



Mount Calvary Connected

October 21, 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 also stream these services live over the internet. Simply visit www.mt-calvarylutheran.org and click "Live Radio Broadcast" from the home page on Sunday mornings.

Weekly worship bulletins can be found at: www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/

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.

Upcoming Meetings

Evangelism Committee will meet Thursday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Social Ministry Committee will meet Thursday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship and Administration Committee will meet Thursday, November 11th at 6:30 p.m.

WELCA will meet November 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Council is scheduled to meet November 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Usher & Communion Assistant Trainings

For those interested in learning more about Usher and/or Communion Assistant duties, two training sessions have been set up:

Monday, October 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 p.m.

We will meet in the Narthex.

Please RSVP to Chris Koshute at 814-421-4921 or Chris Oleksa at 814-244-9851.

Scheduled Worship Help

Saturday, October 23:

Greeters/Ushers: Tom & Kathy Rohrbaugh - **Communion Assistants:** Cindy Buday & Debbie Ferrin

Sunday, October 24:

Greeters/Ushers: Jim Koshute & Todd Moss - **Communion Assistants:** Christine Koshute

Saturday, October 30:

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

Sunday, October 31:

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.

In November, there will be a service project to help the less fortunate in our communities.

In December, we'll have a "Parents' Night Out" with a Christmas movie, snacks, games, and activities for all ages (a great opportunity for moms and dads to get some Christmas shopping done).

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. He is available outside of those hours via email (RevJonoAdams@gmail.com), cellphone (412-817-6704), or Facebook.

All Saints' Day
Saturday, November 6th and Sunday, November 7th

Those who have buried a loved one in the past year or had a loved one baptized in the last year should send the names of those they want acknowledged and the date of their death or baptism to Terrie at tcrisi@mt-calvarylutheran.org and Erin at epowell@mt-calvarylutheran.org by **Monday, November 1st**. We will then read the submitted names and light a candle for each person in worship when All Saints' is celebrated.

Giving Tree

The September/October collection will be donated to the Nardecchia Spay and Neuter Fund. Thank you for your continued support!

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!

Annual Remembrance Service

Mt. Calvary has been asked to be this year's host for the Annual Remembrance Service, following our commitment of "Inviting all generations" and community involvements. The service will be held **Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary and will be followed by a meal in Sander Hall. Hope to see you there!

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!

2021 Operation Christmas Child Project

Belmont United Methodist Church will operate as a Collection Center for the 2021 Operation Christmas Child project. Drop off completed boxes at Belmont United Methodist located at 107 Coldren Street in Johnstown. The drop-off schedule is as follows:

Monday, November 15th 10a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, November 18th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, November 19th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 20th 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 21st 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, November 22nd 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Mel Hofecker at 814-266-1660 or by email at Mevnbel@aol.com. You may also call the Belmont United Methodist Church at 814-266-3964.

Birthdays and Anniversary for the Week: October 24 – October 30, 2021

Oct. 24 – Robert Miltenberger

Oct. 25 – Josh Daly, David Friedman, & Paige Williams

Oct. 26 – Cathryn Bergman, Douglas Elliott, Glenn Katrancha, Jr., Joanne Miller, & Harrison Ondesko

Oct. 27 – Stephen Bower, James Conjelko, & Roman Shaffer

Oct. 28 – Olivia Mayket

Oct. 29 – Gerald Barrick, Robert Colvin, Jr., Abigayle Enos, Raymond Gorham, Jr., DeSon Herring, Danielle Rubis, & Zachary Swartz

Oct. 30 – Chelsey Wingard & Patricia Wingard

Oct. 25 – Bob & Kathleen Kamler (42 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, Joan, Dave, Dan, Amy, Stephanie Kriss, Luella Koontz, Family of Patricia Conklin, Family of Robert Lawrence, Al Lindner and Family, Natalie Zerby, Pastor Scott Custead, Chris & Dolly, Bob, and Cassy Sojak.

Financial Update

Through the end of September, Mount Calvary remains in the black for the year. Income is within 2% of what was expected at the beginning of the year. An indication of the continuing impact of the pandemic, the entire shortfall can be attributed to lower-than-expected proceeds from building use. Thanks to the membership of Mount Calvary for keeping up with prior levels of generosity and/or increasing generosity when possible.

On the expense side, we are running under budget by about 4% at this time. Many thanks are due to the Stewardship and Administration Committee for pulling together such an accurate budget and to all the congregational leaders who strived to be both faithful and frugal!

Condensed Worship for Sunday, October 17, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Semicontinuous First Reading: Job 38:1-7, 34-41

¹The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?

³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

³⁸when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?

³⁹“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?

⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?"

Semicontinuous Psalm: 104:1-9, 24, 35b

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

²You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak
and stretch out the heavens like a tent.

³You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above;
you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.

⁴You make the winds your messengers
and flames of fire your servants.

⁵You set the earth upon its foundations,
so that from now until forever it shall never be moved.

⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷At your rebuke the waters fled,
scattered by your voice of thunder.

⁸They went up into the mountains and descended down to the valleys,
to the place where you assigned them.

⁹You set the limits that they should not pass;
never shall they return to cover the earth again.

²⁴How manifold are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

^{35b}Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made

perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?”

³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Sermon by Pastor Jonathan Adams

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Christ Jesus Our Lord and Humble Servant. Amen.

One thing that everyone from the most cynical to the most hopeful and optimistic among us can probably all agree on is this: the world of politics is a world of favors and “you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours.”

That’s not so much a statement about individual politicians as it is the entire system. You can get into politics with the sincerest of intentions, but it’s not long before you find yourself having to compromise and trade favors in order to accomplish even some of what you want to.

And once you have some sort of power or authority, it doesn’t take long for friends, constituents, colleagues, and even enemies to come asking “what can you do for me?”

Years ago, in Boswell, I had a parishioner who had served on Borough Council tell me, “I ran for council so that I could try to change the things that I thought were issues in town. I didn’t realize everyone else in town would be coming to me with THEIR issues as well.”

It’s human nature, but even moreso, it’s something that’s taught and nurtured in school, and business, and every aspect of life. Seek out the people who can help you, who can do favors for you.

So it shouldn’t be so surprising to hear the story that we do in today’s Gospel:

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, two brave fishermen who have left everything they know and everything they have in order to come and follow Jesus. After months of this, listening to his teaching, and seeing him performing miracles, they know they've picked a winner, they KNOW he's the real deal, that he will rise up with the glory of God.

And they've arrived at one, or maybe two questions: "How can WE benefit from this?" "What can Jesus do for US?"

And so, knowing that the other disciples might be jealous, they pull him aside, they tell him "we want you to do whatever we ask of you..." And they make their pitch, "Grant to us to sit with you, one at your right hand and one at your left."

It's kind of like the campaign staff expecting cushy jobs with the new administration of the candidate they helped to get elected.

But Jesus shrugs it off, and tells them, "You do not know what you are asking... to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant..."

You can imagine that James and John are probably pretty taken aback by his response. They were looking for the benefits of being a disciple, they thought they understood how this was all going to end, with Jesus on a high throne, and them riding the gravy train for life. They thought their request, their favor, would be a simple one to grant, but Jesus says it's not something he can do.

Which leads me to wonder, if James and John, two of the best known disciples, two men who were the closest to Jesus of anyone in world history, if they couldn't get what THEY wanted out of being a disciple of Christ, where is the benefit for US?

In 1961, during his presidential inaugural address, one of the great optimistic politicians of the 20th century said, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

Maybe, as Christians, we tweak that famous line a little bit, something like, "And so, my fellow Christians: ask not what your God can do for you – ask what you can do for your God?"

Jesus told the disciples that in order to be great, they must be servants. That being disciples of Christ is not so much about what God does for us, but rather what we do for God, and for all of humanity.

And I think THAT is a message that is just as relevant and important for us as the modern church as it was to the very first disciples in the very beginning.

It can be so easy to fall into a trap of thinking that church and faith is solely about what WE get out of it. The favors that God does for US in our daily lives. And this can foster a certain sense of consumerism, the idea that *if MY church isn't doing enough for me, I'll just find one that does*. Find one with a better preacher, with more programs, with a more comfortable sanctuary, with better coffee and donuts. I'll just find a church that *doesn't expect anything from me*.

But that's not what a life of faith is about. If we put in even just a little, the gifts we receive in return are tenfold. When we focus on the question: "What can I do for Jesus?" It becomes life-changing. And we begin to focus not so much on the things we don't have, but the things that we do have, and *can have*.

James and John didn't get what they wanted. When Jesus came into his glory, when he was crucified, the spots on his left hand and his right were reserved for two criminals whom he had never met.

But the sons of Zebedee inherited the great gift of eternal life, just the same as those two men that hung next to Jesus.

We too have a great inheritance laid out for us in the gift of eternal life. But to great in THIS life, we must be humble servants just as Christ was for us...

We need to not ask what can Jesus do for us, but rather what can WE do for Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

Holy One, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that waterfowl, reptiles, wild horses, dolphins, and all living things flourish as you intend. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, dementia, or any illness (especially), that all may be healed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage greeters, ushers, office volunteers, bakers, counters, committee and group leaders, teachers, students, evangelists, singers, builders, nurturers, and all who serve with generous hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Risen One, we thank you for those who have shaped your church and shared your gospel. Through the witness of your saints (especially Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch), continue to inspire us with hope until we all are gathered at your eternal feast. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.