

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

If you or a loved one have an illness or hospitalization that needs to be brought to the attention of Pastor Long, please call the office as soon as possible so that he may visit you. Note: Be sure the hospital knows that you are a member of Mt. Calvary and that you wish to have Pastor Long visit you. However, the hospitals do not always call the church—it is best if you let the office know.

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Theresa Johnston in celebration of her mother Alice’s 90th birthday and in thanksgiving for God’s many blessings.

NEW FLOWER CHART – The new flower chart for 2025 is up on the bulletin board. Check it out, decide which Sunday(s) you would like to have flowers on the altar -- (two families can share a Sunday and would only have to pay half of the cost).

THANKSGIVING EVE DIVINE SERVICE – There will be a Divine Worship Service on Wednesday evening, November 27th at 6:30 pm. Please join us as we give our thanks to God for all he has done for us.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

On **Sundays December 1 (next Sunday), 8, 15, and 22** we will need young people or families to help light the Advent candles. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to pick your Sunday and time of service. There is also an opportunity to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.

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 - Kindergarten

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

December 1, 2024 –1st Sunday of Advent

Psalms 25:1-10

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 19:28-40

Please help us out by signing up — Judy will see that you have the dialogue in time to practice.

ADVENT LUNCHES

The sign up sheet has been posted (across from Pastor's office). Please check to see what is needed for the lunches and sign-up to help. We will once again offer sandwiches, soup, salads and (of course), desserts. Questions? Call Abbie Matson. 309-224-3492.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

† Bruce Tagge – Now home

† Ron Achterberg – room 3343

DON'T FORGET OUR SHUT-INS!!!!

THANKSGIVING BAGS FOR SHUT-INS

Women of Mt. Calvary will again be preparing remembrances for our shut-ins for Thanksgiving. (There are about 20 on the list.) They need your help — can you bring wrapped candies, cookies, small bread loaves, fruit (oranges and apples), raisins, etc. and put them on the counter in the kitchen marked for the shut-in bags? They

would like to prepare these bags on **this Saturday morning, November 23rd beginning at 9:00 am.**

DECEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The December Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8th**, between the services at **10:30 am. Thank you to all the Board & Committee Chairmen who got their reports in on time.**

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

– The Christmas decorations will go up on **Sunday, December 8th**, following the **11:45 am service.** This year Lisa Cornelius has agreed to help out because Linda Khattar is otherwise occupied (please keep her and her family – Jarrett, Ron, and Ray) in your prayers.

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH NEWS – Here are a few upcoming events to share with you. On **December 8 following the 11:45 a.m. service**, we'll help decorate the church for Christmas. Following that event, you can decorate a treat for yourself...a Christmas cookie or two! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office so that we can have enough supplies for decorating the cookies.

In addition, please mark your calendars for the Peoria Youth Christmas Gathering on **Thurs., Jan. 2.** That will be **from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.** and held at Trinity. There's a flyer on the bulletin board with those details. A sign-up sheet will be available later.

POINSETTIA GARDEN

Linda has ordered the poinsettias: **They will cost \$8:00 per plant** this year. **Envelopes are in your mailboxes to order them.** The ladies request that orders be placed by **December 15th**.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The schedule for choir rehearsals has been set. Bruce would like to have the rehearsals on **Thursdays, December 12th and 19th**. **Bell Choir would rehearse at 6:45 pm, Anchormen at 7:30 pm, and Adult Choir at 7:45 pm.** If you are not able to make it to rehearsals due to a schedule conflict, please let Bruce know (309-361-9821).

NEW 5TH GRADE TEACHER NEEDED -- Concordia Lutheran School is seeking to fill the 5th grade teaching position starting January 5th, 2025. The 5th grade teaching position consists of teaching self contained courses such as math, social studies, science, reading and writing all with the focus of Christ at the center. Please contact Mr. Andrew Monkemeyer, principal for further information. Please email at amonkemeyer@concordiapeoria.com or 309-691-8921.

FROM CONCORDIA -- Wednesday Friends Tutoring

Program at Concordia this fall -- Concordia is inviting friends of the school to come to volunteer in our classrooms on Wednesdays at 9:15 am or 2:45 pm. This could include tutoring students, listening to students read, or helping with math. If you are interested starting this fall, please email Kelly at jkeckert91@gmail.com or call 309-256-1423. She will put you in contact with Mr. Monkemeyer, principal, about the program!

ADOPT-A-BAG IS HERE!

Women of Mt. Calvary are sponsoring the Adopt-A-Bag Project again this year. Please return the filled bag to the Parish Hall any time before 9:00 am **this Saturday, November 23rd**. We will use items from these bags to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution on Saturday, **November 23rd** beginning at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. Helpers are welcome.

POSITIONS ON COUNCIL THAT STILL NEED TO BE FILLED ASAP

– There is one position on the Church Council that has been open for quite some time.

- Connie Kissner has agreed to take one of the vacancies on the Concordia Foundation, but there's still one more spot to fill. Talk with Jerry Horst or Pastor Long if you want more information.
- There are still a few openings on the slate that were not filled. Check the Slate of Officers and Board Members on the bulletin board and see if there is a position you might be interested in filling and then talk to Pastor Long or Jerry Horst

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS UPDATE:

Dollar for Missions finds itself able to include an unexpected project this year. Furnace replacements at the campus ministry center in Macomb did not cost as much as anticipated, so CID can now devote incoming dollars to a couple of needed items at University Lutheran Church, Champaign: new toilets in a men's room and a new water heater. This project is for \$5,000. Will that amount be received by the end of 2024? You can help. *For additional information please visit www.cidlcms.org.*

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION

– The Crafts and Conversation Group meets at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings and is open to anyone. Bring a craft or activity you like to do or just sit and visit. Sometimes LaVelle asks for help packing goody bags for children that come to pantry. Sometimes Judy has mailings to put together. Come join them, bring your lunch and eat with the group.

TREATS FOR FAMILY HOUSE – We provide treats for Family House on the fourth Monday of each month (see note on bulletin board). If you are able to help, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or contact LaVelle Borders (309-681-9414) for more information. **November and December are still open – please help us provide for Family House for one (or both) of these months .**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER – During November our pantry will be in need of Green Beans, Boxed Potatoes (mashed), Mac & Cheese, Corn Bread Mix, and Canned Hams in the 12 to 16 ounce sizes. They can also use anything that you might think of to go along with a Ham Dinner. **And again, they need volunteers** – with the numbers of families that have been using our pantry, the volunteers we have (and are very thankful for) are stretched to the limit. Please consider helping out.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Youth Sunday School Classes – Sunday School has a new look, new activities, new lessons, new fun. Please bring your students, ages 3 through 8th grade, and encourage them to participate every Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30 am. We will have 2 or 3 levels for classes depending on our turnout and hope to add more if needed. Any high schoolers interested in starting a class please let Pastor or Paula Horst know. **They are back in session, so bring your youth at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings – they meet in the church basement.**

Sunday Morning Adult Class -- The Small Catechism: The Apostles' Creed — In Luther's Small Catechism, the Creed followed the Law (Ten Commandments), because he held that after the Law exposed our sin we need the Gospel to build our faith. And the Creed is glorious Gospel — showing us God's love in our creation, redemption, and sanctification. Join us as we work through the Creed using the Small Catechism with explanation as our guide. **Meets in the Parish Hall at 10:30 am.**

Men's Bible Study: The Gospel of St. John -- What is Jesus' True Glory? The Evangelist, John, is inspired to set that before his readers in many ways. Join us as we read the Gospel according to John. **Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am at Gebby's Family Restaurant at 726 East War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights.**

Thursday Lunch Together and Bible Study! – **2nd Corinthians** – (On hiatus for Thanksgiving, we meet again on December 5th) While reconstructing the exact circumstances which call for Paul to write this letter, 2 Corinthians contains rich insights on how we are called to live together as “Church.” Paul defends his call as an

apostle, reconciles with those who were angry with him, and shows his love for the congregation even as he calls them to turn away from unhelpful “teachers.” We meet for lunch at 12:00 pm and Bible Study at 12:30 pm.

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

The Treasurer's Report for September 2024 showed the year's expenses at \$265,920.97 and income of \$268,311.21 which includes \$25,000 from the Endowment Fund to support Concordia and \$12,284.00 Thrivent. . 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.

HURRICANE DIASASTER RELIEF HELP

Anyone who wants to donate to the LCMS's efforts to help those afflicted by Hurricane Helene may do so by going to this website: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/disaster>, or text: LCMSDISASTERS to 41444.

KFUO RADIO, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfu.org:

We continue our study of the Psalms of thanksgiving on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and discuss chapters 8-11 in the Gospel of John on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Tune into Concord Matters this Saturday (11/30 at 10:00 a.m. CT) to learn more about the Lutheran view of the Sacrament. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or on the KFUO Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – The Scriptural Ancient of Days has gray hair (Daniel 7:9). The Word of the Lord pictures Him as aged. And while the world idolizes youthfulness, the Bible speaks flatteringly of getting old. “Elder” is a compliment, long life is blessing, and advanced years embody wisdom and honor, even though they often also entail weaknesses. The Gospel of everlasting life in Christ leaves no room for physician-assisted suicide.

ISSUES ETC. 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: Progressive Christianity, Christian Identity vs. Identity Politics, The Hymn "We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator," The Advent Season and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn or a podcast provider.

LUTHERAN LADIES LOUNGE -- Adventures in Lutheranism: Church Choir

-- Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:4). In this Adventures in Lutheranism episode, Rachel shares her recent experience joining a new-to-her church choir.

Beginning with a brief foray into the history of sacred choral music — from ancient Greece to Garrison Keillor and beyond — she then examines the physical and mental health benefits of singing in groups and ponders the long decline of church choirs (even as choral singing in general has been on the rise). She invites Sarah and Erin to relate their own experiences with church choirs before sharing her personal choral history up to the present day. At the end of the episode, she airs interviews with each of her four children, who confirm that church choir is absolutely for all ages.

♪ Sources cited in this episode include:

♪ Choir – Wikipedia

♪ Why do Lutherans Sing? Lutherans, Music, and the Gospel in the First Century of the Reformation | Church History | Cambridge Core

♪ Singing the Reformation – Lutheran Reformation

♪ The Young Lutheran's Guide to The Orchestra

♪ How a superspreader at choir practice sickened 52 people with COVID-19 | Live Science

♪ Pandemic brings opportunities for some choirs hit by coronavirus restrictions | ABC News – YouTube

♪ Interest in choral singing is not declining in America, so why are church choirs disappearing? – Baptist News Global

THE GIVING TREE

Although we are still in the fall season, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is planning the upcoming Christmas season for the children served by LSSI's child welfare programs in and around the Peoria Area. LSSI provides traditional foster care services for children, case management, and family counseling. This year LSSI is hoping to not only make Christmas special for these families, but to ensure every family is blessed. LSSI is currently serving 438 Children in foster care and 365 children in their Intact program.

If you are interested in sponsoring a gift, please take a tag from the Giving Tree in the Narthex, place your unwrapped gift under the tree or gift card in the marked box next to the tree. The Women of Mt. Calvary are sponsoring this event but anyone in the congregation can participate and donate to this project through December 8th.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

THE WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY CHRISTMAS PARTY! – Saturday, December 14, 2024 @ 9:30

am – This is a holiday gathering for women, by women, for a festive morning and to celebrate together as adult sisters in Christ, the Reason For The Season.

Please bring the following:

- Your favorite Holiday brunch item
- One wrapped white elephant gift for an exchange
- A Walmart or Target gift card as a donation to support Family House
- A favorite or special nativity that you have to set up and share the meaning behind. We will be setting them up on Friday, December 13th at 9:00 am. If this time does not work for you, please contact Lisa Cornelius @ 309-370-6338 to arrange a different time.

Please sign up on the attendance sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you and we hope to see you at the Women of Mt. Calvary Christmas Party!

HELP PALOMAR WEALTH SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

– **This** Sunday, November 24th, Palomar Wealth (Thrivent among other things) will be packing 250 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes from 2 -4 pm at MH Equipment, 8901 N. Industrial Road, Peoria. They have invited Concordia families, and members from the three sponsoring churches to join them. All supplies will be provided. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board or call 309-691-9600