

# CALVARY COMMENT

April 2025

## 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

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

The calendar now reads April 2025, which means that both 2024 and the entire First Quarter of 2025 are in the rear view mirror. Time goes by so quickly. The clock never stops. The calendar page turning never seems to slow down. But occasionally **we** need to slow down, stop, and reflect. Humans were not created for 365/24/7 operation.

So what should we stop and reflect on? In the matter of stewardship, a good start are the two questions presented in recent Stewardship Corner articles: (1) How has God blessed us? (2) How is God calling us to respond? This month's article is a quick reflection on those.

As we think about those two questions, we can consider several general truths that have been previously highlighted about how God has blessed us:

- (a) God created all things.
- (b) We don't truly own anything.
- (c) God gave and continues to give us opportunities, abilities, and gifts to steward in His creation.

(Continued on Page 2)

A 6<sup>th</sup> Century hymn speaks about Christ's death on Good Friday, which we commemorate this month: *"The royal banners forward go; / The cross shows forth redemption's flow, / Where He, by whom our flesh was made, / Our ransom in His flesh has paid."* [Lutheran Service Book 455:1] Its lyrics emphasize that this act keeps great promises that the LORD made about deliverance: *"Fulfilled is all that David told / In sure prophetic song of old, / That God the nations' king should be / And reign in triumph from the tree."* [LSB 455:3]

This saving act involves Jesus' humiliating death, which is actually a work of divine power. That's the profound mystery of Christ's sacrifice. When we consider what transpired on Good Friday, everything looks like weakness and defeat. The religious leaders of Judea rid themselves of Jesus, whom they judged to be a false teacher. The Roman prefect denies justice to Jesus, washing his hands of the matter and turning Him over to the demands of the crowd. The followers of Jesus are present only at a distance, if at all.

Nothing seems successful during the waning moments of Good Friday. But looks can be deceiving. In the midst of His humiliation, Jesus accomplishes a great result. Jesus' crucifixion isn't the punishing of a hardened felon or the crushing of a failed revolutionary. Instead, it's an act of ransom being made, His death being the payment price that hangs from the cross: *"On whose hard arms, so widely flung, / The weight of this world's ransom hung, / The price of humankind to pay / And spoil the spoiler of his prey."* [LSB 455:4]

The result is revealed in what happens afterward: *"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."* (Ac 2:23-24) Jesus is raised from death—not only for His benefit but for ours: *"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."* (Ro 5:8-11)

That rejoicing is expressed in the Church's hymns, including one written by the same author who penned those lyrics about the royal banners of Good Friday: *"Hail thee, festival day! / Blest day to be hallowed forever; / Day when our Lord was raised, / Breaking the kingdom of death.... Rise from the grave now, O Lord, / The author of life and creation. / Treading the pathway of death, / New life You give to us all."* [LSB 489:Refrain, 2E] The Holy Week events don't end with death, but with life. Jesus' spirit is received by His Father on Good Friday. Even more so, fullness of life is revealed in Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

That makes the Holy Week events which we celebrate so essential to our faith. We know what was accomplished, not measuring by what we see, but by what the Crucified and Risen Jesus declares about them: *"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? ... Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."* (Lk 24:26, 46-47)

We confess our belief in what Jesus' death and resurrection accomplishes for us: *"that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."* [Small Catechism: Creed, Art. 2] So we can rightly say: **"Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"**

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER (continued from Page 1)

We can also note principles about how God has called us to respond:

- (a) The gifts that God bestows to us come with responsibilities and accountabilities.
- (b) God wants us to shine our light of stewardship, shining as He enables us to do (Mt 5:14-16).
- (c) We are instructed to put our hand to the plow and look ahead as we walk the life of discipleship (Lk 9:62).

Time does keep going. God keeps calling and presenting opportunities, but the response size or quantity aren't what truly matter. We all are blessed and respond to Him as we are able. He has entrusted us with His creation.

So as the Second Quarter of 2025 begins, stop and reflect on those questions: (1) How has God blessed me? (2) How is God calling me to respond? Then take the opportunity to put those answers into action in your life of discipleship.

### 2025 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**APR 13 Palm Sunday Divine Service 10:30am**

This service begins Holy Week with the Procession of Palms.

**APR 17 Holy Thursday Divine Service 12:00pm**

This service focuses on Christ's institution of the Sacrament of the Altar.

**APR 17 Holy Thursday Divine Service 7:00pm**

This service focuses on Christ's institution of the Sacrament of the Altar. It closes with the Stripping of the Chancel, which recalls the indignities suffered by Christ for our sake on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

**APR 18 Good Friday Chief Service 12:00pm**

This service focuses on Christ's sacrificial death. The Passion Account from John's Gospel is read. Prayer for the Church and the world are offered.

**APR 18 Good Friday Passion Vespers 7:00pm**

This service reflects on Christ's sacrificial death. The Tenebrae custom of extinguishing candles during the service is observed.

**APR 19 Vigil of Easter 7:00pm**

The Easter Vigil recalls the LORD's past acts to deliver His people which pointed to the great salvation accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection. A reception for worshipers follows the conclusion of the Vigil.

**APR 20 Resurrection of Our Lord Divine Service 10:30am**

The joy brought by Christ's resurrection is expressed in the Church's festive music and song on Easter Sunday.

### LWML/LADIES AID SOCIETY NEWS

**ATTENTION ALL LADIES:** Our LWML Zone Spring Rally will be **Saturday, May 3 (9:00am–2:00pm)** right here at Calvary! Please indicate your intention to attend the Rally by adding your name to the RSVP list posted on the LWML bulletin board in the fellowship hall. The in-gathering will be donations to create Cleaning Buckets for disaster relief. They will then be given to our speaker, Rob Hall, representing Orphan Grain Train. Buckets to be filled will be in the hallway next to our mail slots. Needed donations will be listed there, as well as in Sunday bulletins.

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 19 at 9:30am** in the Education Wing Meeting Room. The Spring issues of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* have arrived. Be sure to pick up your copy in the narthex and bring it along to the April meeting when Pastor Zimmerman will lead us in a Bible study. Hope to see you then!

### Upcoming Dates

**Saturday, May 3**

**LWML Philadelphia Zone Spring Rally**

**Sunday, May 4**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Voters Assembly Meeting**

**Saturday, May 10**

**Spring Cleanup Day**

**Thursday, May 29**

**Ascension Day Divine Service at  
Mount Calvary – Lititz, PA**

**Saturday, June 7**

**Foundry Day Outreach Booth  
Boiling Springs, PA**

**Thursday—Saturday, June 26–28**

**English District Convention  
Ann Arbor, MI**

**Sunday, August 3**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Voters Assembly Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 5—Thursday, August 7**

**Continuing Education Course**

### CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

The Board of Trustees has scheduled the annual Spring cleanup day for **Saturday, May 10**. The cleanup day will focus on maintenance and grounds projects around the church property. The Trustees will publish more information about particular jobs and needed tools later in April.

### 2025 MOWING TEAMS

Mowing teams for 2025 are being formed. If you are able to contribute your time and effort to help maintain the church grounds that the Lord has entrusted to us, please speak with a member of the Board of Trustees. Thank you to all who have already indicated their intent to serve on mowing teams this year!

### CHURCH LIBRARY REORGANIZATION

Our church library is being reorganized to better catalog and sort our collection of books and other materials. Thank you to Susan Flickinger for the numerous hours that she has contributed to making this project happen. Please note that the church library may be unavailable for use at times while this reorganization project is being completed.

## PARISH CASH FLOW REPORT January 1–February 28, 2025

### INCOME

General Offering	\$ 46,685.96
Mission Offering	3,247.50
Building Fund	3,512.50
Plate Offering	444.84
Memorials	50.00
My Neighbor Fund	0.00
1-1-1 Project	23.53
Initial Offering	260.00
Church Seasonal Service Offerings	250.00
Building Use	0.00
Refunds	0.00
Other Income	130.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	144.00
Lutheran Witness Subscriptions	269.50
Sunday School	0.00
Youth Group	350.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$ 55,367.83**

### EXPENDITURES

Pastoral Expenses	\$ 17,684.71
Personnel Expenses	7,384.94
Real Estate Expenses	10,907.31
Operating Expenses	8,334.57
Ministry Expenses	997.23
Mission Expenses	0.00
Mortgage Expenses	5,155.66
Non-Budgeted Expenses	314.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$ 50,778.42**

**NET CASH FLOW** **\$ 4,589.41**

*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. We are currently serving 46 families, totaling 116 people. Our next distribution is scheduled for April 16. The March distribution was collected by 43 families.

### SUPPLY DROP NEEDED: PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

Clean, plastic grocery bags are needed for our monthly food distributions. There will be a container in the Narthex where the bags will be collected. During Holy Week, the collection point will be between the flags under the Honor Plaques.

### NEW INITIATIVE IN PLANNING: ARMED FORCES SUNDAY PICNIC

A picnic style event on Armed Forces Sunday is being planned for May 18. Additional information will be provided as the Evangelism Board finalizes plans.

### ONGOING INITIATIVE: MOVE IN/MOVE OUT BOXES

The American Legion Auxiliary of Post 109 in Mechanicsburg has delivered 10 completed Move-In Boxes to us. These boxes are larger than the ones the past, since the Transition in Place (TIP) program will be placing veterans with their families in transitional housing. The TIP program has been contacted and will make arrangements to pick the completed boxes up ASAP. (See picture below left.)

### FLAG DISPLAY CASES

The Operation Barnabas Committee has received two wooden/glass flag display cases and three clear plastic flag protectors. If you would like one to display or protect your loved one's flag, please talk with Jeff Douden or Bob Ardner.

### 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](mailto:naphshi@gmail.com)

**Military Email:** [aaron.bell@marines.usmc.mil](mailto: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.



*American Legion Post 109 Auxiliary members delivering completed Move-In Boxes and extra supplies to Jim Mason.*

## CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

208 Woods Drive

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

*Address Service Requested*



**Next Calvary Comment Deadline is Sunday, April 20, 2025.**

**Please send info to [CalvaryComment@Verizon.net](mailto:CalvaryComment@Verizon.net).**

### **MEN'S WORK – MEN'S IMPACT GROUP**

At the Men's Breakfast on March 22, attendees acknowledged the presence of our Lord with Luther's Morning Prayer followed by the *Portals of Prayer* devotion for the day: "Held Up". The message was from Ezekiel 33 giving encouragement about living with the knowledge that God takes *"no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."* (Ezk 33:11) In this season of Lent and every day, God calls us to repent and return to Him.

The goal of the session was for men to learn more about each other and where they fit into the mission of Calvary. In short, how are they connected and can apply the five essentials provided by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles mentioned in Acts 2, especially: *"And all who believed were together and had all things in common."* (Ac 2:44)

All those present shared a special word about themselves and how they are connected at Calvary, how they take care of their health, and an idea about going forward as a men's group. Pastor Zimmerman encouraged us to focus on the four different aspects of congregational life as noted in our mission statement:

- 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.

Reminder was given to complete the Men's Ministry Survey. Extra copies are available in the narthex.

The next Men's Impact Group meeting is **Saturday, April 26 at 9:30am.**



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