17 The Sounds Of 19

Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool

1011 North Compton Street Post Falls, Idaho 83854 Church Office: 208.773.5321

Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

office@calvarypostfalls.com

Pastor Erickson: pastormatt@calvarypostfalls.com

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/ Children's Church

10:00 a.m. Fellowship10:30 a.m Adult Education

10:30 a.m.. Connect Tweens Time

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Staff

Pastor: Matthew Erickson Church Secretary: Jeanne Barrett-Usher

Choir Director: Aurel Mason
Preschool Director: Jodene Meehan
Preschool Teacher: Krista Moler
Teacher Aide: Brenda Howard
Teacher Aide: Jody Laufenberg

December 2015



LOGOS KIDS WRAPPING

Happy Birthday

Ray Shatzka	12-1	Alene Duran	12-13
Janie Hirth	12-2	Jim Meehan	12-13
Dixie Conrow	12-2	Logan Blettner	12-14
Liam McGrath	12-4	Greg Gfeller	12-14
Butch Olson	12-7	Anna Marie Halperr	12-23
Pat Goss	12-9	Frank Fleming	12-29
Pat Uptagrafft	12-11	Krysta Howard	12-30
CJ Meeks	12-13	Kristin Erickson	12-30

Happy Anniversary

Carol & Pat Uptagrafft	12-15
Diane & Butch Olson	12-17
Kim & Lee Badger	12-23



Refugees and Fear



It is rare that I talk or write about anything It is rare that I talk or write about anything that is considered political. It's not that I don't have political opinions it's just that I realize that faithful Christians can faithfully come to very different conclusions as to what the best political options are for our community. It seems even more out of place that I would do so as we prepare for Christmas. As I have been preparing to write this month's column for the newsletter I keep finding myself drawn to the controversy regarding bringing Syrian refugees to Idaho. This is a situation where the rubber of Christian ethics meets the broken pothole filled Christian ethics meets the broken pothole filled road that is our world. As I think about this tragedy I keep coming back to the reality that our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a refugee, and that as a small toddler he had to flee the violence of King Herod and escape to Egypt. Many fled Herod's violence, what if they had been turned away?

There is essentially a three-way war among various factions including the "Muslim" government which is trying to maintain power at any cost, the radical "Muslim" Islamic State forces who are trying to establish a caliphate, and the very loose alliance of "Muslim" freedom fighters with a wide variety of allegiances and priorities. Caught in the crossfire are the all of the everyday working class families who just want a safe place to live and raise their families. Two Million refugees have fled Syria including more than 1,000,000 child refugees, many of whom are without parents and are traveling with extended family members, friends or total strangers. These are people who are desperate. The politics, religious infighting, and violence of the Muslim world has left them heartbroken and disillusioned and while what they need most is safe shelter, food, and medical help they are also longing for answers. These are people looking for something to give them hope, someone to give them a different way of understanding the world, and they are looking at us.

When King Solomon was just beginning his reign as King the Lord gave him an understanding that under his leadership Israel would become a great magnet for foreigners seeking help and that it was Israel's duty to care for all who came seeking refuge. At the dedication of the first temple Solomon asked for the Lord's help in this task and prayed: prayed:



"When a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name [O Lord] – for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name."

1 Kings 8: 41-43

The United States is not a theocracy, we are not a country ruled by religion, and yet we would certainly do well as a people to follow the example given by Solomon and our Lord. People, mostly women and children, who are suffering immensely are calling out to us and looking for answers, looking for help. They have heard that the United States is a great nation ruled by laws, governed in peace, reliant on liberty. They have heard rumors that Christians are called to love their enemies. They are looking to us, calling to us, seeking refuge from a violent storm which has claimed their homes, their way of life, their very families. The world has heard that we have a great name and now it watches.

When we let fear dictate our actions towards these suffering masses we are acting in exactly the way that the radical Muslim propagandists would like us to do, we are looking do only what is in our best interests. The result will be that a generations of Syrians will experience growing resentment towards the United States and the militant extremist machine will be fueled. But what if we the people acted differently.

But what if fear did not win the day. What if Christians around the country called, e-mailed and wrote their government officials and said, please allow us to welcome refugees into our community. What if Christians made a commitment that if only we were allowed to do so we would open our arms, our churches, even our homes to these suffering people? What message would it send to the world if Christians in the United States demanded that their government allow them to care for Syrian Refugees?





FROM ALL OF US AT LUTHERHAVEN MINISTRIES:

As December blows in at our place and yours, your staff at Camp Lutherhaven, Shoshone Mountain Retreat, and Idaho Servant Adventures wishes you and your loved ones a God-blessed holiday filled with shared faith, food, friends, family and fun!

Our prayers go out to the countless many in our lives, communities, country and world so less fortunate than we. *May God open our eyes* to opportunities to serve them in *ways simple yet significant* ... as the *hands, feet, voice and heart of Jesus!*

+++++ Holiday giving ideas: Give the gift of Christmas at Camp this Advent season ++++++

Don't forget the many camps that are happening this winter:

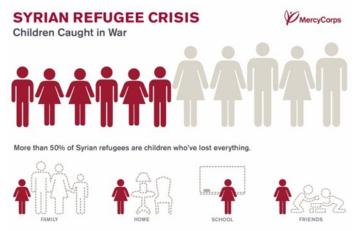
- ⇒ Deck the Halls at Lutherhaven: not too late to register—it is a family camp tradition for 20 years!
 - ⇒ Youth retreats: December, January, February = SNOW FUN (maybe):

Building Youth Groups for Middle School ages,

Bak2Camp, Grade School & Middle School weekends, and New Christmas Break High School Camp Reunion, 12/29-30

• March for 2 Women's Retreats!: Cut Crop & Quilt 3/4-6—and Womens Retreat 3/11-13

(continued from page 2)



Instead of breeding resentment, we would be dispelling hatred. Instead of fueling extremism, we would be breaking down barriers that stand between Muslims and the Gospel of Jesus. America has the opportunity to make the world a safer place by disarming the propaganda used by radical Muslim extremists. We can make the world a safer place without dropping a single bomb or firing a single bullet.

Is there risk involved? Yes, statistically it is unlikely that one of these Syrian refugees (who are remember mostly women, children, & elderly people) would be an extremist. There is no way of performing an effective background check. Who would we call, the Syrian National Police? There is risk involved but living our faith requires setting aside fear. This is where our faith should alter our politics. If Christians don't speak up now, I fear we are losing an opportunity not only to live out our faith but an opportunity to impact our nation and our country for the better.

And the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying,

⁹ Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Render true judgments, **show kindness and mercy to one another**, ¹⁰ **do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor**, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." ¹¹ But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. ¹² They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore, great anger came from the LORD of hosts. **Zechariah 7:8-12**

I encourage you to reach out to our government officials and encourage them to welcome Syrian Refugees and if by the grace of God, we have the privilege of hosting some here in North Idaho, I hope you will pledge, along with me, to support them.

Sincerely, Pastor Matt



Adult Education in Advent

The Christmas Saints

Sunday mornings at 10:30

November 29th

- St. Stephen

December 13th

- St. Joseph

December 6th

- Santa Lucia

December 20th

- St. Nicholas

Exploring the true stories of faith behind the legends that make Christmas so



Join us for

Chiristinias Eve

5:30 - Candle Light Worship

6:30 - Cookies and Hot Chocolate

10:00 - Cookies and Hot Chocolate

10:30 - Candle Light Worship

Children are welcome at both services. The 5:30 service is includes the interactive "journey of the Shepherds" for children.

Wednesday Night Advent Services

"Do not fear! The favor of the Lord is upon thee."

7:00 p.m.

December 2nd, 9th, & 16th

Holden Evening Prayer and

Service of Light

These spirit-filled, contemplative services are filled with hauntingly beautiful music and provide an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Services usually last about 30 minutes and are well enjoyed by all worshipers of ages.





Advent Offerings will be used to Purchase Good Gifts

Each Wednesday in Advent we will worship using Holden Evening Prayer and singing together. In recent years it has been our tradition to give all of the offerings collected at these Advent Services away to a ministry completely beyond Calvary Lutheran. It is a way to recognize that the Church of Jesus Christ is so much bigger that Calvary. This year we will be using our Advent offerings to purchase one or more good gifts for a family or families in an im-

poverished part of the world. The gift will help a family move from extreme poverty to ongoing sustainability and depending on how much money we collect we might give chickens, a goat, pigs, a cow, a well, or any number of other amazing life changing gifts. The program is supported in part by the benevolence money that congregations like Calvary pass on to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and so every dollar will go to give the gift rather than towards any sort of administration costs. To find out more about the ELCA's Good Gifts program, including the opportunity to buy gifts for your loved ones, check out their web page: www.elca.org/goodgifts.

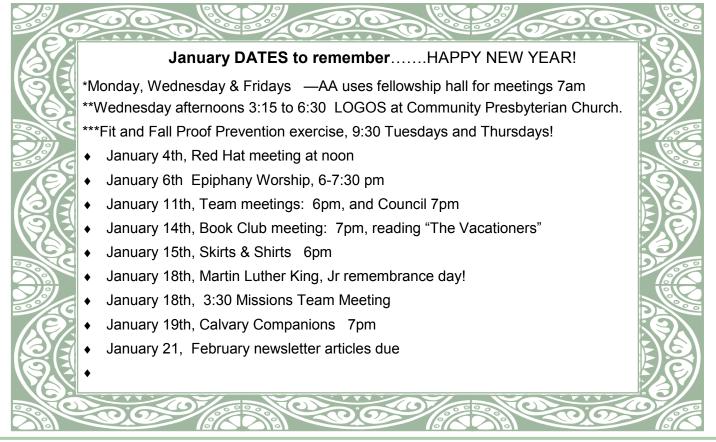


Epiphany Chili Feed and Fireside Worship January 6th

5:30 p.m. Chili Feed: Why cook diner, come join us as we eat some great chili and cornbread with all the fix'ns. The meal is free. An offering will be collected to fight malaria in Africa.

<u>Three Kings Crafts and Games for Kids:</u> On January 6^{th} we celebrate the arrival of the three kings as they brought their gifts to Jesus. The evening will be filled with fun games, a scavenger hunt, and even a visit from the Kings themselves. Children are encouraged to dress as Kings and Queens for this event.

6:30 p.m. <u>Firelight Epiphany Service with burning of the Greens</u>: Bring a warm coat and a head lamp if you have one. Weather permitting; this 20 minute service will take place outside around a large, warm fire. Bring a small piece of your Christmas tree or wreath to throw into the fire as we celebrate the light of the World coming to all people. Children love this service and we will have some spare headlamps and greens available.





-lotions, hair gel, and shower gels

-nail care products and hair pins or barettes

-chapstick

-coffee mugs

-CD's or DVD's (no cartoons please)

-stationery sets

decks of cards

-crossword puzzles or word finds

-magazines or coffee table books

-haircut certificates from our salon: \$10 for men, \$14 for women

*Please have your baskets back to Coeur d' Alene Homes by December 17th for distribution to the residents. Thank you for your heartfelt gifts!!



PLEASE HAVE THE ITEMS FOR THE BASKETS HERE AT CALVARY BY THE 16TH OF DECEMBER,

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS GIVING.



News from Peace Rehabilitation Center in Nepal.

Calvary supports Peace Rehabilitation Center through benevolence giving, and also in our prayers. To learn more, talk to Cory English, Dennis Wilson, Kathy Darrar, Audrey McGrath, or Pastor Matt. You can find out more by visiting the webpage, www.peacerehab.org. Psalm 106:10 "He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he **redeemed** them."

Chondra's Story: Like most Nepalese, Chondra grew up in a poor rural region. Her parents' work as seasonal laborers did not provide enough income for the family. Along with her parents and four siblings, Chondra lived in a small, oneroom home. When she was 14, her father came home drunk and raped her. This abuse became common.

Unhappy at home, Chondra was eager to believe a village boy who promised marriage and good jobs in India. They ran away to Delhi without telling her parents. Chondra lived with her fiancé's family for three months until one day she overheard them talking. They had decided to sell Chondra to a brothel. Frightened about her future, she stole the equivalent of \$14 USD and escaped. She took a bus to the India/Nepal border and was stopped by the PRC border patrol station. The border guards listened to her story and arranged for her to go to the rehabilitation home in Kathmandu.

Upon arrival at PRC, Chondra was very nervous and guarded, but remembers that "every girl said welcome and asked me who I was and where I was from. They were so welcoming." She stayed in the home and learned about health and hygiene, cooking and sewing. Chondra knew that she had matured from all her experiences. She requested to return to her parents' home. Shanta warned that returning to village life would be difficult, even equipped with a skill. Chondra insisted.

Back at her parents' home, Chondra felt ashamed. Her neighbors gossiped that she had come home only to sleep with her father. In fact, her father again tried to force himself on her. Chondra was angry. She was determined to start a life away from her past. After one month, Chondra decided to leave her parents' home and go back to PRC.

Shanta received a phone call from Chondra requesting to return. Two days later, Chondra burst through the doorway at PRC, tears streaming down her face. She ran into Shanta's arms and said, "Mommy, I'm home."

Laughter follows her throughout the house. She is a lighthearted young woman, known as the jokester, whom all the other girls love to be around. "If I have any opportunity, I do it now. I stand on my own feet," she says. Chondra holds fashion shows in the dining room for the girls to display their traditional Nepali dress. On these nights they prepare for the fashion show by styling each other's hair and painting each other's nails.

Upon returning to PRC, she requested help for her 11-year-old sister. She fears her father will abuse her sister in Chondra's absence.

 \sim Your generous giving can prevent more of the abuses that place these young ladies' lives in jeopardy, as well as helping heal and provide a living for themselves. \sim

THE GIVING TREE!

Get Em' Fast, They're Going Quick!!!

The Giving Tree is up, and there are ornament gift tags on the tree for two families, to help with their needs. In partnership with the Post Falls Police Department, the Special Cases Unit gave our church the name of two families: both single mothers and their kids, who need to be loved and cared for at this time of year.

It is a time when we can pitch in and give these families a little peace and relief...and this is the perfect way that our church can spread the reason we celebrate Christmas, and spread the love that we have in our hearts. The impact it makes on a family that is going through hard times we may never know this side of heaven, but just think how it will be to meet some of them in heaven: "Do it unto the least of these, my brethren, and you do it for ME."

The youth in the church have made the beautiful ornament tags, so grab one or two before they are totally gone! It indicates the present, the age and name of the child....So

1)Buy the present, 2) wrap it,

- 3) attach the tag from the tree to the gift,
- 4) Bring it to Calvary and put under the tree
- 5) By the 20th of December!

If you have any questions about the gifts, please feel free to call Kathy Darrar, Sally Holtz, Meribeth Daily, or Nicole Skinner. These are the gals that give of themselves to educate the children of the church in God's Ways, every Sunday morning!

Blessings, Kathy Darrar





Family Promise of North Idaho is an affiliate of Family Promise® which was created in 1986 in response to the growing need to provide shelter, meals, and comprehensive support to families without homes. We are a nonsectarian charity and we welcome all clients who meet our eligibility and admission requirements. Our staff and board of trustees work together with our interfaith and community partners to extend support to the homeless families in North Idaho.

Family Promise of North Idaho maintains a small but efficient staff which is guided by a committed board of trustees. Together, they work to promote, organize and maintain the services we provide to homeless families in our area. We not only offer direct assistance to eligible families in our program, but also act as a referral service for those requiring other support programs. The services we provide would not be possible with out the support of our interfaith and community partners.

As we go into the cold weather season, there are more families being affected by homelessness, joblessness, and all that goes along with it. Thank you to Calvary Lutheran for being a faithful partner....in giving families hope. And thank you for hosting these need as Advent begins: What better way to look forward to a Redeemer, than to extend kindness by having those in need live in your own church building!

Blessings to your congregation for their GIVING SPIRIT, now and thru the year.

Family Promise Staff

THANK YOU FOR BEING A SUPPORTER OF Calvary Missions!

Calvary Companions news:

Our study meeting was actually blown away on November 17! So we still have that session awaiting us. And we'll meet for it on January 19, 7 p.m., Lord willing, and all the trees don't fall again. Our topic is about what we experience when we begin to know we are dying. Anyone is welcome to sit in, the group



would welcome you. And it's a subject we all know a little about; or we will learn more about it eventually. Our reason for learning is so that we can have helpful, sensitive, caring conversation with others.

Stay safe, and have a blessed holiday!

Pam and Everett Arnold



LUTHERAN
WORLD
RELIEF
Health Kits!

The boys prepare to wrap it all up!

Pastor and the children of Logos praying over the health kits for Lutheran World Relief!



The girls are intently working on filling the health kits. The tying was a treat to watch, as these girls made neat 'packages'.



CALVARY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

DECEMBER 2015 – NEWSLETTER

Wow, where is the year going? Thanks to all the parents who drove to the fire station. We sure had fun learning about our fire department. Thank you, also, for everyone who shared in our Thanksgiving popcorn feast. What a fun way to reinforce the Thanksgiving message.

Now that winter is upon us, please remember that if the Post Falls school district cancels school because of the weather, so will the preschool. You can turn on your local news or radio stations to hear which schools are closed.

In December, we will be learning the letters J and K, the colors red and green, the number 5, and we will continue to work on our cutting skills.

Our Bible verses are:

Luke 2:11 - "A Savior was born for you."

Luke 2:14 - "Glory to God in the highest."

Upcoming events for December – Throughout December we will be doing various crafts and projects in the extra classroom from 9:00 to 9:30, any day that you can stay and help would be appreciated. We can always use the extra hands.

The Preschool does two outreaches throughout the school year. These are not required, but allow us time to talk to our students about helping others. Our first is in December, in honor of Jesus' Birth, we will send home a piggy bank that the students can use to collect loose change and money that might be laying around the house, car, etc. The money will be used to help us buy "Good Gifts" for families living in ultra poverty in 3rd world countries. We will be pooling the money, with the congregation, to buy goats, pigs, chicken, etc. for families in need. (www.elca.org/goodgifts). Our second outreach will be around spring break and we will have a trike a 'thon for family promise and families in our area.

- ⇒ **December 8**th-**10**th Please bring in a book (\$5.00 or less) for a book exchange between the students after the Christmas Program. Wrap the book and place a tag with your child's name saying who it is *From*, but not whom it is *For*. We would like to collect the books early, so that we know that everyone has a book.
- ⇒ **December 10**th We will make and decorate gingerbread cookies to eat as we watch a Christmas movie
- ⇒ December 17th Christmas Program We will be having a Christmas program and reception from 10:00 to 12:00. There will be no preschool on this day. Please bring your child back into the preschool classrooms between 9:40 9:50, so that we can prepare them for the program which is to start at 10:00 in the chapel. Cameras are allowed and please feel free to invite family and friends. Please remember that these are young children and many will be nervous, which they will express in different ways. It is OK! We will have the book exchange and reception following the program.

We ask that each family bring 1 dozen cookies to share at the reception to follow the program. Thank you!!!

- ⇒ **December 22**th **December 31**st No preschool Christmas Break.
- ⇒ January 5th Preschool resumes.

Have a Christmas blessing, and thank you for all the you do!!! Jodene Meehan

CALVARY NEWS

Calvary Kitchen Supplies that are needed:

Small Paper Plates Coffee creamer

Large Paper Plates Tea bags

Plastic Utensils Large 33 gal lawn & leaf bags

Hot drink cups Tall 13 gal kitchen trash bags

Paper towels 1 gal Ziplock bags

Coffee quart Ziplock bags

Liquid Dishwashing soap

January Articles:

Your deadline for January events or articles to be put to the January newsletter, please bring them to Jeanne Barrett-Usher at the office, or e-mail them to her by December 18th!!! E-mail:

office@calvarypostfalls.com. THANK YOU!

<u>Please pray for United States</u> <u>Military including:</u>

Andrew Uptagrafft

(Son of Carol & Pat Uptagrafft)

Marcus Baker (Grandson of Mary & Tex Hess)

Mamie English Cisneros

(Daughter of Cory & Dan English)

Anthony Mason (Nephew of Loren Mason

Brian Page (Nephew of Audrey McGrath)

Kristina Borek (Daughter of Pam & Scott Borek)

Maxwell Paul (Nephew of Tina & Mike Irwin)

Jason Irwin (Nephew of Tina & Mike Irwin)

Jesse Ost (Grandson of Erna Ost)

Donny Fillman (Nephew of Linda Fleming)



in-





"I'm a king in the living Nativity. I need some gold and a camel by Friday."

Please continue to Pray for the following requests:

Jodi Piper battling cancer (Darrars

Jodi's family as she goes thru chemo (Darrars)

Gabriel Harris for healing, grandson of Kathy & Barry Harris

Ian & Janet Stein for healing (McGraths)

Healing for Ruth, her hands and fingers (Forrest Chapin)

For Jhonathan's health & well-being (Chapins)

Mary Lou & Don Rubis for healing (Voights)

To love God forever (Rocco Skinner)

For Health for Pam Borek (Anna Marie Halpern)

Eugene Romeu for his health (Cheryl Romeu)

For Elisabeth to still have a relationship with her mom(Celsey Ball-Strelec)

For God to watch over the surgery & recovery of Connie Jones (sister of Bruce Howard)

Judy Richardson (Judy Stebbins)

For Everett to have a complete recovery (Pam Arnold)

Same's family health and healing (Strelecs)

Akira for guidance (Strelec family)

For continued wonderful recovery for Gina after receiving transplant. (Kathy Darrar)

For continued wonderful recovery for Robyn after receiving lung transplant (Kathy Darrar)

Mabel Wilkerson for continued health(Linda Johann, David & Darren Triber)

Pam Borek for health (Anna Marie Halpern)

Ruth for healing (Forrest Chapin)

Brinda & Jhonathan to look for a new home (the Chapins)

For family, especially daughter Kathy (Frances Barabas)

Jerry for healing from cancer (Knutsons)

Jordan Simon and family (K. McGrath family)

Anna Marie Halpern for health (Calvary Congregation)

Prayers for Bill Johnson (Heather Johnson)

Reinhold Daur for good recovery from surgery (Erica Daur)

Cheri Hoagburg, for strength, faith and a cure (Linda Borders)

Bill Johnson, for strength, faith and a cure (Linda Borders)

Baby Blair (Anna Werner)

Baby Emma (Anna Werner)

Bredwick family, for strength during their continual power outage(Strelecs)

Thanks for Gabe's healing, from bacterial chest infection (Harrises)

Sandra Miller surgery (Sunny Fagan)

				FELLOW-			ALTAR	CHILDRENS	TWEENS
MUSIC	SONG	READER	USHERS	SHIP	FLOWERS	COUNTERS	GUILD	СНОВСН	CONNECT
Loretta Pontier	Kevin McGrath	Sally Holtz	Jimmy Strelec, Ray Shatzka	Sally Holtz, Bruce & Brenda Howard		Audrey & Donann	Dennis Wilson	Cory English, Linda Johann	Kathy & Meribeth Unit 2.5 Joseph
Linda Borders	Loren Mason	Barry Harris	Pat Goss, Joan Shatzka	Dennis & SusanWil- son, with Jeff & Carol Gerhard		Cory & Meribeth	Joan Shatzka	Jodene Meehan, Donann Strelec	Ron & Nicole Skinner Unit 2.6 The Promise Rewind
Loretta Pontier	Kevin McGrath	Kathy Harris	CJ & Dan Meeks	Kathy Darrar, Loren & Aurel Mason		Linnea & Linda	Janie Hirth	Kathy Darrar, Audrey McGrath	Kathy & Meribeth Unit 3.1 Freedom
ALL	ALL								
Linda Borders	Loren Mason		Forrest Chapin & Ray Shatzka	Dick & Louise Varner, & Ron & Jean Voights		Carol & Margret	Kathy Darrar	Jimmy Strelec, Kathy Darrar	BREAK