

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
JANUARY 10, 2021

INTERESTED IN LUTHERANISM, MEMBERSHIP?

If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the basics of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Long – he may be reached through the church office or by e-mail at PRBLong@aol.com.

CONFESSION

Private confession is available by appointment only. Call the Church Office.

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Long is generally available at Mt. Calvary Monday through Friday mornings, or by appointment should you need or want to have conversation with him. You may reach him by e-mail at: PRBLong@aol.com.

HOSPITAL CALLS

Pastor Long is not currently allowed access to the local hospitals or nursing homes unless a person is in danger of eminent death. However, we want to keep hospitalized members in prayer, so please keep us informed. If a person is available by phone, please give us a number and Pastor Long will call.

PRAYER CHAIN

Please take advantage of this opportunity to pray for your needs and those of your friends and family. Cards are available in the pew rack. To activate the chain please call Ardeane at 691-8007.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Our congregation operates Concordia Lutheran School together with the congregations of Redeemer and Trinity. Call the Concordia School office at 691-8921, or check their web site at www.concordiapeoria.com for information.

CONCORDIA STAFF FROM MT. CALVARY

Brooke Barr - Grade 2, & Cheerleading Coach
Jan Heien - Title I Reading Tutor

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

January 17 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 139:1-10

1 Samuel 3:1-20

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by LaVelle Borders wishing everyone a Happy New Year and God’s richest blessings.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2021 – The flower chart for 2021 has been posted on the bulletin board. Sign up early so you have flowers on the Sunday you want. There are many slots available yet!

Flowers for January – Now three Sundays in January has been taken. We’ve twisted all the arms we can, and we still have one open Sunday. **January 31st is still available!**

ENVELOPE BOXES – for 2021 are on tables in the Parish Hall. Please pick up those that belong to you and your family. Now you may use your 2021 offering envelopes – **please discard the leftovers from 2020 and do not use them.** Chances are the number has changed, and that causes problems for the volunteers that count the offerings.

CHURCH DE-DECORATING -- Linda Khattar is calling her band of merry elves together again to take down the lovely Christmas decorations and store them away until next December. She plans to do this on **today, following the 11:45 am service.** Anyone can help – just let her know you’ll be available (635-9364).

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY – Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of:

† Debbie Block, sister of Lisa Cornelius, who was called to her eternal rest on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.
Services are pending.

May her family find comfort, hope, and peace in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

COVID-19 ERA —Tier 3

As we continue to live out our callings in these challenging times, here’s what life at Mt. Calvary looks like:

1. Regular Office hours will continue – feel free to call or visit.

2. **Pastor Long is still making an effort to reach out to folks who haven't been able to make it back to church yet.** — mostly this is to “check in” — but please share your concerns or prayer requests as well. If you think you've been over-looked, please call us!
3. **You Tube Devotions:** Pastor Long is still posting devotions to You Tube three times a week. We're currently using them to take brief looks at the “other” readings from the previous Sunday. Look for them Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays.
4. **Worship:** We're now recording the main service from Sunday and uploading it to YouTube Sunday afternoon. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or look for links on Face book or our web page.
5. **In Person Worship: Until conditions change, our schedule will remain as it is.** We are allowed to have in-person services with up to 25% of the sanctuary's maximum occupancy. The Fire Department has determined that our max occupancy is 264 in the pews which means 25% is 66. We will continue to use Sign-Up Genius to pre-register attendance. If you haven't had a chance to sign up this week, here is the link for this week's Sign-Up-Genius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA4A728A5FB6-worship8>
6. **Bible Studies** – We will be looking at how the Old Testament points to Christ in the Sunday morning Bible Study. You may attend by Zoom, or in person – 10:30 am. The Men's Bible Study continues in a “Zoom” format, and is now reading the *Gospel According to St. Luke* — we meet Wednesdays at 6:30 am.
7. **Challenge:** As we are away from one another, we can still be “church,” even if in a different way. One of the things St. Paul commends to us as the “body of Christ” is to share each other's joys and burdens. Turns out, you can do that by phone, even with someone you don't “know” all that well. So, I urge you all to join me (if you can) in “calling around the congregation” to check in on each other, get to know each other and encourage each other. Lost your directory? Judy will send you a new one.
8. **Stewardship during COVID-19:** While God has blessed us with a “cushion” financially during these odd days, the ministries of Mt. Calvary still need your support – whether it's Judy taking care of the office, Pastor Long trying to provide study and worship opportunities, the Pantry continuing to reach out to our area, or Mr. Tagge providing music.
The preliminary Treasurer's Report for December 2020 shows year-to-date expenses as \$362,201.28, and year-to-date offerings as \$305,969.416. We've also received

\$77,000 from the Endowment Fund. Please, prayerfully continue to send in your contributions.

Tier Three protocol -- Some quick reminders for those of you attending the “larger” worship service this Sunday (and things for everyone to consider).

1. If you are not feeling well or have a temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or over, please stay home and get well.
2. If you are in a “high risk” category and don't feel safe, then also continue to take proper care – but make sure you are in touch with us so we can properly minister to you.
3. We ask you to wear your mask when entering and exiting the building. You may take it off during worship.
4. In the sanctuary, please “socially distance” yourselves in the pews. Family/household groups may sit together. You should leave an empty pew between you and folks sitting in front of you. Signs indicate which pews should be left empty.
5. Single use bulletins will be available as you enter the nave. Please leave them in the recycling container when you depart (unless you are taking yours home).
6. Communion will be brought to you in the pew.
7. The offering plate will be at the entrance of the nave for you to leave offerings as you are so moved.
8. Please do not socialize in the building - but do visit outside (weather permitting) with safe distancing.
9. If you have not indicated your preference for individual or common cup at communion, please go back to Sign Up Genius and do so (it allows us to prepare ahead of time).

Remember, we are continuing to offer the abbreviated communion services for those who feel more comfortable in the smaller settings. And we are continuing to make a service available on You Tube for those who prefer to worship remotely.

PORTALS OF PRAYER, HOPEFUL LIVING, MY DEVOTIONS, AND HAPPY TIMES (for children)

-- These publications are available on the table in the Narthex or from the church office — you can stop by and pick one up (call first and let us know you are coming) or we will mail them to you. Just let us know what you need and whether you need regular size or large print.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – During **January** our pantry will be in need of **Canned Fruit, Canned Tomatoes, Pancake Mix, and Syrup.** If you can help out by bringing some, your donation can be left in the church entry way during regular office hours.

STEWARDSHIP – Please remember that the ministry of Mt. Calvary continues even in these odd days. Your prayers and contributions are still needed.

The preliminary Treasurer’s Report for December 2020 shows year-to-date expenses as \$362,201.28, and year-to-date offerings as \$305,969.416. We’ve also received \$77,000 from the Endowment Fund.

You may mail your envelopes in (checks only, please), or drop them by the office. You can also make electronic donations through our web page (www.mtcalvarypeoria.org) by clicking the “donate” tab and setting up a profile with VANCO. If a donation is given using a credit card or debit card there is a 2.75% fee. If an electronic check is used the fee is 1.00%. People have begun donating through e-giving and have learned how easy it is to use. Currently seven people have used this method of giving. Thank you.

FROM WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY

With the “Tier Three Protocols” we are choosing to not meet until the virus is less of a threat. However — please keep an eye out for some of our special activities!

Treats for Family House – Family House offers a home away from home for the families of patients receiving medical treatment in Peoria. Women of Mt. Calvary have signed up to sponsor treats on **the 4th Monday of each month**. These treats may be store bought or homemade, and do not have to be individually wrapped. Family House is also in need of laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. If you would like to donate, **please call the office** and bring your treats to church, leaving them in the office marked “*Family House*.” Questions? Call LaVelle Borders, 681-9414. **A new sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.**

Postage Stamps – The Women of Mt. Calvary are saving postage stamps for LWML. Please cut out your postage stamps from envelopes and leave them in the office also. Judy will get them to the ladies. They will trim the stamps and send them to LWML to support their mission work. Thank you.

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE.ORG. – KFUE Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfue.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Introducing the Rev. Brady Finnern: We are very excited to introduce Rev. Brady Finnern as the new host of Thy Strong Word! Pastor Finnern serves at Messiah

Lutheran Church in Sartell, Minnesota, and we are looking forward to studying scripture with him.

Hear Thy Strong Word weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT at kfue.org, at AM850 in St. Louis, and via TuneIn on your smart speaker. Find programs on demand at kfue.org/thystrongword or your favorite podcasting app.

This week on KFUE.org, study the Gospel of Mark on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), continue in 2 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and take a moment in creation, scripture, faith, and family on Midday Moments (weekdays at 12:00 p.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfue.org or your favorite podcasting app.

PODCAST FOR LUTHERAN WOMEN – Have you scrolled through your podcasts, searching for one that catches your ear – a place you can escape to with inviting conversations, laughter, and fellowship with your Lutheran sisters? Look no further! Join Sarah, Erin, Rachel, and Bri on the sofa in the Lutheran Ladies Lounge, a podcast oasis for you, dear sisters, to sit, rest your feet, and stay a while. And on the way out, we’ll check your lipstick. Podcast episodes are available at kfue.org/lutheranladieslounge and wherever you get your podcasts. For bonus content from the show and a chance to help shape future on-air conversations—and enjoy friendly fellowship with other Lutheran ladies—join The Lutheran Ladies’ Lounge Facebook discussion group: facebook.com/groups/LutheranLadiesLounge.

Presenting: New Year’s Wishes and Prognostications: Each of the Lutheran Ladies here offers five good wishes and one wacky prognostication to ring in the New Year.

ISSUES ETC. – TALK RADIO & PODCASTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST --

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s teachings include: The Sacred Names of God, The Epiphany Hymn “The Only Son from Heaven,” Critical Theory, Responding to the Argument Against Miracles and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SPOUSE IN A WHOLE NEW WAY! -- Registration is now open for the next **VIRTUAL January 29 - 31, 2021 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Experience**. You can participate privately from your home or anywhere that affords you privacy as a couple. Apply now to learn more at GodLovesMarriage.org! Questions? Contact Bob & Billie Dee Briggs at bobandbd@roadrunner.com or 330-608-3595. Pre-registration is required to send your encounter materials to you via snail mail – don't miss out!

C.A.R.E. FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS – Endowments recently created by Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois will help the Central Illinois District continue working with our Lutheran Campus Ministry by providing endowments for each of the four public universities in the district: University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Western Illinois University in Macomb, and Illinois State University in Normal. You can help sustain these endowments by contributing to the Lutheran Legacy Foundation (any funds received before July 1st 2021 will be doubled). Brochures titled *Keeping Christ on Campus* are on the table in the Narthex.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Even in a formless, dark, and empty early universe, God made Himself present and powerful (Genesis 1:2). Surprise pregnancies sometimes seem just so uncertain. Terminal diagnoses can feel that desperate. But this Lord buried Himself in our graveyard (Romans 6:4). This Savior sowed life in death's shadowy valleys. We need not let abortion or assisted suicide root us there as residents. The Heavenly Father always comes close and brings His own new creation to blossom.



Please Join Us in the Celebration of Life! -- In celebration of life God has given to each of us, the Peoria Area Lutherans for Life asks for your help. May each member

thoughtfully consider donating to our Pennies for Life collection. This is an opportunity we hope you will use to express your thankfulness to your Heavenly Father by contributing a penny for each year of life that you have been granted. (Of course, larger contributions will be gratefully accepted too.) This special collection will be taken on **Sunday, January 24th**. Donations collected will be used to support pro-life education and also lending financial support for local organizations like the Family Resource Center, the Women's Pregnancy Center, and Lutheran Senior Ministries. We thank you for your help in our endeavor to uphold the sanctity of life.