



*Connect with God.
Connect with each other.
Connect with the community.*

Move Mountains: Mountains As Opportunities

5/19/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45; Acts 2:1-26 (NIV)

To move mountains, it takes faith and courage.

3 Things of importance about: Obstacles, Abraham, Sarah

PENTECOST is the Holy Spirit's arrival. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is often symbolized by wind. From creation, the Holy Spirit was the breath of life. The air that we breathe is God's Holy Presence living in us.

The Holy Spirit is also symbolized by a dove, water, a cloud, light, and oil, but the most popular is fire. The fire that appeared on Pentecost (Acts 2:3) was reminiscent of the burning bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses. (Ex 3:2), and during the Exodus, the people of God were led by a pillar of fire at night. (Ex 13:21.) The Holy Spirit ignites our hearts to love and be passionate for others. That is how people will know we are Christians, by our love. The fire of love from the Holy Spirit cannot be contained. That is the power of God's love!

Billy Graham tells the amusing story of a fire that broke out in a small-town church. When the fire brigade, siren wailing, arrived on the spot, the minister recognized one of the men. "Hello there, Jim. I haven't seen you in church for a long time," he chided.

"Well," answered the sweating man struggling with the hose, "there hasn't been a fire in the church for a long time."

Sermon Series Recap:

Week #1, May 5th ~ 3 Things of Importance:

- 1) God is on the move; 2) God is waiting for you to move; and
- 3) God will be seen and heard when we move

Week #2, May 12th ~ Obstacles, Abraham, and Sarah

Week #3: 3 Things of Importance:

- 1) God is all-powerful and all-loving.
- 2) Mountains are opportunities to step up and be the person God created us to be.
- 3) It takes faith and courage to have a first step, stand, and stay.

Today's text talks about two important persons, Mary & Elizabeth had the faith and courage to step up and obey God, willing to become the persons God created them to be. The two traits we can learn from them: POSITIVITY & PRODUCTIVITY.



May 26th, 2024

Memorial Day Weekend

9:00AM Sunday school for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

Move Mountains:

YOU Move the Mountain

Bob Wagner, CLM Preaching

The traditional worship is available via
livestream through Calvary's
website homepage.

Go to: calvaryumcmohnton.org or
click on the link below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**



**Sunday, May 26th will be the last
Adult Sunday school session until
after Rally Day in September.
Children & youth will combine for
SS on June 2nd & 9th after the 9AM
worship service. After that,
children & youth SS will resume
in September.**

June 9th ~ Graduation Sunday

Attention all grads (or parent(s) of soon-to-be grads) from any degree/certificate program, please complete the form below so we can celebrate your achievements!

The following information is requested so that it may be included in the *Calvary Connection*.

[Parents of graduates are welcome to relay this information to the church office.]

Graduate's name: _____

Degree (college/graduate school only) _____

Date of graduation: _____

Awards, honors, scholarships: _____

Future school or career plans: _____

Other information you would like to share: _____

DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 29th, 2024

**Please email this information
to the church office**

at administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net

**OR complete the form and mail it to the
church office: Attn: Janet Dearstyne,
1 W. Wyomissing Avenue,
Mohnton, PA 19540**



Mifflin Community Food Ministry

Food Items Needed for June

CANNED PEACHES, CANNED CHICKEN BREAST, SPAM, CANNED SALMON, TUNA, RICE -A-RONI (or similar product), 100% JUICE, CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES, and CANNED FRUIT COCKTAIL

In addition to food items, the MCFM is always in need of volunteers! One hundred boxes of food will be prepared. On Saturday, June 15th, it would be helpful if volunteers could be at Zion E.C. Church (N. Church & Summit St., Mohnton) as close to 8:30AM. Then when the distribution is done at about 11:30, help will be needed for clean-up.



**The 2024 Preschool and Calvary Care
Summer Camps** will begin Monday, June 3rd and end on Friday, August 9th. Please refer to our online church calendar to view when various areas of the church building and property are being used by Calvary's children's outreach ministries.



29 – Katelyn Wagner
18 E. Fairview Street
Mohnton, PA 19540

31 – Zachary Martin
19 E. Fairview St.
Mohnton, PA 19540

JUNE

01 – Michelle Daniels
4106 Lynn Ave.
Reading, PA 19606

Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

All of us experience hardships and difficult situations at some point. It is an unavoidable part of life. How we react to these setbacks dictates how much and how long we suffer. Our chosen response (**we do have a choice**) also affects whether we overcome a bad situation or succumb to it. In the book, "Holy Moments" by Matthew Kelly, from Ms. Sheila, says: *We all make choices. That's the easy part. The hard thing about choices is living with them.* So, make your choices count. It is possible to turn a bad situation around and turn it into a good one. Thus, our title for today is "Mountains as Opportunities."

The people of Israel waited for a messiah for a very long time. Both Mary and Elizabeth knew God's promise. They faithfully responded and surrendered to being part of God's plan. Both were swept over by God's Spirit and amazing grace, which led to their unlikely motherhood. We see this as an opportunity because we see the result. However, each woman faced difficult situations because of their faithful decision to follow God's call. We are reminded that God is all-loving and all-powerful, and nothing is impossible with God because God is on the move.

Both women showed faith in different ways. Faith requires belief – belief in God's ability to make a way when the way is not clear to human understanding; belief that when God asks something of us, God will give us what we need to follow where God leads; faith to take the first step, then to stand and stay in the purpose God created us to be.

Already old, Elizabeth still had no children. This would have already been difficult, especially in ancient times when having children was a societal expectation. Elizabeth endured social disgrace (Luke 1:24-25) for a very long time. Then, when she finally did become pregnant, she had to care for her husband, who had suddenly become mute (Luke 1:8-23). Through it all, Elizabeth believed that God would provide. She also supported Mary's faithfulness (1:45) and recognized the special relationship her child had with Jesus.

What seemed like an obstacle (*pregnancy at an old age*) became an opportunity to be faithful and serve God. Mary faced the extraordinary challenge of being a young, unmarried mother in a society that would not have accepted that. She had to deal with Joseph's questions and fears, not to mention her own. She had to somehow wrap her head around the impossible – that she miraculously became pregnant.

Mary & Elizabeth's faith didn't make the challenges disappear, but in their faith, God gave them the grace and strength to step up, stand, and stay true to their purpose, facing each challenge head on.

Mary & Elizabeth were both POSITIVE & PRODUCTIVE. We've all faced situations and challenges that seem impossible. Life can be difficult, even in the church. But nothing is impossible with God, because God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all that we could ever ask or imagine. And friends, never doubt that God is on the move.

There are opportunities for deep faith today, even in a world that is skeptical about faith and questions the value of the church. Mary and Elizabeth's unwavering faith introduced the world to Jesus. We are called to that same faith. God is on the move and is active in our Church's life. We cannot do it ourselves. It is only by God's amazing grace that we can have the power to share and speak the word of God to others, to be an extension of God's power, to make a difference in people's lives by listening and following God's call and meeting the need of God's kingdom.

Friends, I challenge you: our church needs more people to step up and be Sunday school teachers. We need more people to operate our Sunday livestream. We need more people to create the Sunday worship PowerPoints. We need a Christian Education Director and a Youth Minister/Youth Coordinator. These are opportunities to be used by God and experience God's power to make a difference in people's lives.

Like the fire and the wind on that first Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit moves wherever it pleases. The song "I Know Whom I Have Believed" (UMH 714) is one of my favorites because it tells of God's almighty power in keeping us in His arms.

*I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.
But I know Whom I have believed
and am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed,
Unto Him against that day.*

Charles Spurgeon said: "Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without the wind, branches without sap, and like coals without fire, we are useless."

The Spirit will be the one to satisfy our souls. He will make us whole and fill us with joy. He will turn our tears into laughter and give us life and the fullness of it.

Friends, mountains are opportunities to experience God's power and love by being an agent of change. Nothing is impossible with God. It is only through the Spirit of Lord that's within us, not by might nor by worldly power, that God's perfect will is fulfilled. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2024 Mohnton Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th from 9AM – 11AM

Come and enjoy this wonderful community event.
Bring your lawn chair.



Worship Schedule for the Summer

**FROM JUNE 2 – SEPT. 1
ONE WORSHIP
SERVICE WILL BE
HELD ON SUNDAYS
AT 9AM.**

Each of you should use whatever GIFTS you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

~1Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!

On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Mark Your Calendar Now!

(Ages 3 yrs. – 5th Grade)

Vacation Bible School

June 17th – 21st from 6 – 8PM

@ Mohnton Playground (June 17-20)
Closing day, June 21st, at Zion E.C.C.

Questions? Please call or text
Pastor Matthew @ 717-917-5342



Scan for online
registration.

Over the last 3 years, we have been so blessed by Pastor Matthew's faithful ministry, leadership, energy, enthusiasm, and passion for sharing God's word and love.

As a faithful servant of God, Pastor Matthew has been called and assigned to serve as pastor for 2 churches in Lebanon County, beginning July 1st. His last Sunday with us will be June 30th.

This is an exciting opportunity for Pastor Matthew, and we are happy to see him pursue this next step in his call to ministry. We know that God has great plans in store for him and God will be with Pastor Matthew and his family each step of the way.

He, along with Elizabeth, Aidan and Mia have been an integral part of our congregation and church family - all serving in various capacities. We will miss them dearly.

On Sunday June 30th, join us in showing our appreciation for Pastor Matthew and his family. There will be a fellowship hour to celebrate his many ministries at Calvary and to also celebrate his opportunity to serve God in this new role.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP EVENT

**COME JOIN FELLOW CHRISTIANS AT OUR 16TH
SUMMER DAY OF WORSHIP, ENTERTAINMENT
AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY JUNE 23rd AT THE
MOHNTON MEMORIAL PARK
[Zion E.C. Church if inclement weather]**

- ❑ Worship service at 10:30 AM (Main Pavilion) –
- ❑ Featured speaker Rev. Rachel Dietz (see Bio)
- ❑ Covered dish picnic w/pulled pork Bar-BQ at noon
- ❑ Fellowship time

Sponsored jointly by:

**Calvary United Methodist Church
New Life Church of Shillington
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Zion Evangelical Congregational Church**

**Church participants are invited to bring a covered dish (preferred) and /
or a dessert to share. Those concerned about sharing food are invited
to bring a picnic lunch for their family. Don't forget your lawn chairs.**

Pastor Rachael Dietz

Executive Associate of the Bishop for Leadership



Born and raised in Richmond, VA, I graduated from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a public policy/economics degree. After a year of itinerant youth ministry in the Midwest and 18 months as an inventory analyst, I admitted that the rustling in my gut wasn't indigestion but a call to sacramental service in the Church. I went to Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where I got schooled in the ways of shrimp and grits, scripture, theology, pastoral care, and Friday night cookouts.

Since ordination, I've served St. James Lutheran Church, Hobbie (near Wilkes-Barre) and St. John Lutheran, Mohnton. I loved living and working in Mohnton! In 2021, the newly elected Bishop, Christopher deForest, called me to serve on the Northeastern PA staff. After 18 years as a pastor, I'm still gobsmacked that I get the privilege to be about what God is up to in the world—to point out Jesus, crucified and risen.

I cheer for the Steelers and Packers passionately, stretch daily, knit methodically, and travel through life curiously with my service dog, Chipotle. I've been married to Travis Woodfield for almost 11 years now. Ask him to do a magic trick for you at the picnic!

And now about **SSD Chipotle** ...

Chipotle is Pastor Dietz' 4-year-old black Labrador from Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD), near Harrisburg, PA. He was born in June 2020 as part of the "Caliente" themed litter. After waiting 4 years and speed dating over a dozen dogs, Chipotle and Rachael became a team in July 2022.

He helps her with balance and mobility tasks such as: retrieving dropped items, providing a brace up and down curbs, pushing automatic door buttons, fetching her cane from anywhere in the house, taking off her socks, and more! When he's not working, he loves playing ball and sleeping on the couch.

Want to help with his training? The best thing you can do is ignore him!

Want to know more about him—or service dogs in general? Ask.

<http://www.facebook.com/dogfordietz>