

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
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 Morganton, NC 28655
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*Called to follow
 Sent to serve.....*

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 Organization
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Calvary's PROCLAMATION

AUGUST 2008

DIRECTORY

Church Staff

Dr. Michael F. Riley..... Pastor
 Becky Stevens.....Organist/Music Director
 Valerie Graybill.....Chancel Choir Director
 Amy Alexander.....Hand Bell Director
 Shirley Hise.....Parish Secretary

Council Officers

Lloyd WallacePresident
 Jerry Stevens.....Vice-President
 Lynn Williams.....Secretary
 Judie Huffman.....Financial Secretary
 Garry Harding.....Treasurer

Congregation Council

Term Expiring 2008

Pattie Brittain
 Lloyd Wallace
 Dawn McDonald
 Lynn Williams

Term expiring 2009

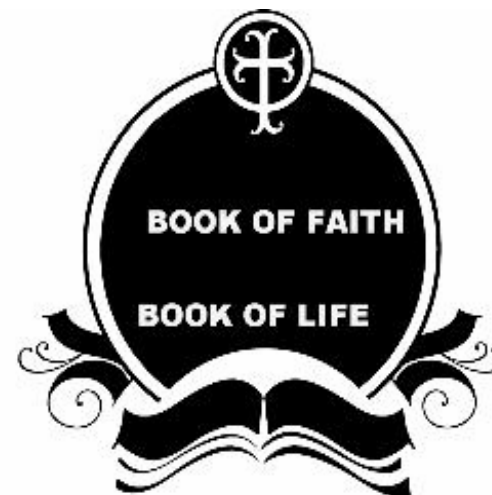
Teresa Gamewell
 Jerry Stevens
 Angela Williams
 Scott Wilson

Terms expiring 2010

Mike Imboden
 Seth Hunt
 Phillip Rector
 Steve Wilson

MISSION STATEMENT

Embraced in God's love through Jesus Christ, Calvary Lutheran Church
 Is called
 To proclaim the Good News of God's saving grace,
 To nurture spiritual growth, and
 Care for all God's creation.



The Bible

- ? Read the Bible
- ? Join in holy conversation about the living Word of God in scripture and daily life
- ? Become comfortable with the first language of faith
- ? Never be ashamed to speak of God's story to others

Hear what readers are saying:

"A love story that will stay in your heart forever..."

"The true guide to your best life now."

"I keep it beside my bed and read from it daily."

"I carry it with me everywhere for quick reference and inspiration."

The rest of the story...?
 See Pastor Mike's article inside!

I am deeply grateful for the surprising recognition on June 28 which celebrated 10 years since my ordination and 10 years of ministry at Calvary. The beautiful, handcrafted stole is a gift beyond measure. You all will be able to enjoy the colors, symbols and witness to our Lord along with me as I wear it for worship MANY times in the future. Betty and I are grateful to God and thankful to all in this congregation who have journeyed with us in our ministry among you. Especially, I want to thank Karel Johnson for her dedication and artistry, as well as the other "stole-stitchers" Joyce Imboden, Debbie Little, and Beverly Watts. This church is filled with many gifted people with very loving hearts.

Peace and joy to you in Christ,
Pastor Mike

Calvary Friends,
You are invited to join in celebrating the marriage of Elizabeth Ann Stuenkel and Brian Paul Selgrade
August 9, 2008 2:30 PM
Calvary Lutheran Church.

A reception will follow at the Morganton Com-

Congratulations to Ingrid and Jeff Farrar upon the birth of their son on June 26. Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome John Edwin Farrar into the family of Christ. We thank God for the new life cre-



FRIENDLY TUESDAY MEETINGS AT CALVARY

All senior citizens are invited to join the Friendly Tuesday meetings on August 5 and 19 from 10-12 noon in the new fellowship hall. The meeting on the 5th will include a comedy performance by the Hickory Residence of Hickory Drama Club. Lunch will be served at both meetings. Call Juanita Sigmon for more information.

CHANCEL FLOWERS OPEN DATES

Please consider providing flowers to beautify worship. Dates available for you are August 24, November 16 and November 30. Contact Judie Huffman or call Shirley in the church office.

Calvary Lutheran Church Monthly Financial for Six Months Ending June 30, 2008

	Current Month This Year	Current Month Last Year	Year to Date This Year	Year to Date Last Year
Total Income Summary				
Contributions-General Fund	26,798.80	16,925.00	132,406.05	116,666.89
Contributions-Fund Holding	10,199.66	7,223.00	52,840.84	54,113.75
Contributions-Pass Through	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,429.73
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	72.27	0.00
Interest - PMM	118.32	237.43	1,008.65	1,882.81
	<u>37,116.78</u>	<u>24,385.43</u>	<u>186,327.81</u>	<u>177,093.18</u>
Total Expense Summary				
Budgeted	21,591.03	18,740.01	129,124.11	115,177.26
Fund Holding Expenses	7,240.82	61,694.94	80,917.03	86,895.35
Non-Budget Expenses	0.00	271.36	0.00	2,920.29
	<u>28,831.85</u>	<u>80,706.31</u>	<u>210,041.14</u>	<u>204,992.90</u>

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is placing an initiative before the church which encourages its members to get into reading the Bible more than ever this year. It is called the *Book of Faith Initiative*, and it actually came from a proposal made by the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. The fact is, many people in the church are not very conversant in the "first language of faith," the language of the Bible. Therefore, as the parable goes (Mark 4:1-20), the roots (of those who hear the word of God) do not go very deep and the plant withers in the heat of the day, and fruit intended for those plants is rarely, if ever, produced in the kingdom of God.

So, how about it? Pick up your Bible a little more and read it (or have someone read it to you). If you'd like a new, "fresh" copy of a Bible to study, give me a call. I have a Bible in my office just for you. And I promise not to ask questions!

Oh, something just came to mind from Psalm 103 that may be my favorite verse right now: *Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless God's holy name...*

Or maybe it's that parable from Luke 15 about the lost sheep... or the creation story in Genesis...or the resurrection words of Jesus in John 20: *Peace be with you...*

Yep, I think that's the one for today!

Peace be with you,
Pastor Mike



Thank you to Leslie Kern, Rachel Keisler, Ruth Peterson, Jeanette Wilson and Margaret Miller for contributing cookies to the reception for the bishop on June 29. The reception was very nice with an array of cookies/desserts to eat.
Parish Life

Dear Calvary Family,
Thank you for my graduation gift. I really appreciate it! I will be attending Wake Tech in the fall. After two years, I plan on going to NC State. I will be majoring in business. I appreciate your sharing in this special event of my life.
Thanks,
Heather Millsaps

Dear Calvary Family,
Thank you for your prayers, cards and kind words following the death of David's father. It is a great comfort to be a member of such a supportive faith family like Calvary.

Dear Calvary Family,
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent illness.
Maggie Lou Roberson

Dear Pastor Riley & friends of John Hebert,
Just a thank you for all you have done for John. I received information on John's funeral from his brother, Robert. I talked to Helen (John's aunt) and she told me how very special you made his funeral. Thank you again to all of you-Christ's spirit is certainly with you and in your church. I am sending an offering in John's memory to your church endowment fund.
Most sincerely,
Emily Klewicki (John's cousin)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	14	David Lange
		Lee Ann Bethke
1	Paul Ijames	Blaine Mull
5	Tabitha Yates	David Ballard
7	Glen Giese	Ian Sossoman
8	Conlee Clark	Joan Mease
	Mike Imboden	Nash Benson
	Betty Williams	Joe Csercsevit
	Becky Stevens	Terrence Wilson
	Valerie Graybill	Tim Watts
9	Louise Edwards	Alex Rector
11	Garry Harding	Matt Robillard
	Helen Harriger	Polly Csercsevit
	Angela Williams	Heather Sossoman
12	Chris Cozort	Jeanette Wilson



Dear Friends in Christ,

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, But gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (selected from Romans 8:31-39)

Yep, that's probably it. If you ask me my favorite Bible passage, Romans 8:31-39 is probably it. That's the one that usually comes to mind first for me...except, of course, in those days or situations when certain things are on my mind that draw my attention to another Biblical passage which apparently has been placed in the forefront of my mind for the sake of grace in that moment! That's the beauty of having become familiar with a good bit of God's Word in the Holy Scriptures. Words leap off pages and out of memory to become wisdom, comfort, encouragement, guidance, hope and strength along the pathway of life. Our relationship with the Lord is formed and informed by the power of the living Word of God revealed in the book of faith we call *The Holy Bible*.

Oh, something just came to mind from a few chapters earlier in Paul's Letter to the Romans: *I am eager to proclaim the gospel to you*

(who are in Rome). For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith... for in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith...the one who is righteous will live by faith (Romans 1:16-17). I am reminded that the Word of God is the Word of life. That doesn't mean the Word of God is only contained in the words of the Bible, but there is a place of grounding for our faith. For the scriptures reveal the gospel and give power through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for the saving grace of God to enter and flourish in the lives of those who believe that Jesus is Lord!

Oh, something just came to mind from the gospel of John, the 15th chapter: Jesus says, *I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing...If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love (John 15:5-9). Where else can we go to hear about the love of God which has been calling us into a relationship with our Lord that fills us with real truth, real meaning, and real life? The book of faith – the book of life – is the authoritative norm for our lives, according to a very fine theologian, Martin Luther. In the Lutheran Church, the scriptures are the place we derive our definitive understanding of the creative, redeeming and sustaining nature and gift of God, as revealed through Jesus Christ.*

Oh, something just came to mind from the disciples' response to Jesus' teaching in the midst of tough times. Because Jesus' words were not always easy to follow, some disciples turned back and no longer went with him. *So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" and Peter answered for the rest, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:60-68).*

(continued next page..)



AT HOME:

J. C. Gantt
Maggie Lou Roberson
Billie Rose Robertson
Doris Sink
Jackie Wiseman

MEMBERS:

Charlie Edwards
Jan English
Jim Fisher
Devonna Ijames
Bruce Keever
Evelyn Keever
Rachel Keisler
Sandy Koerner
Rama Mills
Edith Murphy
Betty Riley
Pat Stokes
Ernie Wallat

FAMILY

Steve Bethke (Navy)
Roy & Azile Bogle
Darius & Sue Bollinger
Ray Bost
Amy Braun
J.C. Burnette
John Butera
Edith Cobb
Cathy Edwards
Tricia Fraser
Elizabeth Gray
Baby Greene
Mary Haller
Billie Harding
Gregg Harding
Julia Hartzog
Sarah Hensarling
Linda Howard
Stephen, Michelle & Madison Hines

Tristan Hines (Army, Afghanistan)
Robert Horne
Brent Huss
Howard Jenkins
Nick & Nancy Kern
Hans & Betty Lund
CN Mease
Melissa Moore & Family
Sarah & Mitch Pons
Marshall Roberson
Kendall Seli (Army, Afghanistan)
Suzy, Adam & Baby Simzer
Michael Stokes
Jim Taylor
Evan Thomason
Rebecca Weiner
Vernon & Laura Whisnant
Donald & Hazel Whitley
Bruce & Cindy Wiley
Tasha Williamson

FRIENDS:

Ray Aiken
Jamie Anderson
Marie Biggs
Obie Carswell (Army)
Pansy Causby
Carolyn Clark
Jewell Gist
Gloria Hayes
Shelvia Lail
Susan Nyman
Richard Olson
Herb Piper
Sheila & Drew Roberto
Tony Sanders
Donna Sebacher
Charles Scott
Robert Shepherd
Lauren Vaaler
Vicki Wilson

NURSING HOME:

John Mabe (Morg. Long Term)
Marie Page (Autumn Care)
Wilma Whisnant (Grace Ridge)
Mary Voltmer (Grace Heights)

SISTER PARISH:

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
Brisas del Valle, El Salvador

U.S. MILITARY:

Henry Lange (Navy)
Justin Williams (Marines)

OTHERS:


All military service men & women
All who work for peace & justice
Domestic & global missionaries

SEMINARIAN:

Joanna Novak
(Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia)

<p><u>EL SALVADOR MISSION</u></p> <p>The 2008 Missionary team from Calvary leaves this week to visit our brothers and sisters in the Salvadoran Lutheran Church and assist with several projects. One of the highlights of the trip will be the dedication service of the new church building of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Brisas del Valle. This is our sister parish and we are grateful to God that our relationship is bearing such amazing fruit for the kingdom of God. Please pray for our team and the work of God's Holy Spirit through the church in El Salvador. Team members are: Lynn Black, Clay Giese, Tyler Giese, Valerie Graybill, Hannah Hawn, Brittany Isaac, Tammy Isaac, Leslie Kern, Alex Rector, Phil Rector, Bryna Riley, Pastor Riley, Sarah Williams and Scott Wilson.</p>	<p>WE PRAY MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION IN LOVE AND COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>Dawn McDonald & Gavin David & Juanita McGalliard Joan Mease Kathey & Oliver Melton Fred & Margaret Miller Bill Miller Rama Mills</p> <p><i>Calvary Proclamation</i> is published monthly by Calvary Lutheran Church, N. King Street, Morganton, North Carolina 28655. Phone 828-437-0780 Fax 828-437-1276 Email calvarylutheran@compascable.net Web page www.clcmorganton.org Deadline for submitted materials to regular publications is the third Monday of each month. Circulation for the <i>Proclamation</i> each month: Larry & Lois Berryhill, Ruth Peterson, Edith Murphy, Lee Dehnert, Louise Whitener, Juanita Sigmon</p>
<p>KEEP US POSTED Via E-MAIL: If you have added internet services, changed internet carriers or adjusted your e-mail address, notify either Nina Harding (shopgal@bellsouth.net) or Seth Hunt (sthunt@burke.k12.nc.us). By doing that we will be able to keep the "Prayer Chain" up to date and can be a communication link between you and the church.</p>	

8:30 10 & 11:00	Ushers Margaret & Fred Miller Wil Johnson, Gary Lail, Jerry Stevens, Scott Wilson	
August 3, 2008 Asst. Minister Acolyte Crucifer Lector Greeter Nursery Children's Message Children's Church	10:00 am Bob Kilpatrick Will Duncan Trevor Kyro Chris Kern Lane Harriger Cape Family Beverly Watts Teresa Gamewell	
August 10, 2008 Asst. Minister Acolyte Crucifer Lector Greeter Nursery Children's Message Children's Church	Jennifer Wilson Scott Kyro Ellen Koerner Karel Johnson Jennifer Hunt Wallace Family Jennifer Hunt Susan Rector	
August 17, 2008 Asst. Minister Acolyte Crucifer Lector Greeter Nursery Children's Message Children's Church	Rich Duncan Holly Goodson Crystal Anthony Joyce Imboden Tom Hunt St. Louis Family Scott Wilson Heather Sossoman	
August 24, 2008 Asst. Minister Acolyte Crucifer Lector Greeter Nursery Children's Message Children's Church	8:30 Dawn McDonald Gavin McDonald Dawn McDonald Julie Copenhaver Julie Copenhaver	11:00 Jim Clark Amanda Rector Alex Rector Kathy Hunt Judie Huffman Yount Family Pastor Mike Jennifer Wilson
August 31, 2008 Asst. Minister Acolyte Crucifer Lector Greeter Nursery Children's Message Children's Church	Nina Harding Georgia Ballard Nina Harding Lois Berryhill Lois Berryhill	Richard Isaac Gabe Isaac Sarah Williams Hank Hunt Joyce Imboden Betty Riley Richard Isaac Jennifer Hunt
Altar Guild:	Ruth Peterson, Louise Edwards, Polly Csercsevits, Lisa Schuck	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUGUST 2008					1	2
	El Salvador Mission Trip July 29-August 6					
3 8:30 am Service of the Word 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Andrew Weisner, Guest Preacher	4 7:30 pm Circle I	5 10:00 am Friendly Tuesday (Circle II will meet with this group.)	6 6:00 pm Support Board 7:00 pm Handbells	7 BUCM (am)	8 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	9 2:30 pm Stuenkel-Selgrade Wedding
10 8:30 am Service of the Word 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	11	12 BUCM (pm) 11:00 am Calvaliers	13 7:00 pm Handbells	14 1:00 pm Service Board	15	16
17 8:30 am Service of the Word 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	18	19 BUCM (am) 10:00 Friendly Tuesday	20 6:30 pm Finance Board 7:00 pm Handbells	21 BUCM (pm)	22	23
24 8:30 am Holy Communion 9:45 am Sunday School Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Holy Communion	25	26 7:00 pm Council	27 7:00 pm Handbells	28	29	30
31 8:30 am Holy Communion 9:45 am Sunday School Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Holy Communion						
					Sugar, Flour, Coffee, Tea	

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE HABITAT PROJECT

Calvary's 75th anniversary Habitat Project was a huge success. Our goal was to involve at least 75 people in the project and we easily surpassed that. Because of the work we did, two new Habitat houses are now under roof and well on their way toward completion.

I am extremely proud of the response of our congregation to this call to service. They readily volunteered and did whatever work was required on each of the six Saturday's we worked regardless of how dirty or difficult the work was. They shoveled dirt, dug ditches, hauled gravel, built walls, painted waterproofing on foundation walls, installed windows built roofs, and various other tasks. Equally

important were the people who prepared, provided, served or transported food for our lunches. All the food was delicious and very nourishing. My thanks to Debbie Little for coordinating the food effort. A special thanks to all those people who volunteered to work multiple Saturdays thereby ensuring that we always had a large enough work crew.

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity and myself, I thank each and everyone who participated in this effort in any way. There are too many names to mention individually and I'm afraid some might be overlooked if I tried. This was a wonderful way to help celebrate our 75th year of ministry. To God be the glory!
In his service,
Charlie Buckner

The Calvary Endowment Report

The Calvary Endowment was established in late 2006 to provide a vehicle for you to make donations that "keep on giving" to support Calvary Lutheran Church. Funds are invested with the ELCA Foundation. Normally the principal is allowed to grow and only the interest is used. The Trustees for The Calvary Endowment are Margaret Miller (Chair), Rich Duncan, Steve Wilson, and Howy Copenhaver (Sec/Treas). Christine Duncan serves on the committee.

We are pleased to report that through June 30, 2008 The Calvary Endowment has grown to \$20,005.74 through the generosity of you and church friends.

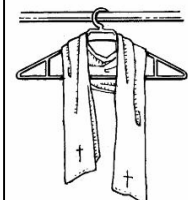
Our thanks to the following members and friends who gave to The Calvary Endowment Jan. thru June 2008 (couples unless otherwise noted): Bill Edes, Miss Myra Best, and Calvary Women of ELCA in memory of Evelyn Copenhaver; Quez Little in

memory of David Short; Bob Cannoles in honor of Callie Gregory's 80th birthday, Quez Little in memory of Lloyd Wallace's uncle; Quez Little and Wesley Klewika in memory of John Hebert; and Jared and Tabitha Yates gave regularly.

There are many ways you can support The Calvary Endowment. Some contribute on a regular basis, others as a lump sum or memorial or honor. You can contribute cash, stock, bonds, land, or perhaps remember The Calvary Endowment in your will or trust or as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. We are fortunate to have Christine Duncan, who is now the NC Synod Director of Planned Giving, as a member of our team so if you have questions or need help please contact her or one of the Trustees.

We keep the amount of your gift private and publicly acknowledge a gift only if the giver agrees, although we like to show the Church's appreciation for all gifts.

While Pastor Mike's in El Salvador...



Pastor Mike will be away from July 29 to August 7 with the mission trip to El Salvador. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. William Robertson at 448-1215. Pastor Robertson is the chaplain at Broughton Hospital and a member of our congregation at Calvary.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

Answering the Call

"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall" -2 Peter 1:10

"What is God calling us to do?" This is the question the congregation of Reformation Lutheran Church in Columbia has ventured to ask and earnestly seek an answer to. What they've found is that the question has propelled them into a whole new world of transformational ministry.

"It all really began with the SPLASH program," says Pastor Bill Eiwen, who joined Reformation in September 2007. SPLASH, which stands for Students, Playing, Learning, And Staying Healthy, began as a desire by the church to connect with Somali Bantu refugees who were moving into their community. They realized they needed to help Somali-Bantu children prepare for school and thought a summer camp would be a good way to do so.

Reformation had the idea and the desire to carry it out, so they began seeking the means to make it happen. They connected with LFS Carolinas who, through its Partnership Initiatives (PI) program, helped fund the first installation of Summer SPLASH in June 2005. The day camp was held on the church property and provided academic preparation, cultural orientation, health education and fun activities for the Bantu children. SPLASH was a success and reopened the following summer.

In 2007, the camp expanded its mission to include refugee and immigrant children of any ethnicity. That summer Reformation served 54 children from 10 different countries by providing English language and math skills tutoring, and the chance to participate in field trips, art, music, swimming and more.

"One of the most important components of SPLASH now is that it's so multicultural," says Dot Jeffcoat, chair of the executive committee for SPLASH. "It's helping the kids, and us, learn to value diversity as a gift."

This year, Reformation will once again host SPLASH Camp and will be joined by community partners, including local churches, other service and funding agencies and Newberry college. And it seems SPLASH was just the catalyst for an even larger scope of ministry.

"This congregation is focusing on the heart and soul of ministry and working to meet the needs of the community," says Pastor Eiwen. For Reformation, that means drawing closer to those who have spiritual, social, and mental or physical health needs. The church will be the new home of the Herman W. Cauble Center of LFS Carolinas, allowing both the church and LFS to do ministry in new and creative ways. "This is what we're about," says Pastor Eiwen. "With renewed energy and clearer vision, we're asking, 'what is God calling us to do?' It's exciting."

CALLING ALL CARPENTERS IN THE MODEL OF JESUS....

Do you like to make things out of wood? Do you like to bless children? Then you are being called to make "Faith Chests" for the children of our congregation. We want to begin a Faith Chest Ministry for our children and families to use as they grow in their faith. Our leader will be Tom Hunt and we need plenty of faithful workers! Please contact Pastor Mike or Tom Hunt with your "yes."



NC Lutheran Disaster Response for victims of flooding in Midwest is being mobilized for upcoming trips to give assistance. If you are interested in traveling to help or finding out more information, please contact Charlie Moeller at 433-8142.

Called to Serve

August 2008
Calvary Lutheran Church
WELCA NEWSLETTER

WELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women,
Created in the image of God,
Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and
Empowered by the Holy Spirit;
We commit ourselves to

GROW in faith,
AFFIRM our gifts,
SUPPORT one another in our callings
ENGAGE in ministry and action and,
PROMOTE healing and wholeness in
the church, the society, and the world.

Calvary Lutheran Church WELCA Officers

President.....Betty Williams
Vice PresidentDot Williams
SecretaryHeather Sossoman
Treasurer.....Connie Wilkie
Circle I LeaderJeanette Wilson
Circle II LeaderDebbie Little

WELCA is

We are all the women of Calvary,
we are all ages,
whether circle member or not,
if Calvary is your home.....
WELCA is YOU!

Dear Women of Calvary,

Last month, July 2008, over 2000 Women of the ELCA meet in Salt Lake City, including 40 women from North Carolina, for the Triennial Gathering. There were many activities, workshops and Bible studies, etc., producing enough valuable material to fill a book. Reprinted below is a news release from the gathering.

In Christian love,
Betty Williams

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA DONATES
BLANKETS, ASSEMBLES HEALTH KITS**

SALT LAKE CITY (ELCA) -- Volunteers at the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathering here worked to assemble and distribute "in-kind gifts" to congregations and non-profit agencies in the area. These gifts include gift cards and pre-paid phone cards; materials for school and health kits; quilts, heart pillows and fleece for blankets; and yarn for knitting hats and preemie caps.

Women of the ELCA's Seventh Triennial Gathering is being held through July 13 here at the Salt Palace Convention Center. More than 2,000 women are expected to attend. The event theme,

"Come to the Waters," focuses on the celebration of Baptism through Bible study, speakers, community service and worship.

The volunteer work was split into eight "docks" -- letter-writing to members of Congress, assembling health and school kits, gathering gift and phone cards, knitting, sewing, donating food, learning about homelessness and exploring involvement in global water projects. The recipients of the gifts include Utah Food Bank Services, Primary Children's Medical Center, Navajo Santa and Crossroads Urban Center.

"The message that we're trying to send with in-kind gifts is helping others through mission projects," said Eva James Yeo, administrative assistant, Women of the ELCA, Chicago. "(For) women who love to knit and crochet, that is an opportunity and a gift they can use. All of the gifts that women have, we have a way that they can use them for the greater good, both locally and globally."

Kimberly Bryant, Chicago, said the water project "dock" helps women learn what it's like to live without free-flowing water. She urged women to "be compassionate and sympathize with (their) sisters in Christ that are from other countries" and to "walk a mile in their shoes."

"It just makes women think about the journey that most women in other countries have to take," Bryant said. "What would you have to give up in your day, how long would that take you and would you be willing to do that?"

Fay Nichols, Berrysburg, Pa., has been working with related gift-giving projects in her

home congregation since 1987. She said the most important part is taking care of neighbors.

"Whoever they are, keep them in our prayers - no matter what the need may be," Nichols said. "With all the disasters and things that are happening in the world today, there are so many people. We often think of helping in this manner as helping those across the sea, but we're finding out we need the help right here as well."

Knitting scarves for the elderly in nursing homes is something that Delores Gray, Bronx, N.Y., does in her home congregation. She said that food banks, clothing drives for the homeless and knitting are all helpful ministries. "Lutheran women are already doing it," Gray said. "We're involved in quite a few things, including advocacy in terms of writing our congressmen about bills that are being passed for social problems. We've always been helpful in supplying to social need."

Information about Women of the ELCA's Seventh Triennial Gathering is at <http://womenoftheELCA.org/tg08.html> on the Web.

Circle I will meet Monday, August 4 at Diane Cannoles' home. Lois Berryhill will present the program. Circle II will meet Tuesday, August 5, 10:00 am in the new fellowship hall with the Friendly Tuesday group.