



Mount Calvary Connected

June 24, 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

Pastor Jonathan Adams

Cell-Phone: 412-817-6704

Email: revjonoadams@gmail.com

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.

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!

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

Join us on Saturdays, July 17th 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.

Rachel Kurtz-Live in Concert

July 1, 2021

7:00 PM

Friedens Lutheran Church, 131 S. Main Street, Friedens, PA 15541

Love Offering to be collected

RSVP or Questions call (814) 445-4627

www.rachelkurtz.com



ALSM's 24th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, July 26, 2021

Scotch Valley Country Club in Hollidaysburg

Volunteers Needed

If you are available to volunteer, please indicate your shift preference, if any.

Volunteer Shifts

Morning - 11:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

(lunch included – Sheetz bagged lunch)

Afternoon – 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

(dinner included – ALSM's traditional low-country boil returns this year!)

All-day volunteers (lunch and dinner included)

If interested, please call Andrea Schurr at 814-696-4516.

Tuesday Noon Recitals

First Lutheran Church, 415 Vine Street, Johnstown

July 6 - High Strung: Smitty and Deese

Violin, guitar, voice. Celtic and other ethnic song

July 13 – John Bagnato, guitar improv

July 20 – Justin Rohrbaugh, vocal

July 27 – Pazzynski Family and Ukulele Eddie

Fun with Music

Invite family and friends to this weekday gift of music.

Farewell for Pastor Becca Ehrlich

Pastor Becca has received a call to serve as the Associate Dean for Community Life at General Theological Seminary (Episcopal) in New York City. She will be starting at General in August. We are holding a drop in to say farewell on **Friday July 16th from 6 – 8pm**. We will have some light refreshments and will be indoors due

to the heat. Some of those who are attending have continuing health issues. We ask that if you are unvaccinated to please wear a mask, or if you are bringing children under 12 that they would mask as well.

Vaccinated persons do not need to mask for this event.

Farewell Liturgy for Bishop Rhyne

We will have a service of Farewell and Godspeed at

Evangelical Lutheran in Duncansville starting at 2 PM on August 28th.

Clergy are invited to vest and process. August 28 is the Commemoration of St. Augustine of Hippo so the color of the day is white.

The people of Duncansville have graciously offered to host a reception after the service.

Installation of Allegheny Synod Bishop Paula Schmitt

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will join us to install our new Bishop on

Sunday, September 19 at 3 PM.

The service is being held at First Lutheran Church in Altoona. The color for the day is red. We will be livestreaming the service and there will be a reception following hosted by our partners at Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.

Flowers

In memory of our beloved son and brother Zakary McQuiade Lonsinger.

Backyard Cookie Collection

Thursday, July 1, 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!

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: June 27 - July 3, 2021.

June 27 – Greg Costlow, Mark Fancella, John Marsh, Lexi Wilson

June 28 – William Ross, Lilianna Swartz

June 29 – Mitzi Boothman, Kaitlyne Brandau, Becky Lilja, William Lonsinger, Ruth Pawlowski

June 30 – Beverly Specht

July 1 – Jennifer Coble, Leah Hockensmith, Traca Howsare, Heather Kennedy, Rosemary Manotti, Corey McKool

July 2 – Madelyn Horn, Spencer Kovalsky

July 3 - Kimberly McMullen

July 1 – David & Vicki Karnes (49 years), William & Jan Layton (26 years)

About Our Members:

Bertha Ford passed away on June 22.

Deb Zilch is in the hospital.

Patti Sliko has passed away on June 18.

Jill McEntee is home from the hospital.

Memorial Service for Patti Sliko

Will be held on Friday, July 9, 2021

Visitation will start at 4:00 PM

Service will begin at 5:30 PM

Dinner to follow at 6:30 PM

Pastor Jonathan, Rebekah and big sister Annabelle Adams, welcomed a baby girl, Andrea Jane on June 21, 2021. She was born at 9:14 AM, weighing 9 lbs. and 19 ½" long.

If you would like to send a card their address is:

2533 Carpenters Park Rd.

Davidsville, PA 15928

To Pastor and the Congregation

The family of Joe Adamy would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to us during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate all who found the time for visitation, brought food, gave monetary donations, sent beautiful flowers, made phone calls. Sent cards of support and sympathy. I'll forever be grateful for encouragement you all gave to me and my family. We are truly humbled and very, very filled with gratitude. May God bless you all with peace and happiness.

Sincerely, Susan Adamy & Joyce Kunkle family and & Son, Joe

Dear Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for the graduation gift! I read the back of "Faith in Action", and it looks so good! I will definitely be reading it this summer, with my new blanket! It means so much that I have such a warm family at Mt. Calvary!

Thank you again! Love, Kadiya Lingenfelter

Congratulations to proud parents, Brittany & Ray Buhler and big sister Everly on the birth of a baby girl Wrenna, born June 11th. Grandparents are Brian and Lori Hiltz and Great-grandparent, is Wilma Hiltz.

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

Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Sara Solarczyk, Mary Ann, Adamy/Kunkle Family, Debbie Finnegan, Patti Finnegan, Jill McEntee, Maxine Hale, Lori, Janis Pozun, Bob & Janet, Jennifer, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Linda & Dick, Midge, Dolly & Chis Palm, Sliko Family, Claudia Plows, Tom, and Lorraine.

JUNE FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through the end of May, Mount Calvary remained in the black. Income is tracking slightly ahead of budget. Expenses are tracking slightly over budget, with the impact of seasonal, weather-related bills responsible for the overage. If we all continue to do our part, giving extra when possible and holding steady when it's not, things should continue as they presently are.

CONDENSED WORSHIP FOR THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 17: [1A, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49

In this passage, the description of the soldier Goliath vividly depicts the superiority of Philistine military might. In contrast, young David is armed with a slingshot and faith in God. David's victory witnesses to the whole earth that "there is a God in Israel."

^{1a}Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. ⁴And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶He had greaves of bronze on his legs and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰And the Philistine said, "Today I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

¹⁹Now Saul, and [Jesse's sons], and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²²David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. ²³As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

³²David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." ³⁴But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. ³⁶Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷David said, "The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you!"

³⁸Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. ³⁹David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them." So David removed them. ⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴²When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." ⁴⁵But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

PSALM 9:9-20

P: You, O LORD, will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble.

A: Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.

P: Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion; proclaim to the peoples the things God has done.

A: The avenger of blood will remember them and will not forget the cry of the afflicted.

P: Be gracious to me, O LORD; see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, you that lift me up from the gates of death;

A: so that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation in the gates of the city of Zion.

P: The nations have fallen into the pit they dug; in the snare they set, their own foot is caught.

A: The LORD is revealed in acts of justice; the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.

P: The nations go down to the grave, all the peoples that forget God.

A: For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor shall the hope of the poor be taken away.

P: Rise up, O LORD, let not mortals have the upper hand; let the nations be judged before you.

A: Put them in fear, O LORD; let the nations know they are but mortal.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

GOSPEL: MARK 4:35-41

Jesus’ calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life’s turbulence.

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

SERMON BY PASTOR SCOTT

Conflict and controversy are easily heard and found today. In our reading from Mark, Jesus and the first disciples are enroute to the other side; with talk of the other side being quite evocative. Talk of the other side can stand in for all sorts of different travel in the life of the Church and its members. When we’re trying to get from Point A to Point B, no matter the issue involved, we’re trying to get to the other side. Close to two thousand years after our gospel reading was first written, it’s not hard to put ourselves in the boat with Jesus

and the first disciples. If we're trying to get from Point A to Point B, and we certainly are on any number of fronts, we're in the boat with them on the way to the other side. But as we travel in the boat to the other side, Mark warns there shall be conflict and controversy. There shall be storms to navigate and endure. There shall be doubts and fears about the degree to which Jesus is with us and for us. There shall be differences of opinion about what this or that means. And this is just our reading from Mark. There's more conflict and controversy to be heard and to be found in our readings from 2nd Corinthians and 1st Samuel.

In our reading from 2nd Corinthians, St. Paul and the Christians at Corinth find themselves embroiled in conflict and controversy again. Whether it's 1st Corinthians or 2nd Corinthians, this is the norm. In both letters, there's normally lots of conflict and controversy. In the first letter, the congregation keeps on welcoming the wrong people and the wrong practices and keeps on excluding the right people and the right practices. This continues in the second letter when the congregation for a time picks a false gospel and its proponents over St. Paul and his pure teaching and preaching. That controversy and conflict are afoot in Corinth is made plain enough by St. Paul's language. At point in our reading from 2nd Corinthians, he writes, "There is no restriction in our affection. Only in yours." Ouch! As we travel in the boat to the other side, there shall be heartbreak. And as David and Goliath battle in our reading from 1st Samuel, we're told that the storms and the heartache shall sometimes be joined by battles with the odds seemingly stacked against us. As I said earlier, there's conflict and controversy all over the place today. Evidently, as we try to get from Point A to Point B, as we try to make it all the way on over to the other side, we should expect our fair share our turmoil and turbulence; our fair share of conflict and controversy. Would you agree?

I know I would. Challenge and controversy sooner or later visit every avenue and arena of our lives. It happens to us personally. It happens to us professionally. It happens to us at church and in our other pursuits outside of the home and the workplace. And even if we're so remarkably and miraculously blessed that this never happens to us, we don't have to look very far or wide to see conflict and controversy show up in the lives of others. Just as they are in our biblical readings, the bottom line is that conflict and controversy are all around us in our day-to-day lives.

I think back to my days at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Towards the end of their second year, students and potential internship supervisors and congregations are given the opportunity to meet each other during a two-day matching process. Once all the desired and/or requested interactions have taken place, everyone involved can identify both matches and mismatches; with everybody supposed to identify at least three matches to which they are open. The year I was involved a congregation and pastor out in New Mexico were my first choice and I was their first choice as well. The only problem was another student broke the rules. They said the only pastor and congregation where they could do their internship were out in New Mexico and those responsible for doing the final matching gave in to this rule-breaking demand. Having played by the rules myself, I was to spend the year somewhere other than New Mexico, while the rulebreaker went out West. So much for fairness! So much for integrity! So much for impartial treatment! I was furious. The righteous indignation meter with which I've previously admitted I struggle very quickly swung all the way over to the right and showed no intention of moving back to the left until my then fiancée Julia told me to get over it. Recognizing her superior wisdom for what would not be the last time, I listened.

In my view, Julia was revealing something important about conflict and controversy. I think she would have us know that not every conflict and controversy is worth our time and energy. I think Julia would have us know that we've got to pick and choose our spots when it comes to engaging turmoil and turbulence. A couple of our readings from Scripture would have us know the same. Start with Jesus and our reading from Mark. Initially, Jesus sleeps through the storm that rattles the first disciples to no end. Later, after stilling the storm, Jesus suggests there was no need for the disciples to get so rattled in the first place; drawing attention to their lack of faith. There's surely a lesson in this this. Not every conflict and controversy is worth our time and energy. Along with Julia, our reading from 2nd Corinthians would agree. At one point, St. Paul writes, "We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God

we have commended ourselves in every way.” St. Paul and his partners haven’t let conflict and controversy take their eye off the ball. They’ve steered clear of conflicts and controversies, detours and rabbit holes, which can stand in the way of big picture wins. It’s sound counsel. Steer clear of conflict and controversy when they bring no prospect for big picture wins. But for the Christian what are big picture wins?

Our reading from 1st Samuel suggests big picture wins come in two forms for Christians like you and me. Start with David’s habit and history of doing battle with the lions and bears that raid his father Jesse’s flock. As David does battle with these lions and bears, he’s maximizing the fur and the food available to his community so no one might have to go without life’s essentials. He’s also protecting the assets of a neighbor so there might be equity and balance throughout the community. This is surely one instance when we Christians are going to want to engage conflict and controversy. It’s time to do battle when the health and strength of our communities is endangered or undervalued. The other occasion when it’s time for us to do battle is when engaging conflict and controversy bears the potential to grow faith in Jesus Christ and the other members of the Holy Trinity. This is what David does. He goes to war with Goliath so that the earth may know there is a God in Israel. But as David says just after he reveals this faith-creating purpose, there’s a way for us to do battle and a way for us not to do battle.

The way not to do it is with swords and spears. The way not to do it is to borrow from the playbook of the world. This is what Jesus had in mind when he once said we’re to be in the world, but not of the world. When we engage conflict and controversy for the sake of either more faith on earth or stronger and healthier communities on earth, we follow God’s playbook. We fight with what’s called the weapons of righteousness in our reading from 2nd Corinthians. And what are these weapons of righteousness? They’re faith. They’re hope. They’re love. These are all weapons which either honor relationships or encourage relationships. To have faith is to trust in a relationship. To have hope is to remain open to a new and better chapter in a relationship. To have love is to be ready to lay down our life for the sake of a relationship. In sum, faith, hope, and love, the weapons of righteousness, are relational weapons. They recognize true strength is found not in personal size and stature, not in armor and armaments, not in swords and spears, but in the strength of our relationships with God and one another. It’s how the Goliaths which stand in the way of more faith or stronger and healthier communities are felled as we travel in the boat to the other side. Goliaths fall when on the basis of our relationships God makes use of the sling shots and the stones we’ve together brought to the fight. Amen!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

P: Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest (*especially*). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders (*especially*). Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

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