

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.

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 66:1-12

Malachi 3:1-7b

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-20

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY WILL BE COLLECTING MITE BOXES TODAY!

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Marcia Riddle 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).

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

MID-WEEK SERVICES BEGIN – Beginning this Wednesday, December 4th, our Advent Mid-Day Prayer at 11:5 am and Evening Vesper Services at 6:30 pm begin. The theme this year is “*The Messiah the Prophets Longed For: a New King.*” Join us as we prepare for Christmas in prayer, devotion, and hymns.

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

† Ron Achterberg – room 3343

† Bruce Tagge

DECEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The December Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for **next 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.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

-- We will be having the Sunday School students dressed for the nativity and performing two songs at the end of the 9:00 am service on December 15th. Please have them attend Sunday School in the next two Sundays to prepare for the 15th. We will send home copies of the music for practicing the words on Sunday December 1st. We also have a nativity project they will be working on for the Women of Mt. Calvary so attendance is needed. Anyone not currently attending Sunday School but wanting to participate please call Paula Horst 309-657-3129. Thank you, we hope to have a good turnout.

THANK YOU FROM WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY

Women of Mt. Calvary would like to thank all those who provided goodies and helped fill bags for our shut-ins, donated turkeys and helped fill the Thanksgiving boxes last Saturday morning. Your help was very much appreciated.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE HOLIDAYS

-- The Christmas decorations will go up **next 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!

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER – During December our pantry will be in need of **Canned Peas, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Tuna, and Mac & Cheese (or any- thing else you might wish to bring.) 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 – 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 kfuo.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 & kfuo.org: Sharper Iron airs a new series called “The Fifth Evangelist” (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), going through the book of Isaiah. On Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), we enter into Holy Week, taking a look at chapters 12-14 in John's Gospel. Join us live on Sunday and Wednesday (1:00 and 7:00 p.m. CT) as we bring back a special 100th anniversary edition of JOY!, a one-hour program of sacred music for the Advent season. Find the full program schedule at kfuo.org/joy.

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – Abortion and assisted suicide arise out of panic. The Advent Gospel offers something better: promise and patient anticipation. During surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, Jesus Christ means that better days are coming (Jeremiah 33:14), redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28), and none who wait upon the Lord shall be put to shame (Psalm 25:3). Sufferings will end, but blessings accumulate. Breathe, trust, hope, and rejoice.

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 -- How to Lutheran: EXTREME FELLOWSHIP!!! -- For most of us, the word "fellowship" brings to mind coffee and donuts on Sunday after church — or perhaps a monthly church potluck or seasonal Lenten soup supper.

For certain intrepid Lutherans, however, "fellowship" can mean *much* more than that.

In this episode, Sarah, Erin, and Rachel are highlighting and celebrating examples of ***EXTREME FELLOWSHIP!!!*** in Lutheran churches. From paintball tournaments to fashion shows, indoor camping to triangle dinners to ninja toilet treats (trust us: you'll just have to listen to understand this one), Lutherans are, it turns out, pros at finding fun and creative ways to spend time together as the body of Christ.

And then, of course, there's the most extreme act of fellowship of all: the Lord's Supper.

Resources referenced in this episode include the following:

- *Communities That Confess: How the Church Confesses Christ in a Culture of Isolation – The Lutheran Witness* by Joel Biermann
- *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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