

# MISSION AT CONCORDIA



Pastor Josh at Concordia, Serving  
for the Annual Mission Trip Week.

## Melissa's Desk

As we begin Pastor Josh's new sermon series, *Cradle to Crown*, we are invited to take a deeper look at what it truly means to be a faithful Christian—from the very beginning of life to our final hour. Our calling is not only to learn God's Word but to live it daily, allowing our faith to shape the way we walk, speak, and love others.

As we journey through each sermon and devotion, I encourage you to lead by example. For parents of school-aged children, this is taking time each day to talk about their day. Children often carry "big feelings" and unspoken emotions that need a safe space to be released. These conversations not only strengthen your bond but also guide them to lean on God in both their joys and struggles. In these simple but powerful moments, we are helping to plant roots of faith that will sustain them throughout their lives.

For those whose children are grown, or for those who do not have children, this same call to love and encouragement remains just as important. Reaching out to a friend, a neighbor, or even a fellow church member to ask, "How was your day?" can make a world of difference. Sometimes a listening ear, a gentle word, or even a warm hug is exactly the reminder someone needs that they are not alone.

We all need encouragement. We all need friendship. Most of all, we all need the unfailing love of Jesus, who walks with us through every stage of life. May we, as a family of faith, lean on Him daily and share His love with those around us—from the cradle to the crown.

Kindness and peace,

*Melissa Boreman*

**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

Many people picture the perfect family dinner like this: A family of four, mom, dad, a son, and a daughter, gathering around a perfectly set dinner table. The table itself is long and rectangular. A white, freshly laundered and bleached table cloth drapes over the top with beautiful pleats on the corners. The settings are perfectly set with knife, fork, and spoon gently laid on top of a folded napkin that perfectly matches the cloth underneath it. The cutlery is silver and the dinnerware is fine china embossed with intricate hand-painted designs. Two candles flicker a soft glow in the center of the table on either side of a roast meat. Side dishes of vegetables are arranged strategically to be passed around in a clockwise fashion. Father sits at the head of the table in a pressed white shirt and tie. He is cheerfully listening to the tales of the day shared by mother on the other end of the table in fine summer dress and pearls. The boy and girl sit quietly enjoying their peas while the grownups talk.

The reality of the situation is that this image is rarely accurate. For one, the fine china has been tightly locked away since my parents received it in 1975. While desperately awaiting the presence of Queen so that they can finally be of use! Neither has my mother ever worn a summer dress, house dress, or any dress that I can remember, and pearls to the dinner table. Yet this is the image that many people have of what a family dinner should look like.

I mention this because I have read many articles decrying the end of the family dinner. Fast food and other types of restaurants have displaced the family table. To the point where many new homes have repurposed the classic dining room in favor of counter top bar seating and TV dinner trays in front of the silver screen. However, I am not sure that this is a new phenomenon. The first TV dinner sold for \$.98 in 1954. Since then, dinner and screens have gone hand in hand.

A child with an iPhone, Kindle, iPad, Nintendo Switch, or some other form of hand held entertainment device at the dinner table is not new. I suspect it is a tale as old as at least the radio if not even the toy dolly. And yet, we decry the most modern of technology as the source of the problem. The problem being that the family dinner is a dying, if not already dead, family tradition. I tell you the problem is not with technology. It is with our ability communicate, specifically, our ability to communicate inter-generationally.

When I was growing up, I was told by many adults that "ain't" ain't a word or that "that's sick" was not indeed a good thing. Now I find my role reversed as I say to my kids, "I'm not sure you know what 'sigma' means" when they have said to me "What the sigma?" Slang changes with generations. It seems to change far more quickly these days with the ease of the internet, but it is just one of the many challenges that arises in communication. (Colloquial dialects pose the same problem. Although, I was immediately told what a "Yinzer" was, it has taken me four years to figure out what gumband, buggy, and slipper meant.) Slang, although a barrier, is not the primary problem with familial communication.

I have noticed a trend. When I was younger, (and my parents have shared similar stories from their childhoods) noisy children were sent outside to play. Hence the Facebook meme, "when I was kid the streetlights told me when I had to be home." Being outside didn't feel like a punishment because it was fun. It wasn't a punishment per se, but it was intended to give parents a time of quiet. Newer generations with children have adapted the move by giving their noisy child a screen instead. It serves the same purpose, providing a time of quiet. Is this a good thing? Probably not. The reason being is that both practices discourage intergenerational communication.

The Bible is clear that the older generations (i.e. parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles), are tasked with teaching the younger generations the ways of the God. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says,

"Hear of Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

God teaches us that we should be talking to our children and grandchildren and nieces and nephews often about God and His Word. This is emphasized by Saint Paul in 2 Timothy 1:5 when he says to Timothy "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you." Paul takes this moment to subtly emphasize the importance of intergenerational communication, specifically, intergenerational faith conversations. These conversations are so important. A child first learns how to talk from a parent who speaks to it. It learns social cues from adults who engage with it with appropriate social behaviors. They learn all kinds of valuable information from an older generation that passes down stories and learned lessons to the next. The same is true with faith. Saint Paul promises us that faith comes from hearing the Word (Romans 10:17). It does not come passively to the person, but God has sent a missionary (you) to share the Word with the next generation (your children). It is through the sharing of the Word that God creates faith in the heart of all of His children. He even gives us a promise. He promises that if we train a child up in the faith that when they are old they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). This faith leads us all to eternal life. Your family dinners don't need to be perfect. They don't need to be quiet. As a matter of fact, they should be far from quiet. The adults at the table should set the example. Engage the children in conversation. Ask them about their day. Find out their interests and seek to learn about them. By asking you will teach the next generation to live with the same level of curiosity about others. You will teach them to ask the similar questions. It won't be long until they are asking questions about you. To those questions, you will get to respond with answers of faith. Thereby you will be teaching your children and grandchildren all about Jesus. These conversations don't need a dinner table. They can even be had in front of or even through a screen. All it will take is a little bit of courage on your part to ask that first question.

In His Love,

*Pastor Josh*

## Celebrating God's Gift of Family

"Martin Luther identified the family as one of three holy 'estates' (alongside the church and government) that God instituted to care for His people. God gives us the good gift of family and so highly esteems it that He uses it as the primary building block for His kingdom. We are all born into a biological family, but as baptized believers we are also brought into the family of God. Therefore, all people – whether young or old, single or married, widowed or barren – are placed within a family and entrusted with vocations (Psalm 68:5-6)." – LCMS.org

At Calvary, we treasure the gift of family. Family is where faith is nurtured, love is shared, and life's joys and struggles are carried together. Beginning September 21st, we will launch a special ministry focus on Family Ministry titled "Generation to Generation: Sharing God's Love from Cradle to Crown". For five weeks, our sermons, Bible studies, and even our social media presence will be centered on what it means to live as God's family and how we can strengthen one another across all stages of life.

We invite you to grow with us through this series:

### Schedule of Topics

- September 21st – Created to be a Family
- September 28th – Creating a Biblical Foundation at Home
- October 5th – Conception to Crown Ministry
- October 12th – Coming Together to Endure Life's Hardships
- October 19th – Evangelism in the Family

This is a season for every generation to come together and celebrate what it means to be part of God's household of faith.

At Calvary, no one walks alone. Whether you're part of a large household, living on your own, raising kids, or adjusting to new seasons of life, you are part of God's family here. Come join us as we grow in faith and share His love—from cradle to crown.

I'm so grateful for each of you and the ways God is at work in our church family. Please know that I am keeping you in my prayers, and I thank God for the blessing of walking alongside you in faith.

In His Name,

Hannah Obermann

# Youth & Family

## High School Bible Study-

Sunday, September 7th & 21st (1st and 3rd Sundays)

6:30 - 7:30 PM

Calling all high schoolers!

Come hang out, dig into God's Word, and encourage each other in faith and friendship. Don't miss this chance to grow closer to Jesus and to one another!

## Middle School Bible Study -

September 28th, 6:30-8:00 PM (every 4 Sunday)

Preschool and up, with games, snacks, and conversations on how faith connects to real life.

## ✨ Young Adult Bible Study ✨

When: Wednesday, September 10th

Place: At Pastor Josh's house - 2 Nancy Drive, Jeannette, PA

Time: 5:30 PM



Hotdogs & hamburgers provided!



Bring a camping chair if you have one.  
We'd love to see you there!

## Campfire Friday!

When? Friday, September 12th

Where? Here at the church

Time? 6:30 PM

All are welcome—bring a camping chair to sit in and a side dish to share!

✨ Come enjoy food, fellowship, and fun around the fire! ✨



## Circle of Moms



Come join our new mom group for:

Friendship • Fun • Spiritual encouragement

For mothers with children under 18

• Limited childcare may be available

Where? Here at the church

When? Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 PM (select dates)

Fall Dates:

Sept 25 • Oct 9 • Oct 23 • Nov 6 • Nov 20 • Dec 4 • Dec 18

✉ For more info & registration: Shannon — [jsgetkin23@gmail.com](mailto:jsgetkin23@gmail.com)

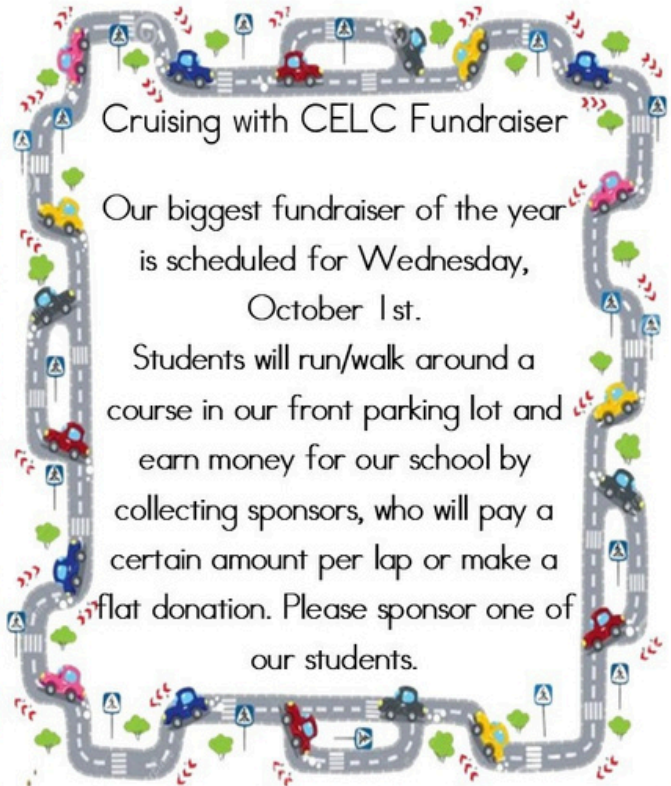


# CELC



## Fun Facts about our CELC Students

- We have 17 three-year-olds enrolled.
- One of our Kindergarteners was born in Bulgaria.
- 3 Kindergarten girls' names start with "E:" Emilia, Elliana, Ella.
- A preschooler's mom was in Mrs. Hoff's 5th grade class at Christ Lutheran many years ago.



## Cruising with CELC Fundraiser

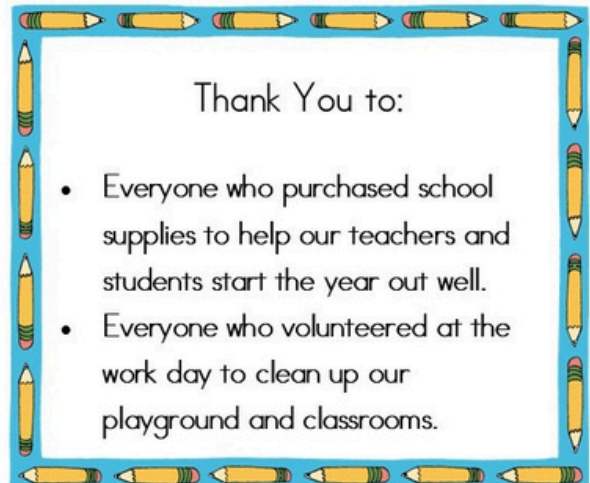
Our biggest fundraiser of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st.

Students will run/walk around a course in our front parking lot and earn money for our school by collecting sponsors, who will pay a certain amount per lap or make a flat donation. Please sponsor one of our students.



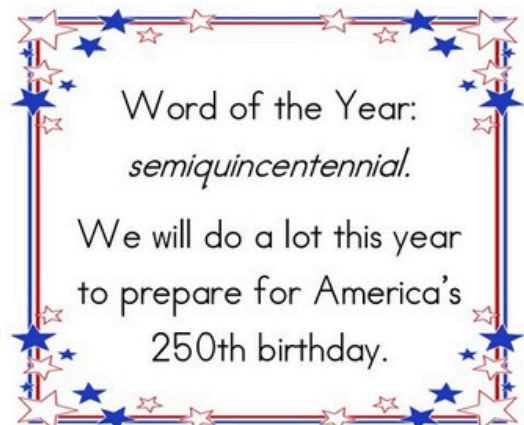
## Meet Our Staff:

- Kindergarten: Mrs. Laura Hoff and Mrs. Barbara Stuffer
- 2-Day Threes and Fours: Mrs. Jessica Lynch and Mrs. Amy Whigham
- 3-Day Threes: Mrs. Megan Snider and Mrs. Peggy Willard
- PreK: Mrs. Megan Snider
- Secretary: Mrs. Melissa Boreman
- Chapel and School Board: Pastor and Hannah Obermann



## Thank You to:

- Everyone who purchased school supplies to help our teachers and students start the year out well.
- Everyone who volunteered at the work day to clean up our playground and classrooms.



Word of the Year:  
*semiquincentennial.*

We will do a lot this year to prepare for America's 250th birthday.

# Elder's CORNER

When we came to this area from Iowa in 1981, we struggled. I was an instructor at a community college in Sheldon, Iowa and took a 65% pay increase, better benefits, relocation costs, and expenses to move here and work for Westinghouse as an instructor for Nuclear Instrumentation. We were struggling and couldn't get ahead. We couldn't find a house to purchase and ended with a money pit. We were the only people that went to the movie "The Money Pit" and cried. Every week it seemed like some new catastrophe fell on our heads. We actually considered moving back to Iowa. But brighter heads prevailed, and we adopted this saying "So, you want to go back to Egypt?" When one of us got discouraged, the other would ask that question and we would stop, reconsider, and keep moving on. Just like the Israelites, we couldn't go back, going back would have been worse than staying here.

That time of struggling was God changing us from doing it our way to doing it His way. We did not have a good relationship with God at that time and it took him a number of years to get us set onto His pathways. Some times the lessons are difficult.

At some point we all get that feeling that I want to go back to the way it was. The biggest complaint I hear now is "I want to go back to the way it was before COVID." That is not going to happen. We can't go back.

Even the disciples suffered from this malady. Back in Luke 5 Jesus is on the shore and Peter has career as a fisherman and has been fishing all night and has no fish to show for his efforts. He comes to shore, and Jesus borrows his boat to use as a platform to speak from. When Jesus is finished, he tells Peter to go deep and cast his nets. Peter does and fills his nets to breaking and fills two boats with fish. Peter is called to be a fisher of men and leaves everything to follow Jesus.

Fast forward to John 21. It is three and a half years later and Jesus has been crucified, resurrected, and the disciples are lost without Jesus. Peter, the default leader, is lost and decides he wants to go back to his former career of fisherman. He gets into a boat, drags all the disciples with him, and they fish all night and catch nothing. A man on shore tells him to cast the nets on the right side of the boat. He does and catches 153 fish. Peter realizes the man is Jesus and they join him where Jesus gives Peter the "Do you Love Me? then feed my sheep." speech.

Peter, not knowing what God wanted from him, tried to go back to where he was comfortable. God gave him the exact situation, with the exact results, to show him that going back was not an option. As much as we want the "Good old times." It is not going to happen, God has changed us, we can't go back. The point is God has changed us from who we used to be to be to now a new person and we can't go back to be what we were before God came to us. No, it is never going to be the same, we are changed now.

We are not the same church we were pre-COVID. God has changed us. He has set us on new pathways and us doing the same behaviors we have done in the past are not going to work. We cannot go back to Egypt. God wants us to follow Him and let Him show us His ways and we will be blessed.

*Tom Harbaugh*

# Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Committees

Summer will soon be over and then Fall will be approaching in all of its glory and beauty! Just recently our team met and we have worked on our plans for the upcoming months. It was so nice to be together and talk about what has worked in the past, but may not be something that will work in the future or maybe keep it on hold for a while! Our purpose in all we do is sharing the hope and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and embracing Evangelism as a privilege and our responsibility! It would be an honor to have more join our team! We do hope and pray that you might be sitting with us next time we meet and help us serve the Lord with gladness!

In June, our team joyfully packed 24 snack bags for the Sonshine Dream Campers to enjoy on their camping trip! What a blessing to serve these kids—and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Also in June, since the Car Cruise did not take place, we held a door offering for Meals on Wheels. Together, the Calvary Family gave an incredible \$600! Thank you for your generosity—this gift will go directly toward providing meals for those in need.

In July and August, we collected school supplies for the Dream Center. An unbelievable amount of supplies was donated. CALVARY YOU TRULY ARE AMAZING!!

Last Saturday we helped to clean the toys for CELC. We had hoped to clean the kitchen, but that was put on hold until another time! Watch for a new date for kitchen cleaning.

On Sunday, October 5th, we'll be celebrating OCTOBERFEST!

Bring your favorite German dish to share at our Potluck Lunch, immediately following the 11:00 AM service. Drinks will be provided.

This will be a wonderful time to relax, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate fellowship with our Calvary family. Watch for a sign up sheet, so we know how many to plan for!

LOAVES and FISHES: Let's keep filling up that shopping cart to bless those in need!

SHOWING YOUR LOVE, SPREADING GOD'S WORD, THAT'S WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!!!!



# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Labor Day Office Closed</b>	2 <b>1st day of 3's and PreK</b>	3 <b>1st day of 3's and 4's</b>	4 <b>Elder's 6:30PM</b>	5	6
7 <b>HS - Bible Study 6:30-7:30</b>	8	9	10 <b>Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 @ Pastor's</b>	11	12 <b>Campfire Friday! 6:30PM</b>	13 <b>Men's Bible Study 8:30- 9:30AM</b>
14	15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 <b>Ladies Bible Study 10AM</b>	17	18 <b>Council 6:30PM</b>	19	20
21 <b>HS - Bible Study 6:30-7:30</b>	22	23 <b>Ladies Bible Study 10AM</b>	24	25 <b>Circle of Moms 6:30PM- 8PM</b>	26	27 <b>Men's Bible Study 8:30- 9:30AM</b>
28 <b>MS- Bible Study 6:30-8</b>	29	30 <b>Ladies Bible Study 10AM</b>				

# Donation Station

CELC (Calvary Early  
Learning Center)

Water Soluble finger paints

Shoebox Project

Nail Clippers + Nail files (emery boards)

## Loaves + Fishes

Always accepting donations!

## MOS Food Bank

Always accepting donations!