



Mount Calvary Connected

June 29, 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/

A Letter from Joan Hunter, Council President

Did you ever do one of those exercises in school where the teacher whispered something to the first student, and that student whispered it to the next student, and that student whispered it to the next, until everyone in the class heard what was whispered? The last student had to get up and say out loud what the information was. It was never, ever, exactly what the teacher had said at the very beginning.

The same is true with information. Someone heard so and so tell someone who told me that Mt. Calvary doesn't have a pastor, and they aren't having any more services. Watch what you say. Be careful of what you listen to or believe, and think twice before you repeat it to someone else. True, Mt. Calvary does not have a full-time called pastor right now. BUT, we are very much alive and open for regular business.

Worship services and activities have continued without interruption and will continue to do so, with or without a called pastor.

The ONLY slight deviation is this Sunday. Claudia will lead and distribute communion Saturday, July 1. Dr. Harold Ashcraft will lead us in a Service of the Word Sunday, the 2nd. It will be our regular service, but communion will not be given.

Authorized lay worship leader Claudia Plows will lead us next weekend. Authorized lay worship leader Gary Mickle will lead us the weekend of the 15-16. Claudia is back the next weekend, and then Bishop Paula will visit on the 29th to baptize Wilma Hiltz's great-grandson. Claudia will finish July off on the 30th. Consecrated Communion will be served at each of these services.

Be assured that if communion is being distributed, it is indeed consecrated. Wine, bread and grape juice that you receive at Mt. Calvary will ALWAYS be consecrated by an ordained ELCA Lutheran minister before it is given to you.

I hope you are having a happy summer, despite the weird, cool, rainy, hazy, smokey weather. Stay safe, have a Happy July 4th, and we'll see you at church!

Don't forget this Sunday morning is our coffee social. Starting at 8:00, coffee, juice and pastries will be available, along with friendly smiles and conversation.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Sun., July 2nd - Monthly Coffee Social - 8:00 AM
Thur., July 6th - Evangelism Committee - 6:30 PM
Sat., July 8th - Faith Night with Mill Rats
Tues., July 11th - Property Committee - 6:00 PM
Mon., July 17th - WELCA - 6:00 PM
Tues., July 18th - Church Council - 6:30 PM
Sat., July 22nd - Car Wash - 10 AM - Noon
Sat., July 29th - Car Wash Rain Date
Sat., July 29th - Picnic at Beenscreek Lutheran - Noon

Coffee Social Sunday

Please join us at 8:00 am on Sunday for fellowship and refreshments prior to the service. We hope to see you there!

Supplies for First Responders

For July and August, the Social Ministry Committee and the Giving Tree will collect supplies for first responders in the area. Cases of individual Gatorade, energy drinks and bottled water, peanut butter, individually wrapped snack crackers, granola bars, energy bars, coffee, hot chocolate packets, cup-a-soup mixes, etc.

These items will be given to the first responders, and Cambria County's Box 11 truck. Box 11 is the vehicle that responds to fires and other disasters to provide rest and refreshments, heating or cooling to first responders on scene.

These supplies will be distributed to first responders who participate in our "Touch a Truck" event in September. Monetary donations will also be used to treat participant first responders to hot dogs and snacks at Touch a Truck. This will be our "God's Work, Our Hands" project, too.

Please join us in donating to our local first responders!

Car Wash Fundraiser

We will be holding a car wash to raise money for our electronic sign.

Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex. We will need help making signs, holding signs at the top of our parking lot to attract dirty cars, help directing traffic into the car wash line, and help to wash and dry cars. We'll provide lunch to all helpers at the end! Pray for dirty cars and great weather!!

The Car Wash will take place on Saturday, July 22nd from 10 am - Noon at Mt. Calvary in our front parking lot. A free will donation will be taken. Please tell your friends to join us!

Keep Calm and Go for a Picnic!

Our friends at Benscreek Lutheran Church invited us to join them for their annual picnic on July 29th at their picnic grove.

Starting at Noon, they will have hot dogs, sloppy joes, pork and sauerkraut, kielbasa, chips, ice cream, soda, and more. Games and activities last the whole afternoon and are fun for the whole family. Around 4:00 PM, they serve a pot pie dinner.

No RSVP is needed. A variety of picnic food will be available for purchase.

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 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. Save the date!

Worship Help

Readers/Communion Assistants:

July 1st – Volunteers needed!

July 2nd – Tiffany Swartz

Ushers:

July 1st – Mark & Debbie Rychak

July 2nd – Volunteers needed!

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

Worship Leader Schedule for July

July 1 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 2 Dr. Harold Ashcraft, Worship Leader

July 8 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 9 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 15 Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

July 16 Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

July 22 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 23 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 29 Bishop Paula Schmitt

July 30 Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

A Prayer for the Call Committee

Holy God, help us to see that the Church continues forever. Even as we go through the call process, allow us to use this time to pause and reflect upon the past and vision for the future. Allow us to make decisions that will empower this congregation and will please you. All this we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Homebound Visits

We are updating our homebound list of those who want visits and communion from our visitor team. We are attempting to contact everyone who is currently on our list. Some phone numbers have changed, been disconnected, or no one responds after messages are left. Several people on the list have refused visits, no longer wanting or needing to continue visits.

If you have a family member or loved one who is homebound, please contact the church office to give accurate contact information, including the name, address and a phone number where the person can be reached in their home or a facility.

July 1 - 7, 2023 Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

July 1 – David & Vicki Karnes; William & Jan Layton

July 3 – Jason & Nicole Williams

July 7 – Max & Jenny Grusholz Lawn

Birthdays

July 1 – Rosemary Manotti & Corey McKool

July 2 – Madelyn Horn, Spencer Kovalsky, & Edward Wingard IV

July 3 – Kimberly McMullen

July 4 – Kaitlyn McMullen & Laura Stayrook

July 5 – Charles Palm

July 6 – Christopher Moss & Calvin Pringle

July 7 – Zachary Wolfhope

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

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; 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; Bert; for the Call Committee as they seek our future pastor; Jerry Pozun; Pastor Dave Louder and his wife, Corlie; Milo.

Condensed Worship
Saturday, June 24, 2023 & Sunday, June 25, 2023
You are of more value than many sparrows

Prayer of the Day

P: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

L: Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

A: I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

L: Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

A: I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

L: I put on sackcloth also, and became a byword among them.

A: Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.

L: But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD: "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

A: Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

L: Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

A: Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

L: Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

A: Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” **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: You entice your church to speak truth that challenges false notions of peace. Prevail upon us with the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection, that we are compelled to share the gospel with all the world. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Under your watch not even a sparrow goes unnoticed. Safeguard plant and animal habitats threatened by melting glaciers, rising oceans, and receding coastlines. Amplify the voices of those calling for responsible stewardship of the earth’s resources. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Our world is enduring violence and destruction. Rescue your people in nations experiencing conflict or crisis. Thwart the efforts of those who sow chaos and terror, and guide those working to bring about peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: You have counted even the hairs of our heads. Reassure anyone experiencing poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or exploitation that every life has value. Look favorably upon all who struggle. Answer us, for your steadfast love is good. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Even when we experience rejection your love invites us to new life. Lift up anyone who feels shunned or excluded on account of their gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or any other human distinction. Make your people one. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Heavenly God, we lift before you all members of this congregation. We especially ask your blessing upon those who have been given the responsibility of finding a new pastor. Grant wisdom and right judgment to those who serve on our Call Committee. Guide them to the one who you have chosen to lead us. God, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: All who have died with Christ also live with him. We give thanks for Philipp Melanchthon and all the saints whose faithful confession inspired our own discipleship, and raise us, with them, to eternal 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.