CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Church Newsletter

December 2026

From the Pastors

The Blessed Gift of Christmas: The Word Made Flesh

It's that time of the year. A time filled with busyness, and yet a time of the year that calls out for reflection, a time of the year that begs us to slow down even for a minute to contemplate the mystery and the message of the very first Christmas. It invites us to consider. How could the infinite become finite? How could the divine become human?

The true beauty of Christmas is the incarnation that Son of God became flesh and dwelt among us. The incarnation is the beginning of the greatest story ever told as Jesus becomes one of us to die for all of us. It is a beauty that transforms and changes lives. After all, the songs and the goodies and the fine festive traditions of the trees and the lights and the decorations and the presents and time spent with family, they will not take my sins away, they will not deal with the troubling issue of disease, death, and eternity to come.

C.S. Lewis once reflected that "*The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this. Just as every natural event is the manifestation at a particular place and moment of Nature's total character, so every particular Christian miracle manifests at a particular place and moment the character and significance of the Incarnation. There is no question in Christianity of arbitrary interferences just scattered about. It relates not a series of disconnected raids on Nature but the various steps of a strategically coherent invasion—an invasion which intends complete conquest and "occupation." The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depends on their relation to the Grand Miracle; all discussion of them in isolation from it is futile*" (Miracles).

John 1:14 and 16 proclaim, "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. … For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace*."

If we are honest with ourselves, we prefer one or the other. We typically prefer grace for ourselves and truth for others. Jesus is not one or the other. With Jesus it is always both. We cannot separate or divide who he is. We are an empty cup that God has to pour in his grace. Filled to overflowing and only as the fullness of God's grace and truth pour into us can we then pour that same grace and truth into the lives of others. The Apostle Paul reminds us that "…*when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life*" (Titus 3:4-7).

The gospel is not *about* Jesus. The gospel *is* Jesus. Jesus is the good news that we need for this life and the next. He is the one who comes overflowing with all the true gifts of this season. He comes with the bold message that He has come that we may know BOTH grace and truth.

Some will say, "I have the truth." Jesus says, "I am the truth." Some will say, "Here is the way." Jesus says, "I am the way." Some will say, "Do this & you will find life." Jesus says I am the life. He is grace. He is truth. He is all that we need. As John 1:18 reminds us, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." May we this Christmas praise the Father for the gift of the Son, and pray that the Father and the Son may send the Spirit to be at work among us.

God's Peace, *Pastor Kurt Ebert*

General News



2026 Holiday Worship Schedule

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADVENT MIDWEEK AFTERNOON SERVICES

Wed., December 2, 3:45 p.m.

Wed., December 9, 3:45 p.m.

Wed., December 16, 3:45 p.m. (Hope, Peace, & Candles)

CALVARY LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Wed., Dec 2, 6:30 p.m. *(6th-8th Grade Christmas Service)*

Wed., Dec 9, 6:30 p.m. *(3rd-5th Grade Christmas Service)*

Wed., Dec 16, 6:30 p.m. *(PS-2nd Grade Christmas Service)*

CHRISTMAS EVE (Thurs., 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 (Fri., Dec 25)

10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE (Thurs., Dec 31)

6:30 p.m. with Communion



General News

Volunteering in Our Community

One of our goals as a congregation is to **CARE** for the world around us as we **SERVE** others in the name of Jesus.
Each month, we will recognize and thank a few members of our congregation who are sharing their time, talents, and hearts through volunteer service in our community. This month, we celebrate **Karen Davis, Sam Udhayanesan, and Ann Arnold** for the ways they are serving others through these organizations:

Karen Davis		Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Association
Sam Udhayanesan		Food 4 souls
Ann Arnold		The Refuge (The Drop Program)

Thank you, Karen, Sam, and Ann, for giving your time and talents to serve others!
Your service is a wonderful example of God's love in action and a reminder that ministry happens both inside and outside the walls of our church.
If your heart is calling you to serve or you would simply like to learn more about one of these opportunities, please reach out to the contact person listed below.

"Your labor is not in vain." — 1 Corinthians 15:58

There is no better place to serve God than right where He has placed you. Every act of service, no matter how small, has significance and contributes to God's work in our world.

Let's celebrate how God is working through our congregation in our neighborhoods, our community, and beyond!

Christmas Card Sorting

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 **Wednesday, December 16th** to be sorted and distributed.

Calvary India Mission Giving Tree

November 28 through December 25, we invite you to 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 or earrings 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

Midweek Advent Afternoon Services *(Onsite only)*

Join us for our thematic Advent series filled with reading, prayer, hymns, and a sermon, as we prepare for Christmas. This year's theme is titled "Return of the King."

Wed., Dec 2 at 3:45 p.m. Behold Your King (Mark 11:1-10)
Wed., Dec 9 at 3:45 p.m. Make Way for the King (Mark 1:1-8)
Wed., Dec 16 at 3:45 p.m. Witnesses of the King (John 1:6-8, 19-28)
(Hope, Peace, and Candles Srvc)

Midweek Advent Evening Programs *(Onsite & Online)*

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

Wed., Dec 2 at 6:30 p.m. 6th-8th grade Christmas program
Wed., Dec 9 at 6:30 p.m. 3rd-5th grade Christmas program
Wed., Dec 16 at 6:30 p.m. PS-2nd grade Christmas program

An Advent Service of Hope, Peace, and Candles

Join us **Wed, Dec 16 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.



December Memorials

In Memory of Barb Ryan:
John Thompson



Breakfast for Jesus!

Sat., Dec. 12th 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 Calvary Lutheran Church (317-783-2000) with any questions.

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

One Size Fits All

Clothing to me is a difficult thing to give as a present this and every Christmas. Is the size correct? If an item is sized too large it may offend the recipient. If the item is too small, it is not wearable. I have since eliminated the size dilemma by looking for in the "One Size Fits All" aisle. But the function and colors of articles still are not always received well. What about style, colors, and fashion? I always make sure that I keep the receipt just in case. I would estimate that I have a less than 50/50 chance of giving a keeper with a gift of clothing.

Some clothing sits in a drawer or in the closet and is seldom if ever worn. We all have our daily and weekly attire set for a variety of purposes and functions. Formal and casual clothes are also part of our clothes not to mention favorite sport team articles. Yet most clothing will go out of style or wear out.

God invites us to put on the clothing that He supplies. As God's chosen people, He invites us to cloth ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. He also invites us to put on His full armor. This clothing never wears out and will always fit. During this Christmas time presents are purchased and wrapped. Opened and worn. Yet are we able to remember what was given and received one year later? God comes to us each day with His free gift and Spirit. We share His saving love with others. May God grant to you this Christmas and unto eternity His love which comes to all people and fits all shapes and sizes.
Merry Christmas and a Joyous 2027!

Advent Evening Services

Students at Calvary Lutheran School will be leading our Advent services this year. All services are at 6:30 PM as we proclaim the Lord's birth with scripture, music, and narration.
Wednesday, December 2 6th - 8th grade students
Wednesday, December 9 3rd - 5th grade students
Wednesday, December 16 PS 3/4, PS 4/5, Kindergarten - 2nd grade students

Christmas Vacation

Our final day prior to Christmas vacation is **Friday, December 18**. School will be dismissed at 3:00PM on that day. School will resume on **Monday, January 4**. We ask the Lord to be with all traveling during this Christmas break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2027-28 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 4. Our Early enrollment period will continue through January 31. New applications for enrollment will be accepted starting on February 1. 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. Our new Director of Admissions, Heather McFarland is ready and eager to serve you in this capacity.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Calvary will join with thousands of other Lutheran School students and teachers during the week of January 24-31 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. Sunday, January 24th will be celebrated as Lutheran High School Sunday. Our Calvary Lutheran School focus will be on Sunday, January 31 as we share the exciting events and activities enjoyed during NLSW.

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school

Calvary Lutheran School will be closed on Monday, January 18 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.

STEM and Resource Room Building Addition

The Lilly supported STEM and Resource classroom addition is beginning to gain momentum. With the construction fencing installed the north parking lot will be impacted until the project is completed in June 2027. The funding campaign is underway. Donor cards and envelopes are available in both the church and school offices. More updates will be provided over the course of this project. Thank you for your support and prayers. Doors are open to this exciting adventure.

Indiana 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? $125,500.00 is needed to fully fund all applications

We are currently about $45,000.00 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.

****Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program- 2027****

This new Federal Education Tax Credit program launches on January 1, 2027. The State of Indiana has opted into this program. Donors receive a 100% federal tax credit up to $1,700 per individual taxpayer, and $3,400 for a married couple filing jointly. Since it is a Federal program donors do not need to live in Indiana. Help spread the word. Donations will be received through the Indiana Lutheran SGO organization. Kindergarten through 12th grade students ages 5-22 with a family income below 300% of the local average median income are eligible to receive these scholarship dollars.

Contribute up to $3,400 to the Education Freedom Tax Credit and receive a $3,400 credit on your 2027 tax liability. This $3,400 would provide scholarships to numerous Calvary students. Donors can designate a specific school but not a specific student. This is how the Lutheran SGO works as well. More information will be shared over the coming months.

Outreach Ministry

Advent 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 group and our 2nd grade Calvary class who did the work of 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, November 1st. Thanks to everyone who brought food and took time to meet and greet our new members! After receiving our new members at the church services, we also had a cupcake reception to celebrate and welcome our new members and their families! 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 2026 the Outreach team assisted other groups and individuals 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, assisting the Fellowship team with the outdoor family cookout, hosting a welcome table at the Women In Mission Calvary Bazaar, helping the Adult Ministry group distribute visitor gifts at our Advent services and hosting new member breakfasts and receptions alongside our Director of Connection & Engagement. We thank these groups and individuals for sponsoring some great outreach efforts and for working with the Outreach team to share God's blessings!

Women in Mission

Ladies' Pinochle Club (Monday, December 14th)

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 14th.**

Questions? Contact Sandra Wilson.

Ladies' Bible Study (Saturday, December 5, 8:30 a.m.)



The Ladies' Bible study will be on **Saturday, December 5** and will be from the Lutheran Women's Fall 2026 Quarterly and shared by everyone. Join us in the Church Library on **Saturday, December 5** at 8:30 a.m.

Ladies' Pickleball (Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.)

Have you ever wanted to try pickleball? Join other women for a relaxed friendly game where beginners are welcome. Come learn and play with us! We meet in the school gym most Saturday mornings. Check the weekly church calendar to confirm the schedule. Bring good tennis shoes and patience. Questions? Contact Sandra Wilson.

Extravagant Sharing

The needs at the Emmaus Food Pantry are always great. During the month of December, Extravagant Sharing will not suggest specific items, but donations can always be placed on the Extravagant Sharing shelves in the narthex/lobby, near the men's restroom. Boxes of cereal are always in demand for the families needing support from the Emmaus Food Pantry. Certainly, a sweet treat could be a bonus for a family to receive.

Pat O'Connor, from Emmaus, continues to take your donations to the Emmaus Food Pantry. Thank you, Pat!!! During December, there will be many ways to support special appeals for donations from Calvary ministry teams to make Christmas brighter for our community. Continue to Extravagantly share your love of Jesus with our community.

Christmas Luncheon (Wednesday, December 9th, 11:30 a.m.)
Arni's Restaurant, Greenwood

The **Christmas Luncheon** at Arni's in Greenwood is **Wed, Dec 9** at 11:30 a.m. We will enjoy a lovely lunch, inspiring devotion, friendly fellowship, and gather Gifts for Baby Jesus. Invitations are available on the information table by the church office door.



Please RSVP by Wed, Dec 6. Questions? Contact Margaret Mowery or the church office.

Adult Ministry

Lunch Out! (Wednesday, December 2nd, 11:00 a.m.)

For our "First Wednesday" in December outing, we're meeting at Aspen Creek Restaurant, 1287 N. Emerson Avenue.

Adults of all ages are welcome – come join us for good food and some fun Christian fellowship.

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

Lunch & Learn (Wednesday, December 16th, 11:00 a.m.)

Presenter: Don Shapiro / George Jordan

Program: Don Shapiro will present about Classic TV celebrities. George Jordan, Chase Bank Manager, will discuss fraud/scams aimed at seniors.

Lunch: Baked Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

Cost: Suggested donation: $5. Questions? Barb Sorgius, 317-783-2000.

Adult Ministry Upcoming Movie Outings



Join us **Thursday, December 10th** at Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 Main St., Franklin for a free movie, popcorn, and small soda for those 55 and older. The movie is "White Christmas" starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen.

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 1st at 12:15 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.

Thank you for your assistance with this special project!

Compassion Ministry

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 Louden and Roxanne Deardurff who have led this group for many years.

College Care Packages
34 College Care Packages were mailed to Calvary's college students in November. They enjoyed receiving school supplies, a bookmark of the Lord's Prayer, snacks, Kleenex, Chapstick, and words of faith and encouragement. The cost to mail each package was around $10. We thank Linda Bugher for spearheading this project for the last 15 years!!

If you would like to support this endeavor, please direct your dollars to "College Care Packages" on your envelope or check memo. 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
Once again, we were blown away by the outpouring of canned goods given by our members! Thank you so much for your generosity! We were able to provide 20 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 support the Emmaus Food Pantry as well as Hunger, Inc. in Indianapolis. Thank you, Calvary members!!

(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 Families Supported by Lutheran Child and Family Services
This year we are partnering with Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) of Indianapolis to provide Christmas gifts to 10 families that live in the vicinity of Lutherwood. The families receive support from therapists who come into their homes offering guidance with parenting, job support, counseling, finances, or whatever needs they are experiencing. Your gifts will benefit 22 individuals in this program. Take a tag off the Christmas tree in the narthex and purchase the suggested item. Please return all unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 13.

Lutheran
Child & Family Services

Stewardship Ministry

Change in Charitable Deductions for Non-Itemizers
The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) enacted in 2025 included a provision that allows taxpayers who don't itemize (non-itemizers) to deduct certain charitable deductions. Taxpayers who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers) have not typically been able to deduct charitable donations on their tax returns. The OBBBA, however, creates a permanent deduction for cash charitable donations of up to $1,000 per filer ($2,000 if filing jointly) who take the standard deduction beginning in tax year 2026*.

*Before you file, please read the complete guidelines provided by the IRS Charitable Contributions Topic or consult with a tax professional to ensure your donations meet all requirements.

Advent Envelopes & 4th Qtr Mission Envelopes 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 are going to the support the work of a member of our congregation and her husband, who are affiliated with Wycliffe Bible Translators. In addition, offerings received in **Advent Envelopes** will be provided as support for Wycliffe.

For several years, they have been a vital part of this Bible translation movement. As one of our Ministry Partners, Calvary continues to provide support to their ministry through our prayers and monetary gifts to Wycliffe.

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

Thrivent Members – Did you know…
Thrivent Members, did you know that Thrivent Financial budgets a significant amount of money each year to pay the transaction costs for gifts to charitable organizations? This includes gifts made by credit card. Each year, Thrivent budgets $300,000 to pay online processing fees for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform. Calvary is an eligible charitable organization.

Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars
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 $640 million being distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

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.

Lutheran High School of Indianapolis

LuFest - February 19, 2027
Grab your friends and join us for an unforgettable night celebrating and supporting Lutheran High School at the beautiful Indiana Roof Ballroom. Early Bird Tickets are **NOW AVAILABLE** until December 18th at LuFest.org.

Applications Open
Open enrollment for the 2027-2028 school year is underway at Lutheran High School! Ready to become a Saint? Applications are open for students entering grades 9-12. Apply today and take the first step toward becoming a Saint! Questions? Contact Lindsay Ruth, Director of Admissions at admission@lhsi.org.

LHS Christmas Concert
Join us this Christmas season for our annual **LHS Christmas Concert** taking place on December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium.

Youth Ministry

FLIGHT (High School Youth Group)

The high school youth group meets monthly on **Sunday from 12:00-1:30 p.m.** Our next meeting will be **Sunday, December 13th** for our ice skating party!

Contact Brian Krohmer at bkrohmer@clcs.org to be added to the email list for event updates.

LAUNCH (5th-6th grades)
All 5th and 6th grade youth are invited to the next LAUNCH event on **Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** for our Christmas party.

SAIL (7th-8th grades)
All 7th and 8th grade youth are invited to the next SAIL event on **Saturday, December 9th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** for our Christmas party.

Calvary Lutheran Church and School Financial Summary
First Fiscal Quarter Ended 10/31/2026

General Fund:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Revenue	$1,404,112	$1,361,061	$43,052	$1,438,581
YTD Expense	$976,330	$937,611	$38,720	$919,449
YTD Net	$427,782			
Beginning Balance	$1,057,165			
Current Balance	$1,484,947			

Revenue Detail:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Contributions	$287,510	$276,875	$10,635	$270,324
YTD Matching Gifts	$23,267	$7,000	$16,267	$6,950
YTD School Gifts	$38,000	$18,750	$19,250	$27,393
YTD Tuition and Fees	$1,008,890	$1,010,140	-$1,250	$1,056,750
YTD Other Revenue	$46,445	$48,295	-$1,850	$77,165

Endowments:	Current	Prior Year
Church Endowment	$827,410	$810,149
YTD Disbursement	$44,003	
Mission focus:	Full-time Music Director & STEM	
Schwark Endowment	$230,783	$226,067
Schwark Annual Fund	$15,927	$31,168
YTD Disbursement	$0	
Wessler Endowment	$112,581	$109,765
Wessler Scholarship Fund	$5,063	$4,618
YTD Disbursement	$0	

Outflow to Misstions:	Amount*	Special Mission Focus
Q1 (Aug-Oct)	$14,640	Good Samaritan, India Mission, LHSI, Hispanic Ministry, Synod

Calvary has no mortgage or line of credit balance.

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 2026

Christmas Preparation
December 6, 2026 – Second Sunday in Advent
Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III
At this time of the year , we are very busy getting ready to celebrate Christmas. We are making plans for traveling, shopping, meals, and parties. However, the best, and most important preparation, is repentance.
Sermon Text: Mark 1:1-8 *Readings: Psalm 85; Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8*

The Secret of Complete Joy!
December 13, 2026 – Third Sunday in Advent
Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
John the Baptizer both experienced the blessings of Jesus and declared who He is. In this experiencing and declaring, witnessing and confessing, John discovered the secret of complete joy. And so can we!
Sermon Text: John 3:29 *Readings: Psalm 126; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28*

The Word Became Flesh
December 20, 2026 – Christmas Day (Observed)
Rev. Paul Shoemaker
In the beginning of his Gospel, John explains that the Word of God became flesh and lived among us, bringing us special gifts. Those gifts were life, light, fullness, grace, and truth. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior , let us remember the gifts He came to bring.
Sermon Text: John 1:1-18 *Readings: Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18*

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2026 – Christmas Eve
Rev. William Mueller
What a holy night this night is! The beauty of a Christmas Eve candlelight service is held near and dear in each of our hearts. The simple candlelight in the darkness reminds us of the earth shattering, heaven-opening, and destiny-changing action of our God. In this message, we seek to journey through God's Word with our destination being the manger of Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem!
Sermon Text/Readings: *Genesis 3:8-15 and Luke 2:1-14*

Depart in Peace!
December 27, 2026 – First Sunday after Christmas
Rev. Shayne Jonker
Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of mankind, whose blood cleanses us from our sins. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world is brought under the Law, as His mother offers the sacrifice of the poor. The Lord of all becomes the Servant of all to redeem you from sin, death, the devil, and the power of the Law to condemn you.
Sermon Text: Luke 2:29-32 *Readings: Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40*

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

6111 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
www.clcs.org
Phone: 317-783-2000

Return Service Requested

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Worship: Saturdays 5:30 PM Sundays 8:00 & 10:45 AM

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

Senior Pastor: Kurt Ebert	**kebert@clcs.org**
Associate Pastor: Mark Schumm	**mschumm@clcs.org**
Worship & School Family Pastor: Sam Troemel	**stroemel@clcs.org**
Tamil Indian Ministry: Pastor Udhay Raji	**revudhay@hotmail.com**
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Heather Marrero	**childrensministry@clcs.org**
Dir. of Connection & Engagement: Kara Hiatt	**connections@clcs.org**
Dir. of Adult Ministry: Barb Sorgius	**bsorgius@clcs.org**
Youth Ministry Director: Brian Krohmer	**bkrohmer@clcs.org**
Music Director: Ryan Rosenau	**rrosenau@clcs.org**
Principal: Stephen Rensner	**rensner@thecalvaryschool.org**
Chief Administrative Officer: Tia Kochan	**tkochan@clcs.org**
Admissions Counselor: Heather McFarland	**admissions@thecalvaryschool.org**
Church Secretary: Shari Lipps	**churchsecretary@clcs.org**
School Secretary: Cassandra Tellinghuisen	**schoolsecretary@thecalvaryschool.org**
Bookkeeper:	**calvarybookkeeper@clcs.org**

Church Office & Website: (317) 783-2000 *www.clcs.org*

School Office & Website: (317) 783-2305 *www.choosecalvary.com*