

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

As time goes by, it seems that each year passes more quickly and the things to which we look forward have already come and gone. I remember as a kid, I looked with great anticipation to when Christmas would finally arrive, and it seemed like it would take forever. My birthday was another day to which I looked forward, and it too seemed to take what seemed like an eternity back then to arrive. As I have grown older, these days during the year seem to sneak up on me and are here and gone before I know it. We celebrated Christmas just a month ago as I write this article and the season of Lent begins February 18th on Ash Wednesday. That is really what I want to discuss with you in this article.

I have chosen a Lenten series for Wednesday evenings centered on the “Mountains of Life.” What I mean by “mountains” are those events and times in your life when things are challenging, difficult, cumbersome, fearful, mournful, and so forth. All of us have encountered such events from the time we were little children to where we are today. It may have been a kid on the playground who bullied us or the struggle between parents that led to a divorce. Maybe it has been health related as the doctor has ordered tests and the prognosis was not what we had hoped. Perhaps with the struggling economy, financial security is anything but that and the concern about how to pay our mortgage or other bills consumes much of our mental faculties. Or, maybe a loved one died and we struggle with the void it has left inside of us. All of these things are “mountains” in our lives and how we confront them and navigate them is not always as easy as we’d like them to be.

How do we meet the challenging mountains of life successfully? How do we navigate these mountains and master their rough terrain? Are we expected to face these mountains of life alone? Where is God when our life’s journey leads to one of these mountains? These are the very things upon which we will meditate beginning February 18th and every Wednesday evening during the season of Lent.

We will begin by discussing “The Spirit of Calvary’s Climb” and the fact that the mountains we face in life Jesus already faced and overcame for us. It may seem cliché, but the truth of the matter is that Jesus does not send us alone to climb mountains, but provides us with the necessary equipment to navigate their rough terrain. We will then discuss “The Mount of Temptation” that

stares all of us in the face and entices us to look for other means by which to navigate the challenging things of life. In such times of temptation, we must never forget that there is nothing of which the devil can tempt us that He didn’t try tempting Jesus with first. Second, it is vital to remember that even in the face of temptation, Jesus overcame on our behalf so that when we are enticed to look to other places, persons, and things, we are drawn by His Spirit back to the cross where all of our temptations have been defeated.

Of course, one mountain everyone prefers to avoid is “The Mountain of Suffering.” I don’t know of a single person who desires to suffer, regardless of the reason. Yet, being a child of God living in a broken world means that there will definitely be times of suffering, simply because you are a child of God. Because you have faith in Christ as your Savior, the devil is dedicated to spending as much time and effort as he is able to get you to fall away from faith. Dart after dart...blow after blow...the devil will continue to lash out at you, trying to make you believe that God doesn’t care about you. Temptation and suffering go together because when you suffer, you are certainly tempted to turn to other means to find relief. Look to the cross of Jesus, where there Jesus suffered and died to rescue us from the eternal suffering that comes to those who do not believe.

Then we will consider “The Mount of Loyalty”...the mountain of being faithful to responsibilities, duties, and promises. When we think of someone being loyal, we usually consider that person to be faithful to their word, period. We are sinners, and our loyalty is far from perfect. But Jesus was perfectly loyal to His Father for us. He fulfilled the Law, He expressed righteous anger out of loyalty to His Father, and His loyalty was demonstrated by the restoration of the temple. Jesus was loyal...for us. And all that He accomplished...He accomplished for us and gave us the credit.

“The Mount of Sacrifice” is another mountain of life we would rather avoid if at all possible. Yes, sacrifice is a part of life. We do it all the time. We may choose to do something we don’t want to do because someone else likes it. Maybe we give up things in life so that others can have the things they want. Parents, often, go without so their children don’t have to. What did Jesus give up? What sacrifice did Jesus make? Why did He do this...allowing Himself to be sacrificed? Do we respond in likeness because of what Jesus did?

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday!

Addison Hildestad	02/04
Jordan Rutledge	02/05
Evelyn Foster	02/07
Pat Martel-Cooper	02/07
Kaden Siharath	02/07
Rebecca Kessler	02/09
Austin McDaniel	02/15
Ronald Foster	02/17
Aja Backs	02/28
Chaylen Hildestad	02/28

Happy Anniversary

Milton & Jeanene Euhus	02/02
Tamara & Eric Hansen	02/14
Shawn & Aja Backs	02/29



BAPTISM

Evelyn Foster	02/07
Joanne Williams	02/11
Katherine McDaniel	02/15
Ronald Foster	02/17
John Ehrlich Jr	02/21
William Stewart	02/21
Austin Kessler	02/26

Assistance League of Yuma Arizona Western College Occupational Scholarship 2015-2016

Two \$1500 scholarships for students pursuing an occupational degree or certificate at Arizona Western College, for the 2015-2016 academic year are available. See AWC catalog for complete list of qualifying courses of study.

(Students enrolled in transfer programs do not qualify for these funds.)

Applications are available at:

- Assistance League Thrift Store, 1054 S. 4th Avenue
- AWC Financial Aid Office or online
- Local high school counselors

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings 6:00P.M. & Council February 10, 2015

If you have a complaint or concern please attend the board meetings so the boards can address the issue.

2015 Contributions

1/01	\$3,864.00
1/11	\$2,901.00
1/18	\$2,313.00
1/25	\$2,738.00

Avg. \$2954.00 per week



Contribution amount needed per week is \$3,456.72 to meet current budget.

Parking Lot Fund

Opened with a 2014 year end contribution of \$2000.

1/25	\$ 90.00
Fund Raiser	\$663.50

2014 Contributions & Expenses DECEMBER

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$17,416.29
Expenses	<u>\$12,129.48</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 5,286.81

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$170,670.69
Expenses	<u>\$165,878.10</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 4,792.59

Recap

2014 Contributions	\$170,670.69
2014 Budget	\$168,566.00
2014 Expenses	<u>\$165,878.10</u>
Under budget	\$2,687.90
2015 Approved Budget	\$179,749.00
Increase in budget	\$11,183.00

Stewardship Committee

The following have accepted the call to serve on the Stewardship Committee for 2015:

Bonnie Reinertson Jan Stash Betty Stewart
Connie Wubbena and Wilma Replogle were elected Co-chairman.

The dictionary defines Stewardship as:

- a. The office, duties and obligation of a steward.
 - b. The individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others.
- A good steward manages God's gifts of blessings. God gave us time, talents and money. How will we at Calvary manage these blessings?

The committee thanks you for picking up your 2015 contributions envelopes and 2014 financial statements.

Steward Sunday is January 25. Gary Norton will be our guest speaker. The committee asks that everyone in the congregation fill out a Time and Talent form and return it.

Also everyone is asked to fill out a sheet as to how much God calls you to contribute in 2015 and place that in an envelope, seal the envelope, write your name on the envelope and return it to the committee for safe keeping until the end of the year when it will be returned to you unopened.

May we be God's faithful stewards.
Wilma Replogle for the Stewardship Committee

Ash Wednesday and Lent Season Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services: Don't Forget!!! The season of Lent begins this month, February 18th with Ash Wednesday. Wednesday evening midweek services will be at 7:00 pm with a sandwich and salad meal served beforehand at 6:00 pm. If you are able to bring either a salad or some sandwiches to share, that would be great. However, if you are unable, that's okay too! There is always plenty of food and the fellowship is fantastic so come anyway!

The Midweek Lenten Services will be as follows:
February 18th – Ash Wednesday – The Spirit of Calvary's Climb
Feb. 25th – Evening Prayer – The Mount of Temptation
March 4th – Evening Prayer – The Mount of Suffering
March 11th – Evening Prayer – The Mount of Loyalty
March 18th – Evening Prayer – The Mount of Sacrifice
March 25th – Evening Prayer – The Mount of Triumph
(Congregation is invited to remain after worship service to witness and support our confirmation student who will be administered the final exam publically. This is an important and landmark moment in a Lutheran person's journey of faith as they publically confess their faith in Christ Jesus.)

From the Pastor Continued from page 1

The idea of sacrifice usually makes us a little squeamish to say the least. As we consider Jesus' sacrifice, we are once again pointed to the cross...but also the empty tomb...the absolute victory of sin, death, the devil, and hell.

Which, finally, leads us to "The Mount of Triumph." Most people plan NOT to fail when they step out in an endeavor. We may not always achieve exactly what we hope, but we never plan to fail completely. People, in general, plan to succeed...to reach the summit, so to speak...to come out on top. The problem occurs when people simply can't or don't achieve what they want in life. Does that sound familiar? Do you get discouraged when your plan backfires and the end result is other than what you had hoped? Again, we turn to the cross, where God's plan of salvation was NOT thwarted, but rather accomplished everything He planned. Even in our failures, God bestows on us the successes of His Son, credits those successes to our life accounts, and places us on the top...on the summit...right next to Him because Jesus was triumphant for us.

In all of these mountains of life, we learn that even in the face of failure, God is right there, strengthening us, providing us with the proper equipment to face those mountains, and in the end, credits Jesus' mountain top accomplishments to us...namely forgiveness, life, and salvation...through His cross and empty grave. In this Lenten season, know that when you navigate the mountains of life that come across your path, God will be with you...Christ will walk beside you...His Spirit will empower you. As we journey together, let us come to Calvary's holy mountain where true peace for the troubled heart and soul may be found.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Kessler

From the Trustees

Thank you to everyone for your over whelming support toward the burrito breakfast we had to raise money for the repairs of our parking lot, we are off to a good start.

In 2010 we received estimates for the repairs. These estimates range in price from \$5000.00 to \$10,000.00.

The Voter's Assembly approved the Parking Lot Fund. If any one wishes to make a contribution to the fund, simply mark your offering envelope under special "parking lot fund" and the amount to be applied. Thank you.

Mission Board News

FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT

4KenyaKids/ Missionaries Rev. and Lorna Meeker

4KenyaKids (formerly known as Compassionate Social Care Ministries) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois.

For more information or to donate, go to www.4kenyaskids.org or email to 4kenyaskids@gmail.com.

If you would like to mail a donation to 4Kenya's Kids, mail to 4Kenya's Kids, 504 N. Walnut Street. Seymour, IN 47274



Ladies' Friendship Tea

Mark your calendars! It's time for our "Friendship Tea!" Invite your mother, sisters, cousins, mother-in-law, sister-in-laws, daughters, friends and neighbors to one of the best Tea Parties ever. February 28th is the date, from 2:00-4:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall. There will be live music and fun activities and wonderful desserts. Hats and boas welcomed but not essential. Each person should bring their favorite teacup. Let's celebrate the love of our Lord and Savior, and let others know we love and appreciate them. More details to follow. Brought to you by the Mission Board. Admission is free.

LWML Zone news

25 Spring Celebration

March 14, 2015, (8:30 AM-1:30 PM)

Join us for breakfast and fellowship 8:30 AM

Guest Speaker Steve Rice from Orphan Grain Train

Calvary Lutheran Church

711 S. 7th Avenue

Yuma, AZ 85364

"Serving Children"

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37

Ingathering: School Backpacks and School Supplies (KEEP SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS SEPERATE)

Calvary's LWML News

The LWML had a great attendance at our January meeting. Our speaker was on programs available for unemployed veterans. He made us aware of many different aspects and a different way to think of many of the homeless people we see. I am glad there was good attendance and hopefully we all gained a lot from what he explained to us. Our monthly mission gift of \$100 will go to his choice of one of these programs.



The February meeting is the annual mug exchange. We are approaching our 30th year and I think all of us really look forward to it. We are pleased that Linda Kaiser will again be leading us. We all gain a new prayer partner for the next year and share so many pleasant memories of past exchanges and our partners from years past. Each lady brings a mug – it does NOT have to be a new mug; it does NOT have to have a Christian verse; it can be something that represents you, a mug you like --- any kind of mug. Put your name; birthday (year not necessary); your anniversary if you wish and a favorite Bible verse on paper and put it in the mug. Bring to the meeting and we'll do the rest for you. If you have never attended one: now is the time to start! If you have any questions, ask any of the gals and they will be glad to help you or direct you to someone who can help you.



Also the annual rummage sale will be February 14th. Have you cleaned out your cupboards and closets? You can bring things now and put them in the women's old restroom. If you are able, please come and help us set up on Friday the 13th starting at 8 AM. Thankfully, we always get lots of donations and there is as lot to do to get it all on display and priced.

I hope you remember LWML service last November and that Pastor reminded us: every woman who is a member of the LCMS is a member of the LWML.

BLESSINGS.



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
Council meeting January 6th 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by President Mike Ehrlich with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

PRESENT: Mike Ehrlich, Lisa Elam, Johnnie Altstatt, Janet Ehrlich, Pastor Kessler, Melissa Fairchild, Pat Lamaestra, Nancy Heredia, Ron Hill, Connie Wubben.

MINUTES: Janet motioned to accept the minutes with 2 small corrections. Under Pastor report change let to led and under new business about parking lot repair the word month changed to money. Nancy 2nd the motion. Motioned passed.

FINANCIAL: Johnnie presented the December financial report for review. The 2014 budget met expenses and for the first time in a long time expenses came in under budget. Ron asked how the contributions were broke down and Janet explained .Janet motioned to accept the financial report, Nancy 2nd. Motioned passed.

PRESIDENT: No report

VICE PRESIDENT: No report

SECRETARY: Report presented

TREASURER: Report presented

PASTOR: Wrote and Preached 9 Sermons –Led 10 Worship Services.

Led 3 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes on Ephesians.

Sunday morning worship attendance as follows:

12/3/2014 41 Advent Midweek	12/7/2014 80
12/10/2014 40 Advent Midweek	12/14/2014 90
12/17/2014 46 Advent Midweek	12/21/2014 104
12/24/2014 75 Sunday School Children's Program	
12/24/2014 93 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
12/25/2014 32 Christmas Day	12/28/2014 79

Led 2 Bible Classes at Emerald Springs; Led 2 Saturday Morning Bible Classes

Led 2 Confirmation classes; Led 2 Wednesday morning Bible Classes in Education Building: Topic - Patience

Elder discussion through the book, "Holding Up the Prophet's Hand" by Bruce Hartung: Chapter 4

(Kids In Christ) meeting December 21st, 2014 – made and delivered cookies to 8 Yuma firehouses

Made 5 hospital visits; Performed 2 shut-in communions

Attended "All Boards" Meeting and "Church Council" Meeting – December 9th, 2014;

Attended "Elders" Meeting – December 5th, 2014; Attended "Voters" Meeting – December 14th, 2014

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS: Ron reported that the elders met in December and will meet again in January.

MISSION: Nancy reported that they have 12 missions under their budget and that they will highlight 1 each month. They will be having a Valentine's Day dinner Feb 14th with KIC serving and the money going to the assistance fund. Connie pointed out Feb 14th is the LWML rummage sale. Also they are holding a sader dinner March 27th and a fall festival Nov 7th, 5-8p.m.

EDUCATION: No report. Not all the "Protect my Ministry" background checks have been completed.

STEWARDSHIP: The board has 5 members. They have chosen Connie and Wilma to be co-chairman. Stewardship Sunday will be Jan 25th. Pastor is looking into a guest Pastor. Time and talent sheets will be passed out. They are also looking into the possibility of doing a chicken dinner fundraiser in Feb or March.

TRUSTEES: Janet said the "Use of Church" guidelines will be passed out since there are a lot of new board members. Lightbulbs that are burned out will be replaced. APS will fix parking lot. They will meet Jan 19th to fix the paint in the Education building. All are welcome to help. Someone noticed wax on the chairs from Christmas Eve. It will come off. The Stewardship Board approved 2 fundraisers for the parking lot fund. One is a burrito breakfast on Jan 25th. 2nd is a recycling (cans, paper etc)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Voter meeting Jan 11th to vote on the 2015 budget. No discussion. Pat Lamaestra said he could be the district delegate nominee. He will be nominated at the voters meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The treasurer and Janet have designed a new form for authorizing fundraisers and expenditures. It has to be completed with proper signatures from stewardship board, board chairman, group leader and person requesting fundraiser .Paperwork must be done before any money is turned in. Any donations made out to the organization are not considered fundraisers as the money is not going through the Church. Janet explained proper way to fill out form. Pastor explained why proper channels were important. Money collected has to be accounted for-so for example, if money turned in is not a designated and approved fundraiser it would have to go into the general fund. The treasurer would call the person donating.

GOOD OF ORDER: News articles due by the 15th. Mike went over the voters meeting agenda.

Next meeting Feb 10th.

Connie motioned to adjourn meeting, Johnnie 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

JANUARY 11, 2015 VOTERS MEETING/ 2015 BUDGET

Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m. by President Mike Ehrlich with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

There were no new members or returning members to vote on.

MINUTES- It was moved by Janet and 2nd by Art that the minutes be accepted. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL- Mike reported we ended 2014 11 percent under budget. It was moved by Milt and 2nd by Pat to accept. Motioned passed

2015 BUDGET- Mike presented the 2015 budget which is 6 percent higher than last year's budget. There was no discussion. It was moved by Randy and 2nd by Art to accept the 2015 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- District delegate. Counsel has recommended Pat Lamaestra as our district delegate. Janet motioned to accept Pat as our delegate, Bruce 2nd. Motion passed.

GOOD OF ORDER- Pastor Kessler thanks us for our patience and understanding while adjusting to him as our new Pastor. He feels we are moving in the right direction. We passed a new budget but we still must stay diligent. Pastor feels the need for boards to communicate better by doing monthly articles in the newsletter and through messages in the Sunday Bulletin so the congregation has a better idea of what is going on and can stay informed. The only way to do that is through open communication.

There was discussion as to whether to chant or speak the introit. Ron asked Pastor to elaborate on how he feels about chanting/ speaking as he had talked about it at an elders meeting. While Pastor can do the service any way he sees fit, he wants us to be a part of decision making. Paula said maybe chant at certain services such as Matins and speak at others. Mary Francis says it depends on amount of people and whether or not we have an organist. Jeanene says we need a leader to help us carry out chant. Randy says alternate. Janet says it needs to be decided as inserts are printed 3 months in advance. It was decided the contentious was for both.

Art brought up that if people are not happy about something they should talk to the person directly, not to others. Pastor says what is said to him is completely confidential.

Janet motioned to adjourn, Randy 2nd.

Pastor led closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 12:20p.m.

February 2015

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	2	3	4 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation	5 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	6 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 4:00pm Elders Meeting	7 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
8 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-Pastor Meet/Greet	9	10 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council	11 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation	12 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	13 08:00am Rummage Sale <u>set up</u>	14 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 08:00 AM-Rummage Sale
15 08:00 AM-Worship Service 09:00 AM-Newsletter Articles due 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-KIC	16	17	18 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation 07:00 PM-Ash Wednesday	19 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	20 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	21 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
22 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	23	24 <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  Pot Luck sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall for the Salad and sandwich meal for Lent. </div>	25 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service	26 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	27	28 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 02:00 PM-Friendship Tea