

CALVARY COMMENT

JULY 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, August 2
Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Tuesday–Thursday, August 4–6
Continuing Education Course:
8:30am—4:00pm

Sunday, August 30
Summer Sunday School ends

Sunday, September 6
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

“Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” [Lutheran Service Book, Collect for the Nation]

As the United States of America celebrates the semiquincentennial anniversary of its independence, it is good to remember that the nations of the world rise and fall as the LORD allows them to exist. We see that truth declared in the Scriptures. In particular, we may recall Paul’s statement in Athens: “[God] *made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.*” (Ac 17:26-27)

We can recognize the gifts provided to us by the LORD’s allowing our nation to exist. In the *Small Catechism*, Luther writes of the tie of the rule of law to the ability of individuals to lead their daily lives. In his commentary on the 4th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Luther lists devout and faithful rulers, good government, and peace among the items of “*daily bread*.” Where those are present, people have much greater opportunity to carry out their daily living.

Through the 250 years of our nation’s existence, we have seen many examples of those helpful items being present. But those should not be seen as a given, as if they will always exist. Some nations have had little experience of such things in their history. Other nations had eras where those were in plentiful supply, but now see an absence. We should not think that our nation is immune from that. Instead, we should rightly identify them as blessings that the LORD has bestowed to us. That should lead us both to express a gratitude for such gifts and to ask that the LORD would continue to supply them.

Such thinking is expressed well in the Collect for the Nation printed above. The prayer recognizes the LORD’s past blessing to us as Americans and states our desire to do His will. It also requests His future actions to sustain our nation and keep us from incidents that would cause it to collapse. Particular petitions are also made for those who exercise authority in our nation. In the words of that collect, we can see the allusions to those needed items of “*daily bread*”—devout and faithful rulers, good government, and peace.

Independence Day 2026 is certainly a time for celebration. But don’t let that day go by without considering what we have graciously received from the LORD. Carrying out the Apostle’s directives will also be most fitting for our national holiday: “*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.*” (1Ti 2:1-3)

LADIES AID SOCIETY/LWML NEWS

“SCHOOL DAZE CRAZE”: New Hope Ministries is already preparing to meet the students’ needs for the 2026-2027 school year! Calvary has traditionally collected their “most wanted” items during July, so that NHM can be ready for the August distribution. Printed lists of these items can be found in the Narthex. A collection box will also be there during the Sundays in July for donations. Thank you in advance for helping with this project. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Goheen (717-649-4295), Heidi Jacobson (863-456-8845), or Kay Ardner (717-682-8991) for more information.

NEXT MEETING: Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, July 18** at 9:30am in the Adult Bible Study Room. Pastor will lead us through the study “How Long, Lord?” from the Summer 2026 issue of *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. A short business meeting will follow. All of this will wrap up by noon. Hope to see you there!

CALVARY MEN COMING TOGETHER

So far in 2026 and going forward, our “coming together” is regularly happening on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9:29am.

Proverbs 3:6 is our guiding Word. Putting the LORD first in everything is our direction; that is what we are called to do.

Calvary men coming together is a process where like-minded men come together, as a group, acknowledge the presence of Jesus, confess our faith, study the *Portals of Prayer* devotion of the day, pray, and consider issues or matters we are facing in the life that we are given by God for the day.

Our work plan is the Calvary Mission Statement. Where we fit into this work plan, individually and as a like-minded group, is our commitment to serve the Lord.

Jesus said, “*Whoever serves Me must follow Me.*” (Jn 12:26) Following Him is the right path for us actively involved as we are able.

Going forward in 2026, we will continue to “*acknowledge the LORD*” in the ways that He guides our paths. He calls us to action when He said, “*Follow Me.*” Being involved will keep us off the sidelines.

Come and see on Saturday, July 25, at 9:29am, and be a part of “*iron sharpens irons, so one man sharpens another.*” (Pr 27: 17)

CHURCH DONATIONS: STILL AT WORK DURING VACATION

Summer vacations and weekend getaways are special times. However, normal expenses still need to be paid, both in our homes and at our church.

No matter what month it is, Calvary depends on your regular donations to pay for monthly budgeted items. All help to meet the monthly budget is appreciated.

Please consider setting up automated payments, mailing, or using other ways to ensure that your regular giving continues while you are away.

JULY 2026 MOWING TEAMS

JULY 2–4: TEAM 3

Andrew Settle, Trent Dietrich, Jim Mason

JULY 9–11: TEAM 4

Diane Rosenberg, Dave Rosenberg, Brandon Smith

JULY 16–18: TEAM 1

Tom Watson, Bill Schirmer, David Knych

JULY 23–25: TEAM 2

Chacha Mwita, Patrick LeFevers, Chris Kaufman

JULY 30–AUGUST 1: TEAM 3

Andrew Settle, Trent Dietrich, Jim Mason

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

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We are pleased to announce that Danielle Otto has accepted the Administrative Assistant position.

Danielle will start on July 7, spending her first two weeks training with our current Administrative Assistant, Charlotte Troutman.

Afterwards, Danielle will transition to a regular work schedule of Tuesday through Friday from 8:30am—12:30pm, as outlined in the job description. That regular schedule will begin on July 21.

We thank Charlotte for her diligent work during the past several years. We also ask God’s blessings for Charlotte and her family as they start new chapters in their lives.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING

Parents of confirmation students will meet with Pastor Zimmerman on **Sunday, July 12 at 12:00pm.**

Discussion about the 2026–2027 catechism instruction schedule and expectations for students will take place.

Catechism instruction is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 6.

Confirmation of catechumens who successfully complete their instruction is slated for 2027 Pentecost Sunday, May 16.

PARISH CASH FLOW SUMMARY

January 1–May 31, 2026

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 131,139.01
Mission Offering	12,864.75
Building Fund	8,079.75
Plate Offering	1,192.84
Memorials	104.90
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	238.51
Initial Offering	230.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	3,506.00
Building Use	100.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	23,507.69
Thrivent Choice Dollars	148.00
Thank Offering	610.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	273.15
Sunday School	0.00
Youth Group	0.00
Endowment Fund	614.88
Capital Improvement	4.90

TOTAL INCOME \$ 182,614.38

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 43,993.28
Personnel Expenses	17,357.71
Real Estate Expenses	28,345.99
Operating Expenses	27,169.56
Ministry Expenses	2,192.88
Mission Expenses	13,300.00
Mortgage Expenses	17,906.74
Non-Budgeted Expenses	639.41

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 150,905.57

NET CASH FLOW \$ 31,708.81

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 June, we served 41 families totaling 107 people. Our numbers change monthly based on individual family situations and those families who did not attend the distribution.

EQUIPMENT RESUPPLY

The Operation Barnabas Chapter wants to thank the congregation members for their donations of plastic bags. We are well supplied with bags now and will not need additional bags for the time being. Thank you for assisting with the Military Share program.

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.

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

Would you like to keep up-to-date on happenings around the English District? Want to see what is taking place in congregations both in our Philadelphia Circuit and across the country?

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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Romans 10:17 ESV

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CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
Address Service Requested



Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, July 19, 2026.
Please send info to [**CalvaryComment@Verizon.net**](mailto:CalvaryComment@Verizon.net).

2026 FOUNDRY DAY OUTREACH

Congregational members led by the Evangelism Board participated in the 2026 Foundry Day outreach event on June 6 in Boiling Springs. Evangelistic and informational materials were distributed to attendees.

The event also raised \$313 by selling hot dogs and water bottles. Those funds will support activities of Calvary's Operation Barnabas Committee's work.

Thank you to all members who volunteered to operate the tent display, prepared food items, or made contributions to support the event!

