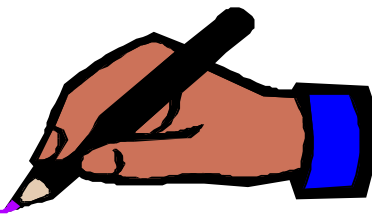


# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Witness. Mercy. Life Together. These three interlocking themes are the emphasis that President Harrison has chosen for our Synod over the next few years. As the LCMS website says “These phrases—Witness, Mercy, Life Together—illustrate how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel and to provide for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. And in all we do, Christ is at the center, leading us, sustaining us, keeping us focused on our mission.”

Over the next few months I will examine each of these ideas and attempt to explain what scripture is teaching about each of them, how it applies to the LCMS, and how we can live it at Calvary Lutheran.

It is part of the life of the Church to bear witness. We are called to take to the fallen world the Good News of God’s intervention through Christ Jesus. A Church that fails to witness is not truly part of the Church.

But what does it mean to witness? In much of modern Christianity the idea of witness is to describe how Jesus has changed your life to convince others that He can change their lives as well. However, this has little to do with the Biblical concept of witness. The whole idea of being a witness is that the center is not the speaker but that which is being witnessed to. In other words at a murder trial a witness should not be describing their reactions or feelings or how the event impacted them. Such things are best left for the couch. The witness does not testify about themselves, but rather about something or someone else.

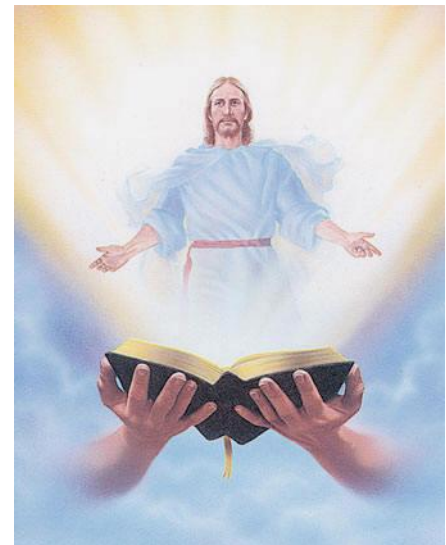
Thus, we testify about Jesus the Christ not about ourselves or even the Church. So John the Baptist came to “bear witness *about* the light”. (John 1:7) The most important thing about bearing witness is not how we do it, but what we bear witness to – Jesus Christ, dead for sinners, raised for glory. Put another way, a church that seeks to witness without having a confession of faith that it is witnessing from, is not really witnessing at all. Only a confessional church, one that confesses Christ, can be a witnessing church.

Further, the witness is not how Christ lived but what He taught and did. The apostles are witnesses of Christ’s day to day life. However when they act as witnesses, they do not testify of His life, but of what He has done. The Gospels are dominated not by the life of


Jesus, but by His death and resurrection. It is not because the authors did not know His life. Two of them were Apostle who spent years with Him. It is that they were witnessing, which means to confess the truth of who Christ is and what he has done.

This then continues to define our job as Christ’s Church when we witness. To witness is to confess Him. It is not an expression of our feelings, or experience or hopes. It is not a list of the benefits of the church and how good it is to be a member. I pray that all of us feel that way and that our experiences and hopes are grand. It is not to point to Christ’s life and say people ought to live this way. Our witness is of Jesus Christ dead for sin and raised to glory. Our witness is that all should **“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**<sup>39</sup>**For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”** This is the life of the Church. Through God’s word and His holy sacraments we call people to repentance and forgiveness. This is for all people called by God, whether near or far off, child or adult, life long Lutheran or recent convert. We witness, God calls and converts. Praise be to God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Michael Joynt




# Happy Birthday!


Rodney Fischer	09/01
Whitney Stuebs	09/02
Loren Knapp	09/03
Kyle Williams	09/03
Ragna Bezo	09/05
April Ehrlich 	09/05
Tamara Hansen	09/05
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/05
Thomas Joynt	09/07
Leonard Simpson	09/09
Robert Stash	09/09
Ella Stewart	09/09
Nolan Ford	09/11
Janet Ehrlich	09/13
Mary Zeigler	09/13
Christine Jones	09/15
Donna Fairchild	09/18
Teri Jo Ford	09/18
Bonnie Graham	09/20
Helen Hahn	09/20
Taylee Stuebs	09/20
Carrie Kositzke	09/21
Michael Albright	09/24
Jan Stash	09/25
Joanne Williams	09/25

# BAPTISM

Rodney Fischer	09/01
Ira Thiessen	09/01
Loren Knapp	09/03
Tamara Hansen	09/05
Melissa Fairchild	09/08
Michael Fairchild	09/08
Emma Stewart	09/10
Maren Green	09/12
Chaylen Hilstad	09/16
Christopher McDaniel	09/16
Jan Stash	09/25
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/27
Nolan Ford	09/28
April Ehrlich	09/29

## Happy Anniversary

Tony & Donna Spano		09/01
Michael & Janet Ehrlich		09/14
Thomas & Nancy Hoerauf		09/19

	<b>BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I</b>
	LCEF Loan
Balance (07/29/2011)	\$53,473.64
Principal payment 7/30/11	\$ 3,141.00
Loan Payment	\$ 1,966.53
Balance (08/30/2011)	\$48,366.11
Principal payment 8/31/11	\$ <u>435.00</u>
Balance Current	\$47,931.11

2011  
BUDGET  
Contributions & Expenses



### JULY 2011

Contributions	
General Fund	\$ 9,163.50
Building Principal	\$ 3,140.00
Expenses	\$14,859.34
Building Principal Payment	\$ 3,141.00
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$ 82,800.73
Expenses	\$111,863.89
Roof	\$ 29,000.00
Bldg. Principal contr./pymnt	\$ 8,841.00

Remember to bring your non-perishable food items for the Yuma Community Food Bank. The basket for collection is on the north table in the Fellowship Hall. There are many in need in Yuma. Jobs are scarce. Unemployment is nearly 28%-the highest in the nation. Help if you can!

The Heart Healthy blood pressure checks continue every Sunday at the red table in the SW Corner of the Fellowship Hall. One of our Calvary nurses will be there to check your blood pressure after the Worship Service on Sundays.

The Southgate Mall opens six days a week for walkers at 9 a.m. When the weather is hot and dusty, this is a great place to get your daily exercise. Also stop at the Mexican Restaurant in the Mall for refreshments. They are now opening for walkers at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

Tune in to The Lutheran Hour every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. on KCFY 88.1 on your radio dial. Calvary is one of the sponsors. Encourage anyone who is ill and can't attend worship, shut-ins, assisted living residents, and nursing home residents to listen. The Lutheran Hour bring Christ to the Nations, and the Nations to the church. This is their 80<sup>th</sup> year of broadcasting!

Calvary's Assistance Fund is low. Consider a donation soon.

Upcoming Events for your enjoyment and participation-

- Volunteering at Crossroads Mission
- Octoberfest Celebration with a Silent Auction
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Life Sunday
- Tri-Lutheran Picnic
- Valentine Dinner
- Lutheran Hour Sunday
- Prayer Groups
- Soup Ministry

Save your used Portals of Prayer for recycling and redistribution in the Yuma area. A box is in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you! Apryl

Section VIII.A. of the By-Laws provides an answer to a question recently asked of the Board of Elders. Every member has an elder assigned to them. Who is this elder and how does one know who it is?

Subsection 4 states "Board members shall have congregational responsibilities to admonish delinquents, visit the sick and care for the needy." In order to implement this provision, there is a list of families for each elder. As board members changed, each list is handed down to the succeeding elder.

Over the past several months, the Board has discussed how best to carry out the provision, including how to let members know who is their elder. The Board plans to hold a variety of events this winter. Each elder will select an event that reflects his personality and invite his assigned families to it. Events may include cookouts, phone calls, pot lucks or other affairs.

Until the Board holds these events, please feel free to speak to any member of the Board. Your elders are John Cochran, Bruce Fenske and Smokey Morner.

# Crossword Puzzle: Love

**ACROSS**

2 Love your \_\_\_ as yourself

4 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a \_\_\_. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen

5 By this all men will know that you are my \_\_\_, if you love one another

6 A new command I give you: Love \_\_\_

11 For God so loved the \_\_\_ that he gave his one and only Son

12 Love the Lord your God with

all your \_\_\_, soul, and mind

13 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the \_\_\_ be with you all

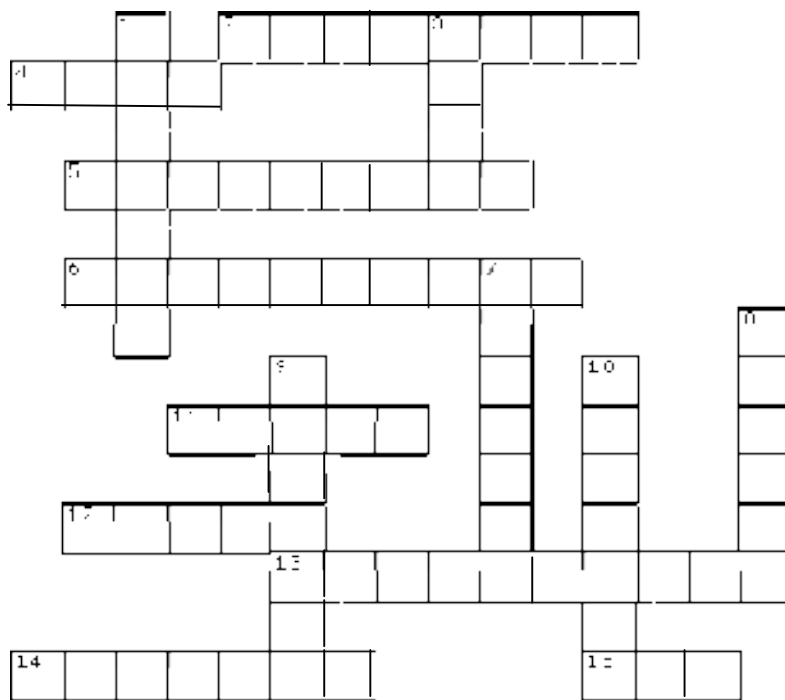
14 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even \_\_\_ love those who love them

15 \_\_\_ is love

**DOWN**

1 Love is \_\_\_, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud

3 And now these three remain: faith, \_\_\_ and love. But the greatest of



7 Love your \_\_\_ and pray for those who persecute you

8 Husbands, love your wives, just as \_\_\_ loved the church and

9 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his \_\_\_

10 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain \_\_\_

© by Cliff Leitch. [Terms of use.](#)

