

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 Marcia Riddle in memory of Pam Lehmann.
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). **(February 2 & 23, and March 2 are still open.)**

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR MAIL BOXES – PLEASE PICK YOURS UP.

SERVICES FOR THE EPIPHANY –Pastor will be back for the service on January 5th so the regular schedule will be in place. **Monday, January 6th**, the day we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord, **Spoken Divine Services will be held at 11:15 am and 6:00 pm.**

DE-DECORATING THE CHURCH – We will be taking down the lovely Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 12th following the 11:45 am service. If you are able, please stay and help. Remember, many hands make light work.

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

January 12, 2025 –Baptism of Our Lord

Psalm 29

Isaiah 43:1-7

Romans 6:1-11

Luke 3:15-22

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY WILL BE COLLECTING MITES THIS SUNDAY. EXTRA MITE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED YOURS. (just ask Judy)

FROM WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY -- While we don't have a meeting this month we do have work to do. Don't forget that we have a bake sale scheduled for January 26th. There will be more information on this as we get closer to the 26th so watch the News & Announcements and plan to bake goodies to sell.

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

CONCORDIA SUNDAY – On Sunday, **January 26th** the Concordia Choir will be singing in the **9:00 am service**. Please join us as we hear these young people sing praises to our Lord.

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS UPDATE:

Current Project: Water heater for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline -- Dollar for Missions (DFM) contributions in late 2024 will help to pay for a new water heater at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline. The church's previous water heater is almost 20 years old.

"This is another 'non-glamor' item," said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. "Yet to proclaim the Gospel in Spanish at Cristo Rey, especially in winter time, a reliable hot water heater is a helpful piece of equipment to have." Plumbing as well as painting and many other such things have their place in a mission. The amount to be funded is \$1,000.

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH -- Our next event is coming up soon! **"Locked-In"** will be on **Sunday, January 19 from 5:30-11:00 p.m.** here at church. We're not going to lock you in overnight, but with schools not being in session on Monday we wanted to have an extended event. The night will start with the movie. We will have two movies available which you will have an opportunity to read a synopsis and review ratings before voting. We'll then watch the one which gains the most votes. We'll also have popcorn, snacks, and drinks! When we finish the movie, we'll have some time to play some games. So, your "assignment" for this event is to let us know that you'll be coming, ask friends to join you, and find a game board or two to bring with you. Either sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office or call (309) 693-8095 (Michele) to let us know you'll be joining us!

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.

PENNIES FOR LIFE -- Peoria Area Lutherans for Life will be having their annual **Pennies for Life collection** on **January 19th**. Please consider contributing a penny for each year of life God has granted you. For more information, please refer to your January newsletter.

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 IN JANUARY – During January our pantry will be in need of **Canned Peas, Canned Tuna, Mac & Cheese, syrup, and green beans (or anything 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.

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!

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.

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: KFUO Radio, Celebrate the season of Christmas with sacred music and songs during the 12 Days of Christmas, December 24th-January 6th. Regular programming will resume on January 7th.

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – No human life—and no human pregnancy—ever goes unplanned or unwanted by Almighty God. Ephesians' first chapter makes clear the Heavenly Father conceived each precious person "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). And the coming of Christ Jesus incorporates male and female, old or young, into heaven's household by adoption. Children come as Gospel gifts!

ISSUES ETC. -- EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST -- Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Promises of God,

The Top Biblical Archeological Discoveries of 2024, Eastern Orthodoxy, the Book of Lamentations and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

LUTHERAN LADIES LOUNGE – Our Favorites, Revisited: Christmas Carol Trivia --

How well do you know your favorite holiday songs? We're revisiting an episode of Rachel's Trivia Challenge—all about Christmas carols!

Which beloved Christmas Eve hymn originally referenced Baby Jesus's curly hair? Which carol writer once posed as the Virgin Mary for a famous pre-Raphaelite painting? Which faux medieval ballad is regularly sung at Boar's Head Festivals around the country? And the trickiest question of all: which Christmas carol is Sarah's all-time favorite (today)?

A lightning round at the end challenges listeners to identify carols based only on the title or first line of the song in its language of origin.

Click through to listen to previous Rachel's Trivia Challenge episodes.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN, PEORIA is hosting a concert called "An Evening of Poetry and Music" on **January 17th**. The performing artists will be Tanner Olson and Blake Flattley. Tickets are \$10/person or \$25/family (3 or more) with food serving 6-6:30pm. All ticket proceeds will help fund Redeemer for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering and help our mission partner at Pelican Lutheran in Naples, Florida. More information can be found on our poster and at: <https://www.redeemerlutheran.com/epm>

CAMP CILCA WOMEN'S RETREAT -- Calling all ladies to join us for the Camp CILCA Women's Retreat on **March 28-29**. The retreat theme is **Lean and Learn**. Join us as we **lean** into God's Word, digging into what God says to us, and **learn** how we live it out in our daily vocation as women. Our speaker is **Rehema Kavugha**. Rehema is currently the Director of Synod Relations at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, where she has served since May 2019, She also has been the Director of Student Development at Concordia University Nebraska and a Lutheran music teacher.

Two retreat options are available: 1) Join us overnight for \$100 and share a room with two other ladies in Camp CILCA's Christian Growth Center. 2) Select the day-only option for \$75.

Registration opens December 27. Register online at www.cilca.org/womens-retreat. If you have questions or need help registering, contact Lauren at program@cilca.org. Thanks!

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