



# Mount Calvary Connected

September 21, 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!*

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## WEEKLY WORSHIP BULLETINS

Weekly worship bulletins can be found at: [www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/](http://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/)

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### **Upcoming Events & Meetings**

Tues., September 26th - Fall Alpha Course  
Sun., October 1st - Blanket Sunday  
Tues., October 3rd - Fall Alpha Course  
Sat., October 7th - Clothing & Toy Sale - 9 AM - 1 PM  
Tues., October 10th - Fall Alpha Course  
Tues., October 17th - Fall Alpha Course  
Tues., October 24th - Fall Alpha Course  
Tues., October 31st - Fall Alpha Course

### **Ladies of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church — You are invited!!**

What — Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO) 2023 Convention

The ASWO Board and Convention Planning Committee invite you to attend the Thirty-fourth Annual Convention on Saturday, October 21, 2023. This half-day convention is a great opportunity for you to learn about the Women of the ELCA, worship, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ from the Allegheny Synod. This year's theme is "The Old is gone, The New is Here." Enjoy a hot breakfast, followed by Worship and a business meeting (no workshops).

Where — Newry Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Address: 1030 Shamrock Lane, Newry PA

Cost — \$15.00

Registration — Begins at 8:30 AM

Registration forms are provided in the WELCA mailbox in the main Church Hall. All registration forms with your \$15.00 check included are due October 2, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Ling at 814-262-7714 or Lois Gallus at 814-241-3470.

### **Blanket Sunday - October 1, 2023**

WELCA is sponsoring Blanket Sunday, a traditional Lutheran ministry held in the Allegheny Synod beginning the first Sunday of October.

Your contributions are used by Lutheran World Relief to buy blankets which provide shelter, warmth, and security worldwide for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing disaster. Special envelopes are on the counter by the main entrance door to the narthex; write Blanket Sunday in the memo line of your check payable to Mt Calvary Lutheran Church. You may donate a new blanket for this ministry; a collection basket will be in the Narthex.

Note: blankets must be in Church by Sunday Oct 15th; offerings will be accepted until Nov 1st.

“Please join us” in this special opportunity to help “Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ” who are in dire need.

### **September & October - Donations Needed!**

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. 23rd Todd Moss

Sept. 24th Ray Leverknight & Noelle Berkey

Sept. 30th Need volunteers!

Oct. 1st Need volunteers!

*Ushers:*

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. 23rd Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 24th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

### **Altar Flowers**

The altar flowers this week were not sponsored by a member of our congregation.

Sponsoring the altar flowers for a weekend is a beautiful way to honor or remember loved ones. Flowers are often given to mark life events such as birth and birthdays; anniversary of a wedding, baptism, confirmation; the memory of a loved one; or as a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

Please take a look at the altar flower sign-up sheet and considering signing up for one of the unreserved weekends. A \$40 donation helps to beautify our sanctuary and honor your loved ones.

#### Giving Tree Collection for First Responders

Thank you to all who donated to our first responder collection. We were able to distribute 15 cases of water and 15 cases of Gatorade to local fire and ambulance companies, as well as Cambria County Box 11.

Thank you for your continued support!

#### **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?

Alpha began last week and will end on November 28th. You can still sign up until next Tuesday! We have dinner in Sander Hall and we watch the Alpha video in the sanctuary.

This year, we are running the course along with three other churches: Our Mother of Sorrows, Saint Benedict, and Life church. We will meet with these three other churches for a retreat, and a healing service.

Mount Calvary will be hosting the Fall Alpha course on Tuesdays through November 28th. Please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/WZAHjmX5oDTgFfx29>. You can also call the church office or sign up in the narthex. Please consider joining us!

#### **September 22nd - 28th, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries**

##### *Anniversaries*

September 22nd - Dick & Lois Sholtis  
September 23rd - Thomas & Michelle Reed Jr.  
September 24th - Emily & Matthew Andrascik  
September 24th - Michael & Lori Zerby  
September 25th - Keli & Keith Koop-Williams  
September 27th - Ronald & Brenda Punako Jr.

##### *Birthdays*

September 22nd - Courtney Kylor  
September 23rd - Richard Hiltz & Michelle Reed  
September 26th - Brook Brehm  
September 27th - Wayne Tressler

**Remember those that prayer has been requested for:**

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; Cecilia Baum; Richelle; 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; Danielle; Rose; Dr. Ruth Pawlowski & Family.

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**September 16th & 17th, 2023**  
**Lord, how often should I forgive?**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The word of the Lord,

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**

L: [Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**A: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

L: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

**A: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

L: who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**A: O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

L: You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

**A: LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

L: you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**A: You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**A: As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

L: As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

### Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The word of the Lord,

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

### Prayers Of Intercession

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

L: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today). Merciful God,

**A: receive our prayer.**

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

### Blessing

P: The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**A: Amen.**