

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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 pastorlong@mtcalvarypeoria.org.

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

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalms 46

Malachi 3:13-18

Colossians 1:13-20

Luke 23:27-43

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Keith and Linda Crook in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary and thankfulness for God's many blessings.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

Ron Achterberg – Apostolic Christian Home, Salem, room 147

PASTOR TEACHES AT CONCORDIA – Pastor is teaching 8th grade religion at Concordia this quarter. This means he won't be in the office until after class.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – This Sunday, November 16th, has been chosen by the Board of Stewardship as "Stewardship Sunday." Letters have been sent to the congregation explaining the use of our money, and the purpose of making a "pledge." Please bring your pledges to church this Sunday or place them in the box in the Narthex at any time. They will be used by the Executive

Committee and the Administrative Council in preparing a budget for the coming year, 2026.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

On **Sundays November 30th(Hope), December 7th(Peace), 14th(Joy), and 21st(Love)** 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.

DECEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING –

The December Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 am**. Board and Committee Chairs, this means your **reports are due in the office, typed and ready to print on Sunday, November 30th**. No exceptions.

ADVENT LUNCHES -- Advent is quickly approaching. We will be offering a light lunch following the 11:15 midweek Advent Services (December 3rd, 10th and 17th). If you can help, there are sign-up sheets across from Pastor's office. Any questions, please call Abbie Matson, 309-224-9432.

ADOPT-A-BAG IS HERE!!!! -- Women of Mt. Calvary are sponsoring the Adopt-A-Bag Project again this year. The bags will be available for pick-up in the Parish Hall or Narthex this Sunday, November 16th. If you wish to help with this project, please select a bag, fill it with non-perishable food items and return the filled bag to the Parish Hall any time **before 9:00 am on Saturday, November 22nd**. We will use items from these bags to fill our Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution on Saturday, November 22nd beginning at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall. Helpers are welcome!

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 12 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 Saturday morning, November 22nd beginning at 9:00 am.**

WREATH MAKING DAY -- Join us for a fun day of fellowship. We will be making Christmas Wreaths to take home **this Saturday, November 15th at 10:00 am**. Wreath decorations and assistance will be provided. No experience necessary. (Helpers will be there to assist.) Sign up on sheet in Parish Hall by November 2nd. Donations to defray costs will go to Women of Mt. Calvary. Hope to see you there.

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Save the date! The Women of Mt. Calvary Christmas Party is Saturday, December 13th at 9:30 am. More information to follow.

HOLIDAY HOPE CHEST FOR LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES (LSSI) --

This year again the members of Mt. Calvary are invited to participate in Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for the kids Christmas Program.. The Giving Tree will be in the Narthex beginning **this Sunday, November 16th**. If you choose, take a tag off the tree, purchase the item listed and place it unwrapped under the

tree. Gift cards can be placed in the locked wooden box located under the tree. We will deliver the items to LSSI, who will then wrap and distribute them to the foster kids in their program. The tags that have an Amazon link (<https://a.co/boXnmJh>) you may purchase the item from their shopping list which will then be shipped directly to LSSI. Christmas can be emotional for a child separated from their biological family and our gifts help to ease their sorrow. **LSSI would like the gifts from the Giving Tree by November 30th** so they have time to wrap and distribute them before Christmas. Thank you for thinking of these kids and for your generous contributions.

THANK YOU! -- The Women of Mt. Calvary extend their gratitude to everyone who contributed socks to "Socktober." The congregation gathered 172 pairs of socks -- for men (54), women (54), boys (27) and girls (18) plus some fun-patterned socks (19) for all! The Center for Prevention of Abuse was grateful for Mt. Calvary's donation. Thank you!

LIFE ESSAY CONTEST -- Peoria Area Lutherans for Life is announcing it's yearly "Life Essay Contest." The theme verse this year is Job 12:10 -- "In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." There are two sections this year -- 7th & 8th grades and High School. Topics are: Abortion, Euthanasia, Stem Cell Research, and In Vitro Fertilization. More information is on the bulletin board. Deadline for entries is December 12th.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS IN NOVEMBER -- During **November** our pantry will be in need of **Canned Chicken, Soup, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Canned Green Beans, Baked Beans, Canned Corn, and Vegetable Oil (or anything else you might wish to bring will be greatly appreciated.)** And again, they can always use volunteers --the volunteers we have (and are very thankful for) are stretched to the limit.

YOU KNOW THE OLD NURSERY RHYME "OLD

MOTHER HUBBARD -- Well, after serving more than 70, yes over 70, families last Tuesday at Food Pantry, the cupboard is bare -- there's not even a bone for her dog!. There is no more food to be given out! Please help! We

can no longer tell people we serve a certain area, now we have to take in anybody who comes regardless of where they live. Not only did they run out of food, but the last of their customers left at Noon, having waited over an hour to be served.

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.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Youth Sunday School Classes. Sunday School has begun again. The classes meet in the church basement at 10:30 am for grades Pre-K-6th. Jr. & Sr. High if there are enough of you a class will be formed, otherwise you may help with the younger students or attend the Adult Class led by Pr. Long. Parents, you are welcome to attend the Adult Class, also.

Sunday Morning Adult Class –

Pr. Long is back to work on the third chief part of the Small Catechism: The Apostles' Creed. We're getting toward the end of the Third Article of the Creed concerning the Church and the work of the Holy Spirit. We're using the Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH 2017) as our guide. Classe meets in the Parish Hall at 10:30 am.

Men's Bible Study: We are looking at Paul's Letters to Timothy. **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 –We are currently reading the book of the Prophet Jeremiah and will hear God's word of promise and judgement in the face of national calamity. **We meet in the Parish Hall for lunch at 12:00 pm and Bible Study at 12:30 pm.**

PASTOR LONG NEEDS HELP! – Well, likely in a number of ways, but here we're talking about picking hymns from week to week. Bruce knew a lot of your favorites, and could include them when appropriate. Pastor Long is still learning. So – if you have some favorites that are in the *Lutheran Service Book*, please write them down and drop them in Pastor Long's mail box. He'll make an effort to include them when they fit with a given Sunday's (or season's) theme.

STEWARDSHIP – Please remember that the ministry of Mt. Calvary continues throughout the year. Your prayers and contributions of time, talent, and treasures are still needed.

The Treasurer's Report for the Administrative Council was not available due to a new version of Shepherd's Staff -- we could not make it work on our computer. However, Carol reports that she currently has \$43,12900., in the General Fund and hopes not to have to ask for more before the end of the year.

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%. A few people have been donating through e-giving and have learned how easy it is to use.

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS UPDATE

Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some of the equipment in the kitchen of the apartment for the live-in student who takes care of the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. The current DFM project is for \$11,000 to replace original kitchen equipment in this apartment.

ISSUES ETC. -- YOUR LIFELINE TO THE LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW

-- Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent subjects include: How to Resist the Devil, The Importance of Family Meals, Critical Theory on the Right, Why Marriage 101 Should Be a Required College Course and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: This week begins a new series on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" will take listeners through a study of some of the hymns of

thanksgiving in Lutheran Service Book. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series on the Gospel of Matthew! This week's study will cover chapters 22-25. Don't forget to tune in to Concord Matters this Saturday (11/22 at 10 a.m. CT). We'll be starting a discussion of the Lord's Prayer as found in the Large Catechism. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUO Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, November 16, 2025 "When life around us is dark and despairing, when troubles are real and overwhelming, when our hurts outweigh our joys, take a moment to think about God's beautiful creation given for us as a 'good and perfect gift.' Take a moment to remember that we have another Light in our world—our Lord Jesus Who is the Creator of all things and is the light of men." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life –A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for November 16, 2025, Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28C As the days draw closer to Christ's return, we have witnessed people brought before kings and governors for the sake of Jesus' name and the truth that every life is precious in God's sight, just like Jesus warned (Luke 21:10-12). But don't be afraid! "This is your opportunity to bear witness" (Luke 21:13)! We can go out "leaping like calves from the stall" (Malachi 4:2), proclaiming the sanctity of all life because we know that God promises to "give you a mouth and wisdom" (Luke 21:15) and that the "sun of righteousness" shall soon "rise with healing in its wings" (Malachi 4:2).

STREAMING! -- Mt. Calvary offers a live stream of the 9:00 am service on Sunday mornings! Just go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search for Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (you'll recognize our channel by our orange logo), and click the link. If you "subscribe" to the channel, you'll get automatic notification when the streaming starts. The recording of the service will stay on the channel to be viewed later even if you don't catch it live.

FROM CAMP CILCA –

- Volunteers are needed for the Joyful Hearts Christmas retreat on December 12-13, 2025.
- ACT LIKE MEN WOODCUTTERS' Retreat is February 27-28, 2026
- Summer Camp registration is OPEN for 2026! Please encourage families to register early to save their spot.

CONCORDIA NEWS

Concordia Playtime Pals: will be held again on **November 21st**, from 9:00 to 11:00 am in Gym A.

Santa Claus Parade: November 28th: Concordia Band will be marching in the Parade, and Concordia" float will be on the theme of "The Little Drummer Boy."

Christmas Concerts: are scheduled for December 11th & 12th. Watch for more information.