

Words from Pastor Josh

September marks a transition from summer into fall. Pools close. Schools open. By the end of the month, Christmas decorations will infiltrate their way on to the shelves of every store. The change of seasons means that the year is coming to an end. Harvests will be gathered. Flowers will wither and fall. The dreariness of winter is just ahead.

In the church, the year continues with the teachings of Jesus. Each teaching gets us closer to Jerusalem. Each moment anticipates Christ's sufferings and death. Each worship reminds us that the victory is won and the end is near.

How close are we to the end? I don't know. But what I can tell you is that there are signs. Just like the closing of the pools and opening of schools marks the transition from summer to fall, the wars and rumors of wars, earth quakes, tornadoes, and other disasters, famines, pestilences, and the like all mark the changing of the seasons and Christ's imminent return.

Jesus says *"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near at the very gates (Matthew 24:32-33)."* Jesus went on to say, *"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angles of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (24:36)."* Jesus tells us to be watchful. What does that mean? Trust that in the best times or the worst times, that Christ is reigning on His throne and will come again to bring us to eternal life. He will come soon. So watch. Not with your eyes, however, rather watch with your faith. Psalm 130 says "My soul waits and in His Word I hope." This is how we ought to live every day.

The changing seasons, cool winds, chilling rains, and changing colors in the leaves let us know that winter is just around the corner and it is time to start getting our jackets out of the closet and winter clothes out storage. The evil in this world hints to us that it is important for us to keep our faith firmly on Christ. For He will redeem us all.

The world has seasons. All things pass away. Yet Jesus is constant. So as the world looks hopeless, all hope remains in Him who is constant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In His Love,

Pastor Josh

Worship Hours:

Sunday - 8:30 am

Sunday - 11:00 am

Monday - 5:30 pm

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Pastor Joshua
Obermann

Going Through the Rapids Together

I wanted to do something a little different with my newsletter article this month, and tell you a story from our summer of youth ministry. One of the highlights of our summer for me was our white-water rafting trip. We only had four youth able to come along, but we had a fantastic time and, as it turns out, more than enough adventure for a small group.

Our raft had a particularly interesting job. We were the “sweep up crew.” Our guide was responsible for keeping us behind the other rafts and being the last boat down the river, ready to pick up anyone who happened to fall out and get left behind. The last line of defense between rafters getting separated from the group.

That sounds pretty cool until you're sitting in your raft watching the boats ahead of you go through a stretch of intense rapid and watching multiple people fall out of them.

Then you realize, Oh. We're going through that in about 60 seconds.

There was one particularly memorable moment when one of our youth—who shall remain nameless—ended up out of the raft in the middle of some pretty intense rapids. As a leader, I can tell you that watching one of your kids disappear into the white water is a very effective way to make your heart stop for a moment!

Thankfully, everyone was okay. But as I've reflected on our outing, I've decided to look at this through the lens of ministry.

Sometimes we can see the rapids coming. There are seasons when we can look ahead and see that something difficult is ahead. We know the school year is beginning. We know our calendars are about to get busier. We know there will be changes, challenges, decisions, and things we can't control.

And sometimes we get to watch someone else go through the hard things.

We might think, That looks really difficult. I'm glad that's not me.

And then, a minute later, we're heading straight into the same rapids.

But the thing about that river is that we weren't alone. We had a guide who knew the river. She knew where the rocks were, where the water was moving, and what we needed to do when things got rough. And when someone fell out, the other boats didn't just keep going. They turned around. They helped. They made sure nobody was left behind.

It reminded me of the words of Isaiah:

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you." — Isaiah 43:2

God doesn't promise us that we won't encounter rapids. He doesn't promise that no one will fall out of the boat. He doesn't promise that the path ahead will always be calm.

He promises that He will be with us in the water.

And I think there's another lesson in that river for us as a church family. We aren't meant to navigate the rapids alone. Sometimes we're the ones who need someone to reach out a hand and pull us back into the boat. Sometimes we're the ones who get to be the "sweep up crew" for someone else.

As we head into a new school year and a new season of ministry, there will undoubtedly be some rapids ahead. There will be busy schedules, unexpected challenges, and moments when things don't go quite according to plan.

But we have a guide who knows the river. We have a Creator who, in His infinite knowledge created us to be in communion with one another and help each other through hard times. And we know to always listen to His voice and trust in His power to see us through.

In Christ,

Hannah Obermann

Youth & Family

All Youth Bible Study

Sundays | 6:30–8:00 PM

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!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday Nights | 5:30 PM

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!

CONFIRMATION IS BACK!

Our current Confirmation students will return to class on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:45 AM**. And there's an opportunity for new students to join us!

A new Confirmation Class will be forming for students in 5th grade and up on November 1st. Confirmation is a time to grow in faith, dig deeper into God's Word, ask questions, and learn what it means to live as a follower of Christ.

Ready to take the next step in your faith journey?
If you are interested, see Hannah.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Join us on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:45 AM** as Sunday School begins again!

All children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome to join us!
Come learn about God's Word, grow in faith, and have fun together.
We'd love to see you there!

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will start back 9/15 at 10AM in the Community Center, for now. Questions? Reach out to Kris.

Men's Bible Study

On onld a few more weeks!

Elder's Corner

Truths Jesus wants us to know in our troubles

When we or our loved ones go through our deepest troubles, what are the truths the Lord wants us to know? The following are ones I often think about. I know in his word there are many more. May you hold these truths close to your heart.

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled ... believe in God, believe also in me". (John 14:1, 27)

Do not be anxious for anything. Our Lord does not want us to be anxious. Consider your thoughts, those things that lead to your anxieties. Turn each one into a prayer whenever those thoughts arise. Let the Lord take care of them all. In his time and way, he will. (Matt 6:25, Phil 4:6-7)

Follow the Lord's direction, receive his promise: *"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"*, even rest for your souls (Matt 11:28-29). Our Lord gives us his Peace (John 14:27).

Pray and keep praying. Our Lord wants us to keep talking with Him.

Know that in our trouble, our Lord will come. Look for his coming (Psalm 121).

Know our Lord's promise, that he is always with us and watching over us. Look for his continued presence. (Psalm 121:8)

Trust in Him and do not fear. Our Lord is faithful. He's got you. He is in control.

Know the Lord is working every detail of our life for our good (Rom 8:28). He knows it all. His plans and thoughts for us are much higher than our own. We cannot always see or understand them but one day we will. In his great love he is taking care of us all.

Know you are dearly loved. Receive the fullness of God's love. The Bible has been called the most powerful and wonderful love story ever told. That love is for us. There, our Lord calls us his own children. In the Bible, we watch him love, teach, reach out, cry for, heal, restore, and save his children. Hear him as he continually speaks of and shows us the love of our Heavenly Father. Watch Jesus' journey to the cross, with the Father at his side (John 16:32), take on the consequences of our sin. Understand why he had to suffer and die. See his heart. Receive his forgiveness and love. See and experience his glorious resurrection. (John 3:16)

Know this great truth and promise, that Heaven is our eternal home and that one day Jesus promises he will one day take us there to be where he is, with our loved ones, in his paradise, forever. No matter what we face, that will always be our sure hope and our future. In our last hours, hold on to the One who holds us dearly in his arms. (John 14:2-3)

All Praise and Thanks and Love be to our Lord, always!

In our Lord's Love Always,

Bill Zachar

Hospitality and Fellowship/Evangelism

Another summer is nearing the end, and that means our committee is hard at work planning for the year ahead. We've started planning events for this fall and winter, so keep your eyes open for upcoming news and dates to mark on your calendars!

Calvary has come through in a big way once again! The Dream Center was beyond amazed and grateful for the cleaning supplies we collected in July. Every single item will be a blessing to those on limited incomes who, once food is purchased, often are not able to afford these items. So, again... THANK YOU!!!

On **Wednesday, September 9, at 10 a.m.**, we will meet to do a kitchen cleanup. We'll be cleaning, organizing, and doing an inventory of what is there and what is needed. So, if you have a bit of time to spare, we'd love to have the help!

Calvary's Oktoberfest is set for **Sunday, October 4, after the 11:00 service**. There will be delicious food and fellowship for all ages. If you have not attended this in the past, please consider joining us... it is such a great time!! Please bring along a main dish, side, or dessert.

Calvary has many great cooks and bakers and offers great company, so you'll be sure to leave with a full stomach and a happy heart! A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex soon to let us know you're coming.

We've got more fun activities coming up, which we'll be sharing info on soon... stay posted!

Blessings to all for a great fall season!

Peg & Tracy

Wrapped in Prayer: Notes of Thanks

PRAYER SHAWLS are available for anyone in need of comfort, hope, peace, love and are a reminder of God's blessings and that someone is praying for them. If you know of someone in need, speak to Lori Gulaskey, Carolyn Harbaugh or Ruth Greer.

Notes recently received:

"Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I want to thank you all so much for the beautiful prayer shawl you made for me. I will always cherish it. It does bring me comfort during this difficult time. Thank you for your support and kindness"

With Gratitude and Love,
Sona

"The shawl is beautiful. Thanks for everything. Your thoughtfulness means so much, more than words can ever say."

Love,
Kayla & Aiden

"Thank you for the beautiful shawls I received from Calvary's Prayer Shawl Ministry. The shawls are a reminder to us that we have many special friends at Calvary. We especially desire your prayers for us as we draw closer to being in heaven with Jesus."

Love & God's Blessings,
Ken & Charlotte Hoener

The Shibatas

It's finally August! This means busy-yes-but also means surrendering anew to God's love, power and will as our staff team and our family trust Him to welcome back our students who we've learned to love and especially new students who have yet to find community. Each year we (Joel and I) are reminded that we have a very narrow window of time to help connect new students to healthy community, remind them they are loved, and ultimately to Jesus.



As our family gears up for school (we have one child in each school from pre-school up to high school now-and TJ has begun driving this summer! Prayers appreciated!), Fall sports and more, we also begin meeting with our staff team to pray, plan and hold each other accountable to God's grace in this adventure we've come to know as college ministry. It's the same, and yet so different each year. We just talked at our annual staff retreat about how excited we are to see what the Lord will do. This year we are so glad to have welcomed Annie Perry onto our team as a full-time intern, which will be awesome to have anyways, but it will be a huge help later this semester as our other married couple (Noah and Rachel Hess) are expecting their baby girl in September! Additionally, we have Joel as a full-time staff and myself and Ryan Park as part-time staff here.

As we show up to Penn College on August 17th, Bloomsburg University and Lycoming College on the 24th, and push to meet as many new students while connecting with our student leaders as much as possible, we recognize over and over again that these movements are not ours. They do not belong to us and we cannot take any credit for any success we feel we may have achieved. As a team, we keep referencing Psalm 127: "Unless the LORD builds the house, it's builders labor in vain..." Without Him, we would not be here, and without Him, all earthly successes perish and what remains is nothing. But as we have witnessed, when we allow room for the Holy Spirit to work, for the truth of God to remain clear, and as we consider ourselves mere vessels of His love, what remains lasts forever.

I believe I've said this before but it's always worth stating again: we have seen the LORD steadfastly build His kingdom here on earth through students and laborers yes, but also equally through the prayers and gifts of His saints who want to see the Light of Jesus resound through the Susquehanna Valley and into the world. That is you! Thank you for lifting up our family, our staff team, and our students so faithfully and for allowing Him to build YOUR house. We think of you with gratitude as we begin our 2026-27 school year!

Joel + Jenn

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Closed! No Services	8	9 Kitchen Cleaning 10AM Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	10	11	12
13 Sunday School & Confirmation Classes Begin! 9:45AM	14	15 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	16 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	17	18	19
20	21	22 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	23 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM	24	25	26
27	28 CELC Fundraiser Crusin' with CELC	29 Ladies Bible Study 10AM	30 Wednesday Night Bible Study 5:30PM			

September

Birthdays

- 5 - Libby Gulaskey
- 7 - Pastor Weeks
- 9 - Sean Ickes
- 11 - David Adamson
Shirley Zachar
- 16- Poppy Obermann
- 17 - Lori Gulaskey
Tony Laurito
- 20 - Hayden Emanuele
- 22 - Paula Schade
- 23 - Amanda Henry
- 26- Sharon Hosaflook
- 29 - Michelle Fischer

Septemeber

Anniversaries

- 5 - Dorothy & Frank DiEugenio
- 12 - Flo and Richard Nelms
- 14 - Melissa & Derek Boreman
- 19 - Teresa & William Crossland
- 21 - Jessica & Mario Vendetti
- 25 - Barb & Chuck Stuffer
- 29 - Stefani & Chris Schneider
- 30 - Diane & Don Corbett

Donation Station

Shoebox Project

Jump Ropes + Paddle Balls

Loaves + Fishes

Always accepting donations!

Prayer Requests

Name:	Reason:	Submitted by:
Jules Yancy	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	
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
John Corr	Recovering from knee replacement	Sharon Hosaflook
Tom Harbaugh	Recover from knee surgery	Carolyn Harbaugh
Tammy Stanley	Hip surgery	Ellen Fetterman
Jon Pingel	Achilles tendon surgery	Sue Kemper
Tim Greer	Recovery from ACL and	Ruth Greer
Bob	Serious Health Concerns	Karen Wertz
Judy Anderson	Death of uncle	Paula Schade
Louise	Surgery	Paula Schade

Prayer Requests

Jim Queen	Serious Dirt Bike Accident	The Wertz's
Bill Nelson	Cancer (healing)	Bill Zachar
Steve Meredith	Brain Tumor (surgery 8/4)	Rose Shirer
Judy Hess	Rare autoimmune disorder	Carolyn Harbaugh
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	Strength & Healing	The Obermann Family
Robert DeCecco	Brain Tumor	Wanda & Terry Kuehn
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
Tom Phillips	Upcoming Hip Replacement	Leslie Phillips
Charlotte Hoener	Recovery & Strength	Calvary Family
Melanie Tappe	Strength & healing	Amy Cicak
Dan Pepock	Serious Health Concerns	Sona Adamson
Ashley Hite-Glaser	Expecting 1st child (Jan)	Collete Hite

Prayer Requests

Bob	Strength during chemo	Audrey McVeigh
Heather Gardner	Cancer	Darren & Heather Kuehn
Missy P.	Cancer	Kelly Stivason
Pat Jackson	Leg infection	Paula Jackson
Kathy Handley	Knee problems	Peggy Waybright

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

Our Shut-Ins: Kitty Skaritka, Gloria Batchner, George & Donna
Campagne, Peg Schultz, Rheita Fisher, Frank DiEugenio