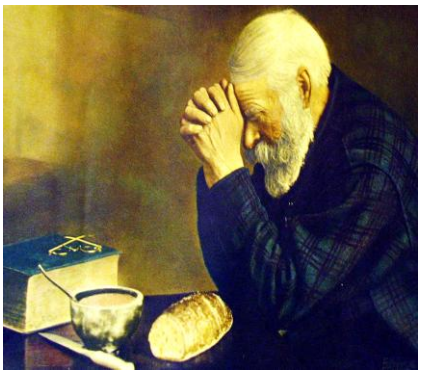
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

November 2026

THE BEACON

From the Pastor's Desk



BLESS US

Years ago, I officiated at the wedding of a young man in the congregation who was marrying a Roman Catholic girl. At the reception, and because the group was equally divided between Catholics and Lutherans, I decided that I would lead the guests in the respective table prayers of each tradition. *"Bless us O Lord and these Thy gifts…"* I said as the Catholic side of the room joined along with me. *"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest…"* I said as the other half of the room spoke up. Afterwards I lifted my head and said, *"Unfortunately, I think the Catholics won."*

Raised a Lutheran, I was introduced to the Catholic blessing through my wife (except that in her childhood it went something like this. *"BlessusoLordandtheseThygiftswhichweareabouttoreceivefromThybountythroughChristourLord.Amen.")* As you can imagine, the prayer was not something *to get to* but to *get through* before you got to the main course, *the meal!* But little did I realize that the actual table prayer in Luther's Small Catechism is not the *Come, Lord Jesus* but words nearly the same as the Catholic blessing!

"Lord God, heavenly Father, Bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

As a good catholic, Luther translated this 8th century table prayer, originally in Latin, a prayer that he used in the monastery, into German, and put it in his catechism so that it could be used in the home.

In a commentary on this prayer that I was reading last year, I stumbled upon something rare. We would *expect* a table blessing to include a blessing for food, as in *"Bless what You here give us,"* or *"Bless, Father, this food,"* but included in this table blessing is also a prayer for blessing of the *self*. More than blessing the food we are saying to God, *"Bless me too!"* This prayer is rightly then a consecration, but not only of the gifts, *of ourselves*.

More than praying for food every time I pray at meals, I am asking God to bless me, something I truly need. I need blessing to receive these gifts rightly for my eyes are often closed to the gifts themselves. As Luther said the Catechism under the 4th petition, ***"****God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."* Food will nourish, and bodies will be strengthened, but above what I really need is that my eyes be opened at each meal I eat.

As a child while learning the *"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,"* one of the prayers in my heart was left unspoken. I hoped that we would never say this prayer when guests came! *Why?* My family said the prayer so quickly the words I heard were. *"Come, Lord Jesus,* ***spear*** *our guest."* I was not quite sure why we were praying this prayer, but I sure was hoping that no guests arrived anytime we said it.

Speaking table prayers quickly isn't just for the Catholics. Luther might remind us that cows and pigs go to their table acknowledging very little, but we should eat our food remembering God. We are more than pigs. We are His children and He our dear Father in heaven. And so, in this month known for thanks, as we pause and pray at meals in the cloisters and convents we call "home," (among the young and old nuns and monks there gathered) this old prayer used by Christians for over 1200 years is an opportunity not just to ask God to *bless the food to us* but *bless us to the food. "Yes Lord, bless this food, but bless me too, consecrate and open my eyes to you, and through this act, consecrate and strengthen me as I arise and serve my neighbor."* And as we pray, His hand is not only over the meal to consecrate it, *His hand is over me.*

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Pastor Seifferlein

Bibliography: *Confession and Christian Life, Commentary on Luther's Catechisms by Albrecht Peters*

A Vicar's Voice

Gottesdienst: Worship in Service to the Gospel

The Lutheran understanding of worship begins with a foundational theological conviction: the Christian life is grounded not in what we offer to God, but in what God graciously gives through Jesus Christ. This distinction shapes our understanding of the Divine Service, the Sacraments, the historic liturgy, and the comfort of the Christian conscience. Lutheran worship is not an exercise in religious expression or human devotion. It is the gracious activity of God, who gathers His people around His Word and Sacraments to deliver the forgiveness, life, and salvation won through Christ's death and resurrection.

The German term *Gottesdienst*, commonly translated as "Divine Service," expresses this understanding. Although the term encompasses both God's service to humanity and humanity's service to God, Lutheran theology emphasizes the former. In the Divine Service, God is the principal actor. He speaks through His Word, absolves sinners, strengthens faith through the Gospel, and gives Christ's true body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. His people receive these gifts through faith and respond with thanksgiving, prayer, confession, and praise.

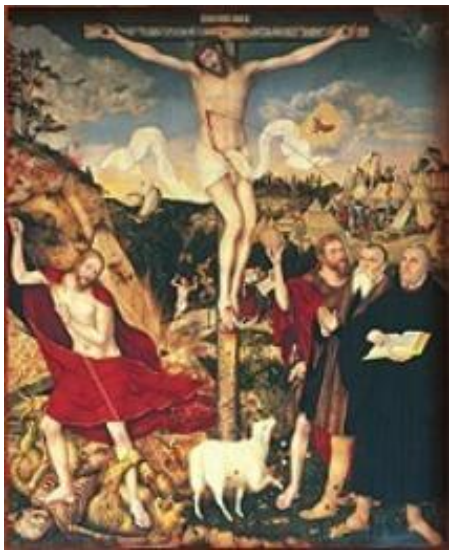
This understanding follows directly from Christ's saving ministry. In Mark 10:45, Jesus declares that the Son of Man came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." His service culminates in His once-for-all sacrifice upon the cross, reconciling sinners to the Father. This saving work is neither repeated nor supplemented in Christian worship. Rather, its benefits are delivered through the means of grace Christ instituted for His Church.

The Augsburg Confession, Article V, teaches that God instituted the ministry of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments so that justifying faith may be obtained. Through these means, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. Thus, the congregation assembles not to earn God's favor through religious activity, but to receive what Christ has already secured. Holy Baptism joins Christians to Christ's death and resurrection. Holy Absolution delivers forgiveness according to His institution. The Lord's Supper gives communicants Christ's true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.

These gifts distinguish Lutheran worship from the prevailing assumption in much of American Christianity that worship is principally an opportunity to offer God our praise, devotion, or religious experience. Such responses do belong in Christian worship, but they do not establish our righteousness before God. The Gospel announces and distributes what Christ has accomplished, rather than demanding that we accomplish something for Him.

The relationship between doctrine and worship is expressed in the ancient maxim *lex orandi, lex credendi*—"the rule of prayer is the rule of belief." What the Church prays and sings confesses what she believes. The historic liturgy demonstrates this through its biblical language. The *Kyrie* invokes God's mercy. The *Gloria in Excelsis* recalls the angels' proclamation at Christ's birth (Luke 2:14). The *Sanctus* draws upon Isaiah's heavenly vision (Isaiah 6:3). The *Agnus Dei* confesses Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the world's sin (John 1:29).

In the liturgy, we respond to God with God's own Word. Our prayers, hymns, and confessions need not depend upon originality or emotional intensity. They rest upon the certainty of divine revelation. The Lutheran Reformation retained the historic liturgy precisely because its ceremonies and biblical language could serve the proclamation of Christ and the instruction of His people. The Divine Service directs us elsewhere: away from ourselves and toward Christ's objective promises. The Divine Service is the Gospel in action. God speaks, forgives, feeds, and sustains His Church. His people receive these gifts through faith and respond with praise and thanksgiving. This is the enduring comfort of *Gottesdienst*: the Lord graciously serves His people, and His people respond in the certainty of His Word.



"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Nov. 3	Dining Out Night (6:00 PM)
Nov. 11	Men's Group (6:30 PM)
Nov. 12	Women of Mount Calvary Bible Class (1:00 PM)
Nov. 14	Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
Nov. 13	Mom's Meet Up Group (9:00 AM)

FINANCE UPDATE

Monthly Giving and Funds Received: $44,001.07
Monthly Operating Expenses: $37,031.57

**Monthly giving includes funds given to our building project.*

Detailed Finance Reports are posted outside Pastor's office after the close of each month.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please call the church office or Pr. Seifferlein when you are scheduled for a surgery, when you would like a visit at home or in the hospital, when you need pastoral care, private absolution or counselling, when you know of someone who needs prayer or a pastoral visit, or when you have a need and would like to be placed on our prayer list. Pr. Seifferlein can be reached by calling 717-560-6751.

Please note: Pastor Seifferlein's weekly day off is Saturday. Appointments and pastoral needs can be scheduled by calling the church office 717-560-6751

Meal Train – If you ever have a medical procedure and need assistance with some meals, make your situation known to Sarah Holton. (holtonsa@gmail.com) We have parishioners who would be happy to help!

Each week the church office sends out a hard copy of the sermon and bulletin to those who request it. Each month a separate list has been created for those who receive a hard copy of the Beacon. If you know someone who would like to be added to either list, please contact the church office at office@lancasterlutheran.com.

Dining Out Night will be Tuesday, November 3rd, at Odle Lincoln House, located at 1398 West Main St., Ephrata. Come join fellow members in this informal setting to get to know each other. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex easel. Ron and Nancy Stiegler will be hosting this event. Please contact them with any questions: 408 307 1655

Mom's Meet-Up on November 13th, from 9:00–11:00 AM. All mothers and children are invited to join us for a monthly gathering. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9 AM for Matins and then move to the Evangelism Wing for coffee and snacks. The children will have time to play together while the moms have time to fellowship. Hope you can make it! If you have any questions, please contact Anna Garber 321-213-4068.



Please join the Women of Mount Calvary for a Bible Class and time together on Thursday November 12th, from 1:00–2:30 PM. (**new date and time**) Pastor will lead us in a study of Holy Scripture. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend this class no matter what their knowledge is of the bible. Please speak with Mary Anne Sylvester or Deb Lynch for more information.

Men's Bible Study will meet at 6:30 PM on Wednesday November 11th (**new date and time**) at Mount Calvary. Come enjoy good conversation with your brothers in Christ. Join us as we strengthen our understanding in our God-given roles as men in our lives, church, and world. *Please RSVP on the easel in the narthex, or text your interest to (920) 918-7200.*

Family Group and the Young at Heart will be on hold until January 2027.

Facility Use Requests – To reserve the Church facilities for any church-sponsored or personal activities and events, please contact the church office to obtain a Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Facilities Use Request Form.

After you have completed the form, return it to the church office where it will be reviewed by the Trustees. This request form is a vital part of coordinating all events that take place at our church. We appreciate your help!

A Funeral Planning Packet is available to assist you in planning a Christian funeral. Materials include a funeral planning sheet (which will be returned to the church office to keep in our files), suggested funeral service readings and hymns, and articles from *The Lutheran Witness* magazine to help you start thinking about and preparing your funeral. Please contact the church office with any questions regarding funeral preparation and planning or to request a funeral planning packet. Both electronic and paper formats are available.

Mission Giving – Twelve yellow "Special Mission Offering" envelopes are inserted in your box of envelopes each year, one for each month. For each quarter of the year, the congregation sends all monies received in those envelopes to a chosen mission that we support. ***Our fourth quarter offering will be split between Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne and Love, INC (Love in Christ)***

Audio Recording of Sermons – An audio recording of each week's sermon is carefully catalogued on the church website. Did you miss a sermon, want to hear it again, or wish to share it with a friend or neighbor? Within a few days of recording, it is available under the "Worship & Grow" section. You can also access all sermons on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXZnEwJ4kS3QLUwmF7nMHgQ For more information contact our web manager, Vicar Michael Usner.

Wednesday Evening Services will be cancelled except for during Advent and Lent. When we gain pastoral support, we hope to return to these important services.

The Elders invite you to reach out with questions, concerns, prayer requests, etc. Find your Elder based on the first letter of your last name. A – C *Ron Stiegler:* (443) 545-6332, rwstiegler@gmail.com; D – Hoffer *Kip Lynch*: (717) 945-8197, kiplynch27@gmail.com; Holmes – McMinn *David Garber:* (717) 808-2969, dgarber3@gmail.com; Meck – P *David-Paul Schulze*: (917) 353-2134, davidpaulh00@gmail.com; R – Stiegler *Kenny Holton*: (610) 507-0676, kennethjholton@gmail.com; Sullivan – Z *Doug Sylvester*: (540) 521-3869, madsly@aol.com.

Al Seidel Funeral - Molly invites you to Al's funeral on Saturday, November 7, 2026.
Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church.
Visitation – 10 AM Service – 11 AM, followed by Interment in our Memorial Garden
Luncheon at Noon in our Evangelism Wing
Molly encourages you to wear bright colors in remembrance of Al. Could be a scarf, tie, sweater, or jacket.

LCEF Building Fund Account: $23,499.57
Truist Building Fund: $7,505.29
LCEF Escrow Account: $10.00
Total Assets: $31,014.86

Loan Interest: $2,433.57
Loan Principal: $922.10
Construction Loan Amount: $512,819.15

Total Expenses to date: $1,867,092.23 (As of August 31, 2026)

Social Ministry

Mount Calvary's Social Ministry Committee provides hospitality and events for the members of MCLC and their friends. The committee includes: Maryann Sylvester, Lynne Allison and Karen Dowbnia. We always welcome additions to our committee, even on a temporary or occasional basis!

Golf Outing Thanks! Our inaugural Golf Outing was a big success, thanks to the planning and preparation of our resident golf pro, Mike Shaub! Thanks to Mike all all the duffers who participated!

Coffee Hour Treats - Have you ever been a snack "host" for our famous coffee hour? If not, now is the time to sign up on the sheet in the Evangelism Wing! Don't worry, you will not be left to fend for yourself. The social committee is there to help, guide and assist. We would love for more folks to help with this yummy ministry to our Sunday School kids and Adult Bible Study folks. Team up with someone else! Homemade and store-bought foods are welcome!!

Reformation Day Celebration, Saturday, October 31, 3:30-5:30pm - It's not too late to sign up for this soon-to-be iconic event! Wait till you experience what we have in store: first a delicious German-style potluck (sign up on the sheet in the Narthex and let us know what you will bring. If you need a recipe, let Karen Dowbnia (317-417-9117); also: Pastor created a really fun quiz to test our Reformation knowledge; the Hymnodians will be leading us in some beer-hall style singing; Banjo-meister Steve Lin will entertain us with his talented banjo-playing; and Elsbeth West will demonstrate her folk dancing prowess by teaching us some dance steps and leading us in dancing. There is even going to be a visit by a special surprise guest! Activities for children will be available. There will also be some great Reformation Day prizes! How can you miss this?! You are welcome to BYOBeer and be sure to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, so we know how many are coming.

Advent Soup Suppers - December 2, 9, 16; 5:45-6:45pm - Bring a crock pot of your favorite soup or loaf of bread to share as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus during Advent. We'll meet in the Evangelism Wing for soup and fellowship prior to Worship. Bring the whole family and your neighbors too!

Board of Witness and Outreach

4th Quarterly Mission Offering is designated for Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne, IN and Love, INC (Love in the name of Christ)

Good Samaritan Service donations will pause in November and December while we collect Christmas gifts for residents of Neffsville Nursing & Rehabilitation. The staff and residents deeply appreciate your generosity. Please place unwrapped gifts in the galvanized bin in the narthex by December 13. Gift suggestions are available on the narthex credenza. Thank you!

November 14 is Operation Christmas Child packaging party. Thank you for brining joy and Jesus to children far away through the Samaritan Purse program.

Please take a moment to read the thank-you notes from 27 recipients of gifts funded by the tithes from Joanne Berg and Elsie Nuechterlein. These gifts are making a wonderful difference for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For Veterans Day, signs thanking our veterans will be displayed in the front yard. We thank God for our military members and honor their service.

Our website and Facebook page help visitors learn about Mount Calvary. The website has welcomed more than 800 visitors, and our Facebook page has over 1,200 followers. Please visit both pages.

We recently met with Josh and Sarah Tarnowski of Love Life and were informed in the brave work this organization is performing in Lancaster City near Planned Parenthood. Love Life communicates to those entering Planned Parenthood on the humanity of the unborn child. They participate in "walk saves," directing women to Women's Care Center and other supportive resources. A significant part of their ministry is also addressing the spiritual needs of those they encounter referring them to a local church.

NEFFSVILLE NURSING & REHABILITATION

Christmas at Neffsville Nursing & Rehabilitation

Each **November**, we collect NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts for Neffsville residents. The gift list is displayed on the narthex easel, with additional copies available on the credenza.

The residents of Neffsville Nursing & Rehabilitation deeply appreciate your generous Christmas gifts. Thanks to you, every resident received a gift last year. Many residents face poor health, little or no income, and limited family support. Yet, with your help, Pastor and Vicar remind them that they are rich in Jesus, who accepts them just as they are. Mount Calvary leads a meaningful worship service at Neffsville twice each month, regularly attended by 40 residents. Their attentive faces, voices raised in praise, and eagerness to shake hands show our volunteers the fellowship we share in Christ. A box is in the narthex to hold your Christmas gifts. Thank you for sharing joy with the residents of Neffsville Nursing & Rehabilitation. Your gift is deeply appreciated.

Neffsville Donation List

Men's Clothing:
- White T-Shirts (M-2XL)
  Long Sleeve Shirts (M-2XL)
- Sweatpants (M-2XL)
  Sweatshirts (M-2XL)
  Pajama Set (M-2XL)

Women's Clothing:
- Long Sleeve and Short Sleeve Shirts (M-2XL)
- Blouses (M-2XL)
- Sweatpants (M-2XL)
- Sweatshirts (M-2XL)
  Nightgowns (M-2XL)
- Pajama Set (M-2XL)

Personal Hygiene:
- Shampoo (Male/Female)
- Conditioner (Male/Female)
- Body wash (Male/Female)
- Body Lotion (Male/Female)
- Deodorant (Male/Female)
- Perfume
- Cologne

Additional Items:
- Twin Size Blankets
- Electric Razors
- Word Search Books
- Adult Coloring Books (to maintain the dignity of our residents, childrens coloring books will not be accepted)
- Colored Pencils
- Adult Coloring/painting Kits
- Craft Kits
- Non-slip socks (Male and Female)
- Stuffed Animals
- Baseball style hats (Male and Female)
- Reusable Cups W/ Lid and Straw

Gift Cards and monetary donations are also accepted. These donations will be used to benefit the residents through the purchase of additional holiday gifts or supplies needed for resident activities.

Board of Worship

MUSIC MINISTRY

Are you passionate about singing and looking for a way to serve the Lord? Join a choir at Mount Calvary!

The Adult Choir, under the direction of Candace Ord, is seeking new members to join our harmonious ensemble. We meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30. This choir prepares the Propers for the assigned Sunday and a special anthem highlighting the theme of the day.

The Hymnodians, under the direction of Michael Owens, is a male chorus that meets Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00. This choir introduces the Hymn for our Season the first Sunday of each month and also prepares Propers for the assigned day.



Singing in a choir is a wonderful way to serve the Lord and contribute to our worship experience while connecting with fellow members. Whether you're a seasoned singer or new to choral singing, we welcome you to be a part of our musical family. For more information or to sign up, please talk to Candace or Michael. We look forward to singing with you!

Board of Education and Youth

We continue to have growing Sunday School classes (Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School and Youth) as well as a thriving staffed Nursery room during the Sunday School hour! Our current Curriculum for Preschool, Kindergarten and Elementary is CPH created *Enduring Faith* and is currently covering the Old Testament, Middle School is also studying the Old Testament.
The Youth class led by Vicar Usner is reading I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist by Dr Norman Geisler and Dr Frank Turek. It's a very accessible book on worldview and apologetics. The format is written in bite-size accessible portions for those new to apologetics.

PALM Youth Retreat in Pittsburgh, PA @ Trinity Lutheran Church (Oct 2nd-3rd) *Daily Pasture and Sustenance: The Lord's Supper* with Plenary Speaker: Rev. Dr. James Ambrose Lee Theology Faculty at Concordia University.

- 5 Youth- TImothy Lin, Miles WIlkening, Theo Sefiferlein, Andrew Holton, Warren West and 2 chaperones- Erin Seifferlein and Kenny Holton attended and had a great time!

Save the date for December 13th! Our annual Christmas program will be performed during the Sunday School hour!

Simple Daily Devotions Guide
Check out this resource from The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod- Family Ministries
https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/daily-devotions-guide-for-families

This link provides a 52 week guide for daily family devotions including a hymn, catechism work, Bible reading and tips to help implement!

LCMS Stewardship

Pledge Response Update

We continue to receive and welcome pledge forms. At this time, we have received 43 pledges, and every response included a commitment to start or continue participation in worship and other spiritual opportunities. Thirty-seven responses indicated a commitment to start or continue participation in Bible study and prayer opportunities which also is very good. In addition, 25 responses committed to start or continue participation in ministry opportunities. Finally, we received 40 pledges with an aggregate total of $224,270.00.

These pledge totals are a very good response to the first pledge campaign in many years. The commitment responses to spiritual and service opportunities are reflective of the spiritual health of our dynamic and growing congregation. The monetary pledges will assist in the budgeting process for 2027.

We received some anonymous pledges. All pledge responses are appreciated.

Additional pledge forms are available on the credenza in the Narthex. It is not too late to complete a pledge form. Simply place the completed forms in the offering plate.

The Mercy Care Team and Stewardship Committee would like your feedback! The Mercy Care Team would like to start a mentorship program at Mount Calvary. In addition, the Stewardship Committee is compiling a list of talents and skills within the congregation that can be referenced when help is needed. We are asking for you to help by completing this important survey by Nov 22nd.

Mercy Care and Stewardship Survey

Paper copies will be on the table by the front door. Please place completed paper surveys in Anna Wilkening's mailbox in the narthex.

Second Service Committee

With the grace of Our Lord, our church community continues to grow, so much so that this past May, we piloted a two-service format.
Our church members were polled and overwhelmingly agreed that, in order to comfortably accommodate our larger community, an eventual move to a two-service Sunday format is inevitable. Our Sunday morning attendance now regularly exceeds the 190 number with some services showing more than 205 worshipers. Therefore, the second service committee has recommended, and the Pastor and Vicar have agreed, that a two-service format will be instituted beginning January 3, 2027 according to the following time schedule:
08:00 a.m. - Early Service
09:30 a.m. - Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Late Service
Other modifications that will occur include:

- The reduction and/or elimination of announcements at the conclusion of the service. This is a work in progress and more details will follow.
- Special presentations requiring "extra time" (induction of new members, confirmations, baptisms, etc.) will be held during the second service.
- The adult choir will sing on their regularly scheduled Sundays at one service.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is the third week of November, and we are just 6 weeks away from it. That said, now is a great time to begin packing your shoeboxes! You can click here to view the list of suggested gifts, alternatively you can also visit: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/ for more information.

Beginning in October, you can drop off your completed shoeboxes and any extra donation items at the church. We will also be having a **Shoebox Packing Party at 12:30 PM on Saturday November 14th**. Save the date! This will be a wonderful opportunity to use extra donation items to pack additional shoeboxes in fellowship together and learn more about Operation Christmas Child.

If you would like to request shoeboxes and labels, please contact our project leader, **Sarnai Miller**, at 812-786-3981.

Thank you for helping us be a blessing to children around the world.

From the Walther League (Mount Calvary's youth group) newsletter, October 1943.

Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther (October 25, 1811 – May 7, 1887) was a German-American Lutheran minister. He was the first president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) and one of its most influential theologians. He is commemorated by that church on its Calendar of Saints on May 7. He has been described as a man who gave up his homeland for the freedom to speak freely, to believe freely, and to live freely, by emigrating from Germany to the United States.

"I AM AN AMERICAN"

O blessed day…the day which witnessed the laying of the foundation of a nation in which freedom of religion and liberty of conscience were made a principle of its fundamental law.

O blessed land in which we are permitted to enjoy this freedom! Even as our Country guarantees civil freedom to the exercise of religion, so may religion bring heavenly blessings to this land.

And let us not be satisfied to enjoy this freedom of religion. God will demand a heavy reckoning from us for the manner in which we have employed this inexpressible benefit. Therefor let us as citizens of this Country labor for the preservation of its freedom, manfully fight for it, and, if necessary, willingly shed our blood for it. Let us be ready to do all this, particularly also for the preservation of this golden crown of its free institutions…religious liberty. Let us on our part do everything that it may remain a refuge for all who are persecuted by reason of their religion among the nations of the earth.

May the Lord of Nations, who to the present day has evidently watched over our land, has governed and blessed it, continue to make His face shine benignly over these free United States of North America! May He bring to naught all the schemes of her enemies that are being plotted against our land and its liberties! May He train unto Himself a pious, free, and happy people, and ever place at its head virtuous men of wise counsel and of courageous action.

Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther

We remember our veterans, especially in November.



Pastor Jim and Bev Witt recently attended the cello recital of their grandson Zephaniah Boriack. This was the first time Pastor Jim and Bev had been able to see the new sanctuary.



Pastor Jim and Bev Witt have been quietly and reverently serving the LORD and Mt. Calvary since relocating to the area in 2015. They moved to Lititz in their retirement to be near their daughter Anna Boriack, Cale and Zephaniah. As a clergyman of the LCMS, Pastor Witt occasionally helped with weekday Bible Study classes, Divine Service, Neffsville Nursing Home, and visitations to our shut-ins. He was also able to provide clergy support for services at the church plant in Myerstown, following the departure of Rev. Koontz. Bev assisted with bulletins for the church plant in Myerstown, as well as supporting the LWML Mite Box program. In addition, she maintained the Cradle Roll of new babies at Mt. Calvary, and also supplied affordable Christian greeting cards available for purchase by members. Both Pastor Jim and Bev have tirelessly carried on the tradition of baptismal banners at Mt. Calvary. As time has gone on, these tasks have become more difficult and they have now passed the mantel to others. From all of us at Mt. Calvary, we thank you for the many ways you have shown your love for the LORD, and care of your neighbor through these generous acts of service. ***Well done, good and faithful servants!***

March for Life

The 2026 March for Life was held September 21st at the Harrisburg State Capital. We started with breakfast at the Hilton followed by two wonderful speakers, Jill Hartman and Dr. Aric Fenske. We had 68 people attending from the Lutheran Churches in PA. We hope you can join us next year for this important event.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Mt. Calvary - you are very generous! On Tuesday Kip and I packed and shipped SIX boxes of supplies for our deployed troops. We also included many pictures, cards and notes from our members. These gifts should arrive in time to commemorate Veterans Day. We chose this date to thank our current troops for those service and sacrifice and to remember, with gratitude, the service of all those in uniform who have gone before them. Freedom isn't free, and our troops protect not only our freedom, but freedom for others around the world. May God watch over our troops and guard them from harm and danger of body and soul.
Deb Lynch

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE

Church Year	Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Coffee Host	Flowers	Greeter(s)	Soundboard	Musician	Ushers	Communion Assistants
Contact Person:		*Church Office*	*Steph Raum*	*Mary Anne Sylvester*	*Church Office*	*Nancy Stiegler*	*Al Dowbnia*	*Candace Ord*	*Dave Pyle*	*Kip Lynch*
All Saints' Day	**11/1/2026**	Z. Boriack	B. Auker	M. Sylvester		R. Allison; L. Allison	R. Esterby		J. Wellenreiter; B. Perlis	K. Holton; A. Colwell
Twenty-third Sunday After Trinity	**11/8/2026**	H. Duguma	J. Raum; S. Raum; T. Milholin	E. Seifferlein		K. Lynch; D. Lynch	T. Ramsdell		D. Pyle; H. Bulcha	D. Garber; D. Zentz
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity	**11/15/2026**	E. Usner	P. Trimpey	K. Shaub		R. Stiegler; N. Stiegler	L. Oberrender		R. McMinn; J. Raum	R. Stiegler; J. Esterby
Last Sunday of the Church Year	**11/22/2026**	G. Seifferlein	P. Murdaco; V. Murdaco	P. Trimpey		G. Zentz; J. Zentz	N. Aument		M. Shaub; J. Wise	D. Sylvester; E. Oberrender
Thanksgiving Eve Service (No Commuion)	**11/25/26**	None	No Communion	None		None	B. Marshall		None	D-P. Schulze
First Sunday in Advent	**11/29/2026**	J. Kurtz	A. Wilkening; D. Steinruck	M. Sylvester		S. Kurtz; K. Kurtz	T. Seifferlein		R. Allison; D. Trovinger	K. Lynch; J. Miller

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS - November 2026

DATE	ELDER	LAY ASSISTANT
11/1/26	D. Garber	A. Colwell
11/8/26	D.P. Schulze	D. Zentz
11/13/26	R. Stieger	J. Esterby
11/22/26	K. Holton	E. Oberrender
11/29/26	K. Lynch	J. Miller
NOVEMBER SPECIAL SERVICES		
11/25/26	Thanksgiving Eve	D. P. Schulze

Coffee and snacks will be served in the Evangelism Wing prior to Adult Bible Class.



NOVEMBER BIRTH DAYS

Jim Esterby	11/4
Valerie Murdaco	11/4
Ray MacFarlane	11/7
Michael Owens	11/9
Cliff Rosenau	11/10
Ron Stiegler	11/20
Ron Allison	11/21
Farley Fry	11/24
Milana Ginder	11/24
Dick Rutter	11/26
David-Paul Schulze	11/28

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff & Michelle Wise	11/3
Nathan & Laura Brooker	11/6
Kip & Deb Lynch	11/17
Keith & Kim Harvey	11/29



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**	**06**	**07**
	6:30 PM Elders Meeting	6:00 PM Dining Out Night		6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 	4:30 PM Confirmation	Al Seidel funeral 11:00 AM
Trinity 23 **08**	**09**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
9:00 AM Holy Communion		10:00-1:00 PM Bible 2 School 6:30 PM Hymnodians Rehearsal 8:00 PM Vespers Evening Prayer (Lay-Led) Council Meeting 7:00 PM	10:00-2:00 PM Bible 2 School Men's Group 6:30-8:00 2:30 PM Neffsville Nursing Home Service	Women of Mount Calvary Bible Class 1:00-2:30 6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Confirmation 9:00 AM-11AM Mom's Meet-Up *All the congregation is welcome for Matins at 9 AM*	*Pastor's day off*
Trinity 24 **15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Biannual Congregation Meeting		10:00-1:00 PM Bible 2 School 6:30 PM Hymnodians Rehearsal 8:00 PM Vespers Evening Prayer (Lay-Led)	10:00-2:00 PM Bible 2 School	6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4:30 PM Confirmation	*Pastor's day off*
Trinity 27 **22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class		10:00-1:00 PM 6:30 PM Hymnodians Rehearsal 8:00 PM Vespers Evening Prayer (Lay-Led)	10:00-2:00 PM 2:30 PM Neffsville Nursing Home Service Thanksgiving Eve service *Pastor's Day off*	Thanksgiving Day  *Pastor's Day off*	*Pastor's Day off*	*Pastor's Day off*
Advent **29**	**30**					
9:00 AM Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class						