



Mount Calvary Connected

April 6, 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

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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/

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/>

A Message from Pastor Jonathan Adams

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We've entered "The Great Three Days," of Jesus' death and resurrection, and frankly, I don't have any sort of inspiring message to share with you today. To a certain extent, I think the story of these final days in the earthly life of Christ speaks for itself. So, with that in mind, I'll share a few more practical reminders:

We'll gather tonight (Thursday) at 7pm for Maundy Thursday worship at Mount Calvary. This service remembers Jesus' last supper with the disciples, but more importantly, the greatest commandment to love one another. I'm hopeful that a number of your neighbors from Benscreek Lutheran will join us for this joint worship of both congregations.

You have (at least) two options for Good Friday worship. The Crosswalk begins at 12pm at Beulah United Methodist church and travels up the hill into Richland making devotional stops along the way. You can walk, drive, or ride along (via Oakland UMC's bus) for each of the stops, or choose to join us for the final stop at Mount Calvary around 3pm.

In the evening, there will be another opportunity for worship, this time at Benscreek. The 7pm Tenebrae service is a reflection of the seven things Jesus said during his time on the cross, and is a moving and symbolic service. Benscreek is located at 4459 Somerset Pike, Hollsopple, PA. The easiest (but not necessarily most direct route) is to head south on Somerset Pike from the Benscreek/Tire Hill area.

And then finally, Saturday begins our celebration of Easter. The Saturday 5:30pm service and Sunday 8:45am services at Mount Calvary will each be a celebration of Christ's resurrection. If you're an early riser, or interested in something a bit more laidback, Benscreek will be holding a sunrise service at 7am at their picnic grove, which is located at 250 Church Grove Rd, Boswell. If you'd to attend and are interested in carpooling/caravanning, there is a group gathering at Mount Calvary around 6am on Sunday to do just that.

I guess I actually had more to say than I thought I did. And so, with all that said, I look forward to worshipping with you over these next few days, and if I DON'T see you, have a blessed and happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Maundy Thursday Service (Mt. Calvary) - Thurs., April 6th at 7 pm
Good Friday Cross Walk - Fri., April 7th ends at 3 pm at Mt. Calvary
Good Friday Service (Benscreek) - Fri., April 7th at 7 pm
Easter Service (Mt. Calvary) - Sat., April 8th at 5:30 pm
Easter Sunrise Service (Benscreek) - Sun., April 9th at 7 am
Easter Sunday Service (Mt. Calvary) – Sun., April 9th at 8:45 am
Annual Weed and Feed - Thurs., April 13th at 5 pm
WELCA – Mon., April 17th at 6 pm
Church Council Meeting – Tues., April 18th at 6:30 pm
Social Ministry Meeting – Thur., April 20th at 6 pm
Community Shoe Drop Off – Sat., April 29th from Noon - 3 pm

The Good Friday Cross Walk

The Good Friday Cross Walk will take place this Friday, April 7th, gathering and departing from Beulah United Methodist Church at noon, and making devotional stops along the way before arriving at Mount Calvary for 3 pm. If you're interested in participating, see Pastor Jonathan or Ray Leverknight for more information.

Easter Flowers

We appreciate all of the members of our congregation who ordered Easter flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones. Thank you for beautifying our sanctuary. We will keep your loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Delmar & Louise Leap from Thomas & Dianne Leap.
In Memory of Lloyd & Wilma Gindlesperger from Berverly Tallyen & Family.
In Memory of Catherine Oleksa & Albert Sojak from Kevin & Chris Oleksa.

In Memory of Linda McQuaide from Mark, Shari & Family.
In Memory of Zak Lonsinger from Mark, Shari & Family.
In Memory of Jake Moore from Nancy Moore & Family.
In Memory of Robert Raho & Andy Peretin from Dave, Missy & Luke Raho.
In Memory of Eva Eschrich from William Eschrich.
In Memory of Husband Stan Tallyen & Granddaughter Kayleigh Tallyen from Beverly Tallyen.
In Memory of Loved Ones from Rachael & Susan Brandau.
In Memory of Parents & Grandparents from Solarczyk & George Families.
In Memory of Elaine & Dean Sterner from Randy Sterner.
In Memory of Paul Swartz from Gayle Swartz.
In Memory of Patricia Custer from Brian & Linda Custer.
In Memory of "Our Loved Ones" from Jerry & Marybeth Heinze.
In Memory of Benny & Phyllis Petrarca from Joyce, Jason, Suzanne & Sophia Hite.
In Memory of Ray Hite, Jr. from Joyce, Jason, Suzanne & Sophia Hite.
In Memory of Josephine Siska (Joan's Mom) from Joan & Dave Hunter.
In Memory of Robert & Mary Snoby from the Kozak Family.
In Memory of George & Mary Kozak from the Kozak Family.
In Memory of Norma & Robert Culp from the Kozak Family.
In Memory of Glenn & Dorothy Hershberger from the Kozak Family.
In Memory of Pauline & Michael Nider from Jeff, Phyllis, Austin, Joshua & Corey.
In Memory of Ann & Paul Kormanik from Jeff, Phyllis, Austin, Joshua & Corey.
In Memory of Glenn A. & Laverne Trent from Joyce & Brittany Spangler.
In Memory of Ann & Paul Kormanik from Jeff, Phyllis, Austin, Joshua Corey.

IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Jim Custer from Brian & Linda Custer. In Honor of Emily Sterner from Randy Sterner.
In Honor of Children & Grandchildren from Bob & Cindy Solarczyk.
In Honor of Jean Pellon from Nancy Moore & Family.
In Honor of Children & Grandchildren from Gayle Swartz.
In Honor of Raymond & Gwendolyn Curley from Thomas & Dianne Leap.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Thanks to all of you, we continue to chip away at the cost of the digital sign. As part of our Sign Fundraising Campaign, we added a "Goal Thermometer." This will provide you with updates on how close we are to meeting our fundraising goal! We will periodically update our thermometer.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation. There are specially marked envelopes on the narthex table. Our goal is to have the new sign installed and paid for by late summer or early fall. You can make a difference with any size donation. Please help us raise the bar!

Ushers/Greeters:

April 6 (Maundy Thursday) - Tom and Kathy Rohrabaugh

April 8 – Dave and Stacy Saloka

April 9 – The Bower Family & The Swartz Family

April 15 – Dave and Stacy Saloka

April 16 – The Bower Family & The Swartz Family

April 22 – Dave and Stacy Saloka

April 23 – The Bower Family & The Swartz Family

April 29 – Tom and Kathy Rohrabaugh

April 30 – The Bower Family & The Swartz Family

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

Featured Article

Staying Awake for Easter by Aaron Rosen

Easter offers Christians a spiritual wakeup call.

For some, the call is literal. Many denominations observe the tradition of an Easter Vigil, keeping awake late into—if not always through—the night before Easter Sunday. In doing so, they symbolically keep faith with Jesus during his entombment. By elongating the night, the vigil sharpens the yearning for Easter morning and the deliverance it heralds.

This hyper-vigilance need not be restricted to Easter alone. As Thomas Merton memorably put it, “The spiritual life is . . . first of all a matter of keeping awake.” Nothing else of significance can happen if we sleepwalk through our spiritual lives. How, then, might one extend this attentiveness throughout the year? And what other ritual remedies exist to sharpen our spiritual attention, focus, and clarity?

For those with an appetite for asceticism, Christian tradition offers a bevy of options. In a centuries-old tradition in Ireland, pilgrims take boats out to St. Patrick’s Purgatory, located on a tiny island in the middle of a remote lake. With only a bit of bread or oatcake to nourish them, they process barefoot through a series of prayer stations. The first night is an all-night vigil, and those who drift off are said to face eternal damnation, turning the pilgrimage into a high-stakes gamble.

Other faiths provide instructive examples, too. In Judaism there is a custom at Shavuot—the holiday that commemorates God’s gift of the law to the Israelites—of staying up through the night studying Torah. There’s even a legend that the Israelites slept in late on the morning God was set to deliver the law to them on Mount Sinai, so Shavuot offers an opportunity to make up for one’s ancestors’ drowsiness. While staying awake studying might seem like homework, the point is actually that spiritual study is a privilege and joy, so much so that one might be so carried away by it that morning comes unexpectedly.

The importance of spiritual vigilance is hardly just a Western discipline. Yoga, for example, pays particular attention to the role of the body in channeling and sustaining spiritual attentiveness. Savasana (corpse pose) is often described as the most challenging pose, not because it is physically grueling but because it requires one to keep the mind quiet but present even when in physical repose, ready to drift off.

Buddhism is replete with stories that emphasize the value of mindful contemplation and literally keeping one's eyes open. One of the most celebrated Buddhist monks is Bodhidharma, who transmitted Chan (Zen) Buddhism to China. Bodhidharma is said to have stared at a wall in meditation for nine years, growing so frustrated when he lapsed into sleep that he cut off his eyelids (take that, Van Gogh!). According to legend, his eyelids fell to the ground and sprouted tea leaves, which monks harvested and brewed through the centuries to keep awake during their own meditations.

We do not need to think of Jesus as a Buddhist guru—though some writers have—to imagine he would have appreciated the prodigious self-discipline of Bodhidharma and his followers. Indeed, one of Jesus' last requests of his disciples is a simple plea to stay up with him. "I am deeply grieved, even to death," he tells several disciples in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest, "remain here, and stay awake with me" (Matthew 26:38). Not once but three times his groggy companions doze off.

Easter is an invitation to do better, to stay awake not just for oneself but in solidarity with those in times of trial. If we can manage to do that, maybe we'll even find we rest easier when the time does come for sleep.

Aaron Rosen is director of the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary. His latest book is *What Would Jesus See*, out this June.

This article is adapted from the author's book *What Would Jesus See*, forthcoming from Broadleaf. Used by permission.

Gifts to World Hunger

Thank you for your donations to World Hunger:
In Honor of Oscar Eschrich from William Eschrich.
In Memory of Loved One Shirley Glova.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 8 – April 14, 2023

Anniversaries

April 12 - Nancy & Michael Miller
April 14 - William & Paula Nihoff

Birthdays

April 8 - Susan Penrod
April 10 - Logan Reitnauer
April 11 - Jason Berkebile
April 13 - Lakyn Costlow & Brian Hockensmith
April 14 - Katie Decker

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

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 & Bill; Chuck; Dawn; Cherie; Sandy; Lorrie & Bill; Jamie Bloom; Nancy Moore Family; Wilma Hiltz; Johnny Nerone; Cheryl & Roger; James; Denny & Ellen; Bill; Sue; Stan McQuaide; El Warshel; Kathy Price; Beth Oldham; Stacy & Josh; Bill; Janet; Landon; Harold; Gonzales Family; Mary; Elaine, Patty and Betty Shaffer; Theresa Lydic and Family; Jim Haberkorn; June Gresh Family; Susan Peters; Patty Creany.

Condensed Worship

Saturday, April 1, 2023 & Sunday, April 2, 2023

The Passion of Our Lord

Palm Sunday Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Prayer of the Day

P: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

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

Psalmody: Psalm 31:9-16

L: Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

A: For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

L: I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

A: Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

L: For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

A: But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.

L: My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

A: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he

done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Prayers Of Intercession

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

L: Save your church, O God. Enable us to boldly confess in every time and place that Jesus Christ is Lord. With the humility of a servant, equip congregations, synods, and other ministry settings to proclaim your extravagant love for all. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Save your creation, O God. Every living being you have made has purpose. Give us renewed appreciation of farm animals who labor in the fields, service animals who accompany their human companions, and beloved pets who live alongside us. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Save the peoples of the earth, O God. Restore dignity to those who are scorned and persecuted for their religious beliefs or political activism, and deliver them from the hand of their enemies. Bring peace to places where conflict runs deep. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Save those who cry to you in any need, O God. Watch over all who are incarcerated or awaiting trial, and stand with those who are unjustly accused. Be present with those feeling isolated, lonely, or fearful. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Save us in your love, O God. Guide the work of church musicians, pastors, choirs, readers, deacons, technicians, acolytes, and all who assist in worship. Sustain them in their leadership as they accompany congregations through this Holy Week. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Save us at the last, O God. We give you thanks for your saints of old who embodied your servant love. As you came to their aid, so deliver us in times of trial, that every knee would bend in praise to you. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

A: Amen.