

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

He is Risen. Alleluia. Here is the central truth of our faith. It is not central in that it is the most important teaching. That is justification by faith – that we stand right before God by believing that in Christ's death He has made us right. It is central in that it proves the truth of what Christ has said throughout His life. Paul puts it this way: **¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.** (1 Cor 15:14-19).

Here Paul explains why the resurrection is crucial. If Christ did not rise from the dead then our testimony about God is flat out wrong. Not only do we have no hope, but having hoped in the wrong thing, we are to be greatly pitied. In the end if Christ rose everything else about our faith becomes easy to believe. For example, people in the Church will sometimes accept basic Christianity but then throw doubt on specific things. So they will find it impossible to believe that Noah's flood covered all the world, or that God created the world in six days, or that Jesus actually fed 5,000 people, or walked on water. The answer to this is always simple – so you believe that Jesus rose from the dead after the cross and three days in the grave, but you do not think God is capable of a flood or creating anyway he wants to or ? In other words, once you accept that God has entered into history to become man, die, and rise again, nothing else seems particularly difficult or strange for God.

What is interesting in my experience is that the resurrection is not difficult to believe. I have had non-believers say to me that it must be very difficult for Christians to keep believing in the resurrection. But my experience, both as a Pastor and as a man, is the opposite. Christians have many difficulties, and their

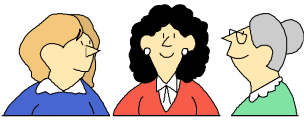
belief is often challenged, but the veracity of the resurrection seems to rarely be the direction of attack. Instead, the struggle with belief has to do with sinfulness. How could God allow the sinfulness of the world? How could God love me given my own sinfulness? Why does God not rescue me from this situation? How could God allow _____ to happen? All of these things challenge Christians at various points of their lives. The resurrection usually seems easy.

The resurrection is an historical event. It happened in time and history. One can choose to disbelieve it, just as one can choose to deny the holocaust, but neither is very rational. The evidence points in one direction. History never has the certainty of math, nor the reliability of true faith, but a careful study of the evidence points to a man named Jesus who performed miraculous deeds, died upon the cross, and rose from the dead. Why then do so many apparently intelligent people decide not to believe? Simply because they have untrue faith. In the case of materialists that faith is in the natural order – everything we see and experience can be explained by some natural cause and there are no supernatural causes. In the case of Islam the untrue faith is in Mohammed and the Koran. Other untrue faiths abound. Unbelief never comes from reason but from faith misapplied. Untrue faith always has its roots in sin. People in their sinful state, do not want to believe in the one true God. It is better to believe in no God or a false God, and thereby maintain a sinful sense of our own place in the world than to admit a true God who had to become flesh and die for our helplessness. So the sinful heart will always believe.

Praise God that the Holy Spirit has come and given us a true faith. A faith that knows a God so gracious as to suffer our sin, rather than to suffer our sin to continue. A Lord who has overcome our sinfulness rather than letting our sinfulness overcome us. A Father so loving as to die for our life. He is risen. Alleluia.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt



The LWML had another busy month in March. We had our regular monthly meeting on the first. Johnnie Altstatt explained the World Relief quilting project and we all pitched in and tied seven quilts/comforters. We are assuming that many of these will find their way to Haiti and Chile.

The annual rummage sale was held for one day only on Saturday, the 13th. We had great help setting up on Friday and for the sale on Saturday. A BIG THANK YOU to all those who showed up to help both days. Many hands made the work much easier (and it is work setting up!). We took in \$1000 which we will no doubt decide where to designate at the April meeting. Also, THANKS to all those who brought items for the rummage sale.

By the time you read this there will also have been the last two Lenten suppers before service.

Because of Maundy Thursday, the April meeting will be on Thursday, April 8th. The FL/GA District LWML President will be visiting in Yuma and has consented to be the program that night. She will tell of her two week LWML Mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya in March of 2008. She was one of a group of eight LWML women who made this trip which included witnessing in a women's prison. We look forward to an interesting program. Everyone is welcome to come and hear her.

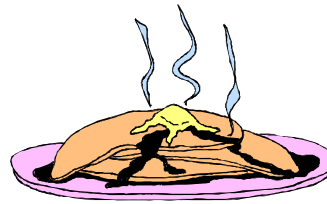
REMEMBER: ALL women members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are LWML members.

From the Mission Board

Be A Voice For Life!

1. I will pray for the preservation of Human Life because I know that nothing else I do will have greater impact.
2. I will talk about my Pro-Life Beliefs whenever I can-to my family, friends, and church-so that they will know the truth about how much God values His creation.
3. I will vote my Pro-Life convictions by supporting candidates and legislation that protect and defend human life.

From Focus on the Family



COUNCIL

Back by popular demand,
**EASTER PANCAKE
BREAKFAST.**

A freewill offering will be taken for the breakfast for the youth trip to the Higher Things gathering.

Your illustrious cooks will be Tony Spano and Mike Ehrlich, assisted by Randy Williams, Mike & Carrie Kositzke, Ted Schauer, Beth & Matt Joynt, Jenny Rochester, Ron Foster and the youth members who will be attending the gathering.

ELDERS REPORT

The Board of Elders is starting to review the responses received for the Sunday Morning Questionnaire. Responses were due mid March. The board received more than 50 responses from the congregation in response to the survey. Winter visitors comprised about 40 percent of the responses with year-round members comprising the rest. Because the board had just received all responses by the deadline for the newsletter, future newsletters will further detail the results.

The Board continues to study the Book of Concord with the Pastor. The study also provides a historical background by learning how Satan twisted God's Word through the ages. The book is concise statement of Lutherans' understanding of God's Word and sets straight the false teaching of various sects.

The Board also reviewed the worship, volunteers, and Pastor's schedules for the upcoming quarter. If you have a concern about any aspect of congregational life, please speak with Bruce Fenske, Smokey Morner, Arlen Stange, or Gil Wheeler of the Board of Elders.

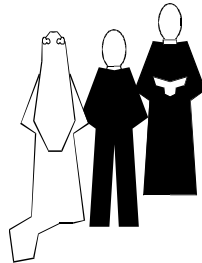
Happy Birthday! BAPTISM



Ray Huter	04/01	Norma Sigafoose	04/01
Arlene Schauer	04/03	Arlene Schauer	04/03
Johnnie Altstatt	04/04	Keith Macomber	04/08
Carolyn Claude	04/06	Pearl Gleichman	04/09
Jane Pray	04/07	Janet Ehrlich	04/12
Shawn Backs	04/09	Lynn Shoemaker	04/15
Iris Bezo	04/09	Adrienne Wagner	04/15
Margaret Morner	04/10	Maggie Fenske	04/16
Adrienne Wagner	04/16	Jacob LeClerc	04/16
Bruce Fenske	04/20	Jim Rochester	04/17
Pam Green	04/22	Barbara Wheeler	04/25
Apryl Brand - Applehans	04/26		
Derek Bezo	04/28		
Florence Wagner	04/29		

ANNIVERSARIES

Gaylyn & Virginia Hildestad	04/01
Michael & Donna Fairchild	04/07
Stanley & Eva Lou Phillips	04/08
Hank & Pam Green	04/19



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

	BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LOAN LCEF Loan
	Balance (03/22/2010) \$120,187.73 Principle payment 03/15/2010 \$ 1100.00

2009 BUDGET



Contributions & Expenses FEBRUARY 2010

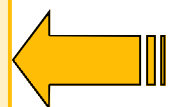
Contributions	\$10,609.25
Expenses	\$14,751.14
Building Fund Contri.	\$ 455.00
Building Principal Contri.	\$ 1,100.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 1,145.00
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$22,153.02
Expenses	\$29,204.82
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 1,020.00
Building Principal Contrib	\$11,200.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 2,177.00
OVERALL FUND BALANCES	
Building Fund	\$ 1,129.26
Altar Carpet	\$ 3,789.30

Barbecue Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in some way to support the 4th Annual Chicken barbecue. Many hands worked, and many people enjoyed a great meal. All enjoyed the blessings of our gracious Father whose gifts of fellowship and love never cease.

There were 241 meals served, allowing net of \$1232.00 to the Building Fund. What a joy and privilege it is to serve Christ at Calvary as we find different ways to fill the needs of our church family and the community.

IN APRIL WE RETURN TO 1(OONE) 9:00AM SERVICE AND BIBLE CLASSES AT 10:30AM.



Greetings from the Board of Stewardship...

"April showers bring May flowers" is an old saying that is fairly well known to adults and children as well. It is very true that God blesses His creation with rain which causes seeds to sprout and grow upon the earth. This blessing of rain is something good that God lavishes upon all people, regardless of whether or not they are believers in Jesus as their Savior. And, because of the blessing of rain, seedtime and harvest will prevail and the earth will yield its increase and provide food for all God's creatures. Not only does rain bring forth flowers but also the fruits and grains from gardens, vineyards, orchards and fields. God is good and His mercy endures forever. His rain will come not only in April but throughout the growing season.

We rejoice and are glad that God takes such bountiful care of our physical needs. That is important, but in April we will celebrate a special day which reminds us that God also takes care of all our spiritual needs. That day is Easter, a day set aside to celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin, death and the devil. As the Bible teaches, because He lives we shall also live. What great, good news that is to celebrate and share with others who also need to hear some good news.

Why does God lavish such rich physical blessings upon us? Dr. Martin Luther explains it so well when in the Small Catechism he wrote: *"All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!"*

Why does God lavish upon us such rich spiritual blessings because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? Again, in the Small Catechism Luther wrote: *"that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!"*

God lavishes His rich blessings upon us to manage and use in ways that honor Him and bless others as well as ourselves. This is what we mean when we talk about Christian stewardship. God's stewards freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes. This management includes taking care of God's creation so that the physical needs of all God's creatures are satisfied.

It also includes sharing the good news of hope and salvation through Jesus who died for us and rose again.

A blessed Easter to you all!
Board of Stewardship



Inquiring Minds want to know.....

Q: What is the best way to contribute to the retirement of the loan on the addition?

A: Mark your check/envelope with the words "PRINCIPAL ONLY". This will ensure that your contribution will lower the principal balance of our LCEF loan.



Q. What happens if I put the words "BUILDING FUND" on my check/envelope?

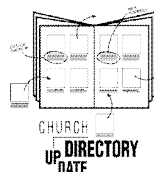
A: Your contribution will go into the general building fund. It will be used for general building project costs.



Mad Greek Restaurant Tithe Back Program

During 2010, the Mad Greek Restaurant is offering churches in the Yuma area an opportunity to participate in a profit sharing program. Simply put, whenever a member/friend of Calvary Lutheran decides to eat at the Mad Greek Restaurant, 10% of the total bill will be donated back to Calvary.

In order for Calvary to receive this quarterly donation, all you need to do is to **tell your cashier that you are a member of Calvary Lutheran Church** – as there are several churches with "Calvary" in the name - when you pay your bill. (Please note: the 10% Tithe back does NOT include sales tax).



DIRECTORIES ARE COMPLETED!!!!

Please see Carrie Kositzke or Janet in the office if you have not received your copy.