



Mount Calvary Connected August 12, 2021

Mount Calvary Connected is a weekly newsletter that will be sent out each Wednesday while the church is pressing "pause" on in-person gatherings. Our goal is to keep you connected to your faith and your church with messages from our pastors, health information, and ways to share Christ's love during our current national crisis.

Pastor Scott Klimke
Cell-Phone: 570-367-3421
Email: sklimke6@gmail.com

Pastor Jonathan Adams
Cell-Phone: 412-817-6704
Email: revjonoadams@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 can also stream the service live over the internet.

By clicking the following link, you can gain access to the live stream audio. <https://streams.radiomast.io/96172026-6cba-407b-9090-e150b471ae0e>

Weekly worship bulletins can be found at: www.rebrand.ly/MtCalvaryWorship

Weekly Wednesday, Drive in Services

Wednesday evening drive-in services are at 6:30 pm. Download a bulletin from: <https://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org/bulletins/>, bring your own bread for communion, and tune your radio to 88.3FM and you are set! See you there!

Giving Tree

A total of \$399 was collected for the months of May and June which was donated to The Cambria City Mission. The July/August donations will be going to the Camp Sequanota Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your continued support!

WE ARE BACK

Great news. Our WELCA group will be holding its "Picnic in The Parking Lot" **Saturday, August 28th**, following the 5:30 service.

WELCA will supply the hot dogs and condiments, and drinks. We ask if you are planning on attending to please bring your favorite covered dish.

There will be a sign-up sheet beginning this weekend. Put your name, # attending and what your delicious dish will be; perhaps a casserole, or a great salad, a tasty dessert or whatever it may be. We look forward to seeing you all for fun, fellowship and great food.



Mt. Calvary's Social Ministry team is selling "God's Work, Our Hands" shirts in preparation for participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" Day on Sunday, September 12. These bright golden shirts will have the words "God's Work, Our Hands" on the front, and feature Mount Calvary's name on the back together with the ELCA logo. Wear them to participate in our service project on the 12th, or any time you want to represent your church while doing God's work.

T-shirts are \$8/ea with additional fees for extended sizes. Order before or after worship each weekend at the table near the giving tree or contact Pastor Jonathan for more information. All orders due Wednesday, August 18th.

Personal Care Kits

The following items are needed for the personal care kits. Please have them at the church by **Sunday September 5.**

- Towel: lightweight bath size (between 20x40" and 27x52"), dark colored recommended
- Toothbrush: adult size in original packaging. Multipacks may be used by sealing individual toothbrush in a business size envelope; no plastic bags or wraps.
 - Metal nail clippers: attached file optional, remove packaging
- Soap: 2 bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.), any brand, in original packaging
- Comb: sturdy, remove packaging

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

On **Sunday, September 12**, after the service, we will be putting together the personal care kits to be sent out while enjoying a meal and fellowship. If you would like to join us, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880 before September 1. This will give us an idea on how much food we need to prepare. Thank you!

Throughout the summer, some of littlest Lutherans have been learning how to be secret agents, GOD's Secret Agents.



It's our mini vacation bible school for preschool and elementary aged students focused on how WE can change the world with secret powers like generosity, compassion, forgiveness and more!

Each night, our aspiring secret agents hear a story about one of the secret skills that God gives us all to help make the world a better place through a story, a craft, and games. And afterwards, we get to share a meal with our friends and parents!

There's one more night left this summer on Saturday, August 21st! Join us at 4pm for VBS, 5pm for dinner, and stick around for Saturday evening worship at 5:30pm. RSVPs helpful, but not necessary. For more information, contact Pastor Jonathan at RevJonoAdams@gmail.com.

MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH FALL 2021 YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINS SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

We're gearing up for our fall Sunday School, and we'd love to have your children participate! On Sunday, September 12th, we will kick off our fall program of Christian education for the youth of the congregation. We'll be in touch with more information via email, mail, and phone for families with children, but in order to best prepare for your children, and ensure that we have the best contact information for your family, we ask that you fill out a simple registration form as soon as possible, accessible online using the URL: <https://rebrand.ly/MtCalvaryKids2021>

Clothing Sale

After a year off, the Social Ministry Team is happy to announce that we will once again be having our annual clothing sale! The sale will take place on **Saturday, October 2 from 10-2**. Clothes can begin being dropped off in the old lounge in September. This year we are asking that you please separate and label your clothes by size/gender when you are packing them. This will make the setting up and sorting process much easier for the volunteers working the event. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you!

Worship Help Needed

There are signup sheets, in the Narthex, for Greeters/Ushers, and Communion Assistants, for the months of July and August. Please sign up for the dates that would suit you best. We appreciate you volunteering. If you have questions about these roles, please contact Christine Koshute at 814-421-4921 or Chris Oleksa at 814-244-9851.

**Backyard Cookie Collection
Thursday, August 19, 2021.**

Cookies can be placed in the bin outside the church, or the labeled one inside. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Kozak at 244-6880. Thank you for your continued support!

Farewell Liturgy for Bishop Rhyne

We will have a service of Farewell and Godspeed at

Evangelical Lutheran in Duncansville starting at 2 PM on August 28th.

Clergy are invited to vest and process. August 28 is the Commemoration of St. Augustine of Hippo so the color of the day is white. The people of Duncansville have graciously offered to host a reception after the service.

Installation of Allegheny Synod Bishop Paula Schmitt

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will join us to install our new Bishop on

Sunday, September 19 at 3 PM.

The service is being held at First Lutheran Church in Altoona. The color for the day is red. We will be livestreaming the service and there will be a reception following hosted by our partners at Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for the Week: August 15 - August 21, 2021.

Aug 15 – Felicia Beglin, Luella Koontz

Aug 16 – Michael Stayrook

Aug 17 – Shelly Marsh

Aug 18 – Chad Barnhart

Aug 19 – Roxanne Horner

Aug 20 - Bettie Shaffer

Aug 18 - Eric & Carey Miller (20 years)

Aug 19 - Dan & Karen Bantley (49 years)

About Our Members:

Thank You

Pastor Jonathan, Bekah, big sister Annabelle, and baby Andrea would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and gifts celebrating the birth of Andrea. Our whole family is doing well adjusting to the new addition, and the proud father will happily share photos with anyone who asks!

Patricia Conklin passed away on August 1, 2021

Remember those that prayer has been requested:

Gay & Don, Custer Family, Michelle's Grandma, Friedline Family, Pastors Carol & Scott Custead, Statler Family, Fred, Bob, Alex, Jose & Family, Harold, Rick, Midge, Shirley, Jennifer, John, Debbie Finnegan, Jill McEntee, David, Karen, Lauren, Billy, Barb, Jamie, Joe Miller & Family, Jennifer & Ryan, Jennie Moore, Linda & Dick, Dolly & Chis Palm, Claudia Plows, Maddie Pierce, and Gladys Haupt.

JULY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Presently in the black, Mount Calvary came through the first six months of the year well. Giving is thus far almost exactly where our mission and ministry plan for 2021 expected it to be, with increased giving to the current fund largely offsetting decreased giving to the building fund. Until Christ comes again, it shall be important for each of us to continue to do our part when possible, maintaining our prior year's giving and increasing our giving when it's doable. Unfortunately, people continue to move, die, and grow ill and every enterprise, including the Church, continues to feel the lingering effects of the pandemic. This makes consistent giving, and increased giving, when possible, of ongoing importance both this year and next year and every year after.

On the expense side, increased property expenditures have been offset by decreased expenditures in other areas. Six months into the year, it may be that we underestimated our electricity, gas, and ground maintenance expenses. Together, just these three expense lines account for two-thirds of our property-related expenses, with the yearly expense in these areas presently on pace for somewhere between \$35,000-\$40,000. Even when summer schedules or continuing reservations related to the pandemic keep us away from the church, the basic costs of operation continue to accumulate, and they are significant.

CONDENSED WORSHIP FOR THE WEEKEND OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

This reading describes some of the troubles in King David's family. His son Absalom has amassed an army and seized David's throne. Those loyal to David fight Absalom's forces and defeat them. David himself is chiefly concerned about the well-being of his son, even though that son has betrayed him.

⁵[King David] ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

⁹Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁵And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

³¹Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." ³²The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

³³The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he

said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

PSALM 130

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

A: O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

A: Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

P: I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

A: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

P: O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

A: For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:25--5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the

bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

SERMON BY PASTOR SCOTT

Thanks in large part to our recurring readings from Ephesians, we’ve been hearing a lot about building up the Body of Christ. This is the mission of the Church according to the author of Ephesians—to build up the Body of Christ. This language is a synthesis or a crystallization of what’s said elsewhere in the New Testament. In Romans and 1st Corinthians, St. Paul advances the idea that the Holy Spirit gifts us differently with the Church thereby becoming a body where some of us our eyes and some of us our ears and some of us our noses and some of us our hands and some of us our feet. And then also in his letter to the Romans, St. Paul describes the common goal the variously gifted Body of Christ is to pursue. It’s the goal of building each other up for a life of faith, hope, and love. Likely aware of all these various strands of previous thought, the author of Ephesians puts them all together and says our mission is to build up the Body of Christ.

For me, at least, this ancient articulation of the mission of the Church accords quite nicely with our stated mission at Mt. Calvary of inviting every generation on a shared journey to Christian growth. In the grand scheme of things, talk of building up the Body of Christ has both a quantitative and a qualitative dimension to it. Quantitatively, we build up the Body of Christ by inviting and welcoming others into our fellowship until there’s no one left to invite and welcome. I think this is what our mission statement has in mind when it says we’re here to invite, to invite every generation on a shared journey. Qualitatively, we build up the Body of Christ when we help each other grow up into the full stature of Christ. I think this is what our mission statement has in mind when it says the shared journey that interests us at Mt. Calvary is a shared journey to Christian growth. And then, there’s the idea that we’re to do all of this together. We’re to be a body, a collection of skin, bones, and organs, a collection of limbs, digits and, sockets, that works together for our mutual wellbeing and for the praise of God’s glory. I think this mutuality, this equality, this inclusivity is what our mission statement has in mind when it speaks of how we want young, old, and in-between to be a part of things, with everyone sharing, sharing the journey to Christian growth. When stacked up against the mission of the Church advanced in Ephesians, I think it’s pretty clear that our stated mission to make Mt. Calvary about inviting every generation on a shared journey to Christian growth is quite faithful. But as faithful as it may be, there are things that can get in the way of making this happen.

One of them is forgetting who heads up our organization. In the heat of the moment, or perhaps not choosing our language carefully, we can say, “This is my church” or the related “This is our church.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The Church and every one of its congregations belong not to us, but to Christ. The same can be said of the time, the talent, and the treasure Christian communities have available for use. These resources aren’t ours. The Church’s time, talent, and treasure belong to Christ. Whether it’s here at Mt. Calvary or somewhere else, these resources are to be used for Christ’s glory and in a manner that follows Christ’s example and teaching. It’s why the letter to the Ephesians more than once calls the Church the Body OF Christ; the body OF Christ. As the OF Christ part makes clear, the Church is Christ’s possession not ours. We belong to Christ, not Christ to us. Our gifts come from Christ and are to be used as Christ would have them used. It’s Christ who heads up this organization. It’s Christ who is the brains behind our operation. And my, oh my, is our mission compromised and confounded when we forget this. When in doubt, when pressed for decision, it’s got to be “what would Christ do” not “what would I or me and mine do.”

This perhaps explains why today’s reading from Ephesians does not prohibit anger. In fact, ours is a reading which says to us, “Be angry.” Evidently, there’s room for righteous indignation and prophetic protest and passionate conviction in our fellowship with one another and the Holy Trinity. And if Christ heads up our organization, how could it be otherwise! The gospel of John tells us that Jesus brought a whip into Jerusalem’s

Temple to chase out the animals and the moneychangers selling them. All the gospels, I believe, tell us that Jesus decried how God's house, what was to be a house of prayer, had become a den of thieves. And then there's the fact that both Jesus and his forerunner John the Baptist don't shy away from calling out hypocrisy when they see it. In fact, John the Baptist goes so far as to call one particular collection of hypocrites "a brood of vipers."

Look! Jesus may have said, "Blessed are the meek and poor in spirit." But he also said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." When you hunger and thirst that bad for right relations here on earth, righteous indignation, prophetic protest, and passionate conviction will bubble forth sometimes. In small doses, there's room for all of it in the Church. The example of Christ and the letter to the Ephesians both tell us so. But as our reading from Ephesians puts it today, we also don't want to let the sun go down on our anger. Otherwise, our wider and greater mission of building up the Body of Christ will be compromised and maybe even confounded. In order for the Son of God Jesus the Christ to shine, in order for his Body to be built up, we need to forgo anger which is not sparked by something that strays from Christ's example or violates Christ's teaching. And if such a departure from Christ's example and teaching does in fact exist, we need to call it out in the fashion most likely to be heard, trusting that hearing will in fact take place, and then go back to being just one member of the Body of Christ; together united in building that Body up for ministries of love. Not letting the sun go down on our anger is mission critical as our reading from Ephesians makes clear. It also is consistent with the example of Christ.

On Good Friday, most of the gospels tell us there was darkness from noon until three in the afternoon. These were atmospheric conditions which asked: Will the Son of God Jesus the Christ shine, will he be the Light of the World, or shall the darkness overcome him? In many ways, the resolution of this question had to do with Jesus' ability to work through anger in a way that did not compromise the wider and greater mission of building up his Body, the Church. For one, Jesus was not pleased with the barbs and the brutality he had to endure on Good Friday. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for right relations between neighbors, he said from the cross, "I thirst." But this also wasn't the end of the story. From the cross, Jesus also said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Having thus both expressed and resolved his anger, the gospels tell us the sun began to shine again.

Similarly, on Good Friday, Jesus was not happy with his Father and our Father in heaven; saying, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" But this again was not the last word, with Jesus saying just before his death, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having once again both expressed and resolved the anger in his heart and head, the gospels here too tell us the sun began to shine again. If Jesus the Son of God was to shine again, was to be the Light of the World again, if his Body the Church was to be born and built up, our Lord had to be true to the anger he rightly felt on Good Friday while also not letting that anger persist to the point where Evil could turn it to its advantage. The same will prove to be true for us if we are to shine as the Church and build up the Body of Christ for ministries of love. The light can't shine in the darkness, we can't be the light of the world as Jesus calls us to be in the Sermon on the Mount, if we let the sun go down on our anger. When a betrayal of Christ's teaching and example is involved, let's express our anger in the way most likely to be heard, trusting that hearing shall in fact take place, and then get back to being just one member of the Body so that the Body's wider and greater mission of building itself up for the praise of God's glory might not be compromised or confounded. Amen!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

P: For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With (*Dominic, name/s, and*) all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**