

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SUMMER 2017

Dear Friends in Christ

If Calvary Lutheran Church could be all God wanted it to be, what would Calvary look like? I ask this question to get you thinking about Calvary's future. As some of you are aware, the president of the congregation inquired after church on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> about the best time to hold a congregational meeting of members of Calvary to begin the discussion about the church's future and the possible ministry opportunities before us. Since Calvary's beginning in 1939, the church has had a mission and ministry focus that left a lasting legacy throughout the community of Yuma. Serving soldiers at the Yuma Army Air Field as well as German Lutheran prisoners of war during World War II, establishing Yuma Lutheran School, starting Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in the foothills, and educating men from the seminary as vicars in preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry, are just a few ways in which Calvary sustained her mission and ministry vision for decades.

It is now 2017 and the world has changed tremendously over the past 78 years. It seems that gone are the days of sitting down face to face to visit with a friend or family member, pulling out the old photo album to share pictures of your recent vacation or family reunion, and Sunday get-togethers after church to rekindle the family spirit. With advancements in technology, the ways in which we communicate, entertain, travel, work, study, and almost everything else has changed. Social media has become the venue whereby people play out their daily lives for all to see... the good, the bad, and the ugly. Text messaging is the preferred method of communication between people instead of in person. Modern transportation now takes people far and wide on a regular basis leaving less and less time for much needed rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation on the weekend. Even extra-curricular activities for children demand more and more time from our youth and steal away their childhood. School textbooks have been replaced with iPads and computers and E-Readers have nearly replaced the paperback bestsellers at Barnes and Noble. No more are kids just fearful of going to school because of the bully on the playground...that bully now can come into your own home as cyber-bullying has become the way to insult, hurt, and fight. Our children face struggles and fears at school that we never dreamed would ever be a worry or concern. And let's not forget about the confusion issue where society is challenging the nuclear family by offering new definitions of marriage, family, and even gender. Plus, financial burdens are just as real and

maybe even more worrisome for families as most households now require that both husband and wife work outside the home in order to (barely in some cases) live the American Dream. Yes...the world has changed a lot over the past 78 years and the chances of it slowing down are nil

Hence the importance for having a congregational meeting to discuss how we venture into the future and continue to uphold our mission as God's church where His Gospel is proclaimed and His Means of Grace rightly administered. I would like for you to think about your first time at Calvary. Why did you decide to join or become a regular attender of this congregation? Was it that you felt welcomed? What was special about the church that made you want to stay and become more integrated into it? Many of you know that I served as a vicar here at Calvary back in 1999-2000 when Pastor Sanderson was the pastor. I remember fondly my days of vicarage learning the ropes of parish ministry at his feet. I remember the variety of fabulous hot dishes served at Lunch Bunch on Wednesdays after Bible study, heading over to Christ Lutheran Church to teach Confirmation classes, bowling with the guys on the church league on Monday evenings, and driving out to the mission church in the foothills following the early service on Sunday mornings. When I returned to this congregation to be the pastor, it felt like I was returning home. The members of the church welcomed me with open arms, eager to get to know me after many years had passed, and encouraged and supported me in leading Calvary into the future. Since my days as a vicar, Calvary has held a very special place in my heart and I cannot think of a better place to serve than right here where my life as a pastor truly began! It is a tremendous joy to me that I get to be a part of Calvary's story!

And...so do you. As these summer months go by I want you to think about ways in which you can share your love with your friends and your community outside of church. Reflecting Jesus in your words and actions is part of your Christian stewardship and it also serves as a way to win others for Christ. Being a helping hand, a listening ear, a shoulder on which to cry, a sounding board, a volunteer, a spectator at an event are demonstrations of love people notice and appreciate. Along those same lines, prayerfully consider what role you will be willing to play to help the congregation move into the future and grow. Next to God's Word, the most important component in sharing Christ is your involvement in telling the Good News. Lay people with

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### Christian Education

Calvary's Sunday School program will resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday after Labor Day. That was the agreement reached by a group of 8 parents/grandparents at a meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There are about 20 children at Calvary who will benefit, ranging from toddlers through high school. A slumber party is planned at the church on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> as a festive kick-off to the new school year. Volunteers have stepped forward to teach the toddlers, 8 – 13-year-olds, and high schoolers. Those in attendance agreed that parental commitment to having their children attend on a regular basis is key to rebuilding a successful program. That way teachers can prepare for class with confidence that students will be attending. Ideas presented include longer-term class projects and a Christmas Bible Study. Still to be determined is how often Sunday School will meet... weekly, twice a month or monthly. More information will be presented as September nears. The meeting was attended by: Pastor Kessler, Jenifer Kessler, Mel Parker, Carol Parker, Melissa Fairchild, Donna Fairchild, Paula Backs, Katie Strom.

### Altar Guild

We have recently changed florists. The new price for flowers is now \$38.00. When paying please make note on your envelope that it is for flowers.



In our HOME  
 We do GRACE  
 We do MISTAKES  
 We do REAL  
 We do SORRY  
 We do FUNNY  
 We do HUGS  
 We do FAMILY  
 We do LOVE  
  
 WE DO JESUS



Recycle aluminum cans  
 Please continue to bring your cans in.

# Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

### Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, June 13, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
05/07/2017	\$3,565.00
05/14/2017	\$3,045.00
05/21/2017	\$1,395.00
05/25/2017	\$3,091.25
Avg \$2,774.07	



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

Year to date	\$67,015.69
Misc Income	1,561.27
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (22weeks)	\$ 3,215.41
Short \$ per week	\$ <b>225.96</b>

### 2017 Contributions & Expenses MAY (UN-RECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$11,096.25
Misc Income	\$
Expenses	<u>\$13,099.88</u>
Excess/Loss	<b>&lt;\$ 2,003.63&gt;</b>

#### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$67,015.69
Misc Income	\$ 3,723.27
Expenses	<u>\$76,092.47</u>
Excess/Loss	<b>&lt;\$ 5,289.43&gt;</b>

#### Parking Lot Fund

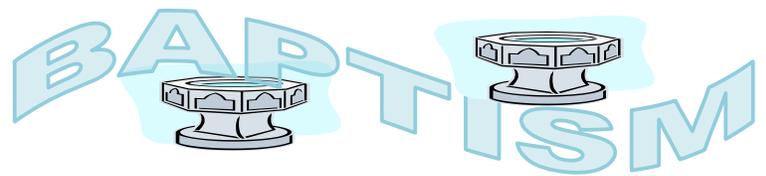
Fund Total as of May	\$14,842.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	<u>\$</u>
Fund Total	\$14,842.00

### HELP WANTED!

#### COUNTERS NEEDED

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

# Happy Birthday!



	June	
Elizabeth Ehrlich		06/03
Pearl Gleichman		06/03
Lillian Keinath		06/07
Adam Hildestad		06/12
Pasquale Lamaestra		06/12
Martha Hill		06/14
Wilma Replogle		06/14
Donna Elias		06/24
Cera Ford		06/26
JoDee Fraley		06/29
Diana Schauer		06/30
	July	
Carol Anne Parker		07/01
Yulius Mustafa		07/02
Stanley Phillips		07/04
Owen Pray		07/04
Randy Williams		07/07
Virginia Hildestad		07/08
Michael Pray		07/09
Bob Albright		07/10
Paula Backs		07/10
Kyle Reinertson		07/10
Michael Fairchild		07/11
Heather Torres		07/11
Michele Hill		07/12
Craig Ehrlich		07/13
Katie Holman		07/14
Maren Green		07/15
Jim Tyner		07/17
Sarah Rutledge		07/21
Albert Claude		07/27
Bonnie Reinertson		07/29

	August	
Maggie Fenske		08/05
Matthew Joynt		08/13
Wilbert Stewart		08/13
Harry Thornton		08/15
Candy Murray		08/16
Sophia Kessler		08/17
Mary Frances Atchley		08/20
Milton Euhus		08/23
Emma Stewart		08/24
Donald Timoruski		08/24
Melissa Fairchild		08/26
Melvin Parker		08/29
Jahann Rutledge		08/29
Sue Gibson		08/31

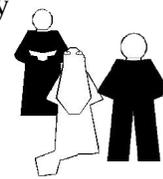
	June	
Johnnie Altstatt		06/02
Kaden Siharath		06/05
Heather Torres		06/05
Kristina Parker		06/06
Glen Wagner		06/06
Carter Rutledge		06/11
Brayden Pray		06/23
Elizabeth Ehrlich		06/25

	July	
Adam Hildestad		07/01
Yulius Mustafa		07/02
Deborah Lamaestra		07/08
Jeanene Euhus		07/09
Wilma Replogle		07/09
Martha Hill		07/10
Pasquale Lamaestra		07/13
Diana Schauer		07/17
Paula Backs		07/18
Albert Claude		07/28
Cera Ford		07/28
Sarah Rutledge		07/29

	August	
JoDee Fraley		08/05
Katie Holman		08/10
Craig Ehrlich		08/14
Harry Thornton		08/15
Candy Murray		08/16
Owen Pray		08/19
Michael Pray		08/22
Bonnie Reinertson		08/27
Milton Euhus		08/28

# Happy Anniversary

	June	
JoDee & Charles Fraley		06/10
	July	
Candy & Steve Murray		07/08
Wilbert & Betty Stewart		07/09
Randy & Sherri Williams		07/13
Donald & Gladys Timoruski		07/19
Bob & Jeanette Albright		07/23
	August	
Ray & Dorothy Huter		08/08
Ted & Arlene Schauer		08/11
Lawrence & Ann Lee		08/16
James & Sue Gibson		08/18



the help of the Spirit become the base from which the church evangelizes. Without your involvement, who will share the Gospel? And remember, attitude is crucial. If members of the Calvary think the church can't move into the future and grow, they are right. Conversely, if members of Calvary think the church CAN move into the future and grow, they are right. Attitude leads to a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Being a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is challenging. While so many things are in perpetual motion and changing constantly, what makes Calvary special and unique is that what she teaches and confesses is non-negotiable. The Church's doctrine and confession is God's unchanging Word and from that Word Calvary will not stray. But, the way in which Calvary moves into the future while maintaining her mission needs to be evaluated and adjusted. I am certain God has a plan for Calvary...a plan to give Calvary a future and a hope. So my dear friends, as you take time out of your schedules to enjoy these summer months, please take some time to reflect and meditate on the above questions. I look with great joy and anticipation to venturing into the future with you as Calvary continues to proclaim Jesus Christ, and Him crucified and raised!

In Christian Love,  
Pastor Kessler

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE, JULY, and AUGUST

#### SUNDAYS

9:00am SERVICE

10:30am Bible Class

#### WEDNESDAYS

11:00am Bible class in Ed. Bldg

#### THURSDAYS

9:30am Bible study (sermon study) @ Emerald Springs

#### SATURDAYS

7:00am Bible Study (sermon study) at Goldsborro Bakery

#### COUNCIL AND BOARDS

meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday June 13, July 11, and August 8

#### ELDERS

meet Friday

June 12, July 7, August 4

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

#### *Lord be a guest in my Stewardship*

In love for my Savior and His blood shed for me on the cross, I wish to be a good steward of what God has given me for use in: my life, in my family, in my church, and in the church-at-large. Over the next year I am going to be working to discover just what God has given me to use in His service in those areas of time, talents and treasures. I will be praying for guidance and will move ahead in the Spirit that I may function as a good tool in the Lord's hands until the day He calls me home to heaven.

#### Pledges to God

##### **In my life:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

##### **In my family and at home:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

##### **In my congregation:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

##### **In the church-at-large:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

My prayer: Dear Lord open my heart and mind to Your abundance and mercy in my life. How easy it is to forget you goodness and that I don't belong to myself but to You. Let me discover and use the spiritual gifts that you have given to me and let me find how best to use them in the advancement of your kingdom.