



# Mount Calvary Connected January 14, 2021

*Mount Calvary Connected is a weekly newsletter that will be sent out each Wednesday while the church is pressing "pause" on in-person gatherings. Our goal is to keep you connected to your faith and your church with messages from our pastors, health information, and ways to share Christ's love during our current national crisis.*

**Pastor Scott Klimke**

Cell-Phone: 570-367-3421

Email: [sklimke6@gmail.com](mailto:sklimke6@gmail.com)**Pastor Jonathan Adams**

Cell-Phone: 412-817-6704

Email: [revjonoadams@gmail.com](mailto:revjonoadams@gmail.com)**A Message from Pastor Scott,**

This week, in keeping with our internal governance standards, we publicly release the names of those who some of your congregational representatives have nominated for service on the church council. Other nominations can be received up until about a week before our annual meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. If and when additional nominations are received, they will be reviewed by the same congregational representatives responsible for the first set of nominations. If their review finds no issues related to basic patterns of church participation and/or Christian conduct, the names of additional nominees will be published no later than seven days before the annual meeting. Once the final list of nominees is posted at least one week before the annual meeting, nominations will be closed.

Following this introduction, you will find a picture and biographic information on the five individuals who representatives of the church as a whole have nominated for service on the congregational council. As was also the case last year, nominees were identified by the Mutual Ministry Committee, outgoing council persons whose constitutional ability to serve had expired, and myself. The process started with a list of nearly sixty candidates, from which a smaller list of initial candidates was created. I then approached this smaller list of candidates individually when it was possible. This year the presence of COVID-19 in particular households made connection with everyone impossible. In the end, I spoke with eight different candidates. Five of them agreed to serve, two remained open to the idea if other nominees were not found, and one declined. The degree to which people were open to service speaks quite a positive word about the health of our shared ministry at this time. In less healthy congregations, trying to secure nominations for council can often be like pulling teeth, with the nominating process taking up until the very last minute.

As nominees were identified and approached, every effort was made to keep our council representative of the congregation as a whole. When I began at Mount Calvary, there were seven related individuals on council. With fewer people perhaps willing to serve at the time, this may have been a matter of necessity rather than of design. But to have such an unbalanced and unrepresentative council was not good; particularly with Mount Calvary one of the largest congregations in our bishop's region.

Over time we have brought greater balance and representation to the council. Our last council had exactly six men and six women, with new members, old-time members, and those falling in between just about evenly represented. In a congregation where sixty percent of the active membership has been around for a decade or less this is exactly what you want. It's also what our Lord wants. On the day of his resurrection Jesus made it abundantly clear that he wanted everyone involved in his Church (Matthew 28:16-20). When the Spirit descended on the first Pentecost, St. Peter preached that there was a place for all people in God's plan and purpose (Acts 2:17-21, 39). Later, St. Paul would point out churches are the sum of their members; with absolutely everyone having spiritual gifts able to serve the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7). Still later, on the basis of passages like 1 Peter 2:5, Martin Luther would describe the Church as a priesthood of all believers.

As society squabbles and divides into hostile camps all around us these days, it is imperative that we not fall prey to the exclusion and division practiced by so many. It's why all the congregation's candidates for

service on the council are female this year. In a bit of an unusual quirk, the five spots that needed to be filled were all previously occupied by women. Additionally, the five new women who have been nominated for service on the council continue our important effort to ensure no particular era of initial church membership is underrepresented or overrepresented. Wanting, like you, to do it the Lord's way rather than the world's way, I cannot state enough that it is a real positive that our congregation is able to do this.

In closing, I wanted to thank everyone for the holiday cards and gifts which were waiting for me at the office or in my mailbox at home. When I left the first congregation I served after seminary nearly twelve years ago, someone gave me a memory box. It has long been overstuffed and it became even more so this year. Being church is a team sport and your encouragement is very much appreciated. Like the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, I am surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses thanks to your thoughtfulness. Your witness cheers me on more than you will ever know. Thank you!

Pastor Scott

---

### LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Mt. Calvary hosts live broadcasts of the liturgy at 8:45 AM Sunday mornings. The broadcast can be heard by tuning your radio to 88.3 FM if you are near the church. We can also stream the service live over the internet.

By clicking the following link, you can gain access to the live stream audio. <https://streams.radiomast.io/96172026-6cba-407b-9090-e150b471ae0e>

Weekly worship bulletins can be found at: [www.rebrand.ly/MtCalvaryWorship](http://www.rebrand.ly/MtCalvaryWorship)

---

### Annual Congregation Meeting

Annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 7**, approximately 10:00 AM. If you plan to attend, please be at the church by 9:45 AM.

---

### Backyard Ministries Cookie Collection

Each week, Backyard Ministries usually has a small pack of cookies to give to each family they visit at the Coopersdale Homes. These cookies were made by other churches in the area. However, due to social distancing they have not been gathering to bake. They are asking Mt. Calvary to donate 200 packs of cookies (store bought is ok, if they are not individually wrapped packs, they can be 5 in a zip lock bag) a month for them to deliver. The first pickup being on **February 4** and then continuing on the **first and third Thursday of each month**. Cookies can be placed in the bin outside the church, or the labeled one inside. If you have any questions please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you for your continued support!

---

### Flower Chart

The flower chart is in the narthex. Cost of the flowers have gone up to \$50.00 this year. The price includes the flowers and delivery.

---

### Year-Round Giving Tree

There will be a new Giving Tree in the narthex that will be up for all of 2021. Each month a different group/organization will be selected to receive the donations from the tree. For January, all proceeds will go to Pro Papa Missions to help the country of Honduras which has been hit hard by hurricanes and COVID-19. On the tree you will find an envelope attached to a handmade face mask. The suggested price on the envelope is \$3, however, any amount will be accepted. Envelopes can be returned to the collection plate or dropped off at the church office. Thank you!

## About Our Members:

**Brent Williams's brother and Mark Williams's uncle**, Alan Williams passed away on Jan. 3, 2021

**Hulda Horner** has passed away on Monday, January 4, 2021.

**Patti Sliko**, please pray for her, health issues have recurred.

Reminder to please pray for our members and their families that are affected by COVID 19.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week Jan 10 - Jan. 24.

**Jan. 10** - Samantha Eash, Clarissa Hill, Samantha Hill, Karen Kennedy, Robert Loftis

**Jan. 11** - Emylee Brandau, Rachael Wolfhope

**Jan. 12** - Julieanna Brown, Laiken Cassidy, Pat Guinta, Vicki Karnes, Ally Waterhouse

**Jan. 13** - Holly Cowfer, Sean Horn, Lori Leonardis

**Jan. 14** - Marcie Kovalsky

**Jan. 16** - Susan Glessner, James Huerth, Sandy Shumaker

**Jan. 17** - Kaitlyn Brown, Christina Cononie, Julie Rickley

**Jan. 18** - Paul Cunningham

**Jan. 19** - Dorothy Bell, Judith Frombach, Jeremy Intihar, Gloria Reed

**Jan. 20** - Natalie Berkebile, Dave Hunter, Stephanie Kuyat, Jack Weisbrodt

**Jan. 21** - Rodger Thomas, Brian Wechtenhiser

**Jan. 22** - Preston, Lamoreux, Johnny Nerone, Jeffery Nider, April Selepack

**Jan. 23** - Carly Colvin, Emily Horn, Ronald Wilson

**Jan. 24** - Amy Mattes, Sharon Spinazzola

## Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Dolly & Chis Palm, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Brooke, Bob Zahorak, Jerry, Rick, Harold and family, McQuaide family, Cindy Solarczyk, Patti Sliko, Bruce and Carol, Julie, Joel, Andy, Adam, Linda & Dick, Jamie, Don, Joanne, Shirley, Chris, Tracy, and Flanagan Family.

## Support of Mount Calvary

Through the end of November, Mount Calvary's monthly expenses have been averaging about \$17,685. This is in the neighborhood of \$4,225 a month less than budgeted. Thanks to your generosity and the faithfulness of your leadership team, Mount Calvary has not yet had to dip into reserves in spite of all the disruption introduced by the pandemic. We're a team and the entire team deserves a thank you! Now all that's left to do this year is to top things off with another strong and robust December as we have done for many years running.

## CONDENSED WORSHIP FOR THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, creator of light and all goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Bathe us in your grace, transform us by your Spirit, and make us followers of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

### FIRST READING: GENESIS 1:1-5

*Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **SECOND READING: ACTS 19:1-7**

*In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John’s baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup>Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

## **GOSPEL: MARK 1:4-11**

*Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## **SERMON BY PASTOR SCOTT**

“It was the best of times and the worst of times.” It’s been my summary of how life has been for us here at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in recent months. It’s been the best of times and the worst of times. To be sure, this can only go so far. When we stand back from our own small corner of the universe, it’s hard to say the pluses and the minuses have been showing up in equal measure. 1.9 million virus-related deaths in a year, violence in our streets this summer and violence in the halls of Congress this year—these sorts of big picture developments make it hard to say that progress and regression have lately been locked up in some sort of tie. But, in my own small, small corner of the universe, these have been the best of times and the worst of times. There have been unique accomplishments I’ll always remember, along with plenty of fatigue related to widespread death and division.

Now up until quite recently, I knew I was channeling someone else with my talk of the best of times and the worst of times, but I didn’t know who. Here’s how that changed. After reviewing today’s collection of scriptures, I said to myself, “This is a tale of two baptisms.” Pretty quickly I realized I was channeling Charles

Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*; only to learn it's this novel which begins by saying, "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." One mystery solved, I guess. But what about the observation that today's appointed scriptures are a tale of two baptisms; a kind of prequel to Charles Dickens' much later tale of two cities?

In justifying the use of that language, let me point out the writers of the New Testament had a conundrum on their hands. They had to somehow reconcile Jesus with his predecessor John the Baptist. John the Baptist loomed so large, he was a figure of such import, that he couldn't be brushed aside. He and his preaching, he and his baptismal ministry out at the Jordan River, had to be reconciled with Jesus' later preaching and teaching; including Christ's Easter day command that all nations be baptized in the name of the Triune God. Today's readings from Acts and Mark both try to advance this kind of synthesis. In these scriptures, we've got a tale of two baptisms; a tale of two baptisms both ordained by God which are both similar and dissimilar.

As to the similarities, both baptisms are rites of ritual purification. The basic idea is that God is holy and pure and we are not. Being sinful and impure, we have to be prepared and purified for community with God. In Judaism and its many, different offshoots, the idea that we need to be prepared and purified for community with God is commonplace. Sometimes blood does the trick. Sometimes fire does the trick. And sometimes water does the trick, as in the two baptisms our appointed readings do their best to describe.

I think of how nearly a year ago Julia and I visited the ruins of ancient Qumran in Israel. Known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, an important collection of ancient scriptures was found there just after World War II. Along with these scriptures, Qumran was the place a group of ancient Jewish separatists called the Essenes lived. The Essenes thought the religion of their time had gone south so they established their own religious community out in the desert by the Dead Sea. Still today there's evidence of the ritual baths the Essenes built and regularly used. These baths functioned like John the Baptist's bath at the Jordan River, the baptism instituted by Jesus, and the ritual bath known as the mikvah still used in observant Jewish circles today. What these baptisms have in common is the notion that sometimes the relationship between God and humankind needs to be renewed and reset. In their mutual use of baptism, we learn that both Jesus and John were preachers of repentance; calling us to be preachers and teachers of repentance ourselves.

I don't know about you, but I think there's a great need for repentance right now. We live at a time where people of competing political perspectives are both making excuses for violent protest. There is no excuse for violent protest. Instead of continuing to make excuses, we need to relearn how to say, "I was wrong and I'm sorry." When we repent, we call a spade, a spade, even if it comes at some kind of personal cost or embarrassment, and this is sorely needed today as even the most passing review of social media posted since the storming of the Capitol makes clear. But when we repent, we don't just say, "I was wrong and I'm sorry." We also commit ourselves to turning to God for answers rather than turning to a sinful and broken world for more of its predictably sinful and broken answers. This too is quite needful today.

It's hard to believe but it's been a little over eight years since military-grade weapons were used to slaughter twenty children and six teachers in Newtown, Connecticut. It's even harder to think of all the similar massacres which have taken place since with nothing, absolutely nothing, being done to make schools and churches and other places of public gathering safer. This is a national embarrassment on the order of so many other national embarrassments we've been asked to endure. The practice of repentance, the practice of turning back to God for answers, would change all of this in a hurry. In God's word, you will not find the slightest justification for the all too familiar idea that my rights are under all conditions more important than the health and wellbeing of my neighbors and the community at large. I would challenge anyone who says or thinks otherwise to use the Bible, and not just one verse here or there, to make their point. It can't be done. Jesus had a right to the glories of heaven. He gave it up to be born in a barn and to die on a cross for you and me and commanded us to love each other similarly. This is Christianity at its ethical essence and it applies to a whole lot more than keeping schools, churches, and other places of public gathering safe. It's just one measure of how we need to repent; need to reexamine ourselves and the issues objectively and honestly; need to turn to God's word rather than world's word for answers. And it's precisely here in our need for

ongoing repentance and reformation that the primary difference between the baptism of John and the baptism of Jesus comes to the fore.

Unlike the baptism of John, the baptism of Jesus confers the Holy Spirit. This is an important addition. As our reading from Genesis makes clear, God wants light and life where there is darkness and order where there is disorder. And it's here where the Holy Spirit comes in. More often than not, the Holy Spirit we receive at baptism is the One who brings God's ongoing desire for light, life, and order to fruition. Just think about what Jesus went on to do after he received the Holy Spirit in today's reading from Mark. As the appointed scriptures in forthcoming weeks will remind us, after his baptism, the Spirit leads Jesus to overcome temptation, to heal, to cast out demons, to teach with authority, and to call those around him to higher pursuits and priorities. This is what the Holy Spirit we receive through baptism does. Through us and others, the Spirit makes good on God's desire for light, life, and order.

It's the Spirit who leads us to reverence all that God has made; including our enemies and those we don't know the slightest thing about. It's the Spirit who steers us towards repentance or resistance depending upon what the circumstances require. And it's the Holy Spirit who equips us for our individual purpose in life and enables us to trust that what isn't ours to handle will be capably handled by those whose purpose in life is different from our own. Put this altogether and it becomes pretty clear that the Holy Spirit we receive thanks to the baptism of Jesus is just what the doctor ordered both now and later. And so, in these moments and those that follow, let's lean on the Spirit we receive at baptism; the Spirit who inspired the scriptures to be written; the Spirit who blesses us with faith, hope, and love; the Spirit who led John the Baptist to do what he was called to do and will lead us to do our own, individual part over time and as needs change and evolve. For the end result both now and later shall be that as we learn on the Spirit, we'll get just what we need to carry on faithfully; doing it God's way and not the broken and sinful way of a world in need of repentance. Amen!

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

P: For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray. **A: Have mercy, O God.**

P: For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

**A:**

**Have mercy, O God.**

P: For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray. **A: Have mercy, O God.**

P: For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer (especially), that God shower compassion, let us pray. **A: Have mercy, O God.**

P: For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray. **A: Have mercy, O God.**

P: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors, that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray. **A: Have mercy, O God.**

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **A: Amen.**

## **COUNCIL NOMINEES**

### **Noelle Berkey (Would be serving second, full term)**



I started attending in 2012 but didn't really get involved until about 2014. With the arrival of Pastor Scott, I was invited to become more active. I was baptized as an infant in a Lutheran church and attended there until junior high when my family left for a Brethren church. I have fond memories of Luther League and other activities at that church. I really felt at home there. Prior to coming to Mount Calvary, I was involved with a United Methodist congregation where I was involved with VBS and Sunday School leadership as well as serving as secretary on the executive committee. I felt a need to return to the Lutheran church and its discipline and structure. I once again feel like I am where I need to be. During the time that I was looking for a church, what stuck out to me was whether the members of the congregation welcomed or even acknowledged visitors. Sadly, some did not. I am happy to say we do not have that issue here.

I have an MS in Organizational Leadership and a BS in Business Administration. In addition to my serving as secretary on an executive board, I am an active volunteer for the National Park Service, past VP of the Windber Area School District Band Boosters, past committee member for the West Penn Trail Council, and past Vice Chairperson for Friends of the National Flood Memorial. I led the committee that organized the recent pictorial directory. During my professional career I have headed committees on process and quality improvement, reorganized programs, provided staff oversight and conducted analyses.

With respect to Mount Calvary's current ministry, I am invested in our mission of inviting all generations; of being inclusive; of being open to new ideas and ways of doing things. I believe that we are accomplishing more of this and as a result are seeing growth. Going forward, I would like to see more unity and cohesiveness. We are a church with many different people that have something to contribute for the greater good. The church is for all of us. I would like to see more inclusion of those on the margins--singles of all ages, people whose significant other does not attend church, working adults, etc. We have a number of people that meet at least one of the above criteria yet there didn't seem to be much activity before Covid-19.

### **Joan Hunter (Would be serving first, full term)**



Dave and I attended Mt. Calvary for the 1st time in February 2019. We hold the church near and dear to our hearts because our son attended the Learning Center for about 10 years, starting in the 90's. During those years, he was invited and attended the church's VBS every summer. We will always have great memories of Jack running around the basement, the gym and the outside yard, and of many stories he shared of Mrs. Reed teaching bible stories. Mt. Calvary will always be a special place to us, which is why we picked it first when looking for a church to call "home." I joined the music ministry the same week we joined the church I also take turns as a greeter with Dave, volunteer to be a reader and worship assistant, and participate in WELCA and Altar Guild activities. Before the pandemic hit, I somehow also got invited to join the group to stuff and prepare the monthly newsletter when we were sending that out. I also help, when needed, in the kitchen or bake/cook as requested for Lenten Luncheons, socials, etc.

Professionally, I retired in April, 2019 after 35+ years as the Human Resources Director at the Tribune-Democrat/Johnstown Magazine. I have a Bachelor's degree in what was then called "Special Education," (not so politically correct anymore), and went on to earn a Master's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations, with an emphasis in Human Resources Management. My professional life was spent working in a union and non-union environment, and for many years, before the newspaper was sold to the current owners, I handled everything from hiring to retirement, orientation/discipline/terminations, employee benefits, policies/procedures, safety and OSHA compliance, the pension plans, and labor relations matters. I also taught Human Resources Management for about 10 years at Penn Highlands Community College when it first opened and was called something different—so it's very much ancient history now!

As far as other roles that involved "engagement with the public," my early career involved several years with the American Red Cross Blood Region, where I served as a donor consultant organizing blood drives and doing speaking engagements in schools, for community groups, etc., educating the public on the need to donate blood. I also was employed, very briefly, as a rep for a pharmaceutical company, traveling around a territory which covered a large part of western Pennsylvania.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> time we visited Mt. Calvary, we immediately felt welcome and accepted. We were impressed by how many people asked who we were and talked to us. And...we're still stunned that Pastor Scott asked who we were at the communion rail, remembered our names after the service, AND called us by name when we walked back in the church the next week! More importantly, it was clear to us from the minute we stepped foot inside that EVERYTHING going on at Mt. Calvary is being done in service to God, and to spread and share the message of Jesus Christ. That is definitely obvious, and a very, very good thing.

I hope my service on the church council moves the organization further forward into the 21st century. I strongly believe steps the pandemic forced us to take, like the use of technology, email and the updated website are necessary if we are to grow and attract new, younger members, particularly families.

### **Christine Koshute (Would be serving first, full term)**



I have been attending Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, with my husband, since 2017. Jim and I come from different Christian backgrounds, He was Byzantine Catholic and I was Methodist; both attending different churches on our own. However, we felt that attending church together would be valuable for our marriage. We chose Mount Calvary Lutheran Church because we both felt comfortable there. There were friendly people, a beautiful facility, and we felt blessed by the messages.

I am retired from MetLife after 32 years of service there. During my career, I gained experience with team leading and customer service. On many different occasions my career focused on problem solving and working to meet common goals.

I value the ministry at Mount Calvary Lutheran church and I appreciate the people that step up to meet the challenges of running a successful ministry. Being a newer member of the church and the chairperson of the All Parish Ministries Committee for one full year, a very different year because of COVID-19, I have seen a tug of war between "how we've always done it" and new ideas. I would like to see a more open-minded atmosphere to see if changes can bring freshness to our ministry and bring in more people from our communities.

## **Ruth Hilde Pawlowski (Would be serving first, full term)**



I have been involved in Mount Calvary Church since 2008, when my family and I moved to Johnstown and I became a member. Sunniva was baptized that summer. Amilia started Sunday School as well. We sparingly went to church services when the children were young, but as they grew older and more involved in Sunday School and confirmation, we attended church and Sunday School regularly. Two years ago, I attended a few meetings regarding the description of the new staff position. I also joined the choir last year but this was short lived due to the closure related to the pandemic.

Growing up in northern Norway, the only church my family and I would attend was The Lutheran State Church. Although there are some minor differences, mainly language and some hymns, it only felt natural to continue worshiping in a Lutheran church once we got established in a community after many years of studying and moving. What I did appreciate with the church where I grew up was the friendliness of the pastors and the congregation. They were always there when needed. I attended the church choir as a young girl and have fond memories of this.

After graduating high school, taking a break for one year working as a nanny, I started nursing school. Halfway through, I realized half my calling was to attend medical school. After earning my bachelors in nursing and working for a couple years in Norway, I moved to Krakow, Poland to attend Jagiellonian Medical School. Attending medical school for 6 years, moving to another country, and also learning another language taught me to be independent and this time was extremely valuable for me. I also met my husband there and we married half way through my studies. I birthed my first born at the end of my 4th year of school. I lived alone with my daughter in Krakow for 2 years until I graduated in 2007. My husband started residency in WV in 2004 and we only saw each other during summer vacation and some holidays in that time period. This time was extremely hard but taught me to be resilient. Through this demanding time, I have good memories and was successful in school, showing ability to balance my life despite the obstacles.

After graduation my daughter and I moved to the USA to be with my husband. I took The USMLE licensure exams and had another child. In 2009 I started residency in Family Medicine at Conemaugh. In addition to a demanding work schedule where working 50-80 hours a week is the norm, I was involved in organizing schedules, doing presentations, and teaching medical students and new interns through 3 years of residency. After I graduated in 2012, I started working as Assistant Program Director in the program from which I had graduated. In addition to taking care of my own patients, my main work involves teaching residents and medical students and I have prepared numerous lectures through the years. I also develop quality improvement projects and do research. I published an article in 2017 in the most known journal for family doctors in the USA, The AFP. I also do inpatient rounds for 1 week every other month where I have several residents and medical students with me. I have no formal leadership education, but working as a mentor for residents has taught me a few skills through the years.

What I value about Mount Calvary's ministry is that it is friendly and approachable. Flexibility and open communication are also things I see and value. I notice there is a constant attempt to do improvements and to get everyone in the congregation involved. Being inexperienced in this position, I will need some time to warm up, but I appreciate the challenge I have been offered. We can improve on getting the congregation engaged, especially after the turmoil the pandemic has caused in everyone's life. We also should work on recruiting more children. They bring positive energy to the congregation.

**Judi Stinebiser (Would be serving a one year term)**



I have been a member at Mount Calvary for approximately 50 years. I was baptized Catholic and belonged to that denomination for 29 years, learning The Ten Commandments and various religious lessons. One thing the Roman Catholicism wasn't into too much was the Bible.

My experience working with the public includes 35 years as an office manager and 9 years working in the banking business.

Our current ministry includes very good sermons that increase our knowledge of the Bible. The sick and shut-in are also very thoughtfully remembered and visited. The ministry is steady, dependable, and features good communication with the congregation. My main goal would be to

try to continue to increase the number of parishioners, doing what is expected of me to help the congregation improve wherever possible.