

As We Gather

The First Sunday after Epiphany takes us down to the Jordan River, flowing from the North, where our Lord Jesus is baptized by His cousin John. We may have not been baptized in the Jordan River, but we share with our Lord the experience of being baptized. For the sinless Son of God, the Baptism was done in fulfillment of the will of His Father. For us, Baptism is a lavish washing away of sin. We are blessed through this Sacrament, which links us personally and intimately with our Lord.

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING**

OPENING HYMN: *"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"* **Hymn #395**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BAPTISM (8:00 am service)
(10:45 am service)

Lyla Patricia Wiemers
Murphy Lawton Beecher

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

(please kneel)

Merciful Lord,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We admit that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought not to have done. We have not always shaped our lives around the Gospel and have not always shared our faith as opportunity was given to us. We have not always been generous in sharing the bounty You have given us. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

God has gathered His people from north and south, east and west, and to them says, "Fear not!" In His mercy He promises pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. For His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

**All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43:1–7 *(The Lord has called Israel by name.)*

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Romans 6:1–11 (*We are made to walk in newness of life in Christ.*)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the third chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:15–22 (*Jesus teaches that one must be born of water and the Spirit.*)

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Pastor David Brighton

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered"
(Hymn tune: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Hymn #404

THE MESSAGE

"Baptism: Before and After"

Pastor David Brighton

THE THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED AND THE SPIRIT'S WORK IN BAPTISM

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Word of God tells us that the Holy Spirit works through the Means of Grace, but we ask: "How can water used in Holy Baptism do such great things?"

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMS

You have just made public confession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in this covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

To be regular in worship to hear His Word and share in His Supper,

To live among God's faithful people,

To tell the Good News of God in Christ to others as God gives you the opportunity,

And to see Christ and serve Him in all people?

I do, and ask God to help and guide me.

Come forward then, to receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead in remembrance of your Baptism and to reaffirm your baptismal vows.

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Nancy Branscom & Kim Crook, in honor of birthdays.

Pro-Life Oratory Contest. 11th and 12th grade students in Houston County are invited to write and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide, stem cell research or emerging technology. Students should use up-to-date, factual material. The speech must be 5-7 minutes in length. No props are allowed as this speech is to be an oration. This contest is sponsored by the Houston County chapter of Georgia Right to Life and the winner will receive a check for \$100. The speeches will be given on Tuesday, January 19th at the Monsoon Restaurant, located at 85 Highway 247 South. Students should be at the restaurant by 6:00pm if they would like to buy dinner, or at 6:30 pm for the speeches. The winner will go on to the State contest on February 20th and the State winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the March, 2016 *Bringing America Back to Life* Convention to compete in the Personhood Alliance Oratory Contest. If you want to participate, please call Marcia Brighton by this Tuesday, January 12th. Questions? Please speak to Marcia Brighton.

A new prayer group will meet for the first time on Thursday, January 21, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Cry Room at Mt. Calvary. The purpose of this prayer group will be to rely upon the Holy Spirit to help us pray for each other and our concerns. We will also pray for our church and our community. We intend to start with a song or hymn, have a short meditation on a selected Bible passage, and to spend the rest of the time in prayer. The group will be facilitated by Jerry Bisping and will be open to anyone who wants to spend time before our Lord in prayer.

Thanks so much! Marcia and I want to thank our church family for your kindness and generosity this Christmas season. We've enjoyed the many cards and well wishes and other expressions of love. We are so blessed to be a part of the Mt. Calvary family and we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. It seems like a fast 17 years have gone by since we arrived in Warner Robins and I can honestly say that I'm just as excited about the challenges and opportunities before us to share the Gospel message in Middle Georgia as I was 17 years ago when I arrived as your new pastor! May God bless each one of us in 2016 with His presence, His love, His protection, His forgiveness, and His peace! *Pastor & Marcia Brighton*

Men's Breakfast – Guys! It's time to sign up at the Information Desk for this month's breakfast. We'll meet at 8:00 am in the Michael Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, January 16th**. Join us for good food and fellowship. Those "young men" of high school age and older are invited!

Telephone Prayer Chain: For those of you who don't have a computer, or who don't care to use our online prayer chain, we are considering having a telephone prayer chain. If you would be interested in this, please call Barbara Mabee (922-2278).

Daytime Callers share Christ's love and concern with shut-ins and others who need to know that we at Mt. Calvary care for them. We meet this **Monday, January 11th, in the church conference room at 11:00 am.**

Wednesday Nights: Don't forget to join us for our midweek time of Christian Fellowship & Education every Wednesday with dinner at 5:30 and classes beginning at 6:15!

Member Rodney Hood will be deployed to Kuwait for the next six months.

Sweethearts Dinner - Sunday, February 14th, 6-8 pm in the Michael Fellowship Hall. We look forward to a delicious lasagna meal and the traditional chocolate dessert contest where you, the guests, provide your favorite chocolate indulgence. The Board of Fellowship asks folks to bring in a wedding photo to display during the event. Babysitting will be provided. If you have any questions, please see your BOF members, Keith Dierking, Deb Fingles, Michelle Crawford, and Doug Branham. Cost is \$5 a person and will start selling tickets on 23/24 January. What a deal!

Middle School Party: There will be a party for all youth in Middle School and their friends this Friday, January 15th, from 6-9 pm in the Annex. The cost for the evening is \$5/person which covers snacks, pizza, and pop.

Rebecca's Garden of Hope @ Mount Calvary: There will be a luncheon meeting on Sunday, January 17th, from Noon – 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is for everyone interested in helping out with RG@MC to receive more information and finalize preparations for the launch in February.

High School TAG Night: Next Sunday will be the first TAG Night of the New Year on Sunday, January 17th, from 6:30-8:30 in the Annex. Join us for food, fun, fellowship, and a Bible-centered discussion of "Judging" with a little help from Shrek!

Sunday School Staff Meeting: The Sunday School Staff will be meeting next Thursday, January 21st, from 6-7:30 in the Education Wing. We will be covering the lessons for next couple of months.

High School Winter Retreat: There will be an on-site retreat for all High School Youth on Friday & Saturday, January 22-23. The retreat will begin at 5:00 pm and be finished at 7:00 pm the next night. The cost for this event is \$35/person to cover meals, program, and a TAG t-shirt!

Student Leadership Development Team (SLDT): Students interested in serving on the Winter/Spring 2016 Session of the SLDT need to fill out an application or reapplication by Sunday, January 17th. We will be having our winter planning retreat on Saturday, January 30th. All High School youth who are actively attending Mount Calvary are eligible to serve on the SLDT.

Lutheran Night Tickets & Sub Sale Orders: We have begun selling Lutheran Night Tickets and taking Sub Sale orders! Please consider supporting our Youth Ministry by participating in both of these fund-raising efforts!

The Flower Chart for 2016 is posted.
Now would be a good time to get the
weekend that you want reserved.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Chet Branscom, who is recovering following surgery to fix a bleed in his brain.

Josh Johnson, who is hospitalized with a staph infection of his knee.

Dwight Miller, who is recovering from hernia surgery.

Marrissa Halsell, who is hospitalized with complications from Multiple Sclerosis.

Jeannie Hawkins, who fell and suffered a fracture in a bone above her wrist and a fracture of the bones around her left eye.

Keep In Your Prayers

Gerald Eschke, Fred Crawford, Betsy Luppino, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), Sonya Popken, Karen Harmon, Regina Ragan, Jan Clark, Chet Branscom, Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Ken Reilly, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), Margaret Frazier, Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Bruce Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Matthew Forehand, Jake Huffman, Chris Walker, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) and John Hunter (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sway Cronin (8 am) and Zoe Bowden (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Don Parrott, Ralph Wenrick, Dale Hawkins & Roger Foss. Late – Paul Ferguson, Sam Culpepper, Dale Channell, Champ Aldredge & Mark Burnette. **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Jeannie Hawkins, Susan Julson & Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Dick Kesler (8 am) and Adam Beecher (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Lyle Wurdeman (8 am) and Kyle Webb (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Rob Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Open (Sun 8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Sara Van Lannen (Sun 8 am) and Carlee Toler (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Debbie Fingles, Kathy Grube, Jeannie Hawkins, Susan Julson & Linna Nielsen. **LAY READERS:** Rhoda Reilly (Sat 6 pm), Brian Harper (Sun 8 am) and Carolyn Burnam (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Laird & Judy Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and Barb Mabee (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 40 Early – 80 Late – 135 Total – 255

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	12:00 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Council
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	6 – 9 pm	Middle School Party
Saturday	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	12:00 pm	RG@MC Training Luncheon
	6:30 pm	TAG Night