
Rooted in Christ, SHINING IN THE WORLD

Melissa's Desk

Finding Peace in Troubled Times

This past September reminded us just how broken our world is. In a single week, we saw violence in schools, the anniversary of 9/11, and other heartbreaking events. It is easy to look around and feel like the world has gone mad. Yet Jesus told His disciples, "In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Our hope rests not in quick fixes or temporary solutions, but in the peace that only Christ provides.

That doesn't mean we ignore real struggles. Mental health is a genuine concern for many. God calls us to care for ourselves and one another—whether that means rest, healthy routines, or simply having someone to listen. As Paul reminds us, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

We also carry a responsibility to the next generation. As parents, grandparents, and caregivers, we shape how children learn to cope with hardship. They are watching us—how we respond to trials, how we speak, how we treat others. Let's show them Christ's love in action, with patience, kindness, and faithfulness.

The world may seem dark, but we are called to shine as His light. By loving, listening, and encouraging one another, we become living witnesses of the hope we have in Christ.

Spreading Christ's peace,

Melissa Boreman

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Hwy
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Worship Hours:

Sunday - 8:30 am
Sunday - 11:00 am
Monday - 6:30 pm

Pastor Joshua
Obermann

Words from Pastor

What is my pastoral approach to politics?

All forms of media have been filled with intense political rhetoric. These media forms do their best to speak directly to you. They will post, speak, advertise, and do anything else that might drive you to their page and bring you to "smash that 'like' button," as the kids say today. But what about the church? What is my pastoral duty when it comes to politics? How am I supposed to navigate and lead you through this political age?

In 1st Corinthians chapter 1, Saint Paul asks,

"Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:20-24 ESV)

He continues in Chapter 2, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2 ESV)

Saint Paul makes it clear that the role of the pastor and the church is to proclaim Christ and him crucified. So that is what I do and intend to do. I will not tell you whom I vote for or why I vote for them, but I can tell you the reason why I vote at all is because it is my civic and duty and therefore my Christian duty (Romans 13). In the pulpit, it is not my pastoral duty to make sure that you align with me or one another in any political way. It is my pastoral duty to see to it that you know Christ and him crucified.

Yes, I am deeply saddened by the events have transpired and continue to transpire in our nation. The only salve that we have to soothe the pain that these atrocities have caused is not political rhetoric, but Jesus. It is Jesus alone who raises the dead. It is Jesus alone who sets the captive free. It is Jesus alone who demonstrates, proclaims, and teaches true love. It is Jesus alone who empowers you by his Holy Spirit to love as he first loved us. It is Jesus Christ alone and he was crucified, died, and raised to redeem you from the death and decay of this world.

Since you are redeemed, you now are the nurses whom God sends out into this world to apply the healing salve of the Gospel on those who are deeply in pain. It is the Gospel by which God calls sinners into His Kingdom. We confess with one another that we believe in the Holy Spirit. We say with Martin Luther "What does this mean? It means that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But that the Holy Spirit calls me by the Gospel, enlightens me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith." (Luther's Small Catechism Article 3) Therefore, as we go out into this politically divided world, we do not need to further divide by spreading political rhetoric, but instead we apply the healing salve of the Gospel so that the Holy Spirit call and sanctify this world. Thereby, he will make it holy and establish peace.

So if you expect me to take a political stand, I will not. If I am preaching God's word and it sounds like I am making a political point, please know that it was not my intention to do so. It is only my intention to proclaim the Word of God. If God's Word aligns or contradicts your political point of view so be it. It is my job and calling to proclaim God's Word and administer His sacraments. I will do so to the best of my abilities with the Help of God.

I say all of this because I deeply love you all. I know it is increasingly hard to proclaim God's Word without sounding like I am avoiding the political climate or that I am taking a side. It is becoming increasingly hard to prepare a sermon that may not offend. This is my burden and my struggle. Perhaps it is my cross to bare. And I will gladly bare it for the sake of the Gospel and the faith by which you are saved. I am happy to be crucified for proclaiming God's Word rightly. I will gladly do this for God and you, whom I love, both dearly.

In His Peace,

Pastor Josh

"Seeds of Faith Around the Campfire"

Last month, our Family Ministry hosted a simple evening of fellowship: a campfire, s'mores, hot dogs, and an open playground. We didn't plan a big program or schedule—it was just an open invitation to come, eat, laugh, and be together. And yet, as often happens when God's people gather, the Lord did something far greater than we could have organized.

The weather was perfect—clear skies, cool air, and a cozy fire to gather around. But the true beauty of the evening wasn't in the setting, it was in the connections that happened. We had one of our oldest members in attendance, as well as one of our youngest, and every generation in between. Parents were able to share with one another some of the struggles they've been carrying and receive encouragement. Teenagers—who might otherwise be tempted to sit off by themselves—were playing tag and swinging with the little ones, showing them the joy of being cared for and included. Friends and neighbors were invited, and new faces joined us, turning a simple night into a living picture of evangelism as people encountered God's family in action.

The moment that will stay with me most, though, came when a child asked if they could be baptized at Calvary. For years, I have told even the youngest preschoolers that baptism is the most important thing we do as a church. To now see those words take root in the heart of a child, growing into a desire to receive God's promises, is humbling and joy-filled. We are taking steps to make this baptism a reality, and I am reminded once again of how the Spirit moves in ways we don't always see coming.

This campfire night taught me something I deeply need to remember: while I love teaching theology to our middle schoolers and sharing God's love in chapel with our little ones, and even sharing the gospel via our social media—sometimes the most powerful ministry happens in the ordinary. A shared story around a fire. A conversation between generations. A child swinging next to a teenager. A neighbor who feels welcome. A heart stirred to faith by the Holy Spirit.

It is in these simple, beautiful moments that seeds are planted—seeds that will grow, not because of our effort, but because of the Holy Spirit. God's presence in these ordinary spaces is a miracle, and it is a joy to witness.

In His Name,

Hannah Obermann



Youth & Family

High School Bible Study-

Sunday, October 5th & 19th (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 -

Sunday, October 20th 6:30-8:00 PM (every 4th Sunday)

Designed for 6th grade and up, with games, snacks, and conversations on how faith connects to real life.

✨ Young Adult Bible Study ✨

When: Wednesday, October 8th

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

Time: 5:30 PM

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

Oktoberfest

Join us on Sunday, October 5th as we celebrate Oktoberfest with a Potluck Lunch immediately following the 11:00 AM service.

Bring your favorite German dish to share—drinks will be provided. This will be a wonderful time to relax, enjoy delicious food, and celebrate fellowship with your Calvary family.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up, so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you there!

🌸 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:

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

✉ For more info & registration: Shannon - jsgetkin23@gmail.com

Sign Up

GEARHARD FARMS

HAYRIDE-CORN MAZE-S'MORES

Scan the QR Code
to Sign up!



OCTOBER 18TH 3:00 PM

COST: \$15/PERSON

GEARHARD FARMS MURRYSVILLE



CALVARY'S

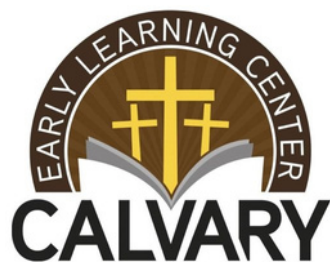
CRAFT

Fair

NOVEMBER 15TH | 10-3

INTERESTED IN SELLING OR HAVE
QUESTIONS?

CAITLYN AKARMAN
CAITLYN.AKARMAN123@GMAIL.COM



During the first few days/weeks of school, much of what we learn in any of our classes is how to get along with each other. We learned about Creation and all that God made. We had beautiful weather to get out and play. Preschool is starting at the beginning of the alphabet with A, B, C and numbers 1, 2, 3. Kindergarten is learning to recognize sight words and the letters, Mm, Ss, Aa, Rr, Tt. We will start writing words soon. Please help us raise money for the school by supporting students in our October Fundraiser.



Elder's CORNER

October is my birthday month, but just barely! Per my birth certificate, my arrival was all of five minutes into the month. Over my many years and many birthdays [suffice it to say that I am a war baby, as in WWII] I have become accustomed to the fact that when your birthday falls on the first day of the month you can expect many of the greetings you receive to arrive late.

As my birthday approaches it comes to mind that time is implacable. Time never stands still and cannot be stopped. My grandmother's favorite aphorism was "Too soon old, too late smart." Psalm 90:12 prays "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." How few are our days and how much we need to turn to God for security and refuge in this fallen world!

Contemporary culture continues to celebrate youth. Many want to stop the clock and so dye their hair, get a face lift, etc. in an attempt to do so. But even though they might stop the clock, they are powerless to stop time; how quickly it goes!

I recall discussing time with a now sainted Calvary member and we agreed on this paradox of time: how can the days go by so slowly and the years go by so fast??

Time leads us all into eternity - whether we like it or not. Jesus in His sermon on the mount states in Matthew 7:13,14: "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Luther's commentary on this passage states: "The true disciples remain on the hard path and enter through the narrow gate, namely the Word of God, saying: 'I am helpless. May God help me. It all rests in His hands.'" The frailty of our life on earth stands in stark contrast to God's eternal strength.

So the question each of us must ask him/herself is: which way am I taking? The path that leads to eternal bliss or the one that leads downward into eternal woe? That clock is clicking every day and no one can know for certain when their time on this earth will be over. Nevertheless, one can by faith in Jesus Christ be sure of his/her eternal destination. To that end I will close with some hymn excerpts, first from #761, Lutheran Service Book: "not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands.... all for sin could not atone, Thou must save and Thou alone.... When mine eyelids close in death [and] I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee." And from LSB #611: "Keep me in the narrow way, grace in time of need supply, while I live and when I die." May these hymn verses comfort all of us as we seek entry by the narrow gate Jesus has prepared for us.

-Bob Kemper

Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Committees

OKTOBERFEST - It's time for some fall fun! Please join us for Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 5 after the 11:00 service for some delicious food and fun fellowship. It's potluck, so plan to bring your best Oktoberfest dishes!! Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many to expect. Looking forward to seeing you all there!!

BLESSING BAGS - Calvary is collecting Blessing Bags to benefit the Dream Center in McKeesport. These bags will be filled with non-perishable food items for holiday season meals. It's simple...just take a bag from the narthex, fill it with items from the list in the bag, and return it to Calvary by November 2. Let's work together to help those in need!!

A huge "THANK YOU!!!" to the ladies of Calvary who worked very hard cleaning the kitchen. Their efforts are so much appreciated!!

COMING UP - Please keep these upcoming things in mind and add them to your calendar! Christmas decorating is scheduled for November 23 after the 11:00 service. Come join us as we prepare Calvary for the Christmas season! We'll even feed you!

Soon there will be angel trees in the narthex with gift ideas for both the residents of Concordia and the children of the Dream Center in McKeesport. Just take a tag, wrap your gift, and attach the tag to the outside of the gift. Keep your eyes open for that in the coming weeks.

Calvary will be visiting Concordia in Monroeville on Saturday, December 13 at 2 p.m. to lead the residents with caroling. If you haven't joined us before, please consider doing so this year. The residents are always so happy to see us! It's a great way to bless their holiday season!

Hello from Jenn and I and our family! August always feels like a flurry of activities as we begin another year of ministry on campus. We started August with our staff retreat. While there we get into the Word, log time as a team and pray over the students. We then launch into what we sometimes call blitz weeks where we are trying to meet as many students as we can on campus. We hand out popsicles in exchange for filled our spiritual surveys. We show up to represent Cru at the student org/club fairs. We then invite as



many people as we can to our first weekly meetings on campus. This year, I'm excited to report that at Penn College's first meeting we had over 110 students come. A few weeks after that we had 53 students at one of Bloomsburg Cru's weekly meetings—which is more than we had at any point last year. We've initiated countless conversations, had ice cream socials, played games after our meetings all with the hopes to connect new students to Cru, yes, but also to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This past weekend, we were able to take our servant teams from Penn College and Bloomsburg away on our Servant Team Retreat. Our hope for the time is that it'd be a place where our students can rest after so much activity & to enjoy time with Jesus and one another. The retreat always allows us to center our lives on Christ and consider what we're trusting Him to do on each of the campuses within the Susquehanna Valley. One highlight for me was leading the Penn College student leaders in a session about how they would be personally involved with evangelism and discipleship this fall. I love getting to see students trust the Lord in new ways and for how excited they can get as they dream about it!

In about two weeks from when I'm writing we'll have our Fall Retreat. (Sept 26-28) This retreat is open to all of our students. As of right now we have 99 students/staff registered to come. In my mind, the Fall Retreat is really the culmination of our efforts to reach freshman and new people. I know that if they decide to come with us, that they will hear the Gospel, experience Christian fellowship and grow in their faith. Also, those that come hear about the other larger things that we do: the Winter Conference, our Spring Break mission trips and our Summer Mission trips. We'd love your prayers that even more might decide to come to our Fall Retreat and that God would really use that time powerfully in all of our lives.

Thank you so much for your prayers, partnership and financial support. Without you, we simply could not do what we do. So thank you!

Joel + Jenn

PS—on a personal note: we'd love prayer for TJ who suffered a concussion during football. He's since recovered but would love prayers for no more issues moving forward.

2025 OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Cruising CELC Fundraiser	2 Elders - 6:30 PM	3	4
5 Ocktoberfest HS/BS 6:30- 7:30PM	6	7 LBS 10AM	8 YA Bible Study @5:30PM	9 Circle of MOMs	10	11 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
12	13 Columbus Day Office & School Closed	14 LBS 10AM	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Council - 6:30 PM	17	18 Gearhard Family Hayride
19 HS/BS 6:30- 7:30PM	20	21 LBS 10AM	22	23 Circle of MOMs	24	25 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
26 Reformation Day (observed) MS/BS 6:30- 8PM	27	28 LBS 10AM	29	30 Harvest Party 3's and PreK	31 Harvest Party 3's, 4's, and Kinder	

Donation Station

CELC (Calvary Early
Learning Center)

Cruising with CELC pledges

Shoebox Project

Comb + Hair Brushes

Loaves + Fishes

Always accepting donations!

MOS Food Bank

Always accepting donations!

Blessing Bags

Calvary is partnering with the Dream Center in McKeesport to provide holiday meals for families in need. It's easy—pick up a bag in the narthex, fill it with the listed non-perishable items, and return it by November 2. Together, let's fill hearts (and tables) with God's love this season!