

Words from Pastor Josh

250 years is a very long time. 250 years is also a blip in history. 250 years is three or four lifetimes. 250 years is only three or four lifetimes.

America is great! Our nation is founded on the concept of freedom. Freedom is something that we enjoy every day! We have wonderful men and women who serve in all aspects of our society to ensure that those freedoms are not infringed upon, and we are very grateful for their service. I am proud to celebrate our nation's birth and continued life!

I do so, however, through a biblical perspective. The Bible has a different approach to nationality and earthly freedom. The Bible shows us that the freedoms and promises granted to us by earthly means are temporary and pale in comparison to the eternal gifts and promises of God.

In Acts 22, Paul uses his Roman citizenship as a literal "get out of jail free card."

"But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, 'Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?' When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, 'What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.'" Acts 22:25-26

And in 23:11, it says, "The following night the Lord stood by him and said, 'Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.'" God did not use Paul's citizenship as a luxury or anything like that. Rather, God used it as a means to an end. He used it so that He could bring the Gospel to the heart of the empire.

Paul, himself, saw little use for his citizenship as a Christian. Paul often wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise." Galatians 3:28-29 What Paul is saying is that the only citizenship that matters is the citizenship we have in the Holy Nation of Israel, God's Church.

Worship Hours:

Sunday - 8:30 am

Sunday - 11:00 am

Monday - 5:30 pm

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Hwy
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Pastor Joshua
Obermann

1 Peter 2:9 says that we are “a holy nation, a people for his own possession.” God's Word proclaims that we have an eternal and heavenly citizenship that has been purchased and won for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And he goes on to say,

“Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.” 1 Peter 2:13-17

God calls us to celebrate our nationality and earthly citizenship only as a means to an end. The end is bringing the Gospel to all people and thereby ending the “ignorance” of the faithless.

I am proud to be an American. I know that you are too. I am grateful that I can celebrate with you the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth. But I am even more grateful for the freedom afforded me by the love of Jesus Christ. I am ever thankful that He has made it my life's work to share that Gospel with you.

In His Love,

Pastor Josh

Hannah's Desk

Just a few weeks ago, our church was transformed into Rainforest Falls for Vacation Bible School. More than seventy volunteers and participants came together throughout the week to sing, learn, serve, and grow in God's Word. The sanctuary was filled with mist, music, laughter, and the excitement that comes when children experience the love of Jesus in a way that captures their imagination. It was a wonderful reminder that God continues to work through His people to plant seeds of faith in the next generation.

Not long after VBS, our youth gathered for a lock-in that included an escape room adventure, games, food, fellowship, and very little sleep. Watching our young people build friendships, encourage one another, and simply enjoy being together was a gift. These moments may seem ordinary on the surface, but they are often where lasting relationships are formed and faith begins to take deeper root.

None of this happens without the support of our congregation. Whether you volunteered, donated supplies, prayed for our programs, helped with meals, or simply encouraged our young people, thank you. Youth and family ministry is never the work of one person or even one group—it is the work of the entire church. Together, we are living out the truth of Psalm 145:4: *"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."*

Lately, I have also found myself thinking about what the next five to ten years of youth ministry at Calvary might look like. The world our children and youth are growing up in continues to change rapidly, bringing both new challenges and new opportunities. While I don't know exactly what the future holds, I am filled with hope.

I believe God is calling Calvary to continue being a place where children are known, families are supported, and young people are equipped to follow Christ in every stage of life. I believe He is preparing opportunities for us that we cannot yet fully see. Most importantly, I believe that the same God who has faithfully guided this congregation through generations will continue to lead us in the years ahead.

As we look toward the future, my prayer is that we remain committed to walking together—young and old, lifelong members and new faces alike—as one body in Christ. The ministry of the church has never been simply about programs or events. It is about forming disciples, sharing the Gospel, and helping one another grow in faith. By God's grace, that work will continue for many years to come.

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you. I am excited to see where God leads us next.

In Christ,

Hannah Obermann

Youth & Family

All Youth Bible Study

Sundays | 6:30–8:00 PM

This summer, we are trying something new—**an All Youth Bible Study!**

Youth of all ages are invited to join us as we dive into the Bible, grow in God's Word, and enjoy time together in faith and fellowship. Each week will include age-appropriate games, crafts, activities, and meaningful Bible study.

And, of course, there will be food, snacks, and lots of fun!

All Youth Bible Study will resume on Sunday, July 12, when Pastor and Hanna return from vacation.

We hope to see you there!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday Nights | 5:30 PM

Starting July 15, when Pastor returns from vacation

Come grow in God's Word with other adults during our Wednesday Night Bible Study! Join us for an evening of Bible study, fellowship, friendship, and meaningful conversation as we dive into Scripture together.

All adults are welcome—we would love to have you join us!

Men's and Ladies Bible Studies are paused until August/September.

Concordia Summer Mission Trip

Save the Date! August 3–7

This summer, we will be heading to Concordia of Monroeville for a week of service, fellowship, and giving back!

More details about the week's events will be shared at a later time, but we invite you to begin prayerfully considering how you might be able to volunteer.

Whether you can help for the whole week or just a few hours, your time and support can make a meaningful difference to the Concordia community.

Mark your calendars and join us as we serve together in love!

“Dreams”



Over the years, I have determined that if God wants to tell me something, He will give it to me in a dream and then make sure I remember that dream.

Now, I am not talking about dreams where you go to the movie “Jurassic Park,” and six hours later, you wake up screaming like a girl because a T-Rex is chasing you through elephant grass. Neither am I talking about a dream where you are standing on the running boards of a truck and need to jump off the truck into a ditch. You jump, and the dream is interrupted when you hit your face on the nightstand next to your bed. Those are just crazy dreams. I am talking about a dream that means something. They are not scary or violent, but are calm and encouraging and teaching moments. I usually do not share my special dreams with anyone but am feeling compelled to share this one.

This last dream I got is a huge metaphor, and I am still trying to figure it out. There are about ten of us in a boat on a lake. The lake’s name is “God’s Plan.” The name on the boat is “Calvary.” The boat is round like a bowl, and the ten of us each have an oar and are leaning over the side and trying to row across the lake. Because the boat is round, we are just going in a circle like a merry-go-round and not making any progress crossing the lake.

Here is what I think God is telling me. God has a plan for Calvary, but it is going to take some effort on our part to complete His plan. We’ve got to row across the lake or follow His plan. If we do nothing, we will float along and go where the tides and winds take us. We will never finish the task of God’s plan. We will never get across the lake.

The ten people in the boat are the congregation here at Calvary, the people. Because the boat is round, we end up all rowing in a different direction. We are not unified in getting God’s Plan for us completed. We can’t get across the lake no matter how much we row. We all have different ideas and are unwilling to compromise. The end result is that we sit in the middle of God’s plan and spin in circles.

Then comes the second part of the dream. Of course, in my dream, I am yelling that we are going in circles and we need to stop. About that time, an old-style lifeboat with oars, manned by about twenty people, all facing the same direction, rowing, and a guy in the back of the boat keeping cadence by yelling “Stroke, Stroke, Stroke,” passes by, crossing the lake just fine. The name on this lifeboat is “Titanic”! That is when I woke up, trying to figure out what was real and what was a dream. Titanic? Really? That is not encouraging.

Here is what I think God is telling me on the second part of the dream. My first response was, "Titanic? Everybody died. What good is it if everybody dies?" That is not true. The Titanic's lifeboats saved about 800 people, and they were rescued by the Carpathia. These random people came together and escaped death by rowing together in the same direction at the same time. They came together and completed a task. The name Titanic speaks of death, but their actions show us life.

We, as a congregation, need to become active in following God's Plan for Calvary. We need to reshape our boat so we all face the same direction and row to the plan God has for us. It will not be easy. It will require a lot of conversations and a lot of compromise, all of which can be accomplished through prayer and belief that God has a plan for us and we are willing to get into the Titanic lifeboats and all row in the same direction.

That is my dream — we all come together.

Tom Harbaugh

The Shibatas

We're back! And praise God for everything He has done, both in our local campus movements and within us (Joel and myself), while we were on sabbatical this year. As mentioned in our last letter (in February!), this was my first time ever taking a sabbatical while on Cru staff and the first Joel and I had taken together. As challenging as it was for me, I was able to notice two things:



1: The presence of the Lord. I had seldom in my life been able to just take whatever time I wanted to lean into Him as much as I needed to, and this was a very rich time for that.

2: The appreciation of Joel being the hands and feet of Christ in my life. There were some uncomfortable moments where I really tried to handle a lot emotionally on my own, and Joel's gentle persistence of love and presence enabled me to see how full of grace God is: His grace for us is so much more than I ever thought that it was truly overwhelming. If you're reading this and you feel like you need to handle everything on your own, consider this a friendly reminder that God has designed us to be in fellowship with other people, as well as Himself, who can reflect God's grace and truth on your life so that you may grow.

Upon returning to campus and our beloved staff team, we spent time coming up with our annual "Ebenezer," which is a list of things we are thankful for that God has done over the last year, using the example of Samuel setting up his own after Israel was saved by God from defeat by the Philistines long ago (1 Samuel 7:12). Here are some things we included:

-We thought of 7 students who prayed to receive Christ as their personal Savior this year! (We believe there were more, especially over the Spring Break trip.)

-We saw many student baptisms at our home church (City Alliance Church).

-We are sending multiple students on Summer Missions trips, both state-side and globally. (The most since pre-Covid times, which is exciting.)

-Growth in numbers and spiritual growth, particularly at Bloomsburg.

-Our beloved Noah and Rachel are expecting their first baby!

-Remembering that Ryan joined our team in August, and that we have an incoming intern raising her support this summer for the Fall (Annie).

-Remembering our extremely faithful and generous prayer and financial partners that have shown up all year, month after month asking how you can pray. So many of you reached out before, during and now after Joel and I took the time away and I cannot stress to you how often that brought us comfort. The Lord builds the house, but He uses each of us in some way to play a part in bringing His kingdom here. Thank you for being an indispensable part of our ministry!

Joel + Jenn

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 All Youth Bible Study 6:30-8PM	13	14	15 Wednesday Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18 Youth Fundraiser
19 All Youth Bible Study 6:30-8PM	20	21	22 Wednesday Bible Study	23	24	25
26 All Youth Bible Study 6:30-8PM	27	28	29 Wednesday Bible Study	30	31	

July

Birthdays

- 2 – Chuck Stuffer
- 6 - Colin Sakony
- 8 - Addie Boreman
- 13- Derek Boreman
- 14 - Christopher Holzman
- 16- William Baird
- 22 - Travis Himes
Thomas Phillips
- 26 - Dotty DiEugenio
Kathleen Himes
- 27 - Richard Nelms
- 30- Larry Stampahar

July

Anniversaries

- 1 - Joshua & Shannon Getkin
- 2- Amy & William Baird
- 5 - Barbara & Bill Callaway
- 9 - Kathleen & Ryan Himes
- 14 - Charlene & Richard Hrivnak
- 27 - Lori & Joe Gulaskey, IV
Sharon & Dave Hosaflook

Donation Station

Shoebox Project

Paddle balls + jump ropes

Loaves + Fishes

Always accepting donations!

Dream Center- McKeepsport

Household Cleaning Supplies:

- Dish liquid
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry detergent
- Comet cleanser
- Sponges
- Brillo Pads
- Toilet cleaner
- Toilet brushes
- Kitchen washcloths
- Kitchen hand towels
- Bathroom washcloths
- Bath towels

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Andy & MJ Schifino	Health Concerns	
Dawn Claar	Stage IV Cancer	Sharon Hosaflook
Steve Wutzke		
Priscilla Miller		
Denise Roberts		
Lynn Martin	Cancer	Darren Kuehn
Anthony	PT for recovery	Sue Kemper
Annie	Childhood Cancer	Pat Jackson
Paul Obermann	Recovery from surgery	The Obermann Family
Robert DeCecco	Brain Tumor	Wanda & Terry Kuehn
Helen Elliott	Lung issues	Carolyn Harbaugh
Collette Hite	Strength & guidance	self
Wynnie	Physical & Mental Concern	Sue & Mike Manovich
Jordan Casteel	Needs employment	Sharon Hosaflook
Barbara	Healing from shoulder surgery	Ruth Greer
Gary Hoverman	Stroke	Wanda Kuehn
Matt Myers	Cancer	Karen Bishop
Ickes Family	Grieving & Healing	Calvary Family
Tom Phillips	Upcoming Hip Replacement	Leslie Phillips
James Mandi	Premature baby-complications	Libby Gulaskey

Prayer Requests

James Mandi	Premature baby-complications	Libby Gulaskey
Missy P	Recurring Cancer	Kelly Stivason
Charlotte Hoener	Abdominal surgery	Annette Page
Melanie Tappe	Strength & healing	Any Cicak
Dave Cicak	Surgery	Amy Cicak
Jules Yancy	Cancer	The Kuehn's
Bradley Bowers	Cancer	The Kuehn's
Michele Hunter	Cancer	Rose Shirer
Lynn Simeoni	Cancer	Peggy Waybright
Mike Opina	Cancer	Rich Hrivnak
Sarah	Unspoken	The Wertz's
Chad Hensler	Unspoken	Kelly Stivason
Jerry Wilford	Cancer	
Lorri Nixon	Cancer/Surgery	
Lori Gulaskey	Comfort & Peace	Calvary Family
Dave Thomas	Comfort & Strength	Audrey McVeigh
Lanny Pilardi	Dementia	Charlene Hrivnak
Benita Horger	Breast Cancer	Horger Family
Scott Traverso	Cancer	The Hrivnak's
Ava Bowers	Childhood Leukemia	Terry & Wanda Kuehn
Lisa Folts		Kathy Folts
Becky	MS Progressing	Rose Shirer
Myron	Cancer	Carolyn Harbaugh
Sandy Denholm	Knee replacement recovery	self
Cathie McKinzie	Comfort and Peace	Sharon Hosaflook
John Corr	Upcoming Knee replacement	Sharon Hosaflook
Bob	Recovering from Bladder Cancer	Audrey McVeigh

Tom Harbaugh	Upcoming knee replacement surgery	Carolyn Harbaugh
Tammy Stanley	Hip surgery	Ellen Fetterman

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