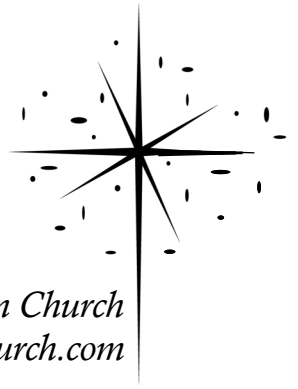


# The Messenger



*A monthly publication for Calvary Lutheran Church  
www.calvarylutheranchurch.com*

Volume 6, Issue XII December 2011

## OUR VISION

“Through the cross of Jesus Christ, God is calling Calvary Lutheran Church to intentionally reach out and invite all people, nurture their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, and send them to live a faithful and fruitful life of witness and service.”

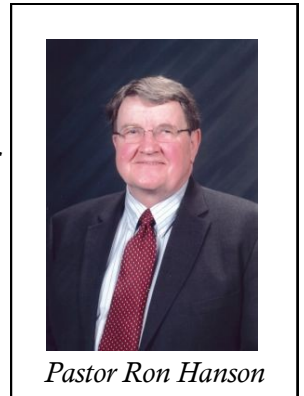
***Come Worship with us:***  
*Saturday evenings at 5:30pm in the Chapel and Sunday mornings at 8:00, 9:00 and 11:05am*

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## ADVENT: A SEASON OF HOPE

Dear Members and Friends of Calvary:  
Following the observance of our nation's day of Thanksgiving, we will enter into a new church year as the season of Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 27. Advent is a 4 week season in which we seriously prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent looks back to the coming of the Son of God in Bethlehem's manger. Advent also looks forward to the coming of Christ in glory at the Second Coming. Advent also celebrates Christ's coming among us in the present through Word and Sacraments. We see the three tenses of this "grammar of Advent" combined in the Apostle Paul's majestic promise about Holy Communion. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup (present tense), you proclaim the Lord's death (past tense) until he comes" (future tense) 1 Cor. 11:26.



*Pastor Ron Hanson*

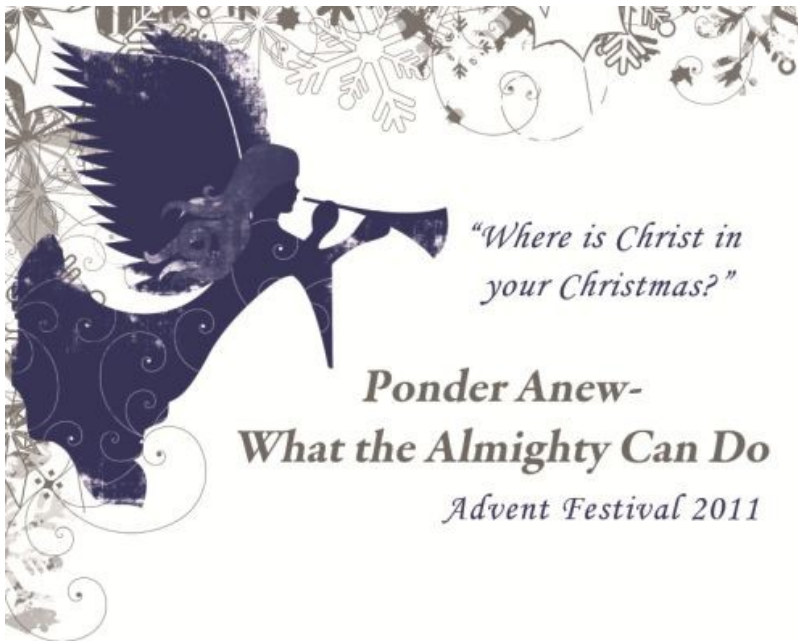
But even as we make the transition from Thanksgiving to Advent, there is yet another major day and season on the calendar that is about to invade our lives. Mail is arriving in my home mailbox enticing me to leap into pre-Christmas shopping on November 25, a day that has come to be called "Black Friday."

As Christians, we need to recognize that there is a disconnect between our Church and secular calendars. These weeks leading up to Christmas Day are the pinnacle of consumer purchases. In the past few years, however, an economic turndown has forced many to have to face economic realities. There is unemployment and home foreclosures. Family struggles and illness continue. The Christmas season itself is stressful, and we long for something that presents and parties cannot satisfy. We long for peace. We long for a better world. We long for God.

Thankfully, Advent is always out of step with our culture's demands. The Biblical texts in our Advent Sundays worship matches our deep longings and speaks to us of the solid hope we have in Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again.

I am eagerly looking forward to experiencing the Calvary Advent Festival for the first time on Dec. 2, 3, & 4. The theme of this year's Advent Festival is "PONDER ANEW." Take time to do that at the Advent Festival, and at worship each weekend during the Advent season.

In His royal service,  
*Pastor Ron Hanson*



*"Where is Christ in your Christmas?"*

**Ponder Anew-  
What the Almighty Can Do**  
*Advent Festival 2011*

*"Great are the words of the Lord;  
they are pondered by all who delight in them."*

*-Psalm 111:2*

Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - {1pm -7pm}

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - {1pm - 7pm}

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - {1pm - 5pm}

Calvary Lutheran Church

302 Olona Ave SE  
Willmar Minnesota

www.calvarylutheranchurch.com

320-235-2508

**YOUNG ADULT & MILITARY  
CHRISTMAS CARDS**



**CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
★ FOR THE MILITARY ★

If you have a young adult or a person in the military who you would like to send a special greeting card to, please give Gina his or her name and address. Confirmation youth will send him or her a greeting card filled with holiday cheer! We need names and addresses by **Wednesday, December 7.**

*December*



*Special Music*

- Dec 4:** 8:00 a.m. Calvary Choir  
9:00 a.m. Free Spirits  
11:05 a.m. JoAnn Halverson
- Dec 10:** 5:30 p.m. Terry Shaw
- Dec 11:** 8:00 & 9:00 a.m. One Accord  
11:05 a.m. Chapel Kids
- Dec 17:** 5:30 p.m. Britta Lund
- Dec 18:** 8:00 & 9:00 a.m. Terry Mikes  
11:05 a.m. Sun. & Wed. School  
Advent Program with Calvary Choir
- Dec 24:** 4:00 p.m. Lori Halverson  
5:45 p.m. Calvary Choir  
10:30 p.m. Tvette family
- Dec 25:** 9:00 a.m. TBA
- Dec 31:** 5:30 p.m. Shirley Ringness

**PIZZA RANCH FUNDRAISER**



Please save your appetite for some tasty food on **Monday, December 19, 5-8 pm** at the *Pizza Ranch*. All tips and a portion of the dine-in and carry-out

orders will go toward the youth and adult leaders going to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA this summer.

GENERAL FUND TREASURER'S REPORT  
JANUARY–OCTOBER



	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>		
GENERAL FUND	548,871	556,930
STEPPING FORWARD	56,638	57,116
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	69	500
BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP	875	850
RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP	2,825	2,850
CHRISTMAS/EASTER	7,848	7,000
CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	2,519	2,500
INTEREST INCOME	<u>893</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>620,538</b>	<b>628,746</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
BENEVOLENCE	60,824	62,840
PROGRAM MUSIC AND WORSHIP	70,334	71,916
EVANGELISM OUTREACH	4,707	5,698
CHILDREN & FAMILY	51,529	55,962
YOUTH & FAMILY	48,659	48,201
STEWARDSHIP	2,575	2,800
LIBRARY	1,304	1,287
MAINTENANCE AND PROPERTY	112,445	114,563
ADMINISTRATION	114,766	121,009
PASTORAL STAFF	<u>179,363</u>	<u>193,833</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>646,506</b>	<b>678,109</b>

FIRST FRUITS BENEVOLENCE GIVING  
JANUARY–OCTOBER

	<u>2011 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2010 ACTUAL</u>
ELCA SW MN SYNOD	23,452	23,361
PAZ Y ESPERANZA	8,022	6,762
ELCA MISSIONARY-SYLOVAKIA	3,344	2,664
ELCA MISSIONARY-JAPAN	3,344	2,664
ELCA MISSIONARY-MADAGASCAR	1,333	2,664
SUNBEAM ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION	1,851	1,844
WILLMAR AREA FOOD SHELF	1,851	1,844
SALVATION ARMY	2,468	2,459
GREEN LAKE MINISTRY	4,319	4,303
MEALS ON WHEELS	1,851	1,844
LAKELAND CONFERENCE MINISTRY	4,319	4,303
PRISONERS OF HOPE	0	338
DISCRETIONARY BENEVOLENCE	2,819	1,000
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	<u>1,851</u>	<u>1,844</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,824</b>	<b>57,894</b>

*Thank you for your generous support of Calvary Lutheran Church and its missions.*

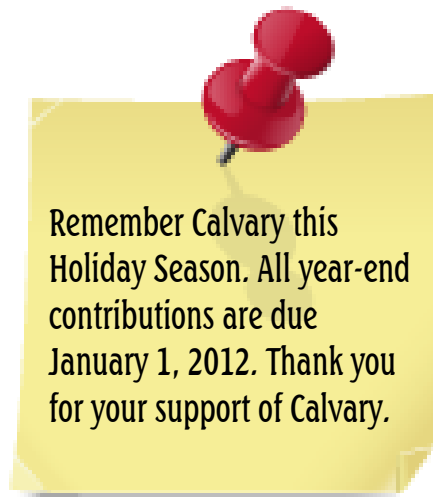
*Comments: General Fund contributions 1.5% under budget for the year. Stepping Forward contributions 0.8% under budget for the year. Total expenses 4.8% under budget for the year.*



**ANNUAL MEETING  
ANNUAL REPORTS**

Calvary's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. in Bethany Hall. All Boards, Committee Chairs and staff are asked to have their Annual Reports turned into the church office by December 15.

The ELCA Youth Gathering participants will be offering a meal before the Annual Meeting. This will be a free will donation.



Remember Calvary this Holiday Season. All year-end contributions are due January 1, 2012. Thank you for your support of Calvary.

*“ God wants to give you, peace, and He wants to renew your spirit.  
It’s up to you to slow down and give God a chance to do so.”* -Anonymous

**Sunday Opportunities**

**Jr. High Youth - December 11 and 18 from 10 - 10:50 am** meet in the **Youth Room** for treats, prayer, a fun game and continue to enjoy the spiritual messages from the *It’s You* DVD series which digs into the scripture and youth’s lives to help provide learning and support for all who participate.

**Sr. High Youth - December 11 and 18 from 10 - 10:50 am** in the **Sr. High Room** (located by Bethany Hall and the Cave) for treats, prayer, fellowship, conversation, and digging into God’s Word. Please join us!

**YOUTH & FAMILY BOARD**  
Our next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, December 12, 5 pm at the Community Center.** The meeting is open to anyone who is interested in attending.



**ANNUAL YOUTH & FAMILY SKI TRIP**



In January the Annual Youth & Family ski outing will be taking place at Powder Ridge in Kimball, MN. More details to follow in next month’s Messenger and bulletin announcements.

**DO YOU LIKE TO WRITE LETTERS?**

If you are interested in writing a letter to our International Compassion Child sponsored by Calvary’s youth, please let Gina know.



**JR. HIGH MINI LOCK-IN**

**On Friday, February 3 from 7:30 pm to 12 midnight at the Willmar YMCA,** Calvary with Bethel Lutheran Church and St. Mary’s Catholic Church, are offering an evening of fellowship for youth in **grades 6th - 8th grade.** Please save this date on your family calendar.

**Fund Raisers for the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, summer 2012.**

**Thank you for your support.**

- **Looking for a stocking stuffer with some spiritual meaning?**

If you would like to purchase a unique wooden die (cube) with six different meal time prayers on it for a godchild, grandchild, child or for an adult, please let Gina know and she’ll order as many as you want. The cost is \$4 each.



- **Calendar Sale**

If you would like a *Splendor of Norway* or *Splendor of Sweden* calendar please let Gina know. The cost is \$13.



**Community Meal Service**

**Sunday, December 18 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm,** we are in need of youths, parents, and grandparents to help serve this important meal. So far we have had over 30 participate in the serving and clean-up for these meals. It feels good to serve! If you are interested, please let Gina know!

**MEMORY VERSE** for the current rotation: Help your child learn his or her memory verse!

**Rotation #3**

**The Plagues** – Exodus 7:5 – “*The Egyptians shall know that I am Lord when I stretch out my hand against them. . .*”

## Advent Worship Program



Children ages 3 years through sixth grade will be leading worship for this year’s Advent worship program, *Every Perfect Gift*, on Sunday, December 18, at the 11:05am worship service. Please note: Practices will be on Sunday, December 11 during the education hour, Wednesday, December 14 from 5:30 – 7pm, and Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 – 11:00am. On the day of the program, children will meet in Bethany Hall at 10:05am for a last minute rehearsal. **Don’t forget** to continue filling your candy tube with quarters for the “Mission Against Malaria” project. Children should bring their tubes with them on December 18. They will give their tubes as an offering during worship as a part of the program.

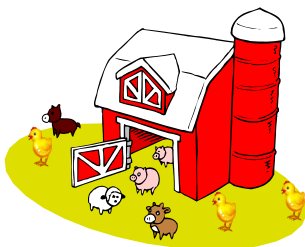
**Psalm 119: 33** “*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.*”

As of this writing, we have just completed our second rotation for this Christian education year—*The Burning Bush*. Special thanks to those who helped with this rotation: Jennifer Halverson, Jean Berg, Andy Berg, Joni Hanson, and Heather Fostervold. If you would like to teach a workshop for an upcoming rotation, Mary would be delighted to find a fit for you and fill you in on what’s needed. The curriculum is teacher friendly and the time commitment is very reasonable. Consider helping out with Children’s ministry in this meaningful way. And please, always keep Children and Family Ministry at Calvary in your prayers.

**Family pages** for this year’s rotations are available on Calvary’s website: [calvarylutheranchurch.com](http://calvarylutheranchurch.com). The path to find Family pages on the website is as follows: Ministries/Children & Family/Family Ministries—scroll down to **Spark Family Pages**. Family pages can also be found at the Welcome Center, on the kiosk, in Olive Branch, and other places around church. Also, pick up the new winter quarter of **SPARK FAMILY** devotional to take home and share with your family. It has some wonderful articles and ideas to help your family prepare for the coming of the Christ Child during Advent and to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

## NOISEY OFFERING

We are still collecting money for our special stewardship project this fall—**God’s Global Barnyard**. This project is through the **ELCA God’s Good Gifts** program. Calvary kids chose to save their change to purchase chicks--\$10 buys ten chicks. Ten little chicks make a big difference! When they are just months old, these chicks begin laying eggs, which make nutritious meals for families who are hungry. The many extra eggs are often enough to allow a family to start a small business by selling them for additional income. Information on this worthy project is available on the kiosk. The first noisy offering was held October 9<sup>th</sup>. We collected \$189.39. **The next noisy offering will be Sunday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 7.** If your child needs a barn, please see Mary and she will see that you get one! Extra boxes are available at the Welcome Center, too. Thank you for encouraging your child to save for this worthy project.



## REMINDER:

The last night for Wednesday night programming, Station 16 and Noah’s Ark, will be Wednesday, December 7. Wednesday night programming will resume on January 4, 2012. Kingdom .com will continue to be open on Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5pm, until the Christmas break.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS CORNER

*“ God loves a cheerful giver . . . ”*

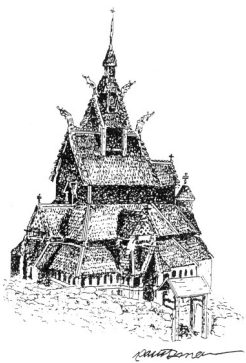


Even though the weather feels somewhat like autumn, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the **Giving Tree** at Calvary Lutheran are coming fast. The tree will be put up on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, which is **November 26, 2011**. Gifts need to be in the office by **December 14** so we can get them

to the agencies in time for them to get the gifts distributed. There will be ornaments with suggestions for gifts for young and old. Please use a gift bag for your gift. There will also be ornaments that will have a money amount for our Discretionary Fund. This fund supplements our budget so we can provide the events and services that we have in past years. The need is great again this year. Calvary has always been a giving congregation. We thank you for that!

*The Social Concern Committee*

## LITTLE CHRISTMAS EVE NORWEGIAN SERVICE



Again this year a tradition that was re-established at Calvary in 1991 will be observed. This is the Lillejulaften Norsk Gudstjeneste (little Christmas eve Norwegian worship service) that will take place on Friday evening, December 23 at 7:00 pm. This is a worship service with the liturgy, Christmas carols, and sermon in the Norwegian language. (The service booklet

and sermon notes will have the English translation along side the Norwegian). There will be a time of enjoyment of coffee, Christmas treats, and fellowship following the service in Bethany hall. Plan now to make this event a part of your Christmas celebration this year.

## *Thank you and Appreciation*

Helen Ensrude and family want to thank you for all the support Calvary gave us during Percy’s illness and death. The visits from Pastors Tim, Dean, and Ron meant so much to both of us while he was in the hospital. Thanks to the ladies for serving our lunch. Calvary has made us feel very welcome the four years we have been here.

*Helen Ensrude*

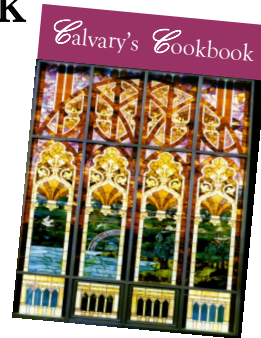
## COORDINATOR NEEDED

Meals on Wheels is one of the many outlets Calvary members have to serve their community. Organizations are given 2-week time periods 4 times a year in which we must supply three drivers a day Monday through Saturday. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who take an hour out of their day to deliver meals and a smile to the many folks in Willmar who need this service. I would like to personally thank all of you who have answered my call over the past 10 years. Now it's time for me to turn this responsibility over to someone new. If you like talking to people on the phone, this job's for you! Please contact me at 320-235-2417 or [karenhanson3@charter.net](mailto:karenhanson3@charter.net) and I'll give you all the information and help I can.

Thanks! *Karen Hanson*

## ADOPT A COOKBOOK

The cookbook committee is offering an opportunity to purchase a Calvary cookbook and donate it to an outreach group such as: Salvation Army, Food Shelf, Group Homes or some other group or organization of your choice. The committee will deliver the cookbook, in your name, to the requested organization or person in the area at no additional charge. Stop at the church office or on Sunday morning at the Welcome Center



to purchase a cookbook. This will make a wonderful sharing gift. Thank you.

*The Calvary Cookbook Committee*

**Our Parish Leadership**

**President:** Mike Schroeder  
**Vice President:** Mark Thompson  
**Secretary:** Trisha Appeldorn

**Pastors**

**Staff e-mail addresses**

Pastor Timothy Larson	pastortim@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Pastor Dean E. Johnson	pastordean@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Pastor Ron Hanson	pastorron@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Interim Pastor Les Halverson, Business Manager	lesh@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Regina V. Hatzinger Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry	gina@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Mary Gabel Coordinator of Children & Family Ministry	mary@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Cathie Helland Director of Music Ministry	cathlyn@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Deb Rice, Office Manager	deb@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Linda Broberg Office Assistant	linda@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Calvary Library	library@calvarylutheranchurch.com
Dona Haines, Parish Nurse	bobdona@en-tel.net
Dena Eichelberger, Parish Nurse	ikel@charter.net
Ron Keith, Cemetery Sexton	ronbon@charter.net

Check out Calvary's web site at [www.calvarylutheranchurch.com](http://www.calvarylutheranchurch.com)

**PARISH NURSE:**

**Stress and Anxiety Management**

Hello, my name is Michelle Renteria, a nursing student at Ridgewater College & a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. I recently met with the confirmation class about stress and anxiety management. I would like to share some of those ideas and thoughts.

Stress and anxiety in children and teenagers are just as prevalent as in adults. When one has chronic stress and anxiety in their lives it can lead to imbalances in the mind, body, and soul. Constant stress can ruin one's spirit, slowing down the motivation to lead a meaningful life. Understand that stress can cause an individual to fall into compulsive, obsessive behavior and fear. Stressed out individuals can be easily charmed by negative habits of procrastination, addiction to alcohol, smoking and substance abuse which all arise from a loss of self-confidence and inner strength. Stressors can distort one's spiritual well being and may lead to symptoms such as self-doubt, jealousy, suspicion, difficulties in interpersonal relationships, feelings of loneliness, and a sense of inadequacy which are all directly linked to one's spiritual disturbances.

**Tips to remember:**

- Talk with your child.
- Find out what's happening in his life.
- Be honest and open with him.
- Compliment children when they do well, find something good to say about them every day.
- Allow them to have some "me" time.
- Don't overload your child with too many after-school activities and responsibilities.

It was an honor and a privilege to meet with the kids." Thank You" to Gina Hatzinger, Dona Haines, and Pastor Larson for your input, ideas and the time needed to talk with the confirmation class.

*Written by Michelle Renteria  
 Submitted by Dona Haines,  
 Parish Nurse, Calvary Lutheran Church*

**ADULT FORUMS**

**Sundays at 10:05 a.m. in Bethany Hall**  
 Dec 4—"Preparing for Christmas" - Pastor Dean  
 Dec 11—"We are married to a Pastor!"  
 Connie Larson and Debbie Johnson



**NTY: NOT THROUGH YET**

**Date:** December 9, 2011 at 12:00 noon  
**RSVP:** Please call the church office (235-2508) by Wednesday noon December 7 to make reservations.  
**Please bring assorted Christmas cookies to share.**

No joining required - come when you can!



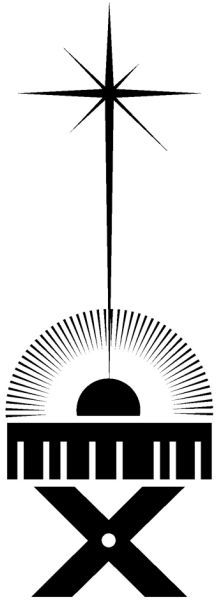
**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
 302 Olena Avenue SE  
 Willmar, MN 56201  
 (320) 235-2508  
[www.calvarylutheranchurch.com](http://www.calvarylutheranchurch.com)

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**Return Service Requested**



*Christmas Worship at Calvary*



***Fourth Sunday of Advent***  
 Saturday, December 17  
 5:30 p.m. Chapel Worship  
 Sunday, December 18  
 8:00 a.m. Worship  
 9:00 a.m. New Horizon Worship  
 11:05 a.m. Worship/Sunday School  
 Youth/Calvary Choir

***Little Norwegian  
 Christmas Eve Service***  
 Friday, December 23—7:00 p.m.

***Early Christmas Eve Services***  
 Saturday, December 24  
 Service of Carols/Communion/  
 Candlelighting—4:00 & 5:45 p.m.

***Late Christmas Eve Worship***  
 Saturday, December 24  
 Festival Communion/Candlelighting—10:30 p.m.

***Christmas Day***  
 Sunday, December 25  
 Festival Worship/Holy Communion—9:00 a.m.

***New Year's Eve Worship***  
 Saturday, December 31  
 Holy Communion/Chapel—5:30 p.m.

***First Sunday after Christmas***  
 Sunday, January 1, 2012  
 New Year's Day Worship/Holy Communion  
 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.