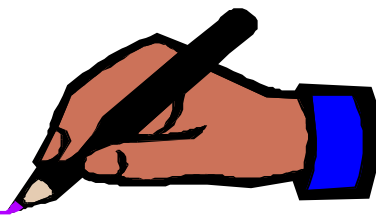


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I get older, it seems that the years go by faster and faster. It is difficult for me to believe that it is January 2018 already! It feels as though we put up the Christmas tree and outside decorations at our home just a few days ago and we are already poised to return them to their places of storage for yet another year. Soon the kids will be back in their classrooms, if they aren't already (at the time of your reading this newsletter), and the newness of their Christmas gifts slowly but surely wearing off. And, in just six weeks (February 14th), Ash Wednesday will have arrived and the season of Lent will take center stage as we begin the six-week journey to the cross of Calvary in preparation for the joyous occasion of Easter! My, how time sure flies!

Which also has me pondering how time here in Yuma has also passed in what seems like a blink of an eye. It was January 14th, 2014 that I was installed here at Calvary to be the pastor...a place where I once stood being installed as the vicar back in 1999. Sitting in the office once used by my vicarage supervisor who now in glory shines, the Reverend Stephen Sanderson, I am still in awe and tremendous honor to follow in his footsteps. Some days, it's as if his presence is still here as I look around remembering fondly the days I sat at his feet to learn the ins-and-outs of parish ministry. He was an excellent teacher and there is a great deal of which I am thankful to him for instilling in me. He taught me what and what not to do...but by his words and sometimes by his actions. I hold him in high regard. But, I also know he wasn't perfect...at least by humanly standards. Nevertheless, in the end, much of what I learned sitting at his feet has made me into the pastor I am today...good at some things...still working to get better at other things...and still making mistakes along the way, as I am far from perfect.

Now, almost 19 years from my time on vicarage, and now starting my 5th year as pastor at Calvary, I take a moment to pause and consider the past 4 years. God knows I have made a plethora of mistakes...some big and some others might not even consider mistakes except me. But, one thing is certain, God's grace and mercy continue to be poured down on this special congregation in the desert!

Over the past 4 years, there was a huge milestone event that place...we celebrated in November, 2014, the 75th Anniversary of Calvary Lutheran Church. Past and present members, as well as previous pastors came from miles around the celebrate that very special day. A special service, fantastic catered dinner, fun program,

and getting reacquainted were just some of the joyous things that took place that weekend.

In 2015, the church voted to make the courtyard area between the parish hall and church a memorial garden and sitting area. It didn't take long before the area was beautified with engraved memorial bricks purchased by members to be placed amidst three crosses reminiscent of Mount Calvary, a refurbished pew from the good ol' days, a beautiful sun dial, and "looks like real grass" artificial turf along with repainted white fencing and gate. Much of the work was done by our own Pat Lamaestra with assistance from members and the trustees! It is truly a remarkable sight!

This past year, 2017, marked the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Celebrations occurred world-wide...and Calvary was no exception. A special Reformation service was held in the morning, followed by a wonderful German style dinner and program at Yuma Lutheran School for the 3 LCMS congregations in Yuma! Even Martin Luther paid a visit to the program sharing what the time was life for him and for the church when the Reformation took place! It was also that day that liturgical robes were introduced to worship at Calvary for the elders who assist on Sunday mornings with readings and distribution of the sacrament.

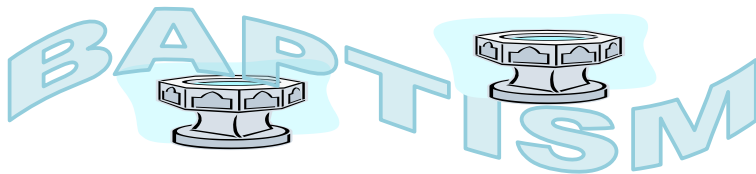
Many may not be aware that our organist, Betty Lou Phillips, will be reaching a landmark this year, 2018! Betty Lou will have been playing the organ for our services for 10 years this year! She is a true blessing, sharing her gift of music with Calvary...a task that is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Coming from a different Christian church body, she had to learn the Lutheran Liturgy and I think she has done a remarkable job! As the date of her 10 year anniversary nears, we will make mention of it in the bulletin! I would like to give a special "thank you" to Betty Lou for all her time and talent! She is a precious gift to us all!

Yes, the past 4 years have been exceptional. I certainly haven't provided an exhaustive list of all that has happened, but only to show that the Lord is still blessing us abundantly here at Calvary. I look forward to what this New Year holds and the future blessings God has in store for us! May you have a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

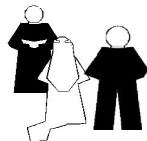
Terry Pray	01/03
Lawrence Lee	01/08
Hank Green	01/10
Lily Green	01/11
Marilyn Damet	01/13
Donna Barton	01/14
Austin Kessler	01/14
Jennifer Henderson	01/17
Glen Wagner	01/19
Alvin Broyles IV	01/23
Mary Ann Holloway	01/23
Braeden Dames	01/26
Leroy Pickett	01/27
Donald Zautcke	01/28
Carolyn Macomber	01/31



Pam Green	01/01
Betty Stewart	01/01
Lisa Stewart	01/01
Matthew Wilder	01/01
Randy Williams	01/01
Johnnie Ehrlich	01/03
Gladys Timoruski	01/07
Lawrence Lee	01/08
Brian Rochester	01/10
Donna Barton	01/14
Roxana Williams	01/26
Donald Zautcke	01/28

Happy Anniversary

Ron & Evelyn Foster	01/18
Mark & Teri Jo Ford	01/21
Heather & Kevin Torres	01/26



Galvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, January 09, 2018 @ 6PM

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

2017 Contributions	
12/03/2017	\$2,687.00
12/10/2017	\$2,836.00
12/17/2017	\$2,838.00
12/24/2017	\$4,059.00
12/24&25/2017	\$1,611.00
12/31/2017	\$3,048.00



Avg. \$ per week \$3,507.75

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

Year to date	\$150,386.20
Misc Income	4,318.48
Fund raiser	3,903.00
Avg. \$ per week (52weeks)	\$ 3,050.20
Short \$ per week	\$ 391.20-

2017 Contributions & Expenses DECEMBER (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$17,079.00
Misc Income	\$ 0.00
Expenses	<u>\$16,360.63</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 718.40

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$150,386.20
Misc Income	\$ 8,221.48
Expenses	<u>\$170,303.45</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ -11,695.80

Yearly Short \$ per week \$ **225.00**

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of November	\$14,842.00
Contributions	\$ 3,000.00
Aluminum Cans	\$ <u>21.00</u>
Fund Total	\$17,863.00

From the Mission Board

On Saturday, December 16th, 18 members of Calvary went Christmas caroling. Stops were made at 3 homes and Pastor and Hannah Kessler played violin accompaniment. We had a great turnout and there was not a sour note to be heard anywhere. Those visited were happy that we stopped by and wish all a very Merry Christmas. Thank you Pastor and Hannah and thank you to those who acted as chauffer and those who brought out the beautiful sounds of the Christmas.

One of the projects this Christmas season was the sock tree. For a month the very supportive people of Calvary adorned the tree with 223 pairs of socks. Can you believe it?! The socks and other items were taken to Crossroad Mission and received by Barbara. She had just finished trying to help a man get a pair of shoes and when she saw that all these socks we had collected she said "Let me show you something". She opened the door to a minivan and inside were boxes of shoes of every size. They had just been donated. She said they could now provide a new pair of socks along with a new pair of shoes. This is no coincidence.

Thank you to everyone who found time to go caroling and/or donate socks. These small acts of kindness make such a difference to a number of people in our community.

LWML news



The LWML had a busy December. As you know, the children from Precious Treasures entertained us on the 7th. There were not as many children because the leaders had not been told that two schools were having something special that day and only 17 children were able to come. They were given Thrivent T-shirts and to our surprise put them on right away. They looked neat all in those matching shirts. They enjoyed the pizza and then we enjoyed their singing. We were SO pleased with how many of you came to hear them. THANK YOU for that.

We held a brief meeting after. Our monthly \$100 mission gift went to Precious Treasures. We also voted to make \$100 gifts to Crossroads, Food Bank, Salvation Army.

And – THANK YOU for furnishing cookies for the 14th annual cookie walk. They seemed to fly out the door. We were competing against the Potpourri 3 day craft fair at the fairgrounds but still had lots of traffic and the vendors were satisfied and said they would be ready to return next year.

We will determine at the January meeting what amount we will give to the church treasury. Our January meeting will be on Thursday, January 4th. Doris Casey will lead us in a Bible study on "YOU ARE WORTH MORE THAN YOU THINK". Sounds interesting. Please join us. And always remember: ALL women of the LCMS church are considered members of the LWML.

BEST WISHES for a BLESSED 2018.



From the Trustees

We have acquired quotes for repairs of the parking lots.

1. Clean/Prep/tack coat asphalt & place 1" asphalt overlay. \$22,428.00 plus extra \$255.00 to stripe. 2yr warranty
2. Clean/Prep/crack seal asphalt & seal coat existing asphalt. \$11,677.00 plus extra \$255.00 to stripe. 1year warranty

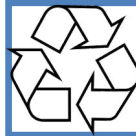
— OR —

1. Clean/Prep/tack coat asphalt & 1" asphalt overlay on our corner lot ONLY. \$16,623.11 including striping. 2yr warranty
2. Clean/Prep/crack seal asphalt & seal coat existing asphalt our back parking lot ONLY. \$3,463.16 including striping. 1yr warranty.

For a total of \$20,086.30

Currently the parking lot fund has a balance of \$17,863.00. The trustees have a lot to consider. As you can tell it is not inexpensive to repair the lots. For this reason we have not gone forth with the repairs as yet. We are still trying to raise enough money to do the job properly. We only have enough in the parking lot fund to fill the cracks and do a top seal which is not the ideal way to go.

If you would like to see what it would look like when finished with a 1" overlay, Brownie's Café parking lot was done this way. We would have to raise additional funds if this is the way we want to repair both lots.



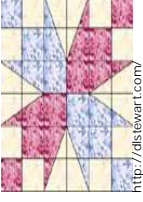
Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

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.

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 11:00 AM-Bible Study	4 09:30 AM-Bible Study/Emerald Springs 07:00 PM-LWML meeting	5 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	6 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
7 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Voter's Assembly & Baptism Celebration	8	9 06:00 PM-Board Meetings 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	10 11:00 AM-Bible Study	11 09:30 AM-Bible Study/Emerald Springs 7:00pm AWC campus ministry	12 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 03:30 PM-Elders Meeting  http://dlsstewart.com	13 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
14 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	15	16	17 11:00 AM-Bible Study	18 09:30 AM-Bible Study/Emerald Springs 3:00pm Concert(Dave Anderson) 7:00pm AWC campus ministry	19 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	20 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
21 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	22	23	24 11:00 AM-Bible Study	25 09:30 AM-Bible Study/Emerald Springs 7:00pm AWC campus ministry	26	27 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
28 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	29	30	31 11:00 AM-Bible Study			