

Calvary Communicator



**CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF MURRYSVILLE**
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We're on the Web!

www.CalvaryLCMS.org
Check for all church events

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Connecting People to the Love of Jesus

Calvary Lutheran Church invites you to explore the love of Jesus. We offer many ways to connect with the love of Jesus whether it is through traditional or contemporary worship, Christian education or church and community ministries. We invite you to be a part of the journey to everlasting life and to know and experience the loving, saving grace of God.

Calvary Worship Times Opportunities for Worship

Sunday - 8:30 am

Sunday - 11:00 am

Monday - 6:30 pm

Office Hours

M-TH 8 am - 4 pm

Friday

9 am - 2 pm

Elected officers, staff, and administration also need a time to worship, receive the Lord's Supper, and study God's Word over the weekend. Please allow them to do that and refrain from business discussions during those spiritually edifying times. Feel free to write a note, send an email, leave a message, visit the office during office hours, or otherwise let an Elder know of your needs and concerns.



Some of you may recognize the lovely young lady in the middle of this confirmation photo as our very own Kitty Skaritka! The photo was taken May 17th 1959 at Calvary's first confirmation! The other photographed are Sharon Parker, John Wildon, and Pastor Schoof.



This second picture is our first Kindergarten Class!



Lastly, here is our church built in 1957!

This coming November will mark 70 years of Calvary Lutheran Church gathering worship! It is fun to look back and see where we have been and to look forward dreaming about where God is leading us. Over the last four years, God has lead us in growth. I know that He has great plans for us moving forward.

God says through the prophet Jeremiah "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11) This word from God is a promise to His church in exile and for us today that He is leading us and guiding us. He has plans for His harvest and His church. We can trust that the work He gives us is not in vain. But He will bring it a full harvest! So join me in praying for our future. Join me in praying for our goals. Join me in celebrate where found and where he is leading us too now.

In His Love,
Pastor Josh

Hannah's Desk

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” — Proverbs 3:5-6 This summer, we’re inviting children and youth at Calvary to discover what it means to follow Jesus as their True North—the One who guides us through every twist and turn of life. Whether it’s learning about God’s Word at Vacation Bible School or gathering for Summer Youth Nights, we’re praying that young hearts will be pointed toward Christ and strengthened in faith.

Vacation Bible School:
June 9–13

Join us for an exciting week of adventure and discovery with True North, a VBS experience from Group Publishing. Kids will explore Bible stories, worship through music, enjoy games and crafts, and most importantly—grow in their relationship with Jesus.

We ask you to pray for the children, for the volunteers

who serve, and for the families who will be impacted. If you’d like to sign your child up or volunteer, you can do so here:

<https://vbspro.events/p/065b8b>

Summer Youth Nights:
Every Other Sunday,
6:30–8:00 PM

Middle and high school students are invited to connect for Bible study and fellowship in the Community Center on the following dates:

- ☐ June 8
- ☐ June 22
- ☐ July 6
- ☐ July 20
- ☐ August 3
- ☐ August 17
- ☐ August 31

These evenings will offer time to explore Scripture, ask big questions, and enjoy fellowship grounded in Christ.

Please continue praying for the youth and children of Calvary and for their families. We know that God is doing big things in their lives!

Elder’s Corner by Randy Glasser

AI on Elders Role & Responsibilities

While contemplating about what to write for this newsletter, I considered presenting an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Board of Elders. Well, an unexpected tragic event Diverted my priorities and desire to follow through on that. Also recently, there was conversation regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI): it’s Pros and Cons, it’s anticipated impact on the social norms, and whether it is a good thing or a bad thing overall. So, I decided to explore this new phenomenon and ask Chat GPT to, “Create article about role and responsibilities of elders in the Lutheran Church”. Astonishingly, in less than 2 seconds I received the following. I can’t see anything I disagree with !

This is both scary and amazing ! (see additional comments at bottom). In a Lutheran Christian church, the Board of Elders plays a vital role in the spiritual leadership and pastoral care of the congregation. While specific duties may vary by congregation or synod (such as the LCMS or ELCA), the general responsibilities are fairly consistent. Here’s an overview of their role and functions:

1. Spiritual Support and Oversight

- Assist the pastor in overseeing the spiritual well-being of the congregation.
- Help maintain sound doctrine and teaching in line with Lutheran confessions and Scripture.
- Provide encouragement and accountability to the pastor, often acting as a support system!

2. Worship and Sacramental Oversight

- Ensure the reverence and order of worship services, sometimes assisting with

the Lord’s Supper, baptisms, or readings. Help coordinate ushers, communion assistants, lectors, and other worship roles.

Support the proper administration of sacraments according to Lutheran the-

In Lutheran churches, the Board of Elders serves as a key spiritual leader-

3. Pastoral Care and Visitation

that works closely with the pastor to

Visit or reach out to sick, homebound, foster the faithful teaching, worship,

or struggling members.

Engage in prayer and counseling, often with or on behalf of the pastor.

Encourage members who are inactive leadership committed to the church’s

or drifting to return to regular fellowship.

4. Church Discipline and Reconciliation

- Work with the pastor in situations involving church discipline, addressing matters of sin and reconciliation within the church body.

- Help facilitate conflict resolution based on Matthew 18 principles.

5. Administrative and Advisory Duties

- Serve as a bridge between the congregation and church leadership, helping to communicate concerns or decisions.

- Often work alongside other church boards (like Stewardship or Education) and may be part of the Church Council.

- Assist in reviewing membership rolls and keeping spiritual records up to date.

6. Moral and Doctrinal Example

- Elders are expected to be spiritually mature, biblically grounded, and respected

in the congregation.

They model Christian living, often held to standards similar to those outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Summary

care, and discipline of the church. Their role is not pastoral ordination, but rather lay leadership committed to the church’s doctrinal integrity and spiritual health.

In truth – I have my concerns about the power of this AI capability. Generally, it seems anything we identify as “progress” often also introduces eventual unforeseen consequence of detriment. Indeed, the greater the power something (someone ?) has to do good, the greater it’s capacity also to do harm. Frankly – it is not difficult to envision how AI can and will be used for nefarious purposes! We must be always on our guard as technology continues its inexorable push upon the world society.

As for the “role and responsibility” of the elders, I want to add that I am

honored to serve with a Pastor and a team of “elders” who love the Lord, are strong in faith, full of compassion and are spiritually discerning. But even more, I commend all of you in this small family of faith for your great love and concern and willingness to reach out one to another – as is evident so often in various and diverse ways.

Your Fellow Servant
Randy Glasser, Elder

Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Update

Summer is not far off, and kids and grown-ups alike are thinking about vacations and time to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Be sure to enjoy the season, but remember to take the Lord along with you, praising Him every day and thanking Him for the abundant gifts he provides in every season!

THANK YOU!!! Our committee is changing leadership, with Peg Kibel and Tracy Fasnacht taking over for Lori Gulaskey. When you see Lori, be sure to give her a big “THANK YOU!!!” for giving so much time and energy to making our committee’s work a blessing to our members and the community we reach out to. Also, a huge thank you goes to Jessica Lynch and Rose Shirer (and ALL our committee members) for their efforts and hard work as well! Don’t worry...none of them are going anywhere! We will continue to work together to make our events as special as we can. If you are interested in helping us out, with all or even just one event, please let us know. We’d love to have you join us!!

BLACKBURN CENTER - In May, the ladies of Calvary had a wonderful shower to benefit the Blackburn Center. Our speaker told us all about what this amazing place does to help women and children who are victims of abuse. We were so happy to shower them with gifts and gift cards that they can share with the women who come to them when they are in need. What a blessing they are!! They would absolutely appreciate any donations any time of the year. Please see their website for desired items, as well as a link to their Amazon wishlist.

MOS FOOD BANK – Please continue to donate items to help fill the needs of

the Mother of Sorrows Food Bank. Some items to consider for this month would be individual food or snack items that can be packed in lunches or for a picnic, such as applesauce, granola bars or fruit cups. All items are greatly appreciated...thank you for your support!!

VBS – Mark your calendars for our June 9-13 Vacation Bible School week! If you know any children who would enjoy this week of fellowship and fun while learning of God’s love, please let them know. We’d love to have them! If you are able and willing to help in any way, please let Hannah know. She would surely appreciate it!!

SONSHINE CAMPERS – This month we will be packing lunches for the Sonshine Camper kids. Please keep an eye out for the bulletin Tidbits for the day and time and how you can help.

LOAVES AND FISHES – Please continue to bring in your items for this important food bank that helps our fellow community residents in need. Any non-perishable food and/or personal hygiene items are welcomed and appreciated.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER, BE SAFE,
AND GOD BLESS!!!



Together In Mission

Hola! We have officially ended our 2024-25 school year on campus and it is time to attend end-of-year school concerts, last days of preschool, art- shows and time to get into the Puerto Rican way of thinking! Joel and I are excited to head to this overseas partnership with our kids in tow; hoping to see them meet Jesus as we introduce the good news to Puerto Rican students this summer!

The Lord has already met us and provided practically for both our wants and needs in regards to this trip. Joel was able to secure five private homes: 3 for families on staff and two for the men and women students. We have 6 staff, 8 students

or around San Juan initiating with students and collecting informa-

tion to pass along to the year-round Cru staff that reside there.

As far as I've been able to figure out, Puerto Ricans are a very artistic, expressive and innovative people with creative ways to express spirituality and faith. On paper, Catholicism is the predominant religion (brought over from Europe in the 13th/14th centuries), but a common practice for many seems to be a belief in espiritismo, which is a combination of Catholicism with the indigenous healing practices, including the belief in multiple gods. Very



and 11 of our own kids coming and we are excited to explore campuses, beaches and idyllic coastline and jungle all together! We also have the added blessing of staffing this trip alongside our best friends (Tom and Jared are Joel's best friends from his time in Cru at Penn State and whom our TJ is named after). We will be planning some excursions to Old San Juan with its beautiful architecture and fascinating history of the resilient

He will reveal himself through our efforts to bring Puerto Rican students to a saving knowledge of himself. Thank you for your steadfast partnership and prayer as we go on

of our trip will be spent training our 8 students from across the country to this adventure with Jesus!

"take the initiative, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to share the Gospel and leave the results to God" (Bill Bright, founder and president of Cru). Therefore, much of our time will be on the local campuses in

macy and truth of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. We hope to introduce Him here in a real way. Joel and I would love to have a safe and healthy trip, but more than that hangs in the balance. We would love to trust God-together-that He would plant seeds in our children, ourselves and especially our students to witness the beauty and faithfulness of Christ.


We also pray with expectation that

Joel + Jenn

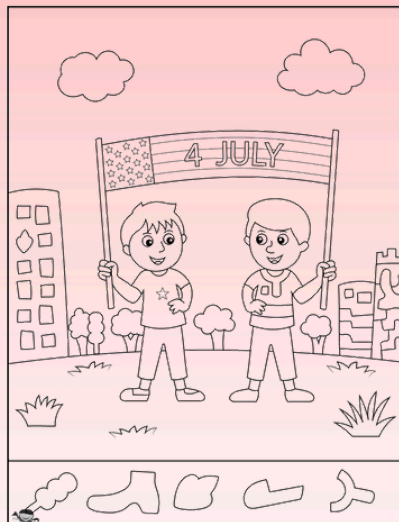
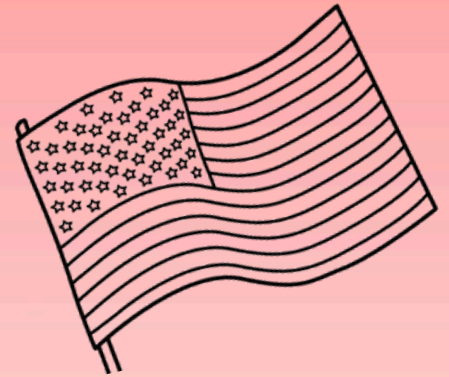
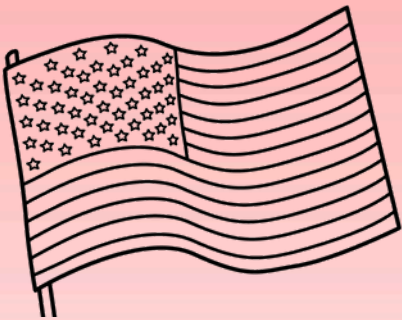
JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 Communion 9:45 Joy's Retirement Celebration 11:00 Worship				6:30 Elders		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Communion 6:30 - 8:00 Youth Night	VBS 9:00 - 11:30 6:30 Worship	6:30 Campfire				8:00 MBS
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30 Communion 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Worship	6:30 Communion	Newsletter Deadline		6:30 Council		District Convention
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Communion District Convention	6:30 Worship District Convention	6:30 - 8:00 Youth N ight				8:00 MBS
27	28	29	30	31		
8:30 Communion 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Communion	6:30 Communion					

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:30 Elders	4	5
6 8:30 Communion 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 6:30 - 8:00 Youth Night	7 6:30 Worship	8 Pastor Vacation	9	10	11 	12 8:00 MBS
13 8:30 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Communion Pastor Vacation	14 6:30 Communion	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 6:30 Council	18	19
20 8:30 Communion 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 6:30 - 8:30 Youth Night	21 6:30 Worship	22	23	24	25	26 8:00 MBS
27 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible Study 11:00 Communion	28 6:30 Communion	29	30	31		

KIDS PAGE



4TH OF JULY

WORD SEARCH

T M N W Q J E T A R B E L E C D Y
 I M T Q H H Y M Q R Q U D U E I A
 O Q T A W Q M Z Y E X U C C N T D
 I N D E P E N D E N C E L C J A I
 A S I O U O R H A M U A A T U Q L
 N K S A M E R I C A R P P S O S O
 U R P U F U B E E A Y S T R U B H
 P O A Y D L D W T O E C I N C I P
 K W R W E A A I L P O E A U E O N
 F E K H T F O G I A D E U S D I H
 Y R L I I N T R B E M D T N A T L
 L I E T N P T Z E U R A E T R S C
 U F R E U S L Q R R R U I U A A E
 J V S O D L K V T S L R O K P J B
 W I T O E O M O Y B B F I U P J L
 I A S V Y E M R E D R E M M U S E

America
 Blue
 Britain
 Celebrate
 Declaration

Fireworks
 Flag
 Fourth
 Freedom
 Holiday

Independence
 July
 Liberty
 Parade
 Picnic

Red
 Sparklers
 Stars
 Stripes
 Summer

United
 White