



Mount Calvary Connected

September 24, 2021

Mount Calvary Connected is a weekly newsletter that will be sent out each Thursday. 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

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class resumes this coming Sunday, September 19th after worship as they study and discuss the topic, "The Sovereignty of God." There's no time like now to get back into the rhythm of learning about our faith. Join us!

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!



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.

A Youth & Family Cookout is scheduled for Sunday, September 26th at 6pm at the church. Join us for dinner, fun, and fellowship! Contact Pastor Jonathan to RSVP.

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.

Giving Tree

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

Allegheny Synodical Women's Convention

On October 23, 2021 Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization convention will gather at Ducansville Evangelical Lutheran Church for the 32nd Annual Convention.

All women of the Allegheny Synod are invited to attend. A half day convention will begin with a catered breakfast and then on to the worship and 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 Sauter at 814-242-7028 or email carol42047@gmail.com to make arrangements to attend before October 1.

Clothing Sale UPDATE

The Social Ministry Team has made the decision to push back the clothing sale by one week to Saturday, October 9 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. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. 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. Thank you!

Hurricane Ida Relief

The impact of Ida is yet to be fully assessed, but with a hurricane of this scale, rebuilding will be costly and take years. With extensive experience in accompanying communities throughout the relief and long-term recovery phases, Lutheran Disaster Response is working with local ELCA synods and Lutheran social service organizations to coordinate a response to Hurricane Ida. Immediate needs will include food, basic necessities and temporary housing. Long after the headlines change, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany communities on the journey of rebuilding their homes and lives.

If you would like to donate to help the survivors, please make check payable to Mount Calvary and mark in the memo line "Hurricane Ida Relief".

Haiti Earthquake Relief

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday morning. Over 1,400 people were killed, probably more. Over 6,900 people were injured, and roads are closed to hospitals that need supplies delivered. There is also now flooding from Tropical Storm Grace.

If you would like to donate to help the survivors, please make check payable to Mount Calvary and mark in the memo line "Haiti Earthquake".

Wildfire Relief

A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly, which makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state. There are more than 100 wildfires are now burning throughout 15 states.

If you would like to donate to help the survivors, please make check payable to Mount Calvary and mark in the memo line "Wildfire Relief".

Mt. Calvary Press Release

You now have an opportunity to sponsor the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church notice in the Saturday issue of the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat newspaper! We are asking if any of our members are interested in sponsoring this ad for 1 week. The cost is \$11.00. We are also giving you the opportunity to place this as an Honorarium or Memorial, if you wish.

Sponsored by _____

In Honor/Memory of _____ How Many Weeks _____

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.

Memorials

Dot McQuaide – Janet Newmar

Patti Sliko – Old and Regular Volleyball Players

Pat Conklin – Linda McMullen, Carlene Motter, Darlene Rassiga & Family, Steven Pearlman & Terri Coltin

Installation of Allegheny Synod Bishop Paula Schmitt

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Because of the uncertainty of the spread of Covid-19 and its variants, in-person capacity at the church is limited to invited guests only. The event will be livestreamed on the Allegheny Synod Facebook page (Allegheny Synod 8C) beginning at 2:40pm.

You are warmly invited to attend one of the smaller receptions with the new bishop listed below.

--Monday, September 20th 6:00 pm--

Grace Lutheran Church, State College, Narthex and Upper Commons

--Tuesday, September 21st, 6:00 pm--

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Duncansville. Social Hall

--Wednesday, September 22nd 6:00 pm--

Friedens Lutheran Church, Friedens. Friendship Hall.

--Thursday, September 23rd 6:00 pm--

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lanse. Narthex.

About Our Members & The Community We Serve:

Brian & Lori Hiltz are celebrating the Holy Baptism of granddaughter Wrenna Rue Buhler this weekend in Ridgway, Pennsylvania.

Gladys Haupt has moved to Richland Woods.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: September 26 – October 2, 2021.

Sept. 26 – Brook Brehm, Erin Marley

Sept. 27 - Elizabeth Trevorrow

Sept. 29 – James Miller, Fiona Reininger

Sept. 30 – Lindsey Colvin, Kimberly Foust, Joyce Hite, Kara Morningstar

Oct 1. – Jill Marshh, Erin Shaffer, Robert Yannutz,

Oct. 2 – Lauren Marley, Camden Williams

Sept 27 – Mike & Ashley Kozak (8 years)

Sept. 30 – Gary & Dawn Morningstar (32 years)

Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Joe Miller & Family, Jennifer & Ryan, Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chis Palm, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, Gladys

Haupt, Joe & Judith Lopez, Maria, Tom, Lt. Hunter Bergman, and 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, and Joan.

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 THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Semicontinuous First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31

This passage, which ends the book of Proverbs, describes the good wife. She is a supremely capable and hardworking person, who runs the household and also engages in commercial ventures. She cares both for her family and for the poor, and she fears the Lord.

¹⁰A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

¹³She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.

¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.

¹⁵She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.

¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.

¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

²⁰She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.

²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.

²²She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.

²³Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.

²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.

²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.

²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
²⁹“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Semicontinuous Psalm: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ^l of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ^l of the scornful!
²Their delight is in the law ^l of the Lord,
and they meditate on God’s teaching ^l day and night. R
³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ^l do
not wither;
everything they ^l do shall prosper.
⁴It is not so ^l with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind ^l blows away.
⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ^l judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council ^l of the righteous.
⁶For the Lord knows the way ^l of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ^l be destroyed. R

Second Reading: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee

from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Sermon by Pastor Jonathan Adams

About a month and a half ago, my family and I brought home a puppy from one of the local humane society shelters. The dog we had had for eight years passed away in early August, and it didn't take long for us to realize that we *needed* a dog in our lives.

The puppy we ended up with is the cutest little mixed breed, she probably has some Golden Retriever, maybe some Border Collie, and who knows what else. She's absolutely adorable, and it hasn't taken long for us to fall in love with her. But, she can also be a royal pain in the butt.

Since she spent the first three months of her life in a shelter, she's been a bit more difficult to train than your average puppy. House-training has been a struggle. Every time I think we've made a breakthrough, I end up discovering puppy pee or poop in places around the house, sometimes really inconvenient places like at the foot of our bed, or just outside the shower in the bathroom. It drives me nuts!

On top of that, while she's great around our baby, she sees our three-year-old Annabelle as a playmate, and she can get pretty rough with her sharp little puppy teeth. Annabelle doesn't understand how to respond to this, and so at least once a day, I have to pick her up and carry her to another part of the house crying and screaming because the puppy bit her. It's so incredibly frustrating. But she's so incredibly cute, and in spite of all that I love her so much.

One day, when complaining about all of this, one of my friends told me, "remember, she's just a baby." And that clicked for me, because it lined up with something else I had read in a dog training book, "a puppy is not just a smaller version of an adult dog, a puppy is a baby dog who needs to be taught, trained, nurtured, and mentored."

In today's Gospel, as Jesus tries to settle the argument among the disciples about who is the greatest, he pulls a child into the midst as an example and tells them, "anyone who welcomes a child such as this welcomes me, and the one who sent me."

Our puppy has so much to learn about the world and how to live in it, just like our 3 year old daughter does, just like our 3 month old daughter does, and frankly, I think I still have a lot to learn as well. When you have a baby, whether it's a puppy, or a human, they need nurturing; they need to be welcomed and taught and included. And even though a puppy, or a child is immature, we still love them, we still do everything we can do to help them grow up right. When you welcome a child, when you teach a child, you are doing the work of God.

But here's the other important thing about Jesus' instruction to welcome children... Even though he had a literal child when he was telling this to the disciples, I don't think the "children" that we are called to welcome are always youngsters. Just as I said that I still have a lot to learn, there are so many people throughout the world who are still "children" in one way or another. Someone who has never heard the Gospel might be considered a child in the faith. And what does Jesus tell us to do with children? Welcome them! Love them! Nurture them! Teach them! Raise them right!

There are millions of people in the world who know less about Jesus and God's love than my three year old does. SO MANY CHILDREN in the faith that could be warmly welcomed anew. So many people that need our love, just like my puppy or my daughters or any other literal child. So remember, when you're welcoming someone who needs nurturing, you are welcoming our savior and our God. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict (especially). Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (especially). Shine your grace on all your saints. 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.