



Mount Calvary Connected

April 13, 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: revjoadams@gmail.com

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,

After eleven worship services in eight days between Palm Sunday (Saturday) and Easter, I'm taking it easy this week: taking some time off and working (primarily from home) on only the most pressing projects.

Our Easter Day celebrations have ended, but our celebration of the resurrection will continue as we keep hearing stories of "Jesus arisen and on the loose!"

Thanks to everyone who helped make this Holy Week and Easter meaningful!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

Upcoming Meetings & Events

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

Mt. Calvary Lutheran/YWCA of Greater Johnstown Fundraiser
We Need Shoes!

We are collecting ALL types of gently worn, used and/or new shoes!

Mt. Calvary Lutheran is inviting you to participate in a shoe drive to raise money for a new lunch space at the YWCA's daycare.

All donated shoes will be redistributed to partners thru Funds2Org, a for-profit social enterprise used in developing nations to help people start their own business.

Community Drop Off
Saturday April 29th, 12:00 - 3:00
Mt. Calvary Lutheran
1000 Scalp Ave.

“Open the trunk, and we will get the shoes for you!”

In the US alone, over 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away each year. The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds that will create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills. By donating your gently worn, used and/or new shoes to Mt. Calvary Lutheran, your shoes are given a second chance to make a difference.

Please help Mt. Calvary Lutheran and make a difference by donating your shoes today!

Ushers/Greeters:

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 Rohrbaugh
April 30 – The Bower Family & The Swartz Family

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

Scheduled Worship Help Wanted: Readers & Communion Assistants

We need your help! We are trying to fill up our schedule with readers and communion assistants for the summer months. If there's a date that you are available and would like to serve our church in this meaningful way, please sign up by contacting Terrie in the office or registering online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA8A72EA5FB6-readerscommunion>.

Feature Article

The skin of Christ

The church is a body: scarred and punctured but feeling its way through the world.

by Rachel Mann

I am more than a little obsessed with bodies and their limits and possibilities. Maybe it's because my own body gives me so much trouble. (I have complex Crohn's disease and live with the aftereffects of extensive bowel surgery.) Maybe it's because I think Ludwig Wittgenstein was onto something when he said, "The human body is the best picture of the human soul."

Or perhaps it's because I believe that the picture of the church as a body remains the most striking, beautiful, and challenging vision we possess. It captures the cost and the promise of staying within an institution that sometimes feels less than lively, less than hopeful: as with a human body, in the body of Christ there are many parts or members; as with any body, the body of Christ can be experienced as a theater for great joy but also pain and loss. Bodies keep us honest: they tie us to fragility but also remind us of the glory of being alive.

Paul famously introduces the body of Christ metaphor in 1 Corinthians 12. He suggests that in one individual body there are many members or parts. What is true for the individual body is true also for the body of Christ. "Which part or parts am I?" any of us might ask. I suspect many of us would be drawn to be the rather more glamorous or noteworthy parts—brain, heart, lungs, limbs, fingers. Some might even want to be the guts. I'm a vain sort of person. There is something appealing for a person like me to want to be heart or brains.

I wonder if more of us should want to be skin. Indeed, I want to write in praise of skin. Skin, that remarkable organ, so readily ignored as an organ until it is damaged. It is permeable. It is necessary. Destroy too much of one's body's store of it and one cannot live. It both provides a barrier between the inner workings of the body and the wider world and offers a profound means for relationship. It is how we touch the world and how it meets us.

Its haptic possibilities are manifold: blessing, destruction, tenderness. It is a key way the body breathes and regulates temperature, allowing moisture to escape from our bodily system; this regulation happens without our conscious thought. We give off heat and life and salt. Through our skin's nerve endings we feel the cold; we feel the bleak possibilities of winter encroach and close in, and through it we sense also the opening out of the world's possibilities through sex and pleasure, athletic prowess, and so on. In the bright sunshine of a March day, one feels the fresh possibilities of spring begin to open out.

Skin matters. I do not need to explain to US readers how skin is politicized and coded. Different shades of skin are—consciously or unconsciously—assigned value. When I lived in Jamaica nearly 30 years ago, there was, in the professions, a profound cultural bias toward Whiteness: the darker one's skin, the less likely one was to be employed in a bank or other middle-class settings. Indeed, the colorism that favors lighter skin has been, for some non-White models, actors, and singers, a route into wider cultural success and acceptance.

Meanwhile, the sex industry is sometimes referred to as the skin trade. The word skin holds within it a complex, fascinating, and sometimes troubling range of significations.

Our skin holds all of the stories that we shall ever have, in this life anyway: our scars and wounds and our triumphs and joys too. Poet Janet Morley observes that the bodies of grown-ups come with scars and stretch marks. Life requires that skin lose the downy perfections of infancy and be tested and broken by the troubles and possibilities of living. Those who are tempted to hide behind makeup or plastic surgery can only partially disguise the aging of their skin. There is a kind of withering that cannot be disguised. And then, as one enters one's twilight, skin can create the appearance of being so thin it seems translucent. One's skin may become covered in liver spots, which a friend of mine calls "hepatic camouflage."

Our skin tells the tales of our loves and losses, the nature and shape of our work, and the way—the often sinful way—society encodes who it says we are. Our skin opens us to the possibilities of blessing and the terrible facts of the violence held within our species. It is a place of puncturing and wounding. We are punctured and pierced, as God is punctured and pierced. He is punctured for our transgressions. We are so often punctured by the transgressions of a structurally sinful world.

We read in the Bible that we are members of one body. Let us dare to want to be God's skin, ready to be pierced for the sake of hypocrites and fools, ready to be an open border for grace, ready to bless one another and more: to live and die and live again for a ruinous world. We are many and, as one body, we dream. The world is old and weary. Fires burn and floods wash away story and hope.

And perhaps we are no longer young, and we look around us and pray that someone else, anyone, will have sufficient energy to take care of the work of loving and raging, the holding fast, and the practice of hospitality and blessing: to dare to be God's body punctured for the world, to expose that world for its violence and cruelty, and to call it into another way of life.

Rachel Mann is a priest in the Church of England, a theologian, and author of Spectres of God.

Original Article: The skin of Christ | The Christian Century

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.

In Loving Memory of Rev. Ron Reed from Gloria, Shannon, Justin & Kate.

In Loving Memory of Kathryn Zeger, Violet Reed and Rev. Henry Reed from Gloria, Shannon and Justin.

In Memory of George & Jean, Brian, Debbie & Linda Jean.

In honor of Shannon, Justin & Kate from Gloria Reed.

April 15 – April 21, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

April 21 - Joyce & Kevin Kunkle

Birthdays

April 15 - David Brehm, Justin Kemp, & Shirley Sholtis-Glova
April 17 - Stanley Badowski & Shawn Moore
April 18 - Autumn Anderson
April 19 - Sara Solarczyk, Terrie Costlow, & Scott Rickley
April 20 - Carol Sauter
April 21 - Catherine Prisk, Justin Reed, & Patricia Urban

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 8, 2023 & Sunday, April 9, 2023

He is Risen!

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather in the name of our baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

A: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

A: In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Psalmody: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

L: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

A: Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

L: The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

A: Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

L: The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

A: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

L: The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

A: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

L: "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

A: I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

L: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

A: By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

L: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. Alleluia!

Of all the different types of natural disasters that we occasionally have to deal with in Pennsylvania, earthquakes are not high on the list.

Flooding, blizzards, forest fires, even the occasional tornado. But earthquakes are not a threat we encounter very often. In fact, when you search for "Earthquakes in Pennsylvania" on the internet, the first website you encounter, maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources lists only two notable earthquakes in recent history.

The first, which was in fact, the largest earthquake ever recorded in Pennsylvania was just 25 years ago, a 5.2 on the Richter scale, centered near the Pymatuning Lake, which they describe as having caused "minor structural damage but had significant effects on the local groundwater system."

The second, in 2011, a 5.8-magnitude earthquake radiating from Central Virginia, whose effects were felt in parts of Pennsylvania.

Now, I remember that 2011 earthquake. In fact, I was a bit closer to the epicenter than we are today, at college in Morgantown, West Virginia. It was a Fall afternoon, and I was handing out free lemonade or hot dogs in front of the Lutheran Campus Chapel, something we always did several times during the first few weeks of class.

Folks coming from various classes told us they had seen hanging lights swinging from the ceiling, in one building, the tremors were strong enough to trigger some sort of sensor hooked into the fire alarm, causing the building to be evacuated. But most people admitted they hadn't felt a thing. Standing outside at the time, I certainly didn't.

I remember seeing a drawing in the newspaper later in the week of a lawn chair knocked over its side, with the caption "I survived the Appalachian Earthquake of 2011."

We don't have to worry much about earthquakes here, but they are far more noticeable in other parts of the country and world... Children in California schools practice earthquake drills. Just two months ago, an earthquake in Turkey and Syria killed an estimated 57,000 people, and the death toll continues to rise. That's more than 3/4th of the population of Somerset County!

While we may not pay much attention to earthquakes in our neck of the woods, they are absolutely something that causes people to sit up and take notice in other places.

Certainly, Saint Matthew sat up and take notice of the ground trembling...

If you were here last week, as we listened to the passion according to John's Gospel, I encouraged you to think about the parts of the Easter story that were most familiar, and pay attention to whether or not they showed up in what we were hearing that day.

For some of you, that missing story element may have been an earthquake... Each of the Gospels makes reference to earthquakes or something like them as a sign of the end times, but Matthew is the only one to reference them during the passion narrative, during the story of the three days.

And Matthew notices the ground trembling twice... When Jesus dies, giving up his spirit, "At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open."

But then, the ground shakes again, on Sunday morning, as the women are coming to the tomb to grieve and mourn their slain friend, as an angel from heaven descends to earth and rolls away the stone from the tomb, "there was a great earthquake."

In our neck of the woods, in our corner of the world, an earthquake is hardly noticeable. But in Jerusalem, people would have felt it, would have heard it, would have known that something had happened.

Something happened the day that Jesus died, the moment he took his last breath.

And something else happened the moment those first women came to the tomb to find it open and empty.

And in what's left of the story, Matthew emphasizes again and again, the job of the witnesses is to witness, to tell others. The angel tells the women to go tell the disciples, and before they even make it there, Jesus appears to them with the same commandment, "go and tell them what you've seen, I will meet them, too."

And it ends with the great commission, "Go and make disciples. Tell them what you've seen. Tell them what you've felt."

It wouldn't take much for any person of any faith to reconcile those earthquakes with what they were being told about Jesus. Throughout all of history, earthquakes were seen as signs of divine power, why

would this be any different. Especially when the ground shook at the moment that the man who was called the son of God breathed his last.

We may not feel earthquakes very often in Pennsylvania, but the earthquakes of those days of Christ are still sending out shockwaves. Still inviting people to come, and see, and feel. EXPERIENCE God's love.

Because God so loved the world that he gave his only son to die for us.

And God so loved the world that death could not keep hold over him, can not keep hold over us. The earth will tremble before death ever wins the last laugh.

Thanks be to God. Allueia!

Prayers Of Intercession

L: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

L: You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **A: Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

P: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **A: Amen.**