

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

2801 Park Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510

Pastor Charles Lucchesi 516-223-4070

E-mail: calvarychurch@optonline.net Website: www.cpchaldwin.com



CALVARY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2021

An Anguish Soul Seated At The Feet Of Jesus

By Sotar Lloyd, Former Board-Certified Protestant Chaplain, Department of Veterans Affairs

In October 1517, when Martin Luther hung his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, it sparked off the beginning of the Reformation Movement. In August 1518, Luther was summoned to Rome to answer charges of heresy. In July 1519, at the Leipzig debate, Luther was questioned continuously over a period of one week on the authority of his disputation theological writings. This debate was led by Luther's opponents: the redoubtable Johann Eck (a professor from Ingolstadt who acted as the prosecutor and spokesman for the Emperor) and Jan Hus, whose effort was to discredit Luther. Johann Eck charged Luther under the fifteenth century Bohemian heretic. Although Luther defied the Church authority, he still had the privilege to receive a hearing before the imperial of Diet at Worms, Germany, in April 1521.

Entering into Diet of Worm on Saturday, April 16, 1521, Martin Luther described himself being physically fearful and trembling. For he knew he was not superficial, but a gifted educated man who had great spiritual prominence that will not yield or compromise in the truth of God's Word. However, Luther was fully aware that he was of flesh and blood that is also inadequate, fragile, limited, and vulnerable.

Early evening on Monday April 18, 1521, in the city of Diet of Worms, Germany, Martin Luther, at the age of 37-years-old, stood trial before King Charles the Fifth, the Holy Roman Emperor at the imperial assembly, charged with the crime of heresy. A trail that led to strengthen the Reformation movement. A movement that would divide the Church into two impetus, Protestant and Roman Catholic, creating a full-blown religious war. A religious war that fought in Western Europe that ended in 1648, under the Peace Treaty of Westphalia. However, some historians placed the ending from 1555, the Peace of Augsburg, which permitted the coexistence of Catholicism and Lutheranism in Germany.

As Luther stood before the assembly, his defense was presented with his own writings. The assembly had two questions: (1) Was he the author of the writings presented before him? (2) Did he stand by the contents of his writings? In an almost impossible to hear voice, because his opponents had to ask him to speak up (contrary in the manner Luther was portrayed in that particular scene from the Hollywood movie), Luther responded in fear admitting to authorship, but asked for additional twenty-four hours to consider a response to the second question. The assembly agreed and granted Luther his request, and Luther retreated in seclusion. R.C. Sproul's writings on "*Justification by Faith*" calls this pivotal moment in Luther's life, "Luther's Gethsemane." A place where pain and suffering met, and fear wanted to take full control and govern the outcome.

It was at that moment in Luther's life he pleaded for help at heaven's door. This desperate, heavenly appeal showcase the anguish in the soul of the man, Luther. Fear of great darkness flooded his soul and consumed him, eating him alive within. With all his educational background and well informed of the Holy Scripture, Luther knew he was a mere man who needed help not from another human like himself, but from the only one who could give him the needed strength to defend the cause that he felt driven by God to accomplish: Reform what he felt had been Deform. Therefore, Luther went through the dark agony of despair and cried out to the immutable God from his soul in anguish and he prayed:

(continued on next page)

“O God, Almighty God Everlasting! How dreadful is the world! Behold how its mouth opens to swallow me up, and how small faith in Thee! . . . Oh! the weakness of the flesh, and the power of Satan! If I am to depend upon my strength of this world - all is over . . . The knell is struck . . . Sentence is gone forth . . . O God! O God! O thou, my God! help me against the wisdom of this world. Do this, I beseech thee; though shouldst do this . . . by thy own mighty power . . . The work is not mine, but Thine. I have no business here . . . I have nothing to contend for with these great men of the world! I would gladly pass my days in happiness and peace. But the cause is Thine . . . And it is righteous and everlasting! O Lord! help me! O faithful and unchangeable God! I lean not upon man. It were vain! Whatever is of man is tottering, whatever proceeds from him must fail. My God! my God! dost thou not hear? My God, art thou no

longer living? Nay, thou canst not die. Thou dost but hide Thyself. Thou hast chosen me for this work. I know it! . . . Therefore, O God, accomplish thine own will! Forsake me not, for the sake of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my defense, my buckler, and my stronghold. Lord - where art thou? . . . My God, where art thou? . . . Come! I pray thee, I am ready . . . Behold me prepared to lay down my life for thy truth . . . suffering like a lamb. For the cause is holy. It is thine own! . . . I will not let thee go! no, nor yet for all eternity! And though the world should be thronged with devils - and this body, which is the work of thine hands, should be cast forth, trodden under foot, cut in pieces . . . consumed to ashes, my soul is thine. Yes, I have thine own word to assure me of it. My soul belongs to thee, and will abide with thee forever! Amen! O God send help! . . . Amen!”

<http://heavenlysprings.org/blog/luthers-gethsemane-a-prayer-before-the-diet-of-worms>

Luther’s prayer can give one a glimpse of the fear and trembling of this his anguish soul. His prayer also confirms that such midnight moments in life – that is, ones’ faith rests not in humans, but in the unchangeable God Almighty. The moments when the midnight call is beyond humanistic grasp, and fear swallow up all the oxygen from within the soul, is not what we have faith in, but who we have faith in.

The following day at six o'clock, Luther entered a larger hall before King Charles the Fifth, the Holy Roman Emperor at the imperial assembly, and this time it was overflowing with common people. John Eck demanded, “Explain yourself now. Will you defend all your writings, or disavow them?” Luther took the opportunity to give a very long speech, rather than a “yes” or “no” answer. He took this form of explanation to draw the distinctions between his various writings by setting Christ and his work in the center, rather than humanity and its works. One of Luther’s statements in his long speech was as follows: “Yet, as I am a mere man, and not God, I will defend myself after the example of Jesus Christ, who said: ***‘If I have spoken evil, bear witness against me; but if well, why doest thou strike me?’*** (John 18:23). How much more should I, who am but dust and ashes, and so prone to error, desire that everyone should bring forward what he can against my doctrine. Therefore, most serene emperor, and you illustrious princes, and all, whether high or low, who hear me, I implore you by the mercies of God to prove to me by the writings of the prophets and apostles that I am in error. As soon as I shall be convinced, I will instantly retract all my errors, and will myself be the first to seize my writings, and commit them to the flames...” (<https://www.sjsu.edu/people/james.lindah/courses/Hum1B/s3/Luther-Speech-Worms-1521>)

Eck found Luther’s response was ambiguous. Therefore, he repeated the question, “Martin--answer candidly and without horns--do you or do you not repudiate your books and the errors which they contain?” This time, still in fear but felt strength by the Lord, Luther’s courage and faith to return and stand alone for truth replied, “Since then your imperial majesty and your lordships demand a simple answer, I will give you one without teeth and without horns. Unless I am convicted of error by the testimony of Scripture or by manifest evidence...I cannot and will not retract, for we must never act contrary to our conscience...Here I stand. God help me! Amen!”... “*Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me. Amen.*” (<https://billpetro.com/history-of-the-diet-of-worms>)

Although Luther stood in fear to defend truth, the truth he knew even before he entered into Diet of Worms, Germany, but yet he folded the first day he appeared before the assembly. But, on Tuesday, April 19, 1521, was a new day with God’s new mercy granted to Luther gave him the strength to stand on truth. Not his truth, but God’s truth through His Word of His Son Jesus Christ. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

“Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24-27 ESV)

On Christ the solid rock I stand...All other ground is sinking sand...All other ground is sinking sand (“On Christ The Solid Rock I Stand” by Edward Mote).

Church Updates

The Church Board continues to discuss resuming Sunday School in a careful and safe manner. The Adult Sunday School Class will be starting shortly as many are anxious to begin meeting again. Sunday School for the children and teens will follow soon afterwards.

The Sunday worship service is at 11:00 a.m. We strongly encourage everyone to please wear a face mask out of consideration for one another. There is plenty of seating in order to practice physical distancing. The sermon will continue to be recorded and posted on-line for all to view:

Visit the church website (www.cpcbaldwin.com - click on "YouTube") and also streamed on YouTube at (www.youtube.com - search for Calvary Church, Baldwin, NY).

Children's Church is held during the service. The children are dismissed just before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. On the first Sunday of each month (when Communion is scheduled) Children's Church will not be in session.

The **Wednesday Night Bible Study** meets at the church at 7:00 p.m. The men and women are starting a new study on the book of Ephesians, and also have a time of prayer.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Patti Senita's home. They are continuing their study of the book of Acts.

The most current information is sent out weekly in the Friday e-mail communications. If you have not been receiving any e-mails from the church, please let us know and we will gladly add you to the list.

SPECIAL NOTE:

On the side of caution - since infectious rate from the virus is still unpredictable, there will be no Thanksgiving dinner or evening service. We will still celebrate Thanksgiving during the morning worship service on November 21st.

L. I. Youth Mentoring

During the worship service on Sunday, November 7th, Hector Encarnacion, the Nassau County Coordinator for Long Island Youth Mentoring, will be giving a brief presentation about the organization.

L.I. Youth Mentoring (LIYM) was established in 1981, and at one time was called L.I. Youth Guidance. LIYM is a ministry to fatherless children. Their mission is to assist the church to reach out to fatherless and orphaned children who are in need of hope through caring and consistent one-to-one relationships. Over the years even a few people from Calvary's church family have been involved in this ministry.

Please join us in hearing about LIYM and how their ministry is effectively providing a necessary ministry to local children and teens in need.

Clocks Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time officially ends on Sunday, November 7th, at 2:00 a.m. In the fall the clocks move back one hour (we gain an extra hour on that Sunday).

Most clocks are autonomous and will change automatically. But older clocks and other electronics might need to be changed manually.

Be sure to check the clocks first thing Sunday morning, or you'll be arriving to church an hour early.

Updating The Church Directory

It's time to update the Church Directory - Calvary's phone book for family and friends. Included are names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, etc., plus other church related information. If there are any recent changes to what is currently listed, or if you would like to be added to the directory, please contact the church and give your info to Sharon. You can call the church office (516-223-4070) or e-mail (calvarychurch@optonline.net).

Worship God with Thanksgiving

"Thank You! Everything in me says "Thank You!"

Angels listen as I sing my thanks.

I kneel in worship facing Your holy temple
and say it again: "Thank You!"

Thank You for Your love,
thank You for Your faithfulness;
Most holy is Your name,
most holy is Your Word.

The moment I called out, You stepped in;
You made my life large with strength.

When they hear what You have to say, GOD,
all earth's kings will say "Thank You."

They'll sing of what You've done:

"How great the glory of God!"

(Psalm 138:1-5 MSG).

Therefore, beloved, let us "[Give] thanks
always and for everything to
God the Father in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ..."
(Ephesians 5:20 ESV).

***Happy Thanksgiving!
Enjoy God's Blessings!***

By Sotar Lloyd

SENIORS LUNCHEON

The seniors had a wonderful time at the luncheon in October. They were so glad to be able to be meeting together again.

Pictured right is Valerie Piali playing on her accordion. She enjoyed playing for the group as much as the seniors enjoyed listening to her. The photo below (to the right) shows Pastor Lucchesi spending some time with a group of seniors from Harbor Cove.

We had a special celebration that day. Angela Guadagno was turning 100 on October 7th, so she was given a birthday cake with candles on top and the entire crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to her. What a milestone! God bless Angela in the coming year ahead!



**Next Seniors Luncheon will be held
Tuesday, December 7th.**

As usual, the luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon. Chef Ralph is already thinking ahead on what will be on the menu. It is very helpful to let us know that you will be attending. Please call the church office (516-223-4070) to R.S.V.P.

Barbara Hindley's New Adventure

Our dear friend Barbara Hindley (better known as Bobby) recently moved to Riverdale (located in the Bronx) to be closer to her daughter. She now lives in an apartment complex overlooking the Hudson River.

For a little send-off, the women in the Ladies Bible Study took Bobby out to dinner to her favorite Italian eatery. She composed a beautiful, sentimental note. Here are a few excerpts from that note:

"Thank you so much for coming to wish me well as I continue on this incredible journey of life. It's amazing - I'm over 95, in good health, and still have adventures ahead of me...I'm so thankful for so many wonderful friends, so grateful for the blessings God continues to shower on me, and I look forward to my next adventure with the confidence that He will continue to make all things beautiful in his time."

After Superstorm Sandy in 2011, the Southern Baptist group helped to rebuild Bobby's home and also invited her to attend Calvary Church. Since then she has been part of the church family. Over the last decade she has grown spiritually and has come to fully understand her special relationship with God.

On Sunday, October 10th, Bobby said a few words during the worship service. She then led the congregation in singing "In His Time" which is a hymn with special meaning to her. After the service the church family gathered for a luncheon.

We wish Bobby all the best in this new adventure. This is not goodbye, but see you again soon.



The ministry of "being at church"

It is a genuine ministry for you to be present at church. It is a ministry, first of all, to yourself. You need worship, Bible study, fellowship, and other activities because your Christian life needs constant attention, nurture, and support.

It is a genuine ministry for you to be present at church...for the rest of us who attend. When you are at church, you strengthen others to follow Christ in every way. We enjoy when you sing with us. We are enriched when you share what God is doing in your life. We are called to pray when you share your burdens. You allow us to share with you as well.

It is a critical ministry for you to be at church for the lost and for the ones searching for a church home. When you are here, they sense that God is real and necessary. When you are absent, God does not seem as important. When you are here, they see a very different testimony.

Think about this the next time you are tempted to say, "I won't go today. No one will miss me." Or "What difference does it make whether I'm at church or not?" Remember, just being at church is a ministry!

I am the Bible

I am the Bible, God's wonderful library. I am always - and above all - the truth.

To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.

To the one who sits in darkness, I am glorious light.

To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.

To him who has lost his way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick in sin, I am healing strength and forgiveness.

To the discouraged, I am a glad message of hope.

To those who are distressed and tossed about by the storms of life, I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.

To those who search for salvation, I reveal the Savior of the world.

I AM THE BIBLE!

Calvary Chronicle

Calvary Protestant Church
2801 Park Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baldwin, NY
11510-4100
Permit No. 192

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

2nd Charlie Hetzel Jr.
3rd Courtney Gross
3rd Lou Kelting
4th Ronnie Roddy Jr.
7th Sherry Valentine
8th Bridget Dowling
8th Paul Nembhard
9th Zavier Foster
9th Paula Kulla
12th Kirk Nehring
18th Roy Seymour
19th Shannon and Shelby
Verity
20th Florence Emeigh
20th Nadeline Sandoval-
Vallejos
22nd Barry Senita
27th Nicole Alcindor
28th Joe Waldvogel

DECEMBER

1st Lauren Nicolich
6th Trevor Watts
9th Mary Kaspar
10th Noelle Nehring
11th Daishaun Elliott
15th Anthony Alex Ramos
20th Stephanie Verity
21st Diane Benedetto
24th Wren Waldvogel
25th Sean Deedy
27th David Manuel
31st Dylan Rose

**Happy
Birthday!**

ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

5th Lou & Ree Kelting
13th Fred & Sherry Valentine
19th Bob & Diane Benedetto

DECEMBER

26th Carmine & Mary Jo Dapice
31st Jim & Terry Tucci



Count Your Blessings & Give Thanks

Great is thy faithfulness

In everything give thanks

Victory in Jesus

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise

Thank God for His everlasting love

He makes all things new

All glory and honor to God

Now thanks be to God

Know that God is always with us

Sing a new song