

ANNUAL REPORT • 2023-24



Ministry Teams • Attendance • Financials

*Prepared for the
Annual Congregational Meeting
May 19th, 2024*



Since last year's annual report, my letters in our monthly newsletter have largely focused on our strategic plan process, which we started in the fall of 2022, as well as how we have used the information from that plan. Several things have come to light from that process, which I am sharing with you in this report.

First, we've discovered that Calvary is blessed to have many strengths and opportunities. We have strong pastors, strong lay leaders, involved members, and a healthy day school. This is likely why our congregation is now the largest Lutheran congregation (of any synod) on the Southside of Indianapolis. Our size enables us to take on many opportunities and projects that smaller churches simply cannot handle.

Second, we are financially strong. We have no significant debt, thanks to the mortgage elimination drive several years ago. This means we can utilize more of our financial gifts for programs and projects both inside and outside the church.

Third, in spite of the pain caused by COVID-19, we have incredible video capacity to reach out to those who are unable to attend on a regular basis, such as members who have moved but can still "attend" Calvary. Yet for all these blessings, we have challenges.

Our immediate community has vastly changed since our last strategic plan project 20 years ago, much in line with the rest of the country. The number of people who profess to be Christian – or even religious – has significantly declined over the past two decades, and the opportunity to reach out and share Christ with them continues to grow. All we have to do is make the effort.

We have an aging congregation with fewer young people in church. And while it's not a new trend, retaining those younger members is a problem for us and many other churches.

Our physical plant is aging: One part of the building dates from 1950, with the most recent being our sanctuary enlargement in 1997. We have a wonderful facility, but it is showing signs of age and needs attention. Like it or not, first impressions have an impact on our visitors, and while our message is always greater than our building, if we have a facility in need of repairs and updates, we may not have the ability to deliver that message.

The organizational structure of our congregation is basically the same as it was over 50 years ago in a much different time. With our strategic plan focusing on Connecting, Learning, and Caring all out of Service to God, we need to consider what is the best way to operate to fulfill those goals. That is our pressing challenge over the coming months, finding a modern and functional way to best deliver our mission of Engaging People In Christ.

The opportunities are boundless and limitless for us, constrained only by our fears and our concerns about change. We know we cannot let these become a stumbling block – a speck in our eye, if you will. We need to always remember what is written in Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (ESV)

We will be strong. We will be courageous. We will be bold, as we work together to be a shining light of Christ to and in our community and our congregation.

In His, and your service,

Bill Laut
Executive Director

PASTORS AND LEADERSHIP

Senior Pastor
Kurt Ebert
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PRINCIPAL

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rensner@thecalvaryschool.org

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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Recording Secretary
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Asst. Exec. Directors (2)
Bob Blazek
Randy Irwin

Secretary
Paul Brakke

Member-at-Large
Kyle Allen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ministry Teams

Adult Ministry	2
Christian Day School	4
Communications	4
Compassion	5
Facilities	6
Fellowship	7
Outreach	11
Parish Education	12
Spiritual Care	13
Stewardship	13
Youth	15

Ministry Groups

Calvary India Mission Support	3
Lutheran High School	8
Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study	10
Music Program	10
Women in Mission	14

Other Volunteer Opportunities 16

Other Reports

Endowment Fund Reports	17
Worship Attendance	19
Financial Summary	19
Concordia Cemetery	20

ADULT MINISTRY

Director: **Barbara Sorgius**

Mission

To provide spiritual, social and educational support and activities for adults.

2023 – 24 Activities

- Lunch OUT! – 1st Wednesday fellowship outings to local restaurants. Average attendance: 15-20
- Lunch & Learn – 3rd Wednesday of each month. Speakers present a variety of educational topics. Meals are prepared by 4 volunteers. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Monthly attendance: 35-45
- Stretching Souls, Thursdays, 12:00-1:00, in narthex area (Stretching exercises to encourage health and fitness. Encourages spiritual health through use of “Jesus Calling,” shared Bible verses, and discussions.)
- Day Outings – Columbus, Indiana Architectural Tour, Visitor’s Center Bus, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 8-12 people will be attending. Possible film event at The Historic Artcraft Theatre, Franklin, Indiana, August
- Annual Summer Evening Outing – Dinner and Concert, July 6, 2024, Shapiro’s Deli and Garfield Park Patriotic Concert

Community Outreach, Service Projects & Events

- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse Ministries: Intergenerational activity with adult volunteers assisting students in grades K-4 pack gifts for international distribution.
- Grandparent’s/Special Person’s Day: Adult volunteers were special persons for students, whose grandparents were unable to attend. Volunteers were also used for greeting/nametags, and parking.
- Christmas Themed Mug-packing: Volunteers and Mrs. Springer’s 2nd graders packed mugs with welcome gifts for Advent Service visitors to encourage them to attend Advent and Christmas services.
- Easter Egg-Filling Day: Volunteers assisted Outreach Ministry and 2nd - 4th grade students fill approximately 6,000 plastic eggs for the egg hunt.
- St. Thomas Clinic Medicine & Supplies Collections: Sept., Nov., Feb., June.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Provide educational opportunities of interest to adults nearing or in retirement.
2. Encourage participation in service opportunities.
3. Connect members, families and caregivers with resources for older adults.
4. Collaborate with ministry teams to provide or assist with intergenerational activities.
5. Promote congregational opportunities for worship, activities and Bible studies for connecting, learning, caring, and serving.

SPECIAL THANKS

Kyle and Jake Allen, John Angelus, Kathy and Paul Brakke, Les and Nancy Brandt, Joann Brandt, Laura Currier, Diane Dearth, Carolyn Dorsey, Brian Finke, Madelyn Finke, Paula Fisk, Diane Gibson, Karen Hand, Marv and Rhonda Hansen, Brenda and Randy Irwin, Vivian Kistler, Wayne Mayo, Paul McMichael, Mariah McIntyre, Connie Myers, Margaret Mowery, Phyllis Pezzullo, Julie and Bud Pflug, Lisa and Joe Pluckebaum, Jim and Susan Richert, Linda Simons, Vickie Struben, Rhonda Townsend, Gloria Vandivier, Joy Wehrmeister, and Elise Wolf

CALVARY INDIA MISSION SUPPORT

Contact: **Marvin Hansen**

Contact: **Pastor Udhay Raji**

Email: theindiamission@gmail.com

Mission

We support the Calvary India Mission Tamil ministry founded by Pr. Raji in three main areas: 1) sponsor mission trips to India, 2) share God's word through the Tuition, Tailoring and Computer centers in Ambur, India, 3) support the monthly worship service and outreach to Tamil speaking Indians in Indianapolis.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. A second tailoring center was started this year! What a blessing to be able to expand the number of students that receive training in sewing and craft work. All work is done with a focus on Christ and with a diverse student population (Christian, Hindu and Muslim students).
2. This new center was made possible by the regular support that CIM receives through the Calvary budget, and by support from our many individual donors.
3. In addition to our regular supporters who provide tuition and tailoring center sponsorships, the congregation provided support through our CIM Christmas giving tree. These extra funds provided Christmas gifts and clothes for the students.
4. The local Tamil church group continues their worship and fellowship at Calvary once per month.
5. We now have 5 centers operating in the Ambur, India area (3 tuition and 2 tailoring centers). We thank God for the ongoing support of Calvary and Mt. Olive Lutheran church, along with all of our individual donors.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Share the Tailoring/Tuition Center individual student sponsorship vision with more congregations, mission groups and individuals.
2. Continue to plan mission trips that align with the Tailoring Center graduation ceremonies in October each year. We are planning for a larger mission team in October, 2024.
3. We are planning for a larger mission team in October, 2025.
4. Maintain a strong Tamil church group at Calvary and look for opportunities to expand our community.

Volunteers

Rhonda Hansen, Pete Joseph, Elwyn Parks, Kalai Udhayanesan, Alwyn Udhayanesan, Pr. Art Wehrmeister, and Bob Wilson.

From Mt. Olive Lutheran: Pr. Jeff Alexander and Janine Owen

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

Mission trips, Tamil church worship/fellowship, sponsorship program for Tuition and Tailoring Center students, quilters at Calvary and Mt. Olive.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Principal: **Stephen Rensner**

Phone: 317-783-2305 • Email: rensner@thecalvaryschool.org

Christian Day School Ministry Team Director: **Kristina Davis**

Email: christiandayschool@clcs.org

2023 – 24 Activities and Celebrations Completed

Through God's leading and directing:

- Enhanced professional development for faculty and staff
- Completed our NLSA self-study school action plan
- NLSA Validation Team visit November 8-10, 2023
- NLSA Team recommendation Calvary Lutheran School for full accreditation
- STEM program expanded to include 6th grade students with designated part-time instructor
- Second year of full-time City Connect Coordinator onsite each day providing support for students, faculty, and staff
- Scheduled Intergenerational activities again- Operation Christmas Child, Christmas Mug Packing, and Easter Egg filling, etc.
- Licensed Comfort dog on site each day continues
- Secured School Safety Grant applied for and received through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- School Safety Audit recommendations initiated

Goals for the 2024 – 25 School Year

Through God's leading and directing:

- Increase part-time specialized staffing to provide additional STEM instruction through 7th grade
- Enter year three with City Connect Coordinator providing social services for our students
- Continue Comfort Dog onsite each day
- Onboarding of new Kindergarten teacher position
- Onboarding of Kindergarten-Second grade Interventionist position
- Provide staffing to cover enrollment projections- double grade in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades
- Adopt newly published Concordia Publishing House Religion Curriculum - Enduring Faith
- Utilize student data to continue addressing the gap in academic growth
- Continue to renew intergenerational activities

COMMUNICATIONS

Director: **Bud Pflug**

Email: communications@clcs.org

Mission

Support Calvary staff and other ministry teams in their efforts to effectively communicate to the Calvary congregation and the community. Ensure that information presented about Calvary is done in a timely, accurate and appropriate manner, and that it presents a positive and consistent image of Calvary and our Lord.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Helped transition website and video ministry responsibilities to new Calvary employees Clara Yoo and Don Fisher Jr. The Communication team has ongoing oversight of these areas.
2. Oversee the maintenance and upgrade of the Calvary website, www.clcs.org. Complete the annual review process for all website content.
3. Contracted with Ekklesia 360 to implement the improvements that Calvary has done via custom coding over the years. This will make the maintenance of the website easier.
4. Maintained Calvary's presence on Facebook and Instagram. (Search for "clcsindy.")
5. Oversight on the messaging on the informational TVs in the church lobby and the outdoor sign.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Continued oversight of the website, informational TVs, and video ministry. Continue to do annual reviews of all website content.
2. Continue upkeep of social media platforms with accurate and timely information.
3. Participate as needed in Calvary's strategic plan projects.
4. Participate with other ministry teams to promote their efforts and special events.
5. Continue to communicate information to help keep Calvary relevant for our congregation and community.

Volunteers

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers on the Communications team: Wade Jackson, Jason Meyer, Julie Pflug, Lisa Pluckebaum. Also, a special thank you to Jennifer Eisberg for her excellent photography skills.

Opportunities for congregation participation

- Like, comment on, and share, Facebook and Instagram posts.
- Submit photographs that capture events and fellowship at Calvary.
- Submit articles or other content that can be used by Communications to promote Calvary.
- Post a positive review of Calvary on Yelp! or Google.
- Consider joining the Communications team.

COMPASSION

Director: **Sandra Wilson**

Email: compassion@clcs.org

Mission

To help and encourage others, seeking to identify care ministry needs of congregation and community. To identify, utilize, and coordinate talents and spiritual gifts of the congregation to meet the needs of our fellow man.

To maintain and administer an emergency assistance fund used for acts of mercy or gifts for those in need.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Care Notes to those who have lost loved ones and to volunteers in the congregation who bless others with their talents.

2. Gathered canned food for Thanksgiving Food Baskets and Gift Cards for families in need.
3. Provided meals to support congregation members after surgery and for families blessed with babies (Love Meals). Made sack lunches for Wheeler Mission and for volunteers after the tornados.
4. GriefShare programs to support those who've lost loved ones, including programs for the loss of a spouse and surviving the holidays. College Care Packages in the Fall and Spring.
5. Breakfast for Calvary School and Church Staff in appreciation of the support they give to students and congregation members.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Continue and expand programs and efforts to encourage individual and congregational expressions of Christian love and concern
2. Pursue programs and activities for contributions to Calvary's Good Samaritan fund for homebound and community support
3. Adopt a dorm to support Lutherwood and Lutheran Child and Family Services

Volunteers

We'd like to thank Michael Louden and Roxanne Deardurff for their wonderful support and implementation of the GriefShare program as well as Linda Bugher for all her work supporting the college care packages

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

1. Funeral Meal food donations
2. Donation of funds for the Good Samaritan Fund
3. Support Lutherwood at Christmas
4. Supporting Calvary members by sending notes, making calls and/or visits to Calvary members
5. Donating food and helping pack boxes for the Thanksgiving food drive.

FACILITIES

Director: **Michael Daake**
 Email: facilities@clcs.org

Mission

The mission of the Facilities Ministry is the proper maintenance and repair of Church property and the general protection of the congregation against loss or damage of any nature.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Updated several school classrooms with new paint, new LED lighting and new carpet.
2. Made security improvements in the church and school with additional security cameras and keypad access panels at exterior doors.
3. Replaced rooftop AHUs over rooms 125/127 to provide more efficient and consistent heating and cooling.
4. Initiated plans for modernization of several locations throughout the church and school: North end of Narthex to become Café, Narthex improvements, remodel of men's narthex restrooms, remodel of women's narthex restrooms, new carpet in sanctuary, remodel of restrooms 124 and 126 and remodel of boy's and girl's locker rooms.

5. Conducted security assessment with IMPD and developed a plan to implement recommendations to provide security and comfort to Staff, Students and congregation.
6. Replaced school classroom doorknobs with lever style handles to provide more security.
7. Added dedicated security camera PCs and monitors at the school and church secretary desks for better camera monitoring.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Planned improvements to the narthex (i.e., visitors' center, café, and welcoming spaces).
2. Installation of new carpet in sanctuary
3. Modernization of men's and women's narthex restrooms and gym restrooms/locker rooms
4. Site grading and storm water management systems improvements to prevent flooding and structure damage.
5. Parking lot maintenance in North and South lots.
6. 6119 Shelby Street property plan development for short-term use or long-term demolition.
7. Development of CLCS building asset management program.

Volunteer Recognition

Thank you to all team members and workday volunteers who helped complete projects throughout the year.

Volunteer Opportunities

Calvary Workdays. Short-term volunteer projects, or project management.

FELLOWSHIP

Director: **Joe Pluckebaum**

Email: fellowship@clcs.org

Mission

To share God's love through fellowship events; to encourage one another in God's service, learn from each other what it means to share God's love multi-generationally, celebrate with food, have fun and fellowship together.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Outdoor Worship & Picnic – Calvary's annual outdoor service and picnic. (over 300 attended)
2. Outdoor Family Fun Night – Evening meal outdoors with a bonfire, and activities afterward. (over 300 attended)
3. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper – Coordinated and served with the El Salvador Mission Team.
4. Treat & Greet – Offered worshippers fruit & baked goods after services.
5. Cross-Ministry Team Events (Breakfast for Jesus and Easter Egg Hunt)

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Connect Calvary's families and friends with each other and our community.
2. Share the opportunity and fun of serving others of all ages & other cultures.

3. Grow the Fellowship Ministry Team to share the joy of serving with others.
4. Work alongside other ministry teams to invite and welcome others to be a part of God's family.

Volunteers

Cindy Brock, Kathy Joseph, Sam Jebaraj Udhayanesen, Roxanne Deardurff, Jessica Denny, Jill Bliss, Diane Robinson, Ken Robinson, Stacy Faubion, Suresh Reddy, Deb Stephens, and Erin Woempner

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

Preparing, setting up, serving, and cleaning up after major indoor and outdoor events.

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS

Head of School, **Michael Brandt**: 317-787-5474 • mbrandt@lhsi.org

Director of Development and Alumni Relations: **Kathy Anderson**,

317-787-5474 • kanderson@lhsi.org

Athletic Director, **Tom Finchum**: 317-787-5474 • tfinchum@lhsi.org

Admissions Director, **Deidre Barnett**: 317-787-5474 • admissions@lhsi.org

Mission

The mission of Lutheran High School of Indianapolis is to prepare young adults for a Christian life while providing academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. The students of LHS are blessed to be part of a high school that is engaged in God's word through study, prayer, and praise. This solid Lutheran foundation supports the growth and development of students as they move with purpose, pursue academic opportunities, and become champions of positive activities.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. **LHS has 61 seniors** who will graduate on May 19, 2024. Forty-one seniors will be awarded the IN Academic Honors Core 40 Diploma, and 20 will receive the Core 40 Diploma, both college ready diplomas.
2. **Students in the Community** include participation in the Indiana Blood Center Drive, Indianapolis Prayer Breakfast (thank you to Calvary for this sponsorship), Ray Skillman Clothe-a-Child, The Pink Ribbon Connection Fundraiser, March for Life in Washington D.C., Emmaus Food Pantry Can Drive, The Ark Encounter, College Visit Day, El Salvador Mission Trip, LHS Sunday at Association Churches, and State Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium.
3. **Extracurricular Activities:**
Saints on Stage packed the Ruth Lilly Auditorium with three shows: "12 Angry Jurors," "Little Mermaid," and "And Then There Was One." We are thankful for the partnership and support we receive from our community.
The Saints athletic teams hit the Indiana spotlight again. Student athletes and coaches are blessed to compete and continue to make a positive impact. Praise the Lord for all their accomplishments:
Conference Champions: Football; **Sectional Champions:** Boy's Soccer and Football; **Regional Champions:** Football; **State Champions:** Football.

The Saints Indiana Academic Super Bowl Team qualified four teams (Science, Social Studies, English, and Interdisciplinary) for the state finals hosted by Purdue University.

4. **Fundraisers**

Lutheran Golf Outing took place in June 2023 at Martinsville Golf Club with 98 golfers participating. The 2024 Lutheran Golf Outing returns to Martinsville Golf Club on June 2.

The annual LuFest Dinner Auction was a huge success this year! 458 tickets were sold including a record-breaking 78 alumni in attendance. 50 student volunteers shined throughout the evening. Lutheran was blessed to raise over \$138,500.

The Together Campaign is still going strong! The weight room renovation is complete, and we are preparing for our outdoor bleacher project as well as continuing to pay off debt and fund merit scholarships.

5. **Alumni** recognition and special events take place throughout the year, including a monthly newsletter – *The Saints Connection*; and Celebrate & Connect events. Some of our events this year included Homecoming, VIP Basketball evening, VIP room at LuFest, and a private showing of *The Little Mermaid*.
6. **National Lutheran Schools Accreditation** team completed their visit in April to recommend LHS for full accreditation and to continue in its mission. The study noted that LHS has a genuine positive and caring culture, high student participation in extra-curricular offerings, and frequent celebrations of student success.

2024 – 25 Goals for the 48th year of LHS

1. Welcome a freshman class of 75 students to grow more in God's Word.
2. **Celebrate the Together Campaign** that positively impacts student scholarships, capital debt, and campus improvements.
3. **Promote the mission and vision** of Lutheran High School so students can Move With Purpose, Pursue Opportunities, and Champion the Positive.
4. NLSA: **Develop an active ministry outreach program** for families without a church home.
5. NLSA: Maximize technology to enhance and improve instruction.
6. Graduate all seniors prepared to succeed.

Volunteers

LHS would like to thank the Calvary delegates to LHS, Diana Langhammer and Wendy Wilson, as well as the LHS Board of Director members, Pastor Ebert and Arden Redding, for their work and support. We also appreciate all the families who have supported LHS through donations, prayers, time, and talents. LHS is a special place that is made possible by the people who support it. Thank you!

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation:

Together Campaign Prayer Warriors, Alumni Connections Event coordinators, Church Delegates or Board Members, International Student host(s), LuFest volunteers, Athletic and Fine Art Booster Club participation, golf outing volunteers or coordinator, athletic event volunteers, Saints on Stage production volunteers, LHS student tutors, and others.

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Contact: **Rich Wilson**

Email: mensbiblestudy@clcs.org

Mission

To read, study and apply God's word as written in the Bible readings contained in the church bulletins. To offer support to participants and to the Calvary family.

We at the Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study are aware of our need for the study of His word to be a part of His Ministry, through His Word. Through our participation, we recognize how much we need His Word and how to apply it to our daily lives. The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study is a contributing part of our ministry to the community and the congregation.

We gather on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m. The first half-hour is a light breakfast with time to share blessings and challenges from the previous week. The next hour is spent diving into the scriptures assigned for the weekend services: Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel. No preparation is required beforehand. We close with prayer requests from the group.

Additional Contacts

Ray Ford, Ken Kettler, Bob Langhammer, Paul McMichael, John Mowery, and Richard Weiss.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Director: **Tony Spelde**

Email: music@clcs.org

Mission

To provide musical support for the worship life of Calvary.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Chorale — High School age to adult choral
2. Handbells — High School age to adult
3. Contemporary Worship — instrumentalists and vocalists for Blended Worship
4. Soloists/ensembles — instrumentalists and vocalists for service music.

2024 – 25 Goals

We are always actively seeking new and continuing participants to sing or play!

Volunteers:

Tony Spelde — Director of Music

Gary Schultz — Director Calvary Chorale and Handbell Director

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

1. Chorale — High School age to adult choral
2. Handbells — High School age to adult
3. Contemporary Worship — Instrumentalists and vocalists for Blended Worship
4. Soloists/ensembles — Instrumentalists and vocalists for service music able to enhance the worship experience of the congregation.

OUTREACH

Director: **Marv Hansen**
Email: outreach@clcs.org

Mission

The Outreach Ministry Team connects members of the church with the community, learns about the community, cares for lost people, and shares the love of Christ Jesus.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Hosted (along with Kara Hiatt) the Foundations of Faith class for new members (spring and fall).
2. Collaborated with the Fellowship team on the Fall Outdoor event.
3. Coordinated and hosted the Community Easter Egg Hunt in April, with support from the Fellowship and Parish Education teams and a total of 84 volunteers. This was a big success with 300 kids and a total attendance of more than 600.
4. Helped with school Trunk-or-Treat, the Women in Mission Yard Sale and the Holiday Bazaar. We provided free Calvary mugs/pens at the Yard Sale and the bazaar.
5. Community Garden – continued to support through spring petunia and fall mum sale. We added one 4'x10' bed this year. Almost all the beds are taken. Beds that are not taken will allow us to supply Hunger Inc with fresh veggies. We made a cash donation to the Emmaus Food Pantry and Perry Township Hunger, Inc. We added a bed in the fenced preschool playground area to provide students with a hands on gardening experience.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Implement a new community event on September 7 – A Touch-A-Truck family event. We will have a variety of trucks available for kids to see and touch, along with food, face painting, bounce houses and puppet shows.
2. Facilitate the introduction, orientation, reception, and integration of new members.
3. Promote and direct congregation-wide outreach endeavors, with a special focus on the Easter Egg Hunt, Touch-A-Truck, and activities that have been successful in the past. Provide volunteer help and advertising support for school and Fellowship team events.
4. Collaborate with Calvary Lutheran School to encourage students and faculty to engage in outreach to the church and community - would like to involve students in our projects.
5. Add “second-tier” greeters that can spend more time with visitors, and add a visitor desk.

Volunteers

Angie Beed, David Beed, Jessica Harmon, Paul McMichael, Sarah Ward, Patty Rothkopf, Linda Simons, Amber Greathouse, Rachel Deardurff, Marvin Hansen, Kara Hiatt.

Community Garden Team

Jake Allen, Joe Pluckebaum, Wayne Mayo, Pr. Art Wehrmeister, Mark Jung, Paul Woodburn and Jim Richert.

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

1. Greeters before services
2. Community Garden – volunteers needed to assist in garden maintenance and to continue support of Hunger, Inc. with fresh vegetables.
3. Participate in welcoming new members through the Foundations of Faith class.
4. Volunteer for Easter Egg Hunt, Touch-a-Truck, Fall Outdoor Cookout (with Fellowship).
5. Volunteer for church/school activities (fall bazaar, yard sale, Trunk-or-Treat, Sunday School kickoff, PTL back-to-school event)

PARISH EDUCATION

Director: **Dennie Morrison**

Email: parished@clcs.org

Mission

The Parish Education Ministry Team shall, by the power of the Holy Spirit, share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make available opportunities for spiritual growth to the body of Christ at Calvary Lutheran Church.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Adult Bible Studies continue and grow through the use of Zoom and onsite classes, and small groups.
2. Children's Ministry Director and Children's Ministry team continue to work at providing Bible based activities and studies for our children
3. Sunday school and VBS continue to use creative and meaningful lessons/classes.
4. Nursery continues to provide a place for parents to go with their child for meeting their needs and if restless during worship services.
5. The Church library continues making books available with additional shelving added.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Select and organize Congregational study for the fall of 2024 and for the fall of 2025 to enrich and grow individual study of scripture, with application for daily living.
2. Encourage and stimulate development of small group leaders for new and current Bible studies.
3. Continue developing and encouraging ALL to be involved in personal Bible study classes: weekly small groups, online offerings, before or after weekend worship services.
4. Continue supporting growth of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School with meaningful and appealing curriculum that teaches God's Word to children.
5. Continue to maintain and update nursery area so parents can bring young children to be cared for during Sunday worship services and Bible classes.

Volunteers

Karen Hand, Dennie Morrison, Judy Morrison, Bob Langhammer, Marilyn Rothkopf, and MaryAnn Knaus.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Director: **Eric Eisberg**

Email: spiritualcare@clcs.org

Mission

The main objectives of the Spiritual Care Ministry Team are the spiritual welfare of the Pastor(s) and congregation members, individually and corporately, and the supervision of everything pertaining to congregational worship. The nature of the duties of this ministry requires that only men noted for their Christian knowledge, zeal and experience in the spiritual work of the Kingdom of Christ shall be elected to membership. The members of this ministry are referred to as Lay Ministers.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Continued to support on site and online worship services.
2. Encouraged the Pastors and supported the worship services with liturgy, scripture readings (liturgist) and administration of Holy Communion (Communion Assistants).
3. Provided Men's Bible Study during the summer.
4. Provided a fund-raising meal to support the missionaries within Calvary.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Continue to improve Visitor's Experience & Connection
2. Provide more opportunities for Men's Small Group Bible Study
3. Provide opportunity to engage with the Community
4. Continue support of pastors and staff with prayer.

Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers on the SCMT for their commitment and dedication this past year – Bob Behning, Matt Francis, Phil Hendershott, Tony Kochan, Ben Langhammer, Andrew Lee, Tim Meier, Ellwyn Parks, Bob Romack, Mark Tatlock, Rick McWilliams, and Doug Wright.

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

1. Pray for the pastors and staff.
2. Serve within one of our worship teams: ushers, v-tech, light & sound, video ministry, or altar guild.

STEWARDSHIP

Director: **Jake Allen**

Email: stewardship@clcs.org

Mission

Develop overall stewardship education programs; develop and maintain a program to discover and enlist for service the talents God has given members of Calvary; foster support for missions and charities; develop, maintain, and evaluate processes involved in giving, including estate planning, bequests and memorials; and coordinate door offerings and fundraisers.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Continued support of international, national, and local missions including: LCMS Missionaries; Lutheran High School; Camp Lakeview; Wycliffe Bible Translators; Lutheran Child and Family Services; and Habitat for Humanity. Provided tuition support for seminarian Aaron Levenhagen.
2. Educated members about online giving options.
3. Developed a process for the recognition of different Calvary Ministry Partners each month through promotion and partnership with other ministry teams.
4. Provided members with information on programs and opportunities that have tax benefits, such as the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) and Qualified Charitable Distributions.

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Provide assistance on the capital campaign that is under consideration.
2. Continue to educate members on the availability of Thrivent Action grants and Direct Choice dollars as well as other matching funds.
3. Evaluate conducting another financial planning workshop for members and the community to provide information on retirement considerations including estate planning.
4. Continue support of students studying to be church workers through scholarships.

Ministry team members

Phil Borst, Jerry Denny, Pastor Kurt Ebert, Pete Joseph, Kevin Kehlbeck and Steve Vandivier.

Volunteer or participation opportunities available to the congregation

The Stewardship Ministry Team is available to help and encourage each member of Calvary to use their time, talents, and treasures in service. Additional volunteers are always welcome to assist in counting contributions each Sunday. Watch the website, monthly newsletter, and quarterly Stewardship update newsletter for specific opportunities.

WOMEN IN MISSION

Email: womeninmission@clcs.org

Mission

“Growing in love, loving by serving.” All confirmed women and wives of communicant members are encouraged to serve the Lord with gladness at Calvary and throughout the world through activities and service with the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. Working together, the women serve God, learn more about Him and encourage loving friendships as sisters in Christ.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Studied God’s Word. Women’s Bible study is held the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in Calvary’s EPIC Library. Studies from LWML Quarterly.
2. Extravagant Sharing – collected food pantry items throughout the year for Emmaus Food Pantry.

3. Sewed 300 comfort quilts for IU Methodist Hospital, 12 quilts for El Salvador and 3 for homebound Calvary members by the quilters group. Created several baby blankets and quilts for Life Centers of Indianapolis.
4. Hosted the 54th annual Holiday Bazaar and the 3rd Annual Yard Sale.
5. Prepared 24 Christmas gift bags for congregational members unable to leave their homes.

2023 – 24 Major Mission Support

1. Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Mites for Missions: \$500.00
2. Annual Missions: \$600.00 for Wycliffe Translators – C & A Fiorello

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Study God’s Word. Women’s Bible study is held the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 am in Calvary’s EPIC Library. Studies from LWML Quarterly.
2. Extravagant Sharing – collect food pantry items throughout the year for the Emmaus Food Pantry.
3. Sew quilts for IU Methodist Hospital, El Salvador and others in need by the quilters group.
4. Create baby blankets and quilts for Life Centers of Indianapolis.
5. Host a church-wide yard sale on 6/1/2024, send 150 school bags for Lutheran World Relief, and organize our 55th Holiday Bazaar on 11/9/2024.

Volunteers

Thank you to every one of our women (and men) who have helped brainstorm ideas, plan, organize, contribute, lead, and support the activities of Women in Mission.

YOUTH

Youth Director: **Brian Krohmer**

Email: bkrohmer@clcs.org

Youth Ministry Team Director: **Jeff Evans**

Email: youth@clcs.org

Mission

The Calvary Youth Program seeks to provide opportunities for youth to engage their faith through relevant and meaningful events. We work to provide age-appropriate ministry to our church, school, and community. Our ultimate goal is to lead our youth into a deeper relationship with God and His people.

2023 – 24 Activities

1. Weekly high school youth events (FLIGHT) with Bible study, snacks, and activities
2. Monthly 7th and 8th grade youth events (SAIL) with Bible Study, snacks, and activities
3. Monthly 5th and 6th grade youth events (LAUNCH) with Bible study, snacks and activities.
4. All congregation family events such as Chili Cookoff and Easter Breakfast.

5. All Youth Kickoff events at the beginning and end of the school year with games and activities.
6. Summer trips

2024 – 25 Goals

1. Providing age-appropriate and relevant worship opportunities for Youth
2. Creating a youth leadership team, made up of youth in the program to help guide decisions within the program.
3. Provide opportunities for youth to serve in their community.

Volunteers

Ruth Deckard, Josh Engelking, Jeff Evans, Angel Gaskins, Beckie Hudson, Kayleigh Jones, Andy Lee, Kristi Pulliam, and Nicole Reese.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Altar Guild
(Open)

Altar Flowers
Ann Arnold

Baptism Banners
Jessica Denny

Blankets for Babies
Susan Daniels

Church Library
Corina Hendershott
Jennifer Daake

Confirmand Prayer
Angels
Diana Blazek

Counters
Ken Carow

Cradle Roll
Melanie Huene

Digital Bulletin Board
Announcements
Bud Pflug

Extravagant Sharing
Food Collection
Rosie Blazek

Greeters
Marv Hansen

Lamplighters
Ken Kettler

“Love Meals” Team
Compassion MT

Memorials
Ann Arnold

Nominating
Committee
Wade Jackson
Susan Richert
Tia Kochan
Pr. Kurt Ebert
Kara Hiatt
Emily Spelde

PTL
Rachel Skeens

Prayer Team
Diane Gibson
Laura Currier

Quilters
Jan Main

Tech Committee
Phil Rothkopf

Ushers
Mike Carpenter

Visitor Notecards
Shari Lipps

Worship Projection
Steve Bardonner
Pr. Sam Troemel

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, you can find more information at clcs.org/volunteer or clcs.org/communities, or call the church office at 317-783-2000.

INVESTING IN CALVARY'S FUTURE

Combined Endowment Report – March 31, 2024

Church Endowment Fund (LCMS Foundation)	767,007
Schwark Endowment Fund (LCMS Foundation)	210,723
Wessler Endowment Fund (LCMS Foundation)	102,025
*Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing	300,000
Total	1,379,755

2022-2023 was 1,331,928 on 4/30/23

* Calvary receives annual revenue streams from four different external endowments where Calvary is the endowment beneficiary, as opposed to being the endowment owner. Those Endowments are with Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing. The balance above is our estimate of the current value of these estate gifts. Setting up a personal endowment with the church as beneficiary is another way to share God's generosity with Calvary in perpetuity.

CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Contributions to the endowment fund may be made at any time through listing "Calvary Church Endowment Fund" on your contribution envelope. Also, when preparing your will or beneficiaries to your retirement accounts, prayerfully consider designating a tithe to the Church or Synod. Funds can be designated to a specific purpose, given to the general fund or given to Calvary's Endowment Fund.

The market value is \$767,007 (March 31, 2024). Since its inception in 1987, the endowment fund has provided additional support for Youth and Education Ministry, Music Ministry, Business Manager, Ministry of Assimilation, Admissions Director, Technology support, our Deaconess, our Facilities Manager and our new Video and Digital Media Ministry.

Earnings from the endowment fund are used to help fund new and expanding ministries. Each year the church receives 5% of the Endowment Fund balance for expanding ministries.

Your gift to Calvary's Endowment Fund enables you to continue giving to Calvary forever, providing the church with a dependable source of earnings in future years. You may contribute to the endowment fund through a gift of cash or stock, naming the endowment in your will or as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, pension plan (401k) or IRA.

Prayerfully consider the opportunities placed before us to enhance the future of Calvary Lutheran Church and School. For questions about Calvary's Endowment Fund, contact Kyle Allen: endowments@clcs.org.

AUGUST C. SCHWARK ENDOWMENT AND ANNUAL FUND

The market value is \$210,723 (March 31, 2024). Since its inception, the Annual Fund has disbursed over \$67,000 for scholarships. Each year the distribution from the Endowment Fund is added to the Annual Fund to provide scholarships to a Calvary family that would not otherwise be able to afford a Christian education in our School. We thank God for the generous gifts that provide more families with the opportunity to experience the blessings of a Christian education. Scholarship recipients are supported each school year. Augmenting our ability to give scholarships is the generous giving to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) which in turn allows qualified students to receive an IN Choice Scholarship in subsequent years of enrollment at Calvary.

To give using your offering envelope, mark "Schwark Annual Fund" or "Schwark Endowment Fund" on your envelope. Funds given to the Annual Fund may be used in full immediately for financial assistance of Calvary students. Funds given to the Schwark Endowment Fund are for the long-term ministry of Calvary with a distribution of 5% each year available for scholarships. Any funds from the 5% distribution which are unused after three years are returned to the Schwark Endowment.

You may contribute to the endowment fund through a gift of cash or stock, naming the endowment in your will or as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, pension plan (401k) or IRA.

For questions about Calvary's School Endowment Fund, contact Kyle Allen: endowments@clcs.org.

WESSLER ENDOWMENT FUND

Established in 2018, the Wessler Endowment Fund provides scholarship support for members studying to be church workers. The market value is \$102,025 (March 31, 2024). Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to support the studies of our future church workers. Funds given to the Wessler Endowment Fund are for the long-term ministry of Calvary with a distribution of 5% each year available for scholarships. Any funds from the 5% distribution which are unused after three years are returned to the Wessler Endowment. You may contribute to the endowment fund through a gift of cash or stock, naming the endowment in your will or as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, pension plan (401k) or IRA. To give using your offering envelope, mark "Wessler Endowment Fund" on your envelope.

For questions about the Wessler Endowment Fund, contact Kyle Allen: endowments@clcs.org.

*"Human reason teaches only the hand and the foot of man;
God alone teaches the heart." - Martin Luther*

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Year	6:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Online	Total Weekend	Avg. All Services
2018	111	136	215	N/A	462	531
2019	106	130	201	N/A	436	504
2020	55	66	74	?	210	231
2021	67	81	101	?	247	289
2022	75	93	136	40	333	384
2023	87	98	156	29	357	415

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

General Fund:

	Current	Budget	Difference	Prior Year
YTD Revenue	\$2,647,993	\$2,516,229	\$131,764	\$2,378,829
YTD Expense	\$2,174,155	\$2,290,367	(\$116,212)	\$2,029,612
YTD Net	\$473,838	\$225,862	\$247,976	\$349,216
Beginning balance	\$528,966			
Current balance	\$1,002,805			

Revenue Detail:	Current	Budget	Difference	Prior Year
YTD Contributions	\$887,666	\$848,080	\$39,586	\$868,403
YTD Matching Gifts	\$83,650	\$74,706	\$8,945	\$75,856
YTD School Gifts	\$83,188	\$71,250	\$11,938	\$76,206
YTD Tuition and Fees	\$1,537,490	\$1,456,943	\$80,547	\$1,296,313
YTD Other Revenue	\$55,998	\$65,250	(\$9,252)	\$62,051

Outflow to Missions: Amount * Special Mission Focus

Q1 (Aug - Oct)	\$34,436	Good Samaritan, India Mission, Shepherd Community Center, seminary scholarships, Schwark student scholarships, Operation Christmas Child
Q2 (Nov - Jan)	\$40,695	Good Samaritan, El Salvador Mission, India Mission, Operation Christmas Child, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Quilters, Lutheran High School
Q3 (Feb - Apr)	\$34,278	Good Samaritan, El Salvador Mission, India Mission, Lutheran World Relief, Women in Mission, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Quilters
Q4 (May - Jul)		

* Includes \$19k that is donated to Synod, LHSI, and Hispanic Ministry every quarter

Debt:

	Current	One year prior
Mortgage Balance	\$0	\$0
Line of Credit Balance	\$0	\$0

Endowments:

	Current	One year prior
Calvary Endowment Fund	\$760,292	\$727,453
YTD Disbursements	\$37,047	
Mission focus	Church lobby/sanctuary remodel	

	Current	One year prior
Schwark Endowment Fund	\$208,308	\$199,825
Schwark Annual Fund	\$16,223	\$3,732
YTD Disbursements	\$1,185	

	Current	One year prior
Wessler Endowment Fund	\$106,377	\$99,330
Wessler Scholarship Fund	\$6,965	\$3,589
YTD Disbursements	\$1,500	

CONCORDIA CEMETERY

In 1870, the leaders of St. Paul's decided there should be another Lutheran Cemetery in town, the others being at Ebenezer Lutheran on Millersville Road on the city's far north-east side, and St. John's in what was then referred to as Five Points or Little Minden. They purchased property on South Meridian Street, south of Pleasant Run Parkway, in what was then the outskirts of the city. As the number of LCMS congregations expanded, St. Paul's invited other area congregations to become members of an association to own and operate the cemetery: Emmaus, St. Peter's, Grace, Trinity, and eventually, Calvary.

Since its founding, Concordia has been the final resting place for generations of Lutherans, particularly for many members of Calvary, and continues so to this day. Because of the foresight of St. Paul's when the cemetery was plotted, sufficient space remains for decades at Concordia. As one of the owners, Calvary has three appointed representatives to the board, under the direction of the Facility's Ministry Team. Our representatives are Josh Engelking, Mark Jung, and Charley Klasing.

Concordia Cemetery has recently opened "Section 10" which includes 330 burial plots. Section 10 is south of the two Mausoleums and inside the new south gravel drive.

For information about Concordia Cemetery, please visit the website at www.concordia-cemetery.com.

*Interested in getting involved with a Calvary Lutheran
Church and School ministry?*

Contact **Kara Hiatt**

Phone: 317-783-2000

Email: connections@clcs.org

NOTES



CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL
CLCS.ORG

*6111 South Shelby Street
Indianapolis, IN 46227*

*Church: 317-783-2000
clcs.org*

*School: 317-783-2305
thecalvaryschool.org*