

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2017

It's hard to believe that it is the beginning of a new year already! The singing of Christmas carols on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was wonderful as the proclamation of the Gospel that salvation unto us has come all wrapped up in swaddling cloths in the unlikely form of a tiny baby! Already, eight days after Jesus was born, we read in Scripture that Jesus is fulfilling the Law as He shed His blood when He is presented in the temple to be named and circumcised in accordance with the Law.

It's not always something we tend to consider as we pull out our new calendars for the year, is it? Jesus told us that He didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. And, even as a little baby, He is doing precisely what He said He would...fulfilling the Law. For the next 33 years, Jesus would go about doing all those things that He was sent to do. While Scripture is vague about Jesus' early years as a child, we are given a glimpse into His life when He is 12 years old and remains behind in the temple when the rest of the family leaves for home unaware that Jesus is not with them. It's not until Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, however, that we read of the miraculous deeds performed by Jesus and His amazing teaching about the Kingdom of God. As we read more through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we learn along with the disciples and people with whom Jesus spoke, what Jesus was really sent to perform...pay the ultimate price as the ultimate sacrifice to give to those who believe the ultimate life...everlasting life.

As Christmas is now behind us and we soon begin the journey through Lent, we can't help but bear in mind the Christmas tree adorned with lights, tinsel, ornaments, and gifts. That tree, that so many will recycle, was also recycled 2000 years ago as it was stripped of its beauty in exchange for its lumber...lumber that would be fashioned into a cross upon which the Christ Child would die. And while that tree looks so ugly in all its nakedness, the true beauty is beheld in the knowledge that the cross is every Christian's "Tree of Life."

You see, we can't journey through Holy Scripture to the cross without meditating on the manger. Nor, can we bear the beauty and serenity of the Holy Family surrounding the manger without pondering what Mary pondered in her heart...that the Christ Child will give His life as a ransom for many as he obediently goes to the cross to save the world from sin. Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter are an ever-present reality for God's Church on earth. Every Lord's Day, Christians all around the world recall that the Son of God was "BORN" to "DIE" so that we could live.

I asked on Christmas Eve, "What thing in this life are we unable to live without?" We are not able to answer that question without calling to remembrance Jesus' birth...Jesus' death...and Jesus' resurrection. The thing in this life any of us are unable to live without is JESUS! It may be a new year with many items already taking up space on the calendar, but one thing will never change... Jesus is our Light...Jesus is our Life. He is more than just the "reason for the season." Jesus is the reason we live...Jesus is why we face each day with hope. My dear friends, never forget that!

In Christ,
Pastor Kessler

Property Usage

Dates are already being reserved on the church's calendar for this new year. Don't fall into the temptation to presume that the date will be available. If you would like to reserve the parish hall or education building, please contact the church office to get your day reserved...even if you aren't entirely sure...as soon as possible. It will ensure that the date you want will not be reserved by others. You can always call and cancel/change the date if something changes. Thank you.

Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

Terry Pray	01/03
Lawrence Lee	01/08
Hank Green	01/10
Lily Green	01/11
Marilyn Damet	01/13
Donna Barton	01/14
Austin Kessler	01/14
Glen Wagner	01/19
Alvin Broyles IV	01/23
Mary Ann Holloway	01/23
Braeden Dames	01/26
Leroy Pickett	01/27
Donald Zautcke	01/28
Carolyn Macomber	01/31

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

Happy Anniversary

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



Recycle aluminum cans
Please continue to bring your cans in.

Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, January 10, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2016 Contributions	
12/04/2016	\$4,839.00
12/11/2016	\$3,778.00
12/18/2016	\$3,528.36
12/25/2016	\$5,962.72



Avg. \$ per week \$4,527.02
Contribution amount needed, per week is \$3,444.95 to meet current budget.

Year to date	\$148,121.86
Misc Income	234.25
Fund raiser (pizza)	667.59
Avg. \$ per week (52weeks)	\$ 2,865.84
Short \$ per week	\$ 579.11

2016 Contributions & Expenses DECEMBER (UNRECONCILED)	
GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$18,208.08
Misc Income	\$ 330.76
Expenses	<u>\$13,267.19</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 5,271.65
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$148,121.86
Misc Income	\$ 1,451.84
Expenses	<u>\$161,374.99</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ -11,801.29

Parking Lot Fund	
Fund Total as of December	\$12,776.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	\$
Fund Total	\$12,776.00



ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2017 sign-up sheet for altar flowers is now posted in the Fellowship Hall. Flowers may be given to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries, in memory of a family member or friend or for another reason .

As a reminder, flowers are \$35 and the donation for the flowers may be placed in your weekly contribution envelope. In order to properly track receipts for the flowers, identify the \$35 as a special offering designated for "Flowers" on the line provided. It should not be included on the line for your weekly contribution. The donation will be listed on your annual contribution statement but should not be thought of as part of an annual pledge.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship committee did not have a formal meeting in December. The Round Table Pizza takeover on November 29 was well supported by workers and those who enjoyed eating pizza. Thank you all.

The 2017 Offering envelopes will be available before the end of December.

Thank you all who counted the offerings for 2016. We especially appreciated the new people who joined the ever faithful counters. Now we must look forward to your help in 2017. Please sign up for January or see Connie, Wilma, or Bonnie by the end of December.

The board will miss both, Betty and Janet Stash, who have resigned. Connie and Wilma have served their full terms. Donna Fairchild will join Bonnie Reinertson on the 2017 Stewardship Committee. They will need the support of all of Calvary's people.

God wants to use His Word in our lives to...

- Give us Faith
- Encourage us
- Equip us
- Guide us as we walk forward into 2017.

Yes, our official Thanksgiving is past and by the time you read this Christmas will be over. We had a lot to be thankful for this past year.

Now, the reason for this column. **THANK YOU:**

THANK YOU for your support of the two pizza take overs we held this year.

THANK YOU to all those who worked at one or both of them.

THANK YOU for the anticipated support you will be giving for the upcoming chicken dinner on January 14th. The chicken dinner has been our best fund raiser over the years. We will be starting ticket sales right after Christmas so be thinking of who/where you can sell them. Let's make this another very successful fund raiser. ALL the proceeds from the dinner will go to the church treasury. So – **THANK YOU** ahead of time for your efforts on this project.

LWML NEWS

THANK YOU for furnishing cookies for the cookie walk.

THANK YOU to all those who helped set up on Friday.
THANK YOU to all those who helped with the sale on Saturday.

THANK YOU for being a customer at the cookie walk and purchasing cookies.

THANK YOU for helping to support the vendors at the cookie walk. They were all satisfied with their day and have said they will return.



Stewardship news:

January 14, 2017 we will have a **chicken dinner** fund raiser for the general fund.

\$10/plate (PRESALE ONLY)

Dine In or Take Out

(Beverage included for Dine In only)

REMEMBER NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Conscience is e-mail your head gets from God."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	2	3	4 11:00 AM-Bible Study	5 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	6 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	7 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
8 Dedication Memorial Garden 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Voter's Assembly	9	10 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:15 PM-Council Meeting	11 11:00 AM-Bible Study	12 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	13	14 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro 08:00 AM-Chicken dinner 
15 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	16	17	18 11:00 AM-Bible Study	19 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	20 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	21 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
22 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	23	24	25 11:00 AM-Bible Study	26 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	27	28 07:00 AM-Bible Study/Goldsborro
29 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	30	31				