



Mustard Seed

Calvary Lutheran Church LCMS + Yuma, Arizona

January 29, 2012

Weekly Newsletter? Why Not?

Email, instant messaging, texting, Facebook, and Twitter. These are a few of the ways people today talk to each other. What they have in common is speed. In fact, we can be far apart, yet communicate instantly.

As a church congregation, however, we often do a poor job of communicating information about what is going on. "I never heard about that," or "by the time I found out, I had already made other plans." These are statements we hear all too often from our Christian brothers and sisters. People are not kept in the information loop, and in a way can become disconnected from participating at church as fully as they would like.

The need to improve the speed and flexibility of communication at Calvary Lutheran was identified at the 2012 Planning Meeting. From that comes this newsletter.

The Plan:

- The Mustard Seed will be emailed to you each Friday.
- Hard copies will be available on Sunday.
- All newsletter items need to be submitted to the church office by noon on Wednesdays.

What We Need:

- Email addresses! (if the office does not already have yours)
- Participation – there are now 4 (or 5) chances, instead of just one each month.
- Feedback – How can this newsletter best serve our church and its people?
(Confidential email: calvarypresident@gmail.com)

What To Expect:

- Sunday's Scripture readings
- Things to look forward to as well as articles about past events
- Pastor's message
- Contact information

Hopefully, this will be a helpful and informative tool for Calvary. It should allow all of us to keep up to date on activities—especially those that pop up unexpectedly.

Watch for your newsletters and use them to stay connected with Calvary Lutheran.

In His Service,
Mike Kositzke, Council President



On Sunday, January 15, Mike and Janet Ehrlich provided and prepared delicious Breakfast Burritos. A free will offering was taken to lower the principal debt on our building loan. Thanks to all of your contributions over \$17,000 has already been received and paid toward the principal balance. In February, another \$10,000 will be contributed. This will bring the remaining principal balance down to just over \$14,000. Thank you all!



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Where I grew up (upstate New York) February was not only the shortest month of the year, but the longest. It was the shortest but it seemed the longest. I can remember years where we did not see the sun for the whole month. No, it was not above the Arctic Circle, it was just that cloudy. The school year had gotten old, but the end was not yet in site. The football season was over and March madness had not yet begun.

In the Church it is a bit that way. The excitement of Christmas and New Year's is over. The quiet reflection of Lent has not yet begun.

Indeed we are now in what is called the "ordinary season" of the Church year. The ordinary season is the time from the Baptism of Jesus until Ash Wednesday and also the time from Pentecost until Advent. It actually does not originally mean ordinary in contrast to special, but ordinary in the sense of counted numbers (ordinal numbers). However, it really is the ordinary time of the church. Nothing special is going on. The Gospel lessons are about the ministry and preaching of Jesus, rather than about special events. Ordinary time also makes up about 65% of the Church year.

It is a good time then to reflect on the "ordinariness" of own lives. We live in an age with a strange focus on drama over the ordinary. Movies and television take the normal and blow it up into larger than life images. Even reality TV is really about making the ordinary extraordinary. It is worth remembering that most of our lives are spent in the ordinary. Most of us will have a few extraordinary moments. Some will be obvious, like the birth of children or the death of parents. These extraordinary moments tend to cause us to refocus or rethink our lives. But the daily stuff of life is in the ordinary. And that is no accident.

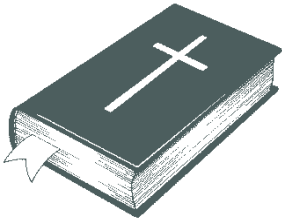
It is in the ordinary that we achieve most of God's work in our lives. Most of us will do little or nothing that is extraordinary in the way the world measures things. But in the midst of the daily stuff of our lives, God is promising us extraordinary things. He is promising us forgiveness of sins. He is promising the chance to serve Him in ways that we will not necessarily even see.

During this time of the Church year, listen to the more ordinary parts of Christ's extraordinary life. The focus is less on the cross and more on the preaching and healing that Jesus does. Jesus is coming into the regular lives of regular people. For one moment a regular guy or gal has the experience of the healing and preaching presence of the one true God. This is God's promise to you in this world as well. In the midst of all the stuff of life, God has promised to be with you, healing you of your sins by the power of His word.

Remember also that most of Jesus' life was spent not in extraordinary time, but in ordinary time. Jesus spent more of His life as a carpenter than He did as a preacher and healer. For something like ten or fifteen years of His adulthood, it was not yet His time. Instead, He lived in Nazareth, a carpenter and son of a carpenter. During all those years, He was still doing His Father's will. He was still living the perfect, lawful life. It is this life that you receive in the holy transaction. When He takes your sins upon Himself at the cross, and gives you back His perfect righteousness, that is His time as carpenter every bit as much as it His time on the cross. Your life is sanctified by His cleansing work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Even the ordinary, regular things of your life are holy. In this season of ordinary time, thank God that He has perfected even the ordinary through His extraordinary sacrifice.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt



Sunday's Lessons

(4th Sunday after Epiphany)
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



Those who are suffering: Donna Giffey, Steve Brown, Madelyn Mason, Kyle Reinertson, Suzie Disanza, Helen Hahn, Delores Powell, Don Chambers, and Terry Brand

Those who serve us in the Military: Jake Campbell, Chaplain Lynn Christiansen, Jessica Cochran, Victor Greenfield, Jeannie Moody, Jeremy Rankin, Kevin Sengvanhphen, Marcus Svetahor, Michael Yelland, Michael Pray, Philip Kearly, and Dan Johnson

Those who spread the Gospel Overseas: Rev. Terry and Janet Borchard, Rev. Glenn and Susan Fluegge, and Pastor Dennis and Lorna Meeker

Valentine's Day Dinner

The Mission Board is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Dinner for couples, singles, and friends. Please join us for this **free** event. Tony Spano will be our chef, so you know you are in for a treat! There will be a good will offering to help replenish the Calvary Lutheran Assistance Fund. Sign-up sheets are on the side table in the Parish Hall.

2011 Contribution Statements are available in the Fellowship Hall. Offering envelopes are there as well. If you would like to use envelopes for your giving, please call the office at 928-783-3024.

Petal Pushers

Nine women from Calvary spent two days decorating floats for Petal Pushers. This year they were pleased to spend some of that time working on The Lutheran Hour float. This is a volunteer endeavor on their part for their time and expenses. All their working hours are credited to The Lutheran Hour and help to finance that float which is the only Christian float in the Rose Parade. This year's parade theme was "Just Imagine" and the Lutheran Hour float theme was "God's Promise for All" based on John 3:36.



Calvary's Petal Pushers:

(L to R) Elaine Green, Janice Lichtenwald, Marilyn Damet, Betty Stewart, Connie Wubbena, Iris Bezo, Paula Backs, Shirley Haugrose, and Linda Stanae

Some members of this group have attended this event three times and all are talking of doing it again this year. We met people from all over the U.S. who made the trip to work on the floats. The work can be tiring, but it is fascinating to see how it is all done. We highly recommend it to all of you. Think it over and get a group together to support this tremendous outreach of our church. You'll be glad you did. For more information go to: www.petalpushers.org or contact Petal Pushers Chairman, Lynn Gast at 949-458-0606.



The finished project.

LWML NEWS

The Mug Exchange – The annual Mug Exchange will be February 2 at 7 p.m. Bring an inspirational mug and include a paper with your name, your favorite Bible passage, birth date and anniversary. This is always a favorite program for everyone involved. Mark your calendar and don't miss it.



Buy LWML a Cup of Coffee

How many of us would not buy our friend a cup of coffee as an act of kindness? Why not commit the amount of "buying LWML a cup of coffee" for a week, a month or a year and send it to support the LWML mission grants?

What's in Your Closet?

This is your chance to take inventory of your closet! You are encouraged to count all the shoes, handbags or purple items, ties and suits in your closet. Determine an amount to designate for each one and add this amount to your mite offering.



Saturday, February 25 8 a.m. - noon

Cleaning out closets? We would like your old treasures for our rummage sale. Bring your items to the church. We can store your donated items in the back room until the day of the sale. Set up will be held Friday, February 24. All proceeds will be dispersed to LCMS World Missions and LWML designated missions.



Cookie Angels Needed – Please consider signing up to supply goodies for a Sunday morning during fellowship after church.

Sunday Servers are also needed.

Responsibilities include coffee setup, treat set up, and clean up. Check the sign up list on the LWML table to select your favorite month to help.

Mite Donations - Here are some simple and fun suggestions to inspire your joyful mite giving.



Counting Your Blessings contribute an amount for:

- Years of your life, or years of marriage
- Number of children or grandchildren
- How long you have been employed or retired
- Any and all of these and more

Round It Up for LWML

Help "change" the world! Whenever you are out shopping, or at home paying a bill, "round up" the change to the next dollar. At the end of the month, donate the amount that you have collected to LWML mites.



Board of Missions

Our Calvary RNs will continue during February to take blood pressures in the **Heart Healthy** corner. This is a program in cooperation with Yuma Regional Medical Center. Our nurses are Mary Frances Atchley, Apryl Brand-Applehans, Lisa Stewart, and Mike Kositzke. We are here to serve the Lord and Calvary members and friends. Do stop by after worship!

Please-if you can-donate to the Yuma Community Food Bank through Calvary. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Many people, and children are hungry and as many as 20,000 people are fed each month by "our" Community Food Bank. Bring non-perishable food and they will be delivered by the Mission Board to the bank. Cash or checks are also acceptable. Thank you!

"Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church." We will celebrate Lutheran Hour Sunday one Sunday in February. You can listen to this wonderful Christian broadcast every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. on KCFY88.1.

Save your Portals of Prayer and place them in the box in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. These will be recycled in the Yuma area.



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

- 1 – Constance Boucher, James Rochester
- 4 – Addison Hildestad
- 5 – Jordan Rutledge
- 7 – Evelyn Foster, Pat Martel-Cooper,
Kaden Siharath
- 9 – Lawrence Bezo
- 11 – John Cochran
- 15 – Austin McDaniel
- 16 – Neva Sawatzky
- 17 – Ronald Foster
- 28 – Aja Backs, Chaylen Hildestad



- 2 – Milton and Jeanene Euhus
- 14 – Tamara and Eric Hansen
- 29 – Shawn and Aja Backs



Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 - Constance Boucher, Thomas Hoerauf
- 7 – Evelyn Foster, Michael Joynt
- 10 – Denise Rice
- 11 – Joanne Williams
- 15 – Katherine McDaniel
- 17 – Ronald Foster
- 21 – John Ehrlich, Jr., William Stewart
- 29 – James Rochester

Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMS

711 S. 7th Avenue + Yuma, AZ + 85364
928-783-3024

Michael Joynt, Pastor

On the web: www.calvary-lutheran.com
calvary-lutheran@gmail.com

What's Happening at Calvary

Sun., Jan. 29

- 9 a.m. –Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. –Sunday School and Bible Study
- 11:30 a.m. –Confirmation Class

Wed., Feb. 1

- 11 a.m. – Bible Study (Gospel of Matthew)
- 7 p.m. – Midweek Worship

Thurs., Feb. 2

- 9:30 a.m. – Bible Study (Sermon Study) at Emerald Springs
- 7 p.m. – LWML Mug Exchange

Fri., Feb. 3

- 9 a.m.-- LWML Quilting

Sat., Feb. 4

- 7:30 a.m. – Bible Study
- 11 a.m. – Adult Information Class

Sunday, Feb. 5

- 9 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. –Sunday School and Bible Study
- 11:30 a.m. – Confirmation Class

Save the Date For:

Sunday, Feb. 12

*“Thank You” Burrito Breakfast – Free
Before and after the service*

Tuesday, Feb. 14

6:30 p.m. – Valentine’s Day Dinner

Sun., Feb. 19

6 p.m. – Prayer Meeting at the Cochran’s

Tues., Feb. 21

*5:30 p.m. – Board and Council Dinner
6 p.m. – Board Meetings
7 p.m. – Council Meeting*

Wed. Feb. 22

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

Sat., Feb. 25

8 a.m. – Noon-- LWML Rummage Sale