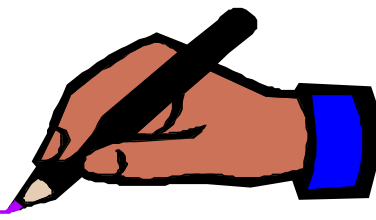


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JULY/AUGUST 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you ever get in a funk? That might sound like an odd question to you. What I mean really is whether you don't feel quite like yourself. Maybe you have hit a lull in your week and the energy and giddy-up you usually have is just spent. Perhaps your patience is spent and you find little interest in the things that typically bring joy to your life. Getting out of bed is a chore and going to work is the last thing you really want to do. Being around people and having to put on your "happy face" is a real deal breaker. But, you don't really want to be alone either, yet you don't make very good company. You just want to be a vegetable and be left alone. You can't explain why you feel the way you do. The devil sows thoughts in your mind that are bad ideas but you give sway to them for a bit. Maybe you are bored and feel the need for some excitement in your life. You never imagined your life would be what it is. Going out and doing things that go against the grain of who you are become an option. Feelings of unhappiness rush over you and you feel you need a change. Maybe you feel like you have lost yourself and feelings of resentment flood your mind. Do you ever get in a funk?

I do at times. As I get older, I find myself having thoughts about what my life would have been like if...? There are days I sometimes don't feel like myself. I feel like my energy is spent and things that bring me joy offer little interest. Sometimes I don't want to get out of bed and especially go to the office. Sometimes I don't want to be around people but at the same time I don't want to be alone either. Sometimes I don't want to put on my "happy face." I do get in a funk every once-in-a-while. Maybe that means I'm normal...as normal as abnormal can be! I guess I ask this question, not because I'm not feeling quite like myself. I ask the question because I don't know a single person who doesn't have those days. Living in a broken, sinful world, it's bound to happen sometimes. The thoughts of doubt, questions, despair, resentment...that all comes with it...even considering those things that go against our person...it's part and parcel of being a sinner in a sinful world.

I wish the solution were easy. When you are not yourself, it's really tough to pull out of that lull and get back to the person you know yourself to be and the person others know you to be. For me, I get pulled out of the lull when my wife, especially, gives me a hug, assures me she loves me more than anything, and gives

me words of encouragement about who I am as a husband, a father, and a pastor. My times of struggle are usually short-lived, but feel really difficult in the moment. I'm thankful for my wife, my children, and my mother. God has truly blessed me with a wonderful family, even if I do get frustrated at times. I don't know what I'd do without any of them and I look forward to the new experiences and adventures I get to have with them. They all mean so much to me.

Since January, I began a Bible reading plan that takes you through the entire Bible in a year. To date, the plan says I have read 39% of the Bible. Sometimes I miss days, but the plan enables me to go back and get caught up. I've really enjoyed it. Sometimes I read about something I didn't really understand and still don't... sometimes I read stories I have heard a hundred times and learn something new...sometimes I understand for the first time. As I have been reading through the Bible, one thing I really do notice about myself...my faith seems more secure. For the first time in a long time, I find myself relinquishing myself and letting God have control. It's not easy sometimes and internally I still fight for control. But what I have become more acutely aware of is that God really does love me and that He is ever-present in my life...not just as a pastor when I'm at church, but in my own daily life, in my home and in my family. Each day God speaks to me in His word reminding me that in His Son, He has made me His own. In His Son, He has forgiven me, strengthened me, assured me, comforted me, grounded me, and sustained me. He speaks to me in the words and gestures of love and assurance and encouragement from my wife and those around me. On those days when I'm in a funk, God uses those means to bring me out of the pit and get me back on track.

I know there will always be days like that for me, just as I'm sure there will be days like that for you also. But remember, God is always with you. He will lift you up when you find yourself in a lull...a day when you are not quite yourself. And, He will use His word, His means of grace, and those people around you to remind you just how much you mean to Him. God loves you. Whatever you do, NEVER forget that!

Pastor Kessler

BOARD OF ELDERS REPORT

As stated to the congregation at the December 2014 voters meeting. The Board of Elders is researching the parish nursing program and will have a report for the December 2015 voters meeting. This report will discuss the program by identifying what it is across the synod, Calvary's need or lack of need for such a program, and, if the program is needed, how the congregation could implement it. The voters will have the ultimate decision on the program's use at Calvary.

As part of the Board's research, we have to gauge the congregation's need for such a program. In order to do so, the board will conduct a survey towards the end of summer. The survey will be anonymous and will not ask for any personally identifiable information. When the survey comes out, you will have two weeks to complete and return it. You may return it by placing it in a designated box in the fellowship hall, handing to an usher, dropping off at the church office or mailing it to the church office. The pastor will take the survey to shut-ins during his routine visits. The office will mail a copy to winter visitors who may then submit it to the church office. We recognize that not all winter visitors who would normally participate in a survey may be able to respond and the final report will take this into account.

Watch for the survey during late July and a due date during early August. The pastor will speak to shut-ins about the survey during his July and August visits. The board recognizes that the congregation has not yet seen a report defining the program. The survey's questions will be asked in a way that lets each family provide input on its needs without having seen the report.

Until the report comes out, remember that any program would be adjusted to fit our congregation's specific needs and could include having a nurse available full or part time as paid or volunteer staff. Duties may include answering questions, coordinating rides, being your advocate on health care issues, providing Sunday morning screenings, or offering daytime or nighttime classes on a wide variety of health-related subjects. Potential users of a program may be pregnant women, young families, the elderly or anyone with a question. The board looks forward to serving you through its report and receiving your input on any potential program.

As always, please see any of the elders if you have specific questions or concerns on this or any topic. Your Board of Elders consists of Bruce Fenske, Ron Hill, Mel Parker and Wil Stewart, as well as Albert Claude during the winter.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

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

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

2015 Contributions

4/26	\$1,337.00
5/03	\$2,658.25
5/10	\$3,257.00
5/14	\$2,610.00
5/24	\$1,588.00
5/31	\$1,682.00
6/07	\$2,937.00
6/14	\$1,388.95
6/21	\$



Avg. \$ per week \$2,182.28

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

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of May	\$7,731.34
May Contributions	\$ 25.00
Fund Total	\$7,816.00

2015 Contributions & Expenses MAY

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$11,706.00
Expenses	\$14,228.32
Rent	\$ 0.00
Excess/Loss	<\$ 2,522.32>

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 62,167.65
Expenses	\$ 71,034.01
Rent	\$ 2,200.00
Excess/Loss	<\$ 6,666.36>



Do you have a computer? Do you use the web and/or facebook? Please remember to like us on facebook, visit our web page and click on the event calendar tab, and you can see what is happening here at Calvary.

Happy Birthday!

JULY

Carol Anne Parker	07/01
Yulius Mustafa	07/02
Stanley Phillips	07/04
Randy Williams	07/07
Virginia Hildestad	07/08
Michael Pray	07/09
Bob Albright	07/10
Paula Backs	07/10
Kyle Reinertson	07/10
Michael Fairchild	07/11
Heather Torres	07/11
Michele Hill	07/12
Craig Ehrlich	07/13
Katie Holman	07/14
Maren Green	07/15
Jim Tyner	07/17
Sarah Rutledge	07/21
Albert Claude	07/27
Bonnie Reinertson	07/29

AUGUST

Maggie Fenske	08/05
Matthew Joynt	08/13
Wilbert Stewart	08/13
Harry Thornton	08/15
Candy Murray	08/16
Sophia Kessler	08/17
Mary Frances Atchley	08/20
Mary Kuzma-Anderson	08/21
Milton Euhus	08/23
Ashley McDaniel	08/23
Emma Stewart	08/24
Donald Timoruski	08/24
Melissa Fairchild	08/26
Melvin Parker	08/29
Jahann Rutledge	08/29
Sue Gibson	08/31

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Board of Ed will be hosting a vacation Bible class July 30-August 1st. VBS will start Friday July 30th at 5PM, with an overnight lock in, and conclude Saturday at 2:30PM. Please contact the Board of Education for more information. You can Text Jennifer Kessler at 701-430-0528 for registration. Thank you.

BAPTISM

JULY

Adam Hildestad	07/01
Yulius Mustafa	07/02
Deborah Lamaestra	07/08
Jeanene Euhus	07/09
Wilma Replogle	07/09
Martha Hill	07/10
Pasquale Lamaestra	07/13
Diana Schauer	07/17
Paula Backs	07/18
Albert Claude	07/28
Cera Ford	07/28
Sarah Rutledge	07/29

AUGUST

Katie Holman	08/10
Craig Ehrlich	08/14
Harry Thornton	08/15
Candy Murray	08/16
Michael Pray	08/22
Bonnie Reinertson	08/27
Milton Euhus	08/28

Happy Anniversary

JULY

Candy & Steve Murray	07/08
Wilbert & Betty Stewart	07/09
Randy & Sherri Williams	07/13
Donald & Gladys Timoruski	07/19
Bob & Jeanette Albright	07/23



AUGUST

Ray & Dorothy Huter	08/08
Ted & Arlene Schauer	08/11
James & Sue Gibson	08/18



SUNDAY SCHOOL
for THE SUMMER

There will be no Sunday school classes during the summer months; the Board of Education will resume Sunday school class in the fall.

Adult Bible class led by the Pastor will still be offered. So please stay and study the Word of God with us.

Paula Backs will be teaching the children the different parables for all youth ages in the parish hall during the summer months.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MAY 12, 2015

PRESENT-Lisa Elam, Johnnie Altstatt, Bruce Fenske, Nancy Heredia, Wilma Replogle, Pat Lamaestra, Jennifer Kessler, Pastor Kessler. Meeting called to order at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Pastor.

MINUTES-none printed for meeting. Will present at next month meeting.

TREASURER –Johnny presented financial reports. Stocks that were given to Church will be sold at Schwab and money added to Schwab account. State farm CD matured in May. Money to be transferred to Thrivent Credit Union and a CD opened at a higher interest rate. Bruce motioned to accept report, Nancy 2nd. Motion passed

PRESIDENT- absent, no report

VICE PRESIDENT-Held first planning meeting May 9th, 7 people attended. Various ideas given. (see attached sheet). Will have follow-up meetings. Nancy motioned to start memorial garden, Jennifer 2nd. Motion passed. Stone was chosen to be used as it will last. A picnic as a Sunday service is being planned at Friendship Park in June or July. Someone will go to Parks and Rec to see what is available.

The meeting was held on Saturday May 9th at 8:00am to 11:40. In attendance were Pat, Will, Betty, Janet, Johnny, Pastor, and Paula.

New Members/First Time Visitors

- Recognize first time visitors at end of service so members can recognize them.
- Give congregation members church cards to invite new people.
- Schedule a weekend or day for members of the congregation to put door hangers on local community doors inviting them to worship service.
- Set up a system in which a couple from the congregation can visit new visitors to the church.
- Have stewardship look at yellow cards and reach out.
- Mission – look at a team for “Relay for Life”
- Get more involved in community functions – set up a table for lettuce days, winter visitor days, etc.
- Finish developing a handout for the Visitors center/Base that tells about the church and our worship hours.
- Pastor to contact inactive members. Elder’s to assist as necessary.
- Facebook if you have it “Like it”.
- End all services with a positive note
- Assign sponsors to new members

Memorial Garden

Committee forwarded to Council to give the go ahead to build a Memorial Garden in the space by the flagpole. Pat will head up the design and construction and future care. The consensus was we go with stones to conserve water and keep maintenance to a minimum.

Outdoor Service

It was suggested that we put together a combined outdoor service. Pastor will check with others Pastors to see if they are interested. If they are would like to have it when winter visitor are here.

It was also suggested that our congregation get together for a picnic at one of the parks in either June or July. Friendship Park was suggested. The council would need to set the date.

New Directions

- AWC/NAU/ASU Campus Ministry – Would like to start in Fall Semester (August)
- Parish Nursing Program – Look into

SECRETARY- No report available.

TREASURER- report presented

PASTOR REPORT-

Wrote and Preached 5 Sermons –Led 7 Worship Services. Led 3 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes on Hosea.

Sunday morning worship attendance as follows

Date, Day of Week, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

a., 4/2/15, Maundy Thursday, 46, 41, 48, 45, 42

b., 4/3/15, Good Friday, 48, 63, 63, 60, 64

c., 4/5/15, Sunrise Easter Sunday, 76, 85, 79, 82, 61

d., 4/5/15, Late Easter Sunday, 63, 42, 69, 67, 55

e., 4/12/15, Sunday, 54, 72, 0, 83, 84/12

f., 4/19/15, Sunday, 53, 68, 74, 91, 95/17

g., 4/26/15, Sunday, 69, 79, 81, 63, 73/17

Led 5 Bible Classes at Emerald Springs. Led 4 Saturday Morning Bible 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 3 hospital visits. Made 4 person visits. Performed 4 shut-in communions.

Attended “Kids In Christ” planning meeting April 26th, 2015

Attended “All Boards” Meeting and “Church Council” Meeting – April 14th, 2015. Attended “Elders” Meeting – April 10th, 2015.

No Baptisms. No Weddings. No Funerals.

BOARDS-

ELDERS-They are working on a parish nurse program. They are preparing a survey to assess the congregational needs.

MISSIONS- planning upcoming functions- July 5th, a patriotic service and potluck with activities. Sept 16th- Thrivent Lunch. Nov 14th- fall festival. Will have various booths and activities.

Continued on page 5; column 1

Nancy asked if the parking lot will be ready as it could be a liability as it is now. There was no definite answer yet, but Pastor said if not it could be possible to move things to education parking lot, parish hall and grassy areas of the Church. Pastor is looking into an all Churches picnic in January. Feb 12th- a possible catered valentine day dinner. March 18th – Sader dinner.

EDUCATION- Getting the curriculum for VBS together. Tentative dates July 31st-Aug 1st or Aug 7-8. Looking into a Friday night lock in and Sat program. They are renewing Higher Things magazine. There still are people who have not completed the protect my ministry training. This needs to be done as soon as possible. They also have old Sunday school material and are looking into who it can be donated to.

STEWARDSHIP- They need counters for June. Pastor asked what kind of training was involved. Wilma said new counters are paired with experienced people. People need to check their mailboxes. They were cleared out at the end of 2014. They have been updating things and are looking into a stewardship campaign.

TRUSTEES- They had a working meeting and repaired things, put the can crusher up, hung curtains.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- reported under Vice President.

NEW BUSINESS- none

GOOD OF THE ORDER-Mission board would like to find dates the parking lot will be worked on in case they need to change the fall festival date.

Nancy motioned to adjourn meeting. Closed at 8:12 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 9, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Pastor.

MINUTES-The minutes for April and May were presented. Bruce motioned to accept the April minutes. Pat 2nd. Motion passed. Bruce motioned to accept the May minutes. Janet 2nd. Motion passed.

TREASURER- Johnny presented the financial reports. Our contributions are not meeting expenses. Bruce motioned to accept the report. Nancy 2nd. Motion passed. It was asked if the treasurer and the financial secretary are the same. Janet said yes.

PRESIDENT- NO REPORT

VICE PRESIDENT- Pat purchased door hangers and pocket cards. Pastor and Pat will work on the wording for them. He is still working on the AWC/NAU/ASU campus ministry.

SECRETARY-presented. **TREASURER-**presented
PASTOR-

ELDERS- They discussed the upcoming survey for the parish nurse program. Also studied "Holding up the Prophets hand."

MISSION-Working on fall festival. No new info on the parking lot probably won't be done by Nov 14th. Non Church members wanting booths would have to provide certificate of insurance if worried about liability. Mike says anything dealing with animals needs a \$1,000,000 insurance policy. Our insurance would not cover Saddles of Joy. Our insurance would cover anyone on property. Nancy said a lot of volunteers will be needed. Action grants for the meat and flyers will be applied for. Also there will be a July 5th red, white, and blue potluck after church.

EDUCATION – VBS will be July 31st –Aug 1st. Materials are being printed out. The children will be singing Sunday in Church and

there will be a potluck after service. It was suggested to use the education building and parsonage house as they will be much easier to cool down.

STEWARDSHIP- They are working on guidelines for counters. They have gotten counters for June. They are also still working on time/talent sheets. They have invited Johnnie to attend the board meetings as she is the financial secretary according to the guidelines.

TRUSTEES- Fixing things as needed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-Pat is working on the memory garden. The grass will be removed and he has made a small display to show what it will look like. He has had 2 different bricks engraved as examples. The cost will be \$20 for the large paver and \$23 for the smaller one which includes engraving. He will have them in the Parrish hall Sunday so people can vote on which paver they like best.

NEW BUSINESS- none

GOOD OF THE ORDER-none

Janet motioned to adjourn. Lisa 2nd. Meeting ended at 8:10 closing with The Lords Prayer.

Stewardship Notes

Thank you to those who signed up to be counters for June and July. The harvest is ready but the laborers are few. Consider your pay as a contribution of your God given talent and time.

Training is given to new counters and a refresher course will be given anytime it is requested. Also the guidelines have been updated for clarification.

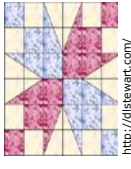

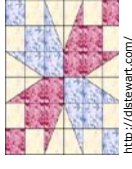
Please remember to greet new people who attend church. It is always nice to be made welcome. Pastor does this but we need to do it also. Filled out communion cards give information as does the guest register when signed. Make someone feel wanted by greeting and directing. Invite them to Fellowship Hall for goodies.

Do you like to get mail? Calvary has mailboxes for members (on left) and winter visitors (right). Please check for your name on top of your box in Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions see one of the Stewardship Board members;

Bonnie Reinetson, Wilma Replogle, Janet Stash, Betty Stewart, Connie Wubbena.

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Mission Board will be sponsoring a potluck on July 5th after worship service that morning. Please bring a dish to share and come and enjoy some great food and fellowship after church! See you there!</p>			1	2 09:30 AM-Bible Study @ Emerald Springs	3 Office Closed	4 07:00 AM-Bible Study @ Goldsborro
5 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 11:30 AM-Pot Luck	6	7	8	9 09:30 AM-Bible Study @ Emerald Springs	10 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting 	11 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	15	16 09:30 AM-Bible Study @ Emerald Springs	17	18 07:00 AM-Bible Study @ Goldsborro 
19 08:00 AM-Worship Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	20	21	22	23 09:30 AM-Bible Study @ Emerald Springs	24 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 	25 07:00 AM-Bible Study @ Goldsborro
26 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	27	28	29	30 09:30 AM-Bible Study @ Emerald Springs	31	