

CALVARY COMMENT

NOVEMBER 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:
717.697.9771

Church Office Email:
office@calvarymechanicsburg.org

Parish Website:
www.calvarymechanicsburg.org

UPCOMING DATES

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16
Advent Midweek Prayer Services:
10:30am & 7:00pm

Sunday, December 20
Christmas Decorating: 12:00pm

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Vespers: 7:00pm

Friday, December 25
Christmas Divine Service: 10:30am

Wednesday, January 6
Epiphany Divine Service: 7:00pm

Sunday, February 3
Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Wednesday, February 10
Ash Wednesday Divine Services:
10:30am & 7:00pm

Drive around the rural parts of our region in November, and you will notice that harvest has taken place. Apple trees stand empty or nearly so. Pumpkin patches are just a bunch of leftover vines. Tall stalks no longer fill the cornfields.

But what was produced by the trees or plants wasn't meant to be a decoration for just the sake of beauty. It is to bring forth seed for future growth or fruit for consumption. That divinely established purpose has been achieved: *"God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.'" (Ge 1:29-30)*

The Scriptures use the concept of harvest to describe the actions of the Church. It is seen in Jesus' description about bringing people into His kingdom: *"The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the workers are few; therefore, beg the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."*^(Lk 10:2) It is found in Jesus' statement about what His disciples would do cooperatively with Him: *"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."*^(Jn 4:35b-38)

Another use of this concept is in Jesus' Parable of the Sower, where He describes an outcome achieved among those who hear and believe His teaching: *"The seed is the word of God.... As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience."*^(Lk 8:11, 15) Bearing fruit describes the life of faith, including actions that Christians are led to do in line with what Christ declares to be righteous.

Jesus also speaks about a harvest of believers that will come at the end of time in the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds: *"The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."*^(Mt 13:37-43)

This is what we have become part of. The Gospel has been planted in us. We live in the world as sons of the kingdom of heaven. Various good actions are produced through the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The end of this is to be present with Christ and all who have been called to be His disciples. All Saints Day on November 1 and Thanksgiving Vespers on November 25 will remind us of that divinely established goal set for us. It isn't yet fully done. But it will be achieved when this age draws to its close. The harvest time will come, just as the Lord of the Harvest declares.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING – NOVEMBER 1

The Calvary Voters Assembly will hold its Fourth Quarter Meeting on **Sunday, November 1 at 12:15pm.**

Along with receiving reports and dealing with membership items, this meeting will have the following major agenda items:

- (1) Announcing Dates of 2027 Voters Assembly Meetings:
Q1: Feb 7 | Q2: May 23 | Q3: Aug 1 | Q4: Nov 7
- (2) Adoption of the 2027 Congregational Budget
- (3) Election of Congregational Officers
- (4) Ratification of Proposed LCMS Constitutional Amendment
- (5) Endowment Fund Update

All Voting Members are encouraged to attend. Lunch items will be provided prior to the meeting.

USHER ORIENTATION: NOVEMBER 7

All congregational members rostered as Ushers will hold an orientation on **Saturday, November 7.**

Orientation will **begin at 9:00am** and will include a review of the newly-revised Usher Manual.

Our usher teams would benefit from having several more members participate in this form of congregational service.

If you are willing to learn about how to serve as an usher, please speak to Chris Lamm, Deacon Board Chairman.

2026 MOWING TEAMS

Thank you to all who helped maintain the property that our Lord has entrusted to our congregation during the 2026 mowing season!

LADIES AID/LWML SOCIETY NEWS

November is a busy month full of activities. These projects are successful due to your support. Thank you!

LWML FALL RALLY: The Philadelphia Zone will hold its Fall Rally on **Saturday, November 14** at Martin Luther Chapel - Pennsauken, NJ. Carpooling is available. Gathering of items for a human care ministry project is ongoing: Blankets 50" x 60" or smaller; books; stuffed animals 20" or smaller. More information and a sign-up sheet are present in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING: The annual Christmas cookie baking will happen on **Thursday, November 19, starting at 9:00am.** 120 dozen cookies will be made to be distributed to attendees at New Hope Ministries' Senior Citizens Christmas Party, to Calvary homebound parishioners, and to our Military Share families. It's a fun and busy time. The signup sheet for helping on baking day is posted in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS COLLECTION: We are gathering items for New Hope Ministries' Christmas Blessings program. This program allows guests to "shop" for gifts for their entire family from items donated by the community. Copies of their wish list of age-appropriate items will be clipped to a collection bin in the Narthex. Please feel free to buy what you believe someone would like. **All donated items must be unwrapped and received by Sunday, November 29.**

NEXT MEETING: Our next regular LWML/LAS meeting will be **Saturday, November 21 at 9:30am** in the adult education room. If you are unable to attend, Mites to support LWML Missionary Grants can always be put in the wooden box located in the Narthex.

CALVARY MEN COMING TOGETHER

"Are you here yet?" and "Have you arrived for your visit?" are digital messages reminding me of appointment times—the first in a doctor's office; the second at a car dealer for service of my car. I was in those offices when the messages came. These reminders are growing and becoming part of our daily life.

Making the date and time commitments may have taken less than 5 minutes. Now someone is holding me to those commitments.

A commitment made; an event scheduled. How might that fit into our Sunday schedule or our work in ministry to worship and glorify God, which is our clearly written and adopted mission?

That kind of reminder about Bible Class, Sunday School, and Divine Service on a Sunday morning is not likely to happen because Jesus makes it simple. He says "Follow Me" to His disciples. Then it is up to us to remember the commitment and be there.

Calvary Men Coming Together meet again **Saturday, November 28 at 9:29am.** Are you there yet?

PARISH CASH FLOW SUMMARY

January 1—September 30, 2026

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 238,302.59
Mission Offering	16,601.75
Building Fund	16,866.90
Plate Offering	3,486.24
Memorials	154.90
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	442.76
Initial Offering	230.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	3,531.00
Building Use	300.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	52,661.68
Thrivent Choice Dollars	447.00
Thank Offering	813.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	273.15
Sunday School	103.03
Youth Group	488.98
Endowment Fund	789.88
Capital Improvement	4.90

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 335,497.76**

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 82,011.88
Personnel Expenses	29,770.46
Real Estate Expenses	52,484.54
Operating Expenses	44,861.43
Ministry Expenses	4,466.37
Mission Expenses	17,750.00
Mortgage Expenses	48,218.06
Non-Budgeted Expenses	29,718.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 309,281.69**

NET CASH FLOW **\$ 26,216.07**

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 October, we served 42 families totaling 108 people. Our numbers change monthly based on individual family situations and those families who did not attend the distribution.

COMFORT BAG PROGRAM UPDATE

Completion of this project has been slowed by delays in receiving items needed to complete the first aid kits being provided by Operation Barnabas.

The Auxiliary at the Mechanicsburg American Legion Post is working on completing the backpacks and expects to have them turned over to us by the end of the month.

Additional information will be provided as the project moves forward.

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

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
208 Woods Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Address Service Requested



Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, November 15, 2026.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING: NOVEMBER 8

The Calvary Altar Guild will hold its Fall meeting on **Sunday, November 8 at 12:00pm.**

Topics will include:

- Review of the upcoming holiday worship schedule.
- Information about Christmas decorating changes.
- Updates on new Lent paraments.

All Altar Guild members should plan to attend.

Parishioners who may be interested in joining the Altar Guild are invited.

THANKSGIVING VESPERS: NOVEMBER 25

Our congregation will commemorate the Thanksgiving Holiday by holding a Vespers service on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm.**

Thanksgiving Vespers is an opportunity for parishioners to offer their gratitude together for what the LORD has provided to them and to our congregation during this year.

2026 ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will hold elections on **Tuesday, November 3.**

As in past years, our congregation will serve as the polling place for Silver Spring Township, Precinct 3. Voting by residents of that precinct will be done in the Social Hall.

On Election Day, please limit your access to the church building to the Education Wing. Tuesday Bible Study will not be held that evening.

Members are encouraged to exercise their right to vote in their communities and to select leaders who will carry out their duties in line with the LORD's Will.