

# FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED  
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2017

While it's not even Christmas yet, I have already heard the songs of Christmas cheer and holiday spirit as the words, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." echo in my ears. I noticed that even on Thanksgiving, homes were being decorated to reflect the holiday season as Christmas trees were dug out of their boxes and nutcrackers and inflatable snowmen donned the yards of houses throughout my neighborhood. What stands out the most is the display of colored lights that adorn the roof-line of many houses...some flashing, others all one color. As a child, I looked forward to putting lights on the house and in the trees of the front yard. The first year we put lights up on the house, we simply had a strand that went across the front of the house hanging from the gutters. But, with each passing year, more lights were added and the brighter the glow as it twinkled off the snow and ice. Even as an adult, I still enjoy looking at the lights that shine so brightly as I drive through town. It is such a beautiful time of year!

What really stands out for me is how the concept of light verses darkness has been used since as long as man can remember to illustrate good verses bad, knowledge verses ignorance, life verses death, and even faith verses unbelief. I suppose that it shouldn't be a surprise as it serves as the perfect example. Light is such an important and vital aspect of life. Without it there is no life. That's why we have developed certain phrases like, "You can see the light in their eyes," to describe the abundance of life in others. For us Christians, it should go without saying that it only is natural that the Bible refers to Jesus as the Light of the world...the Light no darkness can overcome!

For this reason, the focus for the Advent Midweek Services will be "LIGHT." Below, I have provided a brief synopsis of what each week's meditation will discuss, with the hope that the light of Christ will shine even brighter in the lives of His disciples. I encourage each and every one of you to attend as we celebrate together this holy season, being comforted and blessed with joy in Christ Jesus, our light and our life!

## **December 6<sup>th</sup>: Put On the Light! : Romans 13:11-14**

That which is dark is something we really don't care to see. Not seeing what lies ahead or comes up from behind is uncomfortable and at times, just plain frightening. That's why we use night lights and flip on light switches. Staring into the dark is gazing into an abyss of uncertainty. Illuminated by light, that which is real is revealed and uncertainty flees. Putting on the light of Christ banishes the darkness of sin and death to live with hope and certainty of eternal joy and life.

## **December 13<sup>th</sup>: Many Lights are Brighter Together! :**

**Romans 15:4-7** The more lights...the brighter it is. This just seems like common sense. One light chases away the darkness, but the more lights, the brighter it becomes. Certainly, the light of faith in one believer brings great joy to God. But, as more lights of faith in more believers join together, they burn ever bright with praise to God, and shine for all the world to see.

## **December 20<sup>th</sup>: A Light with a Special Purpose :**

**Romans 1:1-7** While the general purpose of a light bulb is to produce light, lights are also used for special and unique purposes. A traffic light instructs drivers when to go, use caution, and to stop. A lighthouse shines light into the darkness of the ocean to direct ships to and away from land. Black lights illuminate the invisible making it visible. Our light of faith shines the light of Christ on others that they, too, may live with eternal joy and certainty.

## **December 24<sup>th</sup>: The Brightest Light! : Isaiah 9:2-7**

In Las Vegas, the Luxor hotel, fashioned in the shape of a pyramid, shines a tremendously bright light into the night sky from its point. This beam of light can be seen from miles around, serving to direct those pondering the light to trace its location. As the prophet Isaiah speaks to the children of Israel, he encourages them with God's Word, shining the light of Christ who banishes all darkness and promises forgiveness, life, and salvation.

## **December 25<sup>th</sup>: The Life in the Light! : John 1:4-5**

Sin attempted to put out the light of life but failed. Jesus Christ, our light and our life, will never be snuffed out. Though there are times it is tempting to enjoy the darkness, life cannot exist without the light. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel into the marvelous light of Christ, lighting up all our fears and sins with His mercy and grace.

I look forward to celebrating this most joyous of seasons with all of you. It is my fervent prayer that our Lord will richly bless each and every one of you this Advent and Christmas season! All glory, laud, and honor, be to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Kessler



**Advent:** Remember that we will celebrate with a potluck dinner before each of the 3 Wednesday midweek services. We will *gather together for good food and fellowship at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.* Then we will move to the sanctuary at 7:00 PM to give thanks and praise to our good and gracious God who gives us all good things.

- 12/6** – 6:00PM – Midweek Potluck  
7:00PM – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- 12/13** – 6:00PM – Midweek Potluck  
7:00PM – Midweek Advent Worship Service
- 12/20** – 6:00PM – Midweek Potluck  
7:00PM – Midweek Advent Worship Service

Christmas Eve will be a little different this year as it falls on a Sunday. We will gather together for our regular Sunday service at **9:00 AM Christmas Eve morning without Adult Bible Class** following. A **candlelight Christmas Eve** service is planned for **7:00 PM** that night.

**Christmas Day** service will be at **10:00 AM.**

- 12/24** – 9:00AM – Regular Sunday morning Worship Service  
7:00PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25** – 10:00AM – Christmas Day Worship Service



**Christmas Poinsettias:** The Altar Guild will be purchasing 10 Poinsettias for Christmas this year. If you are able to donate towards the purchase of a poinsettia, please sign up on the list posted in the Parish Hall. You may put the money in your offering envelope and mark the \$10 under special gift specified for altar guild poinsettias. Remember to take your plant home after Christmas Day Service.

With your help The mission board will be collecting socks for Crossroads Mission. A tree will be available in the parish hall starting the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. Sock will be collected until the 17th of December. All sizes from toddlers and up are needed.



## LWML NEWS

We had a very nice group meet for our first LWML meeting of the season on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We made plans for the next few months, played word games and prepared Christmas cards to be sent to those in the military.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> when the children from Precious Treasures will entertain us with Christmas songs. This is always a very enjoyable evening and we invite all the women of the church to hear them. They share the Christmas season with such enthusiasm and it is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. We also plan to have treats for them. At this meeting we will also decide where our annual Christmas gifts will go.



The 14<sup>th</sup> annual cookie walk with vendors will be on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We are asking all members who are able to furnish 4 dozen cookies for this. We have had great support over the years and have decided to share some of the proceeds with the church treasury. All details are on a bulletin insert in the recent Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions, please see Connie during fellowship time between church and Bible class.

REMEMBER; all women members of the church are considered members of LWML. We encourage you to come and see what we are about.

BEST WISHES TO EACH OF YOU FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON.

# Where can I serve?

- Lawn care
- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sunday school teacher
- Bible study leader
- Altar Guild
- Sunday school Director
- Mission Board
- Elder
- Stewardship Board
- Trustees Board
- Education Board

# Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

## Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, December 5, 2017 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
11/05/2017	\$3,793.00
11/12/2017	\$2,374.30
11/19/2017	\$2,134.00
11/26/2017	\$3,980.00
Avg \$3,070.33	



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

Year to date	\$133,307.20
Misc Income	5858.37
Fund raiser (chicken)	2,162.00
Avg. \$ per week (48weeks)	\$ 2,944.33
Short \$ per week	\$ <497.04>

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

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$12,037.30
Misc Income	\$ 363.00
Expenses	\$14,725.10
Excess/Loss	<\$ 2,324.80>

#### YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$133,307.20
Misc Income	\$ 20,433.87
Expenses	\$168,484.82
Excess/Loss	<\$ 12,414.14>

### Parking Lot Fund

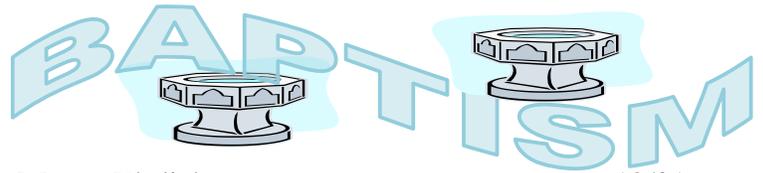
Fund Total as of November	\$14,842.00
Contributions	\$
Aluminum Cans	\$
Fund Total	\$14,842.00

### HELP WANTED! COUNTERS NEEDED

For more information to sign up to be a counter please see the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

# Happy Birthday!

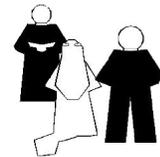
Idonna Deaver	12/03
Joseph Parker	12/07
Gladys Timoruski	12/17
Brian Rochester	12/18
Roxana Williams	12/18
Jennifer Kessler	12/19
Rosemary Suhr	12/19
William Stewart	12/21
Robert Barton	12/31
John Ehrlich Jr	12/31



Megan Ehrlich	12/01
Jaiden Williams	12/02
Katherine Seeger	12/06
Tyler Green	12/12
Katie Strom	12/12
Lisa Elam	12/13
Joseph Parker	12/19
Matthew Joynt	12/23
Jennifer Kessler	12/25
Robert Barton	12/31

# Happy Anniversary

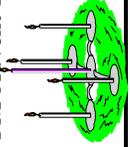
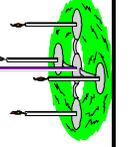
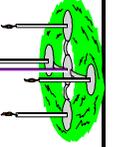
Ron & Michele Hill	12/20
Bruce & Maggie Fenske	12/29
Pat & Debbie Lamaestra	12/30



### Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again when the Vice President and his nominating committee will be contacting members of the congregation. Please carefully and prayerfully consider serving Calvary's congregation on a board or as an officer.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
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 06:00 PM-Advent Meal 07:00 PM-Advent I 	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Springs	07:00 AM-Set Up (lwm cookie walk) 4:00pm Elders Meeting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 Voter's Assembly			11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Advent Meal 07:00 PM-Advent II 	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	15	16
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes			11:00 AM-Bible Study 06:00 PM-Advent Meal 07:00 PM-Advent III 	09:30 AM-Bible Study/ Emerald Springs	22	23
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
09:00 AM-Communion Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 	10AM Christmas Service 					07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Bible classes 						07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
31						