

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church*Rooted in the Past; Sheltering the Present; Reaching Out to the Future; Empowered by the God of the Ages*

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Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Virginia

Rev. Matthew A. Diehl, Pastor (mtcalrev@shentel.net)

Members of Mount Calvary, Ministers



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 5

During the worship service on All Saints Sunday – Sunday, November 5 – Mount Calvary will remember our members, our family, and our friends who entered the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints Sunday (November 6, 2022). If you would like to have a family member or friend remembered during the November 5 worship service, place the name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. You may also call or email the church office with the information: 540-477-2421; mcoffice@shentel.net.

Following worship Sunday, November 19, our Youth invite you to enjoy table service at their Annual Spaghetti Dinner. A freewill offering will provide a salad, beverage, bread, spaghetti with sauce, and dessert. The dinner's proceeds support the Youths' shopping for Christmas gifts for a local family.

The always exciting baked goods auction will follow the dinner. Come prepared to bid for tasty treats provided by Mount Calvary's cooks and bakers! Funds raised through the auction support Youth events, their attendance at Synod functions, and other activities.



Community Thanksgiving Service

November 19
7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 Sunday evening, November 19, you are invited to join the Mt. Jackson community in Union Church for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. This ecumenical worship is organized through the cooperation of Brighter Days Bible Church, Mount Calvary, Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and St. Mary's (Pine) Lutheran Church. Special music will be provided by the Shenandoah Singers community chorus. An offering will be received to benefit an area service organization.

Begin your observance of Thanksgiving by

gathering with members of our community to worship and give thanks within the charming and historic setting of Union Church.



FROM PASTOR DIEHL...

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear friends in Christ,

Let me begin by expressing gratitude to you all for your many kindnesses in observance of Pastor's Appreciation month in October. Please know that everything was very much appreciated. It remains a privilege to live and serve among you. 😊

And now ... happy November! At the end of this month, we will celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving. As we think about Thanksgiving, I have a question: "How can we cultivate a practice of being thankful?"

Take the brief survey below. Circle "True" or "False" for each question. Let's see how you do!

1. God hears me speak "Thank you, Lord" too many times. *True False*
2. Other people hear me speak words of "Thanks" often. *True False*
3. I usually hear more complaining throughout the day than not. *True False*
4. I sometimes, or usually, can catch myself complaining. *True False*
5. Complaining can be "catchy". *True False*
6. It is less enjoyable to be around people who complain a lot. *True False*
7. When I hear others complain, I think they could have it worse. *True False*
8. Some people just can't help themselves from not complaining. *True False*
9. "Church people" seem to complain less. *True False*

Many cancer survivors might share that among the lessons cancer has taught them, one would be to count their blessings every day. With that sentiment in mind, how would you respond to these questions?

- How often do you thank God for the goodness in your life?
- Do you "by nature" have a tendency to complain? ... much? ... too much?
- Is there a connection between possessing a sense of thankfulness and showing appreciation for others?
- Do you have a tendency to take too many blessings for granted?

Every day there are many reasons to be thankful, but instead, often we complain. We whine about the world's ills instead of praising the God who is over it all. We forget what it is like to wander hungry in the wilderness of our discontent.

If you were to make a list, what would be the various types of complaints you make or hear from others? How long do you think that list would be? Could you go an entire day without complaining? ... a week? Who are the people you hear complain frequently? What factors would contribute to such complaining? And, conversely, who are the people you seldom hear complain? Again, what factors influence this trait? Of course, some people have a "right" to complain about certain things. Perhaps life has been anything but fair to them. Can you think of situations where this might be the case?

So, perhaps if we could practice "thankfulness" more regularly it would become a habit. True or deep enjoyment in life begins with thankfulness to God and others for all the love and blessings we receive in relationship with them. I hope you and I can nurture a prayer life of thankfulness. I hope you and I can extend gratitude toward others for the positive impact they make in our lives.

Friends, may God's blessings be with us all as we cultivate thankfulness in this month of harvest and thanksgiving. Thank you for all you do for Mount Calvary Lutheran Church and for your partnership in the Gospel. May you find great joy and peace as you cultivate thankfulness and may you cherish those special traditions with family and friends gathered around gracious and bounteous tables later this month.

In the spirit of thanksgiving,



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Congregation Council met Monday evening, October 16, with the following members and staff present: Pastor Diehl, Heather Diehl (Secretary), C.J. Frye, Bill Holtzman, Anabel Jimenez Luna (MCELC Co-Director), Randy and Phyllis Richards, Jessica Rinker (MCELC Co-Director), Roger Rudy, and Laura Ryman. Council members Pat Holleman, Steve Povlish, and Eli Proctor were unable to attend. A summary of Council sharing and decision-making includes the following:

- The ELC Co-Directors reported an enrollment of 45 children, an increase of 5 children since the September report. The Center has also received 17 inquiries regarding childcare. Two new staff members – Jenny Caldwell and Kyrsten Alkire – have been hired to fill vacancies left by two teachers who left the Center. The Center will hold a Halloween Open House Monday evening, October 30, 6:00-7:30 and a candle fundraiser in November. During November, Virginia Department of Education staff will observe ELC's classroom instruction and activities.
- The Christian Education report noted the participation of children in Sunday morning's Children's Church and the start of Confirmation Classes for three youngsters.
- Property Committee chair, C.J. Frye, reported the cleaning of the church's mini-split AC systems and explained that service to the boiler is planned and will be covered by a service contract recently entered into with the company. The newly acquired AED unit will soon be installed in the hallway between the sanctuary building and parish hall.
- Pastor noted these upcoming Youth activities: "Trunk or Treat" (10/31) and the Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Auction (11/19).
- C.J. explained that the Outreach Ministry Taskforce will be exploring volunteer opportunities within the community that can be met through church members. He also noted increasing activity on the church's *Facebook* page and the addition of *Instagram* to our social media presence. He shared additional information regarding "Tithely.com" as a means to offer the option of online giving to the church family.
- "Old Business" included Council members' review of a revised draft of a "Congregation Disaster Preparedness Plan" which reflected edits recommended during discussions of the plan at the September meeting. The final version of this plan will be presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting in February 2024.
- In other "Old Business," C.J. explained that two contractors were to prepare cost estimates for the renovation of the parsonage's downstairs bathroom. The estimates have not yet been received.
- Under "New Business," Laura Ryman invited Council members and church family members to brainstorm ideas for creating a useable space in the area between the sanctuary building and the parish hall.

Prayer works!

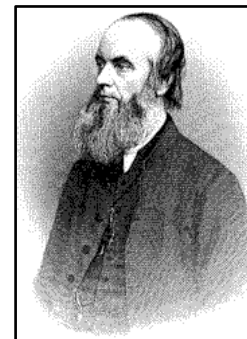
Thank you for thinking of me in your prayers. My faith is in the Lord and I look to him during difficult times. Having so many people praying for me brings me joy. I thank God for my friends and family while facing an uncertain future. I am taking each day one at a time and relying on our heavenly Father.

Bonnie Andes (Buddy Polk's sister)



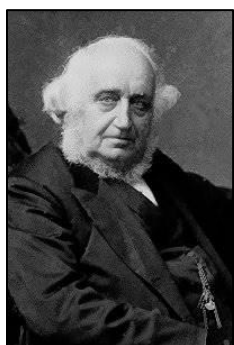
A Hymn Story: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

The words of the hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" are from Englishman Henry Alford (1810-1871). Ordained in 1833, Alford began his ministry as a curate, an assistant to the priest of an Episcopal parish. His ministry culminated in his serving as Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. As evidenced by his obviously successful career, Henry was fully dedicated to service in the Church, a desire he demonstrated early in his life, writing in his Bible at age 16:



I do this day in the presence of God and my own soul renew my covenant with God and solemnly determine henceforth to become his and to do his work as far as in me lies.

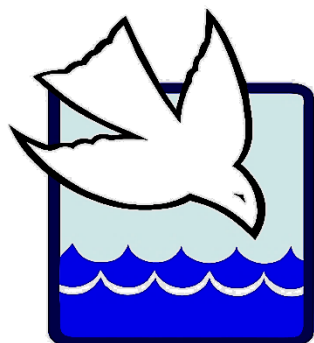
Hymnody was one of Henry Alford's many interests. He translated and composed a number of hymns which he published in three collections, including *Psalms and Hymns* in 1844. It is in this collection that "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" first appears under the title "After Harvest." Of the hymn's original seven verses, only four remain in general use.



"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is sung to a tune named *ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR* composed by George Job Elvey (1816-1893). Born into a musical family, George's music training began early as a boy singing in the boys' choir of Canterbury Cathedral where he also received formal training in the Cathedral School and later at the Royal Academy of Music and Oxford University. At nineteen, he was appointed "master of the boys" and organist at Windsor's St. George's Chapel where he served for almost 50 years. The tune's name is obviously in recognition of Elvey's long tenure at St. George's Chapel.

A TABLE GRACE FOR THANKSGIVING

Lord God, our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate this day of Thanksgiving. We come to this table with joy, for we are truly grateful for all you have given us and thank you for the great generosity of your many gifts. We also thank each other for gifts – the gifts of the love and the affection we share. We give thanks for each person present here today as well as for those whose presence fills our hearts. Grant your blessings to all those who labored in any way to bring this food to our table. Now, bless this meal and all of us who shall share it. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.



This month these members of our church family can celebrate their baptism anniversary and their entry into the family of God.

Zach Povlish	November 7	Max Povlish	November 18
Rhonda Bowers	November 9	Bekka Bodanske	November 26
Michael Funkhouser	November 13	Debbie Price	November 28

Sunday Scripture Readings for November



November 5 – All Saints Sunday

First Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
Psalms	Psalms 34:1-10, 22
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12

November 12 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading	Amos 5:18-24
Psalms	Psalms 70
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel	Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalms	Psalms 90:1-12
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel	Matthew 25:14-30

November 26 – Christ the King

First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalms	Psalms 95:1-7a
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46

Three Mount Calvary scholars have been awarded Mount Calvary Scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year. A check in the amount of \$1,000 has been sent to the institution where each of the following is completing studies:

Ben Diehl (Pittsburgh Technical College)
Steve Povlish (United Lutheran Seminary)
Sarah Ryman (Laurel Ridge Community College)

SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to each of these individuals. We wish them continued success in their studies.



In November, it's time to

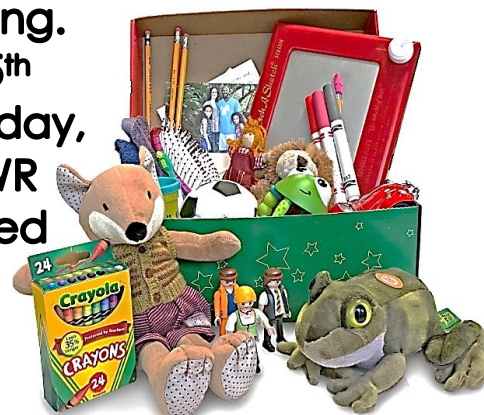
Stuff the Shoeboxes

with all the goodies we've collected over the past nine months! This is another fun part of this ministry. As you

fill your shoebox, you get to choose the toys, crafty items, t-shirts, socks, little books, puzzles, and other surprises you think will be enjoyed by the boy or girl who will open the shoebox you're holding.

We will fill shoeboxes following the November 5th worship service. These gifts will be blessed on Sunday, November 12th, before sending them off to the LWR warehouse. A special offering will also be collected that Sunday to support the cost of placing the shoeboxes into the hands of many boys and girls.

Thank you for your care and support of



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

Early Learning Center News



Greeting, Friends!

We are so very pleased to say that we have been adding many children to the Center family. Thank you to the church family and the Center's current families for sharing your kind words about MCELC in the community. We have had seven new little friends join us in the past two weeks.



This month, the learning theme for our children is "Explore the Rainforest." Each week, they will learn about the parts of a rainforest: the "Forest Floor Layer," the "Emergent Layer," the "Understory Layer," and the "Canopy Layer."

MCELC's candle fundraiser featuring Star Valley scented candles will be held Monday, November 6, through Tuesday, November 22. If you would like to order candles, please let Anabel or Jessica know and we will get you a form.



MCELC will be participating in Mt. Jackson's Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 25. MCELC's Christmas Program will be presented on Tuesday evening, December 5, 7:00.

This month, two of our children will celebrate a birthday: Norah (11/17) and Estella (11/26).



As always, many thanks to ELC Board members and the Mount Calvary church family for your continued support.

Blessings,
Anabel and Jessica

Glorify God, honor a loved one, family member, or friend, and add to the beauty of our sanctuary at Christmas through the dedication of a Christmas poinsettia.



An order form accompanies this newsletter. Forms are also available in the narthex. Poinsettia orders (\$12 per plant) are due in the church office by Sunday, December 12.



Sincere thanks for all the well wishes following my surgery. I appreciate the calls, cards, food, transportation, and especially your prayers. I have been blessed by the care and concern of so many.

Shirley L. Minnick

Church Family Birthdays

November

- 1 William Henry Holtzman
- 2 Marvin Polk, III
- 3 Beth Davis
- 6 Bekka Bodanske
- 6 Hunter Downey
- 6 Melinda Monroe
- 7 Raymond Rudy, IV
- 12 Edward Estep
- 12 Madlyn Estep
- 14 Gale Downey
- 16 Donald Spiggle, Jr.
- 17 Kelly Pence
- 23 Virginia Lloyd
- 26 Gale Goodwin

December

- 2 Lisa Miller
- 2 Susan Roden
- 9 Pam Ryman
- 16 Richard Minnick, II
- 18 Lukas Fultz
- 22 Leah Diehl
- 22 Patricia Miller
- 25 Jesus of Nazareth
- 27 Jerry Downey
- 27 Katrina Gerald
- 27 Waylon Richards
- 28 Gerald Pence
- 29 Craig Richards

COMING SOON



Sundays of Advent
December 3, 10, 17, & 24



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Children's
Christmas Program



Sunday, December 24
10:30 a. m.



Christmas Eve
Worship
Sunday, December 24

Music Prelude - 8:30 p.m.

Worship - 9:00 p.m.

In our prayers for healing, let us remember

our members:

- ♥ Terry and Gloria Chambers ♥ Delores McDonald
- ♥ Tommy Frye ♥ Pat Funkhouser ♥ Frances Gerow
- ♥ Bill Holtzman ♥ Paul Ryman ♥ Mickey Williams



and our family and friends:

- ♥ Bonnie Andes, sister of Buddy Polk ♥ Guy Baker, neighbor of the Diehls and Pifers
- ♥ Earl Carter, brother-in-law of Roger Rudy ♥ Ken Chambers, son of Terry and Gloria Chambers ♥ Meghan Earls, daughter of Amy Proctor's friend, Bonnie Stultz
- ♥ Clarence Fansler, neighbor of Mary Ann Mahoney ♥ Kathy Fadely, neighbor of Kay Whetzel ♥ Jakob Fultz, son of Charlie Fultz, grandson of Judy Fultz ♥ Sue Gelosh, sister of Steve Povlish ♥ Ralph George, brother-in-law of Donnie Pifer ♥ Tom Hensley, brother of Pat Holleman ♥ William Jennings, brother of Jessie McIntosh, uncle of Noel Frye ♥ Anna Jermstad, friend of Karen Estep ♥ Barbie Kipps, aunt of Kris Long ♥ Norman Koch, cousin of Karen Estep ♥ Ann Laing, sister of Barb Pifer
- ♥ Diane Lonas, mother-in-law of Joel Miller ♥ Barbara McDonald, aunt of Lisa McDonald Miller ♥ Jessie McIntosh, mother of Noel Frye ♥ Patricia Miller, daughter-in-law of Anita Miller ♥ Jerry Painter, friend of Linda G. Tilley ♥ Jay Palmer, friend of Roger Rudy ♥ Bob Perry, friend of G.B., Susan, and Adam Foltz ♥ Linda Ryman, sister of Paul Ryman ♥ Gillian Shirkey, grand-daughter of Rick and Yvonne Lytton ♥ Neil Showalter, friend of Donnie Pifer, Judy Fultz, and Roger Rudy ♥ Tammy Sibert, friend of Kay Whetzel ♥ Kelly Spitzer, co-worker of Crystal Minnick ♥ Mike and Beau Steadman, nephews of Diana Steadman ♥ Tomasina Stephon, friend of Karen Estep
- ♥ Mark Tavenner, friend of Pat Holleman ♥ Jimmy Zerkel, friend of Barb Pifer

To be faithful, prayer requests should be fresh and active, and so we ask that you keep the church office informed of health situation changes at least every 30 days. Please notify the office of any changes or updates to our Prayer List. (540-477-2421; mcoffice@shentel.net)



Reflections of Mount Calvary

September 24
[Outdoor Service]

October 1

October 8

October 15

October 22
[Homecoming]

AVERAGES

Faith Formation Attendance		Sunday Worship Attendance	Offering Received*
[n/a]		43	\$1,504
7		36	\$2,340
Adlt/Yth - 7	JAM - 11	31	\$1,905
3		41	\$5,381
[n/a]		50	\$2,308
Adlt/Yth - 5.7	JAM - [11]	40.2	\$2,687.60

*Budget needs per week: \$3,676