

CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Church Newsletter

December 2024

From the Pastors

Getting to the Heart of the Matter – The Heart of the Apostle

As we head into the months of December and January, we come to a time of reflection. As we wrap up another year and begin again, many of us try to take the briefest moment to stop, reflect, and reevaluate our busy lives. We stop and contemplate the question of what do we want our lives to really be about and what do we want to take place before another year manages to disappear before our eyes.

So the question is “Where do we begin? Where do we even get started?” I’ve heard it said that if you want to figure out where your priorities are look at your calendar and your checkbook because how you spend your time and how you spend your money says an awful lot about what you find important. I’m curious of what story our calendars and our pocketbooks will tell at this time of the year. But as we reflect upon this year ahead and what we would like out of it, I think this is less a question of how we’ve been living and more a question of how do we desire to live. After all there is always a gap between stating our priorities and living out those priorities. I think there is another place in our lives that will give us a clearer picture of where our desires truly lie and I think that place to look is our prayers. I think what we pray for and what we pray about says an awful lot about what our desires are in this life.

Stop and think about what and who you usually pray for. Maybe over the Christmas season you will be whispering a little prayer for peace and quiet or an extra ounce of sanity to deal with the relatives. Maybe you will be asking for a little bit of help to make ends meet. Maybe even a prayer for that certain gift that we have been wanting. There are countless things that could be on your mind and in your prayers, and I think what you ask from God the Father says an awful lot of where your heart and its desires truly are. This insight struck me recently as I was reading the Apostle Paul. Through his letters to fellow Christians, Paul poured out on paper the prayers and desires of his heart. With ink and parchment, Paul demonstrated what he truly wanted, not just for Christmas, but what he wanted most for his fellow Christians. Here are some examples of Paul’s prayer life in his letters...

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...” **Ephesians 1:18***

*“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” **Ephesians 3:16-17***

*“I pray that you... may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” **Ephesians 3:18***

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ...” **Philippians 1:9-11***

Paul shows here that his greatest desire is that you might grasp and take hold of the precious good news of the grace and love of your Heavenly Father that is found in Jesus Christ. So wherever this Christmas and New Year might take you, I pray that the love of Christ will go with you, so that lives of faith and good fruit might spring up the whole year through. May our Lord bless you with the hope and trust that comes through His Son, who loved you so much that He was willing to sacrifice everything for you.

God's Peace, *Pastor Kurt Ebert*

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

General News



2024 Holiday Worship Schedule

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

THANKSGIVING EVE

Wed., Nov 27 at 6:30 p.m.

ADVENT MIDWEEK AFTERNOON SERVICES

Wed., December 4, 3:45 p.m.

Wed., December 11, 3:45 p.m.

Wed., December 18, 3:45 p.m. (Hope, Peace, & Candles)

CALVARY LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Wed., Dec 4, 6:30 p.m. (6th-8th Grade Christmas Service)

Wed., Dec 11, 6:30 p.m. (3rd-5th Grade Christmas Service)

Wed., Dec 18, 6:30 p.m. (PS-2nd Grade Christmas Service)

CHRISTMAS EVE (Tues., Dec 24)

11:00 a.m. – Children's Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service with Handbell & Vocal Choirs

CHRISTMAS DAY (Wed., Dec 25)

10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion

PLEASE NOTE: **No** New Year's Eve Service this year.



Breakfast for Jesus!

Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Calvary Lutheran School gymnasium

Join our **Praising Hands Puppet Ministry** for a morning of food, puppets, and crafts to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a free family event open to all ages. Parking is available in the North Lot for access through door #2.

Contact Sarah Ebert with any questions.

General News

Midweek Advent Afternoon Services (*Onsite only*)

Join us for our thematic Advent series titled, "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" Based on the 1 Thessalonians, we will focus on the hope we have as we await the second coming of the Christ child. (Readings, prayers, hymns, and a sermon.)

Wed., Dec 4 at 3:45 p.m. Knowing the Time (1 Thess. 1:1-10)

Wed., Dec 11 at 3:45 p.m. Praying Like Paul (1 Thess. 3:10-13)

Wed., Dec 18 at 3:45 p.m. A Ticket to Ride! (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

An Advent Service of Hope, Peace, and Candles

Join us **Wed, Dec 18 at 3:45 p.m.** for a service of readings, songs, and candle lighting, as we reflect upon the year that has gone by, as well as the hope, peace, & comfort that comes at Christmas to shine in the midst of the darkness of sin. Whether it has been a tough year of loss, a busy year that leaves you feeling exhausted, or simply an opportunity to enjoy the peace of Christ, join us for a service of prayer and reflection. ***A time of cookies and fellowship will follow.***

Midweek Advent Evening Programs (*Onsite & Online*)

Join us as our Calvary School children present the message of Jesus' birth. Church, school, & community members welcome.

Wed., Dec 4 at 6:30 p.m. 6th-8th grade Christmas program

Wed., Dec 11 at 6:30 p.m. 3rd-5th grade Christmas program

Wed., Dec 18 at 6:30 p.m. PS-2nd grade Christmas program

Winter Weather Cancellation Reminder

Should winter weather cause us to cancel an event, we will ...

- 1) Post to our website (clcs.org) & Facebook ([clcs.org/fb](https://www.facebook.com/clcs.org/fb)).
- 2) Send out a mass e-mail to our e-mail lists.
- 3) As able, change our phone greeting for the church.

Join our e-mail list by contacting churchsecretary@clcs.org. Above all, use your best judgment during this time of year.

Calvary India Mission Giving Tree

Stop by the lobby and select a tag from the Calvary India Mission giving tree. The Christmas gifts on the tags will be distributed to the tailoring and tuition students in India. You may keep the bangle as our gift to you. Please pray for God's blessings as we reach out in God's love to our Hindu and Muslim neighbors in India. For questions, please contact Rhonda Hansen.

General News

Congregational Study Feedback Survey

Thank you to everyone who made this year's congregational study a success! Whether you participated or not, we want your feedback! Help us improve future studies by filling out this quick survey either at clcs.org/studyfeedback or paper copies are available outside the church office on the welcome table.

Christmas Card Sorting

Beginning November 27, you can bring your Christmas cards that you have for Calvary members and drop them in the bins by both sets of doors. Christmas cards must be dropped off by **Sunday, December 15** to be sorted and distributed.

Attention Thrivent Members—"Choice Dollars" Designation

If you have not directed your 2024 Thrivent Choice Dollars, please consider directing them to "Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church" or "Calvary Lutheran School". Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you have Choice Dollars to direct.



College Care Packages

37 care packages were mailed early in November to Calvary college students with snack items, Kleenex, Chap Stick, and a handwritten note with a bible verse to encourage them as they finish this semester.

December Memorials

In Memory of Midge Clark:

Carol Flynn

In Memory of Neva Cooley:

Janet Grube

In Memory of Jim Birdwell:

Jim & Janet Dunaway, Pat Finke

In Memory of Harold Laut:

*Kathryn Guignard, Rick & Janice Stanley, Mark & Jennifer Kugar,
Thomas & Carolyn Riensche, Charles & Kathleen Klasing, Terry & Carol Miller,
Al & Chris Royer, Marilyn Rothkopf, Greg & Linda Simons, Ray & Jan Main*

In Memory of Bob Heid:

*The Firm of Foster & Motley, Bob Polk, Matt & Michelle Harrell,
Mel Wessler & Family, Bill & Nancy Wittlief, Ray & Jan Main*



Adult Ministry

Lunch OUT! Wednesday, December 4 11:00 a.m.

For our "First Wednesday" December outing we're meeting at Sassafras Lunch & Tea Room, 229 N. Madison Avenue, Greenwood.

Tables will be saved for Calvary Lutheran, no reservation needed. Adults of all ages are welcome – come join us for good food and some fun Christian fellowship.



Lunch & Learn Wednesday, December 18 11:00 a.m.

Program: Christmas Party

Lunch: Baked Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert

Suggested donation: \$5.

Questions? Contact Barb Sorgius, 317-783-2000.



Adult Ministry Upcoming Movie Outings

Join us **Thursday, December 12** at Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 Main St., Franklin for a free movie, popcorn, and small soda for those 55 and older. December movie TBD. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Movie begins at 1:30 p.m. Plenty of seating available. Bring a friend! Questions? Contact Barb Sorgius (317-783-2000).



Mug Packing Day (Tuesday, December 3 at 1:45 p.m.)

Our Adult and Outreach Ministry Teams will be working with Calvary 2nd graders to fill Christmas mugs with treats for visitors during our midweek Advent services.

Donations of coffee mugs, small pieces of wrapped candies (such as candy canes), and packets of cocoa mix are welcomed. Please bring these items to the church office by Sunday, November 24. Thank you for your assistance with this special project!



Executive Director

From Your Executive Director

Growing up in a family with deep German roots, one with a rich history of engaging with music on many levels as instructors and performers, the music of the Christmas season always held a prominent position. Whether we were attending performances (both vocal and instrumental), singing as we gathered around a piano, or listening to Christmas music on the stereo – which of course was *verboten* to be played prior to the Friday after Thanksgiving! – Christmas music abounded.

One album in my parent's home, and my grandparent's homes, was the LP "O Tannenbaum (Christmas on the Rhine)", recorded by Werner Müller and Orchestra in 1956. This album, originally released by Decca Records in monoaural, contained several traditional German Christmas songs. It was re-released in stereo in the 1970s by Polydor Records, but two songs were not included. (Grooves for a stereo record are slightly wider than a monoaural record, so space constraints on the vinyl forced elimination of two songs.)

One eliminated song was "Wiegenlied" (Cradle Song) by Mozart, K. 350, beautiful lullaby. The other was "Transeamus usque Bethlehem" by Josef Schnabel. One can find a nice version here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnmeoaQ5VRM. The song begins with shepherd's singing "transeamus usque Bethlehem" – "let us go to Bethlehem", joined later by angels singing "Gloria in excelsis". This song is not often performed, but whenever I hear it I am reminded of Christmases past.

Are you ready to go to Bethlehem this year, like the song suggests? Are you ready to go see Christ? Of course you are! So, you go to Bethlehem and see Jesus. Now what do you do? Sorry, no selfies – cameras won't be invented for over 1,800 years in 1816. Even after that, it will be another 132 years until the first Polaroid camera is introduced to the public. And posting to social media? Forget it. Do you just say to yourself "well, that was interesting" and move on with your life? Or do you start telling everyone what you saw?

Now fast forward 2,000 years. Here it is, the Advent and Christmas season. How about taking this wonderful, grace-filled story and **Connect** with others, inviting them to join us at Calvary! Help them **Learn** that Christmas is more than a man in a red suit and 8 or 9 reindeer – it is the story of God's gift to mankind. Show them you **Care** for them so as to not keep this good news to yourself but want to spread this great story! All this out of **Service** to God, who gave this incredible gift to the world.

While you're doing this, take a moment to think about someone you might not have seen at Calvary in a while. Perhaps they have not returned following the COVID-19 pandemic. Maybe there was a family disagreement years ago, and they decided to just stay away rather than facing resolution of that disagreement. Or in many cases, at some point a schedule conflict came up for a couple of weeks that kept them from attending – and that schedule is now filled with other things, like youth sports, Colts football, or other distractions keeping them from the word of God.

Reach out to these who may have not recently been to church and encourage them to come back to their church home this season, joining with their fellow Christians, as we gather to once again hear of God's gift to everyone: **Engaging People In Christ** with the blessed proclamation of redemption through the birth of His Son Immanuel. He is now with us!

In His and Your service,

Bill Laut

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

Earlier and Earlier

The months, weeks, and days slip off of another yearly calendar and before you know it.....Christmas Day is here!! While Christmas Day will and has always been the same length of time as all other days, its impact on the world appears to be arriving earlier and earlier within the calendar year.

As a child, we had an artificial Christmas tree. About a week before Christmas our father would set up the tree and attach the lights. We would then get to hang the ornaments and finsel. The Christmas tree would remain in the living room beyond Epiphany. The same was true for our outdoor and indoor Christmas decorations. Their display was not orientated prior to a week or two before Christmas Day.

I do like the fact that now Christmas arrives *earlier*. Decorations have already been evidenced driving through the neighborhood. Let's simply ignore the fact that most of its arrival stems from commercial ideologies. Yet just as the shepherds were heralded by the angel hosts that Christ was born, we too, may use this earlier arrival to proclaim our Savior's birth. The Black Fridays and other worldly emphasis for retail sales should not make us fall into despair, but once again boldly announce like the angels our Savior's birth. No gift can ever compare to this gift of Love from our heavenly Father.

Each day God provides for us opportunities to proclaim, witness, and share His gift of love with others. In this way, Christmas should never be designated and isolated to one day, a few weeks, or even a month or two, but experienced throughout every day. This is our Calling as we following the Great Commission. Merry Christmas to all is shouted instead of "Happy Holidays."

We are indeed blessed to have this opportunity each day through the ministry of the Day School. We rejoice in sharing God's love as His Word is taught. We live by faith as we profess in action this full hope and assurance in our salvation. On behalf of our entire faculty, staff, and students – A very Merry Christmas to you!

Advent Services

Students at Calvary Lutheran School will be leading our Advent services this year. All services are at 6:30 p.m. as we proclaim the Lord's birth with scripture, music, and narration.

Wednesday, December 4 6th-8th grade students

Wednesday, December 11 3rd-5th grade students

Wednesday, December 18 PS 3-4, PS 4-5 year old's, Kindergarten- 2nd grade students

Christmas Vacation

Our final day prior to Christmas vacation is **Friday, December 20**. School will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. School will resume on **Monday, January 6th**. We ask the Lord to be with all traveling during this Christmas break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2025-26 Preschool, Kindergarten & First –Eighth Grade Registration Information

Preschool, Kindergarten, First – Eighth Grade registration for Calvary members, returning students and their siblings will begin on January 6th. Our Early enrollment period will continue through January 31st. New applications for enrollment will be accepted starting on February 1st. Families are invited to call and schedule an appointment for a tour during the school day. We are excited as we prepare and plan for the upcoming school year. Help spread the word to coworkers, neighbors, friends, and family. God has blessed us enabling us to be a blessing to others.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Calvary will join with thousands of other Lutheran School students and teachers during the week of January 26-February 2 as we celebrate NLSW!! Many exciting activities are planned during this week-long celebration. A calendar of events will be distributed following our Christmas Vacation.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school

Calvary Lutheran School will be closed on Monday January 20 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We ask the Lord to eliminate the sin of prejudice that still exists in our world today. We ask God to reveal "the Dream" of Dr. King to all people.

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

State Tax Credit Information

Too Good To Be True?! 50% TAX CREDIT for Indiana tax liabilities!

God has provided a unique opportunity to help fund the Christian education of our Calvary students. The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana has been identified as a Scholarship Granting Organization. Scholarships through private and corporate donations are granted to Calvary student families whose income is less than 400% of the Federal free or reduced hot lunch guidelines.

Multiple Benefits for Calvary Lutheran School students, the private or corporate donor, and Calvary Lutheran Church

1. Students and their families accepted in this program will receive a scholarship grant per child enrolled in Preschool 4-5 year olds, Kindergarten-8th grade at Calvary.
2. The donor will receive a 50% Indiana State tax credit for every dollar donated. Example: A donation of \$1000.00 will result in a tax credit of \$500.00 towards your Indiana income tax liability. Private as well as corporate donations will receive this benefit. A Federal charitable deduction may also be realized.

Creative donations

Put your donation on a credit card that offers special incentives. Reward points, airline miles, etc. in addition to the tax savings. Reap the rewards while assisting others to hear God's Word.

How may I help? \$65,000.00 is needed to fully fund all applications

We are currently about \$40,000.00 short of this goal. Donations are currently being accepted. Please submit your donation directly to the Lutheran SGO of Indiana online by December 31. Please note: Be sure to clearly mark Calvary Lutheran School, Indianapolis as the recipient of your donation. The entire process is found online at www.LutheranSGO.org.

What happens in the future?

Children will have the opportunity to hear God's Word through your giving. God continues to open doors to others once thought closed due to financial restrictions. Your assistance in this program is so greatly appreciated! Your gift is multiplied in so many ways.



Youth Ministry

LAUNCH & SAIL (5th-8th grades)

The all-youth camp-in is back this coming Sat., Dec 14th to Sun., Dec 15th. 5th and 6th grade Youth should come prepared for a night of fun from 6:30-10:00 p.m. 7th and 8th grade Youth will arrive at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and will stay overnight until 7:30 a.m. on Sunday! 7th and 8th graders should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and anything else that they want to use to make their campsite. This can include a tent, air mattress, fort supplies, or whatever else! We have no shortage of space, so get creative and have fun with it!

A pizza dinner will be offered on Saturday night and breakfast will be provided by our high school youth early Sunday morning. Snacks will be available throughout the event. At the Camp-In, youth can enjoy video games in the youth room, active games in the gym, or hang out in the cafeteria. The cost of this event is \$10 per 5th and 6th grade youth and \$20 per 7th and 8th grade youth. This event is open to all youth 5th-8th grade no matter where they attend church or school. All are welcome!

Stewardship Ministry

Calvary's December Partner in Ministry – Wycliffe Bible Translators

Each month the Stewardship Ministry Team has been highlighting a different Calvary Partner in Ministry. By emphasizing the different ministries that Calvary supports we hope to provide a better understanding of the many ways your gifts are being used and to emphasize how extensive Calvary's external reach is.

For December, the Partner in Ministry is Wycliffe Bible Translators – Wycliffe is also the designated recipient of the 4th Quarter Mission Gifts (See below).

Information for this ministry and other Calvary Ministry Partners can be at the "Partners" page at our website. Ministry Partners Calvary Lutheran Church and School
<https://www.clcs.org/partners/>

4th Quarter Mission Gifts Designation – Wycliffe Bible Translators

Gifts received in the fourth quarter of this year (October through December) either in the red-lined "Mission" envelopes or designated generically for "Missions" in your online giving or on the regular offering envelopes will go to the support of Wycliffe Bible Translators. For several years Wycliffe associates have been a vital part of this Bible translation movement. As one of our Ministry Partners we continue to provide support to their ministry through our prayers and monetary gifts to Wycliffe.

Scholarships available for those pursuing an education in church work

Scholarships are available for Calvary members studying to be church workers from both the Wessler Family Endowment and the Student Assistance Fund. Anyone who is considering pursuing an education in church work and would like more information on scholarship opportunities please reach out to the Stewardship Ministry Team.

Thrivent Action Grants and Direct Choice Dollars

Please remember that All Thrivent members are eligible to receive up to two Thrivent Action Grants a year. Action grants in an amount of up to \$250 each are available for many projects at Calvary. Recent projects that have been partially funded with Thrivent Action Grants include the Fall Mum Sales and the Thanksgiving baskets prepared and distributed by the Compassion Ministry Team. Have questions about connecting your Thrivent membership to a project? Contact the Stewardship Ministry Team.

Also please consider directing any Thrivent Choice dollars that may be in your Thrivent account to Calvary. Through Thrivent Choice, eligible Thrivent members can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding. To date, Thrivent Choice has resulted in more than \$585 million being distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide.



Compassion Ministry

50 Love Kits Shared – Thank you for blessing someone's days by sharing a 'Love Kit' with them. There are so many around us who need words and gestures of love and hope. Your reaching out to them is, and will continue to be, a blessing. Our Compassion Team will assemble 50 more 'Love Kits' in time for Valentine's Day next February. Watch for them and share more hope and encouragement!

Grief Share and 'Surviving the Holidays' – The Grief Share and 'Surviving the Holidays' program completed another session this past November. This program supports any Calvary members as well as non-Calvary members who are navigating the stages of grief following the loss of a loved one. Another Grief Share session will begin next spring. We give thanks to Mike Loudon and Roxanne Deardurff who have led this group for many years.

College Care Packages were mailed to 37 young adults in November. What college student doesn't love to receive a package in the mail and know they are not forgotten! Each care package contained various snacks, school supplies, tissues, Chapstick, and words of faith and encouragement. We thank Linda Bugher for spearheading this project for many years. Another package will be sent out in January or February to these students. At that time we will invite congregational members to help us in mailing them out. Your prayers for our young people are always encouraged!

Thanksgiving Baskets Blessed Many! What an outpouring of love was given once again by our members! Thank you so much for your generosity! We were able to provide 17 church and school families with canned goods, pantry staples, and a gift card for additional needs. Due to your generous hearts we were also able to send canned goods to the Emmaus Food Pantry as well as Hunger, Inc. in Indianapolis. Many thanks!! (Just as a reminder, your monetary support to the Good Samaritan Fund helps us to reach out to members at this time and throughout the year.)

Christmas Gifts for the Residents of Pando Aspen Grove Apartments – This year the Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) of Indianapolis has asked us to provide Christmas gifts to the residents of the Pando Apartments. This residential facility was started 2-1/2 years ago and houses young adults ages 18-24 who have aged out of the Lutherwood residential home and are currently homeless. There are 30 apartment units in the complex. Staff onsite helps the tenants navigate the challenges of independent living without any other natural supportive team of family or community. They assist the tenants in finding programs to help them complete a high school or college degree, secure employment, or learn better parenting skills. Presently the apartments house both single and married persons as well as a few young adults with children.

Look for gift tags on the tree in the narthex and help us support these young adults.

Calvary Lutheran Church and School Financial Summary First Fiscal Quarter Ended 10/31/24

General Fund:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Revenue	\$1,290,149	\$ 1,281,267	\$ 8,882	\$1,148,457
YTD Expense	\$ 842,770	\$ 876,336	\$ (33,566)	\$ 798,823
YTD Net	\$ 447,379			
Beginning Balance	\$ 852,074			
Current Balance	\$1,299,453			
Revenue Detail:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Contributions	\$ 273,649	\$ 253,892	\$ 19,757	\$ 274,156
YTD Matching Gifts	\$ 11,452	\$ 24,135	\$ (12,683)	\$ 29,279
YTD School Gifts	\$ 16,676	\$ 23,750	\$ (7,074)	\$ 14,699
YTD Tuition and Fees	\$ 974,235	\$ 946,765	\$ 27,470	\$ 807,400
YTD Other Revenue	\$ 14,136	\$ 24,080	\$ (9,944)	\$ 22,923
Endowments:	Current	Prior Year		
Church Endowment	\$ 741,934	\$ 749,064		
YTD Disbursement	\$ 38,722			
Mission focus:	Modernization Project			
Schwark Endowment	\$ 203,380	\$ 204,153		
Schwark Annual Fund	\$ 26,917	\$ 15,723		
YTD Disbursement	\$ -			
Wessler Endowment	\$ 103,614	\$ 102,896		
Wessler Scholarship Fund	\$ 8,162	\$ 6,965		
YTD Disbursement	\$ 4,000			
Outflow to Misstions:	Amount*	Special Mission Focus		
Q1 (Aug-Oct)	\$26,436.64	Good Samaritan, Emmaus Food Pantry, Perry Township Hunger, Shepherd Community, India Mission, Wessler College Scholarships, Operation Christmas Child, Synod, LHSI, Hispanic Ministry		
Q2 (Nov-Jan)				
Q3 (Feb-Apr)				
Q4 (May-Jul)				
Calvary has no mortgage or line of credit balance.				

Women in Mission

Ladies' Bible Study, Saturday, December 4 8:30 a.m.

This month's study will be from the Lutheran Women's Fall 2024 Quarterly and shared by everyone.

Join us in the Church Library on **Saturday, December 4th** at 8:30 a.m.

Ladies' Pinochle Club

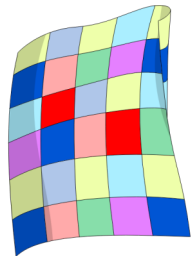
Whether it's your first time or you're an old pro, join us for Pinochle! We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Pinochle will meet **December 9th**. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Sandra Wilson.



Blankets for Babies

Blankets for Babies will **not** meet during the months of December, January, or February. Please stay tuned for our Spring dates starting in March 2025! In the meantime, feel free to continue making your blankets from home!



Extravagant Sharing

We see God's love in action through your continued support of our community with your Extravagant Sharing donations. All donations placed on the new, black shelves across from the center aisle church doors are so appreciated by the Emmaus Lutheran Food Pantry, located in Fountain Square on the Indianapolis Southside. Last month someone donated baby formula. The pantry manager shared with us, "The baby formula was something a couple of clients had been asking for. God provides." Thank you, Calvary!

The needs at the Emmaus Food Pantry are always great. During the months of November and December we will not suggest specific items, but donations can always be placed on the Extravagant Sharing shelves, especially cereal. Pat O'Connor, from Emmaus, continues to take your donations to the Emmaus Food Pantry. During November and December there will be many ways to support special appeals for donations from Calvary ministry teams to make Thanksgiving and Christmas brighter for our community. Continue to Extravagantly share your love of Jesus with our community.



Outreach Ministry

Advent Church Service Visitor Mugs

The Outreach team is again partnering with the Adult Ministry group and the school to provide special Christmas coffee mugs and hot cocoa mix for our Advent service visitors. We always have extra visitors at our advent services when the school children are singing, and we want to have something nice to share with them. Each visiting family will be offered a Christmas themed mug packed with cocoa mix and a list of our Christmas season church service times. Many thanks to the Adult Ministry and our 2nd grade Calvary class who do most of the work preparing these gifts and the Outreach team members who distribute the mugs!



New Member Reception

The Outreach team hosted a breakfast to welcome our new members on Sunday, October 27. Thanks to everyone who brought food and took time to meet and greet our new members! After receiving our new members at the 10:45 service we also had a cake reception to celebrate and welcome our new members and their families! A special thanks to Kara Hiatt for coordinating the new member classes and assisting the Outreach team and other church members in getting to know them better.

Outreach Partnerships at Calvary

In addition to sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt and the Touch-a-Truck events, in 2024 the Outreach team has assisted other groups in their efforts to connect with our church and school members, as well as the community. This included hosting a welcome table at the Women In Mission Yard Sale on June 1, helping with Children's Ministry Kickoff of August 23, helping with Children's Ministry Movie Night on October 4, assisting the Fellowship team with the outdoor family cookout on October 19, participating in the PTL Trunk-or-Treat on October 25, hosting a welcome table at the Women In Mission Calvary Bazaar on November 9, and helping the Adult Ministry group prepare visitor gifts to distribute at our Advent services. We thank these groups for sponsoring some great outreach efforts and for working with the Outreach team to share God's blessings!



Worship Anew

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.



Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002 www.worshipanew.org

Sunday 7:00 a.m. - WRTV-TV 6.1 (ABC) Sunday 11:30 a.m. - Direct TV Channel 377

December 2024

Your Coming King

December 1, 2024 – First Sunday in Advent **Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation. He came once in humility to die and rise. He comes now to bless, to forgive, to make you His own, and to give you a share in His life and royalty. He comes to establish His reign, not on earth, but in the hearts of men and women, turning hearts in faith toward Him and to the Father.

Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:9

Readings: Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18 and Antiphon from Zechariah 9:9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 19:28-40

Prepare the Way

December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday in Advent **Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament (old covenant) prophets, even though he appears in the New Testament. He calls upon people to prepare the way of the Lord. We, too, need to prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts and lives as we repent of our sins, receive God's forgiveness, and walk in the newness of life. At the end of this earthly journey, we receive the crown of glory prepared for us.

Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-20

Readings: Psalm 66:1-12; Malachi 3:1-7b; Luke 3:1-20

Advent is for Rejoicing

December 15, 2024 – Third Sunday in Advent **Rev. William Mueller**

For some, the season of Advent is a far cry from a joyful season. For others, they might be caught in a feedback loop of rejoicing only for the repetition of loved traditions. Our Lord invites us through His message, by way of Zephaniah, both to rejoice and to know *why* it is we rejoice!

Sermon Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Readings: Psalm 85; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 7:18-28

One of Us

December 22, 2024 – The Nativity of Our Lord **Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer**

Christmas Eve – the time for us to celebrate the underwhelming arrival of an overwhelming love. The Old Testament gives our newborn Savior the title, "Immanuel," which means "God with us." We have everyday and eternal peace and joy by having a God who is *One of Us*.

Sermon Text: Matthew 1:21

Readings: Psalm 110; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Mundane and Beautiful

December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day **Rev. Jonathan Meyer (Guest Pastor)**

God works things out so beautifully. We see that particularly in the Christmas story, but not in the places where you would think. It's not the angels tearing open the sky or the picturesque idea of a stable, but in something utterly unremarkable.

Sermon Text: John 1:14

Anna

December 29, 2024 – First Sunday After Christmas **Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Anna was an elderly woman who lived in Jerusalem. She had experienced great grief at a young age when her husband died, and she, thereafter, had remained a widow. But God sustained her in her time of sadness and preserved her in saving faith through his Word. In fact, she became a powerful witness for the Lord, used by him for the benefit of many people. Her story speaks to you today.

Sermon Text: Luke 2:36-38

Readings: Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-38

**CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Family Education Hour (Bible Study & Sunday School) 9:25 AM

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