



The Hilltopper



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Look for *Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Johnstown, PA.*
Check out our website at www.mt-calvarylutheran.org

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Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
1000 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, PA 15904
Phone – (814) 266-4859
E-Mail - mtcalvary@mt-calvarylutheran.org

Worship Times
Saturdays 5:30pm & Sundays 8:45am
Sunday School – 8:15am
Adult class after Sunday worship

Web Site - www.mt-calvarylutheran.org

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Todd Moss, Church Administrator & Sexton



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Kevin Oleska, Vice-President
Cara Longsinger, Secretary
Missy Brodt
Todd Moss

Ruth Pawlowski
Jeff Penrod
Dave Raho
Bobbi Ream
Judy Stinebiser
Jack Weisbrodt

Each of you must give as you have made up your own mind, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
II Corinthians 9:7

Online giving is now available.

Your support of Mount Calvary is always appreciated, and you may now give on-line if you desire.
Here is how it works:

- >Go to www.mt-calvarylutheran.org.
- >On the bottom right of the home page click the “donate” button.
- >You will be taken to a secure PayPal page. (You do not need a PayPal account.)
- >Enter the amount of your donation and your credit or debit card information.



Your donations will be listed on your annual giving statement. All undesignated contributions will go into the General Fund. You can, however, make a contribution to a special cause like the Stepping Forward in Faith Appeal by entering the information in the “purpose” box on the webpage. If you desire, you can also make your offering an automatic monthly contribution.

BLESSING 2025

If you come through my front door and then turn around facing the door, look up. There you will see a yellow Post-It note, and on it this message: 20+CMB+24. What is this mysterious message and why do I have it posted over my front door?

I began putting a sign on the inside framework of my front door several years ago, when I started using the Augsburg Fortress (our ELCA printing house) devotional for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany. Included in the Epiphany portion of the devotional is a contemporization of an Eastern European tradition of inscribing a visual blessing above the main door of the family dwelling. White chalk is the suggested medium, but white chalk did not work on my varnished door framework. Instead I taped a Post-It note on the framework. But what do the numbers and letters mean?

The numbers refer to the current year. Next year they will change to 20 and 25. The letters CMB can have two different meanings. They can stand for the ancient Latin blessing “Christe mansionem benedicat” (translated “Christ bless this house.”) Or they can stand for the legendary names given to the magi who visited the Christ child in a house: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. (Matthew 2:11)

This year I will change the note to read 20+CMB+25 sometime around January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord. And I will use this prayer from this year’s devotional:

O God,
you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star.
We (I) pray that you bless this house and all who live here with your gracious presence.
May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I like having this blessing over my front door. It’s not magic, but rather a continual prayer over my home.

Submitted by Gloria Reed

Quotes are from “good news, great joy,” Devotions for Advent & Christmas 2024-2025.



Season of Epiphany

January 6th marks the start of the next season of the church year: Epiphany!

Epiphany is celebrated during the time between Christmas and Lent. We celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ-child, Christ’s visit to the temple at Jerusalem as a child, the miracle at Cana, and His transfiguration during Epiphany.

Epiphany means “to reveal” – and it is all about discovering who Jesus is! Especially, we focus on the truth that He came to save all of humanity – Jews and Gentiles alike.

Submitted by Jamie McMullen

Jan 1 Melissa Raho
Jan 3 Jeffrey McKool
Jan 5 Susan Kimmell
Jan 5 Donald Sauter
Jan 5 Dolores Schneider
Jan 8 David Raho
Jan 12 Pat Guinta
Jan 12 Vicki Karnes
Jan 13 Sean Horn
Jan 19 Gloria Reed
Jan 19 Dan Gresh

Jan 20 Jack Weisbrodt
Jan 22 Jeffrey Nider
Jan 22 April Selepack
Jan 23 Emily Horn
Jan 26 Larry Hockensmith
Jan 27 Beverly Coughenour
Jan 27 Ronald Punako
Jan 29 Bob Zada
Jan 31 Lori Hiltz
Jan 31 Hadley Pozun



Parish Prayers – Please remember these family, friends, and loved ones for whom prayer was requested: Jill Lisson, Wilma Hiltz, Larry Hockensmith, Pierce family, Claudia Plows, Gavin Daily, Tina Honkas, Landon, Autumn, Maddy, Church Council, Call Committee, Jack Weisbrodt, Shirley Brendle, Alaina, Pastor Larry Hoover, Marge Moore, Mel Morgenstern, Carl Racketta, Max, Mary Jane, Rick, Denny, Bruce, Jim, Betty Schofield, Shirley, Mel, Glenn, Shawn, Kim, Warshel Family, Roxanne & Josh Hoffman, Mark, Mark Bertelson

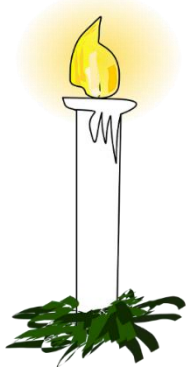
*With
Sympathy*

We offer our sympathy to the families of **Ethel Warshel** and **James Custer** who have passed away. Both were long-time members of Mt. Calvary.

We also offer our sympathy to the family of **Lenora Streilein** who recently passed away. Lenora was a Charter (Founding) Member of Mt. Calvary!

New Year's Day Hike

Get started on your resolution to get/stay healthy in 2025 by going on a hike at Camp Sequanota on January 1. Meet at 10 AM at the camp office. Warm up with hot cocoa at the finish. Be sure to dress appropriately for whatever weather begins the new year.



Acolyte & Crucifer Training

Mount Calvary is looking to expand our Acolyte and Crucifer Program, and we need your help! Acolytes are the individuals (usually confirmation-age kids) who are responsible for lighting the candles in the sanctuary before service and dousing them as service ends. Crucifers carry the cross in and out of the sanctuary on festival days!

We will be offering a brief training for Acolytes and Crucifers on **Saturday, January 11 at 6:45 PM** and on **Sunday, January 12 at 8:00 AM** in the New Lounge!

Ushers needed

Ushers are an important part of our worship experience. They are often the first faces parishioners and guests see before the service. In addition to handing out bulletins and directing the flow for communion, ushers are needed to count the number of people in attendance at each church service. This small task is an important part of our record keeping.



We will be offering a quick **training** for new ushers at **6:45 PM on Saturday, January 11** and at **8 AM on Sunday, January 12**. If this is something you're interested in doing – or even if you'd just like to learn more about it, we'd love to see you! If you would like more information, please contact a member of the Worship & Music Committee.



The Chosen Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday at 6:00 PM in the New Lounge for The Chosen Bible Study! Each week we watch an episode of the worldwide phenomenon and discuss it.

Thank you to everyone who came out to decorate the church! We are so thankful for your help.
From your Worship & Music Committee

What's with the Robes?!

You may have noticed a recent addition to our worship services. Sometimes, we've had folks wearing robes and assisting with the service.

Those people have been serving as **Worship Assistants!** **Worship Assistants** assist with many parts of the service – not just reading and/or pouring wine for communion.

We will be offering a training for new Worship Assistants at **6:45 PM on Saturday, January 25** and at **8:00 AM on Sunday, January 26**. If you want more information, or are interested but can't make those dates, reach out to a member of Worship & Music (Jan Layton, Ray Leverknight, Jamie McMullen, Gloria Reed, or Deb Zilch)!



The text "Happy Anniversary" is written in a black, elegant cursive font. It is centered within a light gray diamond-shaped grid pattern.

No anniversaries are on file for January. If your special day is in January, please update with the office. Thank you.

The word "Congratulations!" is written in a large, black, cursive font. The text is surrounded by several small, five-pointed stars of varying sizes and orientations.

Please share your weddings, births, graduations, and other celebrations with our congregation. We would love to share them in the Hilltopper! Please send good news to the church office.

Church News & Updates

- Prayer Chain - If you have any names, please call Mary Ann Mapes at 814-266-2185 or the office. It is not necessary to give any details unless requested by the individual.
- Please remember to pick up your envelopes!!! If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the church office.
- Don't forget to pick up a new directory! They are located in the narthex on the information table.
- Our current flower supplier Schrader's Florist has raised the altar flower cost from \$40.00 to \$44.00 starting Jan 1, 2025. They are still providing us the lowest price we can find.
- Please be mindful we are ALWAYS in need of **READERS**, **USHERS** and **ALTAR GUILD** helpers/members. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex for readers and ushers. If you are able to help volunteer with Altar Guild, you can contact Jan Layton, Gloria Reed, Jamie McMullen or you can always simply call the church office.



The annual Congregational Meeting to approve the budget and election of council members will be held January 26th following worship.

*"Worry is like a rocking chair;
It keeps you moving but doesn't get
you anywhere"*

Corrie ten boom

 **Children's Worship
Bulletin™**

Ages 7-12

John 17:1-11

Jesus Prays

Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven.

Find 10 things that are different in the second picture.



Mount Calvary's prayer for mission:
Send your Holy Spirit, O Lord, to guide the ministry of Mount Calvary that we may grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. Inspire our worship, give wisdom to our learning, be the center of our fellowship, encourage our giving, and give zeal to our witness. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

January 2025

Sent with A Prayer To:

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

1000 Scalp Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15904-3035

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