

FROM THE PASTOR



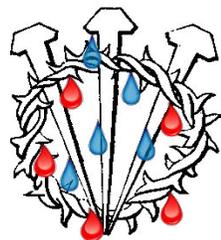
MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 2017

Dear Friends in Christ

For 10 years, I served as an ambulance driver and later as an EMT-B when I lived in North Dakota. There were times that blood was going to be present and I never had any trouble dealing with the sight of blood regardless of how much there was. That is, other peoples' blood didn't bother me...but the sight of my own made me uncomfortable, and at times squeamish. I suppose that's because blood is a vital substance to our existence. Blood is the substance of life that flows through our body bringing essential nutrients, oxygen, and many other elements to our organs and life-sustaining systems. It also delivers waste and chemicals that pose a threat to life to the proper place to be discarded. That's why it is referred to as "life-blood." It carries and sustains life in every one of us. So precious is blood that hospitals and medical clinics all around the world have "blood banks" should someone be in need of blood. The healthiest of organs still require blood in order to work. Without blood, they fail, and in the wake of their failure, earthly life ceases.

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, the precious nature of blood was an ever-present reality, especially after Cain killed his brother Abel. It is a constant reminder even to this very day. Scripture records the Lord addressing Cain, "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand" (Gen 4:11). Life literally draining away from Abel as the earth soaked up his life-blood to render him lifeless and the grave swallowing up his earthly remains. That is quite a picture of how important our Lord regards the blood that flows through the vessels of His children! In fact, God prescribes that the shedding of blood would be required for forgiveness...a shedding of blood that led to a cross on which God's own Son would allow Himself to be sacrificed, having His blood shed for our forgiveness.

For this reason, I have chosen a Lenten theme centered around "The Blessings in the Blood of Jesus." It is a 6-part sermon series that will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and will continue through Wednesday, April 5th. This series is a journey that will discuss how Jesus' blood cleanses, pardons, gives access, speaks, is shared, and sanctifies. Each week, we will discuss one of these characteristics and what it means for us, His precious children. Below is the weekly schedule of our topic with the assigned Scripture text and a brief synopsis of our meditation.



BLESSINGS IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS

March 1st – Ash Wednesday – Hebrews 9:6-14 – “The Blood That Cleanses” – There is no life, either physically or spiritually, without blood and it is not by accident that our Lord marries our life and our salvation to blood. Jesus' blood purifies us from the filth of our sin so that we are acceptable in God's sight.

March 8th – Lent Midweek 2 – Hebrews 9:15-22 – “The Blood That Pardons” – They say death is the key to an inheritance. Without death, what is there to inherit? In order to be forgiven, blood must be shed. Like the Israelites of the Old Testament stained with the blood of the sacrifice, so the Christian is stained in the precious blood of Jesus that enables him to stand pure and holy in the presence of God. The blood of Jesus is the Christian's present reality...living forgiven.

March 15th – Lent Midweek 3 – Hebrews 10:19-22 – “The Blood That Gives Access” – It is safe to say that sinful human beings should not presume that they can step into the presence of a perfect and holy God on their own terms. It is not safe for sinful man to be in God's presence. Yet, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the sinner is shrouded in Jesus' blood which grants access to God the Father.

March 22nd – Lent Midweek 4 – Hebrews 12:22-24 – “The Blood That Speaks” – Like Abel of the Old Testament, so the Son of God would be an innocent victim condemned to die. While Abel's blood cried out for vengeance and retribution, the blood of Jesus would speak forgiveness, life, and salvation...the same salvation spoken over those who kneel at the Lord's table eating the bread and drinking the cup, proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes (1 Cor 11:26).

March 29th – Lent Midweek 5 – Hebrews 2:10-18 – “Shared Blood” – People identify with those they share DNA. This is by God's design as people are bound to a specific family by blood. When the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and bear in the flesh the very Son of God, the angel was speaking of Jesus becoming our Brother as He would share in our flesh and blood...sharing in the fate that is common to all flesh... death.

April 5th – Lent Midweek 6 – Hebrews 13:9-16 – “The Blood That Sanctifies” – During Lent, many people deny themselves various foods...foods they believe were made unclean. Jesus is recorded saying in Mark 7:15, "There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man." Hebrews draws us away from the regulations of food to the grace of God that believers receive at the Lord's table...forgiveness, life, and salvation. Being forgiven children of the heavenly Father through Christ Jesus, believers living by faith in Jesus live

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday!

Shirley Nelson	03/02
Jeanette Albright	03/07
Charles Fraley	03/09
Jacob LeClerc	03/09
Hannah Kessler	03/10
Connie Wubbena	03/10
Brian Atchley	03/11
Mark Ford	03/11
Lisa Stewart	03/12
Patrick Stuebs	03/13
Trina Elam	03/24
Al Rahn	03/28

BAPTISM

Rosemary Suhr	03/01
Jordan Rutledge	03/03
Abby Rutledge	03/09
Connie Wubbena	03/10
Carolyn Macomber	03/13
Dylan MacFarlane	03/17
Leroy Pickett	03/18
Braeden Dames	03/22
Brian Atchley	03/23
Michael Kessler	03/23
Lily Green	03/24
Hannah Kessler	03/25
Jane Pray	03/25
Ella Stewart	03/26
Addison Hildestad	03/29

Happy Anniversary

Katie & Byron Strom 03/31



Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

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

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

2017 Contributions	
02/05/2017	\$3,503.00
02/12/2017	\$3,697.90
02/19/2017	\$3,640.50
02/26/2017	estimated



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

Year to date	\$28745.82
Misc Income	0.00
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (weeks)	\$ 3,434.21
Short \$ per week	\$ 7.16-

2017 Contributions & Expenses JANUARY (RECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$16,405.32
Misc Income	\$ 2,162.00
Expenses	<u>\$15,677.90</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 2,889.42
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$16,405.32
Misc Income	\$ 2,162.00
Expenses	<u>\$15,677.90</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 2,889.42

Parking Lot Fund

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



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

by love toward their neighbor in both word and deed. Remember, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these by brothers, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

Taking time during this penitential season of Lent to focus on the blood of Jesus will draw us closer to our risen Lord and Savior, who, although His blood was shed that we might have life, He overcame death and the grave giving us the assurance of eternal life, even in the face of certain earthly death. It is my prayer that as we look at the blessings of Jesus' blood, our faith will become more deeply rooted in what we already have received by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord...forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In Service to Christ,
Pastor Kessler

PRESENT: Bruce Fenske, Pat Lamaestra, Lisa Elam, Mike Ehrlich, Janet Ehrlich, Debbie Lamaestra, Pastor Kessler, Donna Fairchild, Wilma Replogle, Johnnie Alstatt

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. with an opening prayer by Pastor Kessler.

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

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

PRESIDENT- no report

VICE PRESIDENT- no report

SECRETARY- no report

TREASURER- asked if there were any more questions about the voters meeting.

PASTOR- (attached)

ELDERS- They have not met since the last council meeting.

MISSION- They have new members on board and are getting situated. They are working on getting crosses for Easter.

EDUCATION- No one present

STEWARDSHIP- They have new board members. Wilma gave them training tonight. They plan on doing counters training sometime in the future. It will be training for new counters as well as a refresher for current counters.

TRUSTEES- Lightbulbs have been replaced. They will be working on security cameras Feb 25th. They have approved tree trimming and lawn fertilizer. There are new fire extinguishers in the church. The gate to the memorial garden needs to be open during services. They are still working on the parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Dave Anderson singing group sent an email that they can perform Jan 22. They wanted \$250 donation and a door offering. Will give them and answer but our schedules are already made. It was suggested and agreed that we can go support them at another Church they will be performing at.

NEW BUSINESS- We have no education board right now. The elders are going to discuss this at their next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER- Pastor Kessler thanked the new board and council members. The next council meeting will be Feb 14th. Janet motioned to adjourn the meeting, Donna 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

LWML News



By the time you read this we will have had the annual rummage sale. Hopefully it was the usual success and we THANK all those who worked so diligently to get everything ready on Friday and again during the sale on Saturday. The money raised will be used for our monthly support of Lutheran Bible Translators, the seminary food bank and our monthly mission gifts.

We are making plans for an LWML meeting on Thursday night, March 9th. Program to be announced, so more information as it becomes available. This will probably be our last meeting until fall, so we hope it will be well attended.

We are hosting the spring Celebration on Saturday, March 25th. The speaker will be from KCFY, the Yuma Christian radio station. There are probably a lot of us who don't know anything about it, so it should be informative.

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 My Home

Deuteronomy 14:26 26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice. (NIV)

God has blessed His people with much, there is a danger in separating what we have as if part of it belonged to the Lord and part did not. "This I will use in the service of God and this is my own." All that we have is on loan from God to be used by us, His people. It was the household that Moses tells us about in Deuteronomy that used all the things that God had given them and then as a group they were to rejoice before the Lord. The story in Matthew²⁵ shows not just in the realm of the church proper but in the life of the steward, he was responsible for all that the Master gave him to use.

Matthew 25: 14-30 ¹⁴Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents {A talent was worth more than a thousand dollars.} of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²²"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NIV)

Maybe to start in the proper place we should begin with the family in Genesis 2:22-25

²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman, for she was taken out of man."²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (NIV)

God, before the fall, made from man, woman and put them together to live as man and wife. He placed them together so woman might help man in the world, that she would be his companion, and that they would be fruitful and multiply. "Well," you might ask, "what does that have to do with stewardship?" A large portion of a person's time is spent in taking care of their families. It may be through work to provide funds to maintain the family, time spent in raising children or meeting the needs of a spouse. A large percentage of a person's time in life is spent in this area. Are we good stewards in using what God has given us in accomplishing this God given task?

Remember it is important that we not segregate our life into the area of spiritual and the secular. If we do so then there is the implication that we provide for ourselves.

1. What kinds of things in our home are things that we need to consider as gifts from God and of which He calls us to be good stewards?
2. If we consider our time as a gift of God will that mean we will possibly use it differently?
3. If we consider our financial assets as a gift from God, will that mean that we will use them differently? Here I am not speaking of church offering, but how we shop for those necessities of life and the non-necessities as well.
4. If we consider our children as a gift from God will that have an effect on how we act as parents.

Colossians 3:20-21 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 7:16 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (NIV)

Mark 12:33 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." (NIV)

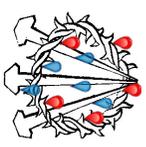
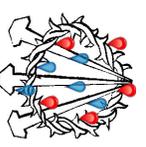
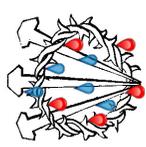
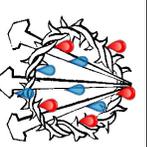
There is obviously a decided religious aspect to our lives with our spouses, children and our neighbors. The resources that God has given each of us in time talents and treasures needs to focus on stewardship in this area of interpersonal relationships. Our home is an important area in the study of our total stewardship of God's gifts to us.

Area of my life in which I wish to become a better steward of that which God has given me. And how this is to be accomplished.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Hints: Look at relationships that you have with spouse, children, good friends. You may be their only touch with Jesus Christ and the cross. Remember from Matthew 25 that we are responsible for all that God gives us to use.

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 11:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-Ash Wednesday</p> 	<p>2 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>30 4:00 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>7</p>	<p>8 11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Pot-luck dinner 07:00 PM-Lent Service</p> 	<p>9 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 09:30 AM-LWML Bible Class</p>
<p>12 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:15 PM-Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Pot-luck dinner 07:00 PM-Lent Service</p> 	<p>16 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>17 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting</p>	<p>18 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro</p>
<p>19 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Pot-luck dinner 07:00 PM-Lent Service</p> 	<p>23 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro</p>
<p>26 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday school classes</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Pot-luck dinner 07:00 PM-Lent Service</p> 	<p>30 09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-AWC campus ministry</p>	<p>31 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting</p>	