

Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

December 23, 2012

✚✚✚ Welcome to our Worship Service! ✚✚✚

Devotional:----- Jonathan Miller
Message:----- Henry Nissley
Offering:----- School
SS Lesson:----- Luke 2

Adult and Youth Verse: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

Intermediate Verse: But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 1 Tim. 6:11

Junior Verse: But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6

Primary Verse: "In the world ye

shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Preschool Verse: "I will be glad in the Lord." Ps. 104:34

SS Lesson for next week: 1 Corinthians 7

Adult and Youth Verse for next week: Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 1 Cor. 7:24

Today's Host Family: Elmer & Pauline Yoder

Next Sunday Hosts: Elam & Nina Nissley

☐☐☐☐☐ CHILDREN'S CORNER ☐☐☐☐☐☐

Roseate Spoonbill, Created on Day 5

Design The roseate spoonbill feeds by wading slowly through the water, sweeping its long bill from side to side, capturing insects, minnows, plants, and small crustaceans.

Features The roseate spoonbill has a greenish unfeathered head, white neck and back, pink wings and underparts, and red legs and eyes. Feathers on its shoulders can be red during breeding. Its most distinctive feature is its gray spoon-shaped bill, which is very long.

Fun Facts The roseate spoonbill makes strange, guttural noises while it eats. The roseate spoonbill's pink coloration comes from the carotenoid pigments contained in the organisms in its diet.

It flies in diagonal formation with other spoonbills.

In the 1800s, roseate spoonbills were nearly hunted to extinction because their beautiful pink feathers were highly prized for women's hats and fans.

CLASS: Aves (birds) **ORDER:** Ciconiiformes (storks, herons, and relatives)

FAMILY: Threskiornithidae (ibises and spoonbills) **GENUS/SPECIES:** Ajaia ajaja

Average 2.5 ft (0.8 m) **Diet:** Mainly aquatic insects, also crayfish, shrimp, fish, and occasionally mollusks and plant matter **Habitat:** Inland wetlands with fresh or brackish water from Florida and the Gulf Coast of Texas to Central and South America

-Kids Answers/ Animals

Announcements:

- This Evening: Free Evening
- Wednesday evening service is canceled this week.
- No school Monday-Wednesday for Christmas vacation. School resumes Thursday.

○ ○ ○ ○ ~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~ ○ ○ ○ ○

Dec. 29, Happy Birthday! Jonathan Miller, 1967

A Heartwarming One For Christmas
When I was a child of about twelve years old, we had a Christmas that I have never forgotten. We grew up in humble means to say the least, but we generally always had one or two gifts under the tree even if they were only socks and underwear.

During this particular Christmas, by good fortune we had many gifts. For the first time in a long time, we received a lot of the things we actually wanted. I was one of seven children, so this was a very big deal. We were all so excited and could hardly wait until Christmas morning. However, on that Christmas Eve, after careful reflection and much heated discussion, my father decided that it was much too much, and that in this frenzy that we had lost the true meaning of Christmas. With much trepidation, we were instructed to hand over all but one of our unopened gifts. There was some crying, some anger, some shock and disbelief. What happened next truly astounded us. My father loaded all those gifts into his truck and we all piled in. We went from house to house in our community and handed out our things.

Some of the families we knew, some we didn't. All were as poor as we were. Some had no gifts except for ours. As that truck rounded corner after corner, slowly, very slowly, the anger left. The shock and disbelief vanished and were replaced with a different sort of emotion. We all started to feel a overwhelming sense of joy in this service. The mark that this experience left on our lives has changed the way we look at Christmas forever.

Never before had I grasped what Christmas was truly about. It is about unselfish giving. Not of toys or gifts, but giving of ourselves. It was of Christ who would give the ultimate gift of eternal life.

That experience taught us that at the celebration of his birth, our "giving" should reflect his ultimate sacrifice. He gave the whole of his life in our service and for our sake showing us His love. Hence the best gift we can give to others at Christmas is our time, sharing our talents, and genuine love, as acts of kindness.

Received from Dr. Scott Brooksby.

For some time we were thinking about creating a church website, do you have any input or questions? With so many Churches named Calvary Mennonite a lot of website domains are already taken up & the closest website that would resemble our church name would be calvarymennonitechurch.org. If we sign up with <http://www.weebly.com> before the end of year we get it for better pricing. Costs would be approx 36.00 per year after the initial domain purchase of 249.00 which would last for 10 years. Feel free to ask Chad if you have any questions. Thanks!