



Mount Calvary Connected

August 31, 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 church, information about upcoming activities at Mt. Calvary, and more!

WEEKLY WORSHIP BULLETINS

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Thurs., September 7th - Social Ministry Meeting - 6:30 PM

Sat., September 9th - Touch-a-Truck - 10 AM - 1 PM

Sun., September 10th - Sunday School Meeting - 10 AM

Tues., September 12th - Rake n' Bake Pond Cleaning - 5 PM (Rain date: Thurs., Sept .14 at 5 PM)

Thurs., September 14th - Social Ministry Meeting - 6:30 PM

Mon., September 18th - WELCA - 6:00 PM

Tues., September 19th - Church Council Meeting - 6:30 PM

Tues., September 19th - Fall Alpha Course Begins

Rake n' Bake Pond Cleaning

We will have our Rake n' Bake pond cleaning on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5:00 PM. Rain date would be Thurs., Sept 14 at 5:00 PM.

We will be raking down all the dead weeds and then reseeding the hillside with bent grass which will be much more manageable in the future. We are reaching out to all church members, but particularly younger people who can stand on a hillside.

Bring your favorite rake! As always, food will be served!

Fall Alpha Course

Alpha is a series of conversations about things we all question in life: Why do bad things happen to good people? What's the purpose of life? What's next?

If you're looking for a judgment-free space to ask hard questions and share your own opinion, there's a place for you.

Mount Calvary will be hosting a fall Alpha course on Tuesdays beginning on September 19th. Please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/WZAHjmX5oDTgFfx29>. You can also call the church office or sign up in the narthex.

The Giving Tree

For the months for September and October, The Giving Tree will collect new packs of underwear for the Nurse's Office at Johnstown Elementary School. The sizes needed are 4T through Adult Medium for both boys and girls. Thank you for your continued support!

Worship Help

Readers/Communion Assistants:

Sept. 2nd Cindy Solarczyk

Sept. 3rd Need volunteers!

Sept. 9th Need volunteers!

Sept. 10th Need volunteers!

Sept. 16th Need volunteers!

Sept. 17th Need volunteers!

Sept. 23rd Need volunteers!

Sept. 24th Ray Leverknight

Sept. 30th Need volunteers!

Oct. 1st Need volunteers!

Ushers:

Sept. 2nd Linda Barnhart

Sept. 3rd Bill Eschrich & Mary Ann Maples

Sept. 9th Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

Sept. 10th Bill Eschrich & Mary Ann Maples

Sept. 16th Linda Barnhart

Sept. 17th Need volunteers!

Sept. 23rd Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

Sept. 24th Jerry & Ruth Pozun

Sept. 30th Need volunteers!

Oct. 1st Need volunteers!

Altar Guild:

September Laura Bowser, Mary Beth Heinze, and Nancy Nemeth

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Terrie Crisi or sign up on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Worship Leader Schedule

Sept. 2nd Noelle Berkey

Sept. 3rd Noelle Berkey

Sept. 9th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 10th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 16th To be announced!

Sept. 17th To be announced!

Sept. 23rd Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 24th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sunday School Announcement

Sunday school orientation will be held on Sunday, September 10th from 10-10:30 AM. Please bring your children to Sander Hall. We are asking that the parents stay for this half hour meeting.

Baptism

Ainsley Leighton Kylor, daughter of Courtney and Jason Kylor, was baptized at Mt. Calvary on Saturday, August 26th, 2023. May her light shine for all the world to see!

Death

George Oleksa, father of Kevin Oleksa, passed away recently. Please keep Kevin and his family in your prayers.

Clothing Sale Collection

The Social Ministry Team is currently collecting donations for our annual clothing sale. Clothes can be dropped off at the church at any time. Clothes left outside in the blue bin will be brought in daily. Please keep the donations coming!

Please try to separate your clothes by size and gender, and to label each bag. This makes the sorting and set up process much easier for the volunteers working the sale.

The clothing sale will take place on Saturday, October 7.

September 1st - 7th, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

September 4th - Jill & Jon Lisson

September 6th - Gerald & Ruth Pozun

Birthdays

September 1st – Cody Berkebile & Jan Layton

September 4th – Paul Bergman

September 5th – Sage Brehm & Chad Wolfhope

September 6th – Reese Hutzal & Nancy Strihan

September 7th – Chelsea Hiltz

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Sandy; Louise; Brooke & Bill; Chuck; Dawn; Cherie; Lorrie & Bill; Jamie Bloom; Johnny Nerone; Cheryl & Roger; James; Denny & Ellen; Sue; Beth Oldham; Stacy & Josh; Janet; Landon; Harold; Mary; Elaine, Patty and Betty Shaffer; Jim Haberkorn; Patty Creany; Brianna; Jackie; Mike; Lois; Suzzane Miller; Cindy; Danny & Donna Crowson; Bert; for the Call Committee as they seek our future pastor; Jerry Pozun; Pastor Dave Louder and his wife, Corlee; Milo; Krista Miller; The Wilson Family; Cecilia Baum; The Dickerson-Bair Family; Richelle; The Rohrabaugh Family; Tom & Gretchen; Makenzie Miller; Alex; the Dalton Blough Family; Jan; The Jeanjaquet Family; Christine; Sue & Lee; Jill Lisson; Wilma Hiltz; El Warshel; The Layton Family; The Oleksa Family.

**August 26th & 27th, 2023
Who do you say that I am?**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Psalmody: Psalm 138

L: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

A: I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

L: Then I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

A: All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

L: They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

A: The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

A: You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Prayers Of Intercession

L: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

L: God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **A: Amen.**