



Mount Calvary Connected

June 9, 2022

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/

A Message on The Festival of Pentecost from the Office of the Bishop

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

If you remember the story of Pentecost, lots of people were gathered together in one place to celebrate harvest and without any notice a loud, rushing wind came from the sky and set their hair on fire!—not literally, but it looked like that was the case. And, as if that wasn't enough, the people began to speak in languages they did not know. People were confused and probably a bit scared. Some thought the babbling people were just drunk, but Peter set them straight about what was happening by telling them this fantastical event was the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus would be with them always through the power of the Holy Spirit.

That amazing day became the birthday of what we now call the church; it is an amazing thing how the Holy Spirit continues to call us together in "one place" and remind us that we are not alone, we are loved and part of a community of believers whose hair also is on fire!

Friends, the fire of the Holy Spirit was poured in you through your baptism. Not only is your hair on fire, but so is your heart, mind and soul. The fire of that first Pentecost continues to burn in you urging you to continue the growth of the church by sharing the love of Christ with others.

I invite you think deeply about the place of the Holy Spirit in your life. Do you have some sense of God working through your words and actions? If you're not sure, perhaps you could do what those first believers did by devoting yourself to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. Few things are more important in the life of faith than remaining open to the Holy Spirit—even when it is confusing and scary.

May your celebration of Pentecost renew in you the confidence of God's eternal and tender love for you.

Upcoming Meetings

Stewardship and Administration: June 9th at 6:30 p.m.
Synod Assembly: June 11th (all day for our voting delegates)
Property Committee: June 14th at 6:00 p.m.
Social Ministry: June 16th at 6:30 p.m.
WELCA: June 20th at 6:00 p.m.
Church Council: June 21st at 6:30 p.m.
Psalms Bible Study: June 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
Youth: June 29th at 5:30 p.m.

The Property Committee will meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the old lounge.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Help Wanted

The Property Committee is looking to recruit a number of small job volunteers. Tasks might include replacing light bulbs, changing hardware on a commode, getting a lawnmower or snowblower ready for use, etc. The Committee believes we have a lot of talent in the congregation and wants to make greater use of it. Every small job handled by a member equals one less call that needs to be made to a vendor who may have a minimum visit charge or an hourly rate of \$50 or more.

Volunteers who can be available on short notice are needed to help with set-up, serving, and tear-down after funeral luncheons.

Interested parties should contact Mark Rychak or one of the pastors. A message could also be left with the church office at 814-266-4859. Thank you!

Blessing of the Bikes

The event will take place on June 26th at 10:30 a.m. at Mt. Calvary. Free lanyards will be given to the first 100 bikers. Refreshments will be provided. All bikers are welcome to attend our 8:45 a.m. service prior to the blessing.

Backyard Ministries Summer Club Volunteer Opportunity

For the past 5 years, members of Mt. Calvary have been volunteering their time one day a week, for one hour to spend with the children of Coopersdale during the summer months. We have a core of about 5 people, but when one or more can't show up on a certain week, it makes things more difficult.

If you want to make a difference in underprivileged children's lives and share the word of God with them, then please consider this opportunity! All you need to do is show up. We already have games and activities, as well as the Bible lesson to share each week. If you are interested, or would like more information on this rewarding experience, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you!

Backyard Ministries Snack Collection

If you would like to continue to donate prepackaged snacks please continue to drop them off at the church. We have decided that we will also start accepting monetary donations. If you would like to contribute, and this is an easier way for you to do so, please drop off any donations at the church office. Thank you for your continued support!

Scheduled Worship Help

Saturday, June 11:

Greeters/Ushers: Dick & Anita Brodt

Communion Assistants: Missy Brodt

Sunday, June 12:

Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Cathy Prisk

Communion Assistants: Ray Leverknight

Saturday, June 18:

Greeters/Ushers: Pat Bittner & Linda Barnhart

Communion Assistants: Cindy Solarczyk & Joan Bunnell

Sunday, June 19:

Greeters/Ushers: Volunteers needed!

Communion Assistants: Todd Moss

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 or Chris Oleksa at 814-244-9851.



Youth News

Mt. Calvary's Adventures of "Flat Jesus": This summer, Pastor Jono Adams invites you to adopt "Flat Jesus" and take him on your summer adventures! Please see the additional information below or visit Mt. Calvary's website.

Pastor Jono's Sunday school class, and the nursery/childcare has concluded for the summer. We look forward to seeing you all later this year!

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.

Mt. Calvary's Adventures of "Flat Jesus"

This summer, Pastor Jono Adams invites you to adopt "Flat Jesus" and take him on your summer adventures!

"Flat Jesus" was inspired by a children's book by Jeff Brown called, "Flat Stanley." In the book, a boy named Stanley becomes flattened and is able to be mailed to different places, having all kinds of exciting adventures.

"Flat Jesus" is a way to keep our church family connected as we enter into the summer traveling season. Bring home a "Flat Jesus" and take him with you as you travel...or to whatever you do this summer. Take a picture of him doing lots of different things: going out to dinner, having fun at the beach or the mountains, hanging out with friends or cousins, or whatever you are doing! It will be an amazing adventure! It is a great way to remember that Jesus is always with us, wherever we go. And it just might start up a conversation with someone about what you are doing...and why!

AND THEN... SHARE HOW JESUS IS ON THE MOVE!

When you have taken photos of "Flat Jesus," you can share your "Flat Jesus" pictures:

1. By emailing photos to RevJonoAdams@gmail.com or texting them to 412-817-6704.
2. By uploading your picture directly to Facebook. Tag Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Johnstown, PA. Add the hashtag #flatJesus and/or #jesusisonthemove

It will be so exciting to see where Jesus is on the move this summer as you share your adventures! And remember, Jesus is with you ALWAYS!

We'd LOVE to see at least one "Flat Jesus" photo from every family in church. And if we get enough, we'll combine them into a video at the end of the summer!

If you won't make it to church to pick up a printed "Flat Jesus," but still want to participate, you can download and print your own by visiting Mt. Calvary's website: <https://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/mt-calvarys-adventures-of-flat-jesus/>

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree for May and June will go to The Precious Life Baby Bottle Campaign that runs through Birthright from Mother's Day to Father's Day. There will also be a basket in front of the tree to collect clothes for toddlers. Thank you for your continued support!

1st Annual Cruise-In

Sunday, July 24th from 1-4 p.m.

Mt. Calvary parking lot

Open to all cars, trucks, and bikes. A gift bag will be given to the first 25 vehicles. There will be food, dessert, and a DJ. Any questions, please contact the church office at 814-266-4859.

Basket Party

Plans for a September Basket Party are underway. Stay tuned for more details.

14-Day Biblical Pilgrimage Adventure to Israel

Jerusalem Seminary in Conjunction with Redstone Presbytery and Friends

October 15 to 28, 2022

Please see email sent May 31st for trip information, including the itinerary, or visit:
<http://redstonepresbytery.org/>

Give now for Eastern Europe Crisis Response

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Friends, I write to you again about our neighbors in Eastern Europe. First, I thank you for your outpouring of prayers and generosity — you are making a difference in the lives of people impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response during this crisis are already at work. Because of your generosity, \$1 million will support the Lutheran World Federation and these member churches:

German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania

They are distributing hygiene supplies, food, medicine, bedding and psychosocial and pastoral care to refugees and internally displaced people, most of whom are women and children.

Your support has made this possible, but more work remains. Your gifts to “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” will be used to in full (100%) to address the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Additional responses through partners in these countries and others in the region are expected in the coming weeks and months, and Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying those partners as the situation evolves. We pray for the Roma communities and foreign nationals who are facing racial and ethnic discrimination at the borders as they flee Ukraine. Our companions are ensuring that people in these marginalized groups will be treated with respect and dignity as they seek safety.

We know there are many organizations that you can choose to support, but it is only by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response that guarantees your gift will fund ELCA-supported work through faith partners in the region.

I invite you to watch this [video](#) from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton about the situation in Eastern Europe and the ELCA’s response.

Together we pray for our siblings in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. May God be with them in their time of need.

In Christ’s service,



The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Birthdays and Anniversaries for the
Week: June 12 – June 18, 2022**

June 12 - Justin Loftis

June 13 - Barbara Miltenberger

June 14 - Michael Cassidy

June 15 - Becky Boyce, Greg Gawlas, Mitchell Gusmenotti, & Jessica Zada

June 17 - Edward Penrod

June 18 - Morgan Philibin & Robert Trotter

June 16 - Nathaniel & Jessica Sann (21 years)

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chiz Palm Family, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, Gladys Haupt, Bill & Linda, Jose & Family, Dave, Tom, Lt. Hunter Bergman, and Lt. Dylan Merchant, Harold, Rick, Shirley, Debbie, David, Lauren, Billy, Barb, Sara Solarczyk, Jackie Janak, Jack, Corinne, Joan, Dan, Natalie Zerby, Pastor Scott Custead, Luella Koontz, Al Lindner & Family, Bob, Dawn, Stacy & Josh, Bob Trotter, Bill Layton, Deb Zilch, Bennett, Cassy Sojak, Paul Miller, Keith Mayket, Ruth, Pete, Teplitza Family, Ethel Warshel, Melanie, Ken, John Nerone, Dane Wisner, Jeff, Dorothy, Irene, Karen, Erin, Susan Dyers, Bob McMullen, Wyatt George, Larry Hockensmith, Jean Pellon, Mike, Corey, John Rychak, Pastor Jonathan & Family, Roxanee Horner, Lynn Palm & son, Alex, & Alex's wife, Becky Lilja, Kathy P., Al Johnson, Chris, Donna & Danny, Cheryl, Jennifer & Family, Jaime, Matt & Ashley, Landon, Max Lawn, Linda Haberkorn, Lorraine, Joe, Donna, Danny & Family, Becky Jo, Bill, Linda & Family, Mary, Mary Jane, Janice, Dennis, Rick, Don, the Chavis Family, Mabel Ann, Betty, Cathy, Cindy, Jill, Theresa & Family, Dean, Madi & Family, Patty & Family, Williams Family, Sydney & Family, Paulette, Ron, Toby, Andrea, Mary Ann, Midge, Rayford, Lois A., Dwane, Nicole, Trent, Kim, Uvalde, Texas; Kyle, Anna, & Beverly.

Financial Update

The April financial statements reviewed by the Congregational Council and Stewardship and Administration Committee last week continue to report positive net income for the year. Member gifts and other income are ahead of last year and in excess of this year's budget. Mission and ministry costs are 2% ahead of budget, with the vast majority of the overage attributable to seasonal spikes in electricity and gas.

As in the past, we all just need to continue to do our part which means maintaining prior levels of giving as a baseline and increasing where possible. As we do this, we also need to do our best to stay ahead of the game. This happens when together we offset normal losses, inflation, and the pandemic's tremendous disruption by being generous people who invite, welcome, and include without interruption.

Condensed Worship for Sunday, June 5, 2022

Prayer of the Day

P: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

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

A: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

P: There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

A: All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

P: You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

A: When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

P: You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

A: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

P: You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

A: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

P: May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the Lord.

A: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

P: The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God!

Gospel: John 14:8-17

Philip said to [Jesus,] "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon by Pastor Scott Klimke

I've got a peaceful, easy feeling; and I know you won't let me down. 'Cause I'm already standin' on the ground.

This song surely wasn't in use back when God deprived humanity of the shared language that was eventually restored through the multilingual coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. If you don't remember when humanity lost its former ability to communicate, it was at the Tower of Babel. At Babel, humanity used the gift of communication to try to build its way up into heaven. And as I've already mentioned, God responded to this hubris, to this arrogance, to this excessive pride and self-confidence, by taking away our ability to communicate. After Babel and before Pentecost, there's no longer a lingua franca, a common language, just babel. And babel doesn't do much for peace. But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let me say the edgy, restless, discontented humanity that tried to build its way into heaven at Babel is par for the course when it comes to the Bible's description of the first humans.

Way back in the beginning, humankind was given a mission within the larger mission of God. We were to subdue the earth. We were to till and to tend God's garden. The basic idea in play was that God's very good creation was unfinished and we were to be finish carpenters. But from pretty much the start this didn't sit right with us. Rather than being peaceful and easy about our human identity and our mission within the larger mission of God we got edgy and restless and dissatisfied. We got so edgy and restless and dissatisfied that we basically abandoned God's mission for us; the mission to improve and protect the wonderful world God had begun.

First, Adam and Eve found tending and tilling God's garden so beneath them they that tried to achieve equality with God. Then Cain got so edgy and restless that he killed his brother Abel in a jealous rage. Before long the interpersonal conflict and aggression got so out of hand that God decided to start over with a flood. It didn't work. You pretty much go from the flood to the Tower of Babel disaster. There's just nothing all that peaceful or easy about the first humans. But maybe it's different now that the Holy Spirit's come with wind and fire.

With Pentecost a reversal of what happened at Babel, it's certainly possible. If those who tried to build the Tower of Babel were edgy and restless and discontent, maybe we're more peaceful and easy now that the Holy Spirit has restored the unity we lost at Babel and even given us a shared language—the language of faith in Jesus Christ. But because we're all at different stages along our shared, spiritual journey, we don't want to go too far with this. Some of us may be more peaceful and easy than the first humans. Some of us not. But I will make this generalization. As we mature spirituality, we grow more content. Our edges are rounded. We roll in our sleep less and can handle the twists and turns of life better. Unlike the first humans, as we grow spirituality, we're more apt and able to sing, "I got a peaceful, easy feeling; and I know you won't let me down. 'Cause I'm already standin' on the ground."

In some respects, this is the Holy Spirit's job—to fill us with peace. The Spirit accomplishes this by keeping our feet on the ground instead of up on the ladders we've tried to climb in order to achieve equality with God. As I've said, the Spirit rounds our edges and tranquilizes our restless discontent. It's

able to happen because Jesus did his job well and the Spirit is therefore able to assure us that God won't let us down. Thanks to Jesus' excellence at his job, we can be human. We can keep our feet on the ground. We can tend and till the garden and God will take care of the rest. When the Spirit leads us to feel this way, the end result is a peaceful, easy feeling. Don't believe me. Just said on the night before his death in John's gospel.

He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." It doesn't get much clearer than this. Peace, the end of all our restless striving and edgy discontent, is to be the hallmark of the Church born of Jesus' spear-torn side and nursed to maturity through the Holy Spirit's gift of faith. As we grow in all the Spirit reveals about Christ, we grow in peace. Thanks to how well Jesus has done his job and how good the Spirit is at explaining Jesus' effectiveness, we're much more apt and able to sing, "I got a peaceful, easy feeling; and I know you won't let me down. 'Cause I'm already standin' on the ground."

In his own way, St. Paul says the same in the eighth chapter of Romans in a passage sometimes read on this day. In verses fourteen through seventeen, he says that as the Spirit gains traction in our lives we grow less and less fearful and more and more confident that we have been adopted as children of God destined to inherit the best God has to give. This is the Spirit convincing us that Jesus has done his job well and that God won't let us down as a result. And as St. Paul says in the same context, the Spirit's method of persuasion is simple and straightforward. We know we are children of God and heirs of the best God has to give when the Spirit leads us to pray, "Abba! Father!," as in "Our Father who art in heaven." There's nothing akin to the running of a religious marathon here. It's standard, everyday stuff that the Spirit uses to open the door for the peace and confidence that we are children of God and heirs of the best God has to give. Here too the Spirit is presented as the divine and peaceful cure for our restless striving and edgy discontent. But before we're again tempted to sing "Peaceful, Easy Feeling," let's recognize the peace the Spirit gives doesn't lead to apathy or retirement from Christ's ongoing struggle to bring in a new heaven and a new earth.

In verses of Romans chapter eight I've referencing, St. Paul cuts this misunderstanding off at the pass. He says our present calling is to suffer with Christ until we're able to celebrate with Christ for all eternity. This is just another dimension of what the Spirit brings to our lives, St. Paul insists. For St. Paul, to have the Spirit is to pray the "Our Father" like you mean it. It's to grow in the peace and the confidence that Jesus did his job so well that you are in fact a child of God who shall one day inherit the best God has to give. And, and, and, it's to join the Christian struggle for a new heaven and a new earth until that new creation arrives. This is all represented as one package delivered by the Holy Spirit, not as bits and pieces of some, some spiritual package that only a few receive. It's why I've said the Spirit's gift of peace has nothing do with apathy or retirement from all the struggles Christ would have us join. When the Holy Spirit blesses us with peace, we're back to where we were supposed to be when our history as humans began. When the Spirit gives us peace, we're at peace with being human. When the Spirit gives us peace, we're at peace with our mission in the larger mission of God. When the Spirit gives us peace, we sleep so well at night that we're raring and ready to get back to work for God the next morning. And again, we work for God when we subdue the earth; when we tend and till the garden; when we look for ways to improve and protect God's creation until God makes it so perfect one day that we'll have to call it new.

And so, let's be at peace. Let's be so at peace that we sometimes even sing, "I got a peaceful, easy feeling; and I know you won't let me down. 'Cause I'm already standin' on the ground." And then let's

get back to the business of being human; the business of doing all that we can to improve and protect God's creation. There surely are no shortage of options for us to pursue when it comes to tending and tilling God's garden in our time and place. Let's each pick an option and pursue it in peace and for peace. Amen!

Prayers of Intercession

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

P: Holy Living One, Holy Moving One, burst open our locked doors, and by your Spirit drive us out into the world proclaiming your mighty deeds. Direct our words and actions, trusting the Advocate abiding in and among us. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Feed and care for creatures that remain hidden to us yet contribute to the vibrancy of your creation. Train us to interact with creation from a place of wonder, awe, and reverence. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Send your Spirit to places where language is a barrier to justice and mercy for those who seek it. Bless the work of translators, interpreters, and teachers. Promote understanding for the sake of those longing for true freedom and peace. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Comfort all who live in constant fear and any who are suffering (especially). Remind them that your Spirit has made them your children and that they are never far from your glory. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Guide all bishops, pastors, missionaries, and other ministers of the gospel (as you did for Boniface, whom we commemorate today). Foster our relationships with partner synods and local ministry partners (especially), that our visions and actions are Spirit-led. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Gather your people across regions, nations, and lands. Root our common life in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and by your Spirit bind us together with all the saints who have gone before us. God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

Blessing

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**