

As We Gather

Samson. Just his name evokes images of a strong man who did mighty things by defeating the enemies of the Lord. At the same time, Samson constantly sinned against the Lord by living a lifestyle at odds with his position as judge and protector of God's people. In the end, the Holy Spirit left Samson because He was not welcome in Samson's life. Samson's name will always be linked to Delilah, who betrayed Samson to the Philistines for a fortune in silver. In the end, Samson's up and down life ended with one last moment of glory for the Lord as he caused the temple to the Philistine god, Dagon, to collapse on the Philistines and we read, "So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life." (Judges 16:30)

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****OPENING HYMN:***"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"***Hymn #915****INVOCATION**

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

Amen.**CALL TO CONFESSON:***"Return to the Lord, Your God"**(choir)*

Return to the Lord, your God
Return to the Lord, your God,
For the day of the Lord is coming,
The day of the Lord is near.
Return, return,
Return to the Lord, your God
Return to the Lord, your God.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us now make confession of our sins.

(please kneel)

O Lord Jesus Christ,

You who call us to repentance, have mercy on us, for as we see a world around us filled with great sin, too often we pride ourselves on our own morality. We judge others as "worse than us," and we are tempted to hold up our own righteousness as something of worth. We fail to see the sin that covers us. We trust in our own strength, and in so doing, we have failed to love You with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Have mercy on us, forgive us, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts and minds that we might walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

(choir)

"Yet even now," says the Lord,
"Return to me with all Your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,
And rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return, return,
Return to the Lord, your God,
Return to the Lord, your God.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and 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:

"Give Thanks"

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say,
"I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say,
"I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.**

(repeat from beginning)

Give thanks.

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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Judges 16:4-22 (*Samson and Delilah*)

⁴ After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. ⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you."

⁷ Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound." ¹¹ And he said to her, "If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹² So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹⁴ So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web.

¹⁵ And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies."

¹⁶ And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. ¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."

¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. ¹⁹ She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. ²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. ²² But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 (*Do not take God for granted; instead, resist temptation.*)

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE FOR LENT: "Return to the Lord"

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound-ing in steady - fast love, and a - bound - ing in steady - fast love." The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes the verse.

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound-ing in
steady - fast love, and a - bound - ing in steady - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

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

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O Lord." The second staff concludes the acclamation.

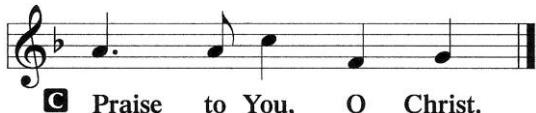
C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:1–9 (*We have the opportunity to repent; now is the time.*)

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

⁶ And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Mt. Calvary Puppet Ministry

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"As the Deer"

**As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship thee.**

Chorus:

**You alone are my strength my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship thee.**

**You're my friend and you are my brother,
Even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything. (chorus)**

**I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye. (chorus)**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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 GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS**++ The Stewardship Thought ++**

Lent is from an old Anglo-Saxon word that means “springtime.” The 40 days of Lent are a time of penitence, a time to conduct a spiritual “house cleaning,” and give up our self-serving ways as we seek to live our lives worthy of our calling as God’s baptized people.

THE OFFERTORY:***"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"***

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Fruit trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Hymn #425

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of the Week: Eugene & Lois O'Neal have been very happily married for twelve years. Eugene is a retired Air Force MSGT and Lois is a teacher in Wilkinson County. They make their home in Allentown, GA; a very small town about 45 minutes from Warner Robins. Between them they have four children and eleven grandchildren. They came to Mt. Calvary in 2010 following the death of their son Joel, who was a member of Mt. Calvary. Joel had introduced them to our church. Joel was involved in the Monday night Evangelism program, and Jesus was VERY important to him. Eugene and Lois were so overwhelmed by the love and care of both the clergy and the congregation they decided to adopt Mt. Calvary as their new church home. Eugene enjoys bicycling and archery. Lois enjoys reading and crocheting. Lois is eagerly anticipating retiring at the end of this school year; completing 32 years as an educator.

Time to Order Your Easter Lilies! - Believe it or not, only 4 more weeks til Easter, so get your lilies ordered soon! The price again this year will be \$12 for one plant, or \$10 per plant if you order more than one. Your check can be made out to "Mt Calvary Lutheran Church" with "Lilies" on the memo line. Cash is also accepted, however, be sure that your check or cash accompanies your order form! Then place it in the offering plate or on Jack's desk. - Altar Guild

Community Survey: The Outreach Board has scheduled our annual community survey for two days, March 12th and 13th (Saturday and Sunday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm both days. This survey is especially important because in addition to identifying neighbors who don't have a church home, we will provide information about our Easter worship services and our Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with our "Walk With Jesus". We need your help! We will visit homes/apartments in our neighborhood using teams of two or three after a short training session at church. If you can help, please sign up on the Community Survey sign-up sheet on the information counter in the church narthex.. If you have any questions, please talk to Bruce Bauman. Thank you.

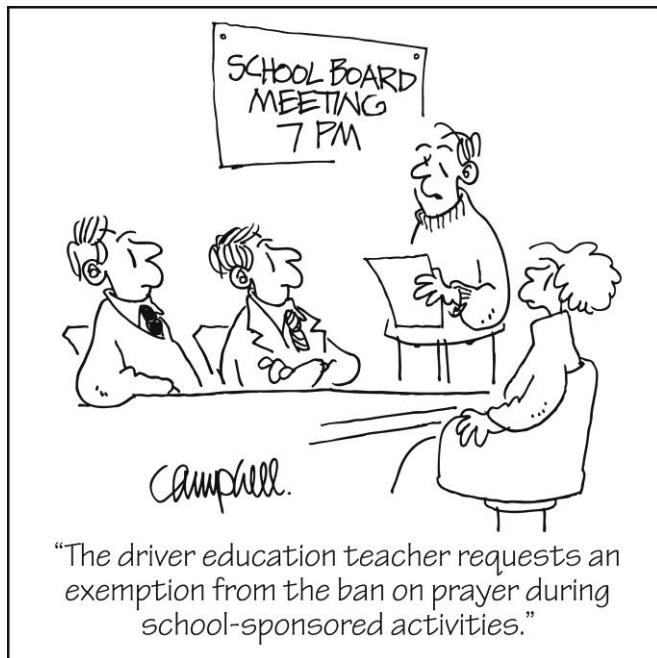
The Social Ministry Board provides meals and rides for members of Mount Calvary who are in need. Meals are provided for members who have recently been ill or released from the hospital. Rides are given to local doctor appointments, church activities or dire necessities. If these services are needed or you know someone who would benefit, please contact Jan Clark at 478-987-6555.

Our Spring 2016 Evangelism Explosion (EE) Training Session will begin on Monday, February 29th. This thirteen-week EE training session is a combination of classroom and on-the-job training held at Mount Calvary on Monday evenings. Our EE kickoff luncheon is on Sunday, February 28th after the late service, in the Michael Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend the free luncheon to find out more about our EE training.

The Ladies Guild will be collecting packages of children's new sox or new underwear during Lent. They will be given to Faith Lutheran Clothes. A collection box will be in the Narthex. Contact Nancy Branscom or Vivian Stilley with questions.

Our Ushers for March: Early – Laird Van Gorder, Brent Durbin, Dick Kesler & Kent Hansen. Late – D. J. Nelson, Don Netzinger, Adam Beecher, Dave Miller, Bob Day & Larry Ellgass.

Walk with Jesus- Mark your calendar today for this year's Walk with Jesus. Join us on March 26, 2016, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. as we follow Jesus on a step-by-step journey to the cross and then see the empty tomb on Easter morning! We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt. Sign-up sheets will be available soon! Don't miss out on this opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family and friends at Mount Calvary!! Any questions, please ask Cynthia at mt-cal-dcm@att.net.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Dwight Miller, who is hospitalized with pneumonia.

Gilbert Cox, John Trichinotis' brother-in-law, who is having surgery on his neck.

The family of Mary Hursey, Fred's mom, who died February 24th.

Kurt Rover, who is hospitalized following a fall.

Leslie Cook, who is hospitalized.

Sallie Brinkley, who fell and injured her back.

Ken Reilly, who is at home and under hospice care.

Sandi Jacobsmeyer, who is recovering at home following back surgery.

Keep In Your Prayers

Belle Wright, Jeanene Crawford, Tim Yarbrough, Norman Thompson, Louise May (Jimmy Martin's mother), Courage Trasmer, Joyce Boone, Chet Branscom, Gerald Eschke, Betsy Luppino, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), 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: Margaret Frazier, Anne Harter (daughter of Dick & Susan Kesler), 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 Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Emily Whaley, Rodney Hood, Matthew Forehand, Jake Huffman, 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: Vicar Tim Staffeld. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Eric Jenkins (Sun 8 am) and D. J. Nelson (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Tatum Gossman (8 am) and Maddy Hagemann (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Erv Robinson, Paul Keister, Fred Hursey, Steve Kirchoff & Eric Gossman. Late – Dwight Miller, Roger Moeller, John Hunter, Jim Morey & Cameron Mastenbrook. **ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Glaser, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin, Kathy Robinson & Sharon Suckow. **LAY READERS:** Darron Counselman (8 am) and Bruce Bauman (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Debi Cole. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Tanner Gossman (8 am) and Trevor Hudlin (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Open (Wed 7 pm), Tony McVay (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Mark Burnette 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Colton Wurdeman (Wed 7 pm), Sara Van Lannen (Sat 6 pm), Carolyn Harper (Sun 8 am) and Zoe Bowden (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Sallie Brinkley, Barbara Locke, Sherry Parsons & Pat Stetzler. **LAY READERS:** Keith Dierking (Sat 6 pm), Carol Yeager (Sun 8 am) and Dave Harter (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Gary & Lexie Hadley (Sun 8 am) and Earl & Dot Bogardus (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

2 Samuel 18:1-15, 31-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 43 Early – 125 Late – 132 Total – 300

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	TAG Night
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC
	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Boards
	7:30 pm	Elders
Wednesday	9:30 am	Morning Glories
	6:00 pm	Meal
	7:00 pm	Worship
	7:45 pm	Sanctuary Choir (after Worship)
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	6 – 9 pm	Middle School Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	TAG Night