

CALVARY COMMENT

AUGUST 2026

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
English District
208 Woods Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

The Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman, Pastor

Church Office Phone:
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Parish Website:
www.calvarymechanicsburg.org

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, September 6
Youth Confirmation Instruction begins

Sunday, September 13
2026–2027 Sunday School Year begins

Sunday, November 1
Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Tuesday, November 3
Election Polling: 7:00am—8:00pm

Wednesday, November 25
Thanksgiving Vespers: 7:00pm

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Vespers: 7:00pm

Friday, December 25
Christmas Divine Service: 10:30am

With August's arrival, we are reaching the end of summer. The season can bring a little more relaxed feel to our daily lives, even if we aren't on vacation. More hours of sunlight make the days seem longer, giving us more time to do things, even if the 24 hours remain the same. The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence added to the celebratory vibes of Summer 2026. This year, we also had the international spectacle of the FIFA World Cup and its changes to schedules come to our nation.

There are still some weeks of summer left in August, which will see some different events taking place in our congregation. For a few days at the beginning of the month, we will welcome guest instructor and students for the Continuing Education Course. Some parish families will have an amusement park outing in the middle of the month. I will even take a vacation week at the end of the month.

But as August runs its course, we will also be ramping up towards more activities in our congregation. You can see some of those mentioned in this month's newsletter. Our Voters Assembly will formally ratify our revised constitution and bylaws and adopt a new operations manual to begin implementing the changes. Youth confirmation instruction will resume in September. The LWML has a Fall Rally on its agenda. The Upcoming Dates column indicates that planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas is on the mind, even if those holidays are a bit distant on the horizon.

Cycles of activities reflect the order that the LORD establishes for His creation. From the very beginning, seasonal rotation would be part of human existence: *"God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.' And it was so."*(Ge 1:14-15) It's true that we aren't bound by any particular ecclesiastical calendar as Christians: *"Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ."*(Co 2:16-17) But we are beings that have been created to live in a world where regular routines and rotations are part of our existence.

We can enjoy the remaining bits of our summer lull in August. Not that we become totally idle. Nor do we shirk the responsibilities that the LORD assigns to us. But we can recognize that the LORD does bring us gifts and blessings uniquely tied to the seasons, including summer. It's part of cycle that He promises will continue as long as this world exists: *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."*(Ge 8:22) Then when the next season comes, we can anticipate receiving the good things that the LORD bestows to us, all in their due time.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING – AUGUST 2

The Voters Assembly will hold its regular quarterly meeting on **Sunday, August 2 at 12:15pm.**

Besides receiving reports from the Pastor, Treasurer, and Church Council, two items of business will be conducted:

- (1) Ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws that have received District approval.
- (2) Adoption of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual (SOPM).

All voting members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

LWML/LADIES AID SOCIETY NEWS

SCHOOL DAZE CRAZE THANKS: Thank you to all parishioners who contributed school supplies for our local New Hope Ministries' program for the 2026-2027 academic year! More complete details about the total collection will be available next month.

SAVE THE DATES: There are two upcoming events in the fall to mark on your calendars:

- **Sunday, October 11** - LWML Sunday
- **Saturday, November 14** - LWML Combined Zone Fall Rally at Martin Luther Chapel - Pennsauken, NJ

NEXT MEETING: Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, August 15 at 9:30am** in the Adult Bible Study Room. There will be a study from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and a short business meeting to follow. Everything wraps up by noon. Hope to see you there!

CALVARY MEN COMING TOGETHER

Our bulletin board is in the Social Hall with changes posted monthly. There are "pick-up" items of encouragement and prayers as we walk our paths with Jesus.

We come together this month on **Saturday, August 22 at 9:29am.** All men are invited.

YOUTH TRIP TO KNOEBELS – AUGUST 15

The Board of Youth will be hosting a family and friends day at Knoebels Amusement Resort on **Saturday, August 15 from 12:00pm—8:00pm** (*amusement park hours, weather permitting*).

Attendees will meet at Knoebels. Each family will purchase their own ride tickets and either bring their own lunches/snacks or purchase their own food at the park. The Board of Youth will supply water bottles and chips for attendees.

A signup sheet has been posted in the Narthex. The deadline to register is August 9.

The address for Knoebels Amusement Resort is:
391 Knoebels Blvd Route 487
Elysburg, PA 17824

Questions about the event should be directed to Essence Dietrich, Barbara Holzwarth, or Briana Smith.

AUGUST 2026 MOWING TEAMS

AUGUST 6–8: TEAM 4

Diane Rosenberg, Dave Rosenberg, Brandon Smith

AUGUST 13–15: TEAM 1

Tom Watson, Bill Schirmer, David Knych

AUGUST 20–22: TEAM 2

Chacha Mwita, Patrick LeFevers, Chris Kaufman

AUGUST 27–29: TEAM 3

Andrew Settle, Trent Dietrich, Jim Mason

Thank you for helping to maintain the property that our Lord has entrusted to our congregation!

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE: AUGUST 4–6

Calvary is again hosting a Continuing Education Course for clergy and laity this summer.

Class sessions will be held Tuesday–Thursday, August 4–6.

As part of the daily schedule, Morning Prayer will be held at 9:00am. Parishioners are invited to attend those prayer offices.

Thank you to members of the Ladies Aid Society for providing lunches for attendees.

Due to the course schedule, there will be no Tuesday midweek class on August 4.

MIDWEEK STUDY UPDATES

Our midweek course on Matthew finished in July.

During summer, we will meet on August 11, August 18, and August 25. We will look at sermons by Bo Giertz written for the upcoming Sunday's propers.

No classes will be held on August 4 or September 1.

Our regular Tuesday night schedule will resume on September 8, when we will begin to study the Epistles of Peter (1 Peter and 2 Peter).

If you plan to be part of the course that begins in September, please let Pastor Zimmerman know.

PARISH CASH FLOW SUMMARY

January 1–June 30, 2026

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 157,330.56
Mission Offering	13,544.50
Building Fund	9,574.50
Plate Offering	1,580.84
Memorials	104.90
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	283.51
Initial Offering	230.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	3,531.00
Building Use	300.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	23,507.69
Thrivent Choice Dollars	197.00
Thank Offering	683.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	273.15
Sunday School	35.00
Youth Group	488.98
Endowment Fund	789.88
Capital Improvement	4.90

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 212,459.41**

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 52,982.43
Personnel Expenses	20,319.26
Real Estate Expenses	30,581.35
Operating Expenses	32,193.26
Ministry Expenses	2,281.07
Mission Expenses	14,350.00
Mortgage Expenses	40,484.57
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,527.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 194,719.89**

NET CASH FLOW **\$ 17,739.52**

Full financial reports are provided to congregational members at the quarterly Voters Assembly meetings.



OPERATION BARNABAS

LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

MILITARY SHARE PROGRAM

Our Military Share food distributions continue each month on the third Wednesday. In July, we served 40 families totaling 102 people. Our numbers change monthly based on individual family situations and those families who did not attend the distribution.

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The Operation Barnabas Committee continues to encourage the congregation to support Chaplain Aaron Bell through regular communication and prayer.

Please consider sending a note of encouragement.

Chaplain Bell's Personal Email: naphshi@gmail.com

Military Email: aaron.bell@marines.usmc.mil

HONOR WALL

Any member of Calvary who is a veteran and would like their name added to our Honor Plaque, please speak with either Bob Ardner or Jeff Douden.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TIP PROGRAM

TIP stands for Transition in Place. The TIP program houses a homeless veteran for a year in a VA approved apartment complex. Case management is provided to the veteran in that year in hopes of the veteran being able to take over the lease of the apartment beginning in the following year.

The Operation Barnabas Chapter has partnered with the Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 109 in Mechanicsburg to provide Move-In boxes to the TIP program for these veterans and their families twice each year.

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

News from around our District can be sent straight to your email inbox each week. Issues are sent on Friday afternoons.

To subscribe to the Servant-to-Servant e-newsletter, go to the following link:

<https://englishdistrict.org/enews>



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CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
208 Woods Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Address Service Requested



Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, August 16, 2026.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

LCMS CONVENTION UPDATES

The Synod held its triennial Convention from July 18–23 in Phoenix, AZ.

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky from St. John – Springfield, PA and Mr. Andrew Scheck from Immanuel – Alexandria, VA represented our Circuit. We anticipate receiving a fuller report about the Convention from them later this year.

Prior to the Convention, the Synod-wide election of the Synod President took three ballots to reach a majority. **Rev. Matthew Harrison** was elected to a sixth term, which he stated will be his last.

The Convention elects other Synod Officers. Other chief officers elected include:

- **Rev. Peter Lange**, re-elected as First Vice-President.
- **Rev. Christopher Esget**, re-elected as Vice-President for the East/Southeast Region.
- **Rev. John Sias**, re-elected as Secretary.

Major discussion topics included training of pastors for Synod congregations, governance of Synod universities, revising corporate formation requirements by Synod agencies, and reestablishing a Synod Commission on Worship.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION

Youth Confirmation Instruction will resume on **Sunday, September 6 at 12:30pm.**

This will be the second year of instruction for seven students. Last year's course focused on the line of salvation history presented in the Scriptures. This year's course focuses on teachings about the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Sacraments as presented in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Confirmation for students who successfully complete their instruction is anticipated for May 16 (Pentecost Sunday 2027).

As these young individuals mature in their life of discipleship, we ask for God's blessing upon them:

Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, recalling the new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.