



Mount Calvary Connected

September 30, 2021

Mount Calvary Connected is a weekly newsletter sent out at the end of each week. Our goal is to keep you connected to your church and your faith with messages from our pastors, information about upcoming activities at Mt. Calvary and more!

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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

Drive-In Services Have Concluded

As of September 29, our outdoor drive-in worship services have concluded. Thank you to everyone who participated. We will see what 2022 brings!

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School is ongoing! We were happy to see some new faces and hope that even more join us! We meet in the conference room/library each Sunday after worship.

Scheduled Worship Help

Saturday, October 2:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed! - **Communion Assistants:** Joan Bunnell & Dolores Schneider

Sunday, October 3:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed! - **Communion Assistants:** Volunteers needed!

Saturday, October 9:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed! - **Communion Assistants:** Debbie Ferrin & Pat Bittner

Sunday, October 10:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed! - **Communion Assistants:** Volunteers needed!

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for Greeters/Ushers and Communion Assistants. 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](tel:814-421-4921) or Chris Oleksa at [814-244-9851](tel:814-244-9851).



Youth News

Sunday School has begun for Pre-K through 8th grade. "Mount Calvary Kid's Crew" is our program for Pre-K and up that gathers at 8:30am in Sander Hall with Pastor Jonathan. Students focus on a bible story and have an activity or craft before rejoining their parents during the worship service.

Childcare is now available during Sunday morning worship. Hannah Salamon is a Richland Learning Center staff member who will be joining us each Sunday along with Pastor Jonathan and other volunteers to provide childcare for infants through age 5. For the time being, drop-off for this service will take place in Sander Hall. Speak with Pastor Jonathan for more information.

Pastor Jonathan LOVES to get out and see our Mount Calvary youth in action doing the things they enjoy! Be sure to share your schedules for sports, concerts, recitals, etc. You never know where he might show up!

Pastor Jonathan's office hours at Mount Calvary are Mondays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm. And he is available outside of those hours via email (RevJonoAdams@gmail.com), cellphone (412-817-6704), or Facebook.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

The Evangelism Committee will meet on **Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

The All Parish Ministries Committee will meet **Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m.**

ALSM Auxiliary Members

There will be a meeting of the ALSM Cambria County Auxiliary on Wednesday, **October 6 at 10:00 a.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 Ash St., Johnstown. This is an important meeting to address needs for our Lutheran Home at Johnstown. We look forward to seeing you! Trinity protocol - if vaccinated, no mask needed. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, that is also acceptable.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree collected \$490 for the months of July and August and was donated to the Camp Sequanota Scholarship Fund. The September/October collection will be donated to the Nardecchia Spay and Neuter Fund. Thank you for your continued support!

2021 Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization Convention

On October 23, 2021, the Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization will gather at Duncansville Evangelical Lutheran Church for the 32nd Annual Convention. All women of the Allegheny Synod are invited to attend. The half-day convention will begin with a catered breakfast and include worship and a business meeting. This is a great time to meet other women from the Allegheny Synod. Carol Sauter, president of our local WELCA group will be attending. All women of our church are welcome to attend.

Please call Carol at 814-242-7028 or email carol42047@gmail.com to make arrangements to attend before **October 1st.**

Clothing Sale UPDATE

The Social Ministry Team has made the decision to push back the clothing sale by one week to **Saturday, October 9th from 10-2.**

We are still in need of donations to make this year's sale a success. 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.

Due to the new locking system for the church doors, if you need to drop clothes off after church office hours, please use the blue bin. It will be checked a few times a week and the clothes will be taken inside. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you!

Backyard Cookie Collection

Due to the current surge in the COVID-19 Delta Variant, Backyard Ministries has made some changes to their cookie collection. Moving forward, only pre-packaged items will be accepted. These can be any type of snack, not just cookies (fruit snacks, bags of chips, etc.). Please no longer donate any homemade cookies, or large packs of cookies that must be divided into individual bags. Thank you for your continued support!

October 7th will be the next collection date.

Backyard Ministries' Hat & Glove Collection

Once again, we will be collecting hats and gloves for the children of Coopersdale. Bags labeled with size and gender will be in baskets in the narthex. Please return them to either the blue bin outside the church or the bin inside. All bags must be returned by **Thursday, October 28.** Thank you for your continued support!

Zoom Webinar for ELCA World Hunger

"A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed"

Celebrate World Food Day by participating in this online benefit for ELCA World Hunger. Hear compelling stories from those who are doing the work of fighting hunger around the world, listen to special music, and gather in fellowship to invest in this life-giving work. The online benefit takes place via Zoom on **October 14th at 7:30 p.m.** Central Time.

ELCA Good Gifts

ELCA Good Gifts is a great opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world.

How it works:

- Choose a gift (food, medical care costs, school supplies, etc.)
 - Receive a card to share the news of your gift
 - Make a difference in someone's life!

Visit goodgifts.elca.org for more information on how to donate!

ELCA "Stories of Faith in Action"

Check out the latest issue of "Stories of Faith in Action," which includes: a message from ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, nine inspiring stories from around the country & world, the 2020 financial report on Mission Support, and a story-based devotional for use in Bible studies or committee meetings.

Visit elca.org to download your copy!

**Birthdays and Anniversary for the
Week: October 3 – October 9, 2021.**

Oct. 3 - Joseph Kocis, Sr. & Richelle Rose

Oct. 4 - Bonnie Kidd & Jason Kylor

Oct. 5 - Marlene Barrick

Oct. 7 - Florence Barker, Herb Enos, Nicole Kuyat, & McKenzie Zukus

Oct. 8 - Kenneth Corle & Ruth Ann Wolfe

Oct. 9 - Patricia Cox & Elizabeth Katrancha

Oct. 4 - John & Jessica Lund, Jr. (13 years)

Oct. 7 - John & Teresa Lumley, Jr. (32 years)

Oct. 7 - Edward & Susan Penrod (26 years)

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Joe Miller & Family, Jennifer & Ryan, Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chis Palm, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, Gladys Haupt, Joe & Judith Lopez, Maria, Tom, Lt. Hunter Bergman, Lt. Dylan Merchant, Harold, Rick, Midge, Shirley, Jennifer, Debbie Finnegan, Jill McEntee, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Barb, Jamie, Sara Solarczyk, Lauf Family, Jackie Janak, Jack, Corinne, Brittany, Joan, Dave, Karen, Dan, and Amy.

September Financial Update

Through the end of August, Mt. Calvary remains in the black. We are slightly ahead of where we thought we would be at this time of year. Thank you! If this is to continue, the congregational council and Stewardship and Administration Committee will need to continue to manage expenses in the fashion that best pairs faithfulness and frugality. With this in mind, it is reassuring that some of the facility management expenses which were once over budget have now been steadily coming back to expectation. As for revenues, we are a member supported enterprise. As the congregational council and Stewardship and Administration Committee do their best to maximize the value of our assets, it will be important for each of us to do our part financially; increasing our giving when possible and doing our best to maintain prior levels of giving when an increase is not possible. With just a third of the current year left, things should continue to go well if we all just continue to carry our share of the load; generously sharing of our time, talent, and treasure. Thanks again for doing this very thing through the end of August!

Condensed Worship for Sunday, September 26, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Semicontinuous First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

¹[King Ahasuerus] and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request.”⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the

king.” ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Semicontinuous Psalm: Psalm 124

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. (Ps. 124:7)

¹If the Lord had not been ^l on our side,
let Isra- ^l el now say;

²**if the Lord had not been ^l on our side,
when enemies rose ^l up against us,**

³then would they have swallowed us ^l up alive
in their fierce ^l anger toward us;

⁴**then would the waters have ^l overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone ^l over us;**

⁵then would the ^l raging waters
have gone right ^l over us.

⁶**Blessed ^l be the Lord
who has not given us over to be a prey ^l for their teeth. R**

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare ^l of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we ^l have escaped.

⁸**Our help is in the name ^l of the Lord,
the maker of heav- ^l en and earth. R**

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Sermon by Pastor Jonathan Adams

Grace and peace to you from the God who is for us. Amen.

Imagine with me for just a moment that you have a job with a very specialized skill. You learned that skill through extensive training, led by a facilitator who is one of the best known in the world. After going through that training, you continue working with the person who taught you, seeing them as your friend and boss. Most of the time, it's your boss who does the work, but every once and a while, you get to do it, too, and when you get to use your special skill, it makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

For many of you, this shouldn't be too hard to imagine. You have skills, and God-given gifts, and you probably also have jobs that use them. It's hopefully not too hard to think of a time where you were specifically trained for something and that you took pride in your work.

Now, imagine that one day, you're in town, and you see someone else doing the same sort of work that you received that special training for. Except YOU KNOW that the person you're seeing didn't go through the training, they don't have any of the special certifications or licenses that you do. Maybe they claim to work for your boss, but you know all of your co-workers on a first name basis, and you do not recognize this person. Clearly, they're some sort of impostor.

Now, depending on the type of job we're talking about, this is possibly more alarming for some than others. It's definitely an issue for someone to buy an old school bus and decide to start picking kids up. It's definitely an issue for someone to try and claim to be a nurse. It's definitely an issue for someone to claim to be a tax accountant.

And according to the disciples, it's definitely an issue for someone to claim to be an exorcist.

In today's Gospel lesson, the disciples are concerned that someone else is performing exorcisms in Jesus' name. This person is not one of the known disciples and clearly must be an imposter taking the Lord's name in vain. They are enraged, and, doing their best impression of a middle-school tattletale, they go to tell Jesus, expecting Holy outrage.

And yet, Jesus says, "don't stop him."

"for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward."

When we hear these words, it sort of turns our ideas of power on their head.

Whether or not the disciples accepted what Jesus was saying at that point in time, sooner or later, they had to have realized that he was onto something. Even in the earliest days of the church, there was diversity of opinion, diversity of practice, and they had to be intentional about realizing that while there are some people out there who are against us, there are a lot more who really are playing on our team.

Jesus was trying to remind the disciples, and us, that the emphasis should be not on teams, but the healing action. Not on church structures, but on proclaiming the Gospel message that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected for our sins.

Last weekend, our new Bishop, Paula Schmitt was installed in a very simple service in Altoona, much simpler than the typical bishop's installation because of limited attendance due to COVID. It lacked much of the pomp and circumstance that one might otherwise expect. And as nice as it would have been to have a full, celebratory service, it wasn't necessary. That's not what the church is about.

The church, is about healing the sick, helping the poor, clothing the homeless, visiting the prisoners, and above all, proclaiming the Gospel. And I think Bishop Schmitt will do an excellent job keeping the congregations of our synod focused on that Gospel.

Whoever is not against us, is for us.

And although we as Lutherans put our own special Lutheran flavor on things, we have to admit that the Gospel comes forth from other churches and institutions as well. I'm sure more than a few of you spent some time this weekend paying attention to Pope Francis and what he had to say to thousands of faithful Roman Catholics.

I think we can all agree that some of his messages have relevance for all of us as Americans and as Christians.

Whoever is not against us, is for us. And when we do the work of God in our world, whether we call ourselves Lutherans or Roman Catholics or Methodists or Presbyterians or Episcopalians, we know that God is for us. And if God is for us, who can be against us? Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for natural wonders of your creation (*local waterways, forests, and natural areas may be named*). Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, and ushers (*other roles may be added to reflect your context*). Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.