



# Mount Calvary Connected

February 23, 2023

*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!*

**Pastor Jonathan Adams**

Cell-Phone: 412-817-6704

Email: [revjonoadams@gmail.com](mailto:revjonoadams@gmail.com)

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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](http://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/](http://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/)

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## Readings & Sermon from the Past Sunday

Listen to the readings and the sermon from this past Sunday on our website: <https://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/sermons/>

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## A Message from Pastor Jonathan Adams

Having faith and having questions are not mutually exclusive.

During this season of Lent, we'll be following a pattern of embracing questions...

Each Saturday and Sunday, my sermon will especially seek to address some of the questions that are raised in that particular week's scripture readings. And if you join us on Wednesday evenings alternating between Benscreek and Mt. Calvary (more information on that below), we'll be doing more of the same.

My hope is that through this, we might all become more familiar and comfortable with sharing the questions that our faith leads us toward.

Why aren't I saying more about it now?

Well that's just a question for another day.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jonathan

## A Message from Joan Hunter, Church Council President

I've been seeing and hearing signs of spring and life. Chirping birds definitely sound like "warm weather" birds, as opposed to "winter" birds. On my walks with Patty, my 4-legged best girlfriend, the grass is standing straighter, and tiny tips of daffodils and crocuses are popping out.

I've even seen and heard "new life" popping up at Mt. Calvary over the last few weeks. I sense enthusiasm about Mt. Calvary's future. People are staying longer in the narthex and parking lot after services to chat with each other. A few of our Sunday morning coffee socials resulted in everyone still talking beyond the 8:45 service start time. We all forgot pastor was waiting for us!

The church property we are blessed with is busier than ever. It seems like cars are always in the parking lot, and most nights see multiple activities going on. Committee meetings, community activities in the gym or Sander Hall, and lots of laughter and fellowship. The buzz of music, the smells of good food, the laughter from fellowship seem to be everywhere at 1000 Scalp Ave.

So many people are joining in to be readers, help with communion, serve on the Altar Guild and in many other ways. Many of us serve in very visible roles, but greater numbers are finding ways to serve behind the scenes. Some of us are more comfortable sharing time, talents or treasures anonymously, where the only audience we want is God.

I am excited that so many of you have stopped me to offer help, ideas, suggestions, or activities you'd like to see or participate in. Mt. Calvary's tight family circle is slowly growing, becoming more active and definitely closer together. Just as every family should.

Never think that we have enough help, or that there is nothing you can do. Never think you wouldn't be welcome. Even small things like wrapping silverware, filling communion cup trays, making a few phone calls, or tidying pews after services are more valuable than you think.

I tend to think God is happy with us right now, and He believes Mt. Calvary is on the right path. Join us!

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### Upcoming Meetings/Events

Alpha - Week 2 - Tues., Feb. 28th at 6:00 pm

Ask – A Lenten Series (Benscreek) Wed., March 1st at 7 pm

Evangelism Committee - Thurs., March 2nd at 6:30 pm

Ask – A Lenten Series (Mt. Calvary) - Wed., March 8th at 7 pm

Ask – A Lenten Series (Benscreek) - Wed., March 15th at 7 pm

WELCA - Mon., March 20th at 6 pm

Church Council - Tues., March 21st at 6:30 pm

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### Soup-er Bowl Update

Touchdown!

Our very quickly organized Soup-er Bowl canned food drive resulted in \$155 (definitely a magic soup pot!) and a hefty supply of food for our friends at St. Vincent dePaul.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to those less fortunate than us.

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### Pancake Update

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped in any way to make our pancake breakfast such a success. Special thanks to Debbie & Mark Rychak, Jeff & Corey McKool who donated supplies for the breakfast. We took in \$1,600. Thanks to all the Mt. Calvary folks who supported us.

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### The Annual Flea Market

Please keep Mt. Calvary in mind during your Spring Cleaning!

Our annual flea market will be held on Saturday, May 13th. The funds raised provide a means to purchase big ticket items for the church. This year, the flea market pledged \$1,000 towards our fundraising campaign for a digital sign on Scalp Avenue.

We will begin collecting donations in April. Stay tuned for additional information and ways you can help or contribute!

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### Scheduled Worship Help

Readers/Communion Assistants:

February 25 – Cindy Solarczyk & Kevin Oleksa

February 26 – Ray Leverknight

Those interested in volunteering may contact Pastor Jonathan to sign up.

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### Ask – A Lenten Series

In partnership with Benscreek Lutheran Church, our 2023 Lenten midweek offering is entitled “Ask,” a series that will encourage us all to remember that having faith and having questions are not mutually exclusive.

We'll gather at 7pm for the five Wednesdays in March, alternating between the two congregations for a worship service that feels a bit more like a bible study. Or maybe it's a bible study that feels a bit more like a worship service? We'll figure it out as we go along.

Join us for one or two, or for the whole series!

March 1st – 7pm @ Benscreek

March 8th – 7pm @ Mt. Calvary

March 15th – 7pm @ Benscreek

March 22nd – 7pm @ Mt. Calvary

March 29th – 7pm @ Benscreek

Benscreek Lutheran Church is located at 4459 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, PA, one mile north of the Thomas Feed Mill, less than 20 minutes from Mount Calvary.

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### Special Fundraising Campaign: The Sign Project

We have officially launched our fundraising campaign to build a new monument sign along Scalp Ave. The new sign will replace the existing one and will include a new electronic message board. A few of us just finished picking up the remnants of our old white message board, so this comes just in time.

The final cost of the sign is \$50,000 of which approximately 1/3 of that has already been raised. We would consider this a "special appeal campaign". So if you feel that you would like to support this project, please put your extra offering in a separate envelope and mark it "Sign Project". The garage sale/basket party committee has generously donated \$1,000 to kick off this campaign. Thank you very much.

Our goal is to have the new sign installed by late summer. There is a conceptual drawing on the table in the narthex and shown below. Thank you for your consideration!

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### February 26 – March 4, 2023

#### Anniversaries

Mar. 4 - Robert & Kathleen Readinger Neumar

#### Birthdays

Feb. 26 - Josh Covert & Nancy Robison

Feb. 27 - Jack Daily

Feb. 28 - Dianne Thoburn

Mar. 2 - Alexander Pozun

Mar. 3 - Betty Waters

Mar. 4 - Melanie Perry

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Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Linda & Dick, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, Gladys Haupt, Jose & Family, Dave, Tom, Lt. Hunter Bergman, and Lt. Dylan Merchant, Harold, Debbie, David, Lauren, Billy, Barb, Sara Solarczyk, Jackie Janak, Jack, Corinne, Joan, Dan, 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, Ken, John Nerone, Dane Wisner, Jeff, Karen, Erin, Susan Dyers, Bob McMullen, Wyatt George, Larry Hockensmith, Jean Pellon, Mike, Corey, Roxanne Horner, Miriam Horner, Becky Lilja, Kathy P., Al Johnson, Chris, Cheryl, Jennifer & Family, Jaime, Matt & Ashley, Landon, Linda Haberkorn, Lorraine, Joe, Donna, Danny & Family, Becky Jo, Bill, Linda & Family, Mary, Mary Jane, Janice, Rick, Don, Mabel Ann, Betty, Cathy, Cindy, Jill, Theresa & Family, Dean, Madi & Family, Patty & Family, Sydney & Family, Paulette, Ron, Andrea, Mary Ann, Rayford, Lois A., Nicole, Trent, Kyle, Anna, Beverly, Sondra, El Warshel, Audrey Rubis, Carol, Katey, Janice, Trina & Family, Jake Wissinger, Candi Walker, Dave Brehm, Chrissy-Baby Emma, Wyatt, Gerald Barrick, the Shreffler Family, Kim, Devin, Laura & family, Dorothy, Jo Ann, John Alt, Jan Mertz, Denny, Jill Lisson, Jaci Hauger, Sharon, Barbara, Dennis, Mary M., Joel Penrod, Tim Miller, Cathy T., Paul Brodt, Kim Stayrook, Alan, Pastor David Louder, Frank Robison, Sandy, Louise, Brooke and Bill, Chuck, Dawn, Cherie, Sandy, Lorrie, & Bill, Jamie Bloom, Nancy Moore, Wilma Hiltz, Johnny Nerone, Cheryl & Roger, pray for the Alpha Course participants that they may receive the holy spirit, James, Denny & Ellen, Bill, Ann McKee Everett.

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**Condensed Worship**  
**Saturday, February 18, 2023 & Sunday, February 19, 2023**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children.

Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the

mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 2

L: Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

**A: Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

L: "Let us break their | yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."

**A: God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

L: Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

**A: "As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

L: Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**A: Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

L: You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

**A: And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

L: Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

**A: lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.

For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from

the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord,

**A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

**Pastor Jonathan Adams**

**Transfiguration A - Matthew 17:1-9 - February 19, 2023**

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our creator who sends us off the mountaintop and into the world. Amen.*

Some of my best thinking, some of the most profound thoughts I've ever had, have taken place in one particular room of my house. It's a place that I'm comfortable, in more ways than one.

And as comfortable as that room is, as much as sometimes I'd like to stay there as long as possible. I can't. I need to move on.

When we feel like we've found a place where every thing clicks, where we know everything there is to know, it can be hard to move on. When we think we've got everything figured out, it can be hard to keep pushing for new discoveries, new revelations, new epiphanies.

But, that's exactly what we need to do.

Even when we're comfortable, even when we feel like God has given us everything that God could possibly give us. Even when we feel like God has shown us everything that God could possibly show us...

We need to keep going. We can't just cling onto the things that we have. We need to keep pushing through the barriers and following where God leads us. We need to trust that there will always be new revelations and epiphanies along the way.

Here's another way to think about it, imagine you came here to worship one weekend, and everything was PERFECT. The prayers lifted up concerns that you were most worried about, the scriptures brought light to all the problems you'd been going through, the hymns were beautiful and uplifting, the sermon was the most inspiring thing you've ever heard, and you truly felt Christ's presence in Holy Communion.

Imagine the worship service in your life where you most powerfully felt that God was right there with you, and then imagine that this felt ten times better. Imagine that everything just clicked. Everything just made sense.

If you had one of those shining mountaintop moments for your faith. Would you want to just sit there in the pew for a while afterwards? It's entirely possible. I think so many of us desperately long for those kinds of moments where everything seems to make sense, that if we truly came upon one, of course we'd want to hang on it! Of course, we'd want to get comfortable!

But you couldn't stay there. Sooner or later the ushers would come and shut off the lights, and close and lock the doors, and the furnace would kick back to whatever temperature it stays at during the week.

Sooner or later, you'd have to leave this spot, as comfortable as it was. Because sooner or later, you'd realize that God was calling you toward something different.

And sooner or later, maybe you'd realize that you couldn't have another moment like that, another amazing faithful experience, until you went out and experienced some other things for a while.

The day of the transfiguration was a day like that for Peter. He'd been following Jesus for quite some time, he'd seen miracles, he trusted that Jesus was divine, but maybe he still wasn't entirely sure. But then, when he saw Jesus on top of the mountain there with Moses and Elijah, when he heard the voice of God, everything just clicked. He had this amazing epiphany.

He wanted to build houses, put down roots, get comfortable, stay there with the divine.

But Jesus pushed, or maybe pulled, the disciples to continue forward.

Jesus knew this wasn't the last time that the disciples would see God's amazing power revealed through God's son. But the disciples had to have faith, they needed to keep on following Christ, trusting that they would still see more amazing things, that they would still be blessed with more abundant blessings.

If they hadn't left the mountain, they might never have gotten to Jerusalem.

If it weren't for the horrors of Good Friday, we might never have gotten to the joy of Easter morning.

And so, this weekend, as we end the season of Epiphany, we are all being called by Christ off of that mountaintop. We're being called by Christ back into the world to experience the joys and the struggles of everyday human existence.

But we have to trust that this is not the last time we'll see God's light revealed through Christ.

As Christians, we are called to be travelers on this journey of life. We're called to go back out into the world, trusting that God will always offer us another vision, God will always offer us another glimpse of Christ's light.

Even if it doesn't come until our own final days, until that hour when Christ comes to bring us home again, we know that there is always light to look forward to. And that enough should be enough to send us down from the mountaintop and into the world to do the work that God calls us to. To experience the new and wonderful epiphanies that God will give us along the way.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Prayers Of Intercession

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

L: Embolden your church as it witnesses to the majesty and mercy of your Son. Equip lay preachers, deacons, and pastors. Move us to share our stories of your faithfulness and forgiveness; may our lives proclaim your greatness. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Dwell with your whole creation, from the tallest mountain peak to the deepest valley. Bless the work of conservation organizations and protect vital habitats. Support the work of disaster relief agencies around the world. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Guide and give wisdom to all in authority: our mayor and local leaders, our governor and state legislators, our president and national legislators. Bring freedom and justice to all nations. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Give shelter to those lacking safe homes. Spur communities to work for fair housing for all. Protect our neighbors whose dwellings do not keep out dangerous cold or heat; accompany with your touch those who are homebound, sick, or isolated. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Make us eager to receive your Word in scripture. Help us recognize Jesus' voice in the needs of our neighbors; make us confident to follow the way of the cross. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Receive our thanksgiving for the holy ones who have guided us in faithfulness and gathered even the unlikely as your people. With our forebears in faith and all who have hoped in you, teach us to wait with courage until the promised day dawns. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**A: Amen.**

### Blessing

P: May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**A: Amen.**