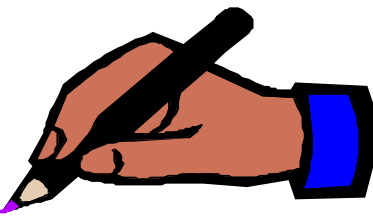


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year! Every year we tend to use the change over to a new calendar as a time to examine the past year and think about how to improve in the new one. Gym memberships swell . . . for at least a few weeks. Chocolate sales go down . . . for at least a few days. People determine that they will finally make the changes that they need; from losing weight to being a better parent to more efficiently using their time. This is always the year that it will finally get better. People may even decide that now is the time to be more faithful in their church attendance.

There is nothing wrong with this attempt to improve ourselves as each of us has weaknesses that need improvement, some we know and some we do not. However, I have to admit that over the years I have soured on the idea of New Year's resolutions. At some point, it became clear that the purpose of giving up something in Lent was to give up New Year's resolutions. Not that they really lasted that long.

For many of us this pursuit of improvement seems a particularly Christian thing to do. After all, we know God has very high demands of our life. We are not treating our body like a temple and thus glorifying God (1 Cor. 6). We are not Christ like in how we treat each other. (John 13). We certainly are not perfect like our Father in heaven is perfect. (Matt. 5). Yet we are supposed to be all those things. Maybe this will be the year when you work a little harder and get a little better at these things.

Except that getting better at them is not enough. It does you no good, in an eternal sense, to be a little holier, a little more Christ like, a bit closer to perfect. You must be perfect, just like Christ, and entirely holy. The small improvements that New Year's resolutions imply get you no closer to perfect than you already are. They may (or may not) make your life better, but they will not make you holier.

Shockingly, they do not make you holier not because you are so far distant from the holiness that God requires. Rather, you are already perfectly holy. That is you have received from His hand all the holiness you will ever need. You will never in this life, be any holier than you were in the moment of Baptism. There your perfection is complete because you receive it from Him. **21 But now the righteousness of God has**

been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3).

You will continue to struggle in this world with its sin and your own sinful flesh. Thus a New Year's resolution here or there may be a helpful thing. Certainly taking better care of your body, being more loving to people, and regularly receiving God's gifts in worship are a central part of the Christian life in a fallen world. However, never mistake them for the Christian life. The Christian life is in the end what we receive – the life of Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor

P.S. One of my New Year's resolutions is to try and be a little shorter in my sermons. Don't worry I will probably give it up long before Lent.

Happy Birthday!

Alton Jones	01/03
Terry Pray	01/03
Peg Henderson	01/07
Hank Green	01/10
Marilyn Damet	01/13
Donna Barton	01/14
Madelyn Mason	01/17
Glen Wagner	01/19
Mary Ann Holloway	01/23
Leroy Pickett	01/27
Jacob Rochester	01/27
Michael Joynt	01/29
Thomas Hoerauf	01/31
Carolyn Macomber	01/31

2011
BUDGET
Contributions & Expenses

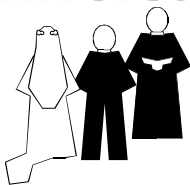


NOVEMBER 2011

CONTRIBUTIONS	
General Fund	\$ 8,029.50
Building Principal	\$ 325.00
EXPENSES	
Expenses	\$12,397.40
Building Principal Payment	\$ 325.00
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$192,940.00
Expenses	\$168,684.07
Roof	\$ 29,000.00
Bldg. Principal payment	\$ 10,399.00

Happy Anniversary

Ron & Evelyn Foster	01/18
Rodney & Bonnie Fischer	01/20
John & Cathi Cochran	01/21
Mark & Teri Jo Ford	01/21
Heather & Kevin Torres	01/26



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I

LCEF Loan

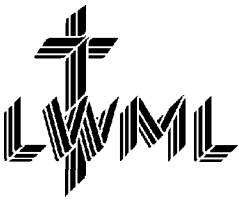
Balance (10/31/2011)	\$44,863.87
Principal payment 12/1/11	\$ <u>325.00</u>
Balance Current	\$44,538.87

BAPTISM

Pam Green	01/01
Cecil Sigafoose Jr.	01/01
Robert Stash	01/01
Betty Stewart	01/01
Lisa Stewart	01/01
Matthew Wilder	01/01
Randy Williams	01/01
Jerry Ferguson	01/02
Johnnie Ehrlich	01/03
Brian Rochester	01/10
Anna Joynt	01/18
Jackson Joynt	01/18
Roxana Williams	01/26

2012 Planning Meeting

On January 21st, 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.



The LWML program for Thursday, January 5th will be changed since the planned speaker will be out of town that week. We will have a program featuring the World Relief quilts. This month's

LWML Quarterly features two pages on quilts. Our Calvary Church is listed but the photo is of the ladies we gave quilts to – not our ladies. If you don't have a Quarterly yet – there are some on the LWML table in the Fellowship Hall. Join us on January 5th. See the quilts we have been making here and a short informative DVD showing where the quilts go.

REMEMBER; all ladies of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

MISSION BOARD NEWS

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at the Crossroads Mission in November and December for both serving and baking goodies. The homeless who find it necessary to live there appreciated all your endeavors, smiles, and visits. You truly, "Served the Lord with Gladness."

Your blood pressures will continue to be checked by the Calvary nurses every Sunday in the Heart Healthy Corner after worship and before Bible Study.

The Yuma Community Food Bank is in need of non-perishable food to help the hungry in the Yuma area. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall to place your donations and the Mission Board will deliver it. There are still many in need in the Yuma area because of unemployment and disabilities.

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast every Sunday on KCFY FM 88.1 at 11:30 a.m. Listen on your way home from Bible Study or after you get home from worship. Calvary helps to sponsor the program which "Brings Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church!"

Please bring your used Portals of Prayer and place in the box in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. These are recycled in the Yuma area to bring comfort to those in need.

In January we will celebrate Life Sunday on January 22nd.

ELDERS REPORT

On October 31, 2011, we kicked off the start of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In anticipation of the actual anniversary on October 31, 2017, we introduced the first two medallions of a series of nine medallions to commemorate it. The first two medallions in 2011 remembered 1) Luther in a thunderstorm vows to become a monk and 2) Luther becomes a monk and is subsequently ordained as priest.

Several people have inquired about a display for these medallions. The same organization making these medallions has a board is available for a nominal fee of \$7.50. If you wish to order a display board, please make out a check for this amount payable to Calvary Lutheran Church and either return it to the church office or hand it to an elder no later than Sunday, February 5, 2012. If you still need your free medallion(s), have questions about them or wish more information on the display board, please see Bruce Fenske.

As discussed in a previous newsletter, individual elders are assigned to members so that they may pray and otherwise care for their spiritual needs. Your elder is also available to see you on any matter that you would prefer not to take to the Pastor. During the upcoming weeks, each elder will introduce himself to his members. Because each member is unique, they will complete introductions in a unique way. Introductions may be one-on-one, by letter, or in group settings.

Over the next couple of months, watch for your elder to make contact. If, after you find out who your elder is, you would prefer to have a different elder, please feel free to request someone else. You may make your request known to Pastor Joynt or anyone of the elders.

God's blessings upon you as you pray daily and study His Word. If you have a concern about any aspect of congregational life, please speak with John Cochran, Bruce Fenske, Smokey Morner, newly-elected Ron Hill, or winter elder Albert Claude of the Board of Elders.

BURRITO BREAKFAST



Mike Ehrlich will be serving breakfast burritos on Sunday, January 15th. A special door offering will be taken for the Principal loan balance. Funds raised will be matched.