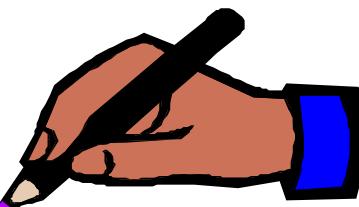


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2017

This past Sunday as I greeted many of you after worship you shared with me that you will be leaving this week and heading back North to your homes for the summer. I received many hugs, warm wishes, and expressions of hope that the Lord willing, you will be back in the Fall. Driving home Sunday afternoon after church I found myself saddened as I reflected on the various conversations I had with many of you who are leaving. At first, I was a little caught off-guard at the emotion that was welling up inside me. After all, it's not like you don't do this every year. And yet, something just felt different. I wonder if Pastor Sanderson or Pastor Joynt ever felt this way? Did they, too, experience a sense of sadness when those who visit us here at Calvary during the winter months' head back to their summer homes?

For those of us who live here in Yuma year-round, it is a major shift in atmosphere. During the summer months, the town still is bustling with business, but the streets are not nearly as congested. It gets pretty quiet in the summer. Even those who live here in the summer head to the beach or up north to escape the oppressive summer temperatures. Yuma slows down quite a bit for 6 months out of the year. Even many of the field workers head out of town around April 1st for Salinas to manage and work the fields there. I'm not gonna lie...it is kind of nice when everything is so quiet. It's easy to get around town...get a table at a restaurant...find a parking place at the Mall. But at the same time, the peace and quiet can also be deafening as you long to see businesses thriving...streets being utilized...and restaurants being visited.

Even at church, things really slow down, which is nice and allows for a much-needed rest and breather after the busyness of the winter season. The office phone doesn't ring nearly as much... fewer bulletins are printed...even Bible study classes take some time off. Attendance at worship is less leading to less voices singing hymns and fewer mouths to receive the Lord's Supper. Worship service doesn't last as long simply because there aren't as many people.

But to be sure, the people who live here year round are a special group of people to say the least! I am so thankful for them. They keep things running smoothly so that Calvary remains for generations to come...for their children who will one day be the lay leaders of this precious congregation. It will be these children's children's children that God will use as His instruments in sustaining His church here in Yuma...children grown up who will serve as elders to the pastor after I am long gone and my children are old...youngsters now adults

who will be presidents and vice presidents...infants now youth serving as acolytes...boys and girls now men and women serving the Lord by serving each other to God's glory and praise. The life of the church goes on.

Easter is such a reminder. As new life springs up all around us with the return of the hummingbirds, the budding of the trees, the splashes of water in swimming pools, and colors of Spring that adorn the landscape, it is a reminder that in Christ, even we ourselves have been made knew. Taking our death by giving us His life, we awaken to the new day with the assurance that life dwells in us secure. Stepping with sorrow into the tomb of our Lord only to be revived with pure life in the emptiness it beholds...an emptiness that promises an equal void in our own graves as we share in His resurrection.

I am reminded of Ecclesiastes that speaks about a time and a season for everything under the sun. I must relent that this is just one of those times. I'm sure my predecessors felt various emotions with the coming and going of seasonal visitors. I'm sure they experienced similar emotions as they considered those who stay year-round. What I am trying to say in "TOO MANY" words (I do tend to be a little wordy at times) is that for those of you who are leaving and who have already left, know that I will miss you greatly. Each of you holds a very special place in my heart and I remember you often while you are here and even when you are away. The same is true for those of you who are the faithful summer remnant bearing the oppressive heat as you gather together on the Lord's Day to thank and praise Him for the beauty of the day He has made and to receive from Him the fruits of His cross and empty tomb. I care deeply for all of you so very much and pray that our Lord's grace and mercy would rest with each of you. Lord willing, I will see some of you on Easter. Lord willing...I will see ALL of you this Fall.

Happy Birthday!

Ray Huter
 Arlene Schauer
 Johnnie Altstatt
 Carolyn Claude
 Ann Lee
 Jane Pray
 Shawn Backs
 Iris Bezo
 Adrienne Wagner
 Bruce Fenske
 Pam Green
 Derek Bezo

04/01
 04/03
 04/04
 04/06
 04/07
 04/07
 04/09
 04/09
 04/16
 04/20
 04/22
 04/28

BAPTISM

Rebecca Kessler
 Arlene Schauer
 Keith Macomber
 Pearl Gleichman
 Alvin Broyles IV
 Janet Ehrlich
 Chuck Liehe
 Adrienne Wagner
 Maggie Fenske
 Jacob LeClerc
 Ann Lee

04/01
 04/03
 04/08
 04/09
 04/10
 04/12
 04/15
 04/15
 04/16
 04/16
 04/25

Happy Anniversary

Gaylyn & Virginia Hildestad
 Michael & Donna Fairchild
 Hank & Pam Green



04/01
 04/07
 04/19



Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, April 11, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
03/05/2017	\$4,122.00
03/12/2017	\$4,519.00
03/19/2017	\$2,339.00
03/26/2017	\$2,523.43
Avg \$3,375.86	

Tithes & Offerings

Contribution amount needed, per week is \$3,441.37 to meet current budget.

Year to date	\$43,097.05
Misc Income	606.86
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (13 weeks)	\$ 3,528.15
Short \$ per week	\$ 86.78

2017 Contributions & Expenses MARCH (UN-RECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$13,503.67
Misc Income	\$ 826.00
Expenses	<u>\$18,737.62</u>
Excess/Loss	<u><\$ 4,407.95></u>

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$43,097.05
Misc Income	\$ 3,594.86
Expenses	<u>\$48,406.49</u>
Excess/Loss	<u><\$ 1,714.58></u>

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of March	\$12,776.00
Contributions	\$ 2,066.00
Aluminum Cans	\$
Fund Total	\$14,842.00

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.



LWML NEWS

Our last meeting of this season was held on Thursday, March 9th. Our program was given by the President of the Assistance League of Yuma. She told of the many programs the AL supports, but the largest is clothing school children in need. She brought along samples of the clothing that boys and girls are given. These are all NEW clothes purchased with the profits from the Thrift Shop.

In the business meeting we voted to make a \$200 donation to the church from the recent rummage sale. The sale has been an LWML fund raiser for no one knows how many years. However, goods are donated by everyone in the church and the majority of the workers on Friday and Saturday do not participate in LWML; so it was decided to donate a portion of the proceeds to the church treasury. We also donated \$500 from the cookie walk in December.

Hopefully, we will resume meetings this fall and encourage more of the ladies of the church to join us. REMEMBER: ALL ladies of the LCMS are considered members of the LWML.

BLESSINGS to all of you for the summer.

ELDERS REPORT

The Board of Elders has moved forward in planning for a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation. We have begun plans for a special Sunday on October 29. We plan to have the final medallion in the Luther series available, a special video during the education hour and a celebratory dinner following the education hour. Stayed for further developments on this once in a lifetime occurrence.

During a recent special showing of This Is the Life's pilot episode during the education hour, attendees expressed interest in seeing other available episodes of this award-winning TV series produced by the Lutheran Laymen's League between 1952 and the mid-1980s. The Board will assist the pastor during adult education by showing the following episodes and leading attendees through the study questions provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries (formerly known as Lutheran Laymen's League) –

March 26, 2017, "The Missing Ingredient" stars (young) Jack Nicholson as a man engaged to a woman whose parents have a failing marriage. Is tying the knot worth it and what keeps two people together when things get rough?

April 2, 2017, "The Visitation" stars Dick Sargent as a pastor struggling to keep his flock together. Can this pastor gain the leadership needed to be a shepherd?

Date To Be Determined, "Happiness Is Dirty Hands" shows a teacher in a troubled high school move close by in an effort to help his students. His wife, accustomed to creature comforts, has

problems living in a rundown neighborhood. Can a friend (Mike Farrell) help?

TBD, "Destination Unknown" stars Leonard Nimoy as a nuclear scientist rejecting American society and seeking to defect. Can a stewardess and a pastor change his mind about God, man and the world during the flight to the USSR?

TBD, In the "Cell of Hope" an inmate gains a roommate who becomes a Christian. In the rough life of prison, tempers ignite and confrontation arises. Will blows arise?

TBD, "Undertow" has David Ogden Stiers as a grief-stricken father bent on revenge. He blames the lifeguard for his daughter's drowning while the lifeguard is struggling with his own loss – his wife died tragically a year earlier and it may have been his fault.

TBD, "The Healer" depicts a slick revivalist casting his spell of miracle healing and instant blessings on an audience looking for quick answers. What happens when a father takes his diabetic daughter off insulin?

TBD, "The Flames of Hate" Angie Dickinson is torn between the man she loves and a possessive father. The father thinks the young man a deadbeat but the couple suddenly elopes. Will cutting them off completely teach the couple a lesson?

TBD, "A Better Way" is the opportunity to see the pilot episode if you missed it the first time. This time, we will add thought provoking questions as a follow-up to the college graduate student falling in love with a "backwards" small-town girl serving as his guinea pig in a sociological study.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact any member of the board (Bruce Fenske, director; Ron Hill; Mel Parker; Wil Stewart; and winter elder Albert Claude).

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
FEB 14, 2017

PRESENT- Bruce Fenske, Janet Ehrlich, Pat Lamaestra, Debbie Lamaestra, Lisa Elam, Pastor Kessler
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Pastor.

MINUTES- The minutes were reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept them, Janet 2nd. Motion passed.

TREASURER- The treasurer report was reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept the report, Janet 2nd. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT- No report

VICE PRESIDENT- no report

SECRETARY- no report

TREASURER- no report

PASTOR- attached

ELDERS- The music committee is moving in a positive direction. Currently there are no organists available in Yuma. Still working on report. There is an ushers meeting/training this Saturday Feb 18th. In regards to Thrivent choice restricted funds. We have had no specific need for using the money. The elders will be asking for some of the money to have a dinner culminating reformation day 500 anniversary.

MISSIONS- The Martin Luther tickets are selling. We still need to sell 42 to reach the minimum. Thrivent will be buying 15. We will find a way to give them away. The Sunday paper will have a small blurb. Other churches have been contacted. Bruce asked how we found out about the movie. Debbie said we received an email from synod. Connie heard about an outreach program. She will look into it. Looking into Bible sticks for soldiers again. Also will check with the food bank to see what the most needed item is and have a special drive for that item.

EDUCATION- no report

STEWARSHIP- sick

TRUSTEES-We have had another break in. We had to pay another \$1000 deductible. 3 other homes were broke into the same night. The community service for the lawn care is falling through. We may have to go back to paying for lawn care. We are still looking into it to see what can be done. We had a couple stay in the small house for a couple of weeks. We were paid for the stay.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- An education letter was sent out to families of Sunday school age children for a meeting Feb 5th after church. One person showed up. So it appears there is no interest from families for a Sunday school program. Will be looking into other options like maybe a once a month class. Will try to find a Sunday that most children attend.

NEW BUSINESS- There is a new AZ law. Church needs to revise their paid sick leave policy for 15 or less employees. We will need to come into compliance. It is

1 hour sick leave for every 30 hour worked totaling 72 hours per year. Janet read the new law. It needs to be in effect July 1st. Bruce asked if the law can be emailed to council members to read and then be discussed at the next council meeting. Janet will send the email. A member offered to supply a plaque to place on or by doors to deter break-ins.

Pastor motioned to adjourn meeting, Bruce 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 and closed with The Lord's prayer



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, April 9th, 2017 and concludes with Easter Sunday, April 16th, 2017. Traditionally, the worship service beginning on Maundy Thursday starts the Triduum (pronounced TRIH-doo-um). Just as Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, Maundy Thursday begins the "three holy days" or Triduum. These three days are closely related as they are seen as being one elongated service beginning Maundy Thursday evening and concluding Easter Sunday morning. You will notice that a benediction is not pronounced over the congregation on either Maundy Thursday or Good Friday as the service is not concluded until the benediction is spoken at the end of the Easter morning service. It is my prayer that as our Lord gathers us together to celebrate His sacred meal, journey to His cross, and end gazing upon the beauty of His empty tomb, that we rejoice together over the forgiveness, life, and salvation we have through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Worship services for holy week are as follows:

Palm Sunday: Worship at 9:00 AM with Communion

Maundy Thursday: Worship at 7:00 PM with Corporate Confession/Absolution and Communion

Good Friday: Worship at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise: Worship at 6:00 AM with Communion

Easter 2nd Service: Worship at 9:00 AM with Communion

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP...OVER THE NEXT FEW
MONTHS WE WILL HAVE FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL
LEARNING PLEASURE A STUDY—*Lord be a guest*

Lord be a guest in our congregation

The Lord is a guest in my life and my home, but none of that would be complete unless I was faithful in stewardship in my church life. Christ has called each of us at the cross not to be individuals but to be part of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (NIV). Ephesians 4:12¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (NIV). This may be a very sobering thought in a world where individualism is so highly prized. God has blessed us with much as individuals so that as a group we are able to do so much more.

Acts 11 :29-30²⁹ The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea.³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 16: 1-4¹ Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me. (NIV)

It wasn't only in the area of financial needs the early church looked at meeting the needs of her people through activity of others as well ..

Acts 6:1-3¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them (NIV)

What is the basis of those in the church reaching out and meeting the needs that God had presented to them? I believe we become a kind of means of grace. That is not to degrade Word and Sacrament, but God has chosen to reach out the world through His people, who use the means of grace. We don't find God assaulting people on the Road to Damascus and bringing them to faith because of His glory rather in simple and subtle ways He has used us to minister to those in our midst and to those who are outside the faith. To some people He has given different gifts and talents so they might be used for just that purpose. Jesus told stories about being a steward, one who had legal responsibilities to care for the Master's house.

Two parables speak directly to the idea of using effectively what God has given to us. This could be in our personal life and home just as well as in the church. Luke 19: 12-27,

Matthew 25: 14-30, From the negative we see Luke 16: 1-8. Here we find the action of one who is not faithful.

With the mysteries of God the Pastor is to be faithful; a good steward of the spiritual gifts the Spirit has placed into his care for the building up of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2¹ So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (NIV) Titus 1:7⁷ Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless -- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. (NIV)

We all have a responsibility in the Body of Christ to use what God has given and do so faithfully. The concept of just attending church or having ones name on the church rolls is not found anywhere in the Scriptures. As we look at the Scriptures in total then we notice what part we are to play in the overall scheme of things. 1 Peter 4: 10¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)

It is interesting to notice that our church has recently come out with a paper on Spiritual gifts. These are special gifts that the Spirit has given the church to be used within the church that she might have effective tools in her ministry. The areas of Scriptures where the majority of the gifts are listed are in 1Cor 12, Romans 12, 1Peter 4, and Ephesians 4. Other gifts are mentioned and possible there are 27 or more total. How will we as God's people be good stewards of this? We can talk about the traditional stewardship trinity of time, talent and treasures, it is important that we see the use of spiritual gifts being a meaning part of this triad. It is important we see that Jesus includes these intangible gifts in the parables about the talents and the minas. It is not just as issue of money. People can often give money and ease their conscious and keep that precious commodity of time to themselves.

Matthew 18:23-35 tells of the steward that the Master had forgiven all his debt. Notice that he was a steward but had been unfaithful in that which he had done, yet the Master forgave him. Always remember that stewardship is Gospel not Law. If it becomes the Law then all is lost. What is the reason that we God's people worship, pray, and serve. 1 John 4: 19¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. (NIV)

Area of my life in which I wish to become a better steward in His church. And how this is to be accomplished.

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April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	3 4 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	5 11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Pot-luck dinner 07:00 PM-Lent Service	6 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	7 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	8 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsboro	1 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsboro
9 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	10 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	11 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:15 PM-Council Meeting	12 11:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Maundy Thursday classes	13 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-Maundy Thursday	14 07:00 PM-Good Friday Service	15 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsboro
16 EASTER 06:00 AM-Sunrise Service 09:00 AM-2nd Service	17 18 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	19 11:00 AM-Bible Study	20 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	21 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	22 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsboro	
23 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	24 25 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes	26 11:00 AM-Bible Study	27 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	28 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	29 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsboro	
30 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes						