

Rejoicing Spirits at Calvary

– November 20th 2011

The theme was “Bring a Friend”

We gathered on this sunny, warm autumn day to give glory to God and to share Christ’s love. With Thanksgiving only four days away, we focused on the many gifts with which God has blessed us, but most particularly, on our friendships.

Prior to our opening song, Joyce spoke about the meaning of *friends*, which have been called “the sunshine of life” and our “greatest blessings.” We recalled old (gold) friends and new (silver) friends, and talked of friends we have yet to meet. “Yes’*m*, *old friends is best, ‘less you can catch a new one that’s fit to make an old one out of,*” said Sarah Orne Jewett at one time! We recognized caregivers as friends, and introduced friends we had in attendance.



Then, as we sang “Make New Friends,” our first song, we thanked God in our hearts for friends.

*Make new friends, but keep the old.
One is silver and the other gold.*

Welcome and Announcements

Pat welcomed everyone and announced that we currently have \$366.75 in our offering account. Among the greatest humanitarian needs right now is the severe drought that is being experienced in Africa. Pat explained several ways we could support a water project for Christmas with the funds we have collected to date, and added, “Who knows? Maybe we’ll reach \$400.00 today!”

Two other items to note:

- (1) to reserve a ticket for Calvary’s Many Moods of Christmas Concert, you need to call the church office as soon as possible. Few remain.
- (2) We request that you sign a photo release form if you have not done so.

As We Sang

We raised our voices in praise and played our instruments as we sang:

- *Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart*, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight!
- *Father, I Adore You*. Lay my life before You. How I love You.
- *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer! (Prior to this song, it was noted that Jesus is our biggest “gold” friend.)
- *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*. Lord, I love to sing your praises.

As always, Jim’s guitar, Keith’s piano playing, and Kevin’s drums provided the perfect backdrop to our songs.

After our second song, Pastor Dan Krewson led us in the confession and prayer of the day, and we passed the peace, which is always an important part of our Rejoicing Spirits service. Everyone who is able gets out of her/his seat to shake hands with others and say, “Peace of the Lord be with you,” or, more simply, “Peace be with you.” We greet each other in the tradition of early Christians.

As We Read from the Bible

- Skylar read the first reading from Philippians 4:6 – *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests be made known to God.*
- Pat's friend Carolyn read from Proverbs 18:24 – *Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.*
- Samantha read from John 15:15 – *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

As We Heard the Message

Pastor Krewson began by asking us to pray for our old friends and then our new friends. After each petition, worshippers in unison added the name of their individual friends, first the name of one that is old, and second the name of one that is new. We then prayed silently for friends whom we have yet to meet.

Pastor Krewson focused on three aspects of friendship. First he donned a baseball cap and glove and told the story of how he used to play ball for Bucknell. He told of how a college friend used to practice with him to help him improve his game. As he spoke, he crouched and demonstrated the different throws that his friend would send his way. With his friend's help, Pastor Krewson continued to get better and became a valued player. Friends do that. They help each other reach their goals. Next we saw Pastor Krewson wrap himself in a large white towel, and explain that a second thing that friends do is to "serve" each other and to help each other stay "clean." As part of this discussion, he reenacted Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet.

Above all, friends love each other. As Pastor Krewson spoke of this characteristic of friendship, he showed a photograph of some of his closest friends.

As We Prayed

All those who wished to offer individual prayers were called forward. Many came. We had prayer requests, prayers of thanksgiving, and prayers of intercession, and then, in unison, all worshippers prayed the Lord's Prayer.

As We Shared

We sang Happy Birthday to Joyce, who was the only one present with a November birthday. However, we also honored her friend Charlie, who was the friend who would have been with us today, except that earlier this week, she suffered a minor stroke. Her birthday, too, is in November. *Happy Birthday to you. May Jesus bless you and guide you and keep you the whole year through.* (second verse)

Benediction and Dismissal

Pastor Krewson gave the benediction. Then Samantha gave the dismissal: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*"

Fellowship in the Parlor

We had an especially wide range of wonderful refreshments for our fellowship time after the service. It included silver and gold wrapped Hershey kisses to represent our old and new friends and a delicious array of other "goodies." We thank Dottie Lee Werkiser and Marina Quintana, our cookie bakers for the day.

As always, fellowship time provided a warm opportunity for worshippers to visit with others, and ample time to get caught up with old "gold" friends and make new "silver" friends!

Next Month

We worship next month on Sunday, December 18, at four o'clock in the afternoon in the chapel at Calvary Lutheran Church. All are welcome to join us. Our Christmas worship service is always special!