
CALVARY COMMENT

May 2025

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
English District

208 Woods Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

The Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman, Pastor

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www.calvarymechanicsburg.org

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

EXECUTING OUR MISSION

The **mission** of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is to bring people into fellowship with the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—so they may share in the new life and eternal salvation that He has won for them.

This mission is carried out in four different aspects of congregational life:

- Worshiping and studying the Word of God.
- Nurturing and providing support and encouragement to each other.
- Witnessing to the saving power of the Gospel to our community, country, and world.
- Serving as good stewards of God's gifts by using our time, talents, and treasures to further His kingdom.

When we read this, we can see the lofty responsibilities given to us as members of Calvary. They sound like the Great Commission (Mt 28:18–20) combined with the Early Church Essentials (Ac 2:42–47). Increasing our efforts in any of the four areas mentioned above adds to spreading the Good News.

(Continued on Page 2)

The festive joy of Easter Sunday can start to ebb as it falls more and more into the past. The last strains of the trumpet and trombone have faded away. The Easter lilies have begun to wilt. The full schedule of Holy Week has been replaced with the more regular routine. This may have happened a little later on the civil calendar this year, but the high of Easter Sunday is always virtually impossible to maintain.

The Easter Season is a series of seven weeks, even if the festive joy of Easter Sunday starts to ebb. These seven weeks are significant, as they are a time when we are presented with the accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances and the promises that He makes to His disciples about what that resurrection means for them. This is what we will hear during the Sundays in May, as we mark each of the seven Sundays of Easter.

What the Gospel Readings proclaim is important for us to hold in our hearts and minds, especially as we move through life and face the burdens that this brings. That includes the ennui that routine can bring to us. When we don't have the busyness of Holy Week occupying our focus or the fuller ceremonies of Easter Sunday captivating our senses, it may seem like everything is just ordinary. We can begin to forget the significance of what Jesus' resurrection truly means to us. But as we are presented with the accounts of the Risen Jesus appearing to His disciples and the pledges that He makes to all of His followers, we are reminded that something extraordinary has happened that we are a part of. That's what this 50-day season of Easter brings to us.

What Jesus' work accomplishes isn't dependent upon how we feel. His actions are completed for us and stand in place regardless of our emotional response. We don't have a share in the resurrection and life in the world to come only if we are demonstrating the ebullience of Easter Sunday. No, the redeeming work of Jesus is also for the times when we might be experiencing the anxious anticipation of Advent or the melancholy mood of Good Friday or even the so-so state of the 12th Sunday after Pentecost.

The long season of Easter also prompts us to think about the longer path of discipleship as we follow Jesus. The effect of His resurrection is constant for us. It makes us heirs of everlasting life, as we place our hope and trust in Him. It also promotes the new way of living that is part of our baptized identity now, which will be fulfilled in the world to come.

That is the goal set before us for all our days of Christian pilgrimage, as noted in the Collect for Easter: *"O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever."* This repentance and rising to righteous living isn't meant only for Easter Sunday; it is a daily activity that God works in His children, including us. This is a constant, ongoing matter dependent on His divine action, not our own, and certainly not how we might feel.

So even as the festive joy of Easter Sunday might feel more and more distant as April has turned to May and the calendar relentlessly runs, the benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection continue to be brought to us. They are given each time that we are presented with the Gospel promises rooted in the work of salvation that He accomplished for us. Those promises can be heard when our moods are running high or when we are feeling low. So that in any moment, we can still rightly express our faith and hope in what has been done for us: **"Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER (continued from Page 1)

This connects to the matter stewardship listed in the aspects of congregational life above:

- **Selfless, free, and joyous activity.** We do not begrudge nor attach any strings to our actions.
- **God is the owner.** We manage what God created and gave to us.
- **God provides opportunities, abilities, and wealth to share the saving Gospel He has committed to our trust.** Through these being put to work, others may be won for Him for all eternity (Mk 5:19–20).

At Calvary, we take part in the many opportunities to help **share and spread** the Gospel. This sharing and spreading has many forms. Some activities might be “hands on,” like the monthly food distributions administered by Operation Barnabas or the Clothes Closet events. Others may be “once-a-year” events, like the Foundry Day Outreach Booth. Financial support is also needed. Calvary and the larger church can reach further and more effectively than us as individuals. However, as has been stated in a previous Stewardship Corner: *“The LORD doesn’t ask us to be supernovas as disciples. He asks us to faithfully use, to the best of our ability, what He has entrusted to us. Whatever He has entrusted us is the light that He has provided for us to shine, no matter how many or few lumens that may be.”*

The Stewardship Board is actively working on an Opportunities Guide for our members and perspective members. While longer tenured members may think they know all the “ins & outs,” many of our newer members do not have the same experiences as point of references. As the roll out occurs during the next couple of months, we will have opportunities to assess our present actions and consider other opportunities that more closely match our abilities and/or wealth. Through your prayerful consideration of the mission—both the Great Commission and the Early Church Essentials—we will carry out activities that will continue to define what Calvary is as a congregation.

CLOTHES CLOSET EVENT – JUNE 28

Calvary's Clothes Closet is hoping to open once again to hold a distribution event on **Saturday, June 28** to continue our mission to serve our community.

Our way to do this has been to provide clean clothes for those who come to our church to receive them.

Your past help has been appreciated so much, whether that has been donating clothing or hours of work to set up and sort. Your help is needed once again.

Donations have been coming in. Thank you for all who have already contributed clothing.

If you would like to volunteer with this effort, please call Polly Pass at (717-579-0296). Watch for more information about this outreach in the church bulletins.

LWML/LADIES AID SOCIETY NEWS

PHILADELPHIA ZONE SPRING RALLY: Our congregation will host the Zone Rally on **Saturday, May 3**. The event starts at 9:00am.

NEXT MEETING: Our monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, May 17 at 9:30am** in the Education Wing Meeting Room. Pastor will lead a study from the Spring 2025 issue of the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* and a business meeting will follow—all wrapping up by noon. All women of Calvary are invited to participate. Hope to see you then!

Upcoming Dates

Saturday, June 7

Foundry Day Outreach Booth
Boiling Springs, PA

Sunday, June 8

Pentecost Sunday

Thursday—Saturday, June 26–28

English District Convention
Ann Arbor, MI

Sunday, August 3

3rd Quarter Voters Assembly Meeting

Tuesday—Thursday, August 5–7

Continuing Education Course

CHURCH CLEANUP DAY – MAY 10

The Board of Trustees has scheduled the annual Spring cleanup day for **Saturday, May 10**.

Work will start at 8:30am. This cleanup day will focus on miscellaneous indoor and outdoor projects around the church.

A signup sheet is in the Narthex, where members can indicate their ability to help and identify the lawn tools that they can bring.

Speak to Jim Mason for more details.

ASCENSION SERVICE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church of Lititz, PA (308 Petersburg Road) welcomes her sister congregation, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg, PA to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord with us on **Thursday, May 29 at 7:00pm**.

Divine Service will be held in the newly renovated worship space. An ice cream social will be held immediately following the Divine Service.

Join us as we rejoice in our Lord who has conquered death and hell, and now reigns victoriously, upon whose return we anxiously await.



PARISH CASH FLOW REPORT

January 1–March 31, 2025

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 81,249.44
Mission Offering	5,291.25
Building Fund	4,746.25
Plate Offering	736.62
Memorials	250.00
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	41.53
Initial Offering	260.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	1,950.00
Building Use	0.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	180.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	169.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	269.50
Sunday School	0.00
Youth Group	880.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 96,023.49**

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 26,393.55
Personnel Expenses	10,066.43
Real Estate Expenses	15,737.98
Operating Expenses	12,180.71
Ministry Expenses	3,415.76
Mission Expenses	2,000.00
Mortgage Expenses	7,733.49
Non-Budgeted Expenses	314.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 77,841.92**

NET CASH FLOW **\$ 18,181.57**

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



MILITARY SHARE PROGRAM

Military Share food distributions continue on the third Wednesday of each month. Our last distribution was held on April 16, when we served 46 families, totaling 116 people. The next distribution is scheduled for May 21, when we will serve 47 families, totaling 120 people.

SUPPLY DROP NEEDED: PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

Clean, plastic grocery bags are needed for our monthly food distributions. A container will be present in the Narthex to collect bags.

ARMED FORCES SUNDAY PICNIC

A picnic style event on Armed Forces Sunday is planned for May 18. Additional information will be provided in bulletin announcements and other postings as plans are finalized.

ONGOING INITIATIVE: MOVE IN/MOVE OUT BOXES

Representatives of the Transition in Place (TIP) program have collected 9 completed Move-In Boxes. A final box and several extra pillows will be collected in early May.

ADOPT-A-CHAP PROGRAM

Calvary has adopted Chaplain Aaron Bell and his family. The Bells attended Calvary for several months while awaiting orders for his next duty station.

Mailing Address

Chaplain Aaron Bell
4978 Jamestown Ct
Columbus, OH 43220

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.

NEW COMMUNITY CONTACT

A volunteer working with the MilitaryShare program at the Cumberland County VFW Post was present at our Easter Sunday Divine Service. She indicated her willingness to distribute our MilitaryShare flyers and to ask her veteran outreach group about further opportunities where we could assist needy veterans in South Central Pennsylvania. This is an exciting potential opportunity to expand the help we can provide to those veterans most in need. More information will be published when it is received.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING – MAY 4

The Calvary Voters Assembly will meet after Divine Service on **Sunday, May 4 at 12:15pm**. This is the second of the four regular quarterly meetings scheduled for 2025.

Findings of the Finance Committee's internal review of the congregation's 2024 financial documents will be presented. An update about the status of the Endowment Fund will be given. Information about various Board activities during the Summer will also be provided.

All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Opportunity will also be given to adults who recently became communicant members to join the Voters Assembly.

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



Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, May 18, 2025.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

**APRIL 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

The Church Council met on April 7, having moved its meeting out of Holy Week.

Officers and Board Chairpersons submitted reports to summarize their work and planned activities.

At its meeting, the Council received the required report from the Finance Committee concerning the 2024 internal review of the congregation's financial documents. The Council also approved the appointment of Robert Gaffney to the Finance Committee, replacing Robert Lustrea.

The Council approved the appointment of Education Board members: Amy Barnes, Julia Douden, Anna Knych, and Amy Kulling.

The Council also adopted a schedule for its meetings in 2025 and 2026 that will have it convene when required by the congregation's bylaws to take actions or at other times when its members identify business matters that need to be transacted. This schedule means that Council may not hold meetings every month.

A teal-colored graphic for a campaign titled "YOUR CHANGE". At the top, the text "YOUR CHANGE" is in large white letters, with "changes lives" in a yellow script font below it. To the left of the text are two baby bottles, one yellow and one pink, both filled with gold coins. Below this, the text "JOIN US AS WE PARTICIPATE IN A BABY BOTTLE BLAST TO BENEFIT CAPITAL AREA PREGNANCY CENTER." is written in pink. Further down, the text "YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP PROVIDE ULTRASOUNDS, BIBLES, CRIBS, AND NECESSARY COUNSELING MATERIALS TO HELP PROMOTE LIFE!" is written in white. At the bottom, the text "PICK UP A BOTTLE ON MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 11), FILL IT WITH YOUR CHANGE, BILLS, OR CHECKS, AND BRING IT BACK ON FATHER'S DAY (JUNE 15)." is written in yellow.

YOUR CHANGE
changes lives

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