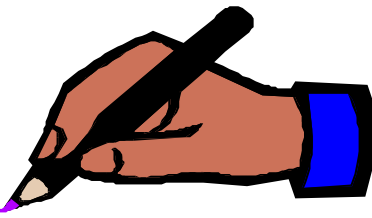


FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2018

Last week as my wife and I attended the funeral of our infant nephew, I couldn't help but think about what I would say if I were the pastor in that situation. It was somewhat uncomfortable for me in the church sitting in the pew next to my wife as I am so used to standing in the chancel leading the congregation in worship and standing in the pulpit proclaiming the Word of God. Driving out to the cemetery where the gaping earthen hole awaited its contents made me even more uneasy as I recalled the number of times I stood on that same acre of ground commending many of God's saints to their earthly graves. My mind was filled with memories of days gone by that were emotionally charged with deep sorrow as people gathered around the casket to say their good-byes. What words can be spoken to comfort a grieving mother and father when their 126 day old child is no longer with them? What words can be said to offer hope and peace when despair seems to be pressing so hard on an already broken heart? If I were the pastor to these people, what would I say to bring healing and relief to a pain so great it should kill?

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16) As Jesus spoke these words to His disciples, I'm sure they were still struggling with understanding God's will. Many, if not all, of them had witnessed the hardships of life and experienced the evils of this world with great consternation. People were coming to Jesus in droves to be healed of their afflictions; even some were raised from the dead. Witnessing these events surely impressed the disciples. But, did they really understand?

For you and me, the will of God is mostly hidden. According to Luther, God wills to break every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, as well as to strengthen and keep us firm in His Word and faith until we die. However, we don't know what God has planned for today. Meteorologists can 'predict' the weather, but it is not an exact science. Some might predict that it is going to rain only to witness the sun shining and no cloud in sight. Others might predict that it's going to be warm and sunny, yet outside it is cold, windy, and rainy. What may appear to be one way can change in an instant and we are left wondering why? The question 'why' plagues all of our minds, especially when something bad occurs that makes no sense to us. Why did a little child who hadn't even had a chance to make his mark on this world die? It makes no sense. What makes even less sense is when the doctors say that there was no medical reason for this little child to die. Even those who practice medicine are left asking 'why?'

As a pastor, it is during these times of asking 'why', I attempt to lead myself and others to what we do know. And, what do we know as children of God? We know that God is good and that His mercy lasts forever. We know that Jesus died, but that He didn't stay dead. We know Jesus rose and is alive, sitting at the right hand of His Father. We know that Jesus did all this for us. We know that Jesus' will is best. And, we know that Jesus works all things together for good.

What we don't know is the 'how' or the 'when' or the

'why' bad things happen the way they do. It doesn't make sense to us. But, that is when faith comes to the rescue, in a manner of speaking. We believe in God and we trust that He knows best and will work everything out for the good. Nothing so terrible ever happens apart from God's knowledge. A sparrow doesn't even fall to the ground apart from God knowing. God doesn't sit in the bleachers and watch as things happen. For God, there is nothing trivial or insignificant that happens in our lives...He is 100% invested in our lives...so much so, that He even knows how many (or few) hairs there are on our heads and how many times our heart has beat. You see, God is in control and He is working everything out for the good, including all of those things that just don't make sense to us, such as the death of a child.

Standing in the cemetery, there was an overwhelming sense of defeat as tears streaked down family members' cheeks. Breathing was laborious as a knot wrangled everyone at their core. But, then the words of victory as the confession the Christian makes became so clear. Before the open grave, with the lifeless body of this beloved child, we didn't ask, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55) While some might call us fools as the tears and broken hearts are proof of death's power and sting, we stood there resolute in our faith that our God does NOT let us die, but rather TAKES us to be with Him in heaven's paradise. We have faith and we know that this child is not dead, but is asleep in an earthen bed made by God and sanctified by His Son's death. We have faith and we know that this child, like Christ, will rise from the ground like a flower reaching for the sun in the day of resurrection.

The words of comfort and peace in the midst of the storm are Gospel promise that one day, the parents will once again not just see their child, but will hold, touch, kiss, play, and love their child forever in heaven. And, this is our eternal reality as well. We, too, shall one day behold the very face of Christ our Savior in heaven above. How do we know? We know this because God has promised. We know this because we have faith. We know this because Jesus lives.

As a pastor, it is these words that I would share. For only in such words of Gospel promise are the broken hearts mended and sorrow and mourning turned to joy. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." As Jennifer and I walked up to the tiny casket with tears in our eyes, there was one thing we could say for certain. "We will see you in heaven dear little one." To God be all the glory!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Michael Kessler

Happy Birthday!

Rhiannon Strom	10/01
John Wagner	10/03
Lexi Stuebs	10/04
Becky Ehrlich	10/08
Jaiden Williams	10/12
Elmer Vicary	10/21
Gaylyn Hildestad	10/22
William Morner	10/22
Cailynn Stuebs	10/22
Megan Ehrlich	10/23
Renee Libkie	10/27

BAPTISM

Jim Tyner	10/01
Kyle Williams	10/04
John Wagner	10/10
Teri Jo Ford	10/12
Charles Fraley	10/12
Kyle Reinertson	10/14
Rhiannon Strom	10/16
Reagan Strom	10/16
Taylee Stuebs	10/16
Donna Fairchild	10/18
Sue Gibson	10/20
Lexi Stuebs	10/21
Elmer Vicary	10/22
Penelope Backs	10/25
Mary Frances Atchley	10/28
Aja Backs	10/28
Whitney Stuebs	10/29
Elaine Green	10/30

Happy Anniversary

Robert & Donna Barton	10/04
Keith & Carolyn Macomber	10/08
Elmer & Karen Vicary	10/08
Derek & Iris Bezo	10/11
Albert & Carolyn Claude	10/16
Melvin & Carol Parker	10/19
Renee & Jeff Libkie	10/31



Recycle aluminum cans

Please continue to bring your cans in.

Confirmation Instruction for 7th and 8th Grade has started and meets in the Education Building on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend with their children. Please bring your Catechism, Catechism workbook, and a writing instrument. I look forward to seeing you there!

FROM THE MISSION BOARD

Movie afternoon is once again coming your way. We don't have a firm date yet but it will be sometime in October. We are narrowing the field on what will be shown. You are encouraged to bring a comfortable chair. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

Be on the lookout in the coming months as we will be providing you with opportunities to participate in some Christmas projects.

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](https://www.instagram.com/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. Janet recently learned how to upload the Sunday sermon and liturgy text on fb, and onto Instagram TV (IGTV) and is trying to find a way to upload the liturgy text on Instagram 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.

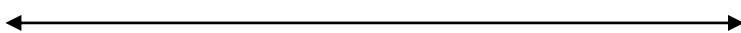
COUNCIL NOTE

Looking for an easy way to make your contributions especially if you are out of town?

There is a way to make your contributions through preauthorized withdrawals from a checking or savings account or even from your LCEF account to Calvary Lutheran Church.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has a free, automated transfer program, called JOYFUL RESPONSE, to help with planned ongoing stewardship. There is an authorization form to fill out to have funds transferred from your checking or savings or LCEF account to Calvary Lutheran Church's account with LCEF.

Calvary's treasurer can then deposit them into the Church's bank account. If you are interested, please call the treasurer, Johnnie Altstatt at (928) 210-3686.



As of October 1, 2018 our office secretary will be going to part time. This will allow the council to make a budget adjustment for 2019 and future budgets to aid in financial stability for Calvary Lutheran Church. Janet has procured full time employment else where, so this decision will not be a burden to either parties. The Pastor is working on an office hours schedule to be announced. In the mean time for non emergency calls we do have the answer machine and for emergencies you may call the Pastor's cell phone.

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# YM819.

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.

IRA Charitable Rollover: If you are 70.5 or older, there may be advantages to giving to Calvary Lutheran Church through your IRA. The IRA charitable rollover allows taxpayers age 70.5 or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a nonprofit without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Reports

Board Meetings & Council Tuesday, October 9, 2018 @ 6PM

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

2018 Contributions	
09/02/2018	\$3,576.00
09/09/2018	\$1,894.00
09/16/2018	\$2,598.00
09/23/2018	\$1,550.52
09/30/2018	???



Avg. \$ per week \$2,554.63
Contribution amount needed, per week is \$3,423.29 to meet current budget.

Year to date	\$112,470.92
Misc Income	4,060.19
Fund raiser	
Avg. \$ per week (35weeks)	\$ 2,987,398
Short \$ per week	\$ 435.31

2018 Contributions & Expenses SEPTEMBER (UNRECONCILED)	
GENERAL FUND	
Contributions	\$10,218.52
Misc Income	\$ 0.00
Expenses	<u>\$14,365.31</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 4,146.79-
YEAR TO DATE	
Contributions	\$112,470.92
Misc Income	\$ 4,060.19
Expenses	<u>\$126,978.77</u>
Excess/Loss	\$ 10,447.66-

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.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL
JUNE 12, 2018

PRESENT: Brian Atchley, Johnnie Altstatt, Larry Lee, Pastor Kessler, Janet Ehrlich, Bruce Fenske.

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM with an opening prayer by Pastor.

MINUTES: The minutes were reviewed. Bruce moved to accept. Motion was seconded and passed

TREASURER: Bruce moved to accept. Motion was seconded and passed.

PRESIDENT: Not present
VICE PRESIDENT: No report
SECRETARY: Not present
TREASURER: No report

PASTOR: Report presented. Martha Benzler's name was corrected. Pastor stated there will be some new members joining in the fall.

ELDERS: No report

MISSION BOARD: Not present

BOARD OF EDUCATION: No report

STEWARDSHIP BOARD: Recycled cans brought \$10.00. Pictures of the elders will be taken on Sunday. The large wall hanging of pictures will be updated with the latest pictures taken. Idea for fellowship is a progressive dinner.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Pat will be oiling the doors to the Church. Thermostats will be reset.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The suggestion of a security door for the office is being looked into.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Newsletter deadline is August 15th since the last newsletter was for the whole summer.

Pastor moved to adjourn the meeting. Janet seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 9, 2018

PRESENT- Pat Lamaestra, Bruce Fenske, Larry Lee, Debbie Lamaestra, Lisa Elam, Janet Ehrlich, Johnnie Altstatt, Brian Atchley

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Pat and an opening prayer from Bruce.

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

TREASURER- The report was reviewed. Bruce motioned to accept the report, Larry 2nd. The motion was passed with the correction of Foothills bank savings to \$10,454.03. Janet brought up that we should add a 3rd contribution line for other funds to show a more accurate view of contributions.

PRESIDENT- none
VICE PRESIDENT- none
SECRETARY- none
TREASURER- none

PASTOR- not present

ELDERS- They will hold ushers training on Nov. 17th. There was discussion about the oxygen tank and training to use it if needed. The last time it was checked was before Pastor Joynt. After discussion it was decided to leave the tank for emergency personnel as they have the proper equipment for it. They also discussed a portable defibrillator. That would fall under the security plan we are working on.

MISSION- The food drive is finished. They are also planning another movie night in the future.

EDUCATION- not present. The first Sunday after Labor Day will be Sunday school rally day.

STEWARDSHIP- no report

TRUSTEES- The sprinklers on the lawn are not working. They will be fixed. The issue with the garbage has been fixed. We can use our own cans. People also have to remember to turn the fans back to auto when they leave. The adult detention will again be training in the parish hall this fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- none

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER- Newsletter deadline is August 15th for the Sept newsletter. There was discussion on the newsletters we still mail.

Brian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Larry 2nd. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. and closed with The Lord's prayer.

October 2018

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6
		05:00 PM-Confirmation	10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
7	8	9	10	11	12
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	06:00 PM-Board meeting 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	05:00 PM-Confirmation	10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry	09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro
13	14	15	16	17	18
09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School				05:00 PM-Confirmation	10:00 AM-Bible Study 07:00 PM-AWC Campus Ministry
19	20	21	22	23	24
		09:00 AM-Matins Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School			05:00 PM-Confirmation
25	26	27	28	29	30
09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	09:00 AM-LWML Quilting	07:00 AM-Bible Study/ Goldsborro	09:00 AM-Communion Service 10:30 AM-Sunday School	06:00 PM-Board meeting 07:00 PM-Council Meeting	05:00 PM-Confirmation
31					
			REFORMATION 05:00 PM-Confirmation		