

✠ MT. CALVARY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠
FEBRUARY 15, 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

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Lisa Cornelius in celebration of the birthday of her daughter, Maggie, and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

There are 2 Sundays in March available (8th & 22nd) still available for altar flowers.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK

- ✠ Larry Frank – Now Home
- ✠ Robert Grinslade – Now at Snyder Village – room 215
- ✠ Ron Achterberg – Apostolic Christian Home, Salem, room 147

CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGAN last Saturday. We will rehearse again this Saturday 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. No audition required.**

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 22nd – 1st Sunday in Lent

Psalms 32:1-7

Genesis 3:1-21

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – This Wednesday, February 18th, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. As is the custom at Mt. Calvary, we will have two services on Ash Wednesday, one at 11:15 am and one at 6:30 pm. Both services will be spoken Divine Services with the Imposition of Ashes. Because of the solemn character of the day, there will be no meals offered with the services. **Please plan to attend one of the services as you are able, as we begin this time of remembering our Lord's passion and looking forward to the celebration of Easter.**

DIRECTORY PROOFS -- will be up again next Sunday for 2 weeks only. Please make any corrections you know of. If you won't be in church during this time please call the office and let Judy know what your corrections are.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY – Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of:

✠ Jackson Frank, son of Zachary Frank and grandson of Larry and Julie Frank, who was called to his eternal home on Friday, February 6, 2026. There are no services scheduled as of now.

May the family find comfort, hope and peace in our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CONCORDIA SUNDAY AT MT CALVARY – Next Sunday, **February 22nd**, Mt. Calvary will celebrate Concordia Lutheran School Sunday. In the 9:00 am service the Concordia music ensembles will be taking part in the service with special music and accompanying hymns. Join us as these students share their God-given talents with us.

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY FEBRUARY MEETING – **this 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!

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**.

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 jkeckert91@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

Our first project for 2026 is support for *Hispanic Ministry in Beardstown, IL*. \$1800 will be collected to support travel costs for Rev. Pablo Dominguez. Reminder that online one-time and recurring donations can now be made at <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LCMSCentralIllinoisDistrict/D4M>

ISSUES ETC. – EDUCATION & EDIFICATION

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 topics include: The Religious Beliefs of Abraham Lincoln, Why Feminism Can't Be Fused with Christianity, Is Christianity a Psychological Crutch?, The Hymn "If God Himself Be For Me" 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 KFuo AM850 & kfuo.org: On Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), we're continuing our study of the book of Genesis, picking up with chapter 18! Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our new series through the book of Numbers. On Concord Matters this week (2/21 at 10 a.m. CT), we're continuing our study of Holy Baptism as found in the Large Catechism— is Baptism limited to those who can understand it? 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 15 2026.

"The message of Jesus' transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That's what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in Whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask." *Rev. Paul Marggraf – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

A Life Thought in the Church Year for February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday – "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, 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. Early Bird Registration Deadline for Summer Program at Camp CILCA is March 31
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- **Camp CILCA -WOMEN RETREAT,**
 - March 6-7, 2026
 - Calling all ladies! Our retreat theme is Pew Sisters: gather and celebrate our true sisterhood—our pew sisterhood!
 - Guest Speaker: Mrs. Katie Schuermann
- Two choices for our retreat...
 - You can join us overnight for \$100 and stay in the Christian Growth Center.
 - Want to stay at home, but still want to come to the conference? There is a commuter option for \$75.
 - Registration <https://www.cilca.org/womens-retreat.html>
- **CAMP CILCA SPRING WORK DAY & PANCAKE DINNER:** March 14
 - 8 am – 11 am: Help get the campground ready for spring and summer fun!
 - 11 am – 1 pm Free pancakes for all!

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
- **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 the last of their planned Discovery Days, **February 25th. Tours are from 9 to 11 am.**
- **Concordia Red Cross Blood Drive** – March 2nd from 2:30 to 6:30 pm. Sign up with a student or call the school (309-691-8921 to make an appointment.

MARTIN & KATIE CONFERENCE

Join us for the 2026 Martin + Katie Conference at University Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL on Saturday, March 28, 2026. At this free conference, grow as Christmas men and women, meet new friends, get to know each other, and have fun. The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle and his wife, Nicole, will be our presenters. Rev. Dr. Boyle will teach about cultivating the pious Christian life as men and women. The conference is open to ages 18–30. Married or single are welcome. Registration is required, as capacity is limited. Please register no later than Friday, March 20th. Info and registration are available at <http://martinpluskatie.org>. *Plus:* Bonus activities are planned for Friday night, March 27, and Saturday night, March 28! All are invited to stay for Sunday Bible Class, Divine Service, and lunch on Palm Sunday, March 29.