

# CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



# Church Newsletter

January 2025

## *From the Pastors*

### **The New Year Is a Time to Give Thanks!**

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*

As we start this new year, we not only take the time to look forward, but we also take the time to look back. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and His commitment to walk with us through each day of life. He takes seriously His promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us and His promise that He will be with us to the very end of the age. While His mercies are "new" every morning, we know that these mercies are new only because "great is His faithfulness." His love does not wear thin. His passion does not wear out. His joy does not grow dim.

This time of year can be an interesting mix of joy and sadness, enthusiasm and exhaustion, hope and fear. We do not know what the year ahead might bring, but we do know who brings us into this new year, a faithful and loving Savior, who has stuck by our side each day of the year past.

It is only right that as we start a new year we pause to express our deep gratitude. After all, isn't this exactly a part of what New Year's should be about? New Year's is not just a time for resolutions, but a time for reflection. It is not just a time to look forward. It is also a time to look back. It is a time to give thanks. It is a time to speak up to those around us, letting them know exactly how much they impact and change our life. We are not individuals living on our own separate islands. We are an interconnected community of believers, who know that we are stronger together. As we start this New Year, take some time first to thank God for all of the ways that He has led us through this past year and then take the opportunity to express your words of appreciation to those that God has placed in your life.

As we begin the New Year, we give thanks to all the faithful people of God who have shaped and formed our lives to this point. We give thanks for the faithful servants and stewards of Calvary who have helped make our church what it is today. We pause to remember and honor our past, as we look forward to the continuation of that mission, that ministry, and that community of Christ in the year ahead. We pray that God would bind us together in Christian love and faith each day of this year to come. May He be the One who leads us and guides us, as we heed His loving call, to "come, follow me." May we continue to be His witnesses in all areas of our lives, as we seek to Connect others to Christ, Learn together His Word, and Care for our community and world in His name. May our loving Lord fill our days with His gifts of grace, as we start and end this year ahead with full thanksgiving and praise to Him who has given us everything that we have.

We can approach the year ahead with boldness because we know that we rest safely in God's grace. May God fill your days this year with the confidence of the Gospel, for we know where our help comes from. "Our help comes from the Lord!" (Psalm 121:2a).

*New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. ~ Elisabeth Elliot*

God's Peace, *Pastor Kurt Ebert*

#### **A Prayer to Start the Year**

*Heavenly Father, as I start this New Year give to me a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving. Teach me to truly appreciate the little blessings of each day. Give me eyes to see Your hand at work all around me, especially in the special connections and relationships that you have placed in my life. Give me words to express my appreciation towards others, as well as the boldness to reach out and open up to others in times of need. All this I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

# General News



## 2024 Holiday Worship Schedule

### WEEKLY WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

### 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.



## Foundations of Faith Class

- 6 Sunday Morning Sessions
- Starts Sunday, January 19, 9:25 a.m. Room 125

Twice a year Calvary offers its *Foundations of Faith* Class for adults, providing practical answers about faith, the Lutheran Church, and Calvary's mission. Our winter class will begin January 19 for 6 sessions (no class President's Day weekend.) If you are interested in becoming a member of Calvary, this class is a great opportunity to learn more about our ministries and to become better acquainted with our pastors and other individuals. All materials and refreshments are provided; Sunday School classes are available for children.

Questions? Email Kara Hiatt.

## 2025 Contribution Envelopes Available in Narthex

Using these envelopes helps Calvary efficiently and correctly record amounts for year-end giving statements supplied for your tax records. If you use online giving and would rather not receive an envelope packet, let us know. While not expensive, there is a cost savings if fewer envelopes are ordered. If you do not find your envelopes in the narthex, contact the church office

[churchsecretary@clcs.org](mailto:churchsecretary@clcs.org).

# General News

## Winter Weather Cancellation Reminder

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

- 1) Post to our website ([clcs.org](http://clcs.org)) & Facebook ([clcs.org/fb](http://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](mailto:churchsecretary@clcs.org).

Above all, use your best judgment during this time of year.



## 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](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 to find out if you have Choice Dollars to direct.



## January Memorials



***In Memory of Caryl Mandel:***  
*Janet Grube*

***In Memory of Norman Parks:***  
*Larry & Sara Jupin*



## Sunday School Attendance Awards Fall 2024-25

### Faithful

Hadassah Benzinger	Reece Hernandez	Damon Honebrink
Leyla Honebrink	Tyson Honebrink	Annabeth Jackson
Willard Jackson	Paisley Langhammer	Eliana Marrero
Logan Marrero	Oliver Marrero	Nang Sian Prang
Claudia Soberalski	Luke Soberalski	

### Perfect

Gracelyn Andrews	Madison Andrews	Kam En Mang
Lucas Marrero		



## Compassion Ministry

### Christmas Gifts to the Residents of the Pando Apartments

Thank you for your generous hearts! We can only say—Wow! Your support for our Christmas giving to the residents of the Pando Apartments of Lutheran Child and Family Services was tremendous!! The residents were delighted with their gifts and were so encouraged by your support. Thank you for giving so readily from your hearts!



### It's a Baby Shower!

The Compassion Team will once again give a baby shower to a young mom in need of support. We will receive a name from the Life Centers of Indianapolis. The date is yet to be determined, but we hope to hold the shower by late January. Any members of Calvary are invited to attend or support this endeavor. Do you have skills in decorating? Have leftover items from a recent shower to donate? Love to plan events? Young or old, we welcome your participation. Look for further details to come.

Contact Diane Gibson if you have questions or input.



## Youth Ministry

### FLIGHT (High School Youth Group)

The high school youth group meets weekly on **Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** Check the church bulletin for weekly updates regarding specific weekly events.



### LAUNCH (5th-6th grades)

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to the next LAUNCH event on **Wednesday, January 22nd from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**



### SAIL (7th-8th grades)

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to the next SAIL event on **Wednesday, January 29th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**



## Adult Ministry

### **Lunch OUT! Wednesday, January 1 11:00 a.m.**

For our "First Wednesday" December outing we're meeting at Smokey Bones Restaurant, 780 US 31 South, Greenwood.



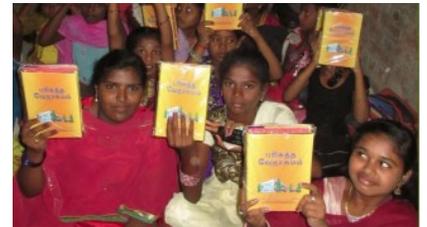
Tables will be saved for Calvary Lutheran, no reservation needed. Adults of all ages are welcome – come join us for good food and some fun Christian fellowship.

### **Lunch & Learn Wednesday, January 15 11:00 a.m.**

**Program:** India Mission & El Salvador Mission

**Speakers:** Marv & Rhonda Hansen and Ken Robinson

**Lunch:** Homemade breakfast casseroles: French toast casserole and sausage, egg, cheese and hash brown casserole, and fresh fruit cups



Suggested donation: \$5.

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

### **Thank You To Our Volunteers**

Thank you to all of our volunteers, adults and children, who helped with Operation Christmas Child and packing visitor Advent mugs this year. Both projects were a great success and we couldn't have done it without all of our great volunteers!



We packed 180 Christmas mugs for our visitors and 228 Operation Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse.



## Executive Director

### ***From Your Executive Director***

A song that does not appear in The Lutheran Service Book or its predecessors is the song "The Snow Lay On The Ground." Written sometime in the 1860s/1870s, with a tune described as a "Christmas Carol, sung in Rome by the Pifferari from the Abruzzi Mountains," its scriptural root lies in Luke 2:1-20, and the song is somewhat like "Silent Night," describing the nativity scene of that first Christmas. While it's technically a Christmas song, the first line of the lyrics are apropos this time of the year: the snow lay on the ground.

At the time of writing this, Christmas is still several days away, followed by Epiphany. Lent will be facing us square in the face, beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>. All these are in winter, and we know that it being Indiana – where we use all the weather icons in one week - there is potential that for all these events, the snow will lay on the ground. And it makes travel treacherous at times.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways." (ESV). Snow is something I gladly add to that thought, for I am no longer a fan of snow like I was when I was younger. I changed.

Our lives and routines change, and this time of the year, with all the predictable New Year's resolutions, we are reminded of seasonal changes. It may be cold and snowy now, but how quickly the warm days of Spring and Summer approach.

With the new year, this is a good time to reinforce how we fulfill our mission of Engaging People In Christ: We Care about them. We Learn to grow and help carry the word to others. We Connect with others in our congregation and our community to share the Word. All out of Service to God.

These are not empty or trite expressions. They are an effort to put into words why we, as a congregation of God's people, are here on the South Side of Indianapolis.

I have frequently discussed with our congregation leaders we are in a rapidly changing society, and the impact at Calvary. Over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of young adults have no religious affiliation, according to a Gallup poll earlier this year. There are many empty churches in our backyard that reflect this abandonment of faith. As Lutherans, while we have that great message of Christ Crucified, we are not immune to this societal trend: we have many pastoral vacancies in our churches, and at least 5 LCMS or ELCA congregations in Indianapolis have closed in the past 20 years. I expect we will see more in the next five years.

We now must be bold. We must be fearless. We must be brave. We must ignore that snow on the ground, that might make our way dangerous at times. And we cannot idly sit by and expect someone else to come along and take action. To use an old expression: the train is leaving the station. Are you going to be on or off that train?

We all know one very famous descendant of King David – Jesus. But there is another famous descendent of David, Hillel the Elder, a Jewish sage and scholar, who lived in Jerusalem during the time of Herod, who said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And being for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

This is on all of us, and the time now. I urge and encourage you to consider – today – how you will work to Engage People in Christ at Calvary.

In His and Your service,

Bill Laut

# Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

## One Quarter Passed

As the ball dropped in NYC announcing the arrival of 2025 it was difficult to imagine that nearly the first quarter of the 2000 century has come and gone. I was told numerous times that the older one gets the faster time seems to pass. I more fully understand that concept with each passing week, month, and year. To place this in to perspective take a trip back to 1975. 1975-2000 is the same time passage as 2000-2025. My 1975-2000 seemed a much longer period. My theory is that each day is a smaller fraction of your entire life the older you become even though the length of each day remains constant.

Even though the pursuit of age and time are relentless, God is not bound by time. As we enter 2025 we are able to confidently go forward knowing that He is an ever present help no matter our circumstances. The Year of our Lord includes every year, month, day, hour, and minute. Each Happy New Year is under His watch and care.

May God walk beside you during 2025 as you trust in His guiding and direction.

## Christmas Vacation

Our final day prior to Christmas vacation is **Friday, December 20**. School will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. on that day. School will resume on **Friday, January 6 at 8:00 a.m.** 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, 1st-8th Grade registration for Calvary members, returning students and their siblings will begin on January 6. 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.

## 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-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*\*Donations received beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> will receive the tax credit for 2025 filing.

### **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.



## Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

### **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. Part of these celebrations is to recognize faculty and staff that have served at Calvary using a 5-year incremental bases. The teachers and staff will be recognized on National Lutheran Schools Sunday, January 26. Jennifer Kennerk & Lena Skeens—5 years; Melanie Huene—10 years; Dustin Smith—20 years, and Dawn Schultz—25 years. A calendar of all the NLSW events will be distributed when scheduled.

### **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.

### **Open Position 2025-26 – Middle School Teacher**

With our enrollment needs an additional Middle School teacher will be needed for the 2025-26 school year. We are seeking a teacher with a science background. Please submit the names of candidates that would be interested in this position to the school office.

### **Open Position - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Aide- Maternity Leave**

We are seeking to fill our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher aide position beginning in February, 2025. The exact starting date is to be determined. This position is for 4 full days each week- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 7:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Please contact the school office for an application and additional information.

### **Mrs. Kimberly Moore to Retire**

Mrs. Kimberly has announced her retirement at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year. We thank Kimberly for her years of dedicated service to hundreds of Calvary students during her tenure as our kindergarten and current 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Kimberly has served within the Lutheran School Ministry for a combined total of 40 years. We ask the Lord to bless her as God opens new doors for her.

## NEWS FROM LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS

### **The Together Project**

We are making big strides in our **Together** campaign! Several projects are completed or underway. The most recent project was a Weight Room remodel, and new permanent outdoor bleachers have arrived. Will you accept the invitation to be part of **together**? Help us cross the finish line! Email for more information.

### **LuFest - February 7, 2025**

Invite your friends and join us for an unforgettable night celebrating and supporting Lutheran High School at the beautiful Biltwell Event Center. Tickets are available at [LuFest.org](https://www.lufest.org).

We also seek donations of new, high-quality items, services, or experiences to include in the live and silent auctions. These may be dropped off at the LHS office weekdays between 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. through January 24. Please call the Development Office with any questions.

### **Applications for Lutheran High School**

Applications are open for the 2025-2026 school year. Visit [LHSl.org](https://www.lhsl.org) for more information!

### **Saints on Stage presents Annie**

Sing along as our spunky Annie takes the stage in this classic production. Performances will take place February 28, March 1 & 2. Tickets will go on sale in February. More information can be found at [LHSl.org](https://www.lhsl.org).

# Stewardship Ministry

## Calvary's December Partner in Ministry – Lutheran High School

The Lutheran High School of Indianapolis is Calvary's designated partner in Ministry for the month of January 2024. Since 1976 LHSI has fulfilled the mission of preparing young adults for a Christian life while providing academic excellence in a Christ-Centered environment. This year the school is providing these educational opportunities for approximately 270 students. Calvary annually provides monetary support for the ministry of Lutheran High School as part of our congregational budget.



**LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Teaching Truth. Changing Lives.*

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/>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Mission Gifts Designation – Lutheran Hour Ministries

Gifts received in the fourth quarter of this year (January through March) 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 Lutheran Hour Ministries.



## 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 at [stewardship@clcs.org](mailto:stewardship@clcs.org).

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.



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

# Women in Mission

## Ladies' Bible Study, Saturday, January 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, January 4th** at 8:30 a.m.



## Ladies' Pinochle Club

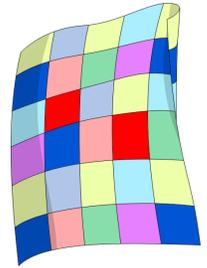
Whether it's your first time or you're an old pro, join us for Pinochle! We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Pinochle will meet **January 13th** Please join us.

Questions? Contact Sandra Wilson.



## Blankets for Babies

Blankets for Babies will **not** meet during the months of 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

As we begin a New Year, **Extravagant Sharing** also looks back to last year. Emmaus Lutheran's Food Pantry has so appreciated the support of Calvary in stocking their shelves with food for their community needs. Giving and sharing is a blessing for the giver as well as the receiver.

In the month of January please fill the **Extravagant Sharing** shelves with **canned and instant potatoes and/or canned meat and tuna.** **Cereal is always needed!** The Extravagant Sharing shelves are across from the main doors to the church. As you share your gifts of love, pray the food will bless the receivers by reminding them of Jesus' love for them.



**CALVARY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

6111 Shelby Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227  
[www.clcs.org](http://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**

<b>Senior Pastor:</b> Kurt Ebert	<a href="mailto:kebert@clcs.org">kebert@clcs.org</a>
<b>Youth &amp; Family Pastor:</b> Sam Troemel	<a href="mailto:stroemel@clcs.org">stroemel@clcs.org</a>
<b>Tamil Indian Ministry:</b> Pastor Udhay Raji	<a href="mailto:revudhay@hotmail.com">revudhay@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Dir. of Children's Ministry:</b> Heather Marrero	<a href="mailto:childrensministry@clcs.org">childrensministry@clcs.org</a>
<b>Dir. of Connection &amp; Engagement:</b> Kara Hiatt	<a href="mailto:connections@clcs.org">connections@clcs.org</a>
<b>Dir. of Adult Ministry:</b> Barb Sorgius	<a href="mailto:bsorgius@clcs.org">bsorgius@clcs.org</a>
<b>Youth Ministry Director:</b> Brian Krohmer	<a href="mailto:bkrohmer@clcs.org">bkrohmer@clcs.org</a>
<b>Principal:</b> Stephen Rensner	<a href="mailto:rensner@thecalvaryschool.org">rensner@thecalvaryschool.org</a>
<b>Chief Administrative Officer:</b> Tia Kochan	<a href="mailto:tkochan@clcs.org">tkochan@clcs.org</a>
<b>Admissions Counselor:</b> Jason Scheidt	<a href="mailto:admissions@thecalvaryschool.org">admissions@thecalvaryschool.org</a>
<b>Church Secretary:</b> Shari Lipps	<a href="mailto:churchsecretary@clcs.org">churchsecretary@clcs.org</a>
<b>School Secretary:</b> Megan Waterman	<a href="mailto:schoolsecretary@thecalvaryschool.org">schoolsecretary@thecalvaryschool.org</a>
<b>Bookkeeper:</b> Sara Brannon	<a href="mailto:calvarybookkeeper@clcs.org">calvarybookkeeper@clcs.org</a>
<b>Church Office &amp; Website:</b> (317) 783-2000 <a href="http://www.clcs.org">www.clcs.org</a>	
<b>School Office &amp; Website:</b> (317) 783-2305 <a href="http://www.choosecalvary.com">www.choosecalvary.com</a>	