



Mount Calvary Connected

September 7, 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., September 9th - Touch-a-Truck - 10 AM - 1 PM

Sun., September 10th - Sunday School Meeting - 10 AM

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

Thurs., September 14th - Social Ministry Meeting - 6:30 PM

Mon., September 18th - WELCA - 6:00 PM

Tues., September 19th - Church Council Meeting - 6:30 PM

Tues., September 19th - Fall Alpha Course Begins

Blanket Sunday --- October 1, 2023

WELCA is sponsoring Blanket Sunday, a traditional Lutheran ministry held in the Allegheny Synod beginning the first Sunday of October.

Your contributions are used by Lutheran World Relief to buy blankets which provide shelter, warmth, and security worldwide for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are facing disaster. Special envelopes are on the counter by the main entrance door to the narthex; write Blanket Sunday in the memo line of your check payable to Mt Calvary Lutheran Church. You may donate a new blanket for this ministry; a collection basket will be in the Narthex.

Note: blankets must be in Church by Sunday Oct 15th; offerings will be accepted until Nov 1st.

“Please join us” in this special opportunity to help “Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ” who are in dire need.

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.

September & October - Donations Needed!

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:

Sept. 9th Jack Weisbrodt

Sept. 10th Carter & Mary Beth Heinze

Sept. 16th Cindy Solarczyk

Sept. 17th Laura & Carter Heinze

Sept. 23rd Need volunteers!

Sept. 24th Ray Leverknight

Sept. 30th Need volunteers!

Oct. 1st Need volunteers!

Ushers:

Sept. 9th Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

Sept. 10th Bill Eschrich & Mary Ann Maples

Sept. 16th Linda Barnhart

Sept. 17th Need volunteers!

Sept. 23rd Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

Sept. 24th Jerry & Ruth Pozun

Sept. 30th Need volunteers!

Oct. 1st Need volunteers!

Altar Guild:

September Laura Bowser, Mary Beth Heinze, and Nancy Nemeth

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

Worship Leader Schedule

Sept. 9th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 10th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 16th To be announced!

Sept. 17th To be announced!

Sept. 23rd Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Sept. 24th Gary Mickle, Authorized Lay Leader

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this weekend are in honor of Jerry & Ruth Pozun's Anniversary given by her children and grandchildren.

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.

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 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.

September 8th - 14th, 2023 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

September 9th - Frances & Catherine Prisk Jr.

September 12th - James & Lisa Popovnak

September 13th - Patricia & Lawrence Urban

Birthdays

September 8th - Brandt Hutzler & Philip Reitnauer

September 10th - Maggie Borodach & Kathy Carr

September 11th - Donald Goughnour Jr. & Phyllis Nider

September 12th - Ethel Warshel

September 14th - Nancy Conjelko, Bernice Cononie, & Mari Grace Lingenfelter

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; The Oleksa Family; Danielle.

September 2nd & 3rd, 2023

Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 26:1-8

L: Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

A: Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

L: For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

A: I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

L: I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

A: I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,

L: singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

A: LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who

persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

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

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord,

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Prayers Of Intercession

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

L: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world.

Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God, **A: receive our prayer.**

L: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

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. Establish it in the faith delivered to the saints.

L: Sanctify and unite your people in the entire world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the creator, and redeemer of all. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.