



# Mount Calvary Connected

June 15, 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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### **A Letter from Joan Hunter, Council President**

Well, look at us! We've survived 2 weekends in a row! Not too shabby. The organ went snap, crackle and pop, I forgot to turn on the air conditioning for one service, our supply pastor got sick at the last minute, we had nobody to lead the first weekend, then we had many wonderful "somebodies" available to lead us.

Every service has been unique and special. The hymns picked weeks ago were especially nice on the piano instead of the organ. Our newsletter email blasts went out, our service slides performed to perfection, there was ample bread and wine (let's not mention the grape juice), and pretty pink flowers on the altar for a baby girl who showed up for her baptism decked out in pearls and had an entourage that filled almost one entire section of the church!

I am grateful and proud of how many of you have offered to help, give advice, offer suggestions, point out (or just took care of) things that were missing, or not quite right, stepping up to make things better.

We are indeed one, lean, mean, organized, helping machine. You know why? God is here with us. I cannot believe how often in the last few weeks someone has grabbed my arm, or put their arm around me and said, "we'll be okay. God is here with us." Or, "Relax. Breathe. God is in control."

It makes me think of Romans 8:31, a verse especially near and dear to my heart: "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (NIV)

God is for US. God is FOR Mt. Calvary. God very much has His hands on us, and is watching. As we take one day at a time, we WILL keep our eyes on Him, keeping our church family circle tight and bound together.

Everyone can find some "thing" to do to help. Some of you mentioned that you'd like to usher or read, but SignUp Genius isn't the system for you. You asked that the sign-up sheets be put back on the table in the Narthex. Wish granted. Now sign up! You will find sign-up sheets for USHER/GREETER and another for READER/COMMUNION ASSIST. Some of you don't want to read, others don't want to help with communion. Sign-up on the sheet and indicate which you will do. If nothing is marked, we will know you are willing to do both, read and assist.

Some of you are hesitant because you're not sure what's expected. Start with the easy part....be a greeter. Just put a giant smile on your face, stand by the door, and say "hello" or "welcome" to everyone walking in after you! We're working to streamline the ushering part, making it easy for anyone.

And finally, it's summer and many of us will be away on vacation. Please remember that the expense of running the church continues every day. Some utilities soar (unless I keep forgetting to turn on the AC). We are working on making it easier to donate to Mt. Calvary, using PayPal, mobile banking, or other payment options that will be up and running soon, even if you're not here to attend services.

Speaking of being away on vacation, we never did see all of the places Flat Jesus traveled last summer. No worries, vacation memories 2022 will be available for viewing soon and may inspire you for summer 2023.

Enjoy the summer!

Joan Hunter

### **Upcoming Events & Activities**

Mon., June 19th -- WELCA -- 6:00 pm

Tues., June 20th -- Church Council Meeting -- 6:30 pm

Thurs., June 22nd - Sun., June 25th -- Well Festival at Camp Sequanota

Sun., June 25th -- Blessing of the Bikes -- 10:30 am

Sat., July 8th -- Faith Night at the Point

### **Blessing of the Bikes**

On Sunday, June 25th at 10:30 am, Pastor Mark Fischer will bless bikes individually at our church. The first 100 bikers will get free stickers.

This is our second annual Blessing of the Bikes (and their bikers) and help is needed! We bless bikes on the last day of Thunder in the Valley as they head out of town to their own homes.

We will have breakfast pastries and snacks to share. We need assistance setting up Sander Hall the morning of the event, greeting bikers, serving snacks, and just being a friendly, welcoming face. Please join us!

### **Faith Night at the Point**

There will be a praise concert, featuring Avenue, held in the stadium before the start of the game. All faith-based organizations and groups are eligible for \$6 tickets by using code FAITH at checkout! As well, the first 250 kids in the ballpark on Faith Night will receive a FREE Mill Rats baseball!

Mt. Calvary will be selling tickets in the church office or after each church service. Tickets will be \$6 per person.

The pregame concert is featuring Avenue ([avenuemusic.net](http://avenuemusic.net))... check out their website for a preview of what's to come!

## **Worship Help**

Readers/Communion Assistants:

June 17th – Cindy Solarczyk

June 18th – Noelle Berkey & Todd Moss

Ushers:

June 17th – Volunteers needed!

June 18th – Volunteers needed!

Claudia Plows will be leading worship for the remainder of the month of June. She will be distributing Communion both weekends.

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

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries June 17 – June 23, 2023**

Anniversaries

June 18 – Tim & Kimberly Spangler

June 20 – Robert & Marge Jeschonek; Jeffrey & Phyllis Nider

June 23 – Stephen & Laura Bower; Paul & Stacy Pollino

Birthdays

June 17 – Edward Penrod

June 18 – Morgan Philibin

June 19 – Devin Kopal & Alison Stroz

June 20 – Gayle Swartz

June 21 – Beth Pruchnic

June 22 – Anna Bower, James Pozun II, & Nicole Williams

June 23 – Pam Bittner, Pat Bittner, & Brenda Punako

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

Kim; Devin; Laura & Family; Jo Ann; John Alt; Jan Mertz; Denny; Jill Lisson; Jaci; 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; Beth Oldham; Stacy & Josh; Bill; Janet; Landon; Harold; Gonzales Family; Mary; Elaine, Patty and Betty Shaffer; Jim Haberkorn; June Gresh Family; Patty Creany; Rick Wagner; Brianna; Jackie; Mike; Lois; David Mathis & Austin & Family; Bell family; Esther Zane; Suzzane Miller; Cindy; Danny & Donna Crowson.

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**Condensed Worship**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2023 & Sunday, June 11, 2023**  
**Come and lay your hand on her and she will live**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,

**A: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: Righteous God,

**A: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**A: Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

### First Reading: Hosea 5:15--6:6

I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: "Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth." What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalmody: Psalm 50:7-15

L: "Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.

**A: I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are always before me.**

L: I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

**A: for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

L: I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

**A: If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

L: Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

### Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is

null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")— in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. **A: Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district. **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

#### Prayers Of Intercession

L: Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

L: We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints. Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life. God, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

L: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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.**