



# The Hilltopper



Like us on Facebook!

Take a look and remember to like us.



Look for Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Johnstown, PA.

Check out our website at [www.mt-calvarylutheran.org](http://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org)



ELCA

July 2026 - Volume 83 – Issue 7

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
1000 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, PA 15904  
Phone – (814) 266-4859  
E-Mail - [mtcalvary@mt-calvarylutheran.org](mailto:mtcalvary@mt-calvarylutheran.org)  
Office hours Mon – Fri, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Worship Times Saturdays 5:30PM  
Sundays 8:30AM  
Sunday School – paused for Summer

## Congregational Council (term ends January)

Harold Ashcraft, president (2029)  
Cara Lonsinger (2027)  
Bobbi Ream (2027)  
Paul Bergman (2027)

Jamie McMullen, vice-president (2028)  
Gloria Reed (2028)  
Marybeth Heinze (2028)  
Ruth Pawlowski (2027)

Ray Leverknight, secretary (2028)  
Dave Raho (2029)  
Chris Morningstar (2029)  
Tiffany Swartz (2029)

## Church Staff...

Daniel Gresh, Director of Music/Organist

**"Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with men is possible with God.'"**

Luke 18:27

**THANK YOU**



**To everyone who helped clean up  
our church property.  
Everything looks great!**

### Hilltopper Production Team

Ray Leverknight  
Pam Bittner  
Pat Bittner  
Jamie McMullen  
Jan Layton

### After Hours Emergency?

**Pastor Nancy Hoover** (pastor at Grace Lutheran in Johnstown and Dean of the Johnstown Conference of the Allegheny Synod) has graciously agreed to handle any after-hours pastoral emergencies that come up for the members of Mount Calvary! If something occurs outside of office hours, and you need pastoral care, please give her a call at **814-242-4495**.

**Please check our church website and facebook pages for many announcements, pictures, information, and more!**

In addition to our church newsletter, The Hilltopper, consider signing up for the **Mt. Calvary Connected** – an email message every week to stay informed of all things Mt. Calvary. Just enter your email address on our website.



Beginning **July 5<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday worship begins at  
**8:30AM!**



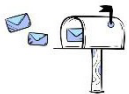
## **Council Corner**

A synopsis of topics from the **June 16, 2026 Council meeting:**

Attendance: 10 Council and 8 visitors

- We were made aware that our church is part of the Synod Assembly Report by Vice President Ann Ferry in which she thanks us for all the work that went into hosting the Installation Service for Bishop Kevin. (including the cookie bakers!!)
- Also included in the Assembly packet is notice of available resources for Property Management and Constitution update help!! More to come.
- Reviewed monthly financials and submitted committee reports
- Reviewed Staffing issues for church cleaning and office coverage (short-term/ long-term) Time studied both areas. Yard signs for cleaning position being placed.
- Agreed with Listening Team Task Force recommendation for a “Unity” Service on Sunday August 23 with Pastor Bowman officiating. The plan is to follow the service with Fellowship gathering (think Circle Drive picnic! Corn hole anyone?) Need to proceed with logistics.
- Thanked all for great Spring Cleanup Session and announced a second one scheduled for July 25.
- Heard further Outreach planning for personal contacts and Directory revision
- Flower sale raised \$192 for our Youth programs
- WGMC was able to complete 10 Baby Care Kits with more to come!!!
- Council wishes to thank all for these positive signs for Mount Calvary!!!

The next Regular Council Meeting is July 21 at 6:30 in our Conference Room/Library.



**Mail Call:** We sent packets out with a letter from Council and the report from the Reconciliation Team/Listening Committee. Unfortunately, several packets were returned to the church because their mailing labels had fallen off in transit. If you did not receive a packet, please contact the church office or any member of council.

## **Spring Clean Up – The Sequel!**

**Saturday July 25** from 9 to noon. Everyone is encouraged to bring their gardening tools and gloves. Rain out date is August 1. Everyone welcome. Thank you for helping us keep the church property looking awesome.



**The church office** will be staffed by volunteers from **9-11 AM Monday through Friday**. If you need help at another time, please contact a council officer. Harold, Ray, and Jamie are listed in your church directory.

## **Livestreaming**

If you are unable to attend worship Sunday morning, be sure to find us on Facebook. There is a link on our church website that will take you there. **You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch.**



## Parish Prayers – please remember these family, friends, and loved ones for whom prayer was requested:

Dora, Pastor Jaime Olson & Family,  
Pastor Clarence Caldwell & Family,  
Nick, Tucker, Bonnie, Freedman  
Family, Chris, Denny, Debbi, Dave, Sue, Tammy,  
Christine, Sherrie, and Sasha



Mt Calvary extends our sympathy to the Daly family on the recent passing of Eric Daly. Eric's son and daughter-in-law are Josh and Becca, granddaughters are Claire and Reagan. We hope the promise of eternal life grants you peace.

## DEVOTIONALS

Devotionals are available in the narthex. There are both regular and large print. Please help yourself. They are free to all.



Jul 1 Rosemary Manotti  
Jul 1 Corey McKool  
Jul 3 Kimberly McMullen  
Jul 6 Christopher Moss  
Jul 8 Carter Bower  
Jul 10 Beverly Tallyen

Jul 11 Margaret Balogh  
Jul 16 Harold Ashcraft  
Jul 17 Brian Hiltz  
Jul 18 Nikki Hastings  
Jul 23 Kim Haluska  
Jul 25 Richard Gallus  
Jul 26 Melissa Fisher  
Jul 26 Shari McQuaide  
Jul 27 Marybeth Heinze  
Jul 27 Kadiya Lingenfelter  
Jul 27 Kinsley Ann Rene McKool  
Jul 31 Raymond Leverknight

## Memorial Donations

In Memory of Betty Weaver:  
Beth Lumley  
Leona Cannarella

## Happy Anniversary

Jul 1 David & Vicki Karnes (54)  
Jul 1 William & Jan Layton (31)  
Jul 8 Jason & Robyn Berkebile (31)  
Jul 11 Jeffrey & Corey McKool (39)  
Jul 12 James & Leda Miller (57)  
Jul 14 William & Ruth Ann Wolfe (37)  
Jul 16 Thomas & Dianne Leap (49)  
Jul 23 Pat & Karen Giunta (32)



We have been invited by Trinity Lutheran Sidman:

## Sight and Sound Bus Trip

Joshua

**August 12, 2026**

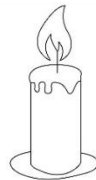
\$170 per person

Contact Eric or Lori Rodgers  
814-248-5035/814-244-2699

## July Readers and Communion Assistant Schedule

4 Gretel Kaltenbaugh and Corlee Louder  
5 Harold and Sharon Ashcraft  
11 Shirley Sholtis-Glova  
12 Ray Leverknight  
18 Paula Nihoff  
19 Carter Bower and Laura Bower  
25 Corlee Louder  
26 Jamie McMullen and Ray Leverknight

## Acolyte Schedule for July



5 Eli Swartz  
12 Lilly Bassett  
19 Anna Bower  
26 Claire Daly

## Tend Bible Podcast

Gardens need tending, and so does our Faith. The goal of Tend is to provide a weekly dose of tending for our faith and others who might choose to join us as we live into the way of Jesus. Find Tend on the church website and join us!

## Women's Group of Mt. Calvary

At the June meeting of the WGMC (Women's Group of Mt. Calvary) Baby Care Kits were assembled. We received a few more items, so we do not have a final total at this moment. We will share the total number of kits in the next newsletter. The Kits have been boxed; weighed; and labeled for shipping to Lutheran World Relief when the Synod ingathering occurs in the fall. Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the Kits; or contributed money to purchase items for the Kits. Babies in the USA and around the world will have a better life because of your caring and sharing. Our next meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM.



## Mount Calvary's Prayer Chain



Jesus said, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24)

Do you need prayer for something in your life? The illness of a loved one, an unexpected loss, a challenge at work, a situation with a friend?

**Mount Calvary's Prayer Chain** is ready to pray for you! You can add a request to the prayer chain by contacting Lois Sholtis (814-266-1261) or the Church Office.

If you would like to join the ministry of the prayer chain, reach out to Lois!

## Outreach Ministry

The Giving Tree for July and August will feature Alex's Lemonade Stand!

Outreach ministry is collecting food for Greater Johnstown Christian Fellowship Food Pantry at 3429 Elton Rd., Johnstown. GJCFFP provides food for individuals and families living in Belmont, Geistown, and Richland.

GJCFFP is asking Mt. Calvary to provide food that they don't regularly get and really need. The types of food we donate may change periodically as we collect food for them. This food collection will be on going for a while. GJCFFP will pick up our donations on Monday mornings.

Please pick up a grocery list on the poster in the Narthex. Thank you for your support as we help feed our community.

If you or anyone you know needs help from this food pantry please call 814) 266-2322, M-F, 8am-4pm. Greater Johnstown Christian Fellowship Food Pantry.

**Thank you for supporting our Outreach ministries.**



## Summer Pool Passes

June - August 2026

**Cost:** \$100/individual or \$175/family

Pool passes will be valid June 15, 2025 - August 14, 2026.

- The pool will be open most days from 1:30 - 4:00 PM. but will be adjusted for swimming lessons or other events as needed.
- July 19 - August 1 the pool will be closed for open swim.
- Daily sign in will be required.
- Adults will be required to obtain and submit free background checks prior to using the pool when summer camp is in session.

## Golf Benefit Tournament

August 17, 2026

**Cost:** A donation of \$125 per person or \$500 per foursome.

All golfers regardless of age or skill ability are invited to play in the annual golf benefit. The benefit will take place at the Summit Country Club on Cresson Mountain just off Route 22. Registration is from 9:00 - 9:45 AM, Shotgun Tee-off is at 10:00 AM (rain or shine), and dinner and cash bar begins at 4:00 PM. Your donation includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, refreshments and dinner. Please consider taking a day to connect with a few friends outdoors and make a difference in the lives of all Sequanota campers.

To register: Call the office (814) 629-6627 or email [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com) with the names of the golfers on your team. (If needed, we can find you a team.) The golf donation can be made during registration on the day of the tournament.



## Home Communion

**DID YOU KNOW?**

That a dedicated team offers home communion for members of Mount Calvary who aren't able to attend church in-person?

If you or a family member would like to receive communion at home, please contact the Church Office or Shirley Glova (814-659-0459). If this is something you would like to help with, please reach out to Shirley Sholtis-Glova. The process takes less than 10 minutes, and training will be provided!

# July 2026

Altar Guild – Rachael Brandau, Susan Brandau, Paula Nihoff

|                                                                            |           |                                                |                                                                                            |           |           |                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Beginning July 5<sup>th</sup>,<br/>Sunday worship begins at 8:30AM!</b> |           |                                                | <b>1</b><br>Mt Calvary<br>Connected deadline<br>9AM                                        | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br><b>Independence Day</b><br><br>Worship 5:30 PM                 |
| <b>5</b><br><br>Worship 8:30 AM                                            | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                       | <b>8</b><br>Mt Calvary<br>Connected deadline<br>9AM                                        | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br><br>Worship 5:30 PM                                           |
| <b>12</b><br><br>Worship 8:30 AM                                           | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br><b>Property<br/>committee 6PM</b> | <b>15</b><br>Mt Calvary<br>Connected deadline<br>9AM                                       | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br><br>Worship 5:30 PM                                           |
| <b>19</b><br><br>Worship 8:30 AM                                           | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><b>Church Council<br/>6:30 PM</b> | <b>22</b><br>Mt Calvary<br>Connected deadline<br>9AM<br><b>Hilltopper<br/>deadline 9AM</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br><br>Weed 'n' Feed 9A-12P<br><br>Worship 5:30 PM               |
| <b>26</b><br><br>Worship 8:30 AM                                           | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                      | <b>29</b><br>Mt Calvary<br>Connected deadline<br>9AM                                       | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> | <i><b>Don't give God<br/>instructions - just<br/>show up for duty.</b></i> |

## READ IT

This week's Bible story is

### **Mary and Martha.**

from Luke 10:38-42.

#### **We have busy serving times and quiet learning times.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Mary     | • Cooking  |
| Martha   | • Learning |
| Jesus    |            |
| Cleaning |            |

This Mary and Martha story is found only in the Gospel of Luke. Luke's Gospel contains more stories about women than the other Gospels. Since women were not particularly valued in Jesus' culture, this is significant. Jesus loved everyone—women, too!

#### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

Spark Story Bible pages 366-371

Spark Bible page 1146

#### **Family Prayer**

Say this prayer around a broom or other cleaning supply.

**Thank you, God, for time we can serve you by helping others and times when we can study and learn. Help us to find a balance between those two things. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT

### **Family Conversations**

- 1 When are you like Mary? When are you like Martha?
- 2 What do you do when you find yourself or your family too busy? How do you slow down?
- 3 How do you learn best from Jesus?
- 4 When you're going someplace in your car, take turns listing things you've learned from Jesus and things you like to do to help other people. Every time you turn, the next person shares their favorite things to learn or do.

### **Eye Spark**

When you see cleaning tools or cooking things, think of Martha. When you see a Bible, think of Mary.

### **A Ear Spark**

When you hear someone ask for help housecleaning, remember Martha's frustration with Mary. Then see if you can help so everyone has time to sit and learn!

All Kids, Mary and Martha Family Page. Spark: Activate Faith  
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## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Make a Job Jar filled with slips of paper listing jobs that need to be done. On the back of the slips, list a Bible story. When the job is done, take time to read the Bible story, or when the Bible story is done, go do the job!

### **For younger kids**

Help your parent with a job and then ask to read you a Bible story.

### **For older kids**

Trade with your parent-volunteer to do a housecleaning job for them so they can have a little surprise time to read or pray. Then reverse it—ask them to do one of your chores while YOU study!



# Ma.ry a.nd Ma.rtha.



**Marl) sat on the floor and listened to Jesus teach.**



The Hilltopper  
1000 Scalp Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15904-3035

Sent with A Prayer To:

July 2026

Mount Calvary's Prayer for mission:

*Send your Holy Spirit, O Lord, to guide the ministry of Mount Calvary that we may grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Inspire our worship, give wisdom to our learning, be the center of our fellowship, encourage our giving, and give zeal to our witness. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*