



Mount Calvary Connected

August 24, 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/

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Sat., August 26th - Women's Day of Renewal hosted by The Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization

Thurs., September 7th - Social Ministry Meeting - 6:30 PM

Sat., September 9th - Touch-a-Truck - 10 AM - 1 PM

Tues., September 12th - Rake n' Bake Pond Cleaning - 5 PM (Rain date: Thurs., Sept .14 at 5 PM)

Mon., September 18th - WELCA (No August Meeting) - 6:00 PM

Tues., September 19th - Fall Alpha Course Begins

Rake n' Bake Pond Cleaning

We will have our Rake n' Bake pond cleaning on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5:00 PM. Rain date would be Thurs., Sept 14 at 5:00 PM.

We will be raking down all the dead weeds and then reseeding the hillside with bent grass which will be much more manageable in the future. We are reaching out to all church members, but particularly younger people who can stand on a hillside.

Bring your favorite rake! As always, food will be served!

Fall Alpha Course

Alpha is a series of conversations about things we all question in life: Why do bad things happen to good people? What's the purpose of life? What's next?

If you're looking for a judgment-free space to ask hard questions and share your own opinion, there's a place for you.

Mount Calvary will be hosting a fall Alpha course on Tuesdays beginning on September 19th. Please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/WZAHjmX5oDTgFfx29>. You can also call the church office or sign up in the narthex.

The Giving Tree

For the months for September and October, The Giving Tree will collect new packs of underwear for the Nurse's Office at Johnstown Elementary School. The sizes needed are 4T through Adult Medium for both boys and girls. Thank you for your continued support!

Worship Help

Readers/Communion Assistants:

August 26th Marsha Pauley

August 27th Ray Leverknight

Ushers:

August 26th Volunteers needed!

August 27th Mike & Lori Zerby

Altar Guild:

August The Hockensmith Family

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

Worship Leader Schedule for August

August 26th Pastor Nathan Pile

August 27th Pastor Nathan Pile

Women's Retreat

For all the women who may be attending the Day of Renewal this Saturday, August 26th, it begins at 9:00 AM to approximately 1:30 PM. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM with coffee and pastries. The keynote speaker is Pastor Rebecca West. We are glad you will be joining us for this day of fellowship, fun and lunch. The dress of the day is casual.

Sunday School Announcement

Sunday school orientation will be held on Sunday, September 10th from 10-10:30 AM. Please bring your children to Sander Hall. We are asking that the parents stay for this half hour meeting.

A Special Offering

A devastating fire occurred during the early hours of July 26th, 2023 at a home in Westmont. Two individuals lost their lives in the tragedy and the family lost their home and all of their belongings.

Over the first two weekends in August, we collected \$848.00 for the Westmont family who lost these two young family members in the fire. The money is being sent to an account set up for them at S&T Bank.

Thank you for your donations and please continue to keep the family in your prayers.

Baptism

Brooklyn Rae Holby, daughter of Taylor and Stephanie Holby, was baptized at Mt. Calvary on Saturday, August 19th, 2023. May God bless this sweet child!

Property Committee Subcommittee Formation

The property committee is reaching out to the congregation for volunteers interested in forming an Emergency Preparedness subcommittee. Examples would be “who should call 911 in a medical emergency”, or “where should members go in case of a fire.” These plans are much like every school or nursing home has in place now. We are particularly interested in anyone that is a volunteer firemen, EMT, police, or medical background to head the committee. If interested, or for more information, please see Mark Rychak.

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!

Clothing Sale Collection

MANY THANKS! Thank you to Calvary United Methodist Church in the West End for giving us 10 boxes of clothes to use at our clothing sale this year! It is greatly appreciated!

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 keep the donations coming!

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.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in our community!

August 26th - 31st, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

August 26th - William & Cara Lonsinger

August 30th - Carrie & Kevin Eash

Birthdays

August 28th - Cole Reitnauer & Jason Williams

August 29th - Thomas Leap & Frank Robison

August 30th - Gladys Haupt & Mary Mapes

August 31st - James Colvin, Hayden Lingenfelter, & Alan Sterner

Remember those that prayer has been requested for:

Sandy; Louise; Brooke & Bill; Chuck; Dawn; Cherie; Lorrie & Bill; Jamie Bloom; Johnny Nerone; Cheryl & Roger; James; Denny & Ellen; Sue; Beth Oldham; Stacy & Josh; Janet; Landon; Harold; Mary; Elaine, Patty and Betty Shaffer; Jim Haberkorn; Patty Creany; Brianna; Jackie; Mike; Lois; 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, Corlee; Milo; Krista Miller; The Wilson Family; Cecilia Baum; The Dickerson-Bair Family; Richelle; The Rohrabough Family; Tom & Gretchen; Makenzie Miller; Alex; the Dalton Blough Family; Jan; The Jeanjaquet Family; Christine; Sue & Lee; Jill Lisson; Wilma Hiltz; El Warshel; The Layton Family.

Condensed Worship August 19th & 20th, 2023 Woman, great is your faith!

Prayer of the Day

P: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 67

L: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

A: Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

A: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

A: The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

L: May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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

[[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."] Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. 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: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

L: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. 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.