

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A man who has rejected the Christian faith walks into a gymnasium opens fire and kills himself and three young women. He kept a journal to reflect his thoughts leading up to this horrific event. It shows that he spent 13 years in a Christian church, but said that he was kept there by fear and guilt. According to this man the pastor “teaches (and convinced me) you can commit mass murder then still go to heaven”. Three years after leaving the church he commits this unspeakable act. If you read his journal there is a sense of isolation and alienation. From his point of view, his family failed him and the rest of the world was just not interested. His greatest frustration seemed to come from his inability to find a girlfriend.

Christmas Day 2009, a bright young man from a wealthy family in Nigeria decides to fulfill his faith by trying to blow up a plane and spread Jihad. The New York Times described this man's journey from “gifted student to terrorist” as a struggle between “investment in this life and a disconnected young man's apparent longing for the next”. His father was a pious Muslim who was successful in this world. The son could not stand this world any longer.

Just a few weeks ago a man flew a plane into an IRS office building trying to take as many with him into death as he could. He was frustrated with his inability to make money and the government's willingness to take his money to bailout big corporations. This despite the fact that he lived in a nice house in a nice neighborhood and owned his own airplane.

While the reasons each man has for his horrific actions differ, a constant thread runs through them. They feel disconnected and alienated from the world. That alienation flows from uncaring people, an uncaring religion, and an uncaring government, respectively. Each man thinks he could find an answer if those outside of themselves were fixed. The right woman, the right religion in enough people, or the right government would have solved all their problems.

Are they right to feel alienated from the world? Certainly it is a common problem. Most of us feel some sense of alienation from the world at various points of our life. It is easy to get frustrated with big government, big religion, and even each other.

What is the source of this alienation? The core problem is this. God made us to be in relationship – to share love with one another in marriage, in family, in

neighborly relationships, and in other kinds of fellowship. We know we need this and yet the people of this world inevitably fall short of the standard that we know is right – God's standard. Yet even this is not the sole source of our alienation. In our hearts we know that something is not quite right in us as well as outside us. One reaction can be to place the blame for that on other people or institutions. The fact that other people are sinners does not make them the source of alienation for us. It is just easier on our sinful nature to blame other people. In the end our relationships are never what they should be because of sin – our sin and the sin of other people. We are alienated not only from each other, but also from our creator.

What is the solution to this alienation? The world will provide lots of solutions — therapy, violence, meditation, money, instant gratification, etc. There is only one solution that works. The cause of this alienation must be taken away. In fellowship with the creator, we receive everything we need to overcome alienation, but our own sin bars us from that fellowship. As long as we remain in our sin that fellowship is beyond us.

Christ came to solve that problem. He became flesh to destroy sin. Because He has overcome sin, that alienation that we feel in ourselves is overcome. We remain imperfect people in an imperfect world, until the return of Christ. However, we have perfect fellowship not in who we are but in who Christ is.

As we see the great evil that arises from people who are alienated and act it out violently, we react with horror, but also with hope. Not the hope that “you can commit mass murder then still go to heaven”. But a hope that finds true fellowship with each other and God in the person and sacrifice of Christ. A hope that sees a redeemed world that Christ is bringing even in this fallen world we live in.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt

## Board of Christian Education

- **Can you help with Sunday School?** We're looking for Sunday School Teachers for the following classes:
  - A teacher for the third thru fifth grade class. This class currently has five children enrolled.
  - Someone to "team teach" a class of younger kids with Beth Joynt.
  - Someone to teach the two year olds for the month of March. This is not so much a formal class as it is keeping the two-year-olds occupied in a positive way while their families attend Bible Study/Sunday School. This position might be ideal for a High School Student or Winter Visitor.
- **Vacation Bible School** is tentatively scheduled for the first week in August. We would love to have volunteers to help plan and/or participate in VBS.
- Looking for another great way to support Calvary's youth? How about sponsoring one or more of the youths attending the **Higher Things Youth Gathering**. Look for more details soon.

Please contact the Church Office, Beth Joynt or any member of the Board of Christian Education if you are interested in helping with any of these projects.



The LWML enjoyed the annual mug exchange for the February meeting. The March meeting will be on **MONDAY NIGHT, MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>** rather than the usual Thursday. This is a change for March only. Johnnie Alstadt will be telling us about quilting for World Relief. Johnnie has revived this at Calvary after an absence of many years. Technically this is not quilting but involves cutting, assembling, sewing straight seams and tying, so being a seamstress is not necessary. Please come and join us at the LWML meeting and see how it is done and find out just where all these quilts go. There are probably hundreds of them on their way to Haiti at this time.

The annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We have decided to go back to a one day sale this year. So we will be setting up on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and can use a lot of help. We are always in need of men to assemble the clothing racks, set up tables and help with pricing items. All those able to help are asked to come at 9:00 AM on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be Lenten potlucks at 6:00 PM on the first four Wednesday nights during March. Please come for the meal, fellowship and the service following. If you are able to help set up ahead of time on any of those Wednesday night, please talk to Elaine Green.

**REMEMBER:** ALL women members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are LWML members.

## 2009 BUDGET



### Contributions & Expenses JANUARY 2010

Contributions	\$11,543.77
Expenses	\$14,453.68
Building Fund Contri.	\$ 565.00
Building Principal Contri.	\$10,100.00
Building Fund Expense	\$12,672.81
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	
Contributions	\$11,543.77
Expenses	\$14,453.68
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 5,780.00
Building Principal Contrib	\$10,700.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 1,057.00
<b>OVERALL FUND BALANCES</b>	
Building Fund	\$ 719.26
Altar Carpet	\$ 5,159.38



Rummage Sale  
March 13th

# Happy Birthday! BAPTISM



Shirley Nelson	03/02	Rosemary Suhr	03/01
Eva Lowe	03/06	Jacob Rochester	03/02
Marilyn Engel	03/07	Jordan Rutledge	03/03
Jacob LeClerc	03/09	AJ McDunn	03/11
Connie Wubbena	03/10	Carolyn Macomber	03/13
Brian Atchley	03/11	Leroy Pickett	03/18
Mark Ford	03/11	John Cochran	03/19
Lisa Stewart	03/12	Chris Gott	03/20
Eleanor Knapp	03/13	Brian Atchley	03/23
Patrick Stuebs	03/13	Jane Pray	03/25
Trina Elam	03/24	Addison Hildestad	03/29
Al Rahn	03/28	Shirley Haugrose	03/31
Shirley Haugrose	03/31		

## Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 11:00am followed by a potluck, and at 7:00pm, preceded by a potluck at 6:00pm.

March 3: The Faithful Word; (Matthew 27:46) "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

March 10: The Compassionate Word; (John 19:26-27) "Woman, behold, your son!" "Behold, your mother!"

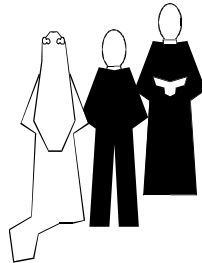
March 17: The Suffering Word; (John 19:28) "I thirst."

March 24: The Dying Word; (Luke 23:46) "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!"



## ANNIVERSARIES

Loren & Eleanor Knapp	03/08
Constance & Dennis Boucher	03/18
Eugene & Irene Perman	03/21
Elaine & Hank Green	03/25



## Memorial

A memorial for Dorothy Bell will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Engler Avenue Friday, March 5, 2010 at 10:00am.

Dorothy Bell was a member of Calvary and started Yuma Lutheran school which now resides at Christ Lutheran Church. Dorothy transferred to Christ Lutheran when the school opened there.

Calvary Lutheran Church is still looking for someone to be our LCEF representative.



### BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LOAN

LCEF Loan



Balance (02/23/2010)	\$122,862.61
Principle payment 02/05/2010	\$ 10,100.00



IN APRIL WE RETURN TO 1(ONE) 9:00AM SERVICE AND BIBLE CLASSES AT 10:15AM.

March 2010

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	2	3 11:00 AM-Lenten Service 12:00 PM-Pot luck 04:30 PM-Adult information class 06:00 PM-Pot luck Dinner 07:00 PM-Lenten Service	4 09:30 AM-Emerald Springs 03:45 PM-Confirmation class	5 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 10:00 AM Dorothy Bell Memorial at Christ Lutheran Church	6 07:30 AM-Bible Study
7 08:00 AM-Worship Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM-Communion Service	8	9	10 11:00 AM-Lenten Service 12:00 PM-Pot luck 02:00 PM-Worship Committee 06:00 PM-Pot luck Dinner 07:00 PM-Lenten Service	11 09:00 AM-Elders meeting 09:30 AM-Emerald Springs 03:45 PM-Confirmation class 05:00 PM-Yuma Community Justice	13 07:30 AM-Bible Study 09:00 AM-LWML Rummage Sale 
14 08:00 AM-Communion Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM-Worship Service	15 06:00 AM-Newsletter articles due	16 05:30 PM-Dinner meetings 06:00 PM-Board 07:00 PM-Council	17 11:00 AM-Lenten Service 12:00 PM-Pot luck 06:00 PM-Pot luck Dinner 07:00 PM-Lenten Service	18 09:30 AM-Emerald Springs 03:45 PM-Confirmation class 05:00 PM-Yuma Community Justice	19 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting
21 08:00 AM-Worship Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM-Communion Service	22	23	24 11:00 AM-Lenten Service 12:00 PM-Pot luck 06:00 PM-Pot luck Dinner 07:00 PM-Lenten Service	25 09:30 AM-Emerald Springs 03:45 PM-Confirmation class 05:00 PM-Yuma Community Justice	26 07:30 AM-Bible Study
28 <b>PASSION SUNDAY</b> 08:00 AM-Communion Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study 10:45 AM-Worship Service 	29 <b>HOLY WEEK</b> Yuma County Fair Week Good luck all of our 4H'ers and FFA'ers	30	31 12:00 PM-Fair Lunch at 4H Food Booth	<b>WE RETURN TO 1 (ONE) SERVICE IN APRIL AT 9:00AM WITH BIBLE CLASSES AT 10:15AM.</b>	