
Centered in CHRIST'S LOVE

Words from Pastor Josh

A couple months ago, I wrote about the last five years of ministry here at Calvary. Today, want to write about what I have learned during that time. I will be celebrating ten years of ministry in June and I have learned much about ministry, myself, and the church during that time. The following is just a sampling of the wealth of knowledge that ministry has afforded me.

Being in two or three places at once.

Jesus is the only person I know who can be in two or three places at once. He is in heaven, in our hearts, present everywhere two or three are gathered, in the bread and wine on the altar, and in the church all at once. The more I realize that I am not Jesus and utterly incapable of this divine feat, the more I get comfortable being away from the church office. I know that my absence from the office is not always convenient, but I cannot be in multiple places at once. That is okay. I am always available by appointment.

Making Everyone Happy.

Making everyone happy is an impossible endeavor. Not even Jesus ever did that. If he wanted to, he probably could have. However, that was not his purpose. That's not my purpose either. It is not the purpose of this church. The church and the office of pastoral ministry exists to proclaim the Word of God, specifically Christ and him crucified. Saint Paul says "No one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11) Christ does not make all people happy. Jesus, as Paul and Peter both remind us (1 Corinthians 1:23 and 1 Peter 2:8), is a stumbling block and offensive to many. It is surely not my intention to disappoint or anger you. Yet, sometimes, that cannot be avoided.

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Hwy
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Worship Hours:

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

Pastor Joshua
Obermann

Ministry is not easy.

Ministry got Jesus crucified. He told his disciples to expect the same. Yet, at some point, there seemed to be an expectation that ministry should be easy. We co-opted movie quotes expecting easy growth saying "If you build it, they will come." The expectation of ministry is usually higher than the result. We plan for hundreds of responses to the Gospel only to receive dozens. At times, the over exaggerated expectations lead us to say that our ministry was a failure. However, God is the true judge of a ministry's failings and successes. One soul saved is invaluable. Often I believe our expectations are too high. One is enough. God can do more with one than we can do with thousands. Even though it is hard and even though we may have over inflated our expectations, true ministry is always worth it no matter the numerical or financial results.

Tears are a big part of life.

John 11:35, "Jesus wept." Ministry is about love. Love can cause great joy and deep sadness. Jesus wept. We will too. To be effect in ministry, we must be willing to love. Many of Jesus's ministry moments began with his compassion. Matthew 9:36 says, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Compassion is love. It is loving people who have the need of being loved. Compassion is required of all in ministry. If we have no compassion, then how can we help?

Communication is hard.

Some ask why are there four different Gospels? I suspect it is because God knows that communication is hard. God knows that we communicate in different ways. I think that is why he inspired to have four different authors record Jesus's life. Some of us communicate in written language. Others prefer to communicate verbally. Even still we all tend to communicate non-verbally though our actions and reactions. Because of that, a yawn in the middle of a conversation may be misconstrued as boredom instead of exhaustion or even involuntary. A frown can be heard as anger. An all capital letters email may be read as yelling when in reality it is a broken key board. These truths have led me to understand that you can never ask too many questions. It is always better to ask and re-ask than assume erroneously.

What does this mean?

That ministry is about love, confession, absolution, and most importantly Jesus. We will make mistakes. We will not always be available for one another. We will make each other angry or even sad. In those moments, we remember the words of Peter "Love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 1:8) Even better, Jesus covers all of our sins. I love you all deeply. In the many years to come, I am looking forward to growing in that love. I pray that our love will be centered in Christ. And that he will lead us to love as he first loved us.

In His Love,

Pastor Josh

Summer is just around the corner, and that means one of the most exciting weeks of the year is almost here—Vacation Bible School!

VBS will take place June 8–12, and we're already looking forward to a week filled with energy, laughter, and opportunities to grow in faith. This is always a highlight of the summer, not just for the kids who attend, but for the many volunteers who make it all happen. From crafts and games to music and Bible stories, every part of the week is designed to help children experience God's love in a meaningful and memorable way.

Registration opens May 1, and we encourage families to sign up early and invite friends, neighbors, and classmates to join us. VBS is one of our best opportunities to connect with the wider Murrysville community, and we're excited to see who God brings through our doors this year. Please be praying for all of the little hearts and minds that will be entering our building and prayerfully considering donating your time and talents to this special ministry opportunity.

As we wrap up the spring season, we're grateful for the many ways our youth and families have been involved. Our Family Movie Nights have concluded for now and will return in the fall, likely in a refreshed format in the fellowship hall with more flexible seating. The Easter Egg Hunt, though a bit chilly, brought out a great crowd and was a wonderful chance to connect with families. We also had a recent Youth Sunday, where our students took an active role in worship. It was a meaningful experience for them and a great reminder that they are an important part of our congregation today—not just in the future.

Throughout the summer, we will continue building on that momentum. Middle School and High School Bible Studies will continue, providing ongoing opportunities for connection and growth. Elementary students will gather on the fourth Sunday of each month following the late service for some fun and faith building.

We're also introducing "Fun Fridays" on the second Friday of each month, offering a simple, welcoming family event designed to bring people together for fun and fellowship. Be on the lookout for more details soon.

Finally, on the fifth Sunday in May, our youth will once again step into leadership roles in worship, including music and other areas of service. These moments continue to build confidence and help them see how God can use their gifts in the life of the church.

There's a lot to look forward to in the months ahead—but most of all for the chance to share the good news of Jesus with the next generation.

Youth & Family

Middle School Bible Study

Sunday, May 24th 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!

Elementary Gathering

Sunday, May 24th 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!

High School Bible Study

Sunday, May 3rd & 17th 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!

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.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday May 6th & 20th

5:30PM

Let's dive into the Bible with other adults, alike! Fellowship, friendships, and great conversations!

Elder's Corner

Greetings flow brothers and sisters in Christ, He is Risen, Hallelujah.



Some Laudatory Words

Very soon I will enter into my third year serving the role as “Head Elder”. I thank you all for your grace, patience and understanding. Fully aware that there are too many ways I fail to live up to any reasonable standard of excellence – I take this opportunity to extend my thanks and full appreciation for the team of elders that serve with me who, each in their own way use their gifts to serve our Lord, Calvary and all of you. I am continually encouraged by their abiding faith, humble hearts and their caring and forgiving nature. I would be remiss, however, if I did not here extend the same level of praise and appreciation to everyone of you who so generously, with caring hearts, “love one another” – visiting, calling, sending cards and praying diligently as I know many of you do!

New Elders

Two new elders have agreed to serve on the Board of Lay Ministry! On April 19th, Richard Hrivnak and Bill Crossland were installed as elders. Soon you should expect to see some changes to the Elder/Parishioner assignment lists, as we transition to sharing these assignments with Rich and Bill.

It is my hope and request that everyone extend to them also the same grace, patience and understanding, as they assimilate this new role and responsibility.

Blended Services

Although the concept of occasionally scheduling a singular service in lieu of the two services (8:30 / 11:00), where the service arrangement attempts to “blend” the traditional and contemporary formats, is not new, the recent Blended Service on Palm Sunday reinforced my personal endorsement.

While understanding that some have a strong preference for one style over the other, it is also recognized that hosting multiple services and styles naturally trends toward a two-separate-congregation scenario. Following the Palm Sunday service, I was delighted to watch the “blending” of parishioners from both services and to hear the effervescent sounds of fellowship in the narthex areas. In the spirit of that fellowship (and compromise), I view these opportunities to worship all together a very good thing.

In that light, it is the goal and intent to schedule these One Service Sundays 3 to 4 times throughout the year. The next “Blended Service” is scheduled for July 5th (4th of July weekend). The next one after that will be November 1st – to celebrate the new confirmands – (followed by a celebration luncheon). I encourage all who can attend to do so.

What About

Ever wonder, what the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) teaches regarding certain issues? Here is a link to the What About documents, authored by the former Synodical President Dr. A.L. Barry.

[What About?' Pamphlets](#)

Or type in: [//resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-pamphlets/](https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-pamphlets/)

In His Grace,

Randy Glasser

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” – Ephesians 4:29

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 VBS Registration opens	2
3 HS Bible Study 6:30- 7:30 Baby Bottle Collection through 5/24	4 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	5	6 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	7 Elders Meeting 6:30PM	8	9 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
10 MS Bible Study 6:30-8PM	11 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	12	13	14 Circle of Moms 6:30PM	15 Newsletter Deadline 12PM	16
17 HS Bible Study 6:30- 7:30	18 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	19	20 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	21 Council Meeting 6:30PM	22	23 Men's Bible Study 8:30AM
24 MS Bible Study 6:30- 8PM Elem Gathering 12PM	25 Ladies Bible Study 10AM Closed! No Services	26	27	28 Voter's Meeting 7PM	29	30
31						

May

Birthdays

- 2 - Danielle Cicak
- 3 - Hayley Nixon
- 5 - Jean Orth
- 7 - Donna Eakman
- 10- Mary Jane Schifino
- 11 - Kelly Stivason
- 12 - Jacob Gulaskey
- 13 - Vincent Abromitis
- 14 – Laura Hoff
- 18 - Donna Campagne
- 20- Caelan Lynch
- 21 - Joy Humbert
Cynthia Zachar
- 22 - Randy Glasser
- 23 - Scott Ickes
- 25 - Robert Humbert, Jr.
Ashlin Walker
Jerry Wilford
- 26 - Dylan Adamson
- 28 George Emanuele
Stefani Schneider
- 29 - Tom Nixon
- 31 - Bill Zachar

May

Anniversaries

- 5 - Sharon & Scott Ickes
- 7 - Amy & Dave Cicak
- 9 - Becky & Vincent Abromitis
- 10 - Karen & Jim Wertz
- 16 - Marty & Dave Alsing
- 17 - Donna & George Campagne
- 20 - Rose & Mark Shirer

Donation Station

Shoebox Project

Girl Items: Hair accessories,
jewelry, small dolls, lego sets

Loaves + Fishes

Always accepting donations!

Network of Life

Coins, cash, checks and online
donations accepted until 5/24!



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
Dave Thomas	Recovery from Mouth Cancer surgery	Audrey McVeigh
Lanny Pilardi	Dementia	Charlene Hrivnak
Samantha Boreman	Healing from surgery	Carolyn Harbaugh
Darlene Pritt	Pneumonia & Surgery	Sharon Hosaflook
Benita Horger	Breast Cancer	Horger Family
Scott Traverso	Cancer	The Hrivnak's
Maelynn Tribendis		The Hrivnak's
Ava Bowers	Childhood Leukemia	Terry & Wanda Kuehn
John	Health Concerns	Paula Schade
Lisa Folts		Kathy Folts
Becky	MS Progressing	Rose Shirer
Myron	Cancer	Carolyn Harbaugh
Rudy & Kelly	Health Concerns	Sharon Hosaflook
Jeff	Health Concerns	Sharon Hosaflook

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Sandy Denholm	Knee replacement recovery	Self
Andy & MJ Schifino	Health Concerns	
Dawn Claar	Blood Cancer	Sharon Hosaflook
Tom Phillips		
Dave Alsing		
Sue Kemper	Upcoming Surgeries	Bob Kemper
Steve Wutzke		
Priscilla Miller		
Denise Roberts		
Lynn Martin	Cancer	Darren Kuehn
Keith Dorfield	Health issues	Sharon Hosaflook
Anthony	PT for recovery	Sue Kemper
Annie	Childhood Cancer	Pat Jackson
Paul Obermann	Cancer	The Obermann Family
Robert DeCecco	Brain Tumor	Wanda & Terry Kuehn
Gary	Alcoholism	Carolyn Harbaugh
Randy Roveri Family	Loss of a loved one	The Gulaskey Family
Dennis	Colon Cancer upcoming surgery	Annette Page
Leslie Phillips	Broken ankle (fall)	Tommy Phillips

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, Rheita Fisher, Norma Hite