

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
DECEMBER 7, 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

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalms 146

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-11

Matthew 11:2-15

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY ARE COLLECTING MITES TODAY – 12/7/25

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by LaVelle Borders in thankfulness for great-nieces, and nephews, and thanksgiving for God's many blessings and by Paula & Jerry Horst in celebration of Millie Rose's baptism.

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 December 14th(Joy), and 21st(Love)** we **welcome anyone (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 in both services on Christmas Eve. Please help us out by signing up — Judy will see that you have the dialogue in time to practice.

CHURCH DECORATING – Linda Khattar, on behalf of the Altar Guild, would like to thank everyone who helped put up the Christmas trees and decorate them. Again, this year, they are beautifully done.

POINSETTIA GARDEN

Linda has ordered the poinsettias: They will cost \$9:00 per plant this year. Envelopes are in your mailboxes to order them. Linda requests that orders be placed by December 21st

DECEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING

The December Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 am.** We need 25 voting members for a quorum. The 2026 Budget is the main item on the agenda. We can also nominate President and Vice-President for next summer's LCMS Convention.

ADVENT LUNCHESES -- Advent is here!. We will be offering a light lunch following the 11:15 midweek Advent Services (December 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 21st following the late service. Congregation members and guests of all ages are invited to join us for lunch, cookie decorating, and caroling to our shut-ins. **There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. Please indicate all that you'd like to participate in.**

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 DECEMBER – During **November** our pantry will be in need of **Vegetable Oil (liquid or spray), Tuna, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Cereal, and Mac & Cheese (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.

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 School Birthday Party for Jesus is scheduled for Sunday, December 21st, at 10:30 am.**

Sunday Morning Adult Class –

Per a resolution from our District Convention this past summer, we'll be taking a few weeks to look at the Synod's "Everyone His Witness" program. While we may not be called to go out and convert everyone, we can learn how to talk about the faith in helpful ways. **Class 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.**

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. -- KIDS HAVE QUESTIONS SERIES-

- Will my dead pets be in heaven? Does everyone have a guardian angel? What does God think about suicide? Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to an ongoing Kids Have Questions series with Pastor Jonathan Conner at issuesetc.org/kidshavequestions.

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: We are continuing our series "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 3-5. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we begin a new series for the time of Advent. "Prophecy and Fulfillment" will take us through Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment, tracing God's promises from Isaiah to the birth of Christ. On Concord Matters this Saturday (12/13 at 10 a.m. CT), we'll be discussing the 2nd Petition of the Lord's Prayer. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, December 7, 2025 -- Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for December 7, 2025, Second Sunday in Advent -- We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written for our instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others..

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.



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
- **Christmas Concerts:** are scheduled for **December 11th (Band) & 12th.(Choirs)** Both concerts begin at 6:30 pm in the
- **January 21st – 3rd & 4th** grade musical, watch for more information.
- **Congratulations to: Sam Whitby** – he was runner-up in the school Spelling Bee. Well done, Sam!
- **Auditions for Hans Christian Anderson Jr.** are on December 15th and are open to all students from Mr. Calvary grades 5-8 whether you attend Concordia Lutheran School or not– see bulletin board for more information.