

† MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS †
FEBRUARY 8, 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.

CONFESION

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

February 15th – Transfiguration of Our Lord
Psalm 2:6-12
Exodus 24:8-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY ARE COLLECTING MITES THIS WEEK-END

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Eileen Benne in loving memory of her husband Phil, and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

There are 3 Sundays in March available (1st, 8th, & 22nd) still available for altar flowers.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

† Larry Frank – OSF 4352
† Robert Grinslade – Now at Snyder Village – room 115
† Ron Achterberg – Apostolic Christian Home, Salem, room 147

CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN/BEGAN on Saturday, February 7th at 1:00 pm (Adult Choir) and at 1:45 pm (Bell Choir). Anchormen will rehearse on the 2nd and 4th Sundays after the Matins service). **All are invited to join.**

ASH WEDNESDAY --If you have palms from last year that you want used for this year's ashes, it's time to bring them in. Pastor Long will be making ashes on February 17th.

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 this 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

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!

EASTER IS EARLY THIS YEAR (SUNDAY, APRIL

5). -- Midweek Lenten Services begin February 25. We will again be serving a light lunch after the 11:15 service. If you can help, there is a signup sheet across from Pastor's office. Many hands make light work. Please contact Abbie Matson 309-224-9432 with any questions.

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT AT THE RIVERMAN

Let's beat the winter blues and cheer on the Riverman Hockey team! Our church has an opportunity to attend a Riverman Game on February 28th at 7:15pm. Our church can get discounted tickets, \$20 for adults, \$16 for kids. Riverman Cap giveaway to the first 2,000 people. If you are interested, sign up on the bulletin board or email Kelly at ikeckert91@gmail.com

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 FEBRUARY – During February our pantry will be in need of Tuna, Green Beans, Ramen, Corn, Pancake Syrup, Pancake Mix and Cereal (or anything else you might wish to bring will be greatly appreciated.) And again, they can always use volunteers –the volunteers they have (and are very thankful for) are stretched to the limit.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Youth Sunday School Classes. 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. **Please let us know if you can't attend so the teachers know what to prepare. Messages to the church office would be appreciated.**

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.

Carol reported at the February Administrative Council Meeting that she currently has \$39,836.00 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 LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD

IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS -- 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: A Christian View of Leisure, Responding to Transgenderism in Light of God’s Word, Jesus as Priest, Faithful Ministry in a Post-Christian Culture, Reducing Theology to Pithy Slogans, Christian Apologetics 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 KFUO AM850 & kfuo.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 14-17. Join us on Thy

Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as Pastor Boo leads us in a new study of the book of Numbers! On Concord Matters this Saturday (2/14 at 10 a.m. CT), we'll be studying Holy Baptism as discussed in the Large Catechism. What is the power, profit, and purpose of Baptism? Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUO Radio app!

FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE A Life Quote for Sunday, February 8, 2026. “God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother’s arms. God’s peace be with you this day, this night.” *Andrea Delwiche – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for February 8, 2026

5th Sunday after Epiphany – “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). God’s people do wonderful things before the world: march for life, support local pregnancy resource centers, speak up on behalf of the unborn and vulnerable. However, we must always remember that we are to shine our light before men, not to earn favor with men or with God. Such self-serving works “will not make your voice be heard on high” (Isaiah 58:4). Instead, knowing Christ crucified and having the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:2, 16), we let our light shine before men to give glory to God (Matthew 5:16), that all might have life now and forever.

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, February 20th** 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, **February 11th, and 25th.** **Tours are from 9 to 11 am.**