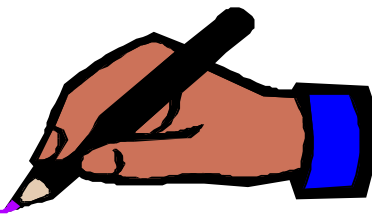


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many years ago, when I was a financial advisor in the business world I got into a discussion with one of my clients about what books we were reading. I mentioned that I read the Bible every day. She asked, only half in jest, “haven't you finished it yet?”.

At first glance this question might seem insulting to Christians, but in fact it is quite reasonable. I have been reading Scripture quite regularly for over fifteen years. Haven't I finished yet? Maybe you feel like you have finished. After all you get to worship on a regular basis (hopefully). You know that Jesus died for your sins. You live a pretty good life (at least compared to most people). What do you need more scripture for? It is not like it says something different than it did when you first read it months, years, or decades ago.

While I expect this thinking is explicit in many people's hearts or at least implicit in their actions, it is wrong. Scripture is not just a book, even a really special one. It is the Word of God. And during this Epiphany season we celebrate the Word of God made flesh. (John 1:14). What actually is this Word of God? John opens his Gospel saying **1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.** In other words, when you open your Bible to study, you have before you the very God who spoke into existence all creation. In order to redeem you, He became a man, lowering Himself to suffer our estate. So that you might be justified, He lived a perfect life and died your death. Spend just a second trying to wrap your head around that idea. The creator of the universe contained in the flesh of man. Indeed, in a very real way, the creator of the universe is contained in that very book which some disdain.

Are you finished with it yet? Not yet and not ever. Our eternity will be spent in and with the Word. If one wants to be “finished” with the Bible, one has to go to hell. Only there can one get away from the true holy God who is the Word made flesh.

Since we are going to spend eternity in the Word, why not spend time in Him now. The Word is an ever flowing spring, even a spring of living water. Once you taste of it you will never thirst, yet you will want to drink. So drink and drink deep. The Word of God is simple enough for a baby to splash in and deep enough for an elephant to drown. Just when you think you have learned all that you need, new depths will be revealed or old forgotten insights rediscovered.

It truly is a gift that keeps on giving. Luther says in his sacristy prayer (you can read it in its entirety in the vestry of the Church) *I, too desire ever to learn and to keep Thy Word my constant companion and to meditate thereupon earnestly.*

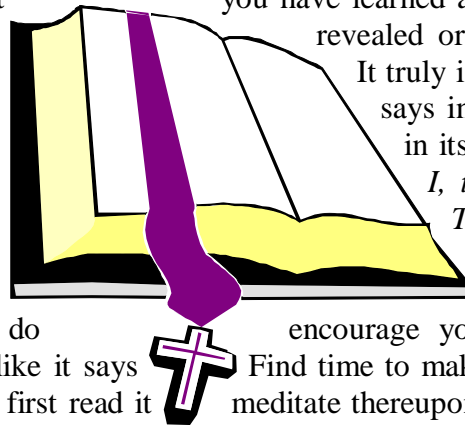
So beloved, I would encourage you to be encouraged by the Word. Find time to make it your constant companion and to meditate thereupon. Set aside time each day when you can read the Bible and pray to God. Use Portals of Prayer if you are looking for a devotional. If you are not sure where to start, then pick a Gospel and read it. If you want a longer story read Luke and then Acts (also written by Luke).

Further, find a Bible study where you can study the Word in fellowship with other learners. We offer a number of Bible Studies during the week. Pick one and come to it. If one does not fit your schedule get some people together and start one that does. I will be there to teach it if you need me and will help to ensure the Word is properly taught if you do not.

God's Word is your eternal companion. Spend time it and it will change your life. God has many blessings that He intends for you. Open your eyes, ears, and heart to His Word that you would receive. Finished with it? Not now and not ever. Praise be to God.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt



Happy Birthday!

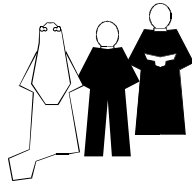
Constance Boucher	02/01
James Rochester	02/01
Addison Hildestad	02/04
Jordan Rutledge	02/05
Evelyn Foster	02/07
Pat Martel-Cooper	02/07
Lawrence Bezo	02/09
John Cochran	02/11
Neva Sawatzky	02/16
Ronald Foster	02/17
Aja Backs	02/28
Chaylen Hildestad	02/28

BAPTISM

Constance Boucher	02/01
Thomas Hoerauf	02/01
Evelyn Foster	02/07
Michael Joynt	02/07
Denise Hildestad	02/10
Joanne Williams	02/11
Alyssa Comstock	02/14
Katherine McDaniel	02/15
Ronald Foster	02/17
John Ehrlich Jr	02/21
William Stewart	02/21
Jimmy Rochester	02/29

Happy Anniversary

Milton & Jeanene Euhus	02/02
Tamara & Eric Hansen	02/14
Arlen & Linda Stange	02/14
Shawn & Aja Backs	02/29



2010 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



DECEMBER 2010

Contributions	\$12,495.38
Expenses	\$19,453.87
Roof	\$25,000.00
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 0.00
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 1,325.00

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$124,632.75
Expenses	\$191,124.45
Roof	\$ 25,000.00
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 7,673.11
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 24,620.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 4,419.55

OVERALL FUND BALANCES

Building Fund	\$ 0.00
LWML	\$ 1,326.79



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

Balance (1/29/2011)	\$73,677.50
Principle payment 12/31	\$ 1,325.00
1/24	\$12,216.26



LWML NEWS

Our January speaker was Mary White who heads up the Community Justice Boards which meet in our classroom building. She gave a very interesting and informative explanation of just what the boards are and how they work to help victims and children who are in trouble with the law for the first time. We were all impressed with their efforts and the fact that all the members are volunteers. She made a plea for volunteers from our group and our church. If any of you are willing, please contact Connie Wubben.

Our February meeting will be on Thursday, the 3rd and will be our annual mug exchange. This is a favorite of our members and we urge ladies who have never attended to join us and enjoy the evening. Each lady brings a mug – can be new or an old favorite – and shares her birthday and a favorite Bible verse. These are all put in paper bags and drawn at random. We all enjoy the variety of mugs, maybe the reason a person chose that mug and stories of special mugs we have received in the past. This program has been done here for over 25 years and we always look forward to it. If you have any questions – please ask any of the LWML ladies.

This year instead of having a special program at church we are planning an outing for Sunday, February 13th. The monthly concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is Capella Gloriana, a vocal quartet. Some ladies have expressed a desire to "go out" with ladies of the church and get better acquainted. We hope many of you will join us for the concert and then a "dutch treat" dessert at one of the local restaurants. You will be seeing a special handout in the church bulletin soon. Please plan to join us.

The annual rummage sale will be on Saturday, March 12th. We are now using the old ladies rest room as storage for the rummage sale so you may bring your things now and put them there. We will be asking for help in setting up on Friday, the 11th and help for the sale on the 12th so please put this on your calendar now.

REMEMBER:

ALL LADIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD ARE
CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

Thank you to all Calvary members and friends who helped with the Community Health Fair on Saturday, January 15 in our Fellowship Hall. About 200 people attended and we had 15 display tables on health, 8 speakers, 4 demonstrations, and over 20 volunteers. Special thanks to Bev Ferguson and Paula Backs for making delicious soup. The extras from the Mini-Farmer's Market were donated to the Yuma Community Food Bank. A grant has been applied for to Thrivent to cover expenses of the Health Fair.

Thank you to all Calvary members for celebrating "LIFE" by donating needed items to the New Life Pregnancy Center here in Yuma. The "crib" was nearly full to the brim!

Contact a member of the Quilters Group (Johnnie Altstatt) if you would be interested in putting satin binding around quilted fabric for baby quilts for the New Life Pregnancy Center. Supplies were purchased with grant money from Thrivent. Interested people can do this at home!

Saturday, February 12, we here at Calvary will be walking to raise money for the New Life Pregnancy Center. On February 5, a table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall with more information. It will be at Smucker Park, starting at 9 a.m. Come on out and Walk For LIFE!

We continue to gather used Portals of Prayers to be recycled in the Yuma area. A special box is in the entryway of the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Yuma Community Food Bank. The Mission Board will continue to deliver your donations there. Place your donations of non-perishable food in the basket on the north tables of the Fellowship Hall.

Don't forget to tune in to THE Lutheran Hour, every Sunday at 11:30 on KCFY 88.1 FM. We (Calvary) are one of the sponsors along with our sister congregation, Christ Lutheran.

Mark Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m. on your calendar. The Mission Board invites all adults, children, and youth to our Seder Meal here at Calvary. We will learn how the children of Israel celebrated the Passover, have a meal, sing, and celebrate! If you would like to help contact Apryl Brand-Applehans or Nancy Heredia.

ELDERS REPORT

A new year is upon us and many use the time to reflect upon the year ahead. During these reflections, new resolutions frequently result. Calvary Lutheran Church has reflected on its life of the past. While it is not necessarily drastic, members in a spring survey and a fall straw poll have expressed a desire to experience a fuller church and have an opportunity to see everyone gather together each week.

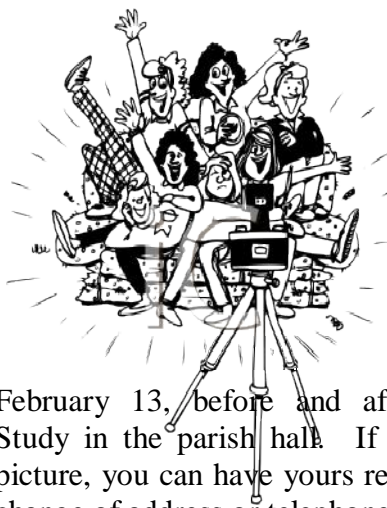
The Church Council deliberated on these reflections and endorsed keeping a single worship service every Sunday on a year-round basis. Because of the advertising schedule in the telephone directory, members will first see the effects of this change during the winter of 2011-12. For the past few years, Calvary has offered two worship services during the January through March period with a single service the remaining nine months of the year. Effective this April, but first experienced next winter, we will worship year-round at the same time. Once returning to a 9 AM service in April, we will continue worshipping at that time every week all year.

The Board of Elders earnestly seeks to provide worship opportunities to allow every member to attend worship every week. Unfortunately, today's culture no longer encourages weekly worship attendance and even makes it impossible to participate in worship by requiring people to work on Sundays. Whether work or any one of a myriad of other reasons prevents weekly attendance on a Sunday morning, we need to be sensitive to these cultural influences and seek a means to continue to provide worship opportunities to everyone.

In an effort to provide all members with a weekly worship opportunity, the Board of Elders is studying the possibility of holding a weekly mid-week worship service. We are canvassing members who may benefit from such an opportunity, as well as the prospects of reaching the unchurched through an additional worship opportunity. Such a service would likely be similar to the previous Sunday morning's service, including the same sermon being preached and hymns sung.

There are some logistics to work out, but a Wednesday evening worship service could reach those who do not currently have the ability to worship on Sunday mornings. If you have a preference for a mid-week evening worship service, be it on Wednesday or another day, let a board member know. Also, let us know which time would best for you.

If you have a concern about any aspect of congregational life, please speak with John Cochran, Bruce Fenske, Smokey Morner or Arlen Stange of the Board of Elders. May God bless you during the new year of 2011.



STEWARDSHIP BOARD NEWS

Stewardship will be updating the church directory. If you want your picture in the directory, we will be taking pictures on Sundays, February 6 and February 13, before and after Sunday School/Bible Study in the parish hall. If you wish to have a new picture, you can have yours re-taken. If you have had a change of address or telephone since the last time, please stop by to update that information.

The "mailboxes" are available for use by the congregation. Year round members are on the left and the winter visitors are on the right. The names are in alphabetical order separately. The name is located above the box.

