



Mount Calvary Connected

June 4, 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.

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A Message from Pastor Jonathan

As my wife has begun the "home stretch" of her pregnancy with our second child, we're seeing her obstetrician at Conemaugh Hospital once a week. Just yesterday, during her weekly appointment we learned that we have yet another big baby on the way. At 36 weeks, most of the measurements they took were more in line with a baby at 38-39 weeks, and they are able to estimate baby's current weight at about 7lbs, 12 oz. It truly is the final countdown, as the doctor plans to induce her on June 21 if she has not begun labor naturally by then.

In less than eighteen days, my family will be going through a major transition as we go from a family of three plus an elderly black lab, to a family of four (plus the same elderly black lab). It will most certainly be an adjustment, and I'm certain that we'll have some growing pains along the way

In the life of the church, we too, are going through a time of transition. The last two weekends we went "masks optional," and this coming weekend for the first time in over a year, we will sing hymns together as a congregation AND receive Holy Communion from the presiders. The format that we've gotten so used to over these recent months will be changing. And I guarantee there will be growing pains there as well.

But as always, our entire church staff, as well as numerous volunteers, are dedicated to making our worship as meaningful and faithful as possible. I hope you'll be patient as we continue to make these adjustments, and please know that Pastor Scott and I always welcome feedback. It is in fact only with your support and feedback that we've been able to do so much over the last year. So, thank you for the role you all have played in it. Let's grow together!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

The Transition Begins!

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has now endorsed the new, mask-wearing counsel released by the CDC last week. This means effective immediately mask-wearing will become optional for immunized people at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. As this new policy is implemented, we will continue to practice social distancing and encourage everyone to respond to the verbal and nonverbal cues of those who remain wary of getting too close to others. For those curious about changes with regard to in-person singing and the method of in-person communion distribution, please note it's possible that changes may begin to appear as soon as the first weekend in June.

As we follow the government's counsel on mask-wearing for immunized people, we would encourage everyone to remember that just because a person of faith can do something doesn't necessarily mean they will. Martin Luther once expressed this in memorable language when he wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." In practical terms, this means at least two things for us presently. Number one, even if we are immunized, we may wish to continue to wear masks to enter into supportive solidarity with the unimmunized and those who are reluctant to abandon masks

just yet. Number two, even though proof of immunization will not be required at Mount Calvary, if we aren't immunized, we should continue to wear masks or face shields until we are so we might not unintentionally harm another unimmunized person. In both cases, we may now be free from a mask mandate, but we are not free from the Christian obligation to make personal sacrifices which would benefit others.

For those who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship or are uncomfortable with a more lenient policy with respect to masks, please remember our drive-in service on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the rear of church. Also, please remember our radio offerings (8:45 AM on Sundays and 6:30 PM on Wednesdays) and the Facebook videos we release on Wednesday evenings.

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

Weekly Wednesday, Drive in Services

Wednesday evening drive-in services have resumed at 6:30 pm. Download a bulletin from: <https://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/>, bring your own bread for communion, and tune your radio to 88.3FM and you are set! See you there!

Card Shower

Mary Kay Mostoller will turn 96 on June 18th. Let's shower her with as many cards as possible. She can also receive visitor again. Her address is:

Mary Kay Mostoller
Siemon's Lakeview Manor
228 Siemon Drive
Somerset PA 15501



Mount Calvary's Summer VBS is "God's Secret Agents of Change!"

Join us on Saturdays June 12, July 17, and August 21st for a special program for kids entering Pre-K through 5th grade. The program will run each night from 4-5pm with a picnic meal served at 5pm and an invitation to join us for evening worship afterwards. For more information, contact Pastor Jono at RevJonoAdams@gmail.com or 412-817-6704.

May/June Giving Tree

During the months of May and June, coupons for Stivers Nursery will be for sale after the weekend services and available in the church office. **Baskets are \$16.00 and flats are \$12.50.** Mt. Calvary will receive \$5 for every basket and \$3 for every flat purchased. The money raised will be used for the Giving Tree and donated to The Cambria City Mission at the end of June. Thank you for your continued support!

Backyard Cookie Collection will be Thursday, June 17, 2021.

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!

Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism

On June 6, 2021, we welcomed Edward James Wingard IV, into Christ's Church through Holy Baptism. Edward was born on July 2, 2020. Edward is the son of Ed and Laura Wingard. His sponsors are Nicole & Jason Williams. Patty Wingard is his grandmother. Walt Mattern is his great-great grandfather. Laura Wingard was taken in by Affirmation of Baptism on June 6, 2021.

Backyard Ministry Volunteers

Backyard Ministries is short on volunteers this year, and they are reaching out to the churches that work in each community to help out. They would like us to take over running the summer clubs at Coopersdale. This means we would need 6-7 people who could commit to going for 45 minutes to 1 hour each week. Once we have a solid group we can decide on a day and time that works best for everyone. Responsibilities include interacting with children from ages 3-13 by playing games and doing other activities. Each person would also be responsible for reading a short Bible lesson and having a short discussion. The children are grouped by age for the lesson. If you are interested in helping out this year, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880 by Monday June 10.



Congratulations Class of 2021!

Kadiya Hope Lingenfelter

Conemaugh Township Area

Future plans are to major in biology with a concentration in marine biology at Saint Francis University.

Laiken Costlow

Richland High School

Future plans are to study biological science at University of Pittsburgh Main Campus.



Shane Katrancha

Forest Hills High School

He will attend University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown as an Environmental Studies major.

Austin Foor

Richland High School

Austin will be continuing his education in the bridge program with the IU8. Austin then plans to join the workforce.



Corey Katrancha

University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown. Chemical Engineering with a math minor. Summa Cum Laude.

He has accepted employment with Plymouth Technology, Inc., Rochester Hills, Michigan as a Chemical Sales Engineer.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: June 6 - June 12, 2021.

June 6 – Emily Belinda, Patricia Custer

June 7 – Devlin Herring, Barbara Malcolm, Ralph Manotti, Sr.

June 8 – Sally Stewart

June 9 – Susan Cade, Susan Fultz, Diane Green

June 10 – Christopher Swartz, Quintin Wyant

June 11 – Sharon Ashcraft, Jon Dallman, Jason Hite, Kyle Lonsinger, Gabriella Truscello

June 12 – Brandy Coble, Justin Loftis

June 8 – Scott & Julia Klimke (19 years)

June 9 – Donald & Susan Osborn (37 years), Edward & Ruth Pawlowski (17 years), Paul & Gayle Swartz (48 years)

June 10 – Jack & Janis Daily (54 Years)

June 11 – Jude & Lori Leonardis (27 years)

About Our Members:

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

Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Linda Sell, Patti Finnegan, Richard Isaac Pentz, Michelle Roberts, Jill McEntee, Cissy, Cadence, Maxine Hale, Linda & Dick, Midge, Dolly & Chis Palm, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Colley Family, Miller Family, Shaffer Family, Patti Sliko, Steve, Sara Solarczyk, Mary Ann, Adamy/Kunkle Family, Debbie Finnegan, and Claudia Plows.

NEW FINANCIAL UPDATE

As anticipated, Mount Calvary's year-to-date finances turned for the better in the month of April. Financial gifts for the month were higher than during any other month over the last five years. 2020's Payroll Protection Program loan from the federal government was forgiven. There were also no unexpected expenses. We are now on course to meet the budget adopted at this year's congregational meeting. Unless an unexpected expenditure were to become necessary, it's time for all of us to maintain our present course; at least equaling last year's giving or increasing a bit when and where it's possible. ``

CONDENSED WORSHIP FOR THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2021.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

P: We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

P: We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. We pray especially for (*nations currently experiencing war or turmoil may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for this worshipping community (*congregation/community may be named*), that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith (*especially*). We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy,
A: Your mercy is great.

P: Lord Jesus, after this week's Synod Assembly, we'll pray for our Bishop-elect by name. Lord, be with the Assembly, show participants your will and reveal your plan. Strengthen those who are open to this call. Raise up the right person and fortify our trust in you. Lord, in your mercy.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

A: Amen.