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# CALVARY COMMENT

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November 2024

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## 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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## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### How Much Time Do I Have to Give?

Last month's Lesson 4 Bible Study insert provided ample thoughts and insightful references on how Jesus managed His time. It asked us how we manage our time. Jesus spent approximately 33 years of living here on earth, but about 3 years of activity in doing His Father's work. In those 3 years, Jesus taught, trained, and demonstrated to His disciples. **Nearly 2000 years later**, we are still learning and following His teachings and ways!

**Talk about an impact!** Not only impactful, but in addition to all the teaching and wisdom we have been given, God gave His Son for us and for our eternal salvation. Does it get any better?

Jesus had the same **1440 minutes per day as we do**. He did not fly, drive, or Uber from site to site. Nor did He call ahead to the Holiday Inn for a room or make dinner reservations at Da Vinci's. It was tiring. As we learned, Jesus removed Himself and His disciples from the crowds to pray and rest. But the next day, He was about His Father's business.

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The close of the Church Year shifts our focus toward what awaits followers of Christ after their earthly lifetimes draw to an end. This shift starts with the Commemoration of All Saints on the first Sunday in November. During Divine Service on that day, we will hear about the blessed presence of the LORD's people in eternity and our anticipation of seeing Jesus with our own eyes in the Day of the Resurrection.

What is talked about on All Saints Sunday presents a goal for us to desire while we live on earth. We rightly show gratitude to the LORD for His providential care, including all that we need for this body and life. We will do that in a very intentional way later in November on Thanksgiving Day. Yet, we know that as good as those temporal benefits from the LORD are, they aren't perfect. Even more so, the world in which we live and where we receive those good things is flawed. Possessions wear away. Strength of body wanes. We face illness and death, along with other matters that cause sorrow.

As we progress through November, the Sunday Gospel Readings will convey Jesus' teaching about trials and tribulations that His followers will face in this lifetime. These include the rising up of false teachers, persecutions against Christians, even wars and natural disasters. Jesus discloses these things, so that His people won't be caught unaware. Believers shouldn't be surprised about such matters. Instead, they should be prepared for them.

The preparation that Jesus wants for His followers will allow them to endure to the end. Such endurance isn't rooted in their own abilities, but by being tied to Jesus and His spiritual gifts. Maintaining that tie necessitates constancy in receiving the benefits that Jesus distributes through His Gospel. This is how the Holy Spirit is given to believers and remains with them. Through the Spirit's work, believers will be made wise to salvation, guided in the truth of Jesus' teachings and ways of life, and kept firm in their confession of faith. The result of all that will bring great joy to them at Jesus' return.

That is why Jesus urges His disciples to be alert and ready for His return: *"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.... And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."* (Mk 13:32-33, 37)

That is why the Apostle John directs Christians to holy living that imitates Jesus: *"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."* (1Jn 3:2-3)

That is why the Author of Hebrews exhorts Christians to diligence in discipleship: *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* (Heb 10:23-25)

These instructions are given with a future end in mind. Christ's followers aren't to be fully absorbed with the concerns and troubles of today, solely focused on the present and temporal. Why shouldn't that be so? Because something greater is promised for us, as we will sing on All Saints Sunday:

*But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:*

*The saints triumphant rise in bright array;*

*The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia! [LSB 677:7]*

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER (Continued from Page 1)**

**So what are we to do with our time?** Just imagine if each one of us would give an additional 5, 10, or 15 minutes of our availability in stewarding what God entrusts to us. What **impact** would we have at Calvary, our workplace, our community, our family? Our significance, as Christians, is to spread the Good News whenever, wherever, and in whatever Christian fashion we can with our time.

In last month's Stewardship Corner, the old pastor dispensed theological wisdom. Pick a number of minutes and keep increasing. **When you begin to miss the time stop at that point.** Note he didn't say stop what you are doing; he said stop at that point. Then, as Jesus did, pray and rest, then start again.

## Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Evening Prayer: 7:00pm**

**Wednesday, December 25**

**Christmas Day Divine Service: 10:30am**

**Monday, January 6**

**Epiphany Divine Service: 7:00pm**

**Wednesday, March 5**

**Ash Wednesday Divine Service: 7:00pm**

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION: DECEMBER 22

Students enrolled in the parish Sunday School will present songs and Bible verses for Christmas at Divine Service on **Sunday, December 22**—the Fourth Sunday in Advent. To prepare for this, students will begin learning these Christmas carols and Scripture texts in late November and throughout December. Please plan to have your children present at Sunday School during those times, so that they can fully participate.

### DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### MEETING: NOVEMBER 1-3

The English District Board of Directors will hold its quarterly meeting at Calvary. Meeting sessions will be held on Saturday, November 2 in the Social Hall.

Bishop Jeffrey Miskus will serve as preacher at our Divine Service on November 3. During that service, Rev. Robert Kieselowsky will be installed as our Regional Vice-President.

Due to the increased attendance that morning, the Sunday Bible Study will take place in the Social Hall.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to assist with various activities connected with this meeting.

### FALL 2024 VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Fall 2024 Voters Assembly Meeting will take place on **November 17** after Divine Service. Business items for this meeting include election of congregational officers and other leaders and discussion/adoption of the 2025 parish budget. Voting members of the congregation should plan to attend this session.

### ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 5

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. This is a time for us to use our wisdom when selecting individuals to hold governmental offices.

Our church building serves as a polling site from 7:00am—8:00pm. Voting takes place in the Social Hall. If you need to access the Church Office that day, please use the Education Wing entrance door.

Midweek Bible study will not be held that evening, as some of our members will be serving as poll workers at various precincts in our area.

### LWML/LADIES AID SOCIETY NEWS

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING:** Cookie baking comes early this year: **Thursday, November 21 at 9:00am** in the kitchen! We'll be baking 114 dozen cookies for the New Hope Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, as well as for our shut-ins and Military Share families. It's a fun and busy morning. If you can help that day or want to donate ingredients, please speak to Linda Goheen (717-649-4295).

**CHRISTMAS BLESSING EXPRESS:** This is a program of New Hope Ministries that allows guests to "shop" for gifts for the entire family from items donated by the community. A list of suggested items can be found on the collection bin in the Narthex. However, please feel free to buy what you believe someone would like. Donated gifts should be unwrapped. **All items must be received by Sunday, December 1.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, November 16 at 9:30am**. Meetings are held in the Education Wing Meeting Room. Bring your calendar, your *Quarterly*, and your mites.

### THANKSGIVING EVENING PRAYER: NOVEMBER 27

Evening Prayer to mark our National Day of Thanksgiving will be held on **Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00pm**. This is an opportunity for our congregation to offer its praise and gratitude to the LORD for His benefits to us before enjoying our individual family gatherings the following day.

### LCMS RESPONSE TO RECENT HURRICANES

LCMS Disaster Response has been active in the Southeastern United States following the recent events caused by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

View the latest stories, videos and podcasts, as they become available, at the following webpage: <https://www.lcms.org/hurricane-response>

Updates will include ways to be of assistance in future months.

**PARISH CASH FLOW REPORT**  
**January 1–September 30, 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>	
General Offering	\$ 182,366.25
Mission Offering	10,593.75
Building Fund	17,658.30
Plate Offering	3,781.13
Memorials	243.77
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	303.00
Initial Offering	200.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	5,005.15
Building Use	200.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	60,932.81
Thrivent Choice Dollars	445.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	253.56
Sunday School	45.00
Youth Group	490.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 282,517.72</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 78,410.59
Personnel Expenses	29,682.37
Real Estate Expenses	33,475.23
Operating Expenses	43,159.24
Ministry Expenses	6,115.91
Mission Expenses	14,350.00
Mortgage Expenses	75,033.04
Non-Budgeted Expenses	80,988.73
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 361,215.11</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>– \$ 78,697.39</b>

*NOTES: Other Income includes contributions to the Education Wing Roof Replacement Fund Drive and the Robert Wallick Estate Gift that was designated for the Endowment Fund. Mortgage Expenses include payment of remaining Renovation Funds collected in 2023 toward the principal of renovation loans. Non-Budgeted Expenses include transfer of the Robert Wallick Estate Gift to the Endowment Fund (\$35,000) and payment of the Education Wing roof replacement project (\$44,430).*

**CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY UPDATES**

As 2024 begins to draw to its close, it will soon be time to publish an updated congregational directory.

To ensure that your contact information (*home address, mailing address, preferred phone number, email address*) is correct, please complete the insert form and return them to the church office by December 1. Extra cards will be available in the church office.

Plans to obtain photos of new congregational members and regular visitors are being developed.

An updated congregational contact directory should be printed in the first quarter of 2025.



**OPERATION**  
**BARNABAS**  
LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

**MILITARY SHARE PROGRAM**

Our last distribution was held on October 16, when we served 39 families, totaling 97 people. Our next distribution is scheduled for November 20.

**NEW INITIATIVE: EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES**

Five emergency food boxes for veterans have been readied for distribution. This was made possible with the assistance of a Thrivent Action Team Grant.

**ONGOING INITIATIVE: MOVE OUT BOXES**

Move Out boxes are being assembled for formerly homeless veterans who are moving from transitional housing into permanent housing. The Operation Barnabas Committee is looking into potential grant opportunities to support this activity. As additional information on this initiative is obtained it will be reported in future issues of the *Calvary Comment*.

**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.

**CLOTHES CLOSET THANK YOU**

On Saturday, October 12, the doors of our Clothing Closet opened once again to our community in need.

Our volunteers greeted around 40 people throughout the morning. Everyone seemed to find an item of clothing that appealed to them, others finding many more.

Thank you for your generosity in donating to our third clothing event of 2024.

Your willingness to continue to donate clothing, and to come to the church working hours to pull it all together, are testimonies to your desire to serve God, our church, and our community.

Thank you, all workers and givers, for allowing this evangelical outreach to go forward.

***“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!” Psalm 67:5***

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



**Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, November 17, 2024.**  
Please send info to [CalvaryComment@Verizon.net](mailto:CalvaryComment@Verizon.net).

#### OCTOBER 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

- Pastor reported that Rev. Robert Kieselowsky has been appointed to serve as District Vice-President, replacing Rev. Douglas Spittel. He also announced the Fall 2024/Winter 2025 holiday worship service schedule.
- Treasurer reported that the Education Wing roof replacement invoice was fully paid in September. Registration costs for the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering attendees have been paid.
- Trustees reported that replacement of the Education Wing hallway carpet damaged by previous HVAC system leaks had been completed.
- Revisions for portions of the congregation's constitution and bylaws drafted by Officers and Boards were distributed for review and evaluation.
- Finance Committee presented the proposed 2025 financial work plan (budget) for review by the Council. This will be presented to the Voters Assembly for approval in November. Presentation about the proposal included discussion about the income needed to meet expenditures.
- Finance Committee suggested that the Endowment Fund portion of the congregational bylaws should be revised and that consideration should be given to having Finance Committee members appointed to staggered terms longer than one year.
- Council members were reminded about deadlines for submitting reports and business items for the Voters Assembly Meeting on November 17.

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Romans 10:17 ESV

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