
CALVARY COMMENT

June 2023

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: 717.697.9771

Email:
CalvaryLutheranChurch@verizon.net

Parish Web Site:
www.calvarymechanicsburg.org

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

AND/OR

When teaching about stewardship, we write “time, talent, **and** treasure”, but we often read this as “time, talent, **or** treasure.”

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents?

But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Whether we focus our serving works at Calvary (helping at the clothes closet,

(Continued on Page 2)

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common.” (Ac 2:44) Life in the Church at Jerusalem included holding possessions collectively. This is an outflow of the bonds among the believers. The disciples of Jesus shared material goods in common. Without that, the fellowship and unity that had been created among them by the Spirit couldn't be maintained. The record given in Acts repeats the description about this common holding of property: *“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.”* (Ac 4:32)

Descriptions about common holding of property may first strike us as a bit odd. It's not how we usually think of possessions. We recognize that the LORD permits us to hold property and directs our behavior toward it. That's seen in the Decalogue: *“You shall not steal.... You shall not covet your neighbor's house....”* (Ex 20:15, 17) These commandments indicate that individuals can have title to possessions. Jesus also taught how to properly think about and use possessions, instructing His followers: *“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”* (Mt 6:25) and: *“I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.”* (Lk 16:9)

Understanding the true nature of life allows us to relinquish our grip on possessions, so that they can be held for a use greater than our own interest. That includes holding things in common with our fellow members of Christ's Church, so that activities can be carried out to assist others in temporal ways and, even more importantly, can bring eternal benefits. This manifests itself in our offerings, as well as having our congregation own items and property to carry out the exclusive work of proclaiming Christ's Gospel to our corner of the world.

Because these possessions are transferred from our personal holding to corporate, common ownership, certain actions are taken to ensure their proper function and use. That stands behind our congregation establishing a Board of Trustees to oversee its grounds and property, as well as the offices of Treasurer and Financial Secretary who oversee the collection and expenditure of monies given for the common possession of the congregation. We also have other minor groups who maintain items used in our corporate acts; for example, the Altar Guild cares for objects used in our worship services.

These might not seem like service to God. But that would be a misunderstanding of matters. God Himself assigned such seemingly mundane duties: *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him. They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle. They shall guard all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard over the people of Israel as they minister at the tabernacle.’”* (Nu 3:5-8) Those divinely assigned duties are listed for us, including what seems ordinary: *“The guard duty of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the hangings of the court, the screen for the door of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its cords—all the service connected with these.... [The sons of Kohath's] guard duty involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these.... The appointed guard duty of the sons*

STEWARDSHIP CORNER (Continued from Page 1)

organizing fellowship events, or planting flowers around the church) or at a soup kitchen/food pantry, we give all three. Our treasures can be in the form of generous giving a first fruits proportion of our income and giving our time AND talents in generosity for the benefit of what God has given us.

Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

MAY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

At its regular meeting on May 8, the Church Council considered the following items:

1. Notice from the Treasurer that the final payment to ECI for the Renovation Project had been issued from the LCEF construction loan.
2. Information from the Trustee Board about issues with conduits to the roof HVAC systems being repaired and contracts for tree/bush removal being arranged for May.
3. Acceptance of a Finance Committee proposal to have three line items on the giving envelopes for 2024: (1) General Budget, (2) Building Fund, and (3) Missions & Human Care. This change reflects the conclusion of the Capital Campaign in 2023.
4. Intention of the Stewardship Board to create quarterly pamphlets to publicize short-term and long-term service opportunities and activities in the congregation.
5. Update from Operation Barnabas Committee that the Honor Wall had been completed and would be dedicated on May 21.

The Church Council will hold its next meeting on June 12.

FUN TIMES AHEAD 2023 SUMMER CHURCH PICNIC

Summer means a time for fun, relaxing, and being with friends. Calvary has a pavilion for such an occasion. Thanks to the Trustees, it even has a new roof.

On **Sunday, June 11**, put on your casual clothes, because we are having a picnic lunch after church. You will need to **sign up on the bulletin board** in the Narthex and **bring either a side dish or a dessert** to the kitchen before worship.

Along with lunch, we will be having games for the kids and adults. If you have a favorite lawn game that you would like to play with us, bring it along. Calvary even has two sets of horseshoe pits.

Please come and join us on June 11.

LWML/LADIES AID SOCIETY NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 17 at 9:30am in the adult education room. Bring your mites and your Lutheran Woman's Quarterly magazine. We always have a great Bible study. Our meetings wrap up before noon. Help is needed to plan summer and fall activities. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Dates

Friday—Thursday, July 28—August 3
LCMS Convention: Milwaukee, WI

Tuesday—Thursday, August 8–10
Continuing Education Course

Sunday, September 10:
Apple of His Eye Ministries Visit

A NEW COMMUNICATION SOLUTION

Have you ever gotten home from Church and realized that you had forgotten to get the newsletter or a special announcement? Or have you wondered where to put your new name tag so you wouldn't lose it?

We think and hope that we have solved your problem. In case you missed it, our congregation now has mailboxes in the Education Wing across from the Military Honor Wall. Each household has their own slot. That way you can make sure you have what you need, including a place for your name tag.

A big thank you to Woody Flickinger for making it for us. Check it out as you come and go from church. You never know what a great conversation you could have with someone at the mailbox. See you there.

YOUR CHANGE



changes lives

JOIN US AS WE PARTICIPATE IN A BABY BOTTLE BLAST TO BENEFIT CAPITAL AREA PREGNANCY CENTER.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP PROVIDE ULTRASOUNDS, BIBLES, CRIBS, AND NECESSARY COUNSELING MATERIALS TO HELP PROMOTE LIFE!

PICK UP AN EMPTY BOTTLE AND FILL IT WITH YOUR CHANGE, BILLS, OR CHECKS. BRING YOUR FILLED BOTTLE TO CHURCH BY FATHERS DAY (JUNE 18).

FILLED BOTTLES CAN BE PLACED IN THE BASSINETTE IN THE NARTHEX.

PARISH GENERAL CASH FLOW REPORT (January 1–April 30, 2023)

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 78,333.54
Mission Offering	4,502.00
Building Fund	1,780.00
Plate Offering	1,474.00
Memorial	0.00
My Neighbor	0.00
1-1-1 Mission Collection	71.00
Initial Offering	105.00
Church Year Seasonal Service Offerings	5,480.00
Building Use	0.00
Refund Income	300.21
Other Income	0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	421.00
Lutheran Witness	343.60
Sunday School	0.00
Youth Group	20.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 92,830.35**

EXPENDITURES

1000 Pastoral Expenses (Salary & Benefits)	\$ 32,771.30
2000 Personnel Expenses (Secretary, Organist)	11,216.08
3000 Real Estate Expenses (Insurance, Utilities)	15,189.01
4000 Operating Expenses (Maintenance, Supplies, Custodial Services)	20,997.72
5000 Ministry Expenses (Board and Program Activities)	1,839.88
6000 Mission Support (District Pledge, New Hope Ministries, Missionary Support)	4,562.19
7000 Mortgage	5,650.39
8000 Non-Budgeted Expenditures (Revolving, My Neighbor, Memorial)	71.00

Budgeted Disbursements **\$ 92,226.57**

Non-Budgeted Disbursements **71.00**

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 92,297.57**

NET CASH FLOW **\$ 532.78**

General Cash Flow does not include Capital Campaign income, Renovation Project expenses, or Operation Barnabas income/expenses, which are accounted separately.



**OPERATION
BARNABAS**

LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

MILITARYSHARE PROGRAM

Our last distribution was held on May 17. We welcomed three new families in May, bringing our total families served to 40.

HONOR WALL

The dedication ceremony for Calvary's Honor Wall was conducted on Armed Forces Sunday, May 21, following the Divine Service. The ceremony was led by LCMS Navy Chaplain Aaron Bell.

After the dedication, our Calvary LWML chapter hosted a cake and coffee social in the social hall. Many thanks to all who participated in the dedication ceremony.



Present at the Honor Wall dedication ceremony on May 21 were (l-r): Pastor Zimmerman; Bob Ardner, Operation Barnabas Chairman; Chaplain Bell.

NAME TAGS: WHY WEAR THEM?

A name tag is like a smile and are often seen together. It's primary when it comes to becoming acquainted.

Wearing the name tags is also helpful for both those who are new to the church and for long time members who are trying to remember new peoples' names.

It's just a thoughtful thing to do and easier now that we have our own mail slots where the name tags can be kept when not in use.



HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the last Health & Safety Committee meeting, discussion was held concerning how to convey needed information to the Cumberland County Communication Center in the event of an emergency at church.

Bob Ardner was assigned the task to contact the Communication Center to determine what information would be needed from us in an emergency situation. This information will be provided to the church office so the emergency contact cards can be made.

Emergency contact cards will be placed in the usher area in the Narthex, the mower shed, and the church office.

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
208 Woods Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
Address Service Requested



Next Calvary Comment Deadline is Sunday, June 18, 2023.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

of Merari involved the frames of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, the bases, and all their accessories; all the service connected with these; also the pillars around the court, with their bases and pegs and cords.”(Nu 3:25-26, 31, 36-37)

The New Testament doesn't provide as much discussion about such activities, but allusions to trusted people and oversight of common property can be found. We might be most familiar with the negative comments made about Judas Iscariot's lack of trustworthiness with common property: *“He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put in it.”*^(Jn 12:6) In striking contrast, consider Paul's description of a person being sent to collect offerings from Corinth: *“With [Titus] we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man. And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you.”*^(2Co 8:18-22)

Integrity and commitment are needed to properly administer the Church's common property. Those possessions have been turned over and entrusted to the congregation to be used for divine purposes. Individuals take up management of those possessions on behalf of congregation to ensure that they are used properly. Effort is also made to maintain what is regularly used by the congregation. Participating in these activities is another way that we carry out our lives together as disciples. It's a way to exercise the time and abilities that the LORD has given us to carry out His work in this world.



KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares **Christ for you anytime, anywhere** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

So **faith** comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the **word of Christ**.
Romans 10:17 ESV

Find **KFUO Radio** on your **podcast app**

 **KFUO.org** worldwide

 **AM 850** in St. Louis

LIVE OR ON DEMAND:

- ▶ Sacred Music & Prayer
- ▶ Worship Services
- ▶ Bible Studies
- ▶ Lutheran Confessions
- ▶ Practical Talk
- ▶ And much more!