

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APRIL 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray this edition of the newsletter finds all of you well and enjoying the beautiful season of spring. It amazes me how we have already celebrated Easter and are preparing for the journey to Ascension and Pentecost. It won't be long and we will be gearing up for fall. I know I shouldn't get too far ahead of myself. After all...this is the day the Lord has made...tomorrow hasn't been made yet. I only mention the timing of things as it seems to me that time gets away from us all and before we know it, what seemed to have happened yesterday is already years behind us. Life goes by so quickly and after speaking to our confirmand in the sermon on Palm Sunday, I began to think about some things that I think are important for all of us.

It goes back to the fact that life on this earth passes so quickly. Yes, I know that there are times that it seems as if time itself were dragging and it feels like an eternity when having to wait for certain things. When we are young, we can't wait until we turn 16 so we can drive. The closer we get to 16 the slower time seems to pass. In fact, it drags on and on and on to the point that we begin to wonder if it will ever get here. Then, we are excited to turn 21 and you know why...because you are now legally allowed to purchase and drink adult beverages. Now you have made it to the wonderful world of adulthood! Yeah! These different milestones in our adolescent lives, for many of us, are already written down in the annals of history and what is left for us to get excited about...to look forward to?

The truth be told, there are so many things for which to look forward and cause great excitement, regardless of our age. Sure, when we are young, certain things tend to stand out above all the rest. But, as you get older, there are other things that you might not consider when you're younger...things like the birth of your own child, the birth of your grandchildren, the graduation of your children, the purchase of your first home, the purchase of your first automobile, getting married to the love of your life, seeing your children get married, etc. God so richly blesses us with many things for which to get excited throughout our earthly life.

However, there will come a time when you look back and realize that perhaps your earthly life is nearing its end. When I turned 40, there was a part of me that believed that I had lived half of my life already. According to statistics, white men in the United States have an average life expectancy of 78.5 years. So, with that calculation, when I turned 40, I had already lived more than half my earthly life. YIKES! I hope I didn't burst anybody's bubble there. It's not my intention to draw attention to your age. Instead, it is my hope that I remind you to LIVE TODAY because none of us know

what tomorrow may bring.

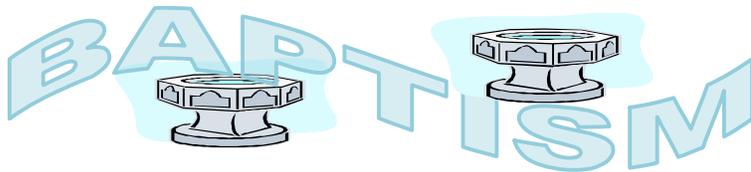
That's what makes Easter so wonderful...it doesn't matter how much or how little time anyone has left. Living life every day with the knowledge that anything can happen, we are reminded of our life and we are also reminded of our mortality. It is certainly a wonderful time to be alive in these bodies God has given to us. With the gift of modern medicine and the various tools to keep ourselves healthy, we stand to live longer than those before us. Everything from exercise machines to organ transplants, we've got it. But no matter how long we are destined to live earthly, the assurance of death is ever present. But again, I say, that's what makes Easter so wonderful! Even in the face of death, we laugh because in Christ, we have been given the assurance of life...and not just life like we know here and now...but life that is wholly and purely heavenly. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *"For just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.... Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:49, 51-57).* This is our joy and reason for getting up every day that the Lord has made...to live...for that is what our God created us to do.

It is my fervent prayer for each and every one of you that this Eastertide you rejoice exceedingly in the life you have been given through Jesus' death and resurrection. LIVE TODAY because today is the day God has made and He desires that you rejoice and be glad in it. Time passes so quickly, and this life we have here and now is a precious gift from our good and gracious God and Lord. It may not always be easy and free of trouble...but you get to face every day with the assurance that no matter what happens Christ has given you His Easter victory and you know you will live forever. That's a promise! How do I know? Because, Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kessler

# Happy Birthday!

Ray Huter	04/01
Arlene Schauer	04/03
Johnnie Altstatt	04/04
Carolyn Claude	04/06
Ann Lee	04/07
Jane Pray	04/07
Shawn Backs	04/09
Iris Bezo	04/09
Adrienne Wagner	04/16
Bruce Fenske	04/20
Pam Green	04/22
Derek Bezo	04/28



Arlene Schauer	04/03
Keith Macomber	04/08
Pearl Gleichman	04/09
Janet Ehrlich	04/12
Chuck Liehe	04/15
Adrienne Wagner	04/15
Maggie Fenske	04/16
Jacob LeClerc	04/16
Ann Lee	04/25

## STEWARDSHIP BOARD NEWS

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank each and every person that helped in any way with the pizza fundraiser on March 1. Because of this wonderful help the church received \$276.50 (our 20% of proceeds from Round Table Pizza) and also \$87.75 in generous tips for a total of \$364.25. God surely blessed this fundraiser and all who contributed.

Our committee did not have a formal meeting this month but was represented at the council meeting to report on the fundraiser and also ask questions for information that will help the committee to function properly.

Remember:

He is risen, Hallelujah!

He is risen indeed!

For you and me. Praise the Lord!

# Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

## Board Meetings & Council Sunday, April 10, 2016 @ 11:45am

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

2016 Contributions	
03/06/2016	\$3,545.00
03/13/2016	\$4,040.00
03/20/2016	\$4,567.00
03/27/2016	\$4,220.00



Avg. \$ per week \$4093.00

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

Year to date	\$50,561.68
Fund raiser (pizza)	364.25
Avg. \$ per week	\$ 3,917.38

## 2016 Contributions & Expenses MARCH (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$17,409.28
Misc Income	\$364.25
Expenses	\$17,129.52
Excess/Loss	\$ 641.01

### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$50,561.68
Misc Income	\$ 914.25
Expenses	\$44,422.73
Excess/Loss	\$ 7,053.20

## Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of February	\$12,056.00
March Contributions	\$
Fund Total	\$12,056.00

# Happy Anniversary

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





## MISSION BOARD NEWS FOR APRIL 2016

Welcome to Carolyn Albert as a new member of the board.

The Mission Board for the church for the last few years has not supported local missions such as Crossroads Mission, Salvation Army, Food Bank, Crisis Pregnancy, Habitat for Humanity with monetary donations. Our support has been limited to donated items. However, these agencies have received funding through The Yuma County Chapter of Thrivent because several members of Calvary have been on the Thrivent board. Funding for the Yuma County Chapter of Thrivent has been drastically reduced this year because Thrivent has started using Action Teams for local support. I encourage all Thrivent members to support your favorite local charity by requesting an action team grant. You can request up to \$250.00 twice a year. Please go to the website [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) to learn more about this program. If you want to become an associate member, the dues are only \$20.00 and you are able to put in for one \$250.00 action team grant per year. If you need help completing an action team grant, please call me, Paula Backs, at (928) 726-4053. Also remember to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars by March 31, 2016 to the charity of your choice. Calvary Lutheran Church is part of this program and you can designate your dollars to the church.

Mission Board has also previously supported the Food Banks for Seminary Students at Fort Wayne and St. Louis. Unfortunately with budget cuts, the Fort Wayne Food Bank and St. Louis Food Bank were also taken off mission board support. Over the years, we received many Thank You notes from the seminary students expressing their grateful thanks for providing the much needed food supplies while they were in training. Prayerfully consider supporting these students by designating the Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank or St. Louis Seminary Food Bank with a monetary donation.

A new mission for our church is supporting the students at Arizona Western College. Please pray that this ministry will be productive and God's hand will guide, encourage, and protect those participating. This is a great opportunity for Calvary Lutheran to reach out to the youth in our community.

The Mission Board continues to support missions endorsed by the LCMS. Please check out their website at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) to read more about Ministry to the Armed Forces, Lutheran World Relief, Disaster Response, Veterans of the Cross, Rural and Small Town Ministry and other programs.

Paula Backs, Chairman

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 13, 2016

**PRESENT:** Mike Ehrlich, Pat Lamaestra, Johnnie Alstatt, Lisa Elam, Mel Parker, Wilma Replogle, Connie Wubbena, Pastor Kessler. The meeting was called to order at 11:46 a.m. with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

**MINUTES-** There is a correction from previous minutes that said Randy Ehrlich was researching the security. It should have said Randy Williams. Also a spelling correction. Pat motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Johnnie 2nd. Motion passed.

**TREASURER-** Johnnie said there are 2 corrections on the report. Lisa motioned to accept the report as amended, Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed,

**PRESIDENT-** We received a letter asking if the church wanted to add anything on the agenda to the 2016 national convention, but the date to add has already passed.

**VICE PRES.** Pat and Pastor Kessler have been attending the AWC Christ on Campus meetings and will be taking over soon. It is going well with about 25 students attending.

**SECRETARY-** no report. **TREASURER-** no report

**PASTOR** (attached)

**ELDERS-** 2 people have been accepted into membership. One more member will be. The elders have approved compensation for music during services. \$75 for Maggie and \$15 for other people playing. They also have been planning Easter sunrise service setup and Maundy Thursday... They also will have confirmation questioning for Jordan Rutledge after Lent service.

**MISSION-** not present. **EDUCATION-** not present

**STEWARDSHIP-** The last pizza takeover was successful. They are looking into Panda Express and a chicken dinner next fall. The 2017 envelopes ordered. It was asked who was responsible for the Sunday school money. It is counted once a month and it goes for a Sunday school project so it should be the responsibility of the board of education. We will table discussion of the money until later when we can get more info.

**TRUSTEES-** The bathroom in the office is almost finished. We have purchased wireless surveillance cameras at a cost of \$651.00. Alarms will take more work with so many doors. Randy is following up on break in. He will report at a later date. The 1<sup>st</sup> claim has been completed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> claim has been submitted.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** We will keep trying Sunday afternoon council meetings. The next meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup>. Boards will schedule their meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS-** The assistance fund is operated under the Church's 501c3 as checks are written off the Church's account. A report needs to be presented at the annual voters meeting. LWML is an auxiliary and someone will look into if it has a separate 501c3 or if it falls under the Church's 501c3. Some boards are not meeting on a regular basis. Will be having a meeting with the board chairman's.

The annual Church planning meeting which should have been March 5th will be postponed until a later date.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER-** The cans in the old kitchen need to be smashed and taken to recycling. Connie asked who is responsible for the sign in the parking lot and changing the message. Jerry Ferguson used to take care of it. No one has since he left.

Connie motioned to adjourn the meeting, pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	4	5	6 11:00 AM-Bible Study	7 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	8 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	9 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
10 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes 11:45 AM-Council	11	12	13 11:00 AM-Bible Study	14 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	15 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	16 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
17 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	18	19	20 11:00 AM-Bible Study	21 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	22 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	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	28 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	29 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	30 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro