Mt. Calvary Messenger

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Pastor's Column

> *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* 2 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* 3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.* 4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."* **Revelation 21:1-4** (ESV)

The vision is glorious.

I'm taking time from my recent series of columns on passages I share during visits, to set this before you because we all need the reminder from time to time.

We need reminding that this world we live in now is not forever. We need reminding that a new day is coming.

Three things to note.

One: because a new day is coming, the politics of this present age are not the ultimate story. I say that because, if you listen to or read much of the popular media, you would get the impression that hope for the future rises or falls with the fortunes of this political party or that. It does not.

Our hope for the future is rooted in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return in glory. Because of what He, as God in our flesh, has accomplished, the whole cosmos will be restored and reconciled to the Father, and all the effects of sin and death will come to an end. Once again we will find ourselves welcomed into the visible presence of God to live with Him, and all His people, in perfect peace and joy. And because we know that is coming, by God's almighty working of all things, we don't have to trying to make everything in this world perfect now by our machinations. Even if we put all our effort into trying to create an earthly utopia, we'd fail because we still struggle daily with sin, the enemy still prowls, and the creation is still broken.

Now this doesn't mean that politics don't matter. As a good stewards of God's varied gifts, we are called here, in the United States, to exercise our privilege to participate in the political process by trying to do what serves our neighbor. I don't exercise my vote for my own interests, I use it for what will uphold justice, bring about the good for my neighbor, create a more equitable civil life, and secure the good for generations to come.

But I don't despair if elections don't go the way I wish - for I know there is a greater power at work in the world, and that all things are move toward the day when all will be made new.

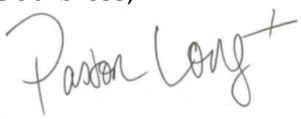
Two: this knowledge gives us peace. I read a silly article (there are other adjectives that could be used to describe it, but we are called to charity in all things) the other day that suggested those who believe in a "world to come" are more dangerous to society that those who believe this life is the only life we get. The "logic" the writer employed was this: the author claimed that if one believes this is the only life we get, that will motivate a person to be as careful with her/his life as possible, and will motivate a person to try to make this present world the best it can be since that is all we have. On the other hand, the writer claimed that belief in an afterlife left people open to fanaticism (I'll do whatever it takes to get to the afterlife), carelessness (it doesn't matter what happens to me know since it will all be okay come the end), and neglect of civic duty (since God will fix everything come the end, I don't have to worry about it now).

As you can tell, the author is completely unfamiliar with legitimate religious faith. What we understand is that the promise of the new heavens and earth that comes from God's grace in Christ frees us from fanaticism, since the glory of the age to come will arrive regardless of what I do, and I don't have to "do" anything to be a part of it. Hope for a future in Christ actually frees us to care for others now, regardless of the personal cost to us, since we know that God will bring about a final reconciliation of all things. There is no loss we experience in this life that will not be overcome in the restored creation. And, as already noted, because we are stewards of God's good gifts now, and know what is promised to us in Christ, we are free do our civic duty without worrying about the results. It is a joy to serve.

Three: we can live now in anticipation of what is to come. St. Paul tells us that we are already citizens of the coming kingdom – which means we can live in its light, and by its laws, rather than according to the course of this world.

Things will get hard between now and that Day. But it is coming. It is closer now than when we first believed. So, Rejoice! And in Christ live in hope.

God bless,



Pr. Long

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4. Miracle Peyton
8. Lorie Livingston
9. Cooper Dorsey
   Paul Fager
   Nathan Terpening
   Ataya Watkins-Morrow
   Amanda (Wilson) Carpenter
10. Christy Browning
11. Anna Larson
13. Gary Ruckle
14. Jonah Bloom
17 Ella Ruskusky
19. Jarrod Horman
   Payton Ruskusky
20. Liam Adcock
   Roger Hoffman
22. Marilyn Miller
26. Douglas Hoffman
28. Alice Johnston
29. Benjamin Maske
   Edward Kang
30. Jay Manthey

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8. Mark & Rebekah Negley
10. Nathan & Rachel Terpening,
12. David & Jan Heien
15. Brandon & Cheryl Zeone
21 Keith & Linda Crook
26. Joshua & Michelle Crosiar
26. Megan & Zachary Kovash
28 Jake & Kathy Kircher

ALTAR FLOWERS

November 1—Tom & Vicky Brosowske

November 8 – Linda Khattar

November 15—David & Jan Heien

November 22—Lee Mauschbaugh

November 29—Theresa Johnston

NOVEMBER COUNTERS

Doug Hoffman & Kim Beenders

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NOTES

November 1 – All Saints' Day
Psalm 149; Revelation 7:2-17
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1—12

November 8 -- 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 70; Amos 5:18-24;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 90:1-12; Zephaniah 1:7-16;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 – Last Sunday of the Church Year
Psalm 95:1-7a; Ezekiel 34:11-16;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew25:31-46

November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent
Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 11:1-10

Elders:
November 1 – Daniel Keehner

November 8 – Phil King

November 15 – Tom Brosowske

November 22 – Daniel Keehner

November 29 – Dr. Joel Eckert

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY – Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of:

- ✞ Sandra Purtcher, mother of Debbie Hoffman, grandmother to Kyle and Emma Hoffman, who was called to her eternal rest on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Services were held on Saturday October 10, 2026.
- ✞ Lorrie Kaspar, who was called to her eternal rest on October 17, 2026. Services will be held at Visitation at 9:15am, services at 10:00am Monday, November 2, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph, Peoria.
- ✞ Ken Warren, brother of Carol Wessler, who died unexpectedly this last week.
- ✞ Jocelyn Cornelius, daughter-in-law of Lisa Cornelius, wife to Brett.

May their families find comfort, hope, and peace in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Notes: Folks have asked from time to time "who all are we praying for?" Here's a partial list with reference to their relation to the congregation. **If you know of anyone who needs to be added, or who can be removed, please let Pr. Long or Judy know. Help us keep the list manageable!**

- Jacob Achterberg – nephew to Linda Khattar
- Phyllis Basquin – mother to Luann Claudin
- Ethan Saunders – grandson to Roger and Carole Hoffman
- Gail and Jonathan von Holten – friends of Jessica Horman
- Pr. Hoech & Ivy – our "TIM" partners
- Dave Maxwell – husband to Tina
- Pr. Glenn Niemann – circuit pastor, disability
- Jonathan Stutz – grandson to Donna
- Maureen Leuba – Concordia parent
- Christiane Ramahi – member
- Yasmin Ramahi – daughter to Christiane
- Eric Puterbaugh – friend of a member
- Michael Teeter – friend to Long Family
- Dale Warren –
- Cathy Lenz – sister to Paula Horst
- Jennifer Lenz – Cathy's daughter, niece to Paula & Jerry
- Alex Zook – grandson of Barb Zook
- Faith Zook – granddaughter of Barb Zook
- Jenna Zook – granddaughter of Barb Zook
- Josh Crosiar – member
- Anne Maske - member
- Steve Brinkmann – son to Vonnie
- Braylynn Davis – friend to Brill family
- Steve Brown – family to Josh and Michelle Joseph
- Gordon Dupres – family to Kate Auer
- Shane Cremeens – brother to Brande Ruskusky
- Lil Mulvaney – friend to Pauli family
- Ginny Preston – friend to LaVelle Borders
- Clara Riddick – friend to Brill family
- Max Wessler – father-in-law to Carol Wessler
- Bill & Pam Barr – members
- Megan Primmer – cousin to Ginger Abel
- Kenneth Garner – acquaintance of Jan Pacey (Phyllis Knebel's daughter)
- Rod Pauli – member, son to Carolyn
- Gloria Teeter – friend to Long Family
- Mark Buettner – associate of Carol Wessler
- Tamesha Gates – friend to Szold family
- Sandra Boyer – daughter of food pantry contributor
- Mark Leon – brother-in-law to Sue Leon
- Shirley King – mother to Phil King
- Rebecca Sierra – friend to Linda Khattar
- Kris Taylor – Josh Joseph's aunt
- Delcie Lane – member
- Mark Manthey – member
- Sherry Emberton – Vonnie Brinkmann's sister
- Earl Boyett – father of Theresa Brusick
- Sharon Rumbold – member at Bethel, Morton, occasional organist for us
- Luann and Shelby Cooper – members
- Victoria Buschard – family of Michael Marshall
- Cheryl – friend to Linda Khattar
- Jenny & Olivia Bradley – family to Lynn Laredo
- Theo Norman – member, child of Cole and Brooke
- Becky Richards – mother of Kim Carver
- Daryl Claudin – member
- Natalie Brusick – Daughter-in-law to Chris & Theresa
- Deb Alig – co-worker of Theresa Johnston
- Carol Loughridge – member
- Harriet Caughey – member
- Maureen and children – extended family to Roger & Carole Hoffman
- Teresa Kerrick –
- Pr. Drews – Pastor at Trinity, Pekin
- PJ Comacho – friend to Mark Manthey
- Lorie Livingston – wife to Ty
- Patty Caughey – member
- Linda Perrone – friend to Patty Caughey
- Jessica Horman - member

PRAYER LIST CONT.

- Elizabeth Auer – military, daughter to Doug
- Tomi – mother to Chris Brusick
- Diane Norris – friend of member
- Ginny & Marty Liex – friends to LaVelle Borders
- Ann Jacobson – sister-in-law to Carolyn Pauli
- Hugh – friend of member
- Vonnie Brinkmann – member
- Carolyn Pauli – member
- Jane Wood – mother to Sherri Long
- Ryan & Carol Stetzler – friends of Kate Auer
- Sue Elder – friend of Theresa Johnston
- Tricia Smith – sister to Marcia Riddle
- Chris Walker – brother-in-law to Vicky Jones
- Brett Parrott – Erin's brother-in-law
- Paul Fager – member
- Diane Freeman – member
- Dan Moran – Judy Norman's brother
- Bev Hoffman – niece to Gordon
- JayCee Grier
- Norah Rossman – friend to Riebel family
- Nan Borunda – sister to Lou Ann Cooper
- Chris Pacey – son to Jan Pacey (daughter of Phyllis Knebel)
- Donna Kirkman – sister to Lynn Laredo
- Ilsa Adams – stepmother to Lynn Laredo
- Robert Marshall – father to Michael Marshall
- David Heien – member
- Ross Pauli – son of Carolyn
- Gary Ruckle - member
- Trinity Foote – Keith & Linda Crook's granddaughter
- Sherri Crosiar – Josh's mother
- Denise Shivers – member
- Jane Millard – visitor
- "Nylon" – visitor at Food Pantry
- Cisneros Family – friends of a member
- Joel Barr – Bill & Pam Barr's son
- Ruth and Richard Boch –
- Wendy Mirretti -Mother-in-law to Bronwyn (Beenders) Mirretti
- Vanessa Ruckle – member
- Nancy O'Brian – niece to Pam Barr
- Jim Smith – brother to Marcia Riddle
- Lee Mauschbaugh – member
- Jim Brosowske – Tom's brother
- Larry Frank – member
- Jim Yaworski – brother-in-law to Tom Brosowske
- Hazel Krenzke – daughter of Dcs. Christine
- Cindy Niebur – niece to Barb Zook
- Julie Riddle – daughter-in-law to Marcia
- Conner Brinkmann – grandson to Vonnie
- Joe Leon – husband to Susie
- Kathleen Tagge – daughter-in-law to Kate Auer
- Sandy Willaims-McFarlane – member
- Jonathan Tagge – member
- Rev. Larry & Pat Goetz – friends of the congregation
- Larry Traub – member
- Michelle Teel – sister to Vicky Brosowske
- Gale Brill – father to Owen & Sydney
- Robert Grinslade – member
- Zeke Garrison – (military), Grandson to Gary & Kim Beenders
- Gary Beenders – member
- Shay Wright – former member
- Beth Martin – cousin to Cheryl Riebel
- John Bremer – brother to Jan Heien
- David Auer & daughter – son of Doug
- Jennifer Sarver – friend to Brandt Barr
- Mike O'Brian – cousin to Pam Barr
- Keith Crook – member
- Theresa Fitzgerald – niece to Vonnie Brinkmann
- Pr. Karl Eckhoff – Pastor, Christ Lutheran, Peoria
- Carol DeJarnett – member
- Kayla Carver – member
- Bob Vespa – father-in-law to Jennifer (Benne) Vespa

Attendance		Com.	Offering
October 4	**88**	**60**	**$5,593.12**
October 11	**69**	**12**	**$4,146.60**
October 18	**72**	**56**	**$1,650.00**
October 25	**82**	**63**	**$3,495.00**
		Total offering	**$14,884.72**

IN HIS SERVICE:

Officers of Congregation:
Pastor: The Rev. Barry Long

Secretary: Mrs. Judy Honig

Concordia School Principal:
Ms. Emily Craine

Congregational Officers:
Chairman: Jerry Horst
Vice Chairman: David Heien
Secretary: Judy Honig
Treasurer: Carol Wessler
Financial Secretary:
Theresa Johnston

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
Concordia School Board:
Kelly Eckert & Erin Green

Concordia Foundation:
Eileen Benne & Connie Kissner

Concordia Trustees:
Jarrod Horman

IN HIS SERVICE: (Cont.)
Boards of Mt. Calvary:

Board of Education:
Teresa Brusick & Paula Horst

Board of Elders:
(Families under each Elder's Care)

Adcock - Brusick	Tom Brosowske
Carver – Grinslade	Phil King
Hamm – Kissner	Daniel Keehner
Lampton – Norman	Gary Beenders
Parrott-Zook	Dr. Joel Eckert

Board of Evangelism:
Dormant

Board of Long Range Planning
Dormant

Board of Property:
Chris Brusick, Lisa Cornelius
Vicky Brosowske, Jarrod Horman

Board of Stewardship:
Theresa Johnston, Kim Beenders
Ashley Gavic, Brett Hammer

Other Committees

Memorials & Special Gifts:
LaVelle Borders & Eileen Benne

Altar Guild:
Co-Chairmen – Abbie Matson & Linda Khattar
Secretary: Lisa Cornelius
Treasurer – Dawn Henderson

Sunday School:
Pre-School – 1st Grade –
Linda Crook & Linda Khattar
2nd – 5th Grades
Teresa Brusick & Kelly Eckert
6th Grade – High School –
Paula Horst & Tom Brosowske

CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

✞ **Youth Sunday School Classes**. – **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS HERE!** And with a new season, we're changing up the format. We will now offer Sunday School for ages pre-K through Jr. High on the ***second Sunday*** of each month. The Sunday School hour will include a lesson, snacks, an activity, and fellowship. This is a great opportunity for our younger members to grow in faith, knowledge, and community. So, come join us! **Our next meeting day will be next Sunday, November 8th.** The class is from 10:30-11:30 am in the church basement.

✞ **Sunday Morning Adult Class – The Lord's Prayer from the Small Catechism with Explanation** Join us as we explore the privilege of Prayer. Just what is prayer? What are we to pray for? We'll take up these questions and a host of others as we explore the Catechism together. **Meets in the Parish Hall at 10:30 am.**

✞ **Men's Bible Study -- The Augsburg Confession**: While the 95 Theses often are credited with getting the Reformation "started," the document that gave the "Evangelische" Church (as opposed to the "Catholische" Church) its distinct shape was the Augsburg Confession of 1530. The Holy Roman Emperor called the teachers and leaders of the evangelical churches to present their confession of faith at Augsburg so that it could be examined and judged. The document they presented stresses the common ground shared between the Evangelicals and Catholics, while at the same time marking the areas of disagreement. The "Augustana" remains one of the confessions that Lutherans around the globe share in common. Join as we read through this confession and explore its riches. **Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am at Gebby's Family Restaurant, 726 East War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights.**

✞ **Thursday Lunch Together and Bible Study** – We're reading the Gospel according to St. Luke. Trained as a physician, Luke is inspired to give an orderly account of Jesus' work so that all who hear can be "certain" of the things in which they have been catechized. He emphasizes the universality of God's grace in Christ, the completeness of the forgiveness that Jesus won for all, and Christ as the seeker of the lost and lowly. **We meet in the Parish Hall for lunch at 12:00 pm and Bible Study at 12:30 pm. Come, join us!**

ADVENT BEGINS –The First Sunday of Advent is the last Sunday in November, the 29th. This is the beginning of the New Year in the Church and the preparation of the Christmas Season. This year we light the candles for Prophets, Bethlehem, Angels, and Shepherds. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board soon: we welcome individuals, families, youth, Sunday School children, etc. to help light the candles and lead the congregation in dialog and prayer. So, watch for the sign-up and pick your Sunday.

CHOIR REHEARSALS – As we look forward to Advent and Christmas, remember that Choir rehearsals are on Saturday afternoons: Adult Choir at 1:00 pm and Bell Choir at 2:00 pm. Anchormen meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays between the services. They would be most happy to have more people join them, especially during the Advent and Christmas Seasons.



LSSI GIVING TREE… You can make someone's Christmas extra special!

Again this year, the Women of Mt. Calvary is asking our congregation to participate in supporting Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) and their Intact Family Services program through gift donations. **The Giving Tree will be in the Narthex beginning on Sunday, November 15.** If you choose, take a tag(s) off the tree, purchase the item(s), and place the unwrapped gift(s) under the tree. Gift cards should be

placed in the locked wooden box located under the tree. The Women of Mt. Calvary will deliver the items to LSSI in early December, who will then wrap and distribute them to foster kids in their program. Also, there are tags with LSSI's Mindful Giving site for your shopping convenience, which will be shipped directly to LSSI. The Peoria location serves 318 children in foster care and 197 families in their Intact Family Service program. **Thank you** for thinking of these families and for your generous contributions. Please bring all gifts no later than **Sunday, December 6.** Your gift will make a difference and bless a family and child!

Let's come "Together" for our next Women of Mt. Calvary Meeting!



Join us for the Women of Mt. Calvary November Gathering and Meeting on Saturday, November 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall!

We will begin with chair yoga promptly at 9:30 a.m., followed by our guest speaker starting around 9:45 a.m. Afterward, we will hold a short meeting and make holiday ornaments together.

- → Participate in Chair Yoga at 9:30 a.m. - getting fit together
- → Hear our special Speaker: Therry Adcock - bringing us together with music
- → Chat about upcoming activities & festivities - spending time together
- → Review Adopt-A-Bags and Shut In Remembrances on Nov. 21 - sharing togetherness through food and thoughfulness
- → Plan for LSSI Giving Tree & Family House gifts - giving an opportunity to share resources and generosity with others for their time together
- → Enjoy fellowship time and treats together

We are better and stronger together (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).. We invite all ladies of the congregation and hope to see you in November as we gather together in the Lord's name!

ADOPT-A-BAG IS HERE!!!! -- Women of Mt. Calvary are sponsoring the Adopt-A-Bag Project again this year. The bags will be available for pick-up in the Parish Hall or Narthex on Sundays, November 1st, 8th, & 15th. If you wish to help with this project, please select a bag, fill it with non-perishable food items and return the filled bag to the Parish Hall any time before 9:00 am on Saturday, November 21st . We will use items from these bags to fill our Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution on **Saturday, November 21st. beginning at 9:00 am** in the Parish Hall. Helpers are welcome!

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 8th has been designated as "Pledge Sunday." Pledges will be received during the services and then dedicated. A letter was sent out last week concerning the reason for making a pledge – if you did not receive one, copies will be available in the Narthex on Sunday. If you can't be in the services on November 8th, your pledge can be brought in or mailed in when it is ready.

DON'T FORGET OUR SHUT-INS!!!!!

THANKSGIVING BAGS FOR SHUT-INS -- Women of Mt. Calvary will again be preparing remembrances for our shut-ins for Thanksgiving. They need your help — can you bring wrapped candies, cookies, small bread loaves, fruit (oranges and apples), raisins, etc. and put them on the counter in the kitchen marked for the shut-in bags? They would like to prepare these bags on **Saturday morning, November 21st, beginning at 9:00 am.**

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICES – In celebration of Thanksgiving, Mt. Calvary will again offer a Divine Service on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th at 6:30 pm. Therefore there will be **no** Divine Service on Thursday evening.

PLAYTIME PALS AT CONCORDIA -- is up and running again. 9am - 11 a.m. on these dates**: November 13** , December 11, January 8, & 22nd, February 5, & 19th. Park on the west side of the building & follow the signs. Beat the chilly weather with some play time for Kinder age and under in a clean, safe environment!