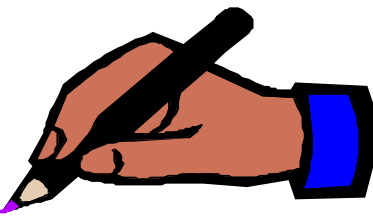


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! It is traditional in our culture to use the turning of the year as a chance to evaluate our last year and set goals for the next year. Thus we tend to see full gyms and empty chocolate shops. At the same time, this evaluation is a constant for people, and for Christians it is always colored by repentance. As we evaluate our past and look forward to the future, we see both through repentance colored glasses.

This means that we see clearly the sin behind us and even dimly the sin in front of us. We do not have easy answers on how to avoid the sin or even correct the errors our past sin has caused. But we do have an easy answer to sin itself. The reason we have repentance covered glasses is that we see through the light of Christ. The color of repentance is the bright light of Christ, that blocks out all sin. When Dorothy and her friends enter the Emerald City it is all green, not because it is actually green, but because they wear glasses with a green tint. Our lives are white in Christ not because they are perfect and without sin, but because God looks at them through Christ tinted glasses and calls us to do the same.

The problem is that our flesh, this world, and Satan himself are constantly throwing muck onto these glasses. If we could keep those glasses clean, and not allow sin to cover them, we would see the world as God intends it, apart from sin. But every hour of every day sin comes into our lives and hearts making this impossible.

How then to clean these glasses? This is even more the question than how now shall we live? We know how we are supposed to live – without sin. But how do we keep our view of the truth of God's grace when the world and our own lives are full of sin? Some will point to the struggle. As long as we are trying hard that is enough. Others will point to our desire. As long as we want to be without sin that is enough. However, these are both not enough and too much. Sin corrupts completely and we need a complete cleaning. Trying and the desire are not the thing, although they may be the sign of the thing. Thus they are not enough. They are too much in that they focus on our activity when the only source of cleanness is outside ourselves, Christ Jesus.

Rather it is God's word, Christ Himself, that cleans those glasses and further cleans us, so that what we see with those Christ tinted lenses becomes the reality. The primary way that God has given us to receive His word is through the Church and specifically divine service. Every time we decide to skip worship, for any reason, we allow our glasses to stay dirty and make it harder to see

pure truth in the world. If we avoid worship long enough, we will see nothing but the muck, and Satan will win. Receiving God's word in worship cleanses. Avoiding God's word is a sign of a desire to avoid being cleansed. This is why we know that people that actively decide not to worship are not Christian. A Christian will seek after opportunities to hear God's word and receive its cleansing. If you do not want to be cleansed of your sin, you may keep it. However, never forget that the only place you can permanently keep your sin is hell.

I was speaking with someone recently who frequently deals with people in spiritual need. He said how surprised he was at how often people had stopped going to the church because of the way the church had hurt them. Churches are full of sinners and so hurt will happen. But people who use that as an excuse to avoid church are committing the ultimate sin. They are seeing the world through muck filled lenses and so have forgotten forgiveness. They have forgotten not only their own dependence on forgiveness in Christ, but also have refused to apply it to others in the Church. This is the work of Satan. As Jesus puts it **“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”** (Matt. 12 v. 30-31). Denying forgiveness, of yourself or others, is blasphemy against the Spirit. So gather with your Lord. Do not be scattered.

Apart from God's gifts we are hopeless and lost. God has left us His body, the Church, in which to receive those gifts. The primary way those gifts are received is through worship. Use this New Year to attend to the discipline that improves not just this body and life, but all parts of you and the life to come. If you have stopped coming to church, start again before it is too late. If you attend worship sporadically, increase your attendance. If you attend regularly encourage others of our fellowship to do the same.

The Church is here, and always will be, to forgive sins and make sinners into children of God. The repentance which makes us children of God is not a singular event, but a daily part of our life. Come to church and receive the gifts that God intends for you, that in repentance you would see the world through Christ tinted glasses, as God intends.

In Christ,
Pastor Joynt



The LWML had another busy and enjoyable month. Our monthly meeting was on December 2nd. We had nineteen in attendance. Paula Backs led us in the devotion "Portraits of Christmas" and various ladies read parts about the towns and the sites of Jesus' birth. Then all the ladies got to work making door decorations for the residents at Emerald Springs. Everyone seemed to enjoy doing this and we made around 140 in a very short time. While making them, Marian Maurer played piano for us and we sang familiar Christmas hymns. We all agreed that we don't get to sing them often enough. THANK YOU, Marian. Because of the economy and the needs in the community, we decided to make mission gifts of \$100 to both the Salvation Army and the Yuma Food Bank.

Our 8th annual Cookie Walk was on the 4th. We made just over \$600. THANK YOU to all the ladies who made and furnished cookies and to our customers. The ladies who meet for Bible Study at Emerald Springs on Thursdays placed the decorations on the 9th. We were pleased to see the decorations we made last year in place on some of the doors.

Our January meeting will be Mary White from the Community Justice Board which meets here in our classrooms. Anyone who is interested in hearing about this program is welcome to attend. That will be Thursday, January 6th at 7 PM.

Our future plans include inviting everyone to join us for one of the concerts at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on a Sunday afternoon and then joining us for dessert and fellowship following the concert. You will hear more about this soon.

REMEMBER: all women who are members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are considered members of the LWML.

Best wishes to all for a BLESSED NEW YEAR.

NEW BULLETIN BOARD about the Lutheran Hour. We are one of the weekly sponsors on KCFY 88.1 FM on Sundays at 11:30 am. Encourage your homebound friends and neighbors to listen. Also those in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes. This broadcast is truly "Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church."

Fill the basket in the Fellowship Hall with non-perishable items for donating to the Yuma Community Food Bank. Many are unemployed in the Yuma area and need our help. "As you have done it to the least of my brethren, you have done it to me."

Thank you to all who volunteered at Crossroads Mission serving food and to those who donated baked goods during November and December.

We are in need of used Portals of Prayer to recycle in the Yuma area. Please drop them in the box in the Fellowship Hall entrance.

Mark your calendar for January 15, from 9 am to 3 pm and attend the Community Health Fair to be held in our Fellowship Hall. We also need volunteers. We'll have displays, speakers, demonstrations, food for sale, and door prizes. Watch the bulletin for more information. Also free coffee, tea, and cookies.

Life Sunday will be celebrated on January 23. We will have an ingathering of items needed by our local New Life Pregnancy Center.

February, the New Life Pregnancy Center will sponsor a WALK FOR LIFE at Smucker Park to raise money to save lives of the unborn. Start getting your sponsors now and begin your training for your 1, 2, or 3 mile trek.

Along with the Quilt Group, the Mission Board will be making quilts for newborns in the Yuma area. This project will be funded by Thrivent.

Something new at Calvary. Easter week, we will be celebrating Passover (Easter) by having a Seder Meal. More information coming later.

Happy Birthday!

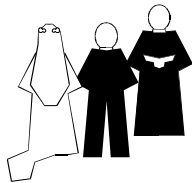
| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Terry Pray | 01/03 |
| Norma Sigafoose | 01/03 |
| Lynn Shoemaker | 01/05 |
| Peg Henderson | 01/07 |
| Hank Green | 01/10 |
| Marilyn Damet | 01/13 |
| Donna Barton | 01/14 |
| Madelyn Mason | 01/17 |
| Glen Wagner | 01/19 |
| Mary Ann Holloway | 01/23 |
| Leroy Pickett | 01/27 |
| Jacob Rochester | 01/27 |
| Michael Joynt | 01/29 |
| Gilbert Wheeler | 01/29 |
| Thomas Hoerauf | 01/31 |
| Carolyn Macomber | 01/31 |

BAPTISM

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Pam Green | 01/01 |
| Cecil Sigafoose Jr. | 01/01 |
| Robert Stash | 01/01 |
| Betty Stewart | 01/01 |
| Lisa Stewart | 01/01 |
| Randy Williams | 01/01 |
| Jerry Ferguson | 01/02 |
| Johnnie Ehrlich | 01/03 |
| Brian Rochester | 01/10 |
| Eleanor Knapp | 01/12 |
| Dawn Widmayer | 01/14 |
| Anna Joynt | 01/18 |
| Jackson Joynt | 01/18 |
| Haley Comstock | 01/26 |
| Roxana Williams | 01/26 |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Ron & Evelyn Foster | 01/18 |
| Rodney & Bonnie Fischer | 01/20 |
| John & Catherine Cochran | 01/21 |
| Mark & Teri Jo Ford | 01/21 |



2010 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



NOVEMBER 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Contributions | \$ 9,518.00 |
| Expenses | \$12,472.47 |
| Building Fund Contrib. | \$ 395.00 |
| Building Principal Contrib. | \$ 370.00 |
| Building Fund Expense | \$ |

YEAR TO DATE

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Contributions | \$112,137.37 |
| Expenses | \$171,670.58 |
| Building Fund Contrib. | \$ 7,673.11 |
| Building Principal Contrib. | \$ 23,295.00 |
| Building Fund Expense | \$ 4,419.55 |

OVERALL FUND BALANCES

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Building Fund | \$ 5,796.82 |
| LWML | \$ 1,326.79 |



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Balance (12/30/2010) | \$87,226.41 |
| Principle payment 12/15 | \$ 5,796.82 |
| 12/31 | ??.?? |

January 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 2 08:00 AM-1st Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Sunday school 10:45 AM-2nd Service w/ Communion | 3 | 4 | 5 11:00 AM-Bible Study | 6 09:30 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-LWML Meeting | 7 07:30 AM-Bible Study | 8 07:30 AM-Bible Study |
| 9 08:00 AM-1st Service w/ Communion 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Sunday school 10:45 AM-2nd Service | 10 | 11 | 12 11:00 AM-Bible Study | 13 09:30 AM-Bible Study | 14 09:00 AM-Elders Meeting | 15 07:30 AM-Bible Study 9:00am Health Fair |
| 16 08:00 AM-1st Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Sunday school 10:45 AM-2nd Service w/ Communion | 17 | 18 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council | 19 11:00 AM-Bible Study | 20 09:30 AM-Bible Study | 21 | 22 07:30 AM-Bible Study 9am-12pm Planning Meeting |
| 23 08:00 AM-1st Service w/ Communion 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Sunday school 10:45 AM-2nd Service | 24 | 25 | 26 11:00 AM-Bible Study | 27 09:30 AM-Bible Study | 28 | 29 07:30 AM-Bible Study |
| 30 08:00 AM-1st Service 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Sunday school 10:45 AM-2nd Service | 31 | | | Boards and Church groups Please remember that all newsletter articles are due by the 15th or immediately after your board meeting. Newsletters are printed and folded to be made available the last Sunday of the month. The bulletin announcements are due no later than Wednesday morning. Bulletins are printed Thursday morning and folded that afternoon. All announcements for the bulletin and newsletter must be written up, e-mail is the best way to send them in. The office secretary will than copy and paste. | | |