

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
NOVEMBER 30, 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

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalms 72:1-7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY WILL BE COLLECTING MITES NEXT SUNDAY – 12/7/25

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God Marilyn Miller in thankfulness for another year of 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.

MR. MOM – Sherri is off to Florida to check on her Mom. Pastor Long will be holding down the fort solo from 11/30 to 12/6.

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 this **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.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – Thank you to all who brought their pledge. 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.

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.

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH NEWS – The Peoria Youth Christmas Gathering is coming up fast! It will be held at **Trinity on Friday, December 19, from 5:00-9:00 pm**. Cost is \$5.00 and will include dinner, snacks, and desserts. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. Sign-up **DEADLINE** for this event is **Wednesday, DECEMBER 17**.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE'S "SPREADING JOY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP AND SONG": will be **Sunday, December 21**, following the late service. Congregation members of all ages are invited to join us for lunch, cookie decorating, and caroling to our shut-ins! Watch for further details in the coming weeks.

THANKSGIVING BAGS FOR SHUT-INS --

Thank you 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 left 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.

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 –(on hiatus this week because of Thanksgiving.) 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.**

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. -- SACRED MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON -- *"Savior of the Nations, Come," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."* You can listen to sacred music for the Advent season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

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](https://www.facebook.com/kfuoradio), [X](https://twitter.com/kfuoradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuoradio).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: It's time for a new series on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT)! "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" will begin airing this week, with a focus on Paul's two epistles to the Thessalonians. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) for a new study on the book of Malachi! Don't forget to join us this weekend for Concord Matters (12/6 at 10 a.m. CT). In our current study of Luther's Large Catechism, we are taking a deep dive into the Lord's Prayer. Listen in as we discuss the 1st Petition. 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 30, 2025 As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for November 30, 2025, First Sunday in Advent -- Being a Gospel-motivated voice for life means loving all our neighbors, regardless of their size, condition, or past. As servants in the Master's house (Matthew 24:43), we not only need to be prepared for Christ's coming (Matthew 24:44; Romans 13:11), we should be eager to make all others ready, preaching the Gospel to them, inviting them "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:3) that they, too, might be brought into the safety of the ark of the holy Church.

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

- **Substitute Teachers** – As the season for colds catches up to us, Concordia could use more folks in their substitute pool. If you, or someone you know is interested, contact the school at 309-691-8921, or e-mail Ms. Craine at ecraine@concordiapeoria.com
- **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.
- **January 21st – 3rd & 4th** grade musical, watch for more information.