

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
JANUARY 18, 2026

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

CONCORDIA STAFF FROM MT. CALVARY

Brooke Barr - Kindergarten
web site at www.concordiapeoria.com for information.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

January 25th, Conversion of St. Paul/3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 67
Acts 9:1-22
Galatians 1:11-24
Matthew 19:27-30

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Judy Honig celebration of Life Sunday, and in thanksgiving 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.

There are still 2 Sundays (February 1st and 22nd) available next month!

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

† Robert Grinslade – OSF room 4105
† Ron Achterberg – Apostolic Christian Home, Salem, room 147

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGAN AGAIN LAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 10:30 AM. PLEASE JOIN US!

POINSETTIAS – are now salvage on the high seas. Take one if you are able to give it a good home.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Leanne and Matthew Sturtevant on the birth of Ripley Sue on January 14, 2026. Ripley Sue weighed 5lb, 12 oz. and in 17 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES -- We are looking to enhance Mt Calvary's worship experience by adding hearing aid assistance. The technology we are researching allows hearing aids connected to smart phones to link into the church's WIFI. By linking into the church's WIFI, parishioners can use an app on their phone to manually adjust the sound they hear through their hearing aids, while attending a church service. There are many different hearing aid types, with different capabilities, so we are looking to see if we can find one technology that will work with all hearing aid devices.

One of the keys to this new technology is to try and eliminate the time lag between when a sound occurs, and when it goes through this network to provide the hearing aid with the appropriate sound.

If you are interested in learning more about this effort, would you please contact Glenn Matson (matson75@gmail.com), so we can gather information from you on your device type and form(s) of connectivity? Thanks! Glenn Matson

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH – “Locked-In” will be this Sunday, **January 18 from 5:45-11:00** 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 the opportunity to read a synopsis and review ratings before voting. We’ll then watch the one that gains the most votes. We’ll also have popcorn, snacks, and drinks! When we finish the movie, we’ll have some time to play 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 board game or two to bring with you. Either sign-up by January 17 on the bulletin board across from Pastor’s office or call (309) 693-8095 (Michele) to let us know that you’ll be joining us!

HELP US GATHER ITEMS FOR OUR VALENTINE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE YOUTH AND MILITARY -- During their meeting on **Saturday, February 14th**, Women of Mt. Calvary will be packing boxes for our young people who are in college or serving in the military. In this endeavor we need your help: **1) Please get the names and addresses of your college youth or military to Kelly Eckert (309-256-1423) or Dawn Henderson (309-691-5547);** and **2) Consider contributing candy, microwave popcorn, individually wrapped snacks, tissue packages, pencils, pens, hotel samples (no bar soap, please), or anything a young person away from home might need. Your items can be placed on the kitchen counter, but please mark them for **Women of Mt. Calvary College Student Project**. The ladies would like them there **before Saturday, February 14th**.**

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.

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 JANUARY – During **January** our pantry will be in need of **Vegetable Oil (liquid or spray), Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Canned Tomatoes, 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.

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 invited to attend the Adult Class, during the time your children are attending Sunday School. **Sunday School began again last Sunday, January 11th, at 10:30 am. Let’s begin the new year by bringing our children (ages pre K through high school to join in the classes.**

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 \$59,287.97 in the General Fund.

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.

PLEASE DO NOT USE 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES ANY MORE – ALL OFFERINGS GIVEN AFTER 12/31/25 WILL BE COUNTED IN 2026 REGARDLES OF THE DATE ON THE ENVELOPE.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE PARISH HALL. PLEASE PICK YOURS UP, AND BEGIN TO USE THEM.

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. -- EXPERT QUESTS, 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. Recent subjects include: The Return of the Jewish Question; Fact-Checking Sermons; Strengthening the Hyde Amendment; Jesus as Prophet, Priest & King; Luther’s Large Catechism 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 & kfu.org: We're continuing our study through the book of Genesis on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! Tune in as we discuss chapters 4-7. Join us on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT) this Wednesday as we welcome Dr. Cameron MacKenzie back to the show for our latest history series, "The Battle for the Augsburg Confession." On Concord Matters this Saturday (1/24 at 10 a.m. CT), we'll be looking at the 6th Petition of The Lord's Prayer. What do we do with temptation? Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, January 18th, 2026.

“Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16).” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for January 18, 2026

Life Sunday – Life issues (abortion, suicide, sexual identity, physician-assisted suicide to name a few) can often be the result of a person trying to solve their own problems or fulfill their own needs instead of relying upon the Lord to help them. The appearance of our Lord as the sacrificial Lamb of God (John 1) reminds us that God is always faithful (Isaiah 49:7), even at the cost of His own blood. By faith in Christ, we can and should wait patiently for the Lord (Psalm 40:1) and make Him our trust (Psalm 40:4) in any and every situation, and we should invite our neighbors to do the same.

PEORIA AREA LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – PENNIES FOR LIFE

– This Sunday, which is Life Sunday, **January 18th**, we hope that you will express your thankfulness to your Heavenly Father by contributing a penny for each year of life you have been

blessed with. There will be a collection jar in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall.

Please consider this opportunity to support life. We stand ready to continue our work, but we need your help! Please also consider joining us the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton. We are a family of believers supporting God's gift of Life.

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.

FROM CAMP CILCA –

- **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
- **Librarians And Librarian Subs Needed** --If you are available during the day, we could use your help in the school's library. If interested, contact Ms. Craine at ecraine@concordiapeoria.com, or Mrs. Drozd at mdrozd@concordiapeoria.com or call the school office at 309-691-8921
- **The next Playtime Pals is Friday, January 23rd**, from 9:00 - 11:00 am in Gym A.
- **January 21st** – 3rd & 4th grade musical, "Let's Rock at 9:15 am and 6:30 pm, both performances in the Ruppert Gymnasium.
- **Concordia Discovery Days** – Invite your friends (and yourself) to visit Concordia on one of their Discovery Days, **January 28th, February 11th, and 25th**. Tours are from 9 to 11 am.