

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
NOVEMBER 23, 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

First Sunday in Advent/St. Andrew, Apostle

Psalms 122

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 21:1-11

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God Theresa Johnston in celebration of her mother Alice's 91st birthday and in thankfulness for God's many blessings.

FLOWER CHART 2026 – The flower chart for 2026 has been posted. Now's the time to sign up if you want a certain Sunday to donate altar flowers for next year.

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 – Thank you to all who brought their pledge last Sunday. If you didn't get to church -- or forgot to bring your pledge -- the box will remain out for a couple more Sundays or you may turn it in to the church office.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE – This coming **Wednesday, November 26th**, we will hold our regular **Thanksgiving Eve Service at 6:30 pm**. It will follow the Thursday Evening Service Format with a few extra hymns added. There will be no Thursday evening service this week.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

CHURCH DECORATING – Many hands make light work. We'll be getting the first round of decorations for Advent and Christmas up on **Sunday, November 30th after the 11:45 am service.** Come and help if you can!

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 next 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!!!! – Thank you to everyone who brought filled bags and helped to sort and pack the Thanksgiving boxes for our members.

THANKSGIVING BAGS FOR SHUT-INS --

Thank you also to those of you who contributed to the remembrances for our shut-ins. We know that these people appreciate being remembered. If there are any bags on the table to be delivered, please take one and deliver it – you could make a new friend.

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 at Food Pantry this month, 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 \$43,129.00., 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. -- THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS

-- 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 topics include: The Hymnal as Devotional Resource, Why Christians Should Build Cathedrals, Late First-Century Bishop Clement of Rome, The Third Use of God's Law, 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.

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CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: We're continuing our series, "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! Each day, we'll study a new hymn of Thanksgiving from Lutheran Service Book. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we wrap up our study of the Gospel of Matthew. This week, we are covering chapters 26-27. Don't forget to join us this Saturday (11/8 at 10 a.m. CT) for Concord Matters! We're beginning a new study of the Lord's Prayer in the Large Catechism. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, November 23, 2025

"Thankful hearts and people produce a grateful culture, a society that is set free to live freely, set free from the mere whims of others, allowing all to live, everyone from the smallest to the perceived greatest. Whether you trust in God or not, freedom exudes gratitude. Gratitude is the grace that blesses all in this life.

It gives others some semblance of hope.” *Rev. Mark Frith, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty –A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for November 23, 2025, Last Sunday of the Church Year, Proper 29C When people argue that we should not bring more children into a world such as this, they agree with the people of Jerusalem at the time of its destruction: “Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed” (Luke 23:29). But this is not the way that Jesus intends us to view the gift of new life. Instead, we weep with those who cannot bear and nurse, and we celebrate God’s gift of life, trusting that He will always reign over all things and be the “refuge and strength” of His people (Colossians 1:18; Psalm 46:1), and the little children will always be His “treasured possession” (Malachi 3:17).

STREAMING! -- Mt. Calvary offers a live stream of the **9:00 am service on Sunday mornings!** Just go to 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.

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The women of Mt. Calvary would like to invite all of the ladies of the congregation to our Christmas Party Brunch on **Saturday, December 13th at 9:30 am**. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please bring a brunch item to share.

For our gift exchange this year, we are asking you to bring two different items that are your favorite things (for example, scented candle, a favorite candy, comfy socks, etc.) and place them in one bag. We are planning a unique way to exchange your favorite things!

As a tradition we have selected an organization to support. This year we have again selected Family House. If you choose, please bring a gift card from Wal-Mart, Target, or Kroger for this worthy cause. This part is not limited those at the Christmas party. As always, friends and family are invited!

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

- **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.”
- **Next Concordia Playtime Pals:** will be held again on **December 5th**, from 9:00 to 11:00 am in Gym A.
- **Christmas Concerts:** are scheduled for **December 11th & 12th**. Watch for more information.