

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month, I wrote about the importance of unity and walking together with heart with each other. I would like to continue this theme as I still ponder various discussions I had with many of you over the past couple of months regarding this topic. One question I would like to ask you is, "What is your story?" We all have a story...joys, frustrations, events, and people that have had some impact on our lives that have culminated into who we are today. As I think back over the course of my own life, there are many people who participated in shaping me into the person I am today. Various events...some joyful and exciting while others not so much...have had a tremendous impact me. Trials and frustrations also come to mind as I consider my past and the blessing they were in preparing me for future challenges and successes. So, what is your story?

Knowing who people are plays a huge role in not only the way we minister to others, but also in how we approach and do things together. Who we are and what we believe affects the impact we have other people. If we are a nervous-nelly, chances are we will make those around us more anxious. If our attitude is negative, it is almost a guarantee others will be put-off by us or even offended. If we come across as bossy and close minded, people may steer clear of us. These things will often serve to be a negative factor when it comes to walking together in concord. But, when we meet people where they are with a genuine love and concern for them, the likelihood that they will open up to us and share their story with us becomes more certain. Taking the time to listen more than we speak becomes a very valuable resource. Sadly, we live in a world where people are always in such a hurry that they neglect to consider the many opportunities with which life presents. Stopping to listen...we might just learn a thing or two about someone that will be of benefit and blessing in our own life.

Jesus spoke about genuine love and concern as compassion. The Greek word for compassion is "splanchnizomai." This word for compassion means that what Jesus did, He did not so much out of obligation or duty, but because His love and compassion for others He felt it in the pit of His stomach. As Joanna Weaver, author of "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" writes of Jesus' compassion, "*Jesus literally felt it in his gut. He laid aside his hurt so he could pick up [others]*

pain. He laid aside his wishes so he could become [others] Desire. He laid aside his agenda so he could meet all of [other peoples] needs....True love hurts" (Weaver, Joanna, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, (Waterbrook Press, Colorado Springs, CO, 2002), 91).

Walking together in unity and concord out of a genuine love and concern for others...splanchnizomai... it means that it's not always going to be easy and/or comfortable. In fact, it might be down-right hard and make us squeamish at times. Closing our mouths and inclining our ears to someone's life story may not be an easy story to hear. It might be concerning, cause worry, bring about anger, well up deep sadness. It may even be so boring that you'd prefer to watch grass grow instead. On the other hand, it may just open your eyes to some things that you never knew, never considered, never understood. It could possibly tell you more about yourself than the other person. It just might make you full of great joy and appreciative of all the blessings God has showered upon you.

Since I have been here, many of you have shared your story with me. Thank you! It means so much to me that you were willing to put yourselves out there and share with me some things about yourselves that perhaps others don't know. Thank you for your vulnerability in sharing with me those things that are not always easy. Thank you for your story. It is what has made you who you are today.

I know it is challenging to not only share your story, but to also listen to someone else's story. As you pray for God's guidance in your life, it is my prayer that God would give to all of us, me included, a spirit of compassion...splanchnizomai...for one another. I pray that our love for our neighbor is so deep that we feel it in our gut...that we lay aside our wishes and agendas so that we may listen to the story of others. So...what's your story? I'd love to hear it!



In Christian Love,
Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

Ray Huter	04/01
Arlene Schauer	04/03
Johnnie Altstatt	04/04
Carolyn Claude	04/06
Jane Pray	04/07
Shawn Backs	04/09
Iris Bezo	04/09
Adrienne Wagner	04/16
Bruce Fenske	04/20
Sophie McDaniel	04/20
Pam Green	04/22
Apryl Brand - Applehans	04/26
Derek Bezo	04/28

Happy Anniversary

Gaylyn & Virginia Hilstad	04/01
Mike & Donna Fairchild	04/07
Stanley & Eva Lou Phillips	04/08
Hank & Pam Green	04/19



BAPTISM

Rebecca Kessler	04/01
Arlene Schauer	04/03
Keith Macomber	04/08
Pearl Gleichman	04/09
Janet Ehrlich	04/12
Adrienne Wagner	04/15
Maggie Fenske	04/16
Jacob LeClerc	04/16



HE IS RISEN
ALLELUJAH

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Mike Ehrlich will once again be making pancakes for your delight. He has enlisted the help of Mike Fairchild, Randy Williams, Pat Lameastra, and Randy Ehrlich.

Pancakes and sausage will be served after Sunrise Service. So please join us for worship and come hungry.

Brought to you by Thrivent Action Team

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings 6:00P.M. & Council April 14, 2015

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

2015 Contributions

3/01	\$3,651.00
3/08	\$2,885.00
3/15	\$1,531.00
3/22	\$2,807.75
Avg. \$ per week \$2,718.69	



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

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of February	\$4,681.34
March Contributions	<u>\$3,050.00</u>
Fund Total	\$7,731.34

2015 Contributions & Expenses FEBRUARY

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$13,453.27
Expenses	\$12,510.79
Rent	\$ <u>550.00</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 1,492.48

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 24,602.00
Expenses	\$ 13,445.73
Rent	\$ <u>1,100.00</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$ <u>90.29</u> >

2014 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



HOLY WEEK

It's hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner! Holy Week begins Palm Sunday, March 29th when we will also celebrate the Confirmation of Hannah Kessler during the Divine Service. There will be no Wednesday evening worship service during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday will be celebrated April 2nd at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Supper. Good Friday, April 3rd will also be at 7:00 pm with an abridged order of the Tenebrae service.

EASTER



On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the Divine Service at 6:00am and 9:00am. Weather permitting; sunrise service will be celebrated outside. The 9 o'clock service will be celebrated in the sanctuary. A pancake breakfast will be served in between the two services Easter Sunday. We look forward to seeing all of you here during this most holy of weeks in the church year. May the victory celebration of the resurrection of our Lord fill you with all joy and blessing. He Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Trustee Board News

The trustee board has been approved for a "Thrivent Action Team" (It's not a gift or a grant). It's seed money, and it's an investment to help get your project started or gain awareness for your cause, rather than directly giving the money to (granting) or purchasing items for (gifting) your cause.)



We will be purchasing the necessary items to start an aluminum can recycling corner. The money raised from the cans will go toward the repairs of the parking lots. The corner will be set up in the back of the Parish Hall in the old kitchen area. We will have a can crusher and recycling cans for you to deposit your aluminum cans.

Board of Elders Report

The Board of Elders continues its study of the book "Holding Up the Prophet's Hands" as started last year and led by Pastor Kessler. The board is also discussing its roles in the life of the congregation. Similar to the way that each of the elders has members assigned to them, each elder will care for the spiritual well-being of another board. At this point in time, each elder has committed to pray for another board. As individual congregants may, boards are now free to contact their

elder for support or to talk. Elders have volunteered to pray for the other boards as follows -

- Board of Ed. - Mel Parker / Board of Trustees - Ron Hill
- Board of Missions - Wil Stewart
- Board of Stewardship - Bruce Fenske

Please feel free to contact your board's elder if it wishes support. As always, every elder continues to be available for their assigned members to contact. Also, Albert Claude continues as the elder for his congregants - the winter visitors. God bless your ministry as boards and in your individual walks in life.

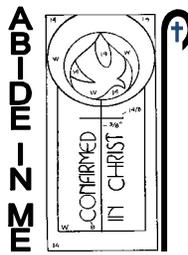
Calvary's LWML News



The LWML hosted the Zone Celebration (formerly known as Rally) on Saturday The 14th. We were pleased with the attendance. We were also happy with the fact that Pastor Kessler is the new Zone Counselor and this was his first time to act in that position. He did a very nice opening devotion based on the program which was on Orphan Grain Train. We learned a lot about OGT and especially that it does not operate just in foreign countries but does much work here in the U.S. We were also honored to have as the District Representative, the District President, Karen Dupree.

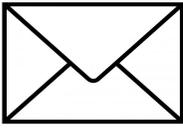
The first Thursday in April is Maundy Thursday so the April LWML meeting will be on Thursday the 9th at 7:00 P.M. in the classroom building. The program will be The Life and Times of Pastor Kessler.

Confirmation



Calvary is blessed to have one confirmand, Hannah Kessler, who will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Hannah was administered her final examination on the evening of March 25th following the midweek Lenten service. Confirmation studies last 2 years using the Holy Bible and Martin Luther's "Small Catechism" and begin for middle school age youth in 7th grade and continues to the Spring of their 8th grade year. Their final examination is conducted publicly on the Wednesday evening before Palm Sunday before the congregation and is administered by the Board of Elders. Upon successful completion of the exam and at the recommendation of the Elders, the confirmand is then confirmed on Palm Sunday where the confirmand will receive the Sacrament of the Altar for the first time in his/her Christian journey of Faith. Please come to support & celebrate with her as she confirms her faith in Christ Jesus before the congregation.

Stewardship News



It might be time to check your mailbox at church. Visitors have boxes too. Bonnie and Wilma have updated the information according to the church office. Please let them know if you find any errors so that information can be correct. Extra eyes are always helpful.

Some Time and Talent Sheets were timely received and tabulated by the Stewardship committee and given to the proper committees. The committees do need input about you in order to function properly. The laborers seemed fewer as some did not fill out the sheets with what they are doing now. Remember the story of the talents. Are we hiding and or burying our God given talents?

We do thank those of you who do so much work and ask for no recognition. God knows and blesses.

We will also keep the unopened envelopes containing the pledge sheets that were returned for safe keeping. Thank you for continuing to support God's work at Calvary with your time, talents and treasure.

Zone 25 LWML news

The Zone 25 LWML Spring Celebration was held March 14, 2015 at Calvary Lutheran Church. 44 members and guests were in attendance. The ladies of Calvary did an excellent job hosting the Zone's event. Zone 25 Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Michael Kessler, opened with a devotion based on Mark 9:37 *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.* Calvary President, Connie Wubbena, welcomed everyone to the Spring Celebration and St. Paul's, President Betty Lehman, gave the invitation to the Fall Celebration to be held in Holtville. Special Guest, Steve Rice, Southern California Region Coordinator for ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN gave an inspiring presentation about their history and missions. New backpacks and school supplies were collected throughout Zone 25 which includes Brawley, Blythe, El Centro, Parker and Yuma. The ingathering will added to the donations of all the Pacific Southwest LCMS churches and be distributed to needy people within our Pacific Southwest District, in New Mexico, Mexico and beyond. Zone 25 was also honoured to have Pacific Southwest District President, Karen Duprey on hand Saturday. She brought greetings from the District and informed the LWML societies about upcoming news and events. We were so happy to have her as part of our Spring Celebration. The Zone 25

Executive Committee and Calvary Society members presented entertaining skits with a motivating message. Zone 25 President, Nancy Heredia gave a power point presentation about how our Mites are impacting the current PSD grant recipients. She thanked everyone for their Mites and encouraged them to continue their efforts as we still have 10 more grants to pay out and only one year to left to collect the necessary funds. It was a wonderful event and everyone enjoyed the fellowship with their sisters in Christ and our worship together. Thanks again to Calvary Lutheran Church LWML for hosting this event.

Mission Board News



Calvary's February Mission 4KenyasKids (formerly known as Compassionate Social Care Ministries) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Illinois. 4KenyasKids exists to support comprehensive care to orphans and other vulnerable children in Kenya. We EDUCATE those who are unable to afford schooling, EQUIP widows and extended family members to care for orphans, and PROTECT children who are vulnerable and in need of care. In late 2007, Reverend Dennis and Deaconess Lorna Meeker began working with orphans and widows in the Kibera slum of Nairobi while serving under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. During late 2008, Jacob Fraher also began volunteering with community schools and orphanages in the Kibera slum. When Jacob discovered two desperate children in need of care, the Meekers offered to provide them both a loving home. Six months later, in July 2009, Jacob partnered with Dennis and Lorna to form CSCM as a U.S. based 501(c)(3) organization. In 2011, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seymour, IN began managing the U.S. side of operations and rebranded CSCM as 4KenyasKids. By the Grace of God, 4KenyasKids now supports the education of over 100 orphans through a child sponsorship program, strengthens widows and extended families to care for vulnerable children, and operates a Family Based Care Rescue Center for children in desperate need.

For more information go to:

4kenyaskids@gmail.com

www.4kenyaskids.org

Facebook: 4KenyasKids

[2014-09-21 - 4KenyasKids.org - Point of Grace Academy.](http://2014-09-21-4KenyasKids.org-PointofGraceAcademy)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=J82UD4_4vzE

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Mission Board news continued



The Mission Board Friendship Tea/Fashion Show was a big success. Through the use of a Thrivent Action Team Grant, the Mission Board was able to provide the youth an opportunity to purchase clothing that they could model at the fashion show. Over 50 people attended the event. Wonderful sandwiches and treats were provided along with a variety of teas. Activities included "Fact or Fiction" in which each attendee told two facts and one fiction statement about themselves, then the audience had to guess which one was fiction. There was a Candy Cane Prayer Walk, as well as an opportunity for everyone to tell a story about their favorite teacup. Jan Stash did an excellent job as the Fashion show MC. The models included: Jahann, Jordan, and Abby Rutledge, Alexis and Alissa Lopez, Hannah, Sophia and Austin Kessler, Madelyn and Luke Atchley, Brodie Morris, and Braeden Dames. They did a wonderful job of modeling their new clothes. The youth also enjoyed decorating a gingerbread house and a gingerbread train. Thank you to all the models and their families and all those who attended. A special thanks to the Mission Board for orchestrating the event and for all of the ladies who stayed to help clean up. Mission Board Members: Nancy Heredia, Paula Backs, Rebecca Kessler, Diane Schauer.



The Celebrate Life 5K Run used a Thrivent Action Grant was used to pay for Calvary members to participate in the Celebrate Life 5K Run. Thank you to the participants: Pastor and Jennifer Kessler, Hannah, Sophia and Austin Kessler, Elaine Green, Will Stewart, Lisa Stewart, Katie Strom, Nancy Heredia and Susan Wagstaff. Katie also participated in the CrossFit Challenge. Go Katie! Proceeds from this event will support the New Life Pregnancy Center (providing pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, Bible study, parenting classes and material assistance) and Catholic Community Services (providing counseling services, Daybreak-Adult Day Health Care, Safe House Shelter, and Senior Nutrition Program). Thank God for these two non-profits that serve our community and those men and woman who work and volunteer there. It was great to be part of this event.

Yuma Community Food Bank -To Build Hunger Free Communities. "The customers that the Yuma Community Food Bank serves are classified as the "working poor." This would include single moms and dads, two parent families, veterans and senior citizens on fixed incomes. This represents over 300,000 visits to the Food Bank annually which are the population working at or above minimum wage jobs and continue to struggle to feed themselves, their children and their families. The Yuma Community Food Bank's Mission is to relieve hunger, increase self-reliance and improve the quality of life for children and families throughout Southwestern Arizona. Our customers need us to continue what we do and to be there every step of the way. In order to maintain services the Yuma Community Food Bank accepts donations in terms of food, funds and time." *(from their website)*

Last month, we donated 69 lbs. to the Yuma Community Food Bank. Let's keep this going. It's the time of year when everyone should check their pantries thin out what you haven't used. Let's share our good fortunes with others. Can we make a goal to donate 1200 lbs. of food this year? Let's challenge ourselves. We will continue to keep a count of the amount of food being donated each month. We will set up a box in the Parish Hall for these collected items. Thank you.

Crossroads Mission -"Crossroads Mission is a faith-based organization dedicated to helping individuals who find themselves at a "crossroads" in their lives. Our goal is to help them take that direction that will bring them to a personal encounter with God, and to help them make changes that will result in a better quality of life. We offer life-changing, individualized Programs & Services leading to stable employment and independent living." *(from their website)*

Every time you stay at a hotel or motel, they have individual soaps, shampoos and lotions. What do you do with them? Do you leave them at the hotel? Do you receive some for each day of your stay? You receive a toothbrush and small tube of toothpaste from the dentist. Do you have a drawer full of toothbrushes and small toothpastes? Why not collect them and donate them to Crossroads Mission. The individual hygiene items are needed for all the individuals who find themselves at the Crossroads Mission. It may seem like that isn't very much, but if we combine our small collection of hygiene items, it will soon turn into a lot of basic necessities. We will set up a box in the Parish Hall for these collected items. Thank you.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 17, 2015

PRESENT: Pastor Kessler, Mike Ehrlich, Lisa Elam, Bruce Fenske, Janet Ehrlich, Johnnie Altstatt, Connie Wubbena, Pat Lamaestra, Nancy Heredia

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Mike with an opening prayer by Bruce.

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

Treasurer report- Bruce motioned to accept the report, Janet 2nd. Motion passed.

Reports of Officers

President- no report: **Vice-president-** no report: **Secretary-**already presented: **Treasurer-**already presented

Pastor - 1. Wrote and Preached 6 Sermons –Led 6 Worship Services: **2.** Led 4 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes on Hosea:

3. Sunday morning worship attendance as follows: a. 2/1/2015 109 b. 2/8/2015 110 c. 2/15/2015 125

d. 2/18/2015 Ash Wednesday 59 e. 2/22/2015 110 f. 2/25/2015 Lenten Midweek 2 40+

4. Led 4 Bible Classes at Emerald Springs: **5.** Led 4 Saturday Morning Bible Classes at Goldsboro Bakery

6. Led 4 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 6

9. (Kids In Christ) meeting February 15th, 2015 – played violins and sang for shut-ins and residents of Emerald Springs

10. Winter Visitor – Donna Giffey passed away at her home in Yuma on February 9th, 2015. Husband is Gene. Funeral was in Ohio on February 22nd, 2015.

11. Attended Every Member Visit Meet and Greet on February 8th, 2015 from 4-6 pm for.

12. Set up a work group and assisted in helping a member move belongings to storage until a new residence could be obtained.

13. Performed 5 shut-in communions: **14.** Delivered some coffee tables and an end table to a member.

15. Attended Nazarene Church get-together on Feb. 10th, 2015 with a couple of winter visitors at their invitation.

16. Attended 2 lunch meetings: **17.** Made follow-up calls on Rodney Fischer and Gene Giffey.

18. Attended Mission Board Fellowship and Fashion Show Tea on February 28th, 2015.

19. Began Lenten Midweek worship services on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, 2015 focusing on the theme, “Mountains of Life.”

20. Attended “All Boards” Meeting and “Church Council” Meeting – February 10th, 2015

21. Attended “Elders” Meeting – February 6th, 2015

22. Attended Winkel at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church February 17th, 2015.

Reports of Boards

Elders-At the last meeting they discussed the book they were studying. They also discussed how the board of elders can help other boards. Each board can have an elder assigned to them to help. There are people interested in joining the Church. Pastor Kessler is waiting until after Easter for classes.

Mission- There was 50 plus people attending the tea/fashion show. There were 12 models. Also 11 people attended the 5k run/walk. There will be a free will offering in the parish hall after Church the next 2 Sundays for the LBCM. Thrivent is mat-ching funds up to \$500. Coming up is the Seder dinner March 28. A fall festival/Oktoberfest is tentatively planned for Nov 14.

Education-no report

Stewardship-The objectives of the stewardship board was written in 1993. They talked about meeting with pastor to go over each item and see if changes or updates needed. A mission fundraiser was approved. Time and talent sheets were compiled and will pass out to each board and group.

Trustees- Discussed lowering expenses. The biggest use is the Air Conditioning, talked about ways to lower it. Also looking into changing phone service which could be a \$400 savings. Approved for recycling fundraiser. Trash cans, bags and can crusher purchased. Someone mentioned KIC could crush the cans. Trustees will do Easter prep Saturday for easier set up Sunday morning. Parking lot fund has \$7700. They are starting to get bids.

Unfinished business- none

New business- Pastor wants to establish a task force to discuss what direction members of Calvary wants the Church to go with in the future. He would like a broad range of members to serve on the board. Possibly start with a planning meeting with the whole Church. Maybe wait until the fall when attendance is higher. Someone mentioned we have had planning meetings in the summer in the past.

The parsonage will be vacant in a few months. Ideas of what to do with it. Does it have asbestos. Maybe demolish it or sell it and move it. The house across the street will be available in a few months. Would we want to purchase it as a possible parsonage house? Mike brought up as an officer he is concerned about being financially solvent and making that kind of purchase may not be something we should consider. There is interest from individuals in having a memory garden. Someone has offered \$1000 to start it. Pastor is in favor of it as long as a committee that works with the trustees is formed to take care of it.

Next meeting will be April 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 and was closed with a prayer by Pastor Kessler.

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 06:00 AM-Easter Sunrise 07:45 AM-Breakfast 09:00 AM-Easter 	6	7 Come out and support our youth at the Yuma County Fair.	1 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation	2 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-Maundy Thursday 	3 07:00 PM-Good Friday 	4 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
12 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	13	14 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council	8 04:00 PM-Confirmation	9 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	10 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	11 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
19 08:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-KIC	20	21	15 04:00 PM-Confirmation Newsletter Articles due	16 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	17 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	18 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
26 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	27	28	22 04:00 PM-Confirmation	23 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	24	25 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro