

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2016

It's a new year! We made it through the Advent season and now the season of Christmas and Epiphany are here! I will say, during the month of December, I wondered why it seemed like time was going by so slowly. That may sound a little odd to you considering that we have ALREADY celebrated Christmas Day and are signing and dating documents 2016! But, the month of December was a very difficult and trying month. To be completely honest, it was exhausting and emotionally despairing at times.

As many of you know, the office and parsonage were broken into on 3 separate occasions last month (at least it is 3 at the time that I am writing this article and stays that way, God willing). Just when we thought we had things secure, another week would go by and another burglary would occur. It was frustrating to say the least. As we have looked at the dates of these occurrences, one thing has stood out. Each time, the break-ins were on a late Monday night/early Tuesday. Sometime after the secretary would leave the office for home late Monday afternoon, we would arrive to the office on Tuesday morning to find that the office and parsonage had been compromised yet once again! We would call the police, wait outside by our vehicles while the officers would enter each of the church's buildings and clear them before we would be allowed to enter the space. Each break-in was more brazen and the damage and clutter was more severe than the last. Each time, we would call Milton for assistance in buckling down the hatches more and fix what had been damaged or destroyed. Then the clean-up would begin, returning items to their rightful place and taking an inventory of what was missing. Each time, the list became longer and the time to correct/fix things took more time. To date, the list of items stolen consists of a laptop computer, portable video projector, money, gift cards, stamps, credit card, wireless mouse, pda, cables to run the computer and projector, security system, and cases to carry the computer and projector. Windows were broken, the back door to the office was severely compromised, cabinets, closets, and desks were in complete disarray, boxes were torn open, and stuff was strewn all over the office.

All of this does not even come close to how Janet and I feel about what has happened. We are heartbroken, angry, frustrated, concerned, violated, and feel responsible. The moment we have noticed that something has happened, our hearts sink, our guts are in knots, a feeling of despair sets in with such vigor that an instant headache comes on and the idea of eating anything makes us nauseous. Just when we feel like we have corrected and prevented it from happening again, it

happened. I don't know for what we have to be apologetic, but we still feel so very sorry nonetheless. We are so very thankful to those who have offered words of encouragement and support during those days and weeks that we struggled. Your words gave us comfort and offered hope when we felt so hopeless. Thank you for that. Thank you, also, to all of you who have contributed in some way or another to assist in offsetting the cost of replacement for the things that have been stolen. Your generosity means the world to us here in the office and are a tremendous blessing to our Calvary Lutheran Church Family!

While so much of this is disheartening and gloomy, a bit of good information to date has come to light. The perpetrators who stole the credit card did use it, but in their greed to buy more with it, their greed lead them to make a mistake...they were caught on video surveillance and the cashier witnessed these individuals. When they were caught trying to use it again, they handed the cashier the credit card and when they didn't answer the security questions correctly, they bolted out the door and ran to their vehicle (a white Malibu or similar make and model) and drove away. This information has been reported to the police investigating the burglaries and we are hopeful that these people will be apprehended and prosecuted.

As I have struggled with the recent events that have occurred, I have also come to a realization. I cannot wrap my head around the reason why, who we believe to be the same individuals, broke into the office and parsonage multiple times. I cannot fathom wanting something so badly that I would go to such great lengths to acquire those things. I probably never will. But I do understand sin. I know that what they did was wrong and is a direct result of their sin and the brokenness of this world. I also know that this is Christmas and Epiphany. All the preparations of Advent were for this very reason...to reflect on our dire need for a Savior and the celebration that God was born in the flesh to save us from that sin. Just as I need to be forgiven of my sins, so do these individuals. Yes, what they did was wrong. Yes, they also need forgiveness. Yes, Jesus died for them too. So while we are hopeful that they are caught and disciplined for their crimes, we also are hopeful that they repent and that God would forgive them.

In closing, I hope and pray that these events have ended and we can move forward without the concern and fear of what the next day will bring. One thing I ask of you...thank those who have worked so hard fixing, repairing, notifying, and documenting following the burglaries.

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Milton has worked so hard fixing broken windows and doors. I teased him that we should add him to our payroll with all the time he spent here at the church last month. Thank Janet for contacting all the right people and documenting and itemizing everything that was stolen and getting the right people here to take care of the things that needed immediate attention. Thank Johnnie for getting to the bank as quickly as she did to notify them of the recent activities and to be on the lookout for anything that might be fraudulent (we have no reason at this time to think that any of our financial information has been compromised thankfully). And thank God that He gave these 3 important people the insight and knowledge to do all these things with such professionalism, integrity, and haste. One thing is sure, in light of these events, I have been reminded once again just how truly blessed we all are here at Calvary. God certainly is good. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

In Christian Love,
Pastor Kessler

ATTENTION: Good communication is an integral part of life at any church. The best way for information to be shared with all the members of Calvary is to make sure that an announcement is placed in the monthly newsletter. While email is a great way to communicate with people, not everyone is open to having various announcements emailed to them and the church office tries very hard to respect peoples wishes. Therefore, it is asked that if there is an announcement or item of interest of which you would like to notify the congregation, please write up the announcement and email or drop it off at the office by the 15th of each month so that it is included in the upcoming newsletter. Also, because announcements are intended to be very specific, the office asks that you write the announcement yourself to ensure that all information related to the topic is included. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at (928)783-3024 or calvarylutheranyuma@gmail.com.



TRUSTEE NEWS

As you have heard the church was burglarized 3 times in 3 weeks. We mentioned the items stolen and asked everyone at the voter's assembly to let us know if the congregation wished to have the items replace. Though an insurance claim has been filed, our deductible is very high, and it is not in our budget to replace the items. In asking the church has received a couple contributions for the replacement of the stolen items. Thus, after Christmas we will look into replacing these items.

In the effort to reduce the trustee expenses we are going to try using community service workers to do our lawn. Currently Randy Williams keeps our sprinkler system in proper working condition, and I feel he will continue to do so this coming year. We are looking for a lawn mower. If you have a lawn mower in good working condition that you are no longer using, please think about donating it to Calvary, we will be purchasing one next year. We currently own an electric hedge trimmer, manual weeder, a hoe. Other items that will be needed are a small gas can, possibly a string trimmer.

JUST A NOTE

In an effort to keep the church's expenses down, please remember to have the office place your orders for items needed by the different boards and place orders in plenty of time to allow for minimal freight charges.

Also, please allow the office to do your printing. We can print cheaper than most people can do at home. This way we are not doing multiple reimbursements for ink and paper supplies to the different boards.

These efforts help eliminate the need for reimbursements which we should not be doing as an internal financial control.

Happy Birthday!

Terry Pray	01/03
Hank Green	01/10
Lily Green	01/11
Marilyn Damet	01/13
Donna Barton	01/14
Austin Kessler	01/14
Glen Wagner	01/19
Mary Ann Holloway	01/23
Braeden Dames	01/26
Leroy Pickett	01/27
Donald Zautcke	01/28
Carolyn Macomber	01/31

Happy Anniversary

Ron & Evelyn Foster		01/18
Mark & Teri Jo Ford		01/21
Heather & Kevin Torres		01/26

BAPTISM

Pam Green	01/01
Robert Stash	01/01
Betty Stewart	01/01
Lisa Stewart	01/01
Matthew Wilder	01/01
Randy Williams	01/01
Johnnie Ehrlich	01/03
Gladys Timoruski	01/07
Brian Rochester	01/10
Donna Barton	01/14
Roxana Williams	01/26
Donald Zautcke	01/28

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings 6:00P.M. & Council January 5, 2016

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

2015 Contributions	
11/29	\$3,751.00
12/06	\$4,113.00
12/13	\$4,550.00
Avg. \$ per week	\$4,138.00



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

Year to date \$130,924.88

Avg. \$ per week \$ 2,618.50

Short per week <\$ 838.22>

Parking Lot Fund	
Fund Total as of September	\$7,856.00
August Contributions	\$_____
Fund Total	\$7,856.00

2015 Contributions & Expenses NOVEMBER	
GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$14,550.77
Expenses	<u>\$13,831.60</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 719.17
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$126,374.88
Misc Income	\$ 2,215.54
Expenses	<u>\$153,117.04</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$24,526.62>

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2016

Please plan on attending this meeting of Calvary's Voter's assembly. We will be voting on the 2016 budget.



LWML NOTES

LWML's December meeting was blessed with children from Precious Treasures presenting their Christmas program. What a fun and entertaining evening it was.

Wow! Thank you everyone for your help of the Twelfth Annual Cookie Walk Sale and Christmas Fair! It was an incredible coming together of time and talent to make the event a huge success! Thank you for generously volunteering to help set up the event, baking your dozens of cookies, and helping us on that Saturday. The numbers are in --- we sold \$1,066 in cookies that is the most ever and more than double what the event brought in last year. The church sold 265 dozen cookies or 3,186 total cookies – what an astounding number for our congregation. That is a lot of cookies!!!

Plan to attend the Children's Modeling Show and Tea on January 16th at 2 pm. It is such an enjoyable afternoon of sharing and fellowship. The children are delightful showing off their new outfits. If you didn't have a chance to attend last year's tea, you won't want to miss it this year. Nancy and Paula do a wonderful job hosting this pleasurable occasion.

The next meeting for LWML will be Thursday, February 4th with the Annual Mug Exchange led by Linda Kaiser. Many of LWML members really look forward to it. 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, not necessarily a new mug; any kind of mug that represents you or one you like. Place your name; birthday; anniversary if you wish and a favorite Bible verse on paper and set it in the mug, and bring it to the meeting.

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held Saturday, February 27th. You may start bringing your items to the church for donation. Speak to an LWML member to arrange a date and time to bring your items. Set up for the event is Friday, the 26th beginning at 8 am.

Thursday, March 3rd will be the last LWML meeting for the season. We plan to have a no host dinner at a local restaurant with election of officers to be held. We will have to fill the President's slot so please let us know if you are interested in this position.

Also, if you have used ink cartridges, please remember to bring them in to the foyer of the church – there is a box to collect them, and we send them in to receive money that goes towards to further God's work on earth.

All women of the Church are LWML members.

Have a blessed New Year!

STEWARDSHIP

The board thanks all who contributed many significant and fabulous gift certificate donations to the baskets that were sold from November 22 until 1 pm at the Cookie Walk. We also thank each and everyone who participated in making the event possible. God blessed the effort as over \$700 was raised for the church treasury. Special thanks go to Jan Stash and Connie Wubbena for their ideas and labor.

We would like to thank the following businesses and many of our own members for their generous donations. *Johnnie Altstatt; Paula Backs; Donna Fairchild; Maggie Fenske; Elaine Green; Nancy Heredia; Ron Hill; and Connie Wubbena.*

*Accurate Automotive
Arizona Western College
Bingham Equip. & New Holland
Bingham Car Quest
Branded Salon & Boutique
Basket Creations and More
Chick-fil-A Yuma
Dog Haus of Yuma
Desert Hills Golf Course of Yuma
Dreams on Paper
Fisher Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Flowers and Company
Goldsboro's Bakery
Lutes Casino
Key to Your Kitchen (Ferguson's)
Olive Garden Italian Kitchen
Planes Trains and Automobiles
Regency Main Street Cinemas
Round Table Pizza
The Patio Restaurant & Bar at the Hills
The Peanut Patch
Tiki Hut Frozen Yogurt Co.
Tour West
Treasures on Main Street
Wild World Zoo and Camel Farm
Yuma Honda*

We are asking that you support these businesses in our community and thank them when patronizing them.

We will report on our 2nd fundraiser next month. The fund raiser took place on December 15 at Round Table Pizza. We hope for pizza lovers to support Round Table Pizza as they shared their proceeds with Calvary Lutheran Church. Thank them next time you buy their pizza. We thank God for His help.

Counters are needed for January and other months in 2016. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. This is an urgent need. If there are questions see Connie Wubbena, Jan Stash, Betty Stewart, Bonnie Reinertson, or Wilma Replogle.

Stewardship Sunday is planned for January 10, 2016.

May God bless Calvary Lutheran Church in 2016

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING DEC 8TH, 2015

PRESENT- Pat Lamaestra, Connie Wubbena, Lisa Elam, Wilma Replogle, Johnny Altstatt, Ron Hill, Janet Ehrlich, Pastor Kessler

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

MINUTES-Connie stated that the \$10 vendor space fee goes to the LWML not the Church treasury as stated. Janet motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Connie 2nd. Motion passed.

TREASURER- it was asked if the money for the memorial garden bricks would be on the statements. The answer is no because it is not a contribution. Janet motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Lisa 2nd. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT- Absent

VICE PRESIDENT- Will discuss during old business

SECRETARY- none

TREASURER-It is being asked that people who buy supplies should go through the office 1st and request it show a check can be written and not buying first and then asking for reimbursement.

PASTOR-

Wrote and preached 6 sermons – Led 5 Sunday morning worship services & 1 Wednesday evening worship service (Thanksgiving Eve)

Led Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes. Led Bible classes at Emerald Springs. Led Confirmation classes

Led Saturday morning Bible classes at Goldsboro Bakery. Led Wednesday morning Bible classes

Boy Scouts of America visited Calvary Lutheran Church on 11/22/2015. Was told by one of the chaperones that of all the churches the scouts visited on their 10 Commandment Hike, only 2 churches said anything about Jesus.

Calvary was one of them. Was presented with a plaque of the patch the scouts earned for participating in the hike.

Attended Elders meeting 11/6/2015. Attended "All Boards" and "Church Council" meetings on 11/10/2015

ELDERS- they went over the parish nurse program report they are going to present at the voters meeting.

MISSION- They had a successful fall festival. Everything is set for the birthday party for Jesus Dec 20th after Church.

EDUCATION- no report

STEWARDSHIP- They are busy planning their 2 upcoming fundraisers. The cookie walk, craft fair and basket drawing and the round table pizza takeover. Everything is coming together.

TRUSTEES- The signed AT&T tower contract is signed and back. We should have our 1st deposit check this month. It will be brought to the voters at the meeting that the money from the tower should first go to the parking lot and then to help cover utility costs. We have had break INS lately. They are escalating. The last one was in the office and the laptop and projector was taken. As of now there are no plans to file insurance to replace items. may add more outdoor lighting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-Voters meeting Sunday. Working on agenda and ballots. The nominating committee sent out several letters. Only 2 responses, 1 yes 1 no. 2 more are needed for mission board. The officers will stay the same.

Budget- Will finalize the 2016 budget to present to voters. It was questioned that with our current financial condition that the mission board budget is too high and that items should be cut. As far as the \$5000 place holder put in the elders budget for the parish nurse program, Janet says there is no such thing and it cannot be done. It was suggested that if the voters support the AWC campus ministry, we should focus on that and not the other items on the mission budget. Voters can decide if some items can be struck from the budget. It was asked if we can have another voters meeting later on in the year and add programs as a non-budgeted line item. Answer was yes. After much discussion on boards submitted budgets, council decided to go line by line and make a budget the council could support to the voters. The results are as follows- board of ed-cut Sunday school from \$800 to \$700. Elders- cut Alter guild supplies from \$650 to \$400, Discretionary (guest pastor) from \$1000 to \$500, remove parish nurse. Mission board- Keep advertising, mission board supplies, and AWC campus ministry as is. Increase PSD district and synod support from \$2000 to \$3000. Remove the following- Lutheran Bible translator, PSD missions, Ft Wayne and St Louis sem. Food banks, 4kenya kids-Rev Meeker, and LCMS synod missions. Trustees- Building maint. from \$1700 to \$1500, ground maint from \$4000 to \$3000. After going line by line, Connie motioned to present the new figures to the voters, Janet 2nd. There was 7 yay votes and 1 abstaining vote (Ron Hill) we will present a budget only about \$1000 more from the 2015 budget.

The next meeting will be Jan 5th.

Voters meeting is Jan 10th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

January 2016

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
3 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	4	5 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council	6 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation class	7 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	8	9 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 
10 09:00 AM-Communion Service VOTER'S ASSEMBLY	11	12	13 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation class	14 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg	15	16 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 2:00pm-LWML Tea/ Fashion show 
17 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 04:00 PM-KIC	18	19	20 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation class	21 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg	22	23 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
24 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	25	26	27 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation class	28 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg	29	30 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
31 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes						