

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

Generally, before I begin leading a Bible class, I ask the participants if they have any prayer requests for the day which are then included in the opening prayer. Prayer requests range anywhere from petitions for ill friends and family members, to an end to war and bloodshed that is occurring around the world, to thanksgiving for various things in peoples' lives. On one particular occasion, a person requested that we pray for unity and concord among the members of the church. Ever since that specific request, I have thought a great deal about it and have prayed that petition numerous times since. I can't help but wonder and speculate the reason for the request. Regardless of that person's reason, the prayer was indeed proper and important as I have had time to reflect about what it means to be unified and to walk in concord with one another here at Calvary.

The word "concord" or "Concordia" is derived from 2 Latin words: "con" meaning "with" and "cord" or "cordia" meaning "heart." When put together, the word "concord" or "Concordia" means "with heart." The word implies that those who walk together "with heart" or with "concord" means they are so deeply connected together out of love as if their hearts beat in unison...as if they share one heartbeat.

So when we take a moment and consider a prayer that asks God to lead us to walk in concord and unity with one another here at Calvary, consider what it means to walk so closely together in faith and love, to the end, it yields a single pulse made up of many parts. Consider just how profound it is that even 2 people walk so closely together. Now, we seek God's grace and mercy to lead and guide numerous people to be united, and the sheer fact that anyone would seek God's blessing to be of one heart with others is not only beautiful...it is miraculous!

Why do I say that it is miraculous that anyone would make such a request? It's simple...really. Consider who we are by nature? The answer: SINNERS. The truth is that people who come together here at Calvary are sinners...even me. We are a broken, sinful people who, out of our sinful, human nature, desire to gratify our sinful hearts and minds...often at the expense of other people. We are, at times, quick to render judgment and criticize without peering into our own hearts. We hypocritically find fault with others we witness doing the

same inappropriate things we, ourselves, are guilty of doing. We puff ourselves up over our church attendance, volunteering services, and community clout while looking down upon those we consider to be of less value. We are sinners...broken, hopeless sinners, desperately in need of forgiveness...desperately in need of hope...desperately in need of a new heart.

You may speculate as to why I have written about this. Honestly, it isn't about anything I have witnessed or heard. It is because it is Lent and because I need to hear this just as much as the next person. You see, this is a season of penitential reflection on our sinfulness and need for a Savior, as well as a recognition and re-focus on the God-man, Jesus Christ, whom God the Father sent as a ransom for you and me. Yes, we are disgusting, vial sinners. But, we are also children of God, having been redeemed from the vial, sinful nature that plagues us all. Through the blood of Jesus, our broken hearts have been made new and our hopelessness has been reversed. As we say in the Matins Lenten liturgy, "We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. He was delivered up to death. He was delivered for the sins of the people." Jesus' death is our life. Living in the knowledge of having been lost and condemned sinners who are now redeemed by Christ the crucified, our hearts together beat as one.

I guess what I pray you take away from this article is that Calvary is a place of refuge...refuge for those sick with sin...refuge for those with weary souls...refuge for those whose spirit is troubled. Compassion, understanding, patience...that is my prayer for all of us as we journey together, not only this Lenten season, but always. By the grace of God and with His help, let us walk together in unity and concord...with heart...so deeply connected together out of love as if our hearts beat as one. God bless you all!

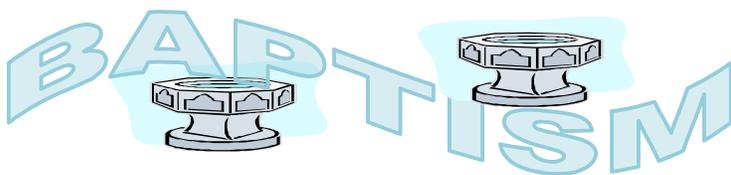
In Christian Love,
Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

Shirley Nelson	03/02
Jeanette Albright	03/07
Marilyn Engel	03/07
Jacob LeClerc	03/09
Hannah Kessler	03/10
Connie Wubbena	03/10
Brian Atchley	03/11
Mark Ford	03/11
Lisa Stewart	03/12
Patrick Stuebs	03/13
Trina Elam	03/24
Al Rahn	03/28
Shirley Haugrose	03/31

Happy Anniversary

Katie & Brian Strom 03/31



Rosemary Suhr	03/01
Jordan Rutledge	03/03
Abby Rutledge	03/09
Carolyn Macomber	03/13
Dylan MacFarlane	03/17
Leroy Pickett	03/18
Brian Atchley	03/23
Michael Kessler	03/23
Lily Green	03/24
Hannah Kessler	03/25
Jane Pray	03/25
Ella Stewart	03/26
Austin McDaniel	03/27
Addison Hildestad	03/29
Shirley Haugrose	03/31

From the Trustees

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support toward the pancake breakfast we had.

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. To date we have raised \$4,600.00.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings 6:00P.M. & Council March 17, 2015

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

2015 Contributions

2/01	\$4,617.00
2/08	\$2,726.00
2/15	\$1,841.00
2/22	\$4,339.00

Avg. \$3,380.75 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.

January Contributions	\$ 90.00
Fund Raiser	\$ 663.58
February Contributions	\$1622.76
Fund Raiser	\$ 305.00

2015

Contributions & Expenses

JANUARY

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$11,312.96
Expenses	\$13,445.73
Rent	\$ 550.00
Excess/Loss	<\$ 1,582.77>

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 11,312.96
Expenses	\$ 13,445.73
Rent	\$ 550.00
Excess/Loss	<\$ 1,582.77>

2014 Recap

2014 Contributions	\$170,670.69
2014 Budget	\$168,566.00
2014 Expenses	\$165,878.10
Under budget	\$2,687.90

2015 Approved Budget	\$179,749.00
Increase in budget	\$11,183.00



From The President

Please remember that the Board meetings and Council was changed to March 17 this month. Please try and have all boards in attendance. Thank you, Mike Ehrlich.

wonder how many of us actually know/understand just what it is. Now is your chance to get that information, so please join us that day. There will be coffee and goodies at 8:30 and lunch followed by the Grain Train speaker and planned closing at 1:30.



Stewardship Committee

Prayers were answered as Jan Stash will give of her time and talents to serve as our Stewardship Committee Secretary. Thank you very much, Jan.

A thank you note was sent to our Stewardship Sunday speaker, Gary Norton. Thank you Connie for thinking of that.

Several fund raising ideas for the Calvary's general treasury were discussed. Fall may be the time to do these as more information and discussion needs to take place. Ideas are welcome from the congregation.

The mailboxes and the church directory need updating. Memorial that are given need to be acknowledged. Committee will work on these.

Time and Talents Sheets are to be returned no later than Sunday, February 22, by you, the congregation. Thank you for sharing this information so graciously with us so that we can compile it on Tuesday, Feb. 24 and pass it on to other committees.

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Thank God for all who labor in the name of Jesus.



Mission Board News

This Lenten season Calvary will be observing a Seder supper from 5-7pm on March 28, which is the Saturday before Good Friday, April 3. A Seder is the Christian version of the Jewish Passover. Traditional food and a service providing the story of the Israelites deliverance from Egypt will be followed. The service providing plates of food will be followed by a potluck including lamb, chicken, spinach, and other dark green vegetables, green Mediterranean salad, rice seasoned with herbs, ratatouille, matzah bread, and Haroseth (a desert). A signup sheet will be in the parish hall. A donation will be collected to help defray the cost of the meal with any extra given to the local Yuma food bank.

THRIVENT CHOICE® DOLLARS

Choice Dollars designated in 2014 must be directed by March 31, 2015. Currently, Calvary's Choice Dollars fund, totals \$8,772.92.

LWML NEWS

By the time you read this we will have had a very busy February. Our February meeting program was the annual mug exchange. We THANK Linda Kaiser again for a special evening. We have also had the annual rummage sale. Of course, as I type this I have no idea how it went. But I do know that we had lots of "treasures" to sell and want to say THANK YOU to all those who helped set up and price on Friday. This is always a big job which takes a lot of volunteers and they are MUCH appreciated. You know who you are and we do THANK YOU. The proceeds from the sale are used through the next year for our monthly mission gifts, support for the seminary food banks and Lutheran Bible Translators.



Our program for March will be from the Yuma Regional Medical Center on Thursday the 5th at 7 PM in the classroom building. There is sure to be information of interest to all of us. Then we host the spring Celebration on Saturday, March 14th. I am looking forward to the speaker as he is from Orphan Grain Train. Our church has been supporting that for years but I

Thrivent Choice, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, continues to be a welcome funding source for congregations nationwide.

If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year.

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations, including CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice® program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete Terms and Conditions.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
COUNCIL MEETING FEB, 10, 2015

Present: Pat Lamaestra, Lisa Elam, Janet Ehrlich, Nancy Heredia, Connie Wubbena, Johnnie Alstatt, Jennifer Kessler, Pastor Kessler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-president Pat Lamaestra with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

Minutes- Janet motioned to accept the minutes, Connie 2nd. Motion was passed.

Treasurer – Connie questioned a gift she had made to the church and where it was posted. Since it was stock it has not been converted to cash yet and it will be posted in general contributions. Janet pointed out the total contributions were different on the two statements provided. Johnnie said \$11312.96 was the correct amount. Janet motioned to accept the treasurer's report with the correction made. Nancy 2nd. Motion passed.

President- no report

Vice-president- no report

Secretary- report presented

Treasurer- report presented

Pastor's report- **1.** Wrote and Preached 3 Sermons –Led 4 Worship Services

2. Led 3 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes on Ephesians, Led 1 ABC on Minor Prophets

3. Sunday morning worship attendance as follows:

a. 1/4/2015 109 b. 1/11/2015 125 c. 1/18/2015 91 d. 1/25/2015 106

4. Led 3 Bible Classes at Emerald Springs **5.** Led 3 Saturday Morning Bible Classes **6.** Led 3 Confirmation classes

7. Led 4 Wednesday morning Bible Classes in Education Building: Topic – “Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World” by Joanne Weaver

8. Elder discussion through the book, “Holding Up the Prophet's Hand” by Bruce Hartung: Chapter 5

9. (Kids In Christ) meeting January 18th, 2015 – made cards for military

10. Met with the Yuma Sun for article on 75th Anniversary celebration at Calvary Lutheran Church

11. Attended Circuit Forum with Pat Lamaestra (Lay Delegate for District Convention this summer) on January 25th, 2015 at Christ Lutheran Church.

12. Winter Visitor – Bonnie Fischer of Neenah, WI passed away at YRMC on January 25th, 2015. Husband is Rodney. Funeral was in Wisconsin on February 2nd, 2015.

13. Attended Every Member Visit Meet and Greet on Saturday January 31st, 2015 from 4-6 pm for winter visitors.

14. Assisted a member in locating a new property on which to move. Organizing a workgroup of volunteers to assist in moving member's belongings to storage facility until new residence can be established.

15. Stewardship Sunday was held January 25th, 2015. Mr. Gary Norton (Regional Mission Facilitator) from the Pacific Southwest District was the guest preacher for that day. He did not charge Calvary Lutheran Church any fee. The Stewardship Board and I both sent “Thank You” cards for his attendance and sharing of God's Word regarding stewardship for the church that day.

16. Made 1 hospital visit **17.** Performed 3 shut-in communions

18. Attended “All Boards” Meeting and “Church Council” Meeting – January 6th, 2015

19. Attended “Elders” Meeting – January 16th, 2015 **20.** Attended “Voters” Meeting – January 11th, 2015

BOARDS

Mission-Continuing plans for the friendship tea Feb 28th. Also planning to participate in a celebrate life event March 14 5-9 p.m. It is a 3.2 mile run/walk. The team funds are being put together with an action grant. And March 27 6-8 p.m. will be a sader dinner. Mission project for this month is Rev Meeker

Education-KIC is meeting every 3rd Sunday with an average of 6-11 kids attending. Next meeting they will be singing to shut ins and at Emerald Springs.

Stewardship-Stewardship Sunday was held Jan 25. They will be collecting all the time and talent sheets Feb 22nd and compiling them. Any fundraisers being planned are put on hold so the parking lot fundraising can take place. An updated directory is being planned for this fall. On a side note Connie brought up that the Elders had asked LWML to usher every 5th Sunday. A vote was taken at the last meeting and was voted down 7-4.

Trustees-Janet clarified that the parking lot fund is for both parking lots to be done. A pancake breakfast fundraiser is to be held this coming Sunday. Jennifer mentioned having KIC scrape and paint the outside of the parsonage. Janet said since there is lead and asbestos they cannot do that.

Unfinished business- none.

New business- We received letters asking for nominees for district and one for synod. We have no nominations.

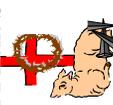
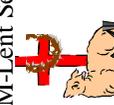
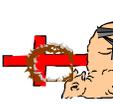
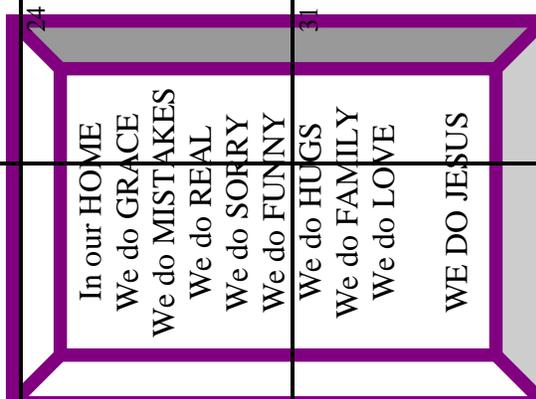
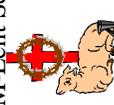
It was noted that Pat Lamaestra attended the circuit forum as an alternate delegate as Bruce Fenske was unable to attend.

Good of the order- newsletter articles due by Feb 15th. The next council meeting will be March 17th.

It was asked by Connie about memorial donations and who sends a thank you note. Pastor said Stewardship board would be the ones who send it. Pastor asked if a donation had been made in the past specifically for a bench. No one remembers one being made.

Closing prayer by Pastor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

March 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 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service 	5 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	6 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	7 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
8 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	9	10	11 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service 	12 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	13	14 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 08:00 AM-LWML Spring Celebration
15 08:00 AM-Matins Service 09:00 AM-Newsletter Articles due 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-KIC	16	17 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council	18 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service 	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 	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 06:00 PM-Seder Meal
29 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	30	31 In our HOME We do GRACE We do MISTAKES We do REAL We do SORRY We do FUNNY We do HUGS We do FAMILY We do LOVE WE DO JESUS				