

# FAMILY IN FAITH



Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings that surround us

At Calvary, we are more than a church—we are a *family*. A *God-loving, Christ-centered, and community-driven* family that welcomes all with open arms. We pride ourselves on being a small, close-knit congregation where relationships matter, and love is at the heart of everything we do.


Many of us share meals, prayers, laughter, and tears. Whether it's inviting someone into our home, offering a listening ear, or lending a helping hand, the Calvary family is there—*together*, just as God designed His Church to be. We believe that in loving one another, we reflect the very love of Christ.

Our **vision** is to grow together in faith, bring *new faces and families into our fold*, and to get our youth more involved in meaningful ways. We are raising up the next generation of Christ-followers right here in our midst, and it takes all of us to make that happen.

## **Back to School Clean-Up – Let's Spruce Up for the Kids!**

We're calling on our Calvary Family to come together for our Back to School Clean-Up. Let's get our church grounds and classrooms ready for a safe, clean, and joyful school year for our little ones!

### **Clean-Up Day:**

 **August 9 at 10:00 AM**

 **Rain Date: August 16 at 10:00 AM**

Outdoor Tasks: pulling weeds, raking, and tidying the playground

Indoor Needs: light cleaning, carpet care, and classroom organization

Whether you're more comfortable with a broom or a garden rake, there's a way for everyone to help. Sign-up sheets are located on the back Bulletin Board or you can sign up online.

**4725 Old William  
Penn Hwy  
Murrysville, PA 15668**

**724-327-2898**



## **Worship Hours:**

**Sunday - 8:30 am**

**Sunday - 11:00 am**

**Monday - 6:30 pm**

**Pastor Joshua  
Obermann**

# Words from Pastor

Over the last four years, we have had a lot of conversations about youth. To be fair to us all, it was made clear to me that this was one of the most important issues facing our church when I was called. Many have said and still say that without youth we have no future. For this reason, Hannah and I have worked very hard to create opportunities for our children to be involved in our church. My philosophy for ministries of all kinds is that of a master contractor; you build from the ground up. This concept is implemented in youth ministry by starting with a cradle ministry.

Cradle ministry is ministry to infants and toddlers. Most of the time this ministry is seen at baptism. Calvary was already doing much for our infant Baptisms. Ruth and the Prayer Shawl team make baby blankets for all baptisms. Sue makes banners for every baptism. The evangelism team has thrown baby showers for soon to be moms. I have personally witnessed many of you bringing personal gifts for young children at birthdays and Christmas. (Not just my own children either.) In other words, this ministry was already being done and it continues to be done well. Therefore, we focused on the next group.

The next stage in youth ministry is families with young children. This age group contains the ages of children that are not yet able to be dropped off unattended. Mom and dad are still uneasy about leaving son or daughter with a babysitter for an extended period of time. That is why we instituted family movie nights. These midnights are not just for young children and their parents but they are for people of all groups, with or without children. They serve the purpose, however, of allowing parents to spend time with their children at church inside the community of faith. We believe this helps both parents and children to become more comfortable with life centered on Christ and his church.

Once these ministries have been established, it was time for Hannah to begin developing a ministry for middle school aged students. She meets with them once a month during the school year for Bible study, games, pizza, and general fun. One of the best things about middle school and high school youth groups is watching friendships develop that have been founded on their faith in Christ. So many kids have to deal with peers and friends that live lives apart from the church, but here they get to found friendships built on a common faith. So that they look forward to coming to church to see friends they rarely see elsewhere.

The same is true for high school. I find that many of our high school students have fostered a natural curiosity and have a very good curiosity for the Lord. They ask brilliant questions and thoroughly enjoy studying the word of God.

All of these things are great! But I do not want to lose sight of the fact that you at any and every age are part of this family ministry as well. John, in 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1 says, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." God has called you His child through His Son Jesus Christ. In calling you His child, He has made us brothers and sisters in Christ with one another. We are God's family!

So family ministry is for everyone. It is for all ages. It is for you and for me. I want you know that as we move forward continuing our family ministry, we want to make sure you plan an active role in it. This is your church. This is your ministry. God has made you a part of this family of believers through His dear Son, Jesus. He has given us this calling to build up this family with one another. I want to make sure that you know that you belong in all of these ministries. I would love to continue to build ministry for you. So please let us know what we can for you as the family of God, in Christ Jesus.

In His Love,

*Pastor Josh*

## Family Ministry Means All of Us

In the lead-up to the July voter's meeting, I warned Pastor Josh that a lot of his language about the next phase of ministry at Calvary seemed wrapped up in youth ministry. I told him, "You know, you're making it sound like it's all about the kids." He quickly assured me, "I always say 'family ministry'—that means everyone!" I've been gently insisting that maybe we should make that more explicit in how we talk about ministry around here. (Just a little insight into what it's like being a married couple in ministry: your strategic planning meetings sometimes happen while folding laundry or washing dishes.)

I want to take a moment to share why "family ministry" truly means all of us. It includes families of all shapes and sizes—those bound by blood, adoption, marriage, friendship, or the ties we share as fellow members of the body of Christ. When we say "family ministry," we aren't just talking about parents with young children or youth activities but about strengthening the faith and relationships of all who belong to God's family.

God calls us into community, and that includes building up each other's faith, encouraging one another, and walking alongside each other in times of joy and struggle. When we gather for worship, serve in the community, study God's Word, or share a cup of coffee together, we are participating in family ministry. We are reminding each other that we are not alone, that we are loved, and that we belong.

As we continue into this next season of ministry at Calvary, I invite you to think of yourself as part of this family ministry, whether you are single, married, widowed, a parent, a grandparent, or a friend. You are needed, valued, and an important part of how we live out the Gospel together.

Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:10, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." May we continue to see each other as family in Christ, serving, loving, and encouraging one another as we share His love with the world.

A reminder—one way our church family can participate in serving one another this August is by joining us for our [Concordia Week of Mission](#), where we will serve the staff and residents of Concordia Monroeville from August 10–15. Please check out the bulletin board for days and times for our activities. We hope to see you there.

To Christ be the Glory,

Hannah Obermann

# Elder's CORNER

## God's Never Ending Wonders

Where is God's wonder in our lives? The short answer is 'everywhere'.

Sometimes it's easy to see. Other times, it's not so easy or may never be revealed to us. In all cases, we pray for God to reveal his wonders in his perfect his time and will, giving us the patience to discern and spiritually grow from it. "He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted." (Job 5:9)

Fortunately, it was easy for us to see during our recent trip to Africa. We have always been aware of the beauty of God's world, but the sights and sounds we witnessed there brought us even more appreciation of His wonder. We often remarked - how could anyone see the vastness of the animals, birds, plants, sky and more and not realize His greatness?

We also saw the results of over 150 years of missionary work with Christianity being the dominant religion in many African countries. It is hard to even imagine what it was like for the early missionaries in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to travel to a foreign land and culture, riddled with unfamiliar dangers and disease, only to persevere and spread the Word. Luck? I don't think so; another wonder from God.

While visiting the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, we learned more about the heartbreaking struggles and repression many people faced, far more than we ever knew, and the peace and prosperity that has evolved since it ended. There is still much work to do, but we were encouraged by the progress. Bishop Desmond Tutu captured it well:

"Did you know that all people belong to one family, the human family? That although we may look nothing like each other, live in separate homes, practice our own cultures, subscribe to different religions - and some of us have more money than others - we are all sisters and brothers in God's family".

What a wonderful reminder that no matter where we come from, who we know or what we do, God created each one of us in a special way. He values us all, and we each have a place in His master plan. It's easy to get lost in this world and feel insignificant, but God tells us that we are all his children.

Of course, one does not need to travel to the African to see this or the wonders of God's work. There is evidence in our everyday lives; we just simply need to take the time to reflect and notice.

*John Fagnacht*

# Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Committees

We are well into summer, and we pray that this has been a season of recreation, fun and relaxation for you all! There are a few things coming up to keep in mind as you soak up the remaining rays of the season.

**DREAM CENTER - McKEESPORT** - The students the Dream Center serves are in need of school supplies for this coming school year. They are requesting the following:

- Pencils (Ticonderoga brand)
  - Pencil cap erasers
  - Dry erase markers
  - Band-Aids
  - Elmer's glue sticks
  - Highlighters
  - Crayola crayons
- Assorted color construction paper
  - Two-pocket folders
  - Crayola markers

Please consider blessing these kids with the supplies they need for a successful year. All donations can be placed in the basket marked "Dream Center" located by the bulletin board in the old narthex. Thank you for your support!!

**MOS FOOD BANK** - Donations are always welcome! Any non-perishable food items are appreciated and will help serve our community members in need. Some items to consider this month would be food or snacks that can be packed in a school lunch, such as snack bars, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, applesauce or fruit cups.

**VBS** - This year's VBS was a success, with all the children who attended learning of the love of Jesus! A huge "THANK YOU!" goes to Hannah and all of her adult and teen staff who worked to prepare and lead a week of stories, games, crafts, snacks and more!

**CONCORDIA - MONROEVILLE** - Calvary is having a week of service activities at Concordia in Monroeville, August 11-15. The week kicks off Sunday, August 10 with a worship service there at 10 a.m. We have planned a car wash, a Kona Ice truck visit, a sing-along, bingo and a gift basket drawing. The residents are always so happy to see us, and it's so rewarding to just spend some time with them. If you're able to help on one or all of these days, please speak to Pastor Josh.

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL AS YOU ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!!

# Together in Misson

Hola! As you might have noticed, we didn't send our normal update in June because as you know, we were serving in Puerto Rico!

June was one of the fullest months of ministry I (Jenn) can remember. Our weekdays were filled with getting our students to different campuses, trying our best to keep our 11 children entertained and busy, discipleship appointments, grocery shopping or coming up with weekend bonding excursions (we began with 8 students but one-Jadyn-decided to go home because of health complications that weren't getting fixed on the island: a sad, hard choice but a wise one). Our kids fell hard and fast for fun with one another and played many, many board games while being excited to explore our neighborhood and beaches in and around San Juan. They even braved the heat to explore Old San Juan one day and had so much fun seeing one of the old forts that make the city such a beautiful place. We took a hike one day to a waterfall in the rainforest and then up a mountain to look out of a tower for a breathtaking view. We were no strangers God's creativity and beauty there. A highlight for Joel and I was also to be able to witness our teammate, Tom, lead daily devotionals for all of the kids through the book of Mark for the month. The kids were engaged and really had wonderful, deep questions about Jesus as a result. We are so grateful for Tom's commitment to making this a special time for our kids.

As far as ministry goes, for many of our students, this was the first time EVER sharing the Good News of Jesus with others...and they did it to students who spoke broken English! There were over 90 conversations that took place on San Juan Carolina's campus and Rio Piedras combined, praise God. Of those, 8 students heard about the Holy Spirit for the first time and decided to pray to receive the Spirit into their lives and commit to walk with Jesus through His power. Additionally, 5 students and one ice-cream vendor prayed to receive Christ for the first time ever and entered into God's kingdom of eternity...alleluia!! For many, introducing Jesus was new and it will take more time for those students to consider the cross and consider the Gospel, but for 6: they heard Jesus knocking on the door of their hearts (Revelation 3:20) and responded in faith to Jesus their Lord! Now our on-island staff have loads and loads of students to connect with this year.

Joel and I are exhausted, but we are rejoicing. Throughout the month of planning, driving (who knew I would LOVE driving in San Juan?!) and ministry your prayers carried us when we were excited, worn or unsure. We are incredibly grateful for you, our team, without whom none of this would have been possible. Thank you, thank you, muchas gracias

*Joel + Jenn*



# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30AM-C 9:45AM Bible Study 11AM Praise C Youth Night 6:30-8PM	4	5	6	7 Elder's Meeting 6:30 Evangelism Meeting 6:30	8	9 Grounds Clean up 10AM
10 8:30AM 9:45AM Bible Study 11AM Praise-C	11	12	13 Concordia Mission Week	14 Council 6:30PM	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Grounds Clean up 10AM rain date 
17 8:30 AM -C 9:45AM Bible Study 11AM Praise Youth Night 6:30-8PM	18	19 Youth Day at Sandcastle	20 CELC's First day of School! 	21	22	23
24 8:30AM 9:45AM Bible Study 11AM Praise-C	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:30AM C 9:45AM Bible Study 11AM Praise-C Youth Night 6:30-8PM	Labor Day No worship Services					



# Donation Station

## CELC (Calvary Early Learning Center)

## Shoebox Project

zippered pencil pouches

Our very own school has a wide range of needs. For the most current list, please check the board in the Narthex each week. Let's support our teachers and little learners well!

## Concordia Mission Week

### Gift Basket Donations for Concordia Staff & Residents

We are collecting Gift Basket donations to show our appreciation and care for the wonderful staff and residents of Concordia.

Please consider showering them with kindness by donating a thoughtful gift basket!

 We will be delivering the baskets during the week of August 10-15.

 All donation baskets must be placed in the Wisteria Room by Noon on August 10.

Let's come together to spread some joy and gratitude!

Thank you for your generosity.

## Evangelism Committee – DREAM Center (McKeesport)

- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Pencil cap erasers
- Dry erase markers
- Band-Aids
- Elmer's glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Crayola crayons
- Assorted color construction paper
- Two-pocket folders
- Crayola markers