



Mount Calvary Connected

July 13, 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 Message from Mt. Calvary

A Prayer for Summer

By Emma Danzey

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven."

The warm weather is here and lemonade stands and pools are back in business. Summer is a wonderful time of the year. It is a season of rest, renewal, and bonding with loved ones. It is a season of harvesting many wonderful fruits and vegetables. It is a time of slowing down and reflecting.

For many people, summer can fly by into the next school year season if not intentionally thought about. We can easily miss precious opportunities for intentionality, creativity, and good health. We can focus so much on vacations, camps, and family fun that we forget about the wonderful spiritual growth that can take place during this time. The Lord gives us rhythms in life and this is a season of rest and joy. Today, we are going to take time to pray over this summer ahead.

Let's Pray:

Our Kind Father,

Thank you for the gift of summertime. Thank you for the opportunity to have a season of celebration, family time, renewal, and adventures. We pray that you would be the center of our thoughts and actions this summer. We ask that wherever we are and whatever we are doing, we will glorify you with it. We pray that we would be dedicated learners of Your Word and give time to grow in understanding the Bible and memorizing Scripture. We pray that we would worship our hearts out to you in song. We pray that we would honor you with our own creativity and talents, whatever that might be.

Lord, help us not to waste this time away. Help us to have clarity in how we do life each day, in how we love our spouses, and in how we train our children up in You. Show us ways that we can be a blessing and witness to others in our communities. Give us eyes to see those around us who are in need of Your love. As

we make plans for travel or family experiences, give us wisdom and discernment on how to be good stewards and where to go for special memories to be made. Help us to represent you whether we stay or go.

God, You says in Genesis 8:22, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." You have set up the seasons so that we could live in them and worship you in each one. As we enter summer, may it remind us of Your great faithfulness and provisions to us. May it give us joy as we see You bring back flowers, design new sunsets, and bring up morning dew again. May the heat remind us of the warmth and goodness of the sun that You have created which sustains life here for us. Help us to know that You are gifting us with this season of summer to enjoy, rejoice, and worship. We celebrate that You are the God of the harvest and that we can see the beauty in Your creation.

Proverbs 10:5 says, "He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son." God help us not to be like the disgraceful son. Help us not to be lazy and careless just because of summer. Help us to be like the prudent son who gathers crops and uses his time wisely. It is so easy to allow a slower season to become a wasted one. Please give us the drive and passion to serve You wholeheartedly and to live our days to glorify You in the work that we are called to in this season. Help us to enjoy this summer to its fullest and to find joy in the purpose in which You call us each day.

Lord, we praise you for this beautiful, exciting, and restful season. Help us not to let it go by without seeking You in the midst of it. We pray that we would bring you glory with our time, our rest, and our efforts. Amen.

Emma Danzey's mission in life stems from Ephesians 3:20-21, inspiring young women to embrace the extraordinary. One of her greatest joys is to journey with the Lord in His Scriptures. She is wife to Drew for over two years and mom to baby Graham. Drew and Emma serve with Upstate CRU college ministry in South Carolina. Emma is an avid writer for Salem Web Network and provides articles on the Bible, life questions, and on the Christian lifestyle. More information about the author is available in the link below.

Original Article: A Prayer for Summer - Your Daily Prayer - June 21 - Devotional (crosswalk.com)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

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 Benscreek Lutheran - Noon

Car Wash Fundraiser

The Car Wash will take place on Saturday, July 22nd from 10 AM - Noon (rain date: July 29th) at Mt. Calvary in our front parking lot.

A free will offering will be taken and proceeds will benefit the Scalp Avenue Monument Sign. Bring your vehicles and please invite your friends to join us!

Readers/Communion Assistants:

July 15th Volunteers needed!

July 16th Joan Hunter and Noelle Berkey

July 22nd Cindy Solarczyk and Todd Moss

July 23rd Mike Kozak

July 29th Kevin Oleska and Claudia Plows

July 30th Noelle Berkey and Ray Leverknight

Ushers:

July 15th Volunteers needed!

July 16th Volunteers needed!

July 22nd Volunteers needed!

July 23rd Volunteers needed!

July 29th Volunteers needed!

July 30th Volunteers needed!

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

Worship Leader Schedule for July

July 15th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

July 16th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

July 22nd Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 23rd Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

July 29th Bishop Paula Schmitt

July 30th Claudia Plows, Authorized Lay Leader

A Prayer for the Call Committee

Gracious Lord, you know the skills and spiritual gifts that are needed to do ministry within this congregation. Please guide one with these qualities to us to be our shepherd. Lead this congregation in the way that you see best for all of your Church. Help us to continue to witness to your truth, and bless each member that we might remain strong in the faith. Keep each member faithful through this time that we might be regular in our worship, diligent in the sharing of the Eucharistic feast, eager to learn, and ever ready to do your will. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray for Claudia's Interview

Please keep Claudia Plows in your prayers, particularly on Tuesday. She will undergo an extensive interview with the admittance committee who will decide her entry into the seminary to become an ordained minister. Pray that God gives her wisdom, a calm spirit, and words from her heart to answer all questions asked.

July 15 - 21, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

July 16th - Thomas & Diane Leap

July 21st - Bill & Bernice Cononie

Birthdays

July 15th - Anita Brodt

July 16th - Harold Ashcraft

July 17th - Michelle Corle, Caden Dusack, Todd Eposito, Brian Hiltz, and Stephen Konkula

July 19th - Barbara Goehres and Jilliam Kovalsky

July 20th - Makena Philibin

Please say a prayer for those on our prayer request list:

Cathy T.; Paul Brodt; Kim Stayrook; Alan; Frank Robison; Sandy; Louise; Brooke & Bill; Chuck; Dawn; Cherie; Lorrie & Bill; Jamie Bloom; The Nancy Moore Family; Wilma Hiltz; Johnny Nerone; Cheryl & Roger; James; Denny & Ellen; Sue; El Warshel; Beth Oldham; Stacy & Josh; Janet; Landon; Harold; The Gonzales Family; Mary; Elaine, Patty and Betty Shaffer; Jim Haberkorn; The June Gresh Family; Patty Creany; Rick Wagner; Brianna; Jackie; Mike; Lois; David Mathis & Austin & Family; The 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; Jill Lisson; Krista Miller; The Cullens Family; The Wilson Family; Cecilia Baum; The Dickerson-Bair Family.

Condensed Worship July 8 & 9, 2023 Come to me, all you that are weary

Prayer of the Day

P: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 145:8-14

L: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

A: LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

L: All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

A: They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

L: that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

A: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

L: The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Prayers Of Intercession

L: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

L: God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Gracious God, save and defend your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers filled with your Spirit and strengthen it through the Word and holy sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in all good works. Sanctify and unite your people in the entire world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the creator, and redeemer of all. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God. **A: Your mercy is great.**

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.