

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 2016

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11)

26 miles 385 yards. That is the exact distance of a marathon race. To me, it really doesn't make much sense. Why not just round the distance to 25, 26, or even 27 miles? But whenever there is any discussion about changing the distance, there is always resistance. The reason is that many believe that to change the distance of the marathon to anything other than 26 miles 385 yards would be tampering with history and tradition. You see, many people state that the Olympic marathon distance was established in ancient times to honor a certain messenger who ran from the town of Marathon to Athens in Greece (a distance of a little over 26 miles) and then upon delivery of vital news, collapsed and died. That is the myth behind the 26 miles 385 yards. Is that the truth?

Unfortunately, the truth does not offer much more of a logical explanation. The marathon, as a distance running event did not appear in the Olympic Games until 1908 when the games were held in London, England. The distance 26 miles 385 yards in truth was actually the distance from Shepherd's Bush Stadium to the bedroom window of the queen, who wanted to see these athletes compete.

There are many things in life that don't seem to make a whole lot of sense. We try to make heads-or-tails of things only to find that we aren't any closer to understanding, but maybe even more dazed and confused. The months leading up to November have been full of confusion, debate, anxiety, and especially uncertainty as we head to the voters' precincts to elect a new president. For whom should we vote? What will the state of our nation look like 4 years from now...much less a year from now? As a nation, we feel like there is so much hanging on this election. And to be sure, the closest thing to what we are seeing this year in the debates and the media happened back when Ronald Reagan was running for president. One thing I have learned...uncertainty causes a tremendous amount of discord and strife which lends its hand to confusion and anxiety.

The truth is no one knows what things will look like in our nation four years or even a year from now. None of us know what will happen next month, next week, or much less, one day from now. There is ALWAYS uncertainty...that much is certain. Living in a broken world, we can be sure that obstacles will fall in our path. How we maneuver becomes the question.

Hence, the words of Jeremiah the prophet who wrote, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* These words can help as we head to the polls as well as our everyday lives. They have helped me countless times throughout my life. When I was a little

boy and went to see the cardiologist for my heart problem and I was frightened, my mother would remind me that God put me here for a reason and even though I had this heart problem, God still had a plan for me that was good. When my first girlfriend broke up with me, my father put his arms around me and assured me that while it hurt, God still had a plan for me that was good that would give me a promising future. When my daughter Sophia had to have heart surgery when she was only 8 months old and I worried for her life, my wife Jennifer cried with me and also assured me that God still had a plan for me...and for Sophia...that not only included a future, but also a hope. When I had heart surgery, 2 months after my daughter Sophia, I recovered to see my family, my friends, and my congregations praying that God would continue to grant me healing while at the same time assured me that God still had plans for me that were good and I would continue to have a future and a hope.

God has a plan. What that plan entails, we don't know for sure, but we trust that God's plan will be for good and not for evil. We are assured that God's plan will give a future and a hope. What that future and hope will be here on earth, again, we are not sure what it entails. But, what we do know is that God is good and He promises He will be with us always...that He will never leave us or forsake us...that He will lift us up when we fall down...that He will strengthen us when we are weak...that He will comfort us when we are hurting...that He will carry us when we cannot walk...that He will walk with us when we feel alone...that He will be with us ALL our days.

It is okay to be apprehensive. That which is unknown leaves all of us a little bit uncomfortable. However, we have been given a tremendous gift that will sustain us and lead us to the Savior and His cross where our hope is secure. That gift...is **FAITH**. It is the very hand God has given to us to reach out and trust in His everlasting goodness and love all the days of our life. Every fear, every worry, every anxious moment...Jesus went to the cross to overcome for us. Even more, every sin committed and will be committed in thought, word and deed He overcame also, so that we would know for certain that God's ultimate plan for us that is good and gives us a future and a hope is everlasting life with Him in His kingdom. Our future and hope are in Jesus, the Son of God, who came to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation to us, His children, so that we may have life...eternal life...and have it abundantly. What more is there to say than, “What a future...what a hope!”

Pastor Kessler

# Happy Birthday!

Nancy Heredia	11/02
Michael Kessler	11/03
Betty Stewart	11/04
Tyler Green	11/07
Ron Hill	11/08
Armeda Freel	11/11
Trish Garcia	11/12
Katherine Seeger	11/13
Sherri Williams	11/16
Johnnie Ehrlich	11/18
Gerrick Anderson	11/19
Elaine Green	11/21
Randy Ehrlich	11/23
Ira Thiessen	11/27

# BAPTISM

Cailynn Stuebs	11/07
Armeda Freel	11/11
Trish Garcia	11/12
Nancy Heredia	11/14
Randall Ehrlich	11/25
Ron Hill	11/26

# Happy Anniversary

Randy & Becky Ehrlich	11/17
Nancy & Lalo Heredia	11/21
Terry & Jane Pray	11/24

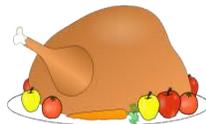


Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

## THANKSGIVING

Looking for company at Thanksgiving, join us for a Potluck dinner at 12PM, bring your favorite dish to share.



A sign up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall. For more information see Paula Backs, Mission Board chairman.

# Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

## Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, November 15, 2016 @ 6PM

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

2016 Contributions	
10/02/2016	\$3,452.00
10/09/2016	\$2,320.00
10/16/2016	\$1,442.00
10/23/2016	\$1,922.00
10/30/2016	\$2,532.00



Avg. \$ per week \$2,333.60

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

Year to date	\$105,918.77
Fund raiser (pizza)	364.25
Avg. \$ per week (40weeks)	\$ 2,657.08

## 2016 Contributions & Expenses OCTOBER (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$11,608.60
Misc Income	\$
Expenses	<u>\$12,426.30</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ - 817.70

## YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$117,527.37
Misc Income	\$ 1,121.08
Expenses	<u>\$135,451.24</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ -16,802.79

## Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of October	\$12,076.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	\$
Fund Total	\$12,076.00

## Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again when the Vice President and his nominating committee will be contacting members of the congregation. Please carefully and prayerfully consider serving Calvary's congregation on a board or as an officer.



## LWML

We invite all women to join us for the LWML chocolate meeting on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm. That's right, luscious chocolate desserts will be served! Bring your ideas for events and activities for the following year.

LWML Sunday will be celebrated on November 13th, with the collection of MITES FOR MISSIONS. Please remember to bring your change or bills of any denomination. These contributions go directly to spreading God's Word worldwide.

We are planning our Thirteenth Annual Cookie Walk Sale and Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 am – 1 pm. LWML will be asking you to furnish four dozen homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk.

Please remember to collect Box Tops for Education. Box Tops is one of America's largest school earnings loyalty programs. Each Box Top is worth \$.10 for Yuma Lutheran School. Some of the General Mills categories include cereal, food storage, produce, baking, and snack and juices products. For more information and a complete list of participating products, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). A collection box is in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings, Jan Stash

## MISSION BOARD NOTES

13 November is Armed Forces Day. LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces helps connect members of the LCMS to the ministry of LCMS chaplains around the world. Please continue to pray for our military members and for veterans. We will be recognizing our military and veterans during Sunday Service.

24 November is Thanksgiving. Please join us for Thanksgiving Potluck meal at **Noon**. Bring a dish to pass. Set up is Wednesday, 23 November at 4 PM. Mission Board will provide the cooked turkey and drinks.

17 December is Carol Singing. Please join us at 3:00 PM at the church to go to our shut-ins and nursing homes to sing. Pizza and drinks will be provided at church afterwards.

In January 2017 we will be providing cookies for Crossroads Mission. Specifics and date will be set up later.

In February 2017 we will be providing cookies for our AWC Mission for Valentine's Day.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Backs

## THE THRIVENT WAY-

### Our mission statement guides us in all we do.

-We are a membership organization of Christians, and our members are our owners.

-Our purpose is to serve our members and society by guiding both to be wise with money and live generously.

-We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of faith.

-We succeed when our members, their families and their communities thrive.

-We value our relationships, so we will: Be trustworthy in character and competence, and act like owners and treat each other as owners, and live balanced and generous lives.

**Thrivent news:** Thrivent is changing the way of sponsoring projects. The focus is on action teams. Each Thrivent member is able to plan, coordinate, and sponsor two projects a year at \$250.00 per project. Choice dollars can still be designated to your favorite charity. More charities are being added monthly.

Associate membership is available for christians for \$19.95 per year with the ability to put in for one Thrivent action team project. Projects can be for your church, for community interest events, and much more. If you are interested in membership or putting in for an action team grant, membership applications are available on the table in the parish hall or contact Paula backs at (928) 726-4053.



## Reformation

Thank you to everyone who helped with the clean up and set up of our celebration.

## STEWARDSHIP

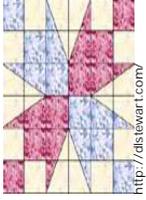
**Fry's:** Do you have a Fry's shopping card? Did you know you can designate Calvary as your NPO (non-profit organization) on your card? Each quarter Fry's donates a % of all shopper's spending designated as Calvary to us. If you already have a card and an email it is fast and easy to do. Just register your card online if you have not done so, go to your account, click edit under community rewards and fill out the prompts Calvary's NPO# 94398.

On Sunday, November 20th the board will have a laptop set up in the corner of the Parish Hall to help assist anyone in registering their Fry's card. You have to have an email address to register your card.



**Pizza takeover:** Stewardship board is sponsoring another pizza take over, Tuesday, November 29 starting at 5pm, at Round Table Pizza 2544 W 16th Street, in the Food City Shopping Center off Avenue B; so mark your calendars.

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 11:00 AM-Bible Study	3 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-A WC campus ministry 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	4	5 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
6 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	7	8	9 11:00 AM-Bible Study	10 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-A WC campus ministry	11 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting  <a href="http://dls.stewart.com">http://dls.stewart.com</a>	12 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
13 LWML Sunday 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	14	15 06:00 PM-Board meeting 07:00 PM-Council	16 11:00 AM-Bible Study	17 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-A WC campus ministry	18	19 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
20 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes Stewardship Fry's card information corner	21	22	23 11:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	25	26 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
27 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	28	29 05:00 PM-Pizza Take Over 	30 11:00 AM-Bible Study			