



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Oct. 20th, 2024 – Oct. 26th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

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

Come to the Table, Week #1

Revelation @ the Table

10/06/24 Pastor Nova's; Scripture: Luke 24:28-35

When we are invited to share a meal, many emotions can be stirred: gratitude, warmth, joy, and a sense of connection. Reflect on the last time you felt these emotions. Was it at a family gathering, a wedding, or a community meal?

Have you ever thought about the Bible passage that inspired the design of the stained-glass window? I believe the founders of Calvary prayed and thought about it for a long time and came up with a good scripture which is the text for our New Series: COME TO THE TABLE, Luke 24:28-35.

Today, we are focusing on a powerful moment in the Gospel of Luke, on the day of the resurrection, where two disciples, on their way to Jerusalem, encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It's this journey that led to the *Revelation at the Table*. 3 Important Revelations: Place of presence, encounter, and mission.

A famous phrase by Mary Barrett is *Christ is the head of the home, the unseen guest of every meal, the silent listener to every conversation.*

#1 The Table is a Place of Divine Presence

In Luke 24:28-29, as the disciples approached the village, they urged the stranger walking with them to stay, saying, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." They sensed something different about Him and wanted His presence to remain with them, even though they hadn't yet recognized Him as Jesus. At the table as they ate, in their time of grief and desperation, Jesus was there.

Like the disciples, we often encounter Jesus when we invite Him to linger in our lives. We invite Christ to dwell with us when we make space for Him in our daily lives, especially in moments of fellowship and communion. Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3



Kid's Club (1st – 5th grade) ~ Youth Group (6th – 12th grade)

1st and 3rd Sundays will be Children's Club.

2nd and 4th Sundays will be Youth Group

MEETING TIME: 4PM – 5PM

(Schedule is subject to change.)



October 20th, 2024

**Craig Caltagirone Preaching
8:00AM Praise Service**

9:15AM ~ Sunday school

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Sermon Series:

Come to the Table

What Are You Wearing?

**SUNDAY LIVESTREAM
CTRL + CLICK HERE**



**BRO. HENRY BHASKER
Sunday, October 27th
1:00 PM**

**Calvary's Sanctuary
Livestreamed (use the
website worship service link
from Calvary's homepage at
www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)**

TRUST ME

Who do you trust? Hopefully your family and friends, your church, and ultimately, God. Several years ago, Pastor Bern Kiefer delivered a sermon entitled "Trust Me". Bern's context was to trust in God's word brought to us through the scriptures. His sermon that day really hit home with me as many years before we had taken God at His word as stated in Malachi 3:10, "Trust me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room to store it." God was asking us to share the fruits of our labor with Him for the good of His kingdom and in turn we would share in the blessings that He provided. The Sunny Day Fund is one small way we can heed God's word and honor Him for our good fortune

As promised when we introduced the SDF, I am keeping you informed of our personal SDF progress. In Numbers 30:2 God says, "When a man makes a vow, he must not break his word but must do everything he said." So, I have no choice but to report that our balance currently totals just shy of \$230.

Bob Werner, PRISM Chp.



Calvary will be participating in the Mohnton YMCA Trunk or Treat on Monday, October 28th
6 – 8PM
(140 Chestnut St, Mohnton)

CANDY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!
Individually wrapped, please.

Donation bin located in the Gathering Area.



The Mohnton Community Thanksgiving Eve
worship service will be hosted by Calvary UMC on **SUNDAY, November 24th, at 4:00PM.**

SAFE BERKS held its Silent Witness Walk on Monday, October 14. The procession of one hundred and fifty walkers started at the shelter on Chestnut Street and wound its way around downtown Reading for 40 minutes before ending at the Miller Center. Many walkers carried a red silhouette, symbolizing Berks County's victims of domestic violence homicide. Each silhouette displayed a shield with their name and untimely death. Before 1999, there was no record of deaths from domestic violence. Since then, there have been 86 known victims; men, women, children, and pets. One lone purple silhouette symbolized the uncounted victims of the past. It is a powerful event to witness, as family and friends honor their loved ones in this silent way.

Even more moving, are the stories told by survivors. At the Dedication Ceremony that followed the walk, families shared their tragic losses. One young teenager remembered her mother, who had been shot by the father right before her eyes six years ago. It is difficult to imagine living with that trauma. The overarching mission of SAFE BERKS is to prevent any more heartbreaking tragedies.

A big thank you to Sandy Graffius for supporting the event with her presence at the Dedication Ceremony and to my husband for accompanying me on the walk. I hope to see more Calvary members at future events.

Diane Anderson

7:00 PM in the Music Room
Senior Choir Rehearsals
OCTOBER 23rd
NOVEMBER 6th & 20th

All who would like to sing praise to God to enhance our worship experiences are welcome to be a choir member!

Questions? Call Jim Adams at 484-332-1332 or Julie McGettrick at 603-540-3215.



"Let's Talk About It" Bible Study/Life Group

Join us every Thursday at 9:30AM for an engaging and open discussion led by Pastor Nova. Whether you're new to the Bible or have years of experience, this group offers a welcoming space to explore Scripture and share life experiences with honesty and without fear of judgment. Together, we'll grow in faith and understanding. We'll meet in the chapel, so come as you are, ready for meaningful, open-hearted conversations and spiritual growth.

Prayer Warrior's Night

Join us on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7PM for an evening of powerful, faith-filled prayer. Led by Pastor Nova, this gathering is a time to come together as a community to lift up our needs, stand against spiritual battles, and seek God's guidance and strength. Whether you're seasoned in prayer or just beginning, all are welcome to unite in intercession and experience the power of prayer together. We meet in the chapel—come ready to pray boldly!

Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

The table is not just a physical space but a spiritual one where Jesus meets us in our need and reveals Himself to us.

Have you invited Jesus to dwell in the moments that seem ordinary? In the rush of life, are you making time to invite His presence to stay? Let us remember that God's presence is not limited to grand moments but is often revealed in simple acts of hospitality and fellowship.

The table is a sacred place where we encounter the divine. Just as the disciples urged the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them, we too invite Christ's presence into our lives

#2 The Table is a Place of Encounter

In Luke 24:30-31, it says, "When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him."

There's something sacred that happens at the table. In this moment, the disciples' eyes were opened, and they suddenly realized that the

stranger with them was Jesus. The act of breaking bread, reminiscent of the Last Supper, became the moment of revelation. This tells us that the table is not only a place of fellowship but also a place where spiritual truths are unveiled.

The disciples had been walking with Jesus, but they didn't see Him for who He was until they sat down at the table. Sometimes, we don't fully understand what God is doing in our lives until we take time to sit in His presence, reflect, and break bread together in community.

In our lives, we often struggle to recognize God in the midst of our journey. But when we come to the table — to prayer, to worship, to communion — God opens our eyes. Are we prepared for those moments of revelation, or are we too distracted to see? Let us be expectant that when we come to the table,

God will reveal His heart, His will, and His presence to us in new ways.

#3 The Table is a Place of Mission

After their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, what did the disciples do? Luke 24:33 says, "They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."



- 25 – Jing Maniaci
9 Bancroft Terrace
Shillington PA 19607
- 25 – Grant Miller
544 Mohns Hill Rd.
Sinking Spr. PA 19608
- 26 – Rick Matz
13 Katie Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 26 – Teresa Feiler
3314 Pequot Dr.
Sinking Spr. PA 19608



~Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 5

THE VOLUNTEER

by Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

In the early 1960's, our hospital had no chapel building; the patient population was nearly two thousand and virtually every door was locked. Patients had little privacy and many, if not most, remained in the hospital for extended periods of time. I shared my work with one other protestant chaplain who was approaching seventy years of age. He was a kind and good man who no longer had the health and energy of earlier years. As a result, I found myself conducting thirteen informal ward services each week, along with a busy schedule of visitation and counseling. Needless to say, I needed help.

One day, early in my tenure, I received a strange phone call. The man told me that he wanted to work as a volunteer at the hospital. He said that he was a businessman and active churchman. He played guitar and sang and could assist in religious services. Then, the phone conversation took a strange turn. It seemed as though he was trying to give me reasons to turn down his offer. He said that he was a pacifist and conscientious objector to military service. He had actively demonstrated against the wars in Vietnam and Korea.

Our phone conversation was lengthy and led to a personal visit, a tour of the hospital and our decision to give the relationship a try. He became one of the best volunteers I ever knew and my good friend.

I was to learn that he had a degree in industrial design and owned half interest in the New England Clock Company. One of his early jobs had been as a member of the General Motors team that designed the classic 1955 Chevrolet. He flew his own plane from a nearby private airstrip, commuting to his company headquarters in Connecticut. Always, on Tuesday, he would arrange his busy schedule so that he could assist at several ward services in the evening.

Never did this sensitive man inject his personal political views into this work as a volunteer. He understood the stress and trauma already experienced by many of the veterans and was careful not to add to their problems. His guitar and soothing baritone voice became a familiar part of the evening services and patients saw him as a personal friend.

In the late 1960's, we finally had a chapel building, and the introduction of new medications had revolutionized treatment. Few ward doors were locked and many group activities and programs took place in the chapel. Magnus, that was his name, continued active participation in

discussion groups and services. Frequently, after these activities ended, Magnus would stay on, talking with one or more veterans in a quiet corner of the chapel, discussing some important issue in their lives. He became a father figure to many younger veterans recently returned from Vietnam.

One of his favorite benevolences was to see that discharged vets left the hospital with new clothing and a suitcase. This was always done quietly and without fanfare. He would take the vet shopping and to dinner at a good restaurant. Such afternoons became almost a ritual for vets who knew Magnus. With his contacts in the business community, he often was able to assist in the search for employment.

He told me that he recognized the overwhelming needs across the world in far-away places, but felt that his mission was to do what he could to address the needs close to home.

Several years before I retired, Magnus suffered the first of several strokes that finally would take his life. Along with several of his friends from the hospital, I attended the graveside service in a quiet rural cemetery not far from his home. By many of us, he will always be remembered not as a talented industrial designer and entrepreneur, but as a Christian layman who quietly used his talent, time and resources to give aid and comfort to veterans who had experienced the violence and trauma of war.

Many years ago, a man named, Edgar Guest, wrote a poem with the opening line, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day." My old friend, Magnus, was a living example of those words.



Monthly
POTLUCK

Starting **November 24**,
we will hold a
potluck lunch
on the
**last Sunday of every
month.**

Bring a dish to share
and enjoy a time of
fellowship following the
10:30AM service.
Start time approx.
11:45AM
Location TBD

Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 3

Do we know what it meant to go back to Jerusalem? The journey back to Jerusalem meant going back to the place of danger. Returning to Jerusalem after recognizing Jesus was a bold move, considering the recent events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion. Jerusalem was a dangerous place for Jesus' followers. And yet it symbolized a spiritual breakthrough.

Their walk to Emmaus was filled with doubt, grief, and confusion. But after recognizing Jesus in the breaking of bread, their faith was renewed. V33 -*They got up and returned **at once** to Jerusalem* -sense of urgency. Going back to Jerusalem also signified the disciples' understanding of their mission. The city symbolized the center of God's redemptive plan and the place where the gospel would first be proclaimed. It meant they were now ready to join the other disciples and declare the truth of the resurrection. Their return was a sign of restored faith and conviction in the success of God's plan, despite the circumstances.

The table not only opens our eyes to who Jesus is but also sends us out with a mission. When we encounter Jesus at the table, we are called to share that encounter with others. The revelation of Christ compels us to return to our communities and testify about what He has done.

The Table Is a Place of Revelation

The passage also highlights the importance of understanding the Old Testament in light of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus' explanation of Scripture from Moses and the Prophets shows how all of Scripture points to His redemptive work.

In the story of Genesis, when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened to their nakedness, marking the fall of humankind. Now, in this moment on the road to Emmaus, as the two disciples ate with Jesus, their eyes were opened to the presence of God. This was a moment of cosmic healing, redemption, and restoration—a powerful revelation of God's unwavering love and salvation

In this story from Luke, the table becomes a place of Divine presence, Encounter and Mission. When we invite Jesus to the table of our lives, we can encounter Him in profound ways. We experience His presence as we fellowship with Him and others, we receive revelation as He opens our eyes to spiritual truths, and we are sent on a mission to share the good news of what He has done in our lives.

So today, I encourage you: *Come to the table*. Whether it's in prayer, in communion, or in fellowship with others, expect Jesus to meet you there. And when He does, let that encounter propel you into the world, ready to share His love and grace with others.

Friends, after hearing God's word, what are you going to do with it? In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



I am excited to announce a *Couple's Bible Study and Fellowship*, which will meet on six Fridays at 7PM, Nov. 8th & 22nd, Jan. 17th & 24th, and Feb. 7th, concluding with a special *Couple's Party* on **February 14, 2024** to celebrate our journey together!

Calvary couples are warmly invited to participate in this Study and Fellowship, and feel free to extend the invitation to your friends and relatives. This time together will help us strengthen our bonds, not only with our partners but also in our relationship with God.

The theme of each session will be determined by the couple who leads the discussion, making this a unique opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and perspectives. Our goal is to grow together in love, communication, and understanding. Each session is designed to deepen our relationships and help us experience love more fully.

We will hold six sessions in the Chapel on the main floor, though we are open to hosting in homes if anyone is interested. Zoom will also be available for those unable to attend in person. The gatherings will be fun, insightful, and interactive.

I hope you can join us for this enriching time of fellowship and growth in our relationships. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Shalom!
Pastor Nova
201-699-6704c





The Gospel of Jesus According to the Living Faith Stories of Calvary UMC.

Write your own devotional to share with others, similar to the style of *The Upper Room*.

Pray about what God may be calling you to share about as an encouragement/message to others. We are looking for submissions in the following format:

- 1) Choose a scripture that speaks to your personal story.
- 2) Write a brief personal story (300 - 350 words, max.)
- 3) Conclude with a short, written prayer.
- 4) Include your name.

Please submit your devotional via email to the church office (administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net). Include in the email subject line "Shared Devotional".

Submission deadline: October 31st, 2024. Our Calvary's 5th Gospel of Living Stories will be published in time for Advent.

Come to the Table: *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*

10/13/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Luke 14:12-14

When was the last time you invited someone to your table with no expectation of anything in return? How did you think that experience impact you or them?

Radical Hospitality and Kingdom Generosity

In Luke 14:12-14, we find Jesus at the home of a Pharisee, engaging in a meal that was typical of the cultural practices of the time. Hosting a luncheon or dinner in the ancient Near East was more than just a social event; it was an important opportunity to display wealth, reinforce social ties, and elevate one's status. Hospitality was considered a virtue, but often, it came with an expectation—reciprocal hospitality.

In this context, the idea of reciprocal hospitality means that if someone invites you to their table, it's expected that you will return the favor. The social gatherings of the time were not purely for connection or kindness but rather a means to maintain or elevate one's social standing. Jesus,

however, challenges this cultural norm, calling us to a deeper, more selfless expression of generosity.

Three Important Teachings of Jesus

1. Hospitality with Hidden Motives

In verse 12, Jesus addresses the typical approach to hospitality. People often invite friends, relatives, or wealthy neighbors, expecting to be invited back. This reciprocal exchange creates a cycle that benefits both parties and maintains the balance of social standing. In our own time, we often fall into similar patterns. We may help or serve others with an unspoken expectation of receiving something in return, whether it's a favor, recognition, or praise. Jesus challenges this kind of conditional giving, encouraging us instead to practice generosity that expects nothing in return.

A businessman once regularly hosted lavish dinners for his wealthy clients and colleagues, believing that by doing so, he was building strong networks that would benefit his career. However, he realized that while he was generous to those who could help him, he rarely extended that hospitality to people who couldn't repay him, like his office janitors or struggling neighbors.

Are we, like this businessman, generous only when it benefits us? Jesus challenges us to give without expecting anything in return. True generosity doesn't seek repayment; it reflects the unconditional love and grace that God extends to us.

2. Radical Generosity

In verse 13, Jesus turns cultural expectations upside down. He instructs His host to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind—those who cannot repay him. These are the marginalized members of society, often overlooked and forgotten.

There's a story of a woman named Emily who hosted a Thanksgiving dinner every year for her family and friends. One year, feeling a nudge from God, she decided to invite people from the local homeless shelter instead. She prepared the same feast she would for her family, but this time, the table was filled with strangers who hadn't experienced a home-cooked meal in months. They couldn't repay her, but the joy she saw in their eyes made it the most meaningful Thanksgiving she had ever celebrated.

This kind of radical generosity—giving without expectation—is what Jesus calls us to. Are we reaching out to those on the fringes of society? This **type of generosity might seem uncomfortable at first, but the joy and fulfillment it brings is priceless.**

3. The Blessing of Kingdom Hospitality

Finally, in verse 14, Jesus assures us that while the marginalized may not be able to repay us, there is a greater reward waiting at the "resurrection of the righteous." The blessings of this kind of hospitality are not measured in earthly terms but in eternal rewards.

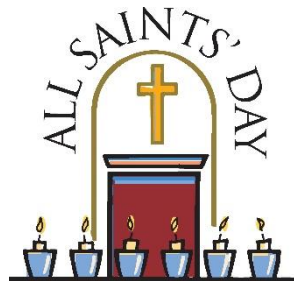
A retired man named Mr. James exemplified this kind of hospitality. Every Sunday after church, he would invite new people, the elderly, or those who seemed lonely, to lunch. One young woman, new to the town and feeling isolated, was deeply touched by his invitation. Though she couldn't repay him, she never forgot his kindness. Mr. James didn't need repayment because he understood that his kindness was storing up treasures in heaven.

When we open our hearts and homes to those who cannot repay us, we receive blessings that go beyond this world. Jesus promises that such kindness will be rewarded in eternity, aligning our hearts with the values of the Kingdom of God.

The Call to True Hospitality

Jesus' teaching challenges us to go beyond familiar patterns of giving and receiving. He calls us to practice hospitality that reflects God's heart—inviting those who cannot repay us, giving freely, and serving others without expectation. In doing so, we mirror the grace and mercy that God has so freely given to us.

Friends, as we reflect on God's word today, *how will we respond? What are we going to do about it? How will we extend radical hospitality and generosity in our lives?* In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



On Sunday, November 10th, Calvary will observe All-Saints' Sunday. During the 10:30AM in-person, livestreamed service, we will be remembering all our church members & loved ones who passed away during the last year and are now living their life eternal with Christ.

Please let us know the name(s) of loved ones you would like to be included in the list of those being memorialized. During a particular time in the service, his/her name will be read aloud, and a bell will be sounded in his/her memory.

If you desire, we would greatly appreciate you sending a photo of that special person. We will display the picture during the service at the time your loved one's name is read aloud. Please mail or email your photo to: administrator.calvmohm@comcast.net or to the church at 1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540, Attn: Janet.) **Please submit the name of the person you would like to remember, his/her relationship to you, and a photo (if you'd like) on or before Wednesday, October 30th.**

All-Saints Sunday service is a meaningful way of remembering those saints from Calvary Church and all those who have touched our lives who now dwell with our Lord in the Church Triumphant. If you submit a name, and possibly a photo, we would be honored if you and your family members/friends could be present with us, either online or in-person, for this important time of remembrance. Kindly pass this information along to your other family members, as well as those who had a significant relationship with your loved one.



KID'S CLUB



Calvary Youth at the IGNITE Conference in NJ



happy...Happy...HAPPY



Look who we found!



Who are these
crazy people?

**To see more photos of
this very special youth
event, please check out
the bulletin board in the
main floor hallway.**