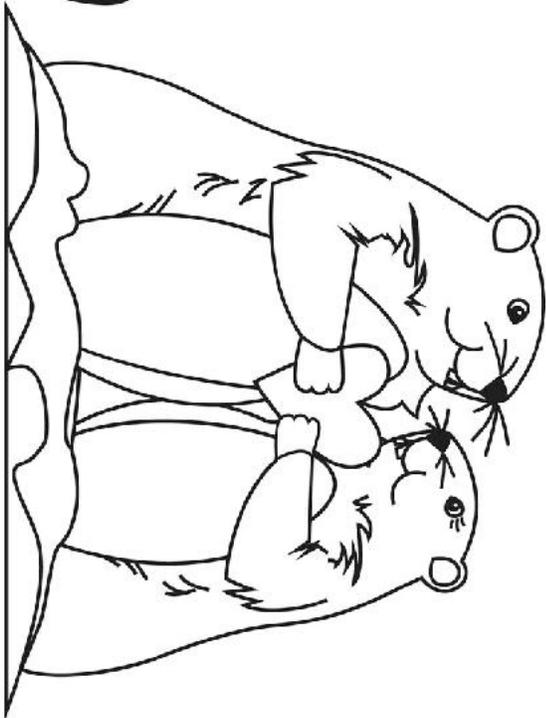


February



LANTERN

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church February 2017

From the Pastor

I confess to having had real difficulty sitting down and writing this article this month. I kept putting it off; hoping, I guess, to avoid the obvious. All around us is the news of the aftermath of the election along with all the other violent and crazy things that are going on in our world.

In the elections I have witnessed over the years, things always calmed down afterward. Not so this time. At least, not yet. In fact, things seem worse than ever.

So, as much as I don't want to address it, I finally realized that I was going to have to just be a big girl and do it. So here's what I want to say.

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ,
and him crucified.”

I Corinthians 2:2

Christ is still King! And he is still the center and hope of our existence. When asked whose side I'm on, I say, “Jesus' side! I'm with him!” As long as we put our trust and hope in him, we'll be okay. His is the true power, no matter what anyone tells you.

A second thing we can do is to listen openly to one another. Our High School class demonstrates a wonderful example of young people with different political views being comfortable enough, tolerant enough, and fond enough of one another that they can speak their minds safely and not be attacked. For them, at school, that's not the case. So why don't we adults follow their good example and, at least here in our church, be patient and kind with one another, and agree to disagree? I think Jesus would like that.

Finally, we can pray. Pray for our nation, for our leaders, for the process. Ours is a great country, and we are blessed to be citizens of it. Pray fervently for the country you love!

I pray your February is a blessed one, as we grow together in God's grace.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Janet





February 1- Chris Crawford, 3-Katie White, 5-Roger Murphy, 8-Roger Murphy, Nathan Sagraves, 12-Donald Gallagher, 13-Naomi Adams, Margaret Boss, Ken Gearhart, Margaret Planton, Evan James Weber, 14-Karen Lieske, Ann Thompson, Mary Webb, 15-Johanna French, Helen Mallow, 16-Judith Johnson, 18-Nora Beery, 20-Patrick Russell, Gabriel Weber, 22-Karla Hanson, 23-Shally Kutscher, Richard Senter, 25-Marla Weber, 26-Sharon Koch

WHO DOES WHAT

PastorJanet Hatch
pastor@calvarylutheranchillicothe.org

Music DirectorTess Snyder
arttessjewelry@gmail.com

Office Administrator.....Rachel Miller
Office Phone 740- 773-1044

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Calvary Lutheran Church

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council minutes will be included in the following Lantern. Thank you for your patience.

February Dates to Remember

February 2-Groundhog Day

February 4-Stan Planton Jr. Memorial Service 3:30PM

February 5,12,19,26-Inquirer's Class 9:30AM

February 7- First Tuesday Speaker Karla Hanson 7PM

February 9-Fellowship Meeting @the Pump House 12PM

February 10-11-Capital University Youth Retreat

February 12-Habitat for Humanity Chocolate Fantasy Fundraiser 12-3PM

February 13-WELCA Meeting @Michelson Home 7PM

February 14- Valentine's Day

February 20-Presidents' Day

February 23-Free Community Meal 5-6:30PM

February 25-Youth Event Video Game Night 7PM

February 26-Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday

February 28- Shrove Tuesday Details TBD

Looking ahead ... Ash Wednesday is Wednesday March 1st! Worship at 2PM and 7PM.

*Midweek Lent Worship Services in March: 8, 15, 22, 29;
12PM Worship 1PM Meal and 6PM Meal 7PM Worship.*

Look for additional details about seasonal worship activities and meals in future Sunday bulletin announcements.

FROM THE TREASURER

Thankfully, some financial ground was made up in December, but the month was not as strong as the prior two Decembers. The boost was essentially equivalent to an extra week's income. Highlights are as follows:

1. For the month, operating income of \$17,576 was \$2,188 more than expenses, but \$1,193 less than budget. Debt reduction receipts were \$2,070 above outflows. Total December giving of \$25,368 was \$4,258 more than need, but \$8,301 less than December 2015. Operating expenses for the month were \$1,521 less than budget, and total outflows were \$5,551 less than the same month a year ago. So, when comparing Dec 2016 to Dec 2015, both giving and expenses were down, but income declined more than expenses-a net decrease in performance of \$2,750 (\$4,258 surplus in 2016 vs \$7,008 in 2015).

2. Regarding calendar year-end 2016, the total deficit was \$17,846-- \$12,260 shortfall in operating and \$5,586 for debt reduction. Outflows for 2016 were only \$3,041 more than 2015-a pretty small variance considering increases we have experienced in insurance premiums (health and property) and other operating costs. When coupled with a giving decline of \$23,392, the church's financial position worsened \$26,434 over the past 12 months-moving from a surplus of \$7,008 at year-end 2015 to a deficit of \$17,847-more than 88% due to the giving decline.

We are definitely feeling the impact of an aging congregation, and must be thoughtful yet aggressive in dealing with this trend. However, we must also realize that the 2016 deficit is essentially the equivalent of a \$3 to \$4 per week per household giving increase-not insurmountable in the short term and also one in which a gradual increase in new faces on Sunday mornings can help. Both outreach and in-reach are valuable components to a better 2017, and we each must do our share, not only collectively, but as individuals. What is your personal action plan for doing God's work in 2017? He needs you to make a difference in the lives of others, which ultimately will lead to a more vibrant and active church!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gearhart
Treasurer



*It has already been an exciting year so far here at Calvary. We have enjoyed the mild winter and all of the great activities led by our devoted volunteers!

*In February during the Sunday School hour at 9:30am on the 5th, 12, 19, and 26th Pastor Janet will be leading an Inquirer's Class to help others learn all about the Lutheran faith and the history of Calvary. This is a great class for newcomers and a wonderful 'refresher' for long time members. Our whole mouse family will be listening in!

*The First Tuesday Speaker this month is Karla Hanson who will be presenting on the topic of Unlearning Stereotypes. How wonderful to learn ways to better understand our brothers and sisters in Christ from all varied backgrounds. First Tuesday is February 7th at 7PM and it is totally

free! We enjoy bringing our mice neighbors to learn new things.

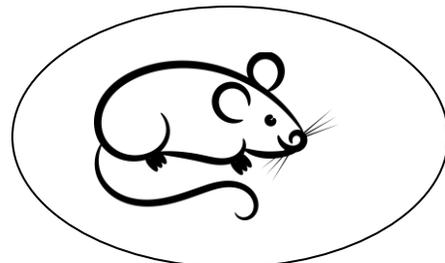
*Melody Knoles and the many other dedicated volunteers on our Fellowship Team are meeting at the Pump House in Yoctangee Park on February 9th at 12PM to plan more exciting events for Calvary. More participation and help is always welcome!

*Our new Youth program at Calvary has some great events ahead this month, including a Capital University Youth Retreat February 10th-11th and a Video Game night on February 25th. The micelettes are so excited to see all this new programming! If you have questions or would like to RSVP for future youth events, contact Bob Austin.

* Save the date! The Fellowship Team is hard at work planning Shrove Tuesday on February 28th. More details to follow. Us mice will all be there!

* Lent is just around the corner! Look for future bulletin announcements about all of the great events and worship taking place here at Calvary.

*God bless you, see you there!





To Calvary Lutheran Church,

Thank you all for the wonderful get well cards, caring thoughts, and prayers you have sent me!

Sincerely, Pat Tomko

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your prayers for me. I miss Calvary and all of you. Thanks for the greeting cards and notes. I'm doing well and enjoying life. I'm now back where my life began (in Ashland Ohio) ninety years ago.

-Helen Markley

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Souper Bowl celebration on January 21st. There are too many folks to thank individually, but please know that all efforts and contributions made a difference and are greatly appreciated. Thank you to our cooks, our clean up helpers, the Facility Team, our attendees, everyone who donated soup for our soup drive, and everyone who donated prizes. The generosity of the Calvary congregation is evident in all of the wonderful prizes and food that was donated to benefit our brothers and sisters in need. Food donations and a portion of the proceeds from the event will be given to Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Your continued support and volunteer efforts make the Fellowship events at Calvary possible. Thank you from the Fellowship Team and from everyone here at Calvary!

In Christian *Sympathy*

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Donna Ebert and Stan Planton Jr., who have joined the Saints in Light. May God comfort them in their loss, and ease their hearts with hope in Christ's promises of resurrection and reunion.



Scioto Valley Habitat for Humanity Annual Chocolate Fantasy Fundraiser

Scioto Valley Habitat for Humanity will be hosting the 24th Annual Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser on Sunday February 12, 2017 at St. Mary's Family Life Center, 40 East Fourth Street, Chillicothe from 12PM-3PM. The tickets are \$6 for 4 luscious servings of chocolate desserts.

We would like to invite your congregation to participate in the event by providing chocolate desserts-cakes, pies, candies. We need 2,200 individual servings to be sure to have enough for the 500+ chocolate lovers who attend each year. All help and donations are appreciated!



The desserts need to be at St. Mary's Family Life center by 12PM Sunday on February 12, or between 12-3PM on Saturday February 11th. Desserts that will keep for 3 to 4 days may be dropped off at the Habitat for Humanity office at 171 E. 5th Street on Wednesday February 8 from 1-5PM. If you need to arrange for pick of your donations, please call the Habitat

for Humanity office at 740-779-9734 and leave a message.

Your support is very much appreciated. Our fundraisers through the year are an important part of raising the funds needed to build simple, decent, affordable homes for families in need in Pickaway and Ross Counties. Anything you can do to help with this year's Chocolate Fantasy fundraiser is appreciated. We hope to see you there, and God bless!

TEAM LEADERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR FREE COMMUNITY MEALS.
Each team leader assembles their own volunteer team to help with the meal. Previous team leads are happy to train anyone who is interested. This is a great volunteer opportunity for a family, club, Scout group, etc. A sign-up is on the bulletin board. Questions, contact one of our facilitators below.

Our next Free Community Meal is scheduled for Thursday February 23rd, 2017, from 5:00PM-6:30PM.

*This program is being supported, in part, through a grant from the ELCA (World Hunger) Domestic Hunger Grants Program. **More help is always welcome and appreciated!** All are welcome! Contact one of the facilitators below for more information about becoming involved.*

Facilitators: Pastor Hatch 740-773-1044, Jeff Webb 740-253-3558, The Segelhorst Family 740-775-5115

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLANNED YOUTH ACTIVITIES
2017**

Our next Youth Event:

Friday and Saturday, 02/10-11/2017

Capital University Retreat, led by Chris and Tanya Murphy. The theme is "Made to be Transformed". It's an exploration of society's expectations of us and the pressure to conform. See link: <http://www.capital.edu/Religious-Life/>. The weekend starts Friday at 7:30 p.m. and ends Saturday late afternoon. Admission is \$45. Church will offset some cost. For grades 9-12. Sign-up by end of January. RSVP to Chris and Tanya Murphy or Bob Austin.

Saturday, 02/25/2017, 7:00 p.m.

Video Game Night, Bring games to share, led by Bob Austin.

Look for additional details/specifics about these exciting events in future announcements as these events occur. Questions? Contact Bob Austin
Phone # 740-703-4646

COOKIES ARE NEEDED FOR CHURCH COFFEE HOUR

Store bought or home baked treats are needed for the church coffee hour. Please leave any donations in the upstairs church kitchen labeled "coffee hour". Thank you for your contribution to church hospitality!

SEVERE WEATHER OFFICE CLOSINGS

While every reasonable effort will be made to maintain regular office hours during the Winter months, severe inclement weather may force unscheduled office closings. We appreciate your patience in the interest of the safety of our staff. Please feel free to contact the office by phone (740) 773-1044 prior to making the trip to town.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

As of Monday February 13th, 2017 the Office Administrator (Rachel) will be working new office hours. They are: Monday through Thursday, 8AM-2PM. Questions? Contact the church office at: (740) 773-1044 or by email at CalvarySec@horzionview.net.

LECTORS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Lectors (lay readers) are needed for upcoming Sunday worship. This is a great way to participate in worship as well as polish your public speaking skills. Lectors are provided readings through the mail prior to Sunday with plenty of time to practice or answer any questions. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions please contact Linda Mohr at: Mohr_gary2000@yahoo.com

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Pastor Janet will teach an Inquirer's Class during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 in the Library (Briggs/Educational building) during February (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th). All those who would like to learn more about the Christian faith, the Lutheran Church, and about Calvary in particular are invited to attend. Members who would like a "refresher course" as well as those who are just curious and would like to know more about this subject are all welcome.

THE FEBRUARY WELCA MEETING will be at the home of Jean Michelson at 7pm on Monday February 13th. Everyone should bring a Valentine to share with another person. If you need a ride, have questions, or are willing to drive others, please contact Karla Hanson, 740-701-2683 or khanson22@live.com.

NEW WELCA SERVICE PROJECT

WELCA has adopted the Children's Clothing Bank as our outreach project for 2017. We are collecting NEW socks and underwear, all sizes. Everyone is welcome to donate. There is a collection box in the rear hallway. Your contributions are appreciated!

OUTREACH TO DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

We will be starting the cookie deliveries to downtown businesses once again in 2017. If you are interested in helping bake or deliver cookies, please contact Jim or Brenda Segelhorst at 740-775-5115. The team will visit 6 businesses in our downtown area each month. This outreach is intended to grow our ministry and share a friendly thank you with our downtown neighbors in Chillicothe. More participation and help is always welcome!

STARTING IN FEBRUARY, ANNUAL CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

It's that time of year again! In February we will begin the annual update of our church directory contact information. A display with forms will be in the Narthex in the month of February for Calvary friends and family to complete a form in order to update their contact information. We appreciate knowing the best way to reach you in order to share all the great news about what's happening at Calvary! Look for additional details in upcoming announcements.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER FEBRUARY 28

Calvary will be having a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, **February 28 details TBD** in the Fellowship Hall. The menu will be 'all the pancakes' you can eat plus other delicious side dishes. Council will determine where the funds from this event will be used. Come, enjoy fellowship, bring your friends! Look for updates in future announcements.