



# Mount Calvary Connected

June 10, 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 Scott**

*In hope we were saved. Hope that is seen is not hope. Who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

The words I've highlighted were featured in worship a few weeks ago. If you wish to look them up, you can find them at Romans chapter eight, verses twenty-four and twenty-five. In the verses I've highlighted and now referenced, St. Paul, the early Church's most prolific apostle, reveals something important not just about hope, but also about faith and love. As St. Paul says elsewhere (1 Corinthians 13:13), these three calling cards of the Holy Spirit are the lifeblood of the Church. If nothing else, we are to be people of faith, hope, and love. But as St. Paul indicates in the words about hope I've highlighted, sometimes hope, as well as faith and love, find themselves out on the edge; out ahead of where life has actually arrived. The Scriptures bear ample witness to this dimension of faith, hope, and love.

Childless Abram is told he will become the father of a great nation. This promise sends him away from home and off in the direction of the land God shall show him. The catch is that Abram and Sarai must wait twenty-five years for the birth of the child who will enable a great nation to grow up from them. Later in the Old Testament, the physical descendants of Abram and Sarai are freed from Egyptian slavery, but then have to wander in the wilderness before they reach the Promised Land. Whether it's twenty-five years or forty years, we're not dealing with insubstantial periods of time here. As they carry us off in mission and ministry, faith, hope, and love, we're told, often must wait for life to catch up with them. The same perspective on faith, hope, and love is just as available in the New Testament.

On the day of his baptism, Jesus is called God's Son, the Beloved, the One with whom God is well-pleased, but then he must endure forty days in the wilderness with the devil. Later, it's three hours on a cross and three days in a tomb before Jesus' faith, hope, and love are vindicated through the resurrection. Still later, the Church must wait fifty days for the Holy Spirit to descend in Jerusalem. It's true that days are not quite the same as years, but even in the New Testament we're told that faith, hope, and love will find themselves out on the edge; out ahead of where things have actually come. With external corroboration often lacking, this can make faith, hope, and love hard. It's why Jesus once asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth," (Luke 18:8).

Though this question on the part of Jesus ultimately has to do with whether faith will exist at the time of the Second Coming, I would suggest it can also be applied to all the times in between when faith, hope, and love shall have to wait for life to catch up to them. It's why I'm overjoyed to report that on Saturday evening and then again on Sunday morning, those present for in-person worship received the blessed assurance that faith does in fact still exist on earth. For the first time since March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 2020, we sang the hymns of the Church in the sanctuary, with Dan Gresh leading us along through his playing of the organ. This means we waited to sing in one another's presence for four hundred and forty-six days. This is four hundred and six days

longer than Jesus had to endure the wilderness, four hundred and forty-three days longer than Jesus laid dead in the grave, and three hundred and ninety-six days longer than the first disciples had to wait in Jerusalem for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. My, oh my, was it glorious to break through in song again. We've been singing at our drive-in services all along, but it's not the same. Outdoors, with windows sometimes closed and people strewn all across a parking lot or field, it's very difficult to hear one another sing. This takes a lot away from the experience. It could be argued that I turned out to be a person of faith because I grew up listening to my mother sing as I sat next to her in a church pew. What's undoubtedly true is the voices of the gathered community upheld me on the day of my father Allen's funeral. I'll also never forget how touched and moved I was, when on the weekend of my call sermon, I heard the people of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnstown sing a cappella. Worship is a team sport. Each additional voice of faith heard adds to the potency of the experience. And believe you me, listening to people of faith sing over the weekend for the first time in a long time was potent. Come join the song this weekend or the next, with both weekends much to be preferred, and find out for yourself just how potent it is to hear people of faith sing the hymns of the Church again.

Pastor Scott

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### **We Continue the Transition!**

Masks are now optional for those who have been vaccinated. We have returned to singing during in-person services, along with normal communion distribution.

For those who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship, 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.

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### **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)

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### **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!

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### **Church Meetings**

All Parish, Property, and Youth Ministry committees will meet on **Tuesday, June 15 at 6:30 pm.**

Council meeting will be **Tuesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm.**

WELCA will meet on **Monday, June 21 at 6:00 pm.**

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### **Flowers**

In memory of Howard Hiltz by Wilma and Family.

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### **Devotionals**

Portal of Prayers and Christ in the Home for July – October are in the narthex

### 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, July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:RevJonoAdams@gmail.com) or 412-817-6704.

### 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:**

Thank you so much to all my Mt. Calvary friends for the lovely cards for my move to my new home and especially for my 102nd birthday. I really appreciated reading all the lovely cards. Jayne Dunbar

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

#### **Remember those that prayer has been requested:**

Linda & Dick, Midge, Dolly & Chis Palm, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Colley Family, Miller Family, Shaffer Family, Steve, Sara Solarczyk, Mary Ann, Adamy/Kunkle Family, Debbie Finnegan, Claudia Plows, Patti Finnegan, Jill McEntee, Maxine Hale, Patti Sliko, Lori, and Janis Pozun.

#### **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, JUNE 6, 2021.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

#### **FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 8:4-20 [11:14-15]**

*God has settled the Israelites in the promised land and has appointed judges to govern them. But they want to be like the nations around them. By asking Samuel for a human king, they reject the kingship of God and open themselves to oppression at the hands of the human king.*

<sup>4</sup>All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, <sup>5</sup>and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." <sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD, <sup>7</sup>and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup>Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup>Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

<sup>10</sup>So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup>He said,

“These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; [<sup>12</sup>and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup>He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. <sup>15</sup>He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ] <sup>16</sup>He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup>He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup>And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup>But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, <sup>20</sup>so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.” [<sup>14</sup>Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” <sup>15</sup>So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.]

### **PSALM 138**

P: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

**A: I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

P: When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

**A: All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

P: They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

**A: The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

P: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**A: You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

### **SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13--5:1**

*Life in the present is transitory and cannot compare with the eternal home God has prepared for us. So we do not despair no matter what life might bring because we know that as God raised Jesus from the dead, God promises to bring us into eternal life.*

<sup>13</sup>Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>5:1</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## **GOSPEL: MARK 3:20-35**

*In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, siblings of Christ.*

Jesus went home; <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” <sup>22</sup>And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” <sup>23</sup>And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; <sup>29</sup>but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—<sup>30</sup>for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” <sup>33</sup>And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

## **SERMON BY PASTOR JONATHAN**

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Christ Jesus our Lord and drum major. Amen.*

When I was in marching band in college at WVU, the band directors would end band camp each night by telling a story about the band’s history, and about how much it meant to the people of West Virginia and the alumni of the university.

One story that we heard each year without fail was about a young woman who had been in the band during her college years who was blind. I think her name might have been Sally.

Sally was blind.

Now, imagine how difficult it must be to learn music when you’re blind and can’t *read* the music. Certainly, there are some notable blind musicians like Stevie Wonder, but for the most part, they’re few and far between. But Sally had overcome all of that in high school, and here she was in one of the largest college marching bands in the country.

In order to learn the drill, the movements around the field during shows, Sally had a partner during rehearsals who would help her find her spots. But during performances, it was all Sally, she carefully memorized each and every step she needed to take, and it worked flawlessly. Until one night, she zipped when she should of zagged, and suddenly she wasn’t where she was supposed to be, she was out of sync with the rest of the band.

As the band directors watched in horror, wondering what they could do to prevent her being trampled by a tuba, they saw her pause, and begin moving again. She zipped, and zagged, avoiding collisions with other band members until she was right back where she belonged. She was that brilliant to be able to figure out exactly how and where she needed to go in order to get herself back on track.

The band directors told this story as part of conveying one of their mottos: Every Member. Note. Every Step. Every Time.

You'd think that in a band with 350 people, it would be easy to hide in the crowd when you make mistakes. But one person being out of step, one person playing wrong notes, one person speeding up the tempo... one mistake could throw off the entire band. And that's just if there's an accident, if someone is TRYING to take control and throw things off, the results could be disastrous.

"A house divided cannot stand."

That's what Jesus says when he's being challenged on one side by the scribes and religious authorities, and by his own family on the other. They're concerned that his ministry across Galilee has gotten out of hand, that he's pushed the envelope a bit too far. They seem to be asking Jesus, "can't you just stick with the status quo?"

But anyone who knows anything of the Gospel, knows that the good news is often a challenge to the status quo, that the message of Jesus Christ and the cross can be downright unsettling at times.

And I think Jesus knows this, too. Because for as much as he tries to upset the proverbial fruit basket, he also offers a calm and reassuring presence. He never gives up on the disciples, even when it's clear that they're not understanding his message, even when they're lacking in faith. Jesus doesn't quit when the things he tries to accomplish don't come easy, you know, even healing the blind man, which is recorded later in the Gospel of Mark, took him TWO tries...

Jesus offers reassurance and comfort in the midst of change and confusion. And all he asks, is that people follow him. That they stay in line. That they stay with him.

The beauty of something like an orchestra. The art of something like a marching band... It all comes from the unity, the shared goal. Every Member. Every Note. Every Step. Every Time.

If the trumpets tried to pull away from the tubas while the drummers were doing their own thing completely separately. It wouldn't work. It would fall apart.

And likewise, when we follow God, when we follow Jesus, we can't try to pull him in one direction or another to suit our own desires. We can't look at the often radical message of Christianity and be like Jesus' family, saying "hey, can we tame it down a bit? Maybe not fling the door quite so wide?"

No, in order to fight the powers of evil in this world, we need to be together, we need to be all in.

In what Jesus says to his family, the scribes, and the disciples on that day, he shuts down all those people who are trying to create division for their own personal benefit. He suggests that there is evil in the world, that we are in a fight against it. That the struggles of the church are not always the fault of its leaders, but rather evidence of that evil that we all need to fight against.

And that rather than pointing fingers... we need to be united in our efforts, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our work. This is our church. This is our family.

As often as possible, I try to use that language. There are some cases where it's more appropriate to use the language of congregation or parish, but often, I call you all my church family, because you are. You are my brothers and sisters in Christ. God chose each and every one of us to be part of this family here, to be one family, one house of God. And a house divided cannot stand.

Just think what it would look like if the choir tried to pull away from the property committee, while the WELCA group was doing their own thing completely separately. It wouldn't work. It would fall apart.

Jesus says, "here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

And so, let's stand up together with our brothers and sisters. Stand as a house (of God) that is united, NOT divided. Let's fight the good fight against evil, and do the work of God. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

P: God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe (*global mission partners may be named*). Unify us in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: God of righteousness, we pray for this holy house of worship. Set our gaze upon things eternal, that in thanksgiving for your mercy, we may extend grace to more and more people. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal mercy (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

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