

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 2016

Easter has always been an interesting time of the year for me. For most of my earthly life, I have lived in places that had 4 distinct seasons throughout the year... winter, spring, summer, and fall. Winters were usually pretty long and brutal. Sub-zero temperatures in the winter was normal. High humidity and ginormous mosquitoes in the summer were guaranteed. Fall and spring were the best seasons because they were the in-between times when we would get a reprieve from the extremes of winter and summer. Cooler temperatures would yield to less bugs, tree leaves would change colors, and we would get to wear some of our favorite long sleeved articles of clothing. Spring would bring warmer temperatures, the chance to break out the shorts and t-shirts, and trees and plants would begin to bud and bloom.

Spring has always been my favorite time of the year. I love seeing the grass start to turn green again and the buds form on the branches of the trees. We used to have yellow tulips along our house in North Dakota. Every spring I would start looking for the sprout of the tulips. When I saw that green sticking through the dirt, I knew it wouldn't be long before the robins would be back and the streets lined with kids riding their bikes and playing at their friends' houses. It was like everything that at one point had the appearance of being dead was coming back to life...it reminded me of the resurrection...death to life.

Which makes complete sense as to the timing of Easter...spring. The very fact that our Lord made satisfaction for our sins by willingly going to a cross and dying in our place is amazing to say the least. But, considering that the grave could not contain Him and three days after His death He rose back to life...imagine what that means! Just as we witness the last leaves fall off the branches in winter's wind and death seems to have taken hold of all of life...how soon it is that life returns to claim victory over death as new leaves appear.

Yes, we too become old and parched and are dead in our trespasses. We bear the resemblance of death as our old Adam continues to drive us further into our graves. But, we are privileged to be called sons and daughters of Christ Jesus as we now bear His image through a baptism that quenches our parched spirit and assures us that even in the face of death we get to laugh and rejoice for death no longer has dominion over us. New life has sprung within us as we are intimately joined to our Lord Jesus Christ, not only in His death, but also in His resurrection...a resurrection to eternal life in heaven above. So it certainly is no coincidence that Easter falls during the season of spring...a time of new life springing up all around us...new life springing up within us!

As we continue to journey to Jesus' cross and empty tomb, we shall meditate for the next few weeks on the remaining petitions of the Lord's Prayer. We will consider the seasons of seeking God's will, seasons of thanks for simple things, and seasons of standing up to evil. All of which brings us to Holy Week that will begin with the *Confirmation of Jordan Rutledge who will have been examined by the elders on Wednesday evening, March 16th following our last midweek service before Easter. Then we will gather on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00pm, and gathering in completion of Holy Week on Easter morning as we see the sun rise during the Divine Service.* What joy there is as we are reminded that we may be dead in our sins, but are made alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord! It is sure to be a joyous occasion.

It is my fervent prayer that as we once again gather this year to give all glory, honor, and praise to our good and gracious God for all He has done for us as we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation from Him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit in heaven above. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Pastor Kessler

LENT SERVICE

3/ 2/2016—7:00PM; DINNER 6PM
3/ 9/2016—7:00PM; DINNER 6PM
3/16/2016—7:00PM; DINNER 6PM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

3/24/2016—7:00PM; Maundy Thursday
3/25/2016—7:00PM; Good Friday
3/27/2016—6:00AM; Easter Sunrise
9:00AM; 2nd Service

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 & Byron Strom  03/31

BAPTISM

Rosemary Suhr	03/01
Jordan Rutledge	03/03
Abby Rutledge	03/09
Connie Wubbena	03/10
Carolyn Macomber	03/13
Dylan MacFarlane	03/17
Leroy Pickett	03/18
Braeden Dames	03/22
Brian Atchley	03/23
Michael Kessler	03/23
Lily Green	03/24
Hannah Kessler	03/25
Jane Pray	03/25
Ella Stewart	03/26
Addison Hildestad	03/29
Shirley Haugrose	03/31

Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Sunday, March 13, 2016 @ 11:45am

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

2016 Contributions	
02/06/2016	\$4,307.00
02/14/2016	\$4,003.00
02/21/2016	\$2,464.00
02/28/2016	\$2,626.00



Avg. \$ per week \$3,361.33

Contribution amount needed per week is **\$3,444.95** to meet current budget.

Year to date \$28,611.40

Avg. \$ per week \$ 3,179.05

Short per week <\$ 265.90>

2016 Contributions & Expenses FEBRUARY (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$13,445.30
Altar Flowers	
Expenses	<u>\$11,771.35</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 1,673.95
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$28,602.40
Misc Income	\$
Expenses	<u>\$26,530.86</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 2,071.54

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of January	\$ 8,556.00
February Contributions	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>
Fund Total	\$12,056.00

HELP WANTED! COUNTERS NEEDED

The counters yearly calendar is nearly bare.
For more information to sign up to be a counter please ask Connie, Wilma, Jan, Betty, or Bonnie.



Calvary's LWML News

Our February meeting program was the annual mug exchange with Linda Kaiser. Sixteen women attended the enjoyable evening with some unusual and special mugs exchanged with each other. Also, thank you to Linda Stange for assisting.

At this writing, the Annual Rummage Sale scheduled for Saturday, February 27th has not yet taken place. But I am sure; it was a success as were past rummage sales. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped and contributed. The proceeds from the sale are used through the next year for our mission gifts.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 11:30 am., at The Hills Restaurant Patio & Bar, 1245 W. Desert Hills Dr. This will be a fun filled, no host luncheon and everyone will order off the menu. Please make your reservation with Jan Stash. We will have election of officers during the luncheon, and if you are interested in serving please let us know.

Blessings, Jan Stash

Stewardship Notes

Urgent need - counters for the year. Please, please, sign up to serve.

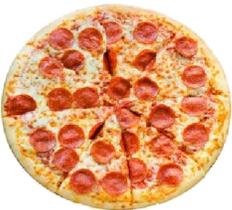
For your information: Stewardship will include your personal pledge envelopes for 2016 (that we hope you have returned - if not bring them) with your 2016 year end statement.

There are many ways to serve the Lord! Help with serving or enjoying eating pizza is a way. The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring another pizza fund raiser on Tuesday, March 1 between 5 - 8 pm at Round Table Pizza on 2544 W 16th St. Please, put March 1 on your calendar. We'll be looking for you.

Pray that there will be no more break ins.

The Stewardship Board Fundraiser at Round Table Pizza in December was such a hit we are doing it again on Tuesday, March 1st, from 5-8pm. We will be

receiving 25% of the proceeds during that time. This includes take out so if you don't care to go out - call in an order. We will also need help waiting tables, serving beverages, greeting customers and clean-up duties. Many of the volunteers enjoyed serving during the December fundraiser. If you are willing to work a shift, or need more information; please talk with Connie Wubbena, Wilma Replogle, Jan Stash, Bonnie Reinertson or Betty Stewart. All proceeds will go to the church treasury so we need everyone.



From the Trustees

Well, as you know it has been an eventful start to this year. There have been several burglaries in which we have had to cope with. Those who have personally dealt with burglaries know how time consuming dealing with insurance companies and the police can be. As the board of trustees is made up of volunteers this time frame takes even a bit longer.

Rest assured we have taken precautions to help avoid further break-ins into a few buildings.

At February's council meeting, two members of the trustees were asked to gather certain information needed for guarding against future loss due to burglaries. They are doing this as well as taking time to follow up with the Police Dept. on the current case, as well as canvassing the local pawn shops. This is time consuming requiring multiple phone calls and trips, all on their own time.

In the mean time we are actively physically working on other ways to guard against losses. In the same way as you would not divulge where in your home your safe or secure place is, neither will we here in a newsletter nor bulletin as these forms of communication are put up on our web site. If you want to know what is being done please come to a meeting in which it can be discussed in a non public setting. Through our time and efforts we know the police might have a clue as to who is involved. Catching the perpetrator is another issue.

As a church we face many unique security issues that are difficult to work around. One issue, dealing with a secure place of keeping is if the trustees inform one person who then informs another who informs another and so on, security is compromised. Second is, we have multiple buildings and doors that are all used by one person or another. No one door is used. Members access these doors during any day of the week at all hours during the day, and even at night. Simply asking members to not use a door or not come at night and so forth has proven futile. Third, what works for a residence does not necessarily work for a church as a church is considered commercial.

We recognize that many members feel an urgency to solve the problem, as volunteers we are putting in time and effort when and where we are able. Please be patient we us.

Currently we are redoing the office bathroom due to the toilet plumbing failing. Wil Wubbena before 2006 warned us this day was coming. Milton Euhus, Randy Williams, and Pat Lameastra have been working on the project from morning till noon almost everyday. Thank you to them.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING FEB 9, 2016

PRESENT- Mike Ehrlich, Pastor Kessler, Johnny Altstatt, Ron Hill, Connie Wubbena, Pat Lamaestra, Wilma Replogle, Lisa Elam, Paula Backs.

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

MINUTES- January minutes were reviewed. Connie motioned to accept the minutes, pat 2nd. Motion passed

TREASURER- Report presented for review. Johnny said the 1st AT&T check deposited into the parking lot fund and will continue until lot is redone then it will go into utilities. Lisa motioned to accept the report, Ron 2nd. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT- Mike has asked randy Ehrlich and Terry Pray to research security with the recent break ins. In the meantime we will need to lock up valuable items. There are plans to build a vault like room in the storage room between the alter guild and organ rooms.

VICE PRESIDENT- the gates are up in the memorial garden. The first sets of bricks are at the engravers with a second order when there are enough.

SECRETARY- none

TREASURER- none

PASTOR-

ELDERS- They will meet this Friday

MISSIONS-The budget was discussed – they are looking at alternate ideas with the food banks being removed. Paula says they are a little disheartened that the budget was lowered. Connie says she doesn't see it as lowered, just redirected. Food is being taken to the food bank Sunday.

EDUCATION- no report

STEWARDSHIP-It was suggested to put the pledge sheet in the contribution statement so they can be compared. The next pizza takeover is March 1st. Volunteers are needed.

TRUSTEES- The insurance co. says the claim has been sent to the national vendor but have not heard anything yet. A large shrub was removed in the back where people were sleeping. A syringe was found by the back wall so someone will have to do a walk around early on Sunday morning. After the last break in we found out the cabinets with the sewing machines do not have locks. That will have to be fixed. Also groups need to go through their cabinets and clean them out and remove what doesn't belong. There is a mice problem so groups need to remove old newspapers, construction paper etc since mice love that.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- It was brought up at the last council meeting that the meeting day be changed. Different days were discussed. Connie motioned to try Sunday after Bible study, 11:45-12:45. Pat 2nd. Motion passed with 1 nay vote. Other days may be tried to see what will work best

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 05:00 PM-Pizza Take Over	2 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation Class 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service	3 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	4 9:00am LWML Quilting	5 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
6 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	7 11:00am Trustee Meeting	8	9 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation Class 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service	10 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	11	12 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
13 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 11:45pm Council Meeting	14	15	16 11:00 AM-Bible Study 04:00 PM-Confirmation Class 06:00 PM-Lenten Meal 07:00 PM-Lent Service 07:45 PM-Confirmation Questioning	17 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	18 9:00am LWML Quilting	19 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro 11:30 AM-LWML Dinner/Elections
20 CONFIRMATION 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	21	22	23 11:00 AM-Bible Study	24 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-Maundy Thursday 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	25 07:00 PM-Good Friday 	26 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
27 EASTER 06:00 AM-Easter Sunrise 09:00 AM-2nd Easter Service 	28	29	30 11:00 AM-Bible Study	31 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry		