

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
JANUARY 25, 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.

CONCORDIA STAFF FROM MT. CALVARY

Brooke Barr - Kindergarten

Call the Concordia School office at 691-8921, or check their web site at www.concordiapeoria.com for information.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

February 1st -- 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 15

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Theresa Johnston in celebration of her birthday 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 is still 1 Sunday (February 22nd) available next month!

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

✠ Robert Grinslade – OSF room 4105

✠ Ron Achterberg – Apostolic Christian Home, Salem, room 147

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

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.

THE WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY -

- are hosting a bake sale on **Sunday, February 8 between services**. We will have a variety of goodies for sale, so please stop by and pick up your favorite treats while supporting the Women of Mt. Calvary. The bake sale proceeds provide funds to help the Seminary Food Banks, our congregational meals during Lent, Easter, Fall Harvest and Advent, receptions and congregational gatherings plus keeps our kitchen stocked and functional along with funds for special projects. We hope you will come by the tables in the parish hall and purchase some baked goods for Super Bowl Sunday, the upcoming Valentine's Day or just an everyday treat!



WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY FEBRUARY MEETING – Saturday, February 14th at 9:30 AM

-- Love is in the air during the month of February and God's love is all around us each and every day! Please plan to attend the Women of Mt. Calvary for our monthly meeting on Saturday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. as we will be packing boxes for our college students and planning out our next few months of activities and events. At 11 AM, we will be writing cards for Veterans and sending them off to the VA Clinic in Danville, Illinois to share with Veterans who are need of medical services and are hospitalized. All congregational members are invited to bring your favorite pen and a message to share (we will have some pre-written messages as well for inspiration.) Please come and join us!

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.

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 PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON SERIES

-- 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 a series of interviews with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, author of the new book "Finally Free: Three Lessons in the Parable of the Prodigal Son" at issuesetc.org/prodigalson.

KFUO RADIO, **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/kfuo), [X](https://twitter.com/kfuo), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kfuo).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfuo.org: This week on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), we're continuing our study of the book of Genesis, picking up with chapter 8! Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series, "The Magnificent 37", a study of the miracles of Jesus. On Concord Matters this week (1/31 at 10 a.m. CT), we're concluding our study of the Lord's Prayer with a look at the 7th Petition—what does it look like for the Lord to "deliver us from evil"? Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app.

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, January 25th, 2026.

"The One Who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God Who fashioned us and gave us our first beginning in the womb. It is God Who brings forth life. It is God Who created us, Who 'knits us together,' so that we are 'intricately and wonderfully made.' Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And—it is a sin to shed innocent blood." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for January 25, 2026

– Abortion and assisted suicide are often followed by crushing amounts of guilt and shame. While the Church rightly teaches that these are sins against God and neighbor, may we never forget that Christ has sent us to preach the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). In Christ, "there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish," (Isaiah 9:1), for He has come in the fulfillment of His promises, bringing the Kingdom of God near to us (Matthew 4:14-17), that all who repent and believe in Him can take shelter in the Lord (Psalm 27:5).

PEORIA AREA LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – PENNIES FOR LIFE

– Last Sunday, which was Life Sunday the Penny Jars were put out again. We thank everyone who contributed. The Penny Jars will be left out for another week if you forgot your pennies last week.

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](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 –

- **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.
- **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.**