Our LENTEN JOURNEY

Melissa's Desk

A Season to Behold and Respond

AAs we enter the season of Lent, we are invited into something both deeply personal and beautifully shared. This is a time to slow down, to reflect, and to fix our eyes once again on the cross of Christ.

Throughout these pages you will read about calling, mission, and the grace that meets us before we ever feel ready. You will be reminded that now is the day of salvation. These are not separate ideas — they are part of the same story God is writing in our lives and in our church.

Lent first calls us to behold. To behold the Lamb of God. To behold the sacrifice made on our behalf. To behold the mercy that covers our shortcomings and quiets our doubts.

And then, having beheld, we respond.

Not because we are perfect. Not because we understand everything. But because we are loved, redeemed, and called by His grace.
May this Lenten season draw us nearer to Christ and closer together as a church family, as we walk toward the hope and joy of Easter.

In His love,

Melissa Boreman

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Murrysville, PA 15668

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Worship Hours:

Sunday - 8:30 am
Sunday - 11:00 am
Monday - 5:30 pm

Pastor Joshua Obermann

Words from Pastor

March 14th marks my official fifth year with you at Calvary. I remember moving into an apartment in Monroeville on March 5th. On the 14th, I was installed as your new pastor. (In comparison to the long tenures of Pastor Hoener and Pastor Weeks, you may still consider me the "new guy.") I cannot believe that it has already been five years. Further still, June 12th marks my tenth year in ministry. Both mile stones seem impossible.

Early in 2021, I was very excited about the youth focus that you had called me to pursue. I really enjoy youth ministry as I have always felt to be a child at heart. It was a great fit that Hannah and I embraced. We set out with the mission of building from the ground up. We wanted to start with ministries for families with younger children. We created movie nights, game nights, and other ministries to connect our families to Jesus. We are very excited to see that we have been able to grow from those little movie nights into full Bible studies for our middle schoolers, high schoolers, and young adults too.

Another area that you identified as important was mission. When I arrived, you were a very mission minded church. It is one of the things that God led me to believe that we would be a good fit. Yet, we have worked together to expand our mission focus. We developed a "Week of Mission" at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in Monroeville. (A week which has become one of my favorite weeks of ministry.) I hope that we can add an inter-state or international trip to our mission goals as well. It is still my priority to preach the Word of God and teach Bible Studies. That is the first vocation listed in my call document. It is the most important task of any pastor. I hope that you will consider joining me in Bible study on Sunday mornings or any other time they are offered through the week. I hope to be able to equip others to lead them as well.

What ministries do you desire? With what have I fallen short? What needs to be improved? These are genuine questions that I have for you and I am very interested to hear what you have to say. I am very happy with where we are. I am excited to continue these ministries into the future. I am hoping that we can build a new community center soon. I am looking forward to growing our current ministries. I am grateful to be doing it with all of you!

In His Love,

Pastor Josh

Here I Am: A Lenten Prayer

In Isaiah 6:8, the Lord asks, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And Isaiah responds, "Here I am. Send me."

I am often amazed by Isaiah's boldness. It's such a contrast to how I often feel when the Lord calls upon me.

But if you read the whole passage, Isaiah doesn't start confident. Just a few verses prior, he states "Woe is me! I am a man of unclean lips". Isaiah is overwhelmed—aware of his shortcomings and unworthiness. It is only through the work of the Lord that he gains the confidence he needs to go and serve.

That part feels familiar. There are moments in ministry when I feel deeply aware of my limitations. I struggle at times with social anxiety, and there are days when I wonder if someone more naturally outgoing, more articulate, or more confident would be better suited for this work. In those moments, it's tempting to believe that calling belongs to the already-capable.

But Scripture tells a different story. God equips the called; He does not call the equipped. Isaiah didn't volunteer because he was flawless. He volunteered because God made him ready. The cleansing came before the sending. The grace came before the mission. And the same is true for us.

"Here I am" is our theme for this Lenten season and it is my prayer that we may all come to be ready for God's calling in our lives, because it is not through our own merit, but by His grace that we are able to do good things.

-Hannah Obermann

Youth & Family

Family Movie Night

Friday, March 14, 2026 5:30PM-8PM

We will have crafts, food, and fun! Any older youth are encouraged to come and help out!

Middle School Bible Study
Sunday, March 8th & 22nd 6:30PM-8PM

Calling all 5th–8th graders! Join us for a new Middle School Bible Study where we'll dig into God's Word, grow in faith, hang out with friends, and enjoy pizza! Come hungry for truth and a great time!

We meet the 2nd & 4th Sunday!

High School Bible Study
Sunday, March 1st & 15th 6:30PM-7:30PM

Designed for 9th grade and up, with games, snacks, and conversations on how faith connects to real life.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday!

Elementary Gathering
Sunday, March 22nd at Noon

Join us for our new Elementary Bible Study for K–5th grade! A great time to learn about Jesus, build friendships, and enjoy pizza together. All are welcome!

We meet the 4th Sunday!

Young Adult Bible Study
Paused until 4/22

Circle of Moms Returns!

Circle of Moms is back and we'd love for you to join us! A great time for moms to connect, support one another, and grow in faith together.

See the bulletin board for dates or contact Shannon Getkin for more information.

Easter Egg Huntt
March 28th
10AM

Palm Sunday Breakfast & Service
Sunday, March 29th
Come and begin Holy Week with us!
Enjoy breakfast together at 8:30 AM, then stay for our Blended Worship Service at 10:00 AM as we celebrate Palm Sunday and prepare our hearts for Easter.
All are welcome — we'd love to see you there!

Elder's Corner

My wife Sue over many years crafted most of the banners that are displayed in the front of our sanctuary above the organ and along the side aisles corresponding to the liturgical seasons of the church year. You have likely observed when they are changed for Advent, Christmas, etc. Probably that is why I pay more attention to the messages they convey than do most worshipers. The banner in front on Ash Wednesday that is used on during Lent proclaims "Now Is the Day of Salvation." It highlights Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to redeem all who believe in Him.

Over twenty years ago the Mel Gibson film "The Passion of the Christ" depicted in gory detail the physical sufferings our Savior endured in His final few days on this earth. Yet beyond His physical distress we cannot fully comprehend His anxiety of soul praying in Gethsemane and His being forsaken by the Heavenly Father on the cross. We can read the accounts in Scripture of the Holy Week events at home and/or during worship and give thanks to God above for Jesus, who "was born for to die, for poor ordinary people like you and like I." Yet who among us can truly fathom the Creator of the Universe humbling Himself to save woebegone creatures [all of humanity] who cannot extricate themselves from their sins?

John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, provides guidance to us in John 1:29 when he confesses: "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!" By this he recalls Numbers 21: the Israelites who had been bitten by poisonous snakes in the wilderness only had to look up to a bronze serpent set upon a pole to be rescued from certain death. They were not expected to understand this miracle, only to behold that bronze serpent. Their healing depended on faith in the power of God's words to them.

The same message applies to all those [i.e. everyone!] who cannot extricate themselves from sinning: behold! Behold the Lamb of God! Do not become bewildered because you cannot understand – you do not have to. Have faith in the healing power of God's Word incarnate: Jesus Christ, the Word of God from eternity. Do not allow any restless thoughts about your ability to believe or about being worthy enough to receive the grace of God. Instead, just focus on the cross and behold the Lamb of God, your Savior.

This Lent let us meditate on how much Jesus had to suffer and sacrifice on account of our sins. And even as we do so, behold the banner's message that because of Jesus' sacrificial life and His death on the cross we have been redeemed from our sins. Yes, now is the day of salvation! Even if we do not fully understand, celebrate the eternal life we have in and through Him both now and forevermore! Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!

-Bob Kemper

CELC

For a short month, February, had a lot happening. CELC followed Punxsutawney Phil's forecast. We had a delayed Lutheran Schools Week of activities, celebrated Valentine's Day, and learned about the Olympics. We had a couple of days off due to weather or heat. During March, we will spend a lot of time preparing for Easter and for our Spring Program, which will have a patriotic theme. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 24th, at 10 am. You can join us for the Spring Program. We also hope to have it live-streamed.

Bedford Candies and Gourmet Popcorn Orders are due March 11th and will be ready for pick-up on Palm Sunday. CELC receives 50 % of the proceeds. If you have family that lives out of the area, you can share this QR code with them They can follow it to an online ordering system and order directly from Bedford Candies and have it shipped anywhere you want. We receive 35% of the online orders.

2026-2027 School Registration

Our registration for the next school year is going well. Our Fours and PreK classes are full and on a waiting list. We have openings in our Twos, Threes, and Kindergarten classes. Feel free to tell your friends and neighbors about our school. I would be happy to give them a tour.

CELC took some time in February to learn about the Winter Olympics. Students participated in the "Bobsled" and in "Cross-Country Skiing." Miss Megan and Mrs. Hoff helped to put the equipment together. Pictured include PreK and Kindergarten students.

Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Committees

Spring is coming (hopefully!), and as we prepare to head into the Lenten season, we have some upcoming events at Calvary for all to keep in mind.
Please plan to join us on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, which will be followed by one service at 10:00 a.m. It's a great opportunity for fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ that you may not get to see often. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The college/military box mailing was a huge success, thanks to our members who donated items, helped with shipping costs, and helped pack. We are already receiving thank-yous from grateful recipients of those boxes. Thank you so much for your help in spreading God's love and some cheer!

We have a couple things currently in the planning stage for the Blackburn Center and the Dream Center/Hope House. Please keep your eye out for upcoming info about how you can help and get involved. It's always fun to see how big a difference Calvary can make when we come together!

Please keep Loaves and Fishes in mind! Donations are always welcome. You can leave items at the donation center in the narthex. Thank you in advance fo your generosity!

Blessings,

Tracy & Peg

The Shibatas

During these winter months, in spite of cold and darkness, our staff team has had the privilege of continuing to trust God—and seeing Him work—within the Cru movements on our two main campuses. We had a record of 55 students attend the Winter Conference in DC this year and they are still continuing to process how God met them there. We have seen a handful of students since then apply to join our Servant Teams (leadership teams), join friends to share the Gospel with strangers or with classmates on their campus (without us even having to ask!), and even consider giving a year serving in Cru ministry whether that is here in the Susquehanna Valley or overseas!God is on the move in hearts and minds!

A great highlight we also get to have mid-winter are our Men's and Women's retreats. This year, 60 students attended these retreats to delve into intentional community with one another and with Jesus. The men were able be guided through the life of David while the women had sessions on unity with Christ and unity with others (and how those play out in the world).Through times in the Word, with the Lord and with each other, I saw the women have a genuinely refreshing time. It's so neat to see how students arrive feeling the burdens and pressures of campus, but leave refreshed and encouraged because they were able to remind one another of the love of Jesus. They also had a very fun evening of karaoke for fun (all their idea!).

The last significant thing I want to share with you is that for the first time on our nearly 20 years of campus ministry, Joel and I will be taking a 2-month sabbatical; together! We have a plan and are excited to dive into intentional time with Jesus, with one another, our kids and within our community. We ask that you would continue to pray for our staff team, who will continue to serve in our absence and for our students who we are entrusting to the Lord as always.

Your faithful support means so much to us always, especially now as we take this important time to rest with Jesus and invest intentionally in this context. We love and appreciate you and hope you also remember to find rest in the Source of rest-our Lord. Exodus 20 says "remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy". God did not need to rest, but he exemplified what holy rest can look like: for our benefit! He knows us and will honor our obedience and we cannot wait to share our experience with you when we return in May. "May the Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace."

Joel + Jenn

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HS Bible Study 6:30-7:30PM	2	3 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	4 Lenten Meal 6PM Lent Service 7PM	5 Circle of Moms 6:30PM-8PM Elders Meeting 6:30PM	6	7 Craft Fair 10AM-3PM
8 Daylight savings begins MS Bible Study 6:30-8PM	9	10 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	11 Lenten Meal 6PM Lent Service 7PM	12	13	14 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
15 **Newsletter Deadline** HS Bible Study 6:30-7:30PM	16	17 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	18 Lenten Meal 6PM Lent Service 7PM	19 Circle of Moms 6:30PM-8PM Council Meeting 6:30PM	20 Family Movie Night 5:30PM-8PM	21
22 MS Bible Study 6:30-8PM Elem. Gathering 12PM	23	24 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	25 Lenten Meal 6PM Lent Service 7PM	26	27	28 Easter Egg Hunt 10AM Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
29 Palm Sunday Breakfast 8:30AM Palm Sunday Service 10AM	30	31 Ladies Bible Study 10AM				

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March Birthdays

7- Karen Wertz
9 - Marty Alsing
Paul Rehkopf
10 - Audrey McVeigh
11 - Lorri Nixon
14 - Tim Rehkopf
17- Maria Stampahar
20 - David Cicak
23 - Jordan Burt
29- Carrie Mackanick
31 - Joe Gulaskey, IV

March Anniversaries

11 - Amber & George Emanuele
28 - Shirley & Bill Zachar
29 - Jacki & Shawn Walker

Donation Station

CELC (Calvary Early Learning Center)

Dum-dum lollipops

Shoebox Project

Water color sets with brushes

Loaves & Fishes

Always accepting donations!

MOS Food Bank

Always accepting donations!

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Jules Yancy	Cancer	The Kuehn's
Bob & George	Cancer	Patti Orlic
Bradley Bowers	Cancer	The Kuehn's
Michele Hunter	Cancer	Rose Shirer
Lynn Simeoni	Cancer	Peggy Waybright
Mike Opina	Cancer	Rich Hrivnak
Kevin	Lymphoma	Jean Orth
Sarah	Unspoken	The Wertz's
Chad Hensler	Unspoken	Kelly Stivason
Jerry Wilford	Cancer	
Lorri Nixon	Cancer/Surgery	
Ken		Lori Gulaskey
Patti & Robert Colligan	Grieving of Bob's Brother	Sharon Hosaflook
Lanny Pilardi	Dementia	Charlene Hrivnak
Samantha Boreman	Snowmobile accident	Carolyn Harbaugh
Jenny Hosaflook	Bowel Obstruction	Sharon Hosaflook
Darlene Pritt	Recovering from pneumonia	Sharon Hosaflook
Benita Horger	Breast Cancer	Horger Family
Kim Makey	Breast Cancer	Sharon Hosaflook
Bob Jakub	Cancer & Kidney Failure	Randy & Cathy Glasser
Scott Traverso	Cancer	The Hrivnak's
Maelynn Tribendis		The Hrivnak's
Jackson (Child)	Seizure	Lori Gulaskey
Ava Bowers	Childhood Leukemia	Terry & Wanda Kuehn
John	Health Concerns	Paula Schade

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Paul Rehkopf	Rehab from fall	
Carrie Mackanick	C section	Calvary Family
Laura Hoff	Comfort & Strength	Calvary Family
Andy & MJ Schifino	Health Concerns	
Dawn Claar	Stage IV Cancer	Sharon Hosaflook
Tom Phillips		
Dave Alsing		
Sue Kemper	Upcoming Surgeries	Bob Kemper
Frank DiEugenio		
Norma Hite		
Steve Wutzke		
Bill Gibson	Triple Bypass	Diane Laurito
Niki Senchak	Recovery from surgery	Sharon Hosaflook
Myles Riston (child)	Needs therapy	Ellen Fetterman
Priscilla Miller		
Denise Roberts		
Lynn Martin	Cancer	Darren Kuehn
Keith Dorfield	Health issues	Sharon Hosaflook
Karen	Last round of chemo!	Sharon Hosaflook
Anthony	Paralyzed, dirt bike accident	Sue Kemper
Judy Hess	Healing-rare auto Immune disorder	The Harbaugh's
Annie	Childhood Cancer	Pat Jackson

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Don Corbett	Upcoming Surgery	Diane Corbett
Paul Obermann	Cancer	The Obermann Family

The Unemployed, Caregivers, Military, Personnel & First Responders, Mission Partners - Shiprock, NM – Navajo Reservation, Joel & Jenn Shibata - CRU, Sonshine Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes, Veteran's Place, Blackburn Center, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Community Center Taskforce

Our Shut-Ins: Kitty Skaritka, Gloria Batcher, George & Donna Campagne, Peg Schultz