

Blessings IN EVERY SEASON

Melissa's Desk

A Season of Gratitude and Service

November is a season of giving thanks for all that we have been blessed with. As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving, we often reflect on the many things we're grateful for. For some, that may be nice homes, vehicles, and material comforts. For others, it's the simple blessings – food in the fridge, a roof overhead, and a reliable car to get from place to place. No matter our circumstances, we are all richly blessed by the Lord.

This Thanksgiving, I'd like to encourage each of you to give back to someone in need. It might be providing a hot meal, donating items for a Thanksgiving dinner, or offering a helping hand. Many families in our community struggle throughout the year, and as Christmas approaches, some wonder how they'll afford gifts, put food on the table, or pay their bills. Even if you don't have much to give financially, you can still serve through your time and compassion – volunteer with the Salvation Army, ring the bell, or find another way to share God's love.

Small gestures of kindness can make a big difference. Encourage our youth to sing at Concordia and share their joyful light with others!

This time of year can also be difficult for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Let's remember to offer a listening ear, a warm hug, and comfort to those who need extra support. It costs nothing to be kind.

Let's serve the Lord together this holiday season and be a blessing to those around us.

Spreading Christ's 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

Dear Calvary,

In this month of thankfulness—I'd like to share with you all an area of ministry here at Calvary for which I am very thankful for. I am excited to announce to you another wonderful moment in our ministry! We have one of our four year old's in our preschool who is requesting to be baptized. I have the great joy of baptizing Maren very shortly on November 9th.

This is such a wonderful testimony about our school program and our teachers. When I met with Maren's family, they told me they just felt so comfortable here. They know that they are welcome and able to use our church as if it were their own. That is because our teachers are very personal and their love for each student and for Jesus shines in each class room.

Jessica Lynch is here every day with 3's and 4's. Her passion is to teach these kids about Jesus and His love. She comes in early each morning and leaves late into the afternoon, all because she is dedicated to these kids. She not only teaches them how to read and write, but she also teaches them to serve. Once a month, she has the kids come up to our church and help us with one thing. This teaches them that they are an important part of our church community. I am very grateful for her and her leadership in that class room.

Megan Snider works with our three year old's and Pre-K class room. She too is one of the first in our building in the morning and one of the last to leave. Megan truly desires that these kids know and love Jesus as well as she does. Last year, when we had a student who couldn't come to school because of illness, Megan took the time to make extra work sheets, handouts, and projects so that that child could continue to learn and grow at home. She is truly and exemplary early childhood educator.

And Of course there is Laura Hoff. Laura's zeal for Christian education is outstanding. While her husband has spend far more time in hospitals and nursing homes than in their home, she has remained dedicated to her craft. She is hear every morning by 7am. Her class room is pristine and ready for the work of learning. She has not let her troubles with Dave's health impact her ability to teach or affect her passion for her students. The other day, a former student came into to read to this year's kindergarten class. The boy sat down to read his two favorite books. One of them was the Bible. At 7 years old, this child was reading the Bible to other children younger than him. All because Laura took the time to love them make sure that these children know the love of Jesus. I am happy to call her my colleague and friend.

I say all of this so that you know how important our school is. We may not have kids coming to the baptismal waters in droves, and we may not be bursting at the seams with students and their families at our Sunday morning worship, but we are doing the important work of laying a foundation of faith for these students. Saint Paul writes in "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it." (1 Corinthians 3:10) We may not always get to see how God works in the life of these children, but I can tell you with great confidence that a strong foundation has been laid and God is building something grand on top.

Please keep our school in your prayers. Pray for our teachers and their aides. We have a wonderful program and we know that God will continue to make it grow.

In His Love,

Pastor Josh

A Season of Thankfulness and Hope

As we enter November, our hearts turn toward gratitude. Scripture reminds us again and again to give thanks—not just for the obvious blessings, but in every circumstance. “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1). True thankfulness isn’t just a response to what’s going right; it’s a posture of the heart that recognizes God’s presence and faithfulness even in the waiting.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we’re also preparing our hearts for Advent—the time when we look forward to the coming of Christ, our greatest gift. Gratitude and hope go hand in hand: when we pause to thank God for what He’s done, our faith grows stronger for what He is yet to do.

To help us enter Advent with hearts centered on Christ, we invite all families to join us for our Family Advent Wreath Workshop on Saturday, November 23rd at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Together, we’ll create Advent wreaths to take home—a beautiful reminder of the light of Christ that shines in the darkness. This is a wonderful way to begin the Advent season as a family, reflecting on God’s faithfulness and preparing room in our hearts for Jesus.

To ensure we have enough supplies, please sign up by November 9th. You can register online or on the bulletin board outside of church.

As we look forward to the months ahead, we’re also thankful for the ways God is growing our youth ministry. We’re forming a Youth Planning Committee that will give our young people a voice in shaping future events and ministries. All youth—middle school and high school—are invited to come to our All-Youth Meeting on November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. Parents of elementary students are also welcome to attend. We’ll share ideas, pray together, and dream about what’s next for our youth programs.

Let’s take this month to practice thankfulness—not just in words, but in the way we live, serve, and gather as a church family. As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

With grateful hearts,

Hannah Obermann

Youth & Family

High School Bible Study-

Sunday, November 16th (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, November 9th 6:30PM-8PM

(every 2nd & 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, November 5th & 19th

Place: Our church

Time: 5:30 PM

We'd love to see you there!

Christmas Caroling-

When: Saturday, December 13th

Time: 2PM

Where: Concordia

Please join us as we visit Concordia, Monroeville to spread some holiday cheer and goodies to the residents. It's always a fun time!!

Christmas Decorating-

When: Sunday November 23rd

Time: 12PM

Join us for pizza and help decorate our beautiful church!

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:

Nov 6 • Nov 20 • Dec 4 • Dec 18

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

Advent Wreath Decorating

When: November 23rd

Time: 9:45AM

Come join us as we make beautiful wreaths to celebrate Advent.

Please sign up so we have enough supplies!



CALVARY'S

CRAFT

Fair

NOVEMBER 15TH | 10-3

INTERESTED IN SELLING OR HAVE
QUESTIONS?

CAITLYN AKARMAN
CAITLYN.AKARMAN123@GMAIL.COM

God is Not Silent

Elder's Corner

This message speaks of things science and nature cannot explain. It speaks to a world that teaches we exist because of natural processes and that, after our life ends, there is no more. In grand ways and continually before our eyes, God teaches us the very opposite.

God is not silent in showing us we are wonderfully designed and created. God says "*Male and female, I created them*" (Genesis 1:27). What evolutionary processes of incremental change can ever create "Male and Female"? How can nature and chance make two entities with parts that complement and fit and from which new life comes? Yet, God created our mothers and fathers and he created us. Tenderly and lovingly, he created us, in his image, planned before the foundations of this world, to be his children, to know his love and joy for us and our value.

God is not silent in proclaiming that he sent his Son into our world as an answer to this world's problems and evils, even our deepest troubles. In assuring John the Baptist that he is the one to come, Jesus tells John's disciples: "*Go back and report what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and good news is preached to the poor*" (Matt 11:5, Luke 7:22). Into our deepest troubles God enters in to heal, restore, and save us.

God is not silent in proclaiming his great love for us and that his desire is to bring us and everyone to be with him in Heaven. God speaks to our hearts and wants us to love and believe in him. We see wrong all around us, suffering, trouble of every kind, and we see the wrong within ourselves. God tells us there are consequences to all this sin. Jesus came to show us the heart and love of the Father, to tell us the Father's will and to show us the Father's actions in him. Jesus also came to die, to suffer and take on himself the consequences of our sin. In his dying and raising, he opened the door to Heaven for all who believe.

This saving message is not exclusive. It is for all people. Jesus wants all to believe in him and his promises and know his great love for us, and the forgiveness and freedom from sin bought with his life. He wants our life here to be lived with the hope and expectation of heaven. In this life God continually speaks to us as his dear children. He wants us to know he is always with us and caring for us. He encourages us to believe and trust in him in all things, always.

Who better to speak about Heaven than the one who came from Heaven. Jesus speaks about our deaths as merely a sleep (John 11:11). He speaks about Heaven as a paradise (Luke 23:43). He also says that there he has prepared a place for us, and that one day he will come bring us to where he is (John 14:2-3). Our ultimate healing and joy are in the life which God promises to come. There we will see his face and live with him forever.

Always in God's Love,

- Bill Zachar

Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Committees

OKTOBERFEST -

First and foremost, we'd like to send out a huge thank you to all who made Calvary's Oktoberfest such a success! What a fun time it was with fabulous food and fellowship. So...THANK YOU!!!

BLESSING BAGS -

The filled blessing bags are coming in. If you still have one to fill and return, please do so by November 2. They will be delivered shortly thereafter and given to those in need for their holiday meals.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING -

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 13 at 2 p.m. and please join us as we visit Concordia, Monroeville to spread some holiday cheer and goodies to the residents. It's always a fun time!!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING -

Sunday, November 23 is decorate-the-church day! Hope to see you there to get our church ready for the Christmas season. We will begin immediately following the 11:00 service. We'll provide pizza and cookies, so please join us!!

ANGEL TREE -

Keep your eyes open for Calvary's Angel Tree to bless Concordia, Monroeville and the Dream Center in McKeesport. Tags will have gift suggestions, sizes, etc. Take a tag, wrap your gift, attach the tag to the outside of the gift, and return. Your gift will make the Christmas season so much brighter for those in need!!

LOAVES AND FISHES -

Please continue to fill our shopping cart with non-perishable items. Your donations are always appreciated!!

Christian Art Show

Due to my current health situation and not enough helpers, I am no longer able to organize the Calvary Christian Art Show. As a result, the 47th Annual Art Show was our last one unless someone else might be interested in organizing it. I would be glad to meet with anyone to explain the process. If interested, please call me at 724-327-4230 or email me at suznbobk@aol.com. And many thanks to everyone who has helped over the past 47 years.

Sue Kemper

Notes of Gratitude

Prayer Shawl Ministry...Notes recently received: "Thank you for prayer shawl given to my mother-in-law Nancy K. It is beautiful & so soft. She uses it around her shoulders or over her legs, such a comforting gift!" -The family of Nancy K

"Prayer Shawl Ministry, I was blessed to receive one of your beautiful shawls from Marty and Dave. I've been dealing with some medical issues lately, but I am now on the mend. I want to thank you all so much for the love, support and prayers that were sent my way in addition to the shawl. This was such an unexpected surprise and not only warmed my shoulders, but also my heart! I can't tell you how much it meant to me to receive such a wonderful gift! Thank you and God Bless You!
Sincerely, Kristin H."

Prayer shawls are always available whenever you hear of or see a need. Speak to Ruth Greer, Lori Gulaskey or Pastor or anyone involved in the ministry.

The Shibatas

This year at our annual Fall Retreat, we saw God's faithfulness in a few clear ways. One way was seeing the most students we've ever had attend! The last time we had over 100 students was in 2017 (115) and this year we saw 120 students assemble at the beautiful Camp Susque in Trout Run, PA. The entire weekend was full of highlights: community, team games, meaningful music and deep conversations to name a few. But I wanted to highlight one or two stories from the weekend.

One aspect of the Retreat with huge impact was our speaker, Shelby Abbott. Shelby has been on Cru staff for over 20 years and has served in many different leadership roles. He brings an easy humor and humility with him but not before exuding the love and good news of Jesus. He was able to speak expertly about walking with Jesus in light of the suffering and brokenness of the world (he touched on loneliness, anxiety and pain). He preached the gospel out of a place of vulnerability and hope as he practically was able to share how to walk with the Holy Spirit using the things God gives to us (scripture and Christian fellowship). A few students were able to share upon reflection how lonely they had felt and how this weekend was a prompt from God to reach out and become involved in healthy community on campus. One student even said he was tired of trying things like alcohol and parties to escape his loneliness and longed to be filled by the love of Christ and communities like this.

Another highlight at Fall Retreat was a seminar on dating led by Shelby. Shelby has written a book called "I am a Tool for Your Dating Life" and has done extensive research on the current culture of dating. He was able to start the seminar by explaining the Good News of Jesus clearly and concisely as a foundation and then touching on different aspects of dating from there. He was able to explain biblical standpoints pertaining to sex, communication and adulthood. Most of the students attended the seminar and anyone we interviewed after said they were personally encouraged and felt the Holy Spirit prompt them to make significant changes in their lives. Praise God!

Thank you so much for your prayers, partnership and financial support with us and our family in ministry. Events like the Fall Retreat simply would not happen without you! To God be the glory, forever and ever.

Joel + Jenn



2025 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Youth planning 6:30-7:15 MS/HS Bible Study 7:15-8PM	3	4 LBS 10AM	5 YA Bible Study 5:30PM	6 Circle of Mom's 6:30-8PM Elder's Meeting 6:30PM	7	8 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
9 MS Bible Study 6:30-8PM	10	11 LBS 10AM	12	13	14 Craft Fair Set up	15 Craft Fair 10-3 
16 HS Bible Study 6:30-7:30PM	17	18 LBS 10AM	19 YA Bible Study 5:30PM	20 Circle of Mom's 6:30-8PM Voters Meeting 7PM	21	22 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
23 MS Bible Study 6:30-8PM Church decorating party 12PM	24 Advent wreath making 9:45AM	25 LBS 10AM	26 No School Office Closed Thanksgiving Eve Service 4PM	27	28	29
30		School and office opens 12/2				

Donation Station

CELC (Calvary Early
Learning Center)

Shoebox Project

No donations this month!

Loaves & Fishes

Always accepting donations!

MOS Food Bank

Always accepting donations!

Angel Tree

Keep your eyes open for the Angel Tree! These gifts will bless Concordia of Monroeville
& Dream Center in McKeesport.

Tags will have gift suggestions, sizes, etc.

How to I help?

Take a tag, buy the gift, wrap it up, and attach the tag to the gift and simply return it
back to our church!

You gift will make someone's season brighter for those in need!