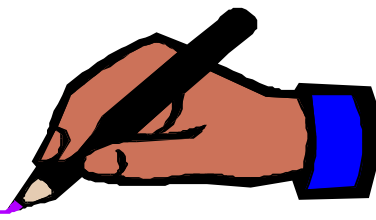


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY/JUNE 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am a sinner. That is abundantly clear to me. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the reality of my being as a sinner is ever before me. As I ponder over the course of my life, I am reminded of things I either did or said that were sinful. The hurt I caused with my cutting tongue because I was more concerned about saving face...the negligence of not doing something because I wanted to do something else instead...the epic failures of trying something with good intentions that flopped... yes, I am a sinner and that is abundantly clear to me. And the reminders of my sinfulness do hurt at times... especially when I think I am doing something right and good and it turns out to be wrong. Sometimes I wonder if perhaps I care too much. Other times, I question whether I care enough. And of course, whether I care too much or not enough is always debatable depending of the person with whom I am speaking. What may be in my eyes an expression of great care might appear to another person as a lack in care or compassion. I suppose the argument that this is just one of those gray areas where opinion differs from one person to the next and maybe there isn't a specific right or wrong answer could be argued. I don't know. Regardless, I am the one who has to live with myself and the consequences of my words and actions, be they good or bad...caring too much or not caring enough.

I know that some of you can relate to this. The reminders of who we are, especially when it points out those negative aspects of our being, are quite sobering and at times, terribly painful, if not physically, then certainly emotionally. Carrying around that kind of emotional baggage can be exhausting as well as physically debilitating. Sometimes, my mind is so plagued with the shoulda, coulda, woulda's that I obsess over them, not considering the fact that all of those things are usually in the past and there is absolutely nothing I can do to change them, no matter how much effort and energy I put into pondering them. That, I believe, is the most difficult part of considering our past. There is nothing we can do about it. All we have is today...not yesterday for it is already in the past...not tomorrow because it hasn't even been created yet...only today. All any of us can do is face what is before us today, because today is all we have. "But what if..." you might want to say. But, the simple word "if" only implies possibility...maybe probability...but not certainty. Only today is certain, and only the moment

itself. What happens moments from now may change and have not yet been determined by us...only God knows.

I know it sounds like I am rambling, but there is a reason for it. Like I said at the beginning, I am a sinner of which I am abundantly clear. I am reminded of all the things I have done or said that were sinful, and the struggle for me is that there is no way I can go back and change any of that. All of my mistakes...oversights... errors of judgment...have already occurred. The sin has been committed...the pain and hurt has been inflicted. I can't make any of that better. But, that's what makes Easter so glorious. I can't fix or correct my sins, but I know who can and I know who has. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! Jesus didn't just come to dwell in this world because His Father thought it would be a good experience for Him. Jesus wasn't born of Mary and Joseph because they would be good parents. Jesus came because of love. God loves you and me so much it hurts...hurt brought about because of disobedience and lack of faith...hurt that none of His creation would be with Him in heaven because of sin...a hurt that could only be relieved by His Son. God wants more than anything else for you and me to live forever with Him in heaven. Without Jesus, that wouldn't be possible and God knew that we would be eternally separated from Him because of our sin. So, out of amazing grace and sacrificial love, God gave His Son Jesus as the healing the sinful world needed. Through Jesus' shed blood, earthen tomb, and victorious resurrection from the dead, sin was obliterated and the healing balm of the Gospel gives hope to you and me who are in strife over our sin. Though we can't fix any of our yesterdays, God has in Jesus and when He looks upon us, He smiles and declares us His children whom He loves and with whom He is well pleased.

Recently, I was humbled at the reminder of my sinful errors. The shoulda, coulda, woulda's plagued my mind, and my heart ached. I reviewed every method I should have, could have, or would have done...all of which I learned there was nothing I could do about it now. But, I set my eyes on the heavenly where there I know that in the blood of Jesus I am forgiven. There is where I find my peace and comfort. There is where I find hope. It is in the cross of Christ in which I glory, resting assured that all of my yesterdays have already been forgiven,

Continued on page 3



Greetings from the President

Dear Congregation:

First, the good news, our efforts to raise money for the parking lot fund has been outstanding and at this point we are just under \$8,000.00 raised since January. Thank you to all who contributed.

Now the bad news. Unfortunately, during the first quarter of 2015 we only met 88% (if my math is correct) of our needed contributions of sustaining our current budget. If we were to continue at this rate, we would have enough prudent reserves to sustain our Church for around 2 1/2yrs. If what we raised for the parking lot were added to the General Fund, we would be very close to meeting budget for the first quarter. I am sure that a lot of our contributions were likely split between the two funds which is understandable. As always, I am not worried as this congregation has never failed in any endeavor it has taken on. This report is not intended to alarm or offend anyone, but merely to let everyone know where we stand today. The actual figures are printed below.

2015 1st Qtr financial report;
Total General Fund Contributions \$38,529.75. Average weekly is \$2963.83 needed is \$3456.72.

Comparison

2014 1st Qtr financial report;
Total General Fund Contributions \$56,856.75. Average weekly was \$4373.60 needed was \$3241.65.

In addition to the financial realities of CLC, it is also time to look towards the future. We now have a new Pastor who I feel is outstanding, we have a new treasure and vice president who are both doing a wonderful job, and we have new members on the council who are dedicated and willing to work. However; additional help is always needed. One thing to keep in mind, is that your current president (yours truly) is not planning on running for a fourth term in office. So, hopefully, someone in the congregation is ready to step up and take a turn leading what I feel is the most blessed church in God's kingdom. Also, each of the boards (Stewardship, Mission, Education, Trustee, and Elder) is looking for added support. So please, take a look inside and see what you are capable of contributing and what you are willing to contribute to the leadership of this congregation. Then step forward in faith. I promise you, no-one is less qualified than me; Yet God has a way of using anyone He chooses for His glory and for His purpose. Pray about it.

Love ya all.
Mike Ehrlich

Galvany Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings 6:00P.M. & Council May 12, 2015

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

2015 Contributions

3/29	\$3,093.00
4/05	\$6,230.00
4/12	\$2,130.86
4/19	\$1,831.00
Avg. \$ per week \$3,321.22	



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

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of March	\$7,731.34
April Contributions	<u>\$ 51.66</u>
Fund Total	\$7,783.00

2015 Contributions & Expenses MARCH

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$14,042.75
Expenses	\$17,670.59
Rent	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$ 3,077.84>

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 38,808.98
Expenses	\$ 43,627.11
Rent	<u>\$ 1,650.00</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$ 3,168.13>

Happy Birthday!

MAY

Ted Schauer	05/03
Kristina Parker	05/10
Keith Macomber	05/12
Brayden Pray	05/12
Deborah Lamaestra	05/14
Katie Strom	05/14
Lisa Elam	05/22
Michael Bickham	05/24
Abby Rutledge	05/25
Jeanene Euhus	05/28
Carter Rutledge	05/28

JUNE

Elizabeth Ehrlich	06/03
Pearl Gleichman	06/03
Lillian Keinath	06/07
Adam Hildestad	06/12
Pasquale Lamaestra	06/12
Martha Hill	06/14
Wilma Replogle	06/14
Donna Elias	06/24
Anna Vitolins	06/24
Cera Ford	06/26
Diana Schauer	06/30



BAPTISM

MAY

Al Rahn	05/01
Patrick Stuebs	05/01
Carolyn Claude	05/02
Sophie McDaniel	05/11
Sherri Williams	05/14
Mark Ford	05/15
Phyllis Strickhouser	05/15
Zaira McDaniel	05/18
Bruce Fenske	05/19
Trina Elam	05/25
Virginia Hildestad	05/25

JUNE

Apryl Brand - Applehans	06/01
Johnnie Altstatt	06/02
Kaden Siharath	06/05
Heather Torres	06/05
Kristina Parker	06/06
Glen Wagner	06/06
Carter Rutledge	06/11
Brayden Pray	06/23
Elizabeth Ehrlich	06/25

Happy Anniversary

MAY

Pat & Whitney Stuebs	05/01
Michael & Jennifer Kessler	05/15



JUNE

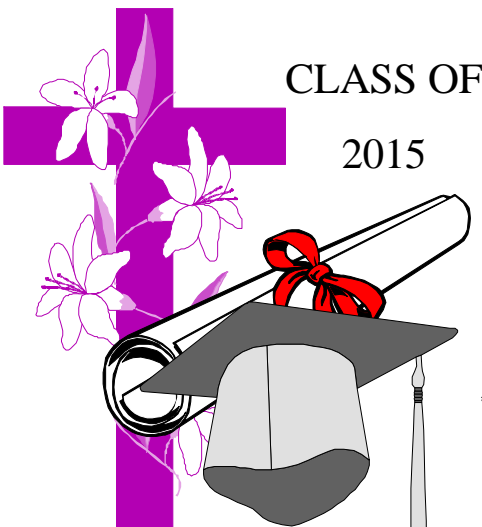
Allen & Apryl Brand - Applehans	06/01
Christopher & Ashley McDaniel	06/05

Congratulations

To all Calvary's youth who are graduating this month.

Johnnie Ehrlich ASU

Hannah Kessler Yuma Lutheran



CLASS OF

2015

*Trust in the LORD
with all your heart
and lean not on your
own understanding; in
all your ways
acknowledge him, and he
will make your paths
straight.*

Proverbs 3:5,6

From the Pastor
Continued from page 1

my todays are forgiven, and my tomorrows are also forgiven...all for the sake of Jesus. So if you, like me, struggle with who you are as a sinner...please don't forget to meditate upon who you are as a saint. You are a child of God, promised the assurance of eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus. In Him, right now, you have peace with God, and may you rest secure in the loving arms of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With Care and Compassion,
Pastor Kessler

MISSION BOARD NEWS – Nancy Heredia, Paula
Bucks Rebecca Kessler, Diane Schauer

Calvary's March and May Missions

March - Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank will receive \$500 from Calvary.

May - St. Louis Seminary Food Bank will receive \$500 from Calvary.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri exist to serve the body of Christ, and the students who attend the seminaries are there for that same purpose. Upon completion of their studies these church workers will go into the world equipped with God's Word and the knowledge they have gained to strengthen and serve His body, the church.

However, when these future church workers move their families to begin their seminary studies, they leave behind family and friends, as well as their financial security. Many assume great indebtedness as they pursue the vocation of pastor or deaconess.

The Seminary Food Bank provides the necessary food for struggling students and their families. It provides the tremendous blessing of free, non-perishable foods and household items to all Seminary students and their families. To donate go to www.ctsfw.edu and/or csl.edu/resources/food-bank.

Calvary's April Mission - LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission -Providing Guidance and Support to Rural Churches. This ministry will receive \$500 from Calvary. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) supports pastors, professional church work-ers and lay leaders in the work to which God has called them; specifically serving to equip them to meet the unique challenges of lead-ing Christ-centered outreach in rural and small-town communities. Through the LCMS' RSTM ministry, rural congregations are up-held and nurtured because, while the work to which God has called congregations is the same across the country, the context in which that work is carried out varies from setting to setting. *Let's go ... to the small towns* (Mark 1:38 GOD'S WORD®).

To donate go to www.lcms.org/givenow/rstm



Calvary's June Mission -Ministry to the Armed Forces will receive \$500 from Calvary. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) is authorized as the mission arm of the Synod to support and serve all military chaplains — active and reserve —

their families and the veteran population. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains; sponsors annual training for all chaplains; and maintains close, pastoral relationships with chaplains after endorsement, offering counsel, training and advice throughout their entire careers.

Resources and services:

- Ecclesiastical endorsement, annual training and career management for chaplains
- Operation Barnabas
- “Ministry-by-Mail”
- Armed Forces Sunday resources
- Quarterly Armed Forces newsletter *So Help Me God*

How to get involved:

- Watch videos at video.lcms.org/archives/category/armed-forces-ministry
- Download resources at lcms.org/armedforces/resources
- Give a gift lcms.org/givenow/maf

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 14, 2015

PRESENT-Mike Ehrlich, Janet Ehrlich, Bruce Fenske, Maggie Fenske, Lisa Elam, Pat Lamaestra, Wilma Replogle, Nancy Heredia, Pastor Kessler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor

MINUTES-The minutes from the March meeting were presented for review. Bruce motioned to accept the minutes, Janet 2nd the motion. Motion passed

TREASURER REPORT- Report was presented. Bruce motioned to accept the report, Nancy 2nd. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT- We are possibly heading for budget shortages again. Mike feels there is a need for a newsletter article to explain the situation. It was brought up that people may be redirecting their contributions to the parking lot fund. In addition to putting the weekly contribution amounts in the bulletin we can put the current monthly contributions with the 2014 monthly contributions so people can see and compare. It will make people aware of the financial situation.

VICE PRESIDENT- none

SECRETARY- presented

TREASURER-presented

PASTOR-

Wrote and Preached 9 Sermons –Led 9 Worship Services. Led 5 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes on Hosea
Sunday morning worship attendance as follows:

	Date	Day of Week	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	
a.	3/1/20	Sunday	98	109	96	135	126	
b.	3/4/2015	Wednesday	49	63	47	61	69	
c.	3/8/2015	Sunday	107	88	92	126	123	
d.	3/11/2015	Wednesday	44	58	46	46	53	
e.	3/15/2015	Sunday	81	105	121	130	106	
f.	3/18/2015	Wednesday	42	44	51	44	62	
g.	3/22/2015	Sunday	116	87	113	103	96	
h.	3/25/2015	Wednesday	40	45	39	16	53	
i.	3/29/2015	Sunday	90	94	107	102	90	

Led 4 Bible Classes at Emerald Springs. Led 4 Saturday Morning Bible Classes. Led 3 Confirmation classes. Led 4 Wednesday morning Bible Classes in Education Building: Topic – “Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World” by Joanne Weaver

Elder discussion through the book, “Holding Up the Prophet’s Hand” by Bruce Hartung: Chapter 6

Made 6 hospital visits. Performed 5 shut-in communions

Attended “All Boards” Meeting and “Church Council” Meeting – March 17th, 2015. Attended “Elders” Meeting – April 6th, 2015

Observed Confirmation Public Doctrinal Exam administered by the Board of Elders-March 25th, 2015

Confirmed Hannah Kessler-Palm Sunday, March 29th, 2015

Attended LWML Zone Spring Rally held at Calvary Lutheran Church and led the opening devotion as the LWML Zone Pastoral Counselor-March 14th, 2015

Led Seder Meal March 28th, 2015. 1 Baptism: Braeden Owen Dames, Son of Melissa Fairchild and John Dames

No Weddings. No Funerals. Participated in New Life Pregnancy Center 5K Fun Run/Walk-March 14th, 2015

BOARDS

ELDERS- they have been studying “holding prophet’s hand”. They want to focus on members who have not been attending. Pastor and an elder will meet with members to talk and see how they are doing.

MISSION-29 people attended the seder dinner. They are talking about possibly inviting other Churches to future dinners. This month’s missions are rural and small town mission and seminary food project. Sept 16th will be a workshop on Thrivent action grants-lunch will be provided. There is a possibility that other workshops will be held. Nov 14th is the fall festival. January will be a Church picnic with all churches being invited.

EDUCATION- A teacher for 2-5th grade is needed. They are preparing for VBS. They plan on using last years higher things program to save money. Possible times could be evenings, fri-sat-sun with maybe a lock-in.

STEWARDSHIP-Connie is gone for the summer so co-chair Wilma is taking over. Time and talent sheets being worked on. They are listing who is in charge of each committee. They are talking about recognizing college students. Also wanting to update stewardship responsibilities and guidelines.

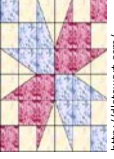




TRUSTEES- recycling discussed. Also parking lot discussed. They have raised \$7800. Also discussed use of property and upkeep. Leftover food from event needs to be taken home or disposed of. Wilma asked if leftover food can be donated to crossroads mission. It cannot. We are changing phone service to save money so phone will be out of service Wed 8-12.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-none

NEW BUSINESS-Pat feels as officers and board members we are here to serve the congregation. He would like to form a planning board from one person from each board to discuss where we want to go as a church in the future. He would be chairman. They would have meetings during the summer. In the fall/winter plans will be put together and congregation can look at goals as a group. When the last planning meeting was held, Pastor Joynt announced his leaving shortly after that so nothing was followed up on. One person mentioned having an open forum first, someone else mentioned an off site retreat. Mike appointed Pat to head up the memorial garden. He is looking into the site and will work on it with the planning committee.

Next meeting May 12th. Meeting adjourned at 7:55. Closed with The Lords Prayer.

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting  http://dlstewart.com/	2 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
3 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	4	5	6	7 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	8	9 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 08:00 AM-Steering Committee at AWC
10 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	11	12 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council	13	14 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 	15 Newsletter Articles due 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting  http://dlstewart.com/	16 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
17 08:00 AM-Worship Ser- vice 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-KIC	18	19	20	21 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	22	23 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 
24 PENTECOST 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	25 Office Closed	26	27	28 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	29 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting  http://dlstewart.com/	30 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
31 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes						