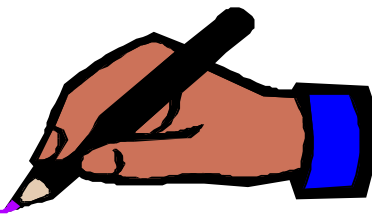


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Witness. Mercy. Life Together. These three ideas in many ways define the Church. They are also the theme that President Harrison has set for our Synod. Last month I discussed what witness means and how it is used in Scripture. This month I will expand on that and especially the connection between witness and confession.

In the modern church it seems that the idea of confessing the faith and witnessing to the faith are in opposition. It is often suggested, explicitly or implicitly, that if you want to witness effectively to Christ you have to boil down the truth and avoid areas that may seem less important. The focus then is on what every Christian holds in common rather than any particular Church's teachings. On the other hand it is possible to get so focused on getting the confession right that we spend all of our time talking together and not witnessing.

However, in scripture the idea of confessing and witnessing almost always go together. Indeed the two words are used as synonyms. The idea behind both is the same. Speak the truth of God. This means to speak (witness) the truth (confess). A Church that does not speak to the world is avoiding one of God's primary commandments. A Church that does not stay true to its confession does not speak the truth and really has nothing to say.

The word translated as "confess" in scripture is *homologeō* and it literally means say the same as. So to confess is to say the same thing as God has already said. Confessing is used in at least three different senses in Scripture – a confession of sins, a confessing of the faith, and a confession of praise.

So **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:8-9). Confessing our sins is in some sense saying God's word back to Him. He tells us in the law that we are sinners who fall short of His will. When we confess that we are "poor, miserable, sinners", we are simply agreeing with Him. To deny our sin is have no truth and thus nothing to proclaim to the world. If we want to witness, we must first confess that we, like those we are witnessing to, are sinners. We are not trying to

convince people that our lives are holy and they should have lives like us. We are confessing the truth – we are forgiven sinners and they can be too.

Confessing our faith is also a saying of the same thing as God. **The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.** (Romans 10:8-10). God has given us His word, both in Scripture and in Christ. We witness, that is confess Him publicly, by saying back His word. The core and first confession is that Jesus is Lord. We add to that what He has done, died for sinners and raised from the dead. When we witness to the world, this is always central. When we confess what we believe, this is always central.

Our praise of God is also a confessing. **8For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.** (Romans 15:8-9). The word translated "I will praise" is again *homologeō*. Paul is saying that as we confess who Christ is and what He has done, it will lead to unbelievers also confessing Him. Even our praise of God is a way to witness.

At the center of witnessing is always Christ and His word. To witness we must always confess the truth, and never limit it or sell it short. The center of that truth is Christ becoming a servant for our benefit. Know this truth and see how God uses you to proclaim it.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt

Happy Birthday!

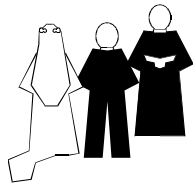
John Wagner	10/03
Lexi Stuebs	10/04
Eva Lou Phillips	10/05
Becky Ehrlich	10/08
Jenny Rochester	10/12
Jaiden Williams	10/12
David Rochester	10/18
Ralph Harris	10/21
Gaylyn Hildestad	10/22
William Morner	10/22
Cailynn Stuebs	10/22
Megan Ehrlich	10/23
Renee Libkie	10/27
Catherine Cochran	10/29

BAPTISM

Anna Vitolins	10/02
Kyle Williams	10/04
Eva Lou Phillips	10/10
John Wagner	10/10
Thomas Joynt	10/11
Teri Jo Ford	10/12
Kyle Reinertson	10/14
Karl Dennis	10/16
Taylee Stuebs	10/16
Donna Fairchild	10/18
Sue Gibson	10/20
Lexi Stuebs	10/21
Mary Frances Atchley	10/28
Aja Backs	10/28
Whitney Stuebs	10/29
Elaine Green	10/30

Happy Anniversary

William & Lisa Stewart	10/01
Robert & Jan Stash	10/03
Robert & Donna Barton	10/04
Keith & Carolyn Macomber	10/08
Derek & Iris Bezo	10/11
Sarah & Jason Rutledge	10/13
Albert & Carolyn Claude	10/16
Melvin & Carol Parker	10/19
Renee & Jeff Libkie	10/31



2011 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



AUGUST 2011

Contributions	
General Fund	\$ 7,971.01
Building Principal	\$ 435.00
Expenses	\$15,262.64
Building Principal Payment	\$ 435.00
 YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$ 81,930.74
Expenses	\$127,126.53
Roof	\$ 29,000.00
Bldg. Principal payment	\$ 9,276.00



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

Balance (08/30/2011)	\$48,366.11
Principal payment 8/31/11	\$ 435.00
Balance Current	\$47,931.11

Another need is the Yuma Community Food Bank. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the Fellowship Hall. The Mission Board will see to it that they are taken to the Food Bank on 24th and Engler. Make an effort to help those in need every day.

Every Sunday you can listen to The Lutheran Hour at 11:30 a.m. on KCFY 88.1 F.M. Encourage the shut-ins that you know and others who can not make it to worship to listen. It is a wonderful program that "brings Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the church" around the world. Calvary helps to support the broadcast along with Christ Lutheran Church.

Remember to stop and have your blood pressure checked each Sunday after worship. One of our Calvary nurses will be in the Heart Corner to talk with you about your health and check your BP. We are part of the Heart Healthy Project with Yuma Regional Medical Center. Also remember you can walk on even surfaces, where it is cool and not dusty at the Southgate Mall. They open at 9 a.m. for walkers Monday through Saturday. Also the Mexican Restaurant opens at 9 a.m. for breakfast and refreshments. Do give it a try. Walking is the best thing you can do for your health!!!

Used Portals of Prayer wanted and needed for recycling in the Yuma area. Please place yours in the special box in the Fellowship Hall entrance. Thank you.

Coming Events sponsored by the Mission Board.

- Volunteering at Crossroads Mission-November
- Oktoberfest Celebration with a Silent Auction
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- January-Life Sunday
- Tri-Congregation Picnic
- Valentine Dinner
- Lutheran Hour Sunday
- Beginning of Prayer Groups
- Soup Ministry for the Sick

Calvary LWML meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. We welcome all women – visitors, friends, and new members. We hope you can join us as we serve the **Lord with Gladness.**

LWML Mission Statement: The mission of the Lutheran Church Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

October 6
 Program: Fun with the Bible
 LWML Sunday
 Zone Celebration
 October 22 at Zion, Blythe

November 3
 LWML Convention Report
 Invite Christ & Shepherd/Hills

December 1
 Program: Petal Pushers
 Cookie Walk?
 Advent meals

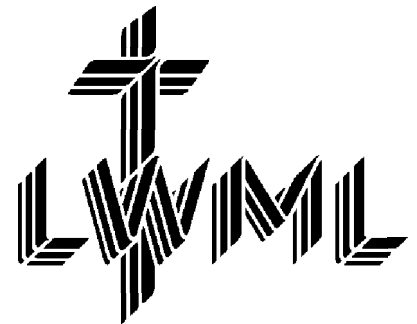
January 5
 John Cochran
 Border Patrol Pilot

February 2
 Annual Mug Exchange
 led by Linda Kaiser

March 1
 Program: World Relief Quilts
 Rummage Sale?
 Lenten Meals

April 5
 Program: Fraud
 Local Police Department
 Lenten Meals

May
 to be decided



President	Nancy Heredia	775-304-3379
Mission Education	Connie Wubbena	641-373-4490
Mission Inspiration	Paula Backs	928-726-4053
Mission Service	Elaine Green	928-783-9087
Treasurer	Marilyn Damet	928-726-1585
Secretary	Linda Stange	360-835-8654
Pastoral Counselor	Michael Joynt	928-261-6501