

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just a few short weeks ago we celebrated Easter. Gathering together early in the morning to witness the rising of the sun, we worshipped our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, rejoicing in His victory over sin, death, and the grave as He took up His life again just as He had said. With the sun slowly ascending and casting down its rays of light, our Lord gave us a glimpse of the new life springing up all around us with the purple flowers of the jacaranda tree blooming in the distance and the birds coming to life with sounds of singing streaming overhead. Unlike so many of our earthly celebrations that last but only a short while, the celebration of Easter never fades into a distant glow, but burns ever bright with each Sunday that follows. Literally, we rejoice and celebrate Easter every Lord's Day as we remember the precious blessings we receive because of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day...an infectious joy that burns deeply within us. This is our Christian reality...for there is no room here for fake joy or over-the-top excitement...but instead, a sure confidence that we shall live forever in the mansions of heaven by grace through faith in Christ Jesus alone. Jesus most certainly is risen!

In the upcoming weeks, schools will recess for the summer months giving much desired time to rest from the academic challenges of the year. Some will graduate either from high school or college and will begin making plans for the next chapter of their lives. Others will leave behind them one grade level with the excitement of entering the next level in the fall. Chances are that many of us will try to steal away some time to vacation for a few weeks. In my home, time swimming and lounging in the pool is greatly coveted by all. Heading back to Ohio or North Dakota to see family is a welcomed opportunity that brings much excitement as well. I'm sure we will also make an exodus to San Diego to enjoy the salt water and cooler temperatures. We don't realize how much our time is monopolized during the other 9 months of the year. Running here and there, going to jobs and school, heading to this practice or that meeting, participating and watching athletic events and orchestra concerts, completing homework and studying for upcoming tests...and all this while trying to do things together as a family. Sometimes, we really don't know if we are coming or going. There are times I have waved to my wife as our vehicles meet at an intersection as she is returning home and I am heading out. So, it really does go without saying...summer is a

great time of the year to just slow down a bit and enjoy life.

With all the busyness of life, I encourage each and every one of you this summer to STOP...LOOK...and LISTEN. Yes, stop...look...and listen. STOP for a moment amidst all the hum-drum of life. Be still and take a deep breath. I'm willing to bet that you are "on-the-go" more than you realize. Just stop for a moment. LOOK at this wonderful creation that surrounds you and the blessings with which our Lord bestows on you. Life has a way of getting away from all of us and before we know it our teens and twenties are but a distant memory. Look around you. And...LISTEN as our Lord fills your ears with words of hope and peace and love and joy. The Lord desires to give you all good things and He surrounds you with the Word of His Gospel to remind you that Easter's victory is your everlasting hope...a day that creates a contagious joy that stirs our hearts and minds with excitement, confidence, and comfort that is too much to be reserved for just one day or season...but extends to every Sunday thereafter.

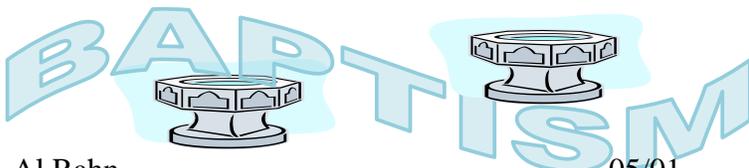
It is my fervent prayer that our Lord would richly bless each of you as you head into this summer season with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and Stop, Look, and Listen in order to enjoy the abundant blessings with which the Lord gives you out of His grace that you may know that the Lord is most certainly good.

In Christ,

Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

Penelope Backs	05/02
Ted Schauer	05/03
Kristina Parker	05/10
Keith Macomber	05/12
Brayden Pray	05/12
Deborah Lamaestra	05/14
Katie Strom	05/14
Lisa Elam	05/22
Abby Rutledge	05/25
Jeanene Euhus	05/28
Carter Rutledge	05/28



Al Rahn	05/01
Patrick Stuebs	05/01
Carolyn Claude	05/02
Sophie McDaniel	05/11
Sherri Williams	05/14
Mark Ford	05/15
Phyllis Strickhouser	05/15
Zaira McDaniel	05/18
Bruce Fenske	05/19
Trina Elam	05/25
Virginia Hildestad	05/25

Happy Anniversary

Pat & Whitney Stuebs	05/01
Chuck & Susan Liehe	05/02
Michael & Jennifer Kessler	05/15



Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, May 9, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
04/02/2017	\$2,568.00
04/09/2017	\$2,963.00
04/16/2017	\$2,703.39
04/23/2017	\$2,949.00
04/30/2017	\$?,???.00
Avg \$2,795.75	



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

Year to date	\$54,780.44
Misc Income	1,561.27
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (13weeks)	\$ 3,445.17
Short \$ per week	\$

2017 Contributions & Expenses APRIL (UN-RECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$11,183.39
Misc Income	\$ 128.41
Expenses	<u>\$14,586.10</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$ 3,274.30>

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$54,780.44
Misc Income	\$ 3,723.27
Expenses	<u>\$62,992.59</u>
Excess/Loss	<\$ 4,424.380>

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of April	\$14,842.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	<u>\$</u>
Fund Total	\$14,842.00



Recycle aluminum cans
Please continue to bring your cans in.

HELP WANTED! COUNTERS NEEDED

The counters yearly calendar is nearly bare.
For more information to sign up to be a counter please see the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2017

PRESENT- Pat Lamaestra, Debbie Lamaestra, Donna Fairchild, Lisa Elam, Johnnie Altstatt, Bruce Fenske, Brian Atchley, Pastor Kessler.

MINUTES- not available

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

PRESIDENT- Bonnie resigned from the stewardship board.

VICE PRESIDENT- none

SECRETARY- none

TREASURER- none

PASTOR-

ELDERS- They discussed the upcoming 500 year celebration. They would like to have a dinner the last Sunday in October with a budget of \$1500 for a maximum of 150 people. The money would come out of the Thrivent restricted fund. Bruce then explained how Thrivent restricted funds are used. Bruce motioned to allocate the money for the dinner. Donna 2nd. Motion was passed.

MISSIONS- The martin Luther movie at the theater was a success. It was suggested to occasionally have a movie night at Church. The board is talking of giving out a cross on Easter Sunday. They also talked to the food bank. The summer is the slowest time for donations. We were given a flyer with the most needed items. Will work on having a special food drive this summer for those items.

EDUCATION- Another meeting is scheduled for March 26th since only 1 person showed up for the first meeting. The board of elders have ordered movies with study guides.

STEWARDSHIP- They are down to only 1 member. Connie will help Donna when she comes back in the fall. Pastor suggested maybe combining mission and stewardship boards.

TRUSTEES- Milton tried to fix the Chapel door. Will ask Janet about the custodian cleaning better.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- The new sick leave policy needs to be in effect by July 1st. Bruce suggested tabling until next month. Pat will print out paper from a lawyer with the new law and put in board member boxes.

NEW BUSINESS- Pastor suggested doing something special for Betty Lou since she has been with us for 8 years.

Bruce motioned to adjourn the meeting, Pastor 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Congratulations

To all Calvary's youth who are graduating this month.

Jahann Rutledge Cibola High School
Johnnie Ehrlich ASU (Dec. 2016)



CLASS OF
2017

Trust in the LORD
with all your heart and
lean not on your own
understanding; in all
your ways acknowledge
him, and he will make
your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



As we near the summer season, events and activities at the church tend to slow down considerably. This means that there is less information to pass along to members through our monthly newsletter. Please be aware that only one newsletter will be sent out over the summer that will contain information regarding activities and events related to the church for the months of June, July, and August. If there is anything noteworthy you would like to include in the summer newsletter, please have those items emailed to the church office no later than May 15th. It is our prayer that your summer is filled with great joy, relaxation, and quality time with family and friends. May God richly bless you all!



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

The Lord is a guest in our church at large

The final focus of our stewardship study moves totally outside our immediate needs and that of our church to the church at large. Ultimately it is the reason that we are here today and not in heaven at this time. God has given His church much so that we can fulfill the purpose for which we exist. The only reason that the world today has not yet disappeared into the final judgment is because God is gracious. Matthew 24:14 ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)

We the church have been given direction and a stewardship to accomplish the largest ad campaign of all times. When the world has heard then the end will come.

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

- What has God given to His people of which they are to be good stewards?
- In what way are we good stewards of those things mentioned in the Matthew passage?
- What is the ultimate result of being a good steward in this area for the church? Notice how high the stakes really are.

John 6:67-68 ⁶⁷"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (NIV)

- Notice the alternatives which Peter clearly sees for a lost world.
- What are the implications of this verse in the life of the church at large.
- Is eternal life a stewardship item like our time, talents and treasures? How?

We gather together in congregations to worship, study the word of God, partake of communion, baptize, teach, and since we are Lutherans to have potluck dinners. What about the church at large? We are part of a circuit, a district, a synod, and in fellowship with many foreign Lutheran churches around the world. What part do we play in the big picture? What part do you personally play in the overall scheme of things? It is that area of stewardship that we are exploring this last week of our study.

Even though there were pastors over individual churches Paul went out to plant more churches. The apostles looked over the churches and kept an eye on the teachings so it would be faithful to God's word. As individual people and even as local congregations we might find it difficult to send missionaries out to other parts of the world. It would be a problem to train pastors for the ministry. How would one congregation like to take over the responsibility of running a large college or a nursing home? God has put us together as the Body of Christ so we might all function as a unity.

- How does our congregation at this time work to further the mission of God's church while we are located here in Yuma? How does this relate to stewardship?
- Is there more that we could do to utilize our time, talents and treasures to the furtherance of the kingdom? Brainstorm.
- How can a congregation move from a self-centered maintenance ministry to acquire a vision of its place in the church-at-Large? How easy is it to see what we need and miss the needs of the church-at-Large.

In the story of Joseph and the Pharaoh of Egypt we find Joseph using that which God had given him to benefit the country at large. Joseph was given wisdom, the ability to interpret dreams, and the gift to govern. He used that with which he was blessed to serve a whole country. God is concerned about all people. In the final assessment we find through Joseph that even his own people were ultimately blessed as they came looking for food. They received far more than they expected, they also settled in the finest part of Egypt. God gives to His people to accomplish His overall plan for the world. Joseph faithfully used as a good steward that which God gave him.

It is also important to notice that God gives that which is required.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (NIV)

The Spirit gives for the good of all the church which is not limited to a physical location. He also gives as He determines for His plan. We know the bottom line, that He wants His church to reach the world, but we may not know exactly what place each of us play in the overall plan. We do know that He expects us to be good stewards in whatever area He blesses us. This can be seen from the numerous parables that Jesus tells about stewards. i.e. Luke 12:35-38, 16:1-8, 19: 12-27, Matt 25: 14-30

Being a good steward is not an option, it is a direction for the purchased child of God. How will we be more effective in the church at large as individuals (Remember in elections every vote counts. For the body to function properly all parts must work as they were designed to work).

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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May 2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
31						
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes		06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:15 PM-Council Meeting	11:00 AM-Bible Study	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	04:00 PM-Elders Meeting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes			11:00 AM-Bible Study	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry		07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes			11:00 AM-Bible Study	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry		07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes			11:00 AM-Bible Study	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry	09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes			11:00 AM-Bible Study			