

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Witness. Mercy. Life Together. These ideas help define who and what we are as a Church. These are also the themes that LCMS President Matthew Harrison has chosen for a focus for our synod over the next few years. This month we will continue our examination of these ideas by reviewing how mercy is described in scripture and what it means for us.

Generally the idea of mercy is helping those with needs in this world. We are required to do this, not because it earns us salvation or credit before God, but because He has remade us in His image. 1 John 3 says: **16By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.** Because God's love abides in us we love in deed and truth. We are not forced to help our brother but we will seek to.

Love is not primarily emotional. Rather love as scripture uses the word, is active. It seeks what is best for the beloved. Luther goes as far as to say "If I am greedy . . . I am not a Christian." Further our desire to give to others out of love is not always bound by rationality. Luther also says "He who has nothing to live on should be aided. If he deceives us, what then? He should be aided again. But you owe most to those who are yours".

This is a good way to understand our obligation in this world. Our first obligation is to our own family, since God has given them into our care. To give money to the poor while not taking care of your own family would be grave sin. Our next obligation is to those in our own fellowship. Finally, we look to provide mercy to the larger world.

Note that the acts of mercy God calls us to, do not necessarily have as their primary purpose converting people. We are called to love because we have been loved. Jesus feeds all of the 5,000 even though almost all of them will turn away from Him because of His teaching. Consequently, we are free to give even to unbelievers. However, we should never forget that the primary mission of the Church is witness. While not every act of mercy has to directly

be an act of witness (it will always be a witness of God's love but not necessarily to the Gospel), a church that sees only mercy and never witnesses to the Gospel is no longer a church.

We are blessed in our congregation to have a number of ways in which we can show God's mercy to the world. First and probably most important is the informal support that we give to each other in times of need. Without any kind of program it is possible for Christians to show mercy to the world every day, and we do. We also have some formal ways. We have an active assistance fund which provides money, primarily to our members, in time of unusual need. We help support the food bank and Crossroads Mission. We support our district which in turn supports broader areas of mercy. When need arises in our community or the larger world we stand ready to answer God's call of mercy.

So how does the church go about encouraging mercy? It should be obvious that no matter how much we do, it is not enough and there is more to be done. Maybe this sounds to you like one more annoying attempt to guilt you out of your money. The Church does not encourage giving by guilt. There are few things more evil for a church to do than require acts of mercy and guilt people into giving. This risks taking a good work (helping someone) and turning it evil and corrupt (any work done to earn something from God). There is only one way for the Church to encourage acts of mercy: the Gospel. We tell people again and again "**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us,**". This truth purifies us and cleanses us. This word combined with water or bread and wine, gives us the forgiveness of sins. Through this the Holy Spirit dwells in us, is made strong, brings us to good works, and cleanses us from all sinfulness, so that our works may be clean before God. By the grace and mercy of God you have been remade to be pure and clean and His people doing His work in the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt

# Happy Birthday!

Nancy Heredia	11/02
Betty Stewart	11/04
Robert McGee	11/05
Tyler Green	11/07
Ron Hill	11/08
Beverly Ferguson	11/09
Jerry Ferguson	11/11
Armeda Freel	11/11
Nancy Hoerauf	11/13
Katherine Seeger	11/13
Sherri Williams	11/16
Johnnie Ehrlich	11/18
Gerrick Anderson	11/19
Jerry Hoerauf	11/20
Elaine Green	11/21
Michael Kositzke	11/22
Randy Ehrlich	11/23
Arlen Stange	11/25
Smokey Morner	11/27
Ira Thiessen	11/27
Carolyn Clicquennoi	11/29
Cecil Sigafoose Jr.	11/29

# BAPTISM

Robert McGee	11/01
Leonard Simpson	11/06
Cailynn Stuebs	11/07
Beverly Ferguson	11/09
David Rochester	11/10
Nancy Heredia	11/14
Jerry Hoerauf	11/20
Randy Ehrlich	11/25
Ron Hill	11/26
Jenny Rochester	11/26
Carolyn Clicquennoi	11/29
Smokey Morner	11/30

## Happy Anniversary

Randy & Becky Ehrlich		11/17
Nancy & Eulalio Heredia		11/21
Terry & Jane Pray		11/24
Owen & Peg Henderson		11/27
Michael & Pat Albright		11/29

## 2011 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



### SEPTEMBER 2011

Contributions	
General Fund	\$ 8,361.30
Building Principal	\$ 507.00
Expenses	\$17,610.73
Building Principal Payment	\$ 507.00

### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 90,292.04
Expenses	\$144,737.26
Roof	\$ 29,000.00
Bldg. Principal payment	\$ 9,783.00



### BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

Balance (09/30/2011)	\$45,954.82
Principal payment 10/1/11	\$ 507.00
Balance Current	\$45,447.82



## ELDERS REPORT

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for God to intervene - He does. The most obvious intervention

was the birth, death, and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sins of all mankind. He also intervened during Old Testament times with Noah, Moses and Jonah, to name a few. He responded during the New Testament period when He called Saul to become the evangelist Paul and when He worked miracles through the Apostles. But has He intervened more recently?

God works through the lives of His people. This month, we celebrate the anniversary of God's work through one man who stepped forward to God's call and who, over the course of his life, reformed Christ's earthly church to bring it back to what He intended. In 1517, Martin Luther heeded God's call and became a monk. By the early 1500s, the Roman Church taught that God was only available through the Church and only it dispensed God's salvation. Seeking closer communion with God, Luther studied hard and, eventually, became a priest in order to hold and partake of the Holy Bread and Wine.

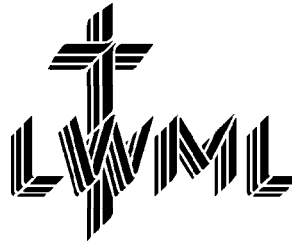
Martin Luther read and re-read God's Word. He could not find where God taught everything that the Roman Church taught and he identified 95 items which he wished to discuss with the Church, especially that God's grace comes to the repentant and not through the sale of indulgences. In order to announce his desire to discuss these items, he presented them in the accepted method of that day. He placed them on the local bulletin board. These 95 theses nailed to the church door in Wittenberg, on October 31, were the beginning of reforms and the rest, shall we say, is history.

The Lutheran Church will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation on October 31, 2017. As part of this event, a series of nine medallions will become available to commemorate it. The first two medallions are available this year to remember 1) Luther in a thunderstorm vows to become a monk and 2) Luther becomes a monk and is subsequently ordained as priest.

A special donation by the Board of Elders allows a presentation of the first two medallions to the congregation as the first step in a celebration of the Reformation. We remember not what a man did, but how God returned the Church to His Word. After the reformation services on Sunday, October 30, and on Wednesday, November 2, the Board of Elders will

distribute a commemorative medallion to each person in attendance. If you cannot attend either service and would like to receive a medallion or if you wish to collect a complete set, please see an elder.

God's blessings upon you as you study His Word. Remember to offer a prayer of thanks for His intervention to make us holy in His sight and to allow each of us to speak directly to God. 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.



Recently all the ladies of the church were asked to complete a survey sheet regarding the best time to hold LWML meetings. We want to share the results of that survey with you. Of those filling out and returning the survey two requested Sunday meetings. All the rest indicated that the present meeting time of first Thursday at 7 PM was satisfactory. THANK YOU to those who replied.

There will be information in the church bulletin regarding a special Yuma LWML Rally to be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is something new for the ladies of Calvary, Christ and Shepherd of the Hills. You will also be receiving individual invitations. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

Remember: ALL women of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are Lutheran Women Missionary Members.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

This is the first verse of a very well known and beautiful Christian hymn. We last sang it at Calvary in October on LWML Sunday this year.

It is customary in many organizations for their vice presidents to serve as chair of the Nominations Committee. So it is here at Calvary. This year, our VP Wil Stewart, is serving in that capacity and has begun contacting our membership to serve in various capacities in our church. In this busy world in which we live, it is sometimes difficult to find people to fill certain necessary positions. It is not an easy job. If Wil or one of the other members of his committee contacts you, I hope you will prayerfully consider serving as officer or on one of the church boards. If you are not contacted, but feel you would like to serve in a certain capacity, feel free to contact me, Wil, or a member of the nominating committee.

Upon election, I know that you will find yourself working with a warm, committed group of Christian men and women. I can tell you that during the past two years of my presidency here at Calvary, our Church Council worked together in harmony to do the work of the Lord and we have done it for the most part in a joyous manner.

December is the customary time for our annual Voters' Meeting. At this writing the exact date has not as yet been set. Please attend. I promise to keep the meeting brief and conduct it as efficiently as possible. Voters' meetings are very important. A bylaws change will be considered. The election of Officers and Boards will be held and there will be a report from each of our Boards. It's a good time to hear exactly what is happening at church and why decisions have been made. So please look for the announcement of the exact time and date of the Voters' Meeting which probably will be held in early December.

So please consider service opportunities to our church and to the Lord's work. There is great personal satisfaction in serving God. Consider the following last verse of another beautiful hymn of the church. Perhaps you are not as familiar with it as I only remember hearing once or twice here at Calvary. The hymn is "Drawn to the Cross" LSB #560:

*And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come*

In His service,  
Bob Stash

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Voters' Assembly of Calvary Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011 immediately following Worship and Bible Study in the parish fellowship hall. Agenda will include Election of Officers, announcement of a proposed Bylaws change and other matters. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

THANK YOU, GOD

FOR EVERYTHING



### THANKSGIVING EVE

There will be a 7:00pm.  
Thanksgiving Eve Service on  
Wednesday, November 23.

### THANKSGIVING DINNER

Please see the Mission Board sign up sheet in the Parish Hall for Thanksgiving Dinner, or for more information see a member of the Mission Board.

All are invited to attend.