear more about this mission trip from them directly. They will also be receiving the offering from Coffee Connection those days. That will go towards purchasing the food they will be eating while they are there along with other travel costs.

SPRING SERMON SERIES AND STUDY - HABAKKUK

Some may be wondering why in the world we are doing a Bible study and sermon series on the book of Habakkuk? It might seem like this little Old Testament book has little to do with our lives in 21st century America.

But I believe the book has so much for us to take in and apply to our lives today. As one writer puts it, "Habakkuk's message is extraordinarily pertinent in the way that it negotiates human suffering and the confusion that arises from it. It expresses the pain and suffering of God's people as they live in a fallen

world."

Habakkuk is especially enlightening because of the interaction between the prophet and God. Habakkuk asks questions and pleads for answers. God responds to him. But the way both Habakkuk and God speak is unique and contains a great message for us.

I'd challenge you to read the book before the series starts on April 7th. It's only three chapters long. Make a point to come to worship services. The series will be interrupted by a few special events, but it will generally go through mid-May. And if you aren't already participating in a small group Bible study, make time to connect with a group this Spring.

WHY WE BECAME MEMBERS OF CALVARY

My husband and I became members of Calvary Free Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, MN more than 20 years ago. Besides solid Bible teaching, we wanted to be a part of a church that felt like a family. We wanted people to love and help raise our children in their Christian faith as if they were their own children, and we wanted to do the same for other people's children in the church. We wanted a church that saw children and youth as members who can serve and minister in similar ways as adults do. Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

So many Calvary adult members have brought the children and youth alongside them in ministry by teaching them to serve and worship God. It's more than spoken. It's modeled, and it's an invitation to participate. Allow me to share the many places where Calvary children and youth have used their gifts to serve God:

- Dads who serve as ushers ask their sons to help pass out bulletins when an extra usher is needed.
- Greeters sometimes ask their children to stand with them at the door. They shake hands or do high fives.
- During the worship service, children and youth participate in reading Scripture and sing or play instruments on the praise team or as spe-

cial music.

- During Advent, the youth light the Advent candles and read about each candle's meaning.
- During VBS, the youth who have outgrown VBS, are invited to be assistant group leaders. They walk the children from activity to activity, assist with the crafts, and lead the outdoor games.
- During the Orphan Ministry Adoption garage sale, children and youth volunteer to set up the day before the sale.
- College students have been youth leaders during the summer months. They serve as youth leaders for FLY Conventions and mission trips, too.
- A few youth members have kept the flowerbeds clean of weeds during the summer months.
- A few children and youth have come to Calvary Quilters to learn how to sew mission quilts.
- For the past several years, youth are trained and hired to be the church janitors.
- When a member in the church is moving, a group of youth, their parents, and/or the youth leaders are available to help.
- Some youth become computer technicians. They operate the PowerPoint slideshow projection.
- Some youth help in the nursery.

Now, my husband and I are in our senior years, seeing a child or youth serving in the church can bring tears to my eyes. I'm blessed by their acts of service. I'm reminded of the wise words a senior woman once told me, "Don't worry about your baby crying. Children are the future of the church."

COUNCIL MINUTES

Members of the Calvary Council met on March 16 for its annual Council Planning Day. During their time together, they prayed and asked God for unity, wisdom and foresight for the council and the congregation as a whole. These leaders used the rest of their day for brainstorming, planning and discussion. Due to the unique format of the day, there are not regular minutes to publish for the newsletter.

For more information on any of these items or to contact the church office, please email or call: 218-736-4282
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