



Pastor's Thoughts

A NEW SEASON

Greetings! For the first time in more than 65 years, September has arrived at Calvary Lutheran without a school of our own. In much the same manner as a married couple who have 'launched' their last child off into the world, we are faced with the "What now" question.

When I arrived at Calvary, almost 5 years ago now, I was told "Don't worry about the school, it is fine. Focus on the Church." Unfortunately, the school was not fine, and despite everyone's best efforts, it could not be kept open. The school took an ever expanding amount of time, effort and finances that absorbed time to focus on mission, ministry, and anything else.

The opening analogy of an empty nest couple is actually very appropriate! Many marriages struggle to return to their "first love" (Rev. 2:4) after having been so focused on raising the children.

Calvary Lutheran School was a wonderful ministry that touched many lives! At the Zucchini Festival last weekend, I had former Calvary students come up and share their fond memories of the school, its teachers, and the foundations of faith it had given them. So, having now 'closed the door' and shed our tears, we are faced with the "What now" question.

Thanks be to God that we have a God Who gives us new blessings and opportunities every day! Calvary Lutheran Church now can focus on building up, reaching out, and bringing in, without the 'kids!' How do we do this? By passionately embracing our first love, the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Embracing it through prayer, study, application, and outreach.

To be people of the Word, we must be people in the Word and in conversation with our Father. We have been promoting our upcoming Sunday morning Bible studies in the bulletin. I would urge you to pick one and grow in your knowledge of God.

I would also like to set up a Prayer Room in the former Principal's office. After I had suggested this, I heard from many that Calvary used to have a Prayer Room. Our people, our community, our Church, and our nation are in desperate need of prayer! We will put resources in the room for people to utilize, along with prayer lists.

We are renewing our Youth Group with Fernando Ramos as leader! This group will be for 5th grade and up. They will be meeting on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday's of each month. We are going to invite the other two churches that meet at Calvary to send their youth as well. Perhaps we can have some cross-pollination.

I also would like to establish Wednesday Evenings as Church Nights! Where we can gather for study, games, service, and fellowship. This will dovetail nicely with our Advent and Lenten seasons.

We need to reach out to our community to let them know that we are still here and that we care for them! This is one of the reasons I am excited about the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebration! We can have a community picnic and tell people what the Reformation was all about! Bringing Jesus back to the people! We still need a volunteer coordinator for this.

Finally, I am excited to have the time to begin visiting every home in our parish! Please think of a day or evening that will work when I call! I hope to visit two households per week.

I had the opportunity to pen Lea's Christian School year with prayer this past Tuesday. It was wonderful to see the faces of the young people, while not having the ultimate concern for every aspect of the school. Kind of like having grandchildren visit, after the kids have moved out. A NEW SEASON! A new opportunity to reach and grow!

Pastor

September Birthdays

9 Steve Ellis
20 Maria Mitchell
22 Lyle Kreger
24 Gisela Binder
27 Carole Adams & Annie Ellis

September Anniversaries

9/4/65 Harvard & Barbara Goldhammer
9/25/82 Pastor & Pam Smith

Pease let us know if we missed your dates



Secret Sisters Breakfast
Sunday, September 10th
at 11:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events



September 17th - Wells Family Send-off

Join us for Cake & Coffee after worship to wish the Well's family well as David begins his deployment.



Marriage Encounter Weekend!

Married Couples - **Refresh, Re-energize, Reconnect** on a *Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend!* Give your spouse the gift of your time and attention away from your daily routine.

When: October 13-15, 2017

Where: Holiday Inn in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Contact: Pastor Ted & Marty Hartman - tnmheart@gmail.com / [530-333-4628](tel:530-333-4628)

[Click here](#) for more info and an application.

Hurry! Weekends fill fast and pre-registration is required by September 13.