



Mount Calvary Connected

August 5, 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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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 are at 6:30 pm. Download a bulletin from: <https://www.mtcalvarylutheran.org/bulletins/>, bring your own bread for communion, and tune your radio to 88.3FM and you are set! See you there!

Giving Tree

A total of \$399 was collected for the months of May and June which was donated to The Cambria City Mission. The July/August donations will be going to the Camp Sequanota Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your continued support!

WE ARE BACK

Great news. Our WELCA group will be holding its "Picnic in The Parking Lot" Saturday, August 28th, following the 5:30 service.

WELCA will supply the hot dogs and condiments, and drinks. We ask if you are planning on attending to please bring your favorite covered dish.

There will be a sign-up sheet beginning this weekend. Put your name, # attending and what your delicious dish will be; perhaps a casserole, or a great salad, a tasty dessert or whatever it may be. We look forward to seeing you all for fun, fellowship and great food.



Mt. Calvary's Social Ministry team is selling "God's Work, Our Hands" shirts in preparation for participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" Day on Sunday, September 12.

These bright golden shirts will have the words "God's Work, Our Hands" on the front, and feature Mount Calvary's name on the back together with the ELCA logo. Wear them to participate in our service project on the 12th, or any time you want to represent your church while doing God's work.

T-shirts are \$8/ea with additional fees for extended sizes. Order before or after worship each weekend at the table near the giving tree or contact Pastor Jonathan for more information. All orders due Wednesday, August 18th.

Flowers

In memory of Linda McQuaide, Dale Middleton, & Zakary Lonsinger.

Personal Care Kits

The following items are needed for the personal care kits. Please have them at the church by **Sunday September 5.**

- Towel: lightweight bath size (between 20x40" and 27x52"), dark colored recommended
- Toothbrush: adult size in original packaging. Multipacks may be used by sealing individual toothbrush in a business size envelope; no plastic bags or wraps.
 - Metal nail clippers: attached file optional, remove packaging
- Soap: 2 bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original packaging
 - Comb: sturdy, remove packaging

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

On **Sunday, September 12**, after the service, we will be putting together the personal care kits to be sent out while enjoying a meal and fellowship. If you would like to join us, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880 before September 1. This will give us an idea on how much food we need to prepare. Thank you!



Throughout the summer, some of littlest Lutherans have been learning how to be secret agents, GOD's Secret Agents. It's our mini vacation bible school for preschool and elementary aged students focused on how WE can change the world with secret powers like generosity, compassion, forgiveness and more!

Each night, our aspiring secret agents hear a story about one of the secret skills that God gives us all to help make the world a better place through a story, a craft, and games. And afterwards, we get to share a meal with our friends and parents!

There's one more night left this summer on Saturday, August 21st! Join us at 4pm for VBS, 5pm for dinner, and stick around for Saturday evening worship at 5:30pm. RSVPs helpful, but not necessary. For more information, contact Pastor Jonathan at RevJonoAdams@gmail.com.

MOUNT CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
**FALL 2021 YOUTH
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

BEGINS SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

We're gearing up for our fall Sunday School, and we'd love to have your children participate! On Sunday, September 12th, we will kick off our fall program of Christian education for the youth of the congregation. We'll be in touch with more information via email, mail, and phone for families with children, but in order to best prepare for your children, and ensure that we have the best contact information for your family, we ask that you fill out a simple registration form as soon as possible, accessible online using the URL: <https://rebrand.ly/MtCalvaryKids2021>

Clothing Sale

After a year off, the Social Ministry Team is happy to announce that we will once again be having our annual clothing sale! The sale will take place on **Saturday, October 2 from 10-2**. Clothes can begin being dropped off in the old lounge in September. This year we are asking that you please separate and label your clothes by size/gender when you are packing them. This will make the setting up and sorting process much easier for the volunteers working the event. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you!

Worship Help Needed

There are sign up sheets, in the Narthex, for Greeters/Ushers, and Communion Assistants, for the months of July and August. Please sign up for the dates that would suit you best. We appreciate you volunteering. If you have questions about these roles, please contact Christine Koshute at 814-421-4921 or Chris Oleksa at 814-244-9851.

Backyard Cookie Collection

Thursday, August 19, 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!

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: August 8 - August 14, 2021.

Aug 8 – Thomas Hockensmith, Michael Zerby Jr.

Aug 9 – Amanda Artim, Kimmy Carney, Jacob Gusmenotti, Corey Katrancha, Dee Locher

Aug 10 – Randall Glessner, Cynthia Kasuba

Aug 11 – Krystiana Given, Caleb Hockensmith, Jan Hudson, Ann Marley

Aug 12 – Philip Bryant Jr., Charles Burns, James Custer, Ashlyn Kobal, Jessica Ripper, Kaia Selepack

Aug 13 - Beth Esposita, Susan Spicher

Aug 14 - Mark Rychak, Robin Wechtenhiser

Aug 8 - Frank & Nancy Robison (57 years)

Aug 11 - Julian & Felicia Beglin (20 years)

Aug 12 - Philip & Paula Popp (49 years)

Aug 13 - Stanley & Lucille Badowski (23 years)

About Our Members:

Thank You

Pastor Jonathan, Bekah, big sister Annabelle, and baby Andrea would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts celebrating the birth of Andrea. Our whole family is doing well adjusting to the new addition, and the proud father will happily share photos with anyone who asks!

Patricia Conklin passed away on August 1, 2021

Patricia Custer passed away on July 24, 2021

Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chis Palm, Claudia Plows, Linda McMullen, Stacy, Eschrich Family, Gay & Don, Custer Family, Michelle's Grandma, Friedline Family, Pastors Carol & Scott Custead, Statler Family, Fred, Bob, Alex, Jose & Family, Harold, Rick, Midge, Shirley, Jennifer, John, Debbie Finnegan, Jill McEntee, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Barb, and Jamie.

JULY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Presently in the black, Mount Calvary came through the first six months of the year well. Giving is thus far almost exactly where our mission and ministry plan for 2021 expected it to be, with increased giving to the current fund largely offsetting decreased giving to the building fund. Until Christ comes again, it shall be important for each of us to continue to do our part when possible; maintaining our prior year's giving and increasing our giving when it's doable. Unfortunately, people continue to move, die, and grow ill and every enterprise, including the Church, continues to feel the lingering effects of the pandemic. This makes consistent giving, and increased giving, when possible, of ongoing importance both this year and next year and every year after.

On the expense side, increased property expenditures have been offset by decreased expenditures in other areas. Six months into the year, it may be that we underestimated our electricity, gas, and ground maintenance expenses. Together, just these three expense lines account for two-thirds of our property-related expenses, with the yearly expense in these areas presently on pace for somewhere between \$35,000-\$40,000. Even when summer schedules or continuing reservations related to the pandemic keep us away from the church, the basic costs of operation continue to accumulate, and they are significant.

CONDENSED WORSHIP FOR THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 11:26--12:13A

God sends the prophet Nathan to rebuke King David for his abuse of power in taking Bathsheba and killing her husband, Uriah. Confronted with his sin, David repents. This sin, however, marks the beginning of troubled times in David's family.

²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, ^{12:1}and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹²For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.” ^{13a}David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 51:1-12

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

A: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

P: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

A: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

P: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

A: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

P: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

A: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

P: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

A: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

P: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

A: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ’s one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,
“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill

all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

R: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

SERMON BY PASTOR SCOTT

Last week, I talked a bit about the tension between being and becoming for people of faith. I identified being as the realm of surrender and embrace; the realm which finds us resting and trusting in God's call upon our lives; the realm in which we are who God has equipped and empowered us to be. Becoming was something altogether different. As opposed to being, becoming is the realm of rebellion and revolt; the realm in which we set off to become someone other than the person God has made us to be. In a little while, I'll expand this understanding of being and becoming a bit. But for now, let's take a look at how today's collection of readings continues to bear witness to the tension between being and becoming for people of faith.

Start with our reading from John. Last week, Jesus demonstrated it was mighty special to be the person he had been sent into the world to be by satisfying the deepest hungers of a throng of humanity with just five loaves and two fish. Today we learn more about how special it is for Jesus to be who he's supposed to be through what he says. When Jesus embraces God's mission for his life, he gives a food that endures unto eternity. When Jesus is the person God has sent him into the world to be, he forever eliminates hunger and thirst for those who come to him. Being definitely beats becoming not just for Jesus, but also for his Church and the world God loves. But like last week, Jesus is given another temptation to become rather than to be today.

Last week, the crowd he satisfied with five loaves and two fish wanted Jesus to become their king rather than to be God's Bread of Life. This week the same people want Jesus to become the one who does the signs

they desire rather than to be the sign he has already been and continues to be at God's behest. Within the recorded history of Jesus Christ, you just can't escape this tension between becoming the Savior the world desires and being the Savior God knows the world actually needs. Jesus' entire life history is one long episode of the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before his death. Is it going to be, "Abba, Father, your will, not mine" or "Abba, Father, thanks for the memories and the good start to life, but it's going to be my will not yours?" It's a tension, the tension between being and becoming, that we ourselves cannot escape as people of faith.

Last week, I said we share a God-given calling to be those who build up the Body of Christ. I also said God will enable us to be the people we need to be to fulfill this mission. And that should we be in doubt about who God would have us be in real time and space, we need but pray, "Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand." Well, guess what? Our reading from Ephesians affirms pretty much all of this today.

We're told that God needs each of us to be different people; some apostles; some prophets; some evangelists; some pastors; some teachers; some not specified by title or name. We're also told that Christ gifts us to be all of these different people. And then, we're told that the whole point of us being the different people Christ gifts us to be is to build up the Body of Christ for ministries of love; with each of us making our own essential contribution to that mission when we find the courage to just be; to just be the individuals God has made us to be. But maybe, maybe prayer won't always enable us to discern who each of us is to be in real time and space. If so, today's reading from Ephesians identifies another method of discernment.

Last week, I couldn't help but notice that my story about my mother singing "Precious Lord, take my hand" as she was on her way to widowhood touched a lot of hearts. Your eyes, and the tears that were sometimes in them, spoke volumes. But as wise and faithful as my mother was when she turned to our Lord for direction at a key and pivotal moment in her life, the truth is that God's response to our prayers isn't always instantaneous or perhaps it's that our discernment of God's response isn't always instantaneous. When such gaps in communication and/or comprehension occur, we're going to need some other way to discover who God would have us be in real time and space. Our reading from Ephesians identifies this alternative or amendment to prayer when it twice says the aim of all ministry is to make people more like Christ. When in doubt, the reading says, do as Jesus would do.

If you missed this point of emphasis earlier, it's there on at least three occasions. First, we're told Christ descended into our lives and then ascended far above all the heavens so that he might fill all things, including every one of us. Then we're told the goal we're to keep in sight as we're building up the Body of Christ is for everyone to rise up towards the full stature of Christ. And then just for good measure, we're also told that we all must grow in every way into Christ. This sure sounds to me as if doing as Christ would do will prove to be a pretty foolproof strategy when prayer does not quell or erase doubts about who God would have us be in real time and space. When Christ is the goal of all ministry, as he is in our reading from Ephesians, he automatically becomes the guide and the grounding of all ministry as well. And as promised earlier, it's here where it's appropriate to amend what I've been saying about being and becoming for two weeks now.

Up to now, I've made it sound as if being and becoming are always at odds with one another for people of faith. This is often true; with Jesus' temptation today to become the world's sign rather than to be God's sign a case in point. But even though what I've said works a lot of the time, it doesn't work when Jesus becomes the goal, the guide, and the grounding of all ministry as he has today. Provided Christ is involved, our reading from Ephesians lets us know that being and becoming can actually cohabit. When we are the people God has called us to be, today's second reading rightly says that we're going to become more like Christ. This is the one time becoming someone other than the person God has made us to be shall be good and salutary. It shall be good and salutary when we become more like Christ.

But again, becoming more like Christ can't be severed or cut off from being the unique and evolving people Christ has gifted us to be. Our reading from Ephesians makes this clear. When we are the people Christ has gifted us to be, we will bit by bit become more like Christ until Christ indeed fills as our reading Ephesians predicts he will. This makes Christ not just the goal, the guide, and the grounding of all ministry, but also its ultimate and eternal gain. And do we ever want to gain Christ. To reference our reading from John, how shall we never hunger or thirst again? It's going to happen when we gain Christ eternally. It's going to happen when we ourselves are forever freed from hunger and thirst and other causes of death as Christ was on the day of his

resurrection. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. Though Christ shall ultimately be the eternal gain of all ministry, we're not there yet. For now, Christ shall remain the goal, the guide, and the grounding of all ministry; with this only changing when history's final trumpet shall sound upon Christ's return. And how shall this happen?

Through being—through being the unique and evolving individuals Christ has gifted and is gifting each of us to be. Sometimes we'll discover this person by praying, "Precious Lord, take my hand." Sometimes we'll discover this person through fellowship with other Christians. Sometimes we'll discover who God would have us be in real time and space through the manner in which the word of God and the sacraments of God speak to us and our circumstances. But no matter the method of discovery, the goal, the guide, and the grounding shall always be Christ. And the bottom line is that Christ and his cross cannot be separated. Christ becomes our goal, Christ becomes our guide, Christ becomes our grounding, when we deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow after him; when we too make the sacrifices necessary to bring my needs and our needs into perfect balance. Let's go be that balance as Christ enables it. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

P: You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with (*name/s and*) all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.