
CALVARY COMMENT

March 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: 717.697.9771

Email:

CalvaryLutheranChurch@verizon.net

Parish Web Site:

www.calvarymechanicsburg.org

2026 PHOTO DIRECTORY

A new photo directory for our congregation will be published in Spring.

To obtain updated photographs of members, three Sundays in March have been designated for taking photos after Divine Service: March 8, March 15, and March 22.

Registration sheets are in the Social Hall near the Music Room door to sign up for having photos taken of households and their individual members.

Please register for the day that you prefer to come. About 30 slots are available for each day.

Thank you for your participation in this process.

Any questions can be directed to Barbara Holzwarth, who has volunteered to spearhead the photo taking project.

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn 1:29)

John the Baptizer’s declaration about Jesus was made after His Baptism, during the opening stages of His ministry. What John says about Jesus is fulfilled later in His ministry on earth, as we are about to hear again as we enter the latter stages of Lent this month. The focus of Passiontide—the last two weeks of Lent, which includes Holy Week—is centered on Jesus’ atoning work performed in Jerusalem.

Before we hear the narratives of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, the sacrificial offering of Jesus will already be presented to us in the Epistle Reading for the 5th Sunday in Lent: *“For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.”* (Heb 9:13-15)

The Author of Hebrews emphasizes the sacrifice that Jesus performed to fulfill the LORD’s Covenant promises. This is a sacrifice greater than anything offered by Israel’s high priests in ancient days. It does more and lasts longer, as the Author writes: *“When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”* (Heb 9:11-12)

Jesus’ great act of atonement and redemption should be remembered at all times. It stands at the heart of the Church’s message, as the Apostle writes: *“We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”* (1Co 1:23-24) But it certainly takes primary position during Passiontide, as the psalms, prayers, hymns, and Scripture readings for this period convey both the details of how Jesus performed this act and the effects of His work for the LORD’s people.

What we hear about Jesus during the events of Holy Week will also be proclaimed as we enter Eastertide. Christ’s identity and work as the Paschal Lamb will be presented and praised, beginning with the Easter Vigil and running into the joyous worship of Easter Sunday. John the Baptizer’s words will frame what we hear and say about the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Lamb of God who was slain for us: *“Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”* (1Co 5:7b-8)

2026 LENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Midweek Lent prayer offices are being held on the Wednesdays in Lent at 10:30am and 7:00pm.

Divine Service for the Annunciation of Our Lord will take place on March 25 at 10:30am and 7:00pm.

Divine Service for Holy Thursday will take place on April 2 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm. Stripping of the Chancel will occur at the evening service.

Chief Service for Good Friday will take place on April 3 at 12:00pm.

Good Friday Passion Vespers will take place on April 3 at 7:00pm.

Easter Vigil will be held on April 4 at 7:00pm. A reception for worshippers follows that service.



Upcoming Dates

Sunday, April 12

Special Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Sunday, May 3

Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Thursday, May 14

**Ascension Day Divine Service at
Mount Calvary – Lititz, PA: 7:00pm**

Sunday, May 17

Armed Forces Day Luncheon: 12:00pm

Tuesday, May 19

**Primary Election Polls at Church:
7:00am—8:00pm**

Saturday, June 6

**Foundry Day Evangelism Event
Boiling Springs, PA**

LADIES AID SOCIETY/LWML NEWS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE: Look for signup sheets in the Narthex to serve with two events in April.

Easter Vigil Reception - Appetizers/desserts and kitchen help are needed for the reception on the evening of April 4.

Collection for Spring Rally - Various ingathering items will be collected through April 19.

NEXT MEETING: Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 21 at 9:30am** in the Education Wing Meeting Room. Pastor will lead a study from the Winter 2026 issue of the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* and a short business meeting will follow - all wrapping up by noon. Hope to see you there!

CLOTHES CLOSET – MARCH 7

Calvary's Clothes Closet will be open for **our next event on March 7**. Free clothing will be offered to our neighbors in need.

We are ready to begin sorting through donations so that they are organized, making it easier for people to find what they need.

Your help for sorting is very much needed on **Monday, March 2** and **Tuesday, March 3**. We will start sorting each day at 10:30am and try to work until 1:00pm. Help in any increment of time is appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed for Saturday distribution—to open the event, to visit with people during event, and to close the event by restoring the Social Hall to normal for Sunday.

Most of our inventory has been donated by you, our kind and generous congregation.

Thank you for all the super clothing and for any help that you may offer.

Be encouraged by Proverbs 19:17: *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his deed.”*



LWML Spring Rally

Philadelphia Zone English District

Saturday, April 25, 2026

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church

1125 Parkside Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08618

609-209-5692

2026 EASTER LILIES

Orders of Easter Lilies to adorn the church in April will be taken during the first part of March. Forms to order lilies and to provide a dedicatory note will be inserted in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

PARISH CASH FLOW REPORT
January 1–31, 2026

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 15,074.60
Mission Offering	1,974.75
Building Fund	583.75
Plate Offering	161.00
Memorials	100.00
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	0.00
Initial Offering	215.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	167.00
Building Use	0.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	3,212.55
Thrivent Choice Dollars	0.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	108.25
Sunday School	0.00
Youth Group	0.00
Endowment Fund	195.00
Capital Improvement	0.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 21,791.90**

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 7,553.81
Personnel Expenses	3,192.53
Real Estate Expenses	11,064.00
Operating Expenses	3,778.88
Ministry Expenses	98.67
Mission Expenses	1,300.00
Mortgage Expenses	7,577.83
Non-Budgeted Expenses	0.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 34,565.72**

NET CASH FLOW **– \$ 12,773.82**

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

CHANCEL FLOWERS SPONSORSHIP

Sponsoring flowers for the chancel is a way to both honor Christ and recognize special people or events in your life.

Openings are available for sponsoring Chancel Flowers for Sundays in 2026. See the chart posted in the Social Hall to register.

The cost for providing flowers is \$25 for 1 vase; \$50 for 2 vases.

If you will not be present on a day you sponsor flowers, please inform the Altar Guild of what to do with the flowers after worship.



OPERATION
BARNABAS
LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

MILITARY SHARE PROGRAM

Our Military Share food distributions continue on the third Wednesday of each month. In February, we served 46 families totaling 126 people. Our numbers change monthly based on individual family situations.

On February 20, we received a call from a veteran who recently moved to Mechanicsburg and needed food. We were able to provide him a dry goods box along with a packet of frozen meat. He also registered for the Military Share program.

MILITARY SHARE SERVICE STATISTICS

Participation in the Military Share monthly distribution program at our church started in October 2017 with eight families. We are now regularly serving up to 48 families each month. During this time, we have distributed 212,126 pounds of food to local veteran families.

TRANSITION IN PLACE (TIP) PROGRAM

This program works out of the YWCA in Harrisburg and has partnered with the social work office at the Lebanon VA hospital to house homeless veterans and their families. In January 2025, they asked us to provide Move in Kits for them to use in this process. We have partnered with the Auxiliary at American Legion Post 109 in Mechanicsburg to complete these kits.

To date, Calvary has provided 10 completed kits and the Auxiliary has provided 36 completed kits, all of which were turned over to the TIP program. Each kit contains over 40 basic housekeeping items.

Also donated to the them were 140 hygiene items to assist the TIP Program's efforts to help veterans still on the street.

SAVE THE DATE

The Operation Barnabas Chapter and the Evangelism Board will host an Armed Forces Day Luncheon on May 17 after Divine Service. Further information will be provided.

EQUIPMENT RESUPPLY

The Military Share Program has an ongoing need for plastic grocery bags. Please continue to place your bags in the purple tubs near the Honor Wall.

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

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



Next Calvary Comment Deadline is Sunday, March 22, 2026.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

FEBRUARY 2026 VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING NOTES

At its meeting on February 1, the Voters Assembly received regular reports from the Pastor, Treasurer, and Church Council. It also took the following actions:

- Noted that the Fall 2025 pledge drive elicited 19 commitments for a total of approximately \$148,000 in donations.
- Designated Pastor Zimmerman and Ray Miller as the congregation's electors for the 2026 Synod Presidential Election. Chris Lamm was designated the alternate lay elector.
- Nominated several individuals for Synod offices:
 - **Synod President** – Rev. Theodore Krey and Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast
 - **Synod 1st Vice-President** – Rev. Peter Lange and Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
 - **Synod Regional Vice-President** – Rev. Timothy Droegemueller and Rev. Christopher Esget
- Received an update on Endowment Fund holdings at the end of December 2025. Current holdings are \$37,794.61, an 8% increase from its inception.
- Heard a presentation about the ability for members and guests to utilize e-Giving through Vanco to make contributions to the congregation, beginning in Lent.



"In all your ways acknowledge [the LORD] and He will make straight your paths."^(Pr 3:6)

Coming together is one way of "acknowledging the LORD" in our lives.

Men "coming together" sounds like an event with a date, time, and place with goodies.

However, it is really a process: men committed to a mission, making a decision to come together in the presence of Jesus (Mt 18:20) and considering "paths" He has laid out for us!

We will meet at 9:29 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, at the church. Baked goods and coffee will be provided.