

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this edition of the newsletter finds that all of you are doing well and had an enjoyable summer. It is hard for me to believe that summer vacation is already behind us and we are preparing for the fall. I'm still amazed that my children have already been in school for a month! I remember the good-old days when school didn't start until after Labor Day. I guess times...they are a changing!

CHANGE...that's something with which each and every one of us must contend. Sometimes, it's not so tough...in fact, rather easy. Other times, it is down-right difficult, if not nearly impossible. As Lutherans, it is something we so often joke about. "*Change? What's that?*" "*Why change? We've never done it that way before.*" And you don't have to be a Lutheran to struggle with change. People, the world over, have struggled with change. We are all creatures of habit. Therefore, "*If it ain't broke...don't fix it.*" "*Why change what works perfectly fine the way it already is?*" We all have probably had that mindset at one time or another. But, just like my kids being back in school for a month already, we can't help but recognize that the times are certainly changing!

You may have noticed that there were some things added or changed here at church over the course of the past year. After discussion with the Board of Elders, it was decided to incorporate the service of Matins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. Calvary has always been known as a very conservative and liturgical church. Knowing how so many of Calvary's members greatly appreciate the church's liturgical heritage, I thought it important that we incorporate the service of Matins each month so that as time passes and new people attend, this very special service will not be forgotten and will be familiar to all generations of people who call Calvary their home. I know that for some, this change has taken away the gift of the Lord's Supper offered on that Sunday. Know that I, like you, covet deeply our Lord's Means of Grace and appreciate that we celebrate the body and blood of Jesus each Lord's Day. At the same time, with the way the world has changed over the years as well as how many people view church, many parts of the liturgical portions of worship have also changed, if not completely disappeared. By celebrating Matins each month, it is a way to celebrate this beautiful setting as well as preserve this historic liturgy for future generations.

Another addition to Sunday mornings is having the Old Testament and Epistle texts read by one of the elders. I hold the belief that the men the congregation has elected to the position of elders need to be seen performing some of their duties as elders other than just

assisting with communion on Sundays and meeting once a month. Calvary is tremendously blessed to have 5 elders that love this congregation. Their devotion to the church never ceases to amaze me. I am so very thankful for each one of them. In our meetings, they are always willing to sacrifice their own preferences and bias for the sake of what is most beneficial for the church. When I asked if they would be willing to be more of a visible part of the Sunday services, they were willing and ready for the challenge. It is my hope that further down the road, these men will wear a white robe and sit in the chancel with the pastor and acolyte during the service as they are set apart (NOT above) in the congregation to serve in leading God's children in worship. The significance of the robe is for the purpose of setting one apart for the role of humble service to God. I know this is new for some of them and their nerves can get the best of them at times as they stand before a larger number of people. Personally, I have appreciated their service and assistance. Not only are they filling a specific liturgical role by reading the Holy Scriptures and leading the congregation to pray the Introit, they are providing a needed rest for me and my voice so that I can be better prepared for preaching the sermon. They have been a wonderful blessing and I look forward to working with them each Lord's Day.

Some people don't know, while others may simply assume, but, as the pastor of Calvary, I feel it is part of my responsibility and leadership to schedule and lay out the worship schedule. I will usually spend some time getting the worship schedule prepared 3-4 months in advance of the services. This process consists of choosing the hymns, which service setting to follow (i.e. Divine Service 1, 2, 3, 4, or Matins), the chanting tone for the Introit, whether there is communion or not, what the color of the liturgical day will be, and what the sermon text will be. Over the summer, we didn't stray too far from Divine Services 1 and 2. Both of these services are known very well by the congregation, and when our weekly attendance is down due to it being summer and many people out of town, keeping a service setting that is easy to follow and known very well by the majority is what I have chosen. When September arrives, we will be worshipping 4 out of the 5 Divine Services as are in our hymnal as well as Matins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. I do my best at choosing sing-able hymns, but I do error at times. When choosing a hymn, I take into account all the readings for each given Sunday, consider the liturgical day, and the familiarity of the hymns. I sometimes forget that what I think is an easy hymn may be unfamiliar or very difficult for the congregation. Please forgive me when I make such a

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# Happy Birthday!

Rodney Fischer	09/01
Whitney Stuebs	09/02
Kyle Williams	09/03
Ragna Bezo	09/05
April Ehrlich	09/05
Tamara Hansen	09/05
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/05
Robert Stash	09/09
Ella Stewart	09/09
Nolan Ford	09/11
Janet Ehrlich	09/13
Dylan MacFarlane	09/16
Donna Fairchild	09/18
Teri Jo Ford	09/18
Phyllis Strickhouser	09/19
Taylee Stuebs	09/20
Jan Stash	09/25
Joanne Williams	09/25

# BAPTISM

Rodney Fischer	09/01
Ira Thiessen	09/01
Tamara Hansen	09/05
Melissa Fairchild	09/08
Michael Fairchild	09/08
Emma Stewart	09/10
Chaylen Hildestad	09/16
Jan Stash	09/25
Maren Green	09/26
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/27
Nolan Ford	09/28
Sophia Kessler	09/28
April Ehrlich	09/29

# Happy Anniversary

Mike & Janet Ehrlich	09/14
Michael & Carol Bickham	09/30



# Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

## Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, September 20, 2016 @ 6PM

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

2016 Contributions	
08/07/2016	\$3,473.00
08/14/2016	\$1,770.00
08/21/2016	\$2,116.00
08/24/2016	\$2,972.00



Avg. \$ per week \$2,582.75  
Contribution amount needed, per week is **\$3,444.95** to meet current budget.

Year to date	\$95,965.19
Fund raiser (pizza)	364.25
Avg. \$ per week (35weeks)	\$ 2,752.27

## 2016 Contributions & Expenses AUGUST (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$10,331.00
Misc Income	\$
Expenses	<u>\$13,940.82</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ <b>-3,609.82</b>

## YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$ 97,106.77
Misc Income	\$ 1,121.08
Expenses	<u>\$109,765.71</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ <b>-11,537.86</b>

## Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of July	\$12,056.00
August Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	\$ <u>20.00</u>
Fund Total	\$12,076.00



## Recycle aluminum cans

The trustees took all our cans to the recycle center for a total of \$19.34 toward our parking lot fund. Thank you everyone for your cans. Please continue to bring your cans in.

choice. The hymns are not chosen just because I like any given one of them, but because of what they confess about the Faith and how they correspond to the readings. Becoming familiar with these multiple services enables us to enjoy “change” in an unchanging way. We still retain all the parts of the liturgy while enjoying different tunes to the words. It is my prayer that the more we celebrate these various worship settings the more you will appreciate and come to love them for what they are...beautiful and holy ways to worship our good and gracious Lord and Savior.

Yes...times are changing, but the most precious thing of all will never change...God’s Word. God’s Word is assuredly a lamp to our feet and a light to our path as we journey through this life in anticipation of the life which is yet to come. I know that change is not always easy...nor is it always necessary. For me, when I incorporate a change, it is always preceded with prayer and much consideration. I only want what is most beneficial for all of you and what will serve to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ...not change just for the sake of change. And, as we worship our Lord through hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs...Word and Sacrament...prayer and meditation...learning and serving...may God fill our hearts and souls with an abundance of His grace!

Pastor Kessler

### Stewardship Board Announcement

Betty, Bonnie, Jan and Wilma met before the council meeting to update what the committee has been doing. We have had wonderful help by willing counters this summer. Several new people volunteered and were trained by older counters or by the committee. Thank you counters for being good stewards with your time and talents! More willing counters are needed for October and the rest of 2016. Please sign up or talk to the Stewardship committee.

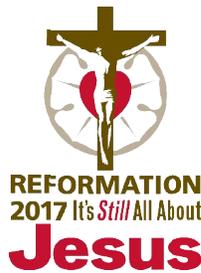
Birthday cards and Get Well cards are continuing to be sent.

We hope to update the mailboxes by the end of September.

Discussions were held about updating Guidelines for committees, fund raisers for the Fall or maybe in January, and the Directory.

We were reminded to think of and plan for the budget for 2017.

The committee would welcome any ideas the congregation has for us. Remember you are the church.



## LCMS SYNOD Plans taking shape for 2017 Reformation celebration

March 31, 2015 in News, Reporter

By Roger Drinnon

Worship opportunities, outreach grants, Web resources and even a Reformation documentary are some of the undertakings for the Synod and its partner organizations celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation throughout 2017. Still, the leader of the Synod’s celebration planning reminds us that it’s all about Jesus.

“Sinners still need Jesus, *only* Jesus — that’s really the point Luther was making with the 95 Theses. He was fundamentally concerned about pastoral care for God’s sheep,” said the Rev. Randall Golter, who serves in the LCMS Office of the President as special assistant to the president. In this capacity, he is responsible for leading the Synod in coordinating and planning for the 2017 Reformation-anniversary celebration.

“We must remember this celebration is not only for our ears but for those who do not know Jesus; our celebrations need an outward push to others, which is our Lord’s tendency always,” he added.

Golter said a focus on the Gospel led to the celebration’s logo — a reminder that the ongoing center of the Reformation is *Jesus*, not Martin Luther or any other figure.

“The logo says it all! Luther himself would be embarrassed if the 500th was about anyone else but his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” said Golter. “The logo fits quite well with the New Testament’s emphasis that there is only one Good News in Jesus.”

### Upcoming documentary

Thrivent Financial also funded production of a two-hour television documentary on the Reformation, set to air nationwide on PBS in 2017.

“The goal of the documentary is to lead the nation’s conversation about the 500th anniversary of the Reformation,” said co-producer Mike Trinklein of Boettcher/Trinklein Media, Inc.

Trinklein said the documentary will depict the epic struggles that occurred during Luther’s time while meaningfully conveying the theological significance of the Reformation to Lutherans and to the general public.

“On one hand, it’s a great adventure story, with chase scenes, kidnappings, political intrigue and life-or-death decisions,” he said. “At the same time, it’s a story about the most important questions of life, including, ‘Who am I? What is my purpose?’ and ‘How do I get right with God?’ Our goal is to weave both elements together in a way that both satisfies Lutherans and piques the curiosity of the secular world.”

### Web resources

**Visit [lutheranreformation.org](http://lutheranreformation.org)**

Golter said the Synod also is collaborating with Concordia Publishing House (CPH) to develop a website to offer free, downloadable resources, including introductory and focus videos, promotional material and educational material for congregations, church partners and schools to use. You can sign up your email address to receive the latest information about the upcoming events.

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	5	6	7 11:00 AM-Bible Study	8 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	9	10 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
11 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	12	13	14 11:00 AM-Bible Study	15 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg 09:30 AM-Zone 25 LWML meeting 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	16	17 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
18 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	19	20	21 11:00 AM-Bible Study	22 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	23	24 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
25 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	26	27	28 11:00 AM-Bible Study	29 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Spg 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	30	09:00 AM-LWML Quilting