

# redeemer



a newsletter for and about the people of  
**lutheran church of our redeemer**

# record

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## pastor's message

In a recent sermon I quoted an article titled "Calvary Love" that is part of an anthology, *Bread and Wine* (Plough Publishing House, Farmington, PA 2003). Several people mentioned to me that they found the quote to be quite profound and provocative. The article was written some time ago by Anglican author, Amy Carmichael, who lived from 1867 to 1951. In addition to being a writer, Carmichael was a missionary to India. The article contains Carmichael's thoughts on the laying down quality of love to which Christians are called. She refers to this as "Calvary Love" and proposes that:

- If I belittle those who I am called to serve, pointing out their weak points in contrast with what I think of as my virtues, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.
- If I can enjoy a joke (ethnic or otherwise) at the expense of another,
- If I accept to slight another in conversation, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.
- If my attitudes be those of fear and not faith,
- If I am afraid to speak the truth, lest I lose affection, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.
- If I take offense easily,
- If I am content to harbor a hurt although friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.
- If I cannot in honest happiness take the second place of the twentieth,
- If I cannot accept the first place without making a fuss about my unworthiness, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.
- If I allow injustice to be perpetuated and say nothing,
- If I permit wars to be plotted and do nothing,
- If I see violence or the oppression of another as a possible solution to conflict, then I know nothing of Calvary Love.

What Amy Carmichael was writing about was the love of Jesus Christ – a love that is willing to lay down the self in the service of others. **This is the love that has transforming power; this is the love we have known in Jesus. This is the love to which each of us is called.**

All praises to God,  
Leigh Pezet, Pastor