

CALVARY COMMENT

OCTOBER 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

Sunday, November 1

Voters Assembly Meeting: 12:15pm

Tuesday, November 3

Election Polling: 7:00am—8:00pm

Wednesday, November 25

Thanksgiving Vespers: 7:00pm

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16

Advent Services: 10:30am & 7:00pm

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

Looking at the hills to the north of our church, the colors of autumn will soon be visible. Tree leaves will shift from the green that has been present from springtime to the yellow, orange, and red that appear in October. This marks a turn in season accompanied by change in weather and other matters.

In our church calendar, we will also note a change. We are about to enter a time when the green paraments that have been adorning our chancel will be replaced. Like the tree leaves, the parament colors will move to red for the last two Sundays in October. First, we will commemorate the festival day of St. Luke, Evangelist on October 18. The following Sunday, we will acknowledge Reformation on October 25.

Just as the colors of autumn point toward our cycle of seasons drawing to a close, keeping these dates will indicate that the church year is beginning to reach its conclusion. After those two “red” Sundays, we will also celebrate All Saints Day on November 1. That starts to direct our minds toward thinking about what will take place at the end of this age, a topic that receives fullest attention on the Last Sunday of the Church Year, which falls on November 22 this year.

In these Sundays that occur during fall, there is an emphasis on the final outcome that the work of Christ is meant to accomplish. It is true that our Lord teaches us about how to behave in our earthly lives. That teaching is part of discipleship, including how we are to relate both to our general neighbors and those who are fellow members of the household of faith. Thinking, speaking, and acting according to Jesus’ directions reflects the regeneration and renewal that the Holy Spirit has wrought within us.

But the full outcome of Jesus’ saving work is meant to be more than making us reformed, well-behaved human beings. His death and resurrection enable us to be recipients of an everlasting life that goes far beyond the days that we live in this age. That greater outcome is emphasized more on the Sundays that fall within the months of autumn.

As we heard the narrative arc of Jesus’ saving activities from Advent through Pentecost, the Holy Spirit once again planted the seed of the Gospel in our souls. We have been instructed about aspects of discipleship during the Trinity Season that ran through the summer and into the early part of the fall. Now as we move into the latter weeks of this church year, we think more about the harvest that is to take place for us.

What started with our spiritual regeneration and renewal when we heard and believed the Gospel of Christ will reach its culmination: resurrection of the body and life everlasting. This has been established as our hope, what we are to anticipate receiving. It will come at the proper time—at the close of our earthly lives and on the day when Jesus returns in glory to gather all His people to Himself.

ASSISTING MINISTER TRAINING: OCTOBER 3

All congregational members who are rostered as Assisting Ministers (worship assistants) will hold a training session on **Saturday, October 3**.

The session will **begin at 9:00am** and will include a review of the newly-revised Assisting Minister Handbook.

We look forward to adding several members to the Assisting Minister roster: Trent Dietrich, Richard Grove, and Jim Mason. We also thank Allen Cosby and Mark Hammert, who will be concluding terms of service in this role.

LADIES AID SOCIETY/LWML UPDATE

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER:

- **LWML Sunday - October 11.** Please wear **purple** in support of Lutheran Women's Missionary League and look for our annual Mission Report. Desserts are needed for the Coffee Social after Divine service.
- **New Hope Ministries' Stuffing Collection.** Our annual stuffing collection drive will soon begin. Look for information in the Sunday bulletins and the turkey display in the Narthex.

NEXT MEETING: Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17 at 9:30am** in the Adult Bible Study Room. Pastor will lead a study from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and a short business meeting will follow - all wrapping up by noon. Hope to see you there!

CALVARY MEN COMING TOGETHER

Why **9:29am** on **Saturday, October 24**? That is the **special time** to come together to acknowledge Jesus and to talk about the challenges of the path we are on (Pr 3:6).

One path of encouragement is daily devotion and knowing that so many others are on that same path experiencing Jesus' presence.

October 1 is the beginning of a new issue of *Portals of Prayer* available in the narthex. Be sure to pick up your copy.

Come **Saturday, October 24: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."** (Pr 27:17)

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.

OCTOBER 2026 MOWING TEAMS

OCTOBER 1-3: TEAM 4

Diane Rosenberg, Dave Rosenberg, Brandon Smith

OCTOBER 8-10: TEAM 1

Tom Watson, Bill Schirmer, David Knych

OCTOBER 15-17: TEAM 2

Chacha Mwita, Patrick LeFevers, Chris Kaufman

OCTOBER 22-24: TEAM 3

Andrew Settle, Trent Dietrich, Jim Mason

OCTOBER 29-31: TEAM 4

Diane Rosenberg, Dave Rosenberg, Brandon Smith

Thank you for helping to maintain the property that our Lord has entrusted to our congregation during the 2026 mowing season!

CLOTHES CLOSET: OCTOBER 24

Our final Clothes Closet Event for 2026 will take place **October 24** from **11:00am—12:30pm**.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated clothing or spent hours organizing donations. Our racks are bulging and nearly ready to go.

Our focus this month is for new or slightly-worn warm clothes for the colder months ahead.

In particular, children's sizes are needed, both boys and girls from infant size and up.

Organizing donations is ongoing. Volunteers both to assist organizing and to conduct the event are always welcome. Please think about this way of serving our neighbors.

If you have questions about the Clothes Closet or how to volunteer, please contact Polly Pass [717-579-0296].

Thank you to all of you who provided support, prayers, words of encouragement, notes, and cards during my recent health challenges. My family and I are very appreciative of your kindness and concern.

—Jim Blockus

PARISH CASH FLOW SUMMARY

January 1—August 31, 2026

INCOME

General Offering	\$ 206,426.79
Mission Offering	16,083.00
Building Fund	12,678.00
Plate Offering	3,203.05
Memorials	154.90
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	411.51
Initial Offering	230.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	3,531.00
Building Use	300.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	51,698.51
Thrivent Choice Dollars	447.00
Thank Offering	763.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	273.15
Sunday School	103.03
Youth Group	488.98
Endowment Fund	789.88
Capital Improvement	4.90

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 297,586.70**

EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 73,022.73
Personnel Expenses	26,658.51
Real Estate Expenses	49,882.52
Operating Expenses	40,450.71
Ministry Expenses	4,466.37
Mission Expenses	16,700.00
Mortgage Expenses	45,640.23
Non-Budgeted Expenses	29,718.95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 286,540.02**

NET CASH FLOW **\$ 11,046.68**

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 September, 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.

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.

COMFORT BAG PROGRAM UPDATE

The Operation Barnabas Chapter has been assigned a point of contact (POC) by the Social Services Office at the Lebanon VA Hospital. Our POC has approved the list of items for inclusion in the bags. The Auxiliary of American Legion Post 109 in Mechanicsburg has agreed to fill the backpacks.

A Thrivent Action team grant was secured. Backpacks have been purchased and delivered; our Auxiliary POC has been notified that we have them. Bob Ardner has met with Lisa Weaver, Auxiliary POC, and a tentative date in mid-October has been set for completion of the backpacks.

Additional information will be provided as the project moves forward.

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

News from around our District can be sent straight to your email inbox each week.

To subscribe to the Servant-to-Servant e-newsletter, go to the following link:

<https://englishdistrict.org/enews>

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CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

208 Woods Drive

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Address Service Requested



Next *Calvary Comment* Deadline is Sunday, October 18, 2026.
Please send info to CalvaryComment@Verizon.net.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Congregational Officers will be elected at the Voters Assembly Meeting on November 1.

Positions to be filled for the 2027–2028 term are:

- President
- Financial Secretary
- Deacon (2)
- Trustee (2)
- Executive Board At-Large Member (1)

According to the congregation's newly adopted governing documents, two positions—Secretary and Executive Board At-Large Member—will have unexpired, one-year terms to be filled for 2027. The Voters Assembly will determine whether to elect nominees to fulfill these terms or to authorize the Executive Board to appoint members to the positions.

Trent Dietrich, Woody Flickinger, and Brandon Smith have been appointed as this year's Nominating Committee to identify congregational members to serve in these positions.

Congregational members will have the opportunity to nominate individuals. Nominating forms will be available to be placed in a receptacle in the Narthex. Suggestions can also be made by speaking to anyone currently in church leadership.

Questions regarding the duties and responsibilities of these positions can be answered by the Nominating Committee members.

Please prayerfully consider nominating individuals for election and the possibility of your serving as a congregational officer.