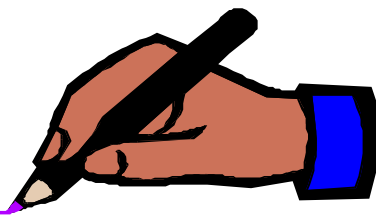


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I wake up each morning, I make myself a cup of coffee and I sit down and surf through the news on Yahoo.com. Since July 18th, I have been following the missing persons case of Mollie Tibbetts in Iowa...a 20 year old young college student who was house and dog sitting for her boyfriend in a small rural town in Iowa who abruptly went missing while on a routine evening run. For a little over a month, family and friends along with multiple law enforcement agencies have been looking for Mollie with no results. Yesterday morning as I began my morning ritual of drinking my cup of coffee and surfing the World Wide Web, the first article glaring up at me told of a recovered body in a remote cornfield in rural Iowa believed to be the remains of Ms. Tibbetts. My heart just sank. For the past month, I read the articles with tremendous hope and guarded optimism that this young woman would return home safely. Sadly, the story ended in tragedy. Thoughts of her grieving family and friends were enough to make me shed a tear as sorrow broke my heart too. A young life cut short by the evils of this broken and sinful world.

And if that were not enough, my eyes were opened to the reality that the news headlines are inundated daily with perpetrations of wickedness, hatred, scorn, disdain, racism, and immorality. Everywhere we turn there is another murder, robbery, shooting, drug smuggling bust, #metoo accusation...you name it, it's there at every turn. It doesn't matter if you live in the safest, quietest part of town or in the ghetto...if you live in the city or the country...if you live in the United States or somewhere in the Middle East...the brokenness of this sinful world roosts everywhere...and not just on our doorstep, but perhaps even in our own homes! Sometimes we may wonder if the world is going to (pardon the expression) go to hell in a hand-basket. To that, I can say with all certainty that the devil sure hopes so!

You see, every sinful act mankind performs has the devil in the details. Satan is constantly at work in this world spinning every sort of lie and tempting mankind with empty promises knowing that we human beings do not have the strength within us to stand steadfast against his attacks. Truth be told, this enemy, the devil, is an enemy far more powerful than flesh and blood. With his promises of power and his gift of flattery, sinful human beings are all too eager to bite the dangling carrot before them. The struggles we all face are a direct result of the devil's all-too-cunning deceit that initially felled our first parents, Adam and Eve. What he offered in their eyes was too good to pass up...but was nothing more than an empty promise that has afflicted all of mankind ever

since.

Often, I am compelled to ask myself if our children even have a chance when they get out in the big, bad world. The struggles our children face today seem so much more difficult than when we were their age. With the advancement of technology and introduction of social media, events that made headlines in newspapers and reports on the nightly news are now reported in "real time" on the internet and shared across social media platforms. Information is spread in seconds rather than hours, days, weeks, or even months. Sure, there is a lot of information that is good, but organizations have come to learn that what is "bad" or "terrible" garners attention from spectators, while the "good" and "joyful" doesn't seem to sell as well. How can our children, and even we ourselves find any sort of stability, security, and hope when there is a constant bombardment of information detailing the world's brokenness?

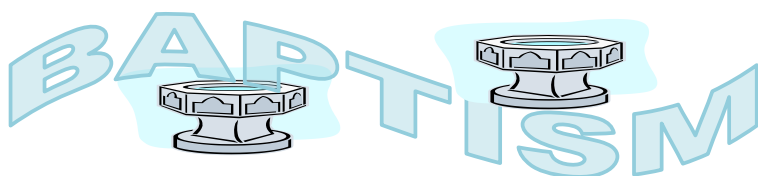
You might think that what I say next is something I "have" to say because I'm a pastor. However, in the context of the world, I'm just another married man with a family who is faced each and every day with life's hardships and struggles trying to make it through life. Yes, I'm a pastor, but I'm also a husband and father. And as I have grown older, and hopefully wiser...I have come to recognize that in this life, there is only one place where true stability, security, and hope reside. That place is "faith in Christ Jesus." Only in the Word do we learn that while our world is broken, in Christ we have the assurance that He will always be with us. Only in the Word are we told that no matter what happens in this life, there is hope that calms even the most torrential storms in our lives. Only in the Word are we given the stability needed in a very unstable world that Christ is our Rock, our ever-present help in times of need. Only in the Word are we provided the security of "true" life in a world that promises life through temporal means. You see, when bad things happen...I mean, really bad things...where are we going to turn? I don't know how Ms. Tibbetts' family endured the last 5 weeks of her disappearance. I would have been a wreck, I'm sure. Being surrounded by friends, family, and a plethora of others volunteering to help was certainly a God-send. At the same time, what is it they held onto to get them through the day to the next day and to the day after that?

What is going to get you and your children through the day to tomorrow and the next day? What foundation do you and your children stand on, especially in those moments that shake you and your children to the core? Former governor of Minnesota, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, said that Christians are weak minded

Continued on page 2

Happy Birthday!

Rodney Fischer	09/01
Roberta Reichert	09/01
Whitney Stuebs	09/02
Kyle Williams	09/03
Ragna Bezo	09/05
April Ehrlich	09/05
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/05
Ella Stewart	09/09
Nolan Ford	09/11
Janet Ehrlich	09/13
Dylan MacFarlane	09/16
Donna Fairchild	09/18
Teri Jo Ford	09/18
Phyllis Strickhouser	09/19
Reagan Strom	09/20
Taylee Stuebs	09/20
Joanne Williams	09/25
Judy Jahn	09/29



Rodney Fischer	09/01
Roberta Reichert	09/01
Ira Thiessen	09/01
Melissa Fairchild	09/08
Michael Fairchild	09/08
Emma Stewart	09/10
Chaylen Hildestad	09/16
Maren Green	09/26
Brayleigh Stuebs	09/27
Nolan Ford	09/28
Sophia Kessler	09/28
April Ehrlich	09/29

Happy Anniversary

Mike & Janet Ehrlich	09/14
John & Jenny Henderson	09/18
Dean & Roberta Reichert	09/18



individuals who need Jesus as a crutch to get them through life because they aren't strong enough to stand on their own two feet. While he meant that statement to be a harsh criticism of Christians, I have no problem accepting and owning what he said. He is right...I do need Jesus as a crutch. Better yet, I need Jesus to carry me because I am not strong enough to stand on my own two feet to make it through life. Only in Christ do I have the stability, security, and hope that sustains me from day to day. The foundation on which I stand is His Word that Martin Luther tells us is the manger that contains Christ Himself. This is the only place in all the world where true stability, security, and hope is found. This is why we need to be bringing our children to church and reading the Bible with them and praying together with them. Along these same lines, our children need to see you and me going to church and reading the Bible and praying to the Lord. They learn by watching us and seeing what we hold to be important. Nothing drives the devil down more than when he witnesses the children of God singing hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs to the Lord. Nothing fells the devil more than when the redeemed spend quiet time with Christ in His Word. Nothing drives the devil further away than when the priesthood of believers go to God in prayer asking for His forgiveness and apprehending Christ and His life and salvation.

Life is tough. You don't need me to remind you of that. But, God equips all of us with the armor of His Word...armor that we received in our Baptism. Being united to Christ, we are given the gift of stability because Christ is our unshakable Lord. Being united to Christ, we are given true security because Jesus promises that we are safely nestled in the palm of His Father's hand. Being united in Christ, we live with hope assured that no matter what happens to us this side of eternity, heaven is our home and one day we will live and reign with Him in His kingdom that has no end.

My fellow redeemed, I urge you to remain in the Word. Come at our Lord's gracious invitation to His table regularly. Spend time each day with the Lord in prayer. And though at times our knees may wobble, know that the One who is in us, Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, is greater than that pesky devil who is in the world. In Christ, we can stand firm...resolute...with the strength the Lord gives.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Kessler

Confirmation Instruction will begin on Wednesday, September 12th at 5:00 p.m. Students will receive their own personal copy of "Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation" along with a "30-Lesson Catechism Study" workbook. Students are required to bring these two books and a writing utensil to each class session. Parents are asked to attend the first class on the 12th as a course syllabus for the 2018-19 year will be handed out and reviewed. I look forward to seeing all of you on the 12th!

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Do you use Social Media? Did you know that Calvary Lutheran Church can be found online?

Calvary Lutheran Church has not only a web site <www.calvary-lutheran.com> but we also have a facebook page <Calvary Lutheran Church, Yuma AZ> and now we even have an Instagram account <calvarylutheranyuma>.

The world can search and find us in many ways beyond our local paper; you can Google us Calvary Lutheran Church or @calvarylutheranyuma or even #Calvarylutheranyuma.

We have likes on our fb (Facebook) page from all over the world. We have google reports showing many hits on people getting directions to locate us. I can't wait to see how our Instagram (IG) account reaches out to the world.

Our web site has sermons you can listen to and read the liturgy text for that Sunday. I have recently learned how to upload the Sunday sermon and liturgy text on fb, and am currently learning how to upload the Sunday sermon onto Instagram TV (IGTV) and trying to find a way to upload the liturgy text also.

This is a wonderful way to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection to the world.

So if you have not liked us on fb please check us out and like our page, the more likes our page has the more prominent Calvary Lutheran Church is to the world, like wise find and follow us on IG. Also, find us on Google, give us a review. The more reviews we have the more we stay at the top of the search.

Fry's: Do you have a Fry's shopping card? Did you know you can designate Calvary as your NPO (non-profit organization) on your card? Each quarter Fry's donates a % of all shopper's spending designated as Calvary to us. If you already have a card and an email it is fast and easy to do. Just register your card online if you have not done so, go to your account, click edit under community rewards and fill out the prompts Calvary's NPO# 94398.

Thrivent: The Thrivent Choice program gives eligible members of Thrivent Financial the power to recommend where some of the organization's charitable outreach funds are distributed annually, using a vehicle called Choice Dollars®. You can direct your choice dollars to Calvary Lutheran Church, we are a registered nonprofit with the Thrivent Choice program. You can contact Thrivent to find out how to designate your dollars.



Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, September 11, 2018 @ 6PM

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

2018 Contributions	
08/05/2018	\$4,799.00
08/12/2018	\$1,484.00
08/19/2018	\$1,582.00
08/26/2018	\$1,169.00
Office	\$1,095.52



Avg. \$ per week \$2,532.38

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

Year to date	\$102,217.40
Misc Income	4,060.19
Fund raiser	

Avg. \$ per week (35weeks) \$ 3,036.51

Short \$ per week \$ 386.78

2018 Contributions & Expenses AUGUST (UNRECONCILED)

GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$10,129.52
Misc Income	\$ 2,000.00
Expenses	<u>\$14,365.41</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 2,235.89-

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$102,217.40
Misc Income	\$ 4,060.19
Expenses	<u>\$112,613.46</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 6,335.87-

Parking Lot Fund

Fund Total as of March 31	\$20,069.27
Contributions	\$ 502.00
Aluminum Cans	<u>\$ 10.00</u>
Fund Total	\$20,581.27

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.

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
2 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	3	4	5	6 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	7	8 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
9 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	10	11 06:00 PM-Board meeting 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	12 05:00 PM-Confirmation	13 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	14	15 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
16 09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	17	18	19	20 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	21	22 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
23 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	24	25	26	27 10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	28	29 07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
30 09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School						