



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connection

821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.587.6011 | calvaryepiscopal.org

May 2025

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!—*Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector*

Dear Friends,

Blessed Easter Season!

Our Easter Day here at Calvary was a wonderful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. I am deeply grateful for the many hours given throughout Holy Week by our Altar Guild members and choir members. They make everything come together for our services. I am also deeply grateful to our staff Taylor, Terrance, Jacob, Owen, and Callie and her crew. These wonderful folks are literally the glue that holds everything together. They give way above and beyond and do so out of love. They are examples for us all. Last but certainly not least I am deeply grateful to all the members of Calvary for making this church a wonderful, welcoming home for those who come through our doors.

By Easter morning the floodwaters that caused so much damage just days before had receded, the sun shone brightly, and as I write this to you on Wednesday of Easter week, the sun continues to grace us and the temperatures have begun to rise. This is a beautiful time of year to be in Kentucky! Derby is just around the corner and with it more celebrations. We can see in creation that life overcomes death, and we have much to be thankful for.

Although this is our Easter edition of the Calvary Connection, upon the request of several folks, I am attaching a copy of the Good Friday sermon that I gave at Our Merciful Savior.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Lee+



Good Friday Sermon, 2025—Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

In our gathering collect today we joined together with the Bishop praying:

Almighty God, we pray you look graciously on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed.

I think there is a natural inclination when we pray this prayer on Good Friday to take it too personally, to let our hearts and minds move to a place of thinking that this prayer is meant just for us, just for those of us gathered in whatever Episcopal Church we are gathered for the Proper Liturgy of Good Friday and that we are asking God to look graciously on *'this'* your family – us your family.

Granted we need a lot of God's graciousness, but this collect is a prayer for all humanity because all of humanity is God's family. We do well to remember this, especially on Good Friday each year as we encounter the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John which most unfortunately sounds as if the sole responsibility for Christ's crucifixion was upon the whole of the Jewish people and has most unfortunately been, at least in part, the basis for antisemitic thoughts and actions throughout the centuries.

In a time in our world where antisemitism is on the rise, we need to be very clear in our understanding that with the exception of the Roman authorities, *every single person, including Jesus, was a Jew*. The people in power, those who were threatened by this Rabbi who cared for those deemed unworthy, were the ones who facilitated the crucifixion of the Lord of Love, not the entirety of the Jews – not by a long shot! – and this might sound a bit more familiar to our ears this year – this reality that the words and actions of those in positions of power might not be, or definitely are not, representative of the whole of the nation.

We gather here today, on Good Friday, bad Friday, hard Friday, and we come face to face with the crucified Christ, the very one who came to show the world a different way, a way of love. Who, because he was a threat to those in authority, was killed like a common thief, alongside common thieves.

This death so unfitting for the Messiah really should come as no surprise to us since, in every interaction Jesus had with folks, and especially just last night, in our liturgical observation, Jesus modeled for his followers the example of humility and servanthood by taking on the role of the lowest of servants and washing the feet of his disciples.

In John's Passion Narrative we hear of Judas' betrayal of Jesus, Peter's denial of Jesus and Pilate's not standing up for what he knew was Truth, and rationalizing his lack of action with a rhetorical question directed somewhat toward Jesus,

"What is Truth?"

And in this same Gospel of John, that rhetorical question has already been answered in Chapter 14 when Jesus says,

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

Pilate is face to face with the truth and refuses to accept that truth and act to preserve his life. Perhaps for this reason Pilate is the only person who has gone down in history named as an offender of Jesus, of which we are reminded each time we affirm our faith in the Nicene Creed with the words *"suffered under Pontius Pilate."*

I think those of us in the United States in the year of our Lord 2025 need to pay particular attention to Pontius Pilate. Honestly, I think that those of us who have claimed to follow Jesus throughout the centuries should have paid a lot more attention to Pontius Pilate – not as a role model – quite the opposite. Pilate looked into the face of Jesus and knew, and even said, that he found no fault in Jesus, no reason for condemnation or death, and yet he waffled as the voices of dissent grew louder, and he conceded when he thought his own privilege as a vassal of the emperor might be lost. He chose to turn a blind eye in order to save his own position, his own privilege.

How many times have the actions of Pilate been replicated throughout the centuries by folks who were 'really good people' but were afraid of the cost, as Dieterich Bonhoeffer so aptly wrote and showed in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*.

- 'Really good people' were bullied, afraid, and turned a blind eye to the growing antisemitism that led to the horror of Nazi Germany.
- 'Really good people' turned a blind eye to the horror of lynching African Americans that was prevalent in our country throughout the early 20th Century.
- 'Really good people' turned a blind eye to the lynching of Matthew Shepherd and others because of whom they loved.



Pontius Pilate was probably considered a 'really good person' in the eyes of most, and, as I am reminded by my young therapist friends, there are no bad *people*, only bad *choices*. Pilate made a very bad choice and many, many have made equally bad choices throughout history. We, like Pilate, are looking truth straight in the eye and have a choice to make.

Everything in our world encourages us to make bad choices, to not follow Jesus. Following Jesus may lead us to a cross. Truly following Jesus will cost us something. Straight white people may not know a lot about that, but others among us do. In our lives we are cautioned again and again to be careful, watch what we do, who we let in. This is certainly not a time to be carefree, but it is also not a time to be careful in a way that keeps us safe when those around us are not. Those of us in places of privilege have a rich history of watching people hang on trees or be shot in our streets or taken from their families and sent to prison in another country while we are being very careful and safe.

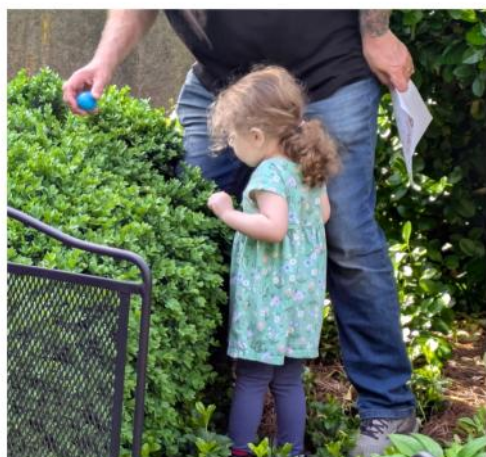
The Gospel of Jesus is not a careful Gospel. This day is not a day of carefulness that calls for us to keep ourselves safe. As we come face to face with our Savior on a cross we are beckoned to come face to face with those who are suffering in our midst; to see the face of Jesus in those who are hurting now and to not be like Pilate, who in the face of Truth, turned away. We need to not be careful and to stand up to oppressive voices and powers.

Recently our Bishop has preached sermons quoting Phillips Brooks calling us to be courageous. Being courageous is the opposite of being careful. Being courageous might get you crucified. As followers of Jesus we are called to be courageous, to be the hands and feet and voices of Jesus in our world calling for the love and care of the whole family of God.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and give us courage to do the work you have given us to do in the days to come.

Amen





EASTER 2025

(Pictures by Logan Redden)



Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

Dear Members and Friends of the Calvary Music Ministry,

As the Easter season continues to unfold, we give thanks for the gift of sacred music and its power to draw us deeper into the mystery and beauty of our faith. Each rehearsal, each sung phrase, and each moment of shared worship is a testament to the Spirit at work among us. Your commitment to this ministry—whether as singer, instrumentalist, or faithful listener—strengthens the life of our church and enriches our shared worship.

Holy Week Reflections: Partnership in Praise

During Holy Week, Calvary was blessed to join in a musical and spiritual partnership with the Urban Partnership community. Together, our choirs offered music that held space for lament, reflection, and resurrection hope.



The collaborative spirit was evident in every service, from the solemnity of Maundy Thursday to the joyful proclamation of Easter morning. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed their gifts and time to make this week so meaningful.

Ascension Day Service: May 29 at 7:00 PM

We invite you to attend a special Ascension Day Service at Calvary on Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 PM, presented in collaboration with the Cathedral Choir. This service will be offered in a Lessons and Carols format, thoughtfully combining scripture and choral music to mark Christ's ascension and the promise it offers the Church.

In closing, we are grateful for the opportunity to share music in our services and hope that the music is meaningful to all in attendance. We look forward to the remainder of our choir season through Pentecost on June 8th and throughout this summer.

Jacob

Mark your calendars for these Upcoming Events at Calvary

Ascension Service featuring combined Calvary and Cathedral choirs



Thursday, May 29, 7:00 PM

Drag Me To Church






**Drag Me to Church:
A Gospel Drag Show**

Saturday, June 28, 2025
Reception 6:00 pm
Show begins at 7:00 pm

Calvary Episcopal Church
821 South Fourth St.
Louisville KY, 40203

Donations welcome, all
proceeds benefit the
Calvary Food Pantry

Featuring:

 Cadillac Seville Host & MC	 Sasha Grant	 Jenna Jive
 Jayda Mack	 Vanessa Demornay	 Simone

Saturday June 28th

Reception at 6pm, Show at 7pm

Organ Restoration Update—Owen Sammons, Organist and Director of Arts

We have both good news and bad news to share with you regarding the progress of our organ restoration project.

First, the bad news: our anticipated reinstallation date has been pushed back. While we had hoped to welcome the return of the organ by late summer, updated projections now place the completion toward the end of the year. As with any intricate restoration, especially of an instrument as complex as ours, unforeseen challenges have emerged that require additional time and care. We know this is disappointing news, and we truly appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

Now, for the good news: we're extremely close to reaching our fundraising goal! Through your generosity, commitment, and shared love for Calvary's music ministry, we have closed the financial gap and nearly fully funded the project. This is an extraordinary milestone, and we are deeply grateful for the support of each and every one of you.

Meanwhile, real progress continues behind the scenes. Most of the metal pipes have been cleaned and polished. Damaged pipes are being restored, and new ones are being crafted to replace those beyond repair. While this work may be invisible for now, it is steady and significant.

We know the extended timeline isn't ideal, but we are confident the result will be worth the wait. When the organ returns, it will not only sound magnificent—it will stand as a renewed symbol of our shared faith, history, and commitment to worship through music.

Thank you, Calvary, for your generosity, your patience, and your belief in this project. The finish line is in sight!



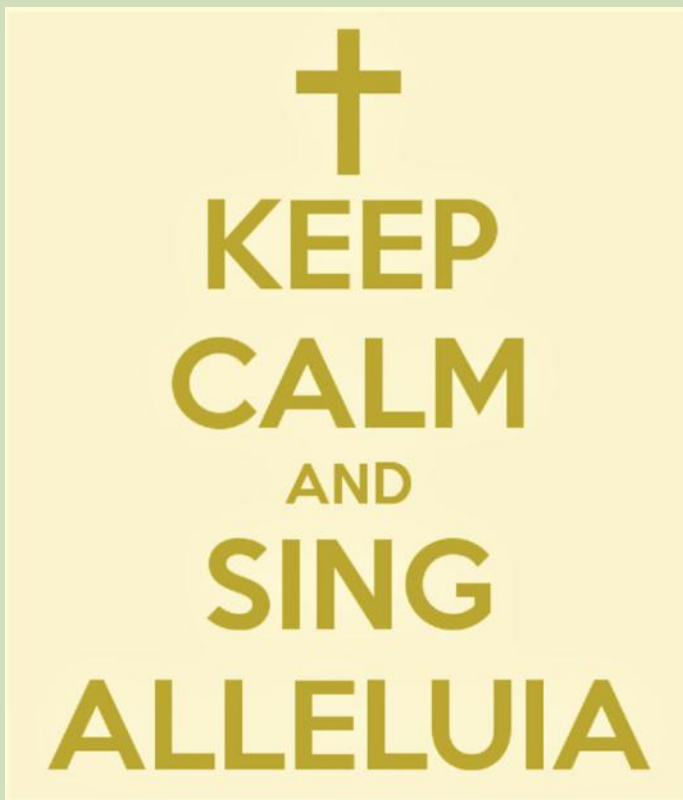
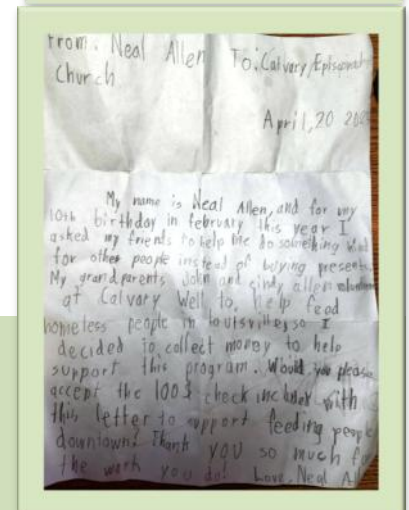
Food Closet News—Margaret Dickinson

The Food Pantry received a donation of \$100 in April from Neal Allen, along with this handwritten note:

My name is Neal Allen, and for my 10th birthday in February this year I asked my friends to help me do something kind for other people instead of buying presents. My grandparents John and Cindy Allen volunteer at Calvary Well to help feed homeless people in Louisville, so I decided to collect money to help support this program. Would you please accept the \$100 check included with this letter to support feeding people downtown? Thank you so much for the work you do!

Love,

Neal Allen



The Bishop's Visit



Bishop Terry White visited Calvary on Sunday, March 2.

Karen Devore and Thea Simon were confirmed. Beau Howard was received.

(Photos by Nina Racine)

Blessing the Parking Lot Trees, April 27





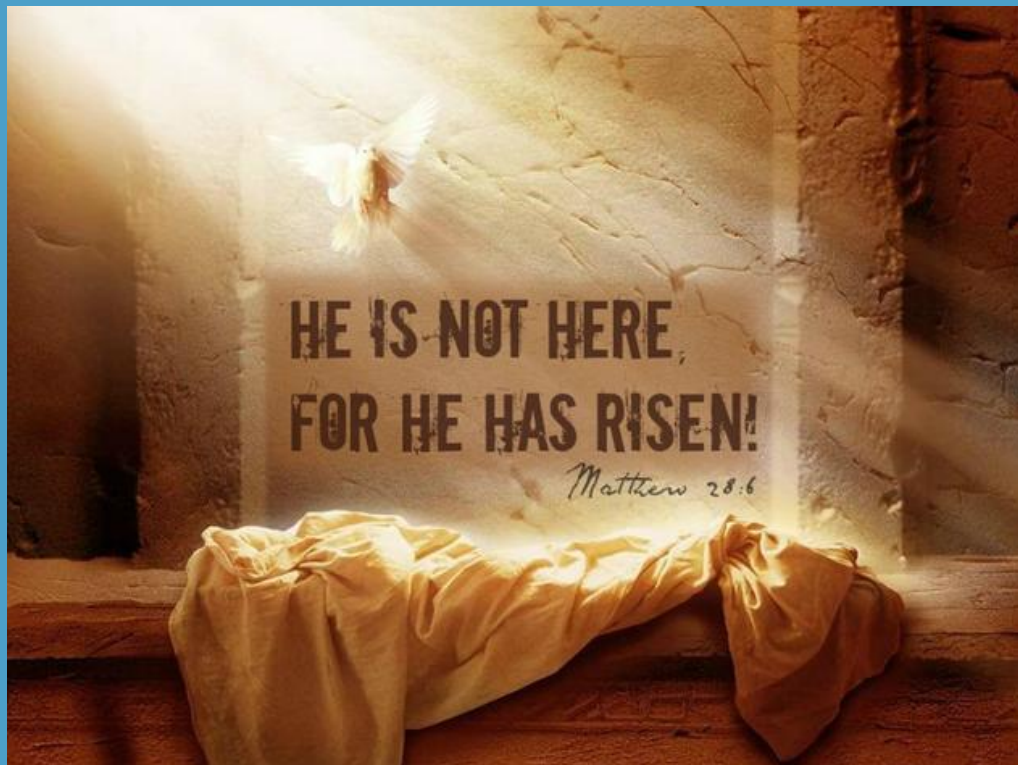
Property Committee Update—Lynne Lyndrup

The Property Committee worked on so many heavy projects in the past couple of years, we took a short break. Now we are back at it.

The second-floor classroom windows are failing and need to be replaced. We are in the process of getting bids, as the cost will be significant. They were originally installed with metal frames that were mounted into the concrete of the building. One bid suggested a fix that would leave the metal frames but install new windows in them. A second bid offered a more expensive fix of removing the original metal frames and replacing them with a wood-like composite. Both bids include double-paned windows.

Other projects include water damage in classroom 204 due to the leaking windows needs to be addressed and repaired; a new marble step needs to be made and installed in the “notch” where the old organ console was; the alarm system needs work; and we may install a couple of flower boxes in the garden.

We want to welcome Emily Young and Kathleen Woolridge to the property Committee! Their main focus will be our garden and Burial Grounds. We are delighted to have them join us.



Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Parker Hall

10:30 Live service and Facebook feed

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am – noon
(at other times, call Rector's cell phone, below)

Food Closest

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30–11:30 am



[View map for location](#)

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Would you like to get emails from Calvary? We send them out regularly to list the schedule for the week or happenings within the parish such as marriages, births and the passing of our members.

Go to www.calvaryepiscopal.org, Under About Us, select Contact Us and fill out the form to request digital communications.