

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2017

“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the years, I have witnessed many people die. No matter how you slice it, facing death...whether it's your own or that of a loved one...is never enjoyable and ALWAYS inconvenient. Death doesn't care how good you are, how young or old you are, how nice you are, or what you have planned for your future. Unless Jesus returns sometime beforehand, you are going to one day die. And, with that understanding, you can do one of two things...you can ignore the fact and go about your business as usual, entrusting all of your funeral arrangements to your family or friends...or...you can meet with a funeral director and the pastor and pre-plan your funeral.

In my first week of parish ministry in North Dakota as a young pastor, some might say that I was baptized by fire. Even before I was installed to be the pastor of the dual parish I served, three members of the congregation died and I needed to jump right in and start planning 3 funerals. I was thrown into the deep end of the pool, so to speak. The first year I was there, I officiated around 15 funerals! While the sadness of losing a loved one was ever-present among the grieving families, one important facet of planning the funeral began to stand out above all the rest. For some people, planning their own funeral when they are still living feels a little morbid and uncomfortable because they are forced to consider their mortality. No one wants to die and the reality that it will occur at some point is unpleasant. Many people don't pre-plan their funeral because of the uncomfortable nature of considering their own death. I get that...it makes me uncomfortable too. However, those who do pre-plan their funerals provide their loved ones with an opportunity to grieve without the burden of having to make decisions and financial obligations. I guess what I am really saying is...DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIE TO PLAN YOUR FUNERAL.

Pre-planning your funeral is a form of good stewardship...good and appropriate managing of your household. None of us want to leave our families with worries and burdens intentionally...at least I hope that is the case. Picking out your casket or urn, your burial plot, what you desire to have done with your bodily remains, and taking care of all the cost associated with your funeral (an estimated cost of \$7,000 - \$10,000 which includes all fees associated with the funeral home, the burial, and placement of the headstone)...though uncomfortable...you are making decisions and paying

the cost upfront so that your family won't have to make those decisions and come up with that money, especially under duress as they suffer from grief over your death. Meeting with your pastor and picking out what hymns you want, what Bible passages you want read helps your family by providing them with a service that speaks of your faith relationship with Christ and gives them hope at a time when they might feel like hope is lost. You are giving your family a tremendous gift by taking the time to have your arrangements in order so that they can devote the time needed to grieving instead of having to worry about all that other stuff that just adds insult to injury.

I used to think that pre-planning your funeral was something you did when you got old. As I have officiated many funerals, some of those who died weren't old by any stretch of the imagination. That told me that pre-planning your funeral is not something you should put off until you are more advanced in age. Stop in at the church office and meet with the pastor and let him know your favorite hymns and Scripture passages. Make an appointment with one of your local funeral homes to have your funeral arrangements made and make payments toward them to alleviate the burden of decision making and financial obligations. And get a will drawn up by an attorney so that all of your affairs are in order so as not to leave those you love with a mountain of worry. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU DIE TO PLAN YOUR FUNERAL.** As your pastor and as a friend, don't neglect to do this. It makes everything easier during a time when living is difficult.

In Service to 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!

Addison Hildestad	02/04
Jordan Rutledge	02/05
Evelyn Foster	02/07
Pat Martel-Cooper	02/07
Kaden Siharath	02/07
Rebecca Kessler	02/09
Frances Zautcke	02/16
Ronald Foster	02/17
Aja Backs	02/28
Chaylen Hildestad	02/28

BAPTISM

Evelyn Foster	02/07
Joanne Williams	02/11
Frances Zautcke	02/16
Ronald Foster	02/17
John Ehrlich Jr	02/21
William Stewart	02/21
Austin Kessler	02/26

Happy Anniversary

Milton & Jeanene Euhus	02/02
Donald & Frances Zautcke	02/07
Shawn & Aja Backs	02/29



Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, February 14, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
01/01/2017	\$3,557.00
01/08/2017	\$3,654.37
01/15/2017	\$3,324.00
01/22/2017	\$2,421.70
01/29/2017	estimated



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

Year to date	\$14,957.07
Misc Income	0.00
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (weeks)	\$ 3,423.82
Short \$ per week	\$ 17.55

2017 Contributions & Expenses JANUARY (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$14,957.07
Misc Income	\$ 2,162.00
Expenses	<u>\$15,817.90</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 1,301.17

YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$14,957.07
Misc Income	\$ 2,162.00
Expenses	<u>\$15,817.90</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 1,301.17

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of January	\$12,776.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	<u>\$</u>
Fund Total	\$12,776.00

NOTICE FOOD BANK EGG CARTONS

The Food Bank is **no longer** using the egg cartons, so they are no longer needed and have to be discarded.
THANK YOU to those who were saving them.



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 ask Connie, Wilma, Jan, Betty, or Bonnie.

ELDERS REPORT

The Board of Elders has been preparing for the spiritual needs of the congregation during 2017. The music committee formed last continues to gather information on future music options for worship services. Wil Stewart is heading this committee and will report to the board later this year. A report to the congregation will follow.

In the immediate future, two key dates approach. They are –

Sunday, February 5. During the education hour, the Board of Elders, the Board of Education and Pastor Kessler will meet with children between birth and high school, as well as their parents, to discuss opportunities for the next generation to learn and grow in Christ. Topics will range from Sunday School to confirmation to social activities. Anyone is welcome to join and families with children and youth have received a letter of invitation with more details.

Saturday, February 18. A meeting and lunch for ushers from 11 AM to about 12:30 PM. Elders will host the “Thank You” luncheon. A brief meeting will update ushers of all levels of experience on the procedures and other important information that they need for their successful and transparent service on Sunday mornings. Current and prospective ushers will soon receive a letter of invitation with more details.

Sunday, October 18. Although plans are not finalized, the Board of Elders is preparing for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation during 2017. The final medallion in the series of commemorative medallions distributed over the past several years will be handed out after that morning’s worship service. The Board is looking at a special video presentation on Luther’s life during the education hour with a dinner to follow.

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).

STEWARDSHIP BOARD NEWS



There are so many people to thank for the success of the chicken dinner. The First and BIGGEST THANK YOU goes to Rex &

Doug Green for agreeing to do this. It doesn’t just involve grilling the chicken. Rex does all the purchasing, the seasoning of the chicken, hauling the grills, etc.

VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, Rex and to Doug and Maren for their help. THANKS to Janet for not only printing the ticket envelopes and the tickets, but for also numbering all of them. THANKS to the two

people who gave their Thrivent dollars to go toward the purchase of the groceries and paper goods. Thank you to Rex for the beans.

THANK YOU to all those who baked the brownies, to those who helped that day, those who helped with the set up and clean up. THANKS to the ladies at Shepherd of the Hills and Christ Lutheran who sold tickets there. Of course, a huge THANKS to all those who sold tickets. You did GREAT! Obviously it would not have been a success without tickets being sold. HATS OFF TO EVERYONE!! The net profits were \$2,162.00.

Did you notice the young people who helped that day? They are members of the FFA from Cibola and they were TERRIFIC. We can’t say enough about what great help they were. They just pitched in and worked and helped with so much without even being told what to do and with big smiles. And – they turned off their cell phones when they arrived!!

A big THANK YOU is due to Jan and Bob Stash for their service over the years. The Stewardship Board especially needs to thank them as Bob has designed the flyers for the pizza take overs, signup sheets for them and for the chicken dinner. The LWML wants to THANK him for the design for the cookie walks and the vendors for the past cookie walks. Jan has done all the work of lining up the vendors and all the paper work involved with them. They will be greatly missed and we wish them BLESSINGS in their new home.

There is a counters training being planned for February. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

From the Trustees



Please remember if you have any questions about the church property to ask a trustee not the custodian; she will not have information about doors, gates or tables.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering.”

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

➔ Now for 2017. This years Stewardship Board is in need of a couple more members. If the board does not have the required number of members **it will not exist.**

If you can serve our congregation on this board please contact Pat Lameastra with your interest.

Objectives of the Board of Stewardship

1. Study the Scriptural principle regarding the total stewardship calling of the Christian--as a member of his family, as a neighbor and citizen, and as a congregation member--and share these insights with congregation member.
2. Contact and encourage new members for service to the congregation and endeavor to stir up the talents of present members for use in Christ's work.
3. Maintain a program to discover and enlist for Kingdom service the talents God has given members, old and new, young people and adults.
4. Be responsible for maintenance of a congregational talent file at all times, and provide for the immediate recording of the talents and abilities of incoming members.
5. Provide opportunities for the development of talents and Spiritual Gifts (training courses, workshops)
6. Conduct periodic programs to confront every member personally with basic Biblical stewardship principles and practices.
7. Encourage the Gospel-motivated practice of joyous, worshipful, liberal, proportionate, first-fruits giving in response to received blessings and recognized needs.
8. Annually give every member an opportunity, through pledging, to make a commitment of his treasure for Kingdom work through the congregation.
9. Initiate an annual preparation and presentation to the congregation of a God-pleasing work program, determine anticipated receipts and recommend a budget for adoption by the Voter's Assembly.
10. Foster support for missions and charities through an ongoing program of mission information and education through education agencies, committees, and organizations, rallies, festivals, film and filmstrips, letters and tracts, appearances of missionaries, and the like.
11. Administer the congregation's Welfare Fund in conjunction with the recommendation from the Board of Elders.
13. Annually prepare and submit as part of the budget of this Board a selected list of charities for the congregation and suggest the source of revenue designated for that purpose.
14. Evaluate and make recommendations for gifts of love by individuals and the congregation as a whole.
15. Screen all outside appeals for funds and make the appropriate recommendations to the Voter's Assembly or initiate the necessary action appropriate to such an appeal.
16. Review, accept, or decline all offers of non-solicited gifts to the congregation.
17. Study and maintain a list of available social agencies for help with alcoholics, drug problems, delinquents, mental retardation, emotionally disturbed individuals, unwed mothers, and the like, either of Lutheran, private, or public nature.
18. Together with the Pastor, study the possibilities and recommend implementation of offering spiritual services and care to hospitals, homes for the aged, prisons, and other institutions within the area.
19. Encourage and enlist the young people of the congregation for full-time service in the church as pastors, teachers, and the like.
20. Be concerned, together with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, for safe deposit and recording of all funds, monthly remissions of offerings for missions and church agencies, and prompt payment of salaries and bills as authorized by the congregation and the appropriate Boards.
21. Evaluate the offerings of the congregation regularly and share these evaluations with the members of the congregation.
22. Enlist, maintain, and administer a secretarial pool of qualified persons who will be available to Boards and committees for special secretarial assignments.
23. Encourage stewardship programs in the societies and auxiliaries of the congregation.
24. Annually review the budgeting procedures of the congregation in conjunction with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary and recommend to the congregation any necessary improvements or revisions.



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

Stewardship- Lord be a guest in my life

Revelation 5:9-10 'And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. -You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (NIV)

Just who am I? That same question is asked day in and day out by people. They seek their worth and value in a confusing world. To really talk about stewardship it is important that we do know who we are. The verse from Revelation speaks about ownership with the word purchased. We have been purchased by God with the blood of His only Son on the cross.

1. What does that say about our value?
2. Mat 20:28, 26:28, Acts 20:28, I Cor 6:20, I Cor 7:23.
3. Notice that the action comes from God not man, He has made us for a purpose.

Ezekiel 18:4 'For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son -- both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. (NIV)

Isn't it remarkable that man seems to think that he is master of his own destiny, that He can live his life taking no responsibility to anyone other than himself. The prophet would let us know that such is not the case.

1. In what sense does our soul belong to God?
2. Where is our allegiance and responsibility?
3. If we are to find purpose and direction in life, where will it be found?

Luke involves us with Zacchaeus and in the lesson we find that he is told by Jesus that Jesus must come to his house. Might we feel a little uncomfortable when we invite Jesus into our home? Is it not safer to keep Him safely locked up in the church, so we can let our hair down at home so to speak?

Luke 19:1-9 ¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" ⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay

back four times the amount." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. (NIV) .

1. What problem did Zacchaeus have? (19:3)
2. How did Zacchaeus solve his problem? (19:4)
3. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? (19:5)
4. What do the actions of Zacchaeus reveal about the power of God to change hearts?
5. Why was it important that Jesus go to his house?
6. How does Jesus become part of our life on a regular basis?

A steward is one who has been given a responsibility to take care of that which God has given them. Today we look at that stewardship in relationship to our personal lives. What are some of the things that we can begin doing which will help us invite Jesus into our life. If we are to take control then is that good stewardship of the life that we have received? Remember that all that we do apart from Christ is ultimately self-destructive of the life that we have received.

Over the weeks ahead of us we will be making commitments in four areas of stewardship and then on that final week we will lay on the altar of the Lord those things in life we wish to commit to him as a good steward.

Area of my life in which I wish to become a better steward of that which God has given me.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

How this is to be accomplished.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Hints: How do I manage my time, How do I take care of my body, How is my devotional life? Have I worked to develop the skills God has given me? Remember this is your personal life not your interaction with others, that is next week.

February 2017

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>1 11:00 AM-Bible Study</p>	<p>2 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>3 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 04:00 PM-Elders Meeting</p>	<p>4 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro</p>
<p>5 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>6 09:00 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>10 09:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 09:00 AM-LWML Mug Exchange</p> 	<p>11 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 09:00 AM-LWML Mug Exchange</p>
<p>12 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>13 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>16 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>17 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 11:00 AM-Usher Meeting/ luncheon</p>
<p>19 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>20 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>23 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>24 LWML rummage sale setup 25 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 08:00 AM-LWML Rum- mage Sale</p> 
<p>26 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>28</p>