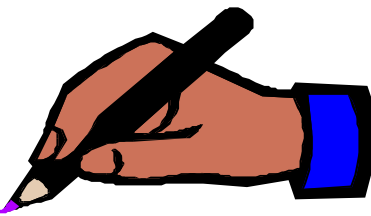


# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are right now mired in the middle of Lent, which is usually seen as a season of repentance. Therefore, the music is more somber, we do not use the word Alleluia, our focus is more on the suffering of Christ and less on His glory. No surprise then that we tend to see the word repentance as a law heavy, depressing thing that we do to get to the Good News.

Indeed repentance is defined in the dictionary as *deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition for a past sin, wrongdoing, or the like* (Dictionary.com). The Catholic dictionary says *Voluntary sorrow because it offends God, for having done something wrong, together with the resolve to amend one's conduct by taking the necessary means to avoid the occasions of sin. To repent is to be sorry for sin with self-condemnation* (Catholic.reference.net). But what is the true scriptural meaning of repentance? The Lutheran Confessions say *"The little word repentance is not used in a single sense in Holy Scripture. In some passages of Holy Writ the word is used and understood as the entire conversion of man . . . and in other places . . . 'to repent' means nothing more than truly to recognize one's sins, to feel heartily sorry for them, and to desist from them"* (Solid Declaration, Art. V).

To fully understand the joy of Lent, it is helpful to fully understand the idea of repentance. Often the focus is on our sorrow and contrition. It seems that if we are repentant enough, sorry enough, then our sins are really forgiven. In some sense we have absorbed this idea as a culture. In politics or in entertainment if someone gets caught doing what they are not supposed to do, they often will get a pass, as long as they seem properly repentant.

However, while sorrow is part of repentance, it is not repentance. More exactly, sorrow is an effect of repentance, not a cause or the thing itself. It is quite possible to feel sorrow or contrition without repentance. The most ardent of non-believers can feel sorry for some of what they have done wrong. It is impossible to be repentant and not feel contrition and sorrow over sin.

The word that is translated repentance from the Greek, literally means "to turn" and this better states what it means to repent. The season of Lent is a time to turn: to turn from sin to holiness; to turn from flesh to spirit; to turn from ourselves to God.

When we turn away from our own sinful nature and to Christ, we of course feel real sorrow for our sins. Our sin is real. God's holiness is real. Turning to God gives us His holiness and thus His sorrow over sin.

However, even recovering the idea of repentance from a sorrow dominated thinking, does not give the full picture of what is preached in repentance. Because of our own sinful nature and the self centered attitude that flows from it, we have a self centered view of repentance that is not really intended by the preaching of Christ. It is for this reason that we tend to focus on sorrow, the effect, rather than the actual cause. So what is the cause of repentance? The answer quite clearly is God. Repentance is a gift from God every bit as much as faith. Indeed the two walk hand in hand. For faith always brings repentance and true repentance always brings faith.

The Greek word that is translated repentance is used throughout the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew bible. In the King James version it is translated repent although in most modern translations it is translated relent (i.e. Joel 2:13-14, Jonah 3:9, Jer 18:8 among others). If you examine those texts what you would find is that "repenting" is God's activity in the Old Testament. It is a statement of grace when He turns from the judgment that people deserve and shows them grace and mercy instead. And so it really is in the New Testament as well. Repentance is the act of God, not us. He turns us from our sinfulness and to Him. This turning produces sorrow, a desire to do better, and good works. This repentance is activated by faith. How does God cause us to repent? By having us hear the word that calls us to repent and believing it. All this is done through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So yes Lent is a season of repentance and thus is somber and tinged with the sorrow over sin more than the rest of the church year. But do not let the necessary sorrow of sin steal from you the true joy of repentance. By the grace of God you have been turned from your sinful self to the glorious purity of our Lord.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt

# Happy Birthday!

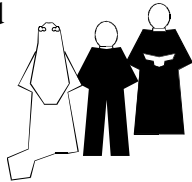
Ray Huter	04/01
Arlene Schauer	04/03
Johnnie Altstatt	04/04
Carolyn Claude	04/06
Jane Pray	04/07
Shawn Backs	04/09
Iris Bezo	04/09
Margaret Morner	04/10
Adrienne Wagner	04/16
Bruce Fenske	04/20
Pam Green	04/22
Apryl Brand - Applehans	04/26
Derek Bezo	04/28
Florence Wagner	04/29

# BAPTISM

Norma Sigafoose	04/01
Michael Albright	04/02
Arlene Schauer	04/03
Keith Macomber	04/08
Pearl Gleichman	04/09
Janet Ehrlich	04/12
Lynn Shoemaker	04/15
Adrienne Wagner	04/15
Maggie Fenske	04/16
Jacob LeClerc	04/16
Jim Rochester	04/17
Joshua Rankin	04/18
Barbara Wheeler	04/25

## Happy Anniversary

Gaylyn & Virginia Hildestad	04/01
Idonna & Robert Gibson	04/06
Michael & Donna Fairchild	04/07
Stanley & Eva Lou Phillips	04/08
Hank & Pam Green	04/19



## 2011 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



### FEBRUARY 2011


Contributions	
General Fund	\$10,708.00
Building Principal	\$ 2,675.00
Expenses	\$17,740.07

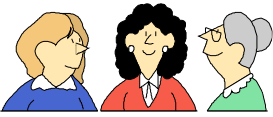
### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$25,508.83
Expenses	\$34,370.90
Roof	\$29,000.00
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 3,310.00

### OVERALL FUND BALANCES

LWML	\$ 1,326.79
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	<b>BUILDING PROJECT</b>	<b>PHASE I</b>
	LCEF Loan	
Balance (03/01/2011)	\$66,712.98	
Principal payment 02/28/11	\$ 2,675.00	



## LWML NEWS

We had a very nice turnout for the March LWML meeting. Business included allocating the \$100 January Mission gift to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). It was also voted to make a \$50 donation to the Orphan Grain Train toward shipping costs for the recently collected clothing going to Haiti, Ghana or Zimbabwe. We had a very nice collection from our church.

We all enjoyed having Linda Stange show slides and tell of their trip to Lutherland and the Oberamergau Passion Play in Germany this past summer.

There will be potluck meals at 6 PM on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> preceding the Lenten service. All are invited to attend and help is requested to set up for those two nights.

The rummage sale was held on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We THANK all those who contributed items and the many ladies who helped on both Friday and Saturday. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Bob Barton, Derek Bezo, Jerry Lichtenwald, Arlen Stange, Will Stewart and Pastor for their help setting up the clothing racks, moving tables and pricing the hardware type items. Their help is VERY MUCH appreciated.

The April meeting will be a Bible Study from the "Lutheran Women's Quarterly".

It was also decided to have a Mother-Daughter tea in May in lieu of a meeting.

Thank you to Mike Ehrlich and Milton Euhus for delivering the piano.

**REMEMBER: ALL WOMEN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD ARE CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF THE LWML.**

## Mission Board News

April 3 will be a day for health concerns here at Calvary. First of all we will begin our blood pressure checks in the Fellowship Hall at the start of the coffee hour. Calvary and Yuma Regional Medical Center are partnering to assist any adult to take better care of themselves, especially their blood pressure, which is a silent killer. So stop by the Heart Healthy Corner and let one of our Calvary nurses check your blood pressure.

We have lists of physicians in the Yuma area that are taking new patients. Stop by the BP table and pick one up. Apryl Brand RN, BSN, and Parish Nurse-an employee of YRMC encourages all Winter Visitors to find a physician in our area (just in case you have a health problem) while you are visiting in our wonderful community.

Secondly, we will celebrate Healthy Yuma 2011 on April 3. We'll have healthy recipes to give you. We want to include those who are active in each faith community in this endeavor to lose weight, exercise more, eat healthier, and curb addictions, such as drugs, alcohol, and smoking. Individuals can go on the Healthy Yuma Face book page or [healthyuma2011.com](http://healthyuma2011.com) to enroll with your goals.

The ARC of Yuma County is looking for some great volunteers to assist with their many programs dealing with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Call 782-4791 for more information.

Mark Friday, April 15 at 6 p.m. on your calendar to attend the Seder Meal sponsored by the Mission Board. There will be a sign up sheet for adults, teens, and children on the Blood Pressure table. We need to have an accurate count on how many will attend. It should prove to be a rewarding evening of learning, fun, food, and worship. The Seder is a special meal to help us all understand the meaning of Passover and its connection to the Lamb of God at Easter. Throughout the world each year, Passover is celebrated by Jewish families as a remembrance of how God freed their ancestors from slavery. For both Christians and Jews it is a significant event in their lives by attending a Seder Meal.

Please continue to save your used Christian materials, such as the Portals of Prayer. You will find a box in the entry to the Fellowship Hall to put them in to be recycled in the Yuma area.

Remember The Lutheran Hour every Sunday morning at 11:30 on KCFY 88.1-Yuma's Christian Radio Station!

## ELDERS REPORT

Lent provides a season during which we focus on the sacrifice Christ has made for us. Some choose to sacrifice during Lent by giving up something dear to them. An individual's sacrifice reflects God's sacrifice of Christ for us. While not everyone may sacrifice in this manner during Lent, we can all focus on Christ's work through special study of God's Word. Lenten devotional booklets are available in the fellowship hall for this purpose.

Today's culture no longer encourages weekly worship and may even make it impossible by requiring employees to work on Sunday mornings. Other legitimate reasons also exist to prevent weekly worship on Sunday mornings. In order to counteract these cultural influences, an alternate worship opportunity can allow God's elect to receive His Word and sacrament regularly.

After prayerful consideration and discussion over several months, the Board of Elders has endorsed a weekly Wednesday night worship service. This service will both reach God's faithful and offer the un-churched an additional opportunity to worship. This service will be a divine service and include the same sermon and hymns of the previous Sunday. An elder will be present at each service, but we will not assign people to usher duty for that night.

March 2011 also marked the end of Arlen Stange's 3-year term as a winter elder. Winter elders offer a special service to God and they deserve a special thanks. A winter elder recognizes that retirement does not mean forgetting offering service to God. A winter elder also brings a unique perspective on needs that the board may not recognize. Although Arlen will have left for the season before this newsletter hits the press, it is not too late to extend a special word of thanks to him for his service. Drop him a line at his home address or, if you prefer, leave a letter or card at the church office and we will forward it to him.

If you have a concern about any aspect of congregational life, please speak with John Cochran, Bruce Fenske, or Smokey Morner of the Board of Elders.

## Why celebrate Seder?

Our Holy Week begins on Passion Sunday the week before Easter. But Jesus had come to Jerusalem or rather a small town adjacent to Jerusalem called Bethany, some time earlier. His disciples had followed Him, convinced that this return to Jerusalem would mean their deaths. It was at Bethany that Jesus restored to life, a man who had been dead and buried for three days.

When the Sanhedrin, the religious ruling body of Judea, heard of this miracle, they reaffirmed that Jesus must die in order to safeguard their positions and that of Judea in the Roman Empire.

Why did Jesus return again to Jerusalem? And why did Jesus, the last time He entered Jerusalem, slip into town unnoticed only to be found through the deceit of Judas. Jesus tells us Himself: *With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."*

Luke 22:15

*this Passover...* 'was The Seder Dinner.

- This ceremony and celebration that had been commanded by God.
- This ceremony and celebration that had been an annual event ever since the Exodus.
- This ceremony and celebration that brought most religious minded Jews to Jerusalem every year.
- This ceremony and celebration that had brought Jesus to Jerusalem almost every year of His life.

Somehow, during the hustle and bustle of this week, Jesus had arranged for a place to have this dinner. He sent His Disciples into Jerusalem to find this place and to prepare for this dinner. The Passover Dinner that was the turning point between His Triumphant Entry and His Death on the Cross. The Passover Dinner, with all of its symbolism, that was used by Jesus to explain His Ministry one last time.

And, at the end of this dinner, Jesus asked His Disciples to "Do this in remembrance" of Him.

We will celebrate Seder  
on April 15<sup>th</sup>  
and we hope you will join us.

