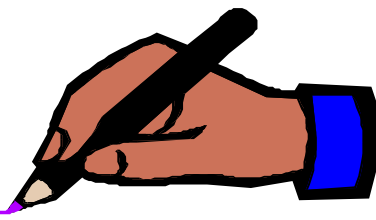


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2018

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Mission and ministry: These are just a couple of words that describe and define Calvary Lutheran Church. From the very moment that Calvary was born in Yuma, mission and ministry has been at the very heart of Calvary's existence. Providing a place for German prisoners of war to worship during World War II...to supporting refugees from war-stricken countries...to conceiving and growing a Lutheran school in the community...to even educating and shaping numerous men into Lutheran pastors (this pastor being just one of the many) are just a few of the ways this congregation has lived her mission and performed ministry in the midst of the desert. For more than 78 years now, the people of this church have served to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to countless men, women, and children to this unique and precious town, and the results of their labor are still felt and seen to this very day.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the events of which I share with you will have already taken place. But, it is my prayer that in sharing, all of you will be filled with great joy and appreciation for the work our loved ones and fellow congregants invested because of their love for Christ to take His Great Commission to heart and make disciples right here in Yuma!

On April 22nd, I was privileged and tremendously honored to preach the sermon for the installation of Pastor Jonathan Stites as the pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church here in the Yuma Foothills. I am always moved when participating in the ordination/installation of one of my brothers in the Holy Ministry. Gathered together in one accord, pastors surround the man whom God has called to shepherd His people on earth through Word and Sacrament ministry, to lay their hands on him and offer words of blessing and peace. It is certainly a day to remember for we are all witnesses of God's promise to send laborers into the harvest field of His church on earth to feed the sheep with the good grazing land of God's Word and leading them to the living waters of His Spirit.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church has come a long way with the help of the Lord from their humble beginnings many years ago! As many of you are aware, I served as a vicar right here at Calvary Lutheran Church

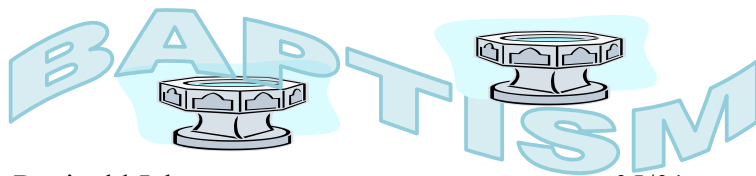
back in 1999-2000 under the pastoral supervision of the late Reverend Steve Sanderson. Back then, Pastor Sanderson and I would rotate weekly on Sunday mornings when it came to leading worship at the mission congregation in the foothills of Yuma. In a tiny church building of another denomination, Lutheran Christians in the foothills would gather together to worship. It was Calvary Lutheran Church who planted that mission start and continued to serve it over the years as it began to sprout and grow. At that time, there were very few homes out there and the church building was surrounded by sand and gravel. During my time as a vicar, Pastor Sanderson began the conversation among people at Calvary as well as in the foothills about transferring their membership to the foothills mission congregation to begin the process of becoming their own congregation. Also at that time, the Gila Mountain Methodist Church was building a new place of worship right off of Frontage Road by Foothills Boulevard and their current church building would be going up for sale. Things started to get pretty exciting as the possibility of the mission congregation purchasing their own building in which to meet and worship looked like a reality. My vicarage had ended and my wife and I had already returned to Fort Wayne, Indiana to the seminary before the sale of the Methodist church was finalized. Pastor Kent Schaaf was the vicar blessed to see that event take place and the mission congregation worship in their new church building for the very first time. It would take several years before the mission congregation would become what is appropriately known today as Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Being able to be a part of this wonderful day some 20 years later fills me with a sense of awe and jubilation. From humble beginnings to a thriving congregation serving man with the Gospel shows just how amazing our Lord really is. Our Lord tells us that His Word never returns to Him empty or void. Witnessing how the Word of the Lord has endured and grown Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is an assurance that God will continue to be with His church on earth as He continues to call men, like Pastor Stites, into the harvest field to tend the flock of God's people with His Word and Means of Grace. And for this church in the foothills, to think that it began with a pastor and few faithful people who once called Calvary Lutheran Church home. How truly and remarkably blessed we all are!

Pastor Kessler

Happy Birthday!

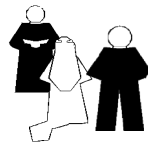
Penelope Backs	05/02
Ted Schauer	05/03
Kristina Parker	05/10
Keith Macomber	05/12
Brayden Pray	05/12
Deborah Lamaestra	05/14
Katie Strom	05/14
Lisa Elam	05/22
Abby Rutledge	05/25
Jeanene Euhus	05/28
Carter Rutledge	05/28



Reginald Jahn	05/01
Al Rahn	05/01
Patrick Stuebs	05/01
Carolyn Claude	05/02
Sophie McDaniel	05/11
Sherri Williams	05/14
Mark Ford	05/15
Phyllis Strickhouser	05/15
Zaira McDaniel	05/18
Bruce Fenske	05/19
Trina Elam	05/25
Virginia Hildestad	05/25

Happy Anniversary

Pat & Whitney Stuebs	05/01
Chuck & Susan Liehe	05/02
Michael & Jennifer Kessler	05/15



Voter's Assembly: Sunday, May 20. We need to vote on who Calvary wants for PSWD President the nominees are as follows...

Rev. Vince Harman Christ Lutheran Church, Yuma, AZ
 Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, CA
 Rev. Tim Klinkenberg St. John's Lutheran Church, Orange, CA

Also, we need to vote on and put in place an emergency response policy and team.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 6PM

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

2018 Contributions	
04/01/2018	\$4,005.84
04/08/2018	\$2,148.00
04/15/2018	\$1,681.00
04/22/2018	\$1,649.00
04/26/2018	\$1,521.84
04/29/2018 est.	\$1,000.00
Office	\$1,671.68



Avg. \$ per week \$2,431.11

Contribution amount needed, per week is **\$3,423.29** to meet current budget.

Year to date	\$53,494.49
Misc Income	1,326.48
Fund raiser	

Avg. \$ per week (18weeks) \$ 3,045.61

Short \$ per week \$ 377.68

2018 Contributions & Expenses APRIL (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$12,155.52
Misc Income	\$ 46.81
Expenses	<u>\$14,288.60</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 1,801.27-

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$55,719.49
Misc Income	\$ 1,326.48
Expenses	<u>\$56,406.60</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 639.37

Yearly Short \$ per week **\$322.12**

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of March 31	\$20,069.27
Contributions	\$ 502.00
Aluminum Cans	<u>\$</u>
Fund Total	\$20,571.27



Don't forget we do have the on going aluminum can drive for the Parking lot fund. You can drop your cans off in the old kitchen where there are cans and bags available to collect them. Mike & Janet do take them to the recyclers. Thank you.



Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

Mission Board News



Wow! You have all been very busy of late. On March 17th a nice group got together to watch the movie "Wonder".

It is a certainty that there are more movie times in our future. Thank you for all who turned out.

In February and March we all pulled together to help a group of orphans who needed some assistance. When all was said and done, Calvary and an anonymous donor combined to collect \$574.25 to purchase, pants, shirts and underclothes for over 30 children. A true blessing.

But there are more projects on the horizon. We will again conduct a food drive this summer. More information will be coming to you a little later and as Calvary always does, you will step up to the plate.

HELP WANTED!

COUNTERS NEEDED

The counters yearly calendar is nearly bare.

For more information to sign up to be a counter please ask Larry & Ann Lee, or Donna Fairchild.



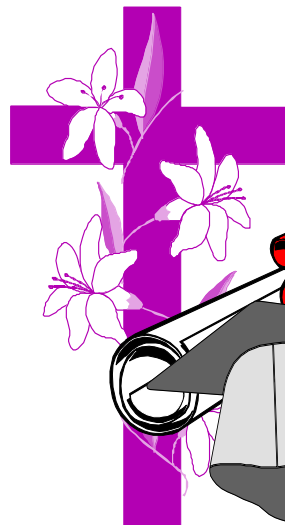
Designed by

If you look closely at the council report on page 2 you will notice we are entering our lean summer months. Your generous contributions during these lean times ensures that Calvary will be a spiritual home now and for future generations.

Each year there is concern as contributions become less than the monthly expenditures and money needs to be transferred from the church's savings to cover the remaining expenses. As we begin the 2nd Quarter, I encourage you to keep up the good and noble work and to pray for God's guidance as you continue supporting Calvary Lutheran Church through your tithes. THANK YOU again!



As we near the summer season, events and activities at the church tend to slow down considerably. This means that there is less information to pass along to members through our monthly newsletter. Please be aware that only one newsletter will be sent out over the Summer that will contain information regarding activities and events related to the church for the months of June, July, and August. It is our prayer that your summer is filled with great joy, relaxation, and quality time with family and friends. May God richly bless you all!




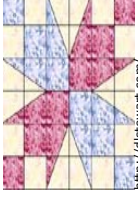
Congratulations

CLASS OF 2018

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5,6

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 0:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus ministry	4 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting 03:30 PM-Elders Meeting	5 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
6 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	7	8 06:00 PM-Board meeting 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	9	10 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus ministry	11 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	12 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro 
13 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	14	15	16	17 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus ministry	18 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting  http://dlstewart.com/	19 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
20 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:00am Voter's meeting 10:30 AM-Sunday School	21	22	23	24 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus ministry	25 09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	26 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
27 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	28	29	30	31 10:00 AM-Bible Study		