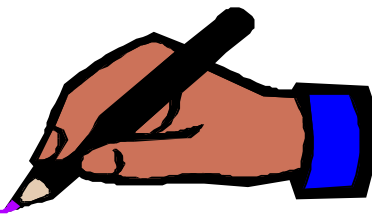


# FROM THE PASTOR



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 life together (fellowship) is described in scripture and what it means for us

Witness is the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to an unbelieving world. Mercy is the provision from Christ of necessary goods to a suffering world. Life together is our fellowship with one another through Christ.

Becoming a Christian is not just the receiving of Christ's forgiveness as an individual. It is also becoming part of the larger Christian Church. As a Christian you are part of the fellowship of Saints through Christ. **God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.** (1 Cor. 1:9). It is this fellowship which we share. Fellowship is not primarily about fellowship time in the Parish Hall after worship, or getting together to enjoy one another's company. These are good things. They can be positive outgrowths of church life. However, they can exist equally well in a neighborhood, or R.V. park, or bridge club, or any association of people. What is unique about the fellowship of the Church is that its reality is in Christ Himself.

It is more like being a member of a family than it is like any association we may choose. Just like a family, you do not choose to be brought into it, but instead are born into it, in the Church's case by Baptism. Like a family, you do not get to choose who else is in. Anyone who receives the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in Baptism is in unless they willfully turn away. That means that like a family you may not always like who is in Christ with you, but the choice is not up to you. Like a family you love each other through thick and thin, regardless of individual differences. Indeed properly understood the family is more a reflection of the life God intends for us in the Church, than the other way around.

Paul takes it even one step farther and compares our relationship not just to family but to the body itself,

since we are Christ's body. **For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.** (1 Cor. 9:12). The body needs all its parts and without some of them its function is lessened. Lose enough parts and the body dies. So it is with the Church. All are called to participate and be of the Church. As some say "I am not part of the body" who by God's will are intended to be, the body weakens. If enough fall away the body dies. We know that by the grace and promise of Christ the Church itself will never die, but individual churches will and the Church will suffer as body parts willingly cut themselves off. While the Church will not die, those parts that cut themselves off are already dead, unless they are grafted back on. A hand or ear separate from the body does not survive.

In the end this is the center of our fellowship. To be whole we must work together to do God's will. Each part of the body will have its own part and cannot fully achieve God's purpose apart from the body. **God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.** (1 Cor. 9:24-26). This fellowship is fed by Christ which we receive by ear in the Word and by mouth in Holy Communion. Sin will seek to cause division and separation in the body. The forgiveness of Christ will overcome that sin. So as we enjoy the family and church fellowship that are such a blessing in our lives this time of year, let us remember the even greater fellowship that we share with the Church now and unto eternity surrounding the throne of God.

In Christ,

Pastor



# Happy Birthday!

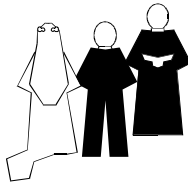
Idonna Deaver-Gibson	12/03
Ed Hahn	12/07
Joseph Parker	12/07
Dimitri Svetahor	12/09
Matthew Wilder	12/14
Brian Rochester	12/18
Roxana Williams	12/18
Rachel Rankin	12/19
Rosemary Suhr	12/19
William Stewart	12/21
Jacob Williams	12/24
Delores Powell	12/29
Robert Barton	12/31
John Ehrlich Jr	12/31

# BAPTISM

Catherine Cochran	12/01
Megan Ehrlich	12/01
Bonnie Graham	12/01
Michael Kositzke	12/01
Carrie Kositzke	12/01
Jaiden Williams	12/02
Katherine Seeger	12/06
Tyler Green	12/12
Katie Strom	12/12
Lisa Elam	12/13
Joseph Parker	12/19
Rachel Rankin	12/19
Matthew Joynt	12/23

## Happy Anniversary

Jeremy & Rachel Rankin	12/18
Ron & Michele Hill	12/20
Bruce & Maggie Fenske	12/29



2011  
BUDGET  
Contributions & Expenses



### OCTOBER 2011

Contributions	
General Fund	\$10,595.01
Building Principal	\$ 291.00
Expenses	\$11,549.41
Building Principal Payment	\$ 291.00

### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$100,887.05
Expenses	\$156,286.67
Roof	\$ 29,000.00
Bldg. Principal payment	\$ 10,074.00

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Saturday Dec. 17th, at 2:45pm, we will go Christmas caroling to some of our shut ins and some local nursing homes. This is an always fun event that allows us to bring the joy of Christmas to people who may not get a chance to share in it as much as they would like. You do not need to bring anything other than an open heart and a joyful voice. Please join us and feel free to bring any friends who would enjoy sharing Christmas in song.

### Poinsettias

The Altar Guild will be purchasing 14 Poinsettias, if you would like to donate toward a poinsettia please sign up in the Parish Hall, there will also be an envelope to use for your contribution. Remember after



Christmas Service you may take your plant home.



### BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

Balance (10/31/2011)	\$45,302.23
Principal payment 11/1/11	\$ 291.00
Balance Current	\$45,011.23



## ADVENT OF A NEW CREATION

It is almost time for the coming of Advent. This year our theme will be the Advent of a New Creation. We will use various texts from Isaiah to see how God has promised to remake His creation that Adam and Eve broke, and how He achieves that promise in Christ. We will have services every Wednesday at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. There will be a potluck at 6 P.M.

Please join us for service and dinner.

- |                       |                |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 2: 1-5  | Mount Eden.                      |
| Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Isaiah 11:1-10 | The Paradise of the Church       |
| Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 35:1-10 | Adam and Eves Welcomed Back Home |
| Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> | Isaiah 7:10-14 | Something New Under the Sun      |
| Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 9:2-7   | Son and God.                     |
| Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> | Isaiah 52:7-10 | Breakforth in Singing            |

## College Christian Care Packages

Did you ever get care package while you were at college? Do you remember what it meant to know that someone cared and was thinking about you while you were gone? Everyone knows someone at college who might need a little encouragement and a reminder of home, whether it be a relative, a godchild, or a former member of your youth group. We encourage you to send them a Christ on Campus Care Package not only to let them know you care, but also to encourage them to continue to grow in their faith during this pivotal time in their life!

Spring Semester 2012 Care Package:

Christ on Campus Care Packages are designed to include things such as popcorn, hot chocolate, and even a Starbucks Gift Card, but also some devotional aids, and at least two books that every college student should read.

Spirituality of the Cross by Gene Edward Veith  
How To Respond to Muslims by Ernest Hahn

Cost: \$40

The ordering period for Spring Semester Care packages is now open through February 15, 2012!

We will also include information about Christ on Campus, ways to get connected with other LCMS college students and where possible, information about a local parish they might attend.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Voters' Assembly of Calvary Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011 immediately following 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.

## 2012 Nominees

### OFFICERS

President  
Mike Kositzke

Vice President  
Wil Stewart

Treasurer  
Cathi Cochran

Secretary  
Marilyn Damet

### BOARDS

Elders  
Bruce Fenske  
Ron Hill  
John Cochran

Mission  
Jerry Ferguson  
Apryl Brand-Applehas

Education  
Beth Joynt  
Maggie Fenske  
Donna Spano

Trustee  
NEEDED

## 2012 Planning Meeting

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. we will have our annual planning meeting. This will be an opportunity for the leadership of our church to gather together in worship, prayer, and devotion as well as discuss our last year and plan for the upcoming year. All board and council members are invited to attend. Our bible focus will be on fellowship in the body of Christ. Please plan on joining us.



## LWML NEWS

**Yuma Rally** - Thanks to everyone who participated in the Yuma LWML Rally. Thirty-two sisters from our three local LCMS churches came together to worship and celebrate our relationship with our Lord. A luncheon was served and music was provided by Maggie Fenske and her student, Anna. Other activities included a skit put on by the ladies of Shepherd of the Hills and a craft provided by Paula Backs. Thanks to Pastor Joynt and Beth Joynt for their inspiring Bible studies. We look forward to other opportunities when our sisters can come together in joyful praise of our Lord.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> – A Celebration of the Christmas Story @ Nancy Heredia’s house (3392 W. 21<sup>st</sup> Place), starting at 6:30 PM.** Join us for a chance to offer praise and thanksgiving for God’s greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. Festivities will follow including an exchange of ornaments that depict the true meaning of Christmas. All the Ladies of Calvary are invited to join us. Feel free to bring a friend. Bring, your jubilant voice, grateful heart, an ornament (religious) to exchange, and if you would like, a treat to share.



**Cookies Needed for the Cookie Walk** Cookies are needed for this year’s cookie walk. If you can help us out, please bring 4 dozen cookies to the church before December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Cookie Walk will be held Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM – 12:00PM. You can sign up for cookie donations in the Parish Hall. All proceeds will be dispersed to LCMS World Missions and LWML designated missions.

**Rummage Sale – Cleaning out closets?....getting ready for the New Year?....we would like your old treasures for our rummage sale.** Bring your items to the church. We can store your donated items until the rummage sale on February 25<sup>th</sup> in the backroom. Set up will be held Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will be dispersed to LCMS World Missions and LWML designated missions.

**Women’s Winter Retreat February 10-12th –** Come to beautiful Pine Valley, California and join in the fun, fellowship and inspiration with other Christian women at the Pine Valley Bible Conference Center. Please bring a friend; women of all ages welcomed. Come together with your fellow sisters in Christ at a beautiful winter setting in the Laguna Mountains of California. Pick up an information/registration sheet at the LWML table.

**GOODSEARCH for Missions –** By using Goodsearch.com (powered by Google) as your search engine on the internet, you can raise money for LWML

missions. Every time you use it, a penny is donated to LWML . A penny doesn’t sound like much, but think about how many times you use the internet to search or visit a website. A penny each time! And multiply that by thousands of us – you get the picture! Since 2006, Goodsearch use has raised over \$16,000. That’s cash for missions. When you go to Goodsearch.com, you will have an opportunity to register – just your name and email address –they will ask which organization you want to help and you type in LWML. You will then receive more information on how to add Goodsearch toolbar, make Goodsearch your homepage, or how to shop and save money at Goodsearch.com, another way to save and give at the same time. Check it out!

**Stamps for Mission Money - SAVE your used stamps....they’re worth cash for mission.** Bring in your used stamps to church. Cut out the stamps from the envelope, leaving a ¼ inch border around the stamp. These will be redeemed for cash which will be used to support LWML’s many missions.

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### FROM THE MISSION BOARD

We still need volunteers to sign up to serve meals at Crossroads Mission on December 10, from 11:30-1 p.m. and from 4:30-6 p.m. The sign up board is on the snack table by the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped serve meals in November and December at the Crossroads Mission. Also to those who baked goodies to share with the hundreds that are given much needed food each day at this Christian Mission. Wasn’t it great to serve the Lord by helping the homeless? “Whatsoever you have done for the least of my brethren, you have done for Me.” Matthew 25:40.

The nurses here at Calvary continue to check blood pressures every Sunday after worship during the coffee hour in the SW corner of the Fellowship Hall. There is also other information about health. Calvary is working with Yuma Regional Medical Center and their Heart Healthy Project. The intention is to help keep Yumans healthy whether you live here year round or are a winter visitor. The nurses volunteering are Mike Kositzke, Mary Frances Atchley, Lisa Stewart, and Apryl Brand – Applehans.

Remember to tune in to the Lutheran Hour, every Sunday on KCFY 88.1 FM at 11:30. Calvary and Christ sponsor this program. The Lutheran Hour brings Christ to the nations and the nations to the church. In February we will celebrate Lutheran Hour Sunday and the Lutheran Layman’s League.

We are still collecting Portals of Prayer and any other Christian materials to be recycled around Yuma. A box is in the entry of the Fellowship Hall.