



CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



Church Newsletter

December 2025

From the Pastors

Something Better - Hebrews 1:1–14

Advent is a season devoted to waiting. We wait to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus. We wait for the return of Jesus on the last day. But as well-known singer (and lousy theologian) Tom Petty observed, “waiting is the hardest part.” Waiting can often be difficult. The circumstances of our world encourage us to lose hope and abandon our faith.

The book of Hebrews addresses Christians in Rome undergoing persecution sometime close to 64 A.D. when Christians began dying for their faith under Nero. The book is a clarion call to not return to Judaism, which was a legal religion while Christianity had become an illegal religion.

The author urges people to remain faithful to their Christian confession (Heb 3:1; 4:14; 10:23), warns against drifting away and neglecting salvation (Heb 2:1, 3), points out the danger of losing confidence in God's promises (Heb 3:6) and falling away from the faith (Heb 3:12). People were tempted to become rebellious and unbelieving like Israel (Heb 3:16–19) for they had not progressed into Christian adulthood (Heb 5:11–6:2). They had experienced God's saving gifts in Christ but may end up rejecting him (Heb 6:4–6; 10:29; 12:25). Sluggishness (Heb 6:12) could lead to something far worse- abandoning the faith (Heb 10:26). The author repeatedly reminds people that in Christ, they have something far better.

Our Advent theme for weekend worship is titled *Something Better*. Hebrews repeatedly explains the gifts God gives Israel through Moses and then promises that we have something much better! Our sermon themes are as follows:

- Nov 30/Dec 1 **“A Better Word”** (Hebrews 1:1–2)
- December 6/7 **“A Better Glory”** (Hebrews 1:3a)
- December 13/14 **“A Better Absolution”** (Hebrews 1:3b)
- December 20/21 **“A Better Name”** (Hebrews 1:4–14)

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will offer an overview of Hebrews. This will be followed by a close look at several key passages in the book, including Hebrews 11—the Bible's great “faith hall of fame” chapter. Please plan to join us as we prepare for the coming of our Lord!

“God has planned **something better** for us!” (Hebrews 11:40)

Pastor Mark Schumm

General News



2025 Holiday Worship Schedule

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

THANKSGIVING EVE

Wed., Nov 26 at 6:30 p.m.

ADVENT MIDWEEK AFTERNOON SERVICES

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

Wed., December 10, 3:45 p.m.

Wed., December 17, 3:45 p.m. (Hope, Peace, & Candles)

CALVARY LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Wed., Dec 3, 6:30 p.m. (*6th-8th Grade Christmas Service*)

Wed., Dec 10, 6:30 p.m. (*3rd-5th Grade Christmas Service*)

Wed., Dec 17, 6:30 p.m. (*PS-2nd Grade Christmas Service*)

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

10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion

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

6:30 p.m. with Communion



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

Midweek Advent Afternoon Services (*Onsite only*)

Join us for an Advent sermon series entitled, "Family Life." Learn from the families connected with our Lord's birth. These families faced infertility, frustration, loss, misunderstandings, death, and so much more.

Wed., Dec 3 at 3:45 p.m. Two Families (Luke 1:5–25)

Wed., Dec 10 at 3:45 p.m. Our Way (Luke 1:57–66)

Wed., Dec 17 at 3:45 p.m. A List! (Matt. 1:1–17) (Hope, Peace, and Candles Svc)

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 3 at 6:30 p.m. 6th-8th grade Christmas program

Wed., Dec 10 at 6:30 p.m. 3rd-5th grade Christmas program

Wed., Dec 17 at 6:30 p.m. PS-2nd grade Christmas program

An Advent Service of Hope, Peace, and Candles

Join us **Wed, Dec 17 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.

Breakfast for Jesus!

Sat., Dec. 13th from 9:00am-10:30am

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

Christmas Card Sorting

Beginning November 26th, 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 17th** to be sorted and distributed.



Stewardship Ministry

“Calvary Connects” Capital Campaign

We've all seen the progress that has already been made as we begin the upgrade of our facilities, including the new Calvary Café and the remodeled women's restroom. Facility improvements and upgrades are much needed and are consistent with the actions recommended by the most recent Calvary strategic plan to better connect Calvary with the community.

A few weeks ago, the Stewardship Ministry Team mailed Calvary members a letter that described the Calvary Connects facility improvements capital campaign. The mailing included a pledge card for you to complete indicating your support of this project – both through prayers and a financial commitment as you are able.

We thank everyone who has already returned their pledge cards. We are encouraged by the early results and the pledges received.

To better plan the timing and scope of the project we still need broader participation by everyone. We are requesting that you return your Calvary Connects pledge cards as soon as possible. There are extra pledge cards and envelopes at the tables in the Narthex. Pledge cards can be placed in the donation boxes at the back of the church or dropped by the church office.

Calvary's December Partner in Ministry – Wycliffe Bible Translators

This month the Stewardship Ministry Team has designated Wycliffe Bible Translators as the Calvary Partner in Ministry. Wycliffe is the designated recipient of the 4th Quarter Mission Gifts. 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.

In addition, offerings received in the Advent Envelopes will be provided as support for Wycliffe.

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

Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars

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

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

Packages were mailed to 28 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. Each package costs approximately \$9 to mail. 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

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 16 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. 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 Lutherwood

This year the Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) of Indianapolis has asked us to provide Christmas gifts to the teens residing in the secure residential treatment center at Lutherwood. These teens are experiencing emotional trauma due to trafficking, unstable living conditions, or other abuse or neglect. Your gifts will let them know someone cares and brighten their difficult situations during the holidays. Take a tag off the Christmas tree in the narthex and purchase the suggested item. Please return all gifts by Sunday, December 7.



Adult Ministry

Lunch OUT! Wednesday, December 3rd, 11:00 a.m.

For our "First Wednesday" in December outing, we're meeting at the home of Barb Sorgius, located at 1239 Blakely Drive, Greenwood, IN.

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 17th, 11:00 a.m.

Presenter: Bud Pflug and Bob Wilson

Program: Restoring Jukeboxes

Lunch: Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

Cost: Suggested donation: \$5.

Questions? Barb Sorgius, 317-783-2000.



Mug Packing Day, Tuesday, December 2nd 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!



Adult Ministry Upcoming Movie Outings

Join us **Thursday, December 11th** at Historic Artcraft Theatre, 57 Main St., Franklin for a free movie, popcorn, and small soda for those 55 and older. The movie is "It's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, and Lionel Barrymore.

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).



Executive Director

From Your Executive Director

After months of preparation from the retailers who were selling Christmas decoration goods before the month of September ended, here we are: another Advent and Christmas season. SiriusXM started playing Christmas music before November was over, and Mariah Carey has officially come out of hibernation to immerse us in "All I Want for Christmas is You".

One carol we will hear and sing, both at church and in our homes and cars, is "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing", a glorious choral setting to Luke 2:13-14, composed by German composer Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy in 1840, set to lyrics written by Charles Wesley in 1739.

Some may know that Mendelssohn was a member of the Lutheran church in Germany. But he didn't start that way: he was the grandson of a famous Jewish Enlightenment philosopher, Moses Mendelssohn. Felix's father, Abraham, renounced his Jewish faith before Felix was born, and went so far as to drop Mendelssohn as a last name, adopting his wife's adopted surname of Bartholdy, to fully break with the Jewish community. On March 21, 1816, at the age of seven, Felix was baptized into the Christian faith.

Like Mozart before him, Mendelssohn was a child prodigy. He gave his first concert when he was nine years old and in 1824 composed his first Symphony at the age of 15. He was also heavily influenced by and considered himself the successor to J.S. Bach, championing a drive to erect a monument to Bach in Leipzig, funding much of the cost from his personal fortune.

Besides the Christmas song we all know, his 5th Symphony drew on his Lutheran faith, composed for the 300th Anniversary of the Reformation – appropriately now referred to as the Reformation Symphony, as the 4th movement is built around Luther's "Ein feste Burg." Sadly, like Mozart (composer Robert Schumann wrote that Mendelssohn was "the Mozart of the 19th century"), he died young at the age of 38, believed caused by strokes brought about from overwork: he composed 750 works during his short life.

Mendelssohn's story and his application of his faith to his music is profound, one which can be found to this day in other music forms, specifically contemporary Christian music.

His faith, and how he carried that into his compositions, has meaning for us at Calvary, especially this time of the year. We will have many visitors during the Advent and Christmas season. School families. Relatives. Former members. Community residents who are looking for a church home. And significantly, people who consider themselves non-religious, but are searching because they realize something is missing in their lives.

This is our Mendelssohn moment – the ability to demonstrate our faith to these visitors, showing and telling them about the saving grace of Jesus Christ, of His love for us, which was manifested this time of the year with his birth in a manger.

We can Engage them. We can Connect to them. We can help them Learn. This is how we Care for them! We welcome them into our church home, sharing with them an incredible gift: Jesus Christ, and His salvation for us. This is our application of faith opportunity, sharing Christ with our community. What a blessed gift we are able to share: helping to make theirs – and ours – a happy and blessed Christmas!

(Or as those of us with German ancestry would have said, "ein frohe und gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest"!)

In His and Your service,

Bill Laut

Holiday Discounts

Why pay full price when you can obtain the same item at a reduced cost? Does that diminish the value of the item? During the Christmas Season retailers are counting on a large financial gain. To help your purchasing power and decisions stores are willing to reduce the cost enabling you to afford the desired item. Many items purchased will be given as gifts this Christmas this year.

Cost vs. value is considered many times with our lives. Value is based on individual preferences. I value Chicago Bear items. Someone else would find that a waste of any investment in that realm. What one is willing to invest in relates to their cost threshold. Individuals search circulars looking for the best prices and will shop accordingly. What would it be like if you were offered this Christmas the greatest value without any cost? This would be a tremendous discount without sacrificing the value.

This is exactly what we have at Christmas and every day. God sent His Son to be born of a woman. The Son of God came as the Savior of the world. This comes to us as eternal value without any cost to us. God has provided and given to us everything. All we need to is to receive this gift through faith that has been created in our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. May we truly see the value of God's Christmas gift to us each day seeing not only the value, but also the cost. We live each day in response to God's precious love as we share His Word with others not considering the cost but seeking God's eternal value. 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 3rd 6th-8th grade students

Wednesday, December 10th 3rd-5th grade students

Wednesday, December 17th 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 19th**. School will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. on that day. School will resume on **Monday, January 5th**. We ask the Lord to be with all traveling during this Christmas break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2026-27 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 5th. 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. Our new Director of Admissions, Heather McFarland is ready and eager to serve you in this capacity.

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? \$95,500.00 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.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Calvary will join with thousands of other Lutheran School students and teachers during the week of January 25th-February 1st 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 25th will be celebrated as Lutheran High School Sunday. Our Calvary Lutheran School focus will be on Sunday, February 1st as we share the exciting events and activities enjoyed during NLSW.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school

Calvary Lutheran School will be closed on **Monday, January 19th** 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.



LuFest - February 6, 2026

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 THROUGH DECEMBER 12 at LuFest.org.

Open Enrollment for 2026-27 School Year

Now is the time to enroll for the 2026-27 school year. Please contact Director of Admissions, Deidre Barnett, with any questions. Be sure to check our website at LHSI.org for more details.

The Together Project

We're in the final stretch of our Together Campaign which has focused on campus improvements, debt reduction, and merit scholarships. We're thrilled to share that our community has stepped up in a big way pledging over \$1 million! Help us cross the finish line and email for more information.

Lutheran High School - 50 Years

We have opened our doors for the 50th year of Lutheran High School. God has blessed Lutheran High School and our families! Join us for LHS Trivia Time weekly on our social media pages. If you have memories to share, please email those to Kathy Anderson.

Youth Ministry

FLIGHT (High School Youth Group)

The high school youth group meets weekly on **Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Contact Brian Krohmer 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, November 17th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**



SAIL (7th-8th grades)

All 7th and 8th grade youth are invited to the next SAIL event on **Wednesday, December 10th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**



Calvary Lutheran Church and School Financial Summary
First Fiscal Quarter Ended 10/31/2025

General Fund:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Revenue	\$1,438,581	\$1,337,071	\$101,510	\$1,290,149
YTD Expense	\$919,449	\$918,107	\$1,342	\$842,675
YTD Net	\$519,131			
Beginning Balance	\$1,386,196			
Current Balance	\$1,905,328			

Revenue Detail:	Current	Budget	Variance	Prior Year
YTD Contributions	\$270,324	\$277,700	-\$7,376	\$273,649
YTD Matching Gifts	\$6,950	\$10,070	-\$3,120	\$11,452
YTD School Gifts	\$27,393	\$17,079	\$10,313	\$16,676
YTD Tuition and Fees	\$1,056,750	\$1,022,913	\$33,837	\$974,235
YTD Other Revenue	\$77,165	\$9,309	\$67,856	\$14,136

Endowments:	Current	Prior Year
Church Endowment	\$810,148	\$820,279
YTD Disbursement	\$40,660	
Mission focus:	Full-time Music Director	

Schwark Endowment	\$226,067	\$215,929
Schwark Annual Fund	\$31,168	\$26,917
YTD Disbursement	\$0	

Wessler Endowment	\$109,765	\$104,810
Wessler Scholarship Fund	\$4,618	\$8,162
YTD Disbursement	\$0	

Outflow to Misstions:	Amount*	Special Mission Focus
Q1 (Aug-Oct)	\$22,318	Good Samaritan, Shepherd Community Center, Habitat for Humanity, Lakeview Ministries, El Salvador Mission, Lutheran Child and Family Services, LHSL, Hispanic Ministry, Synod
Q2 (Nov-Jan)		
Q3 (Feb-Apr)		
Q4 (May-July)		

Calvary has no mortgage or line of credit balance.

Women in Mission

Ladies' Pinochle Club (Monday, December 8th)

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 8th**. Questions? Contact Sandra Wilson.

Ladies' Bible Study, Saturday, December 6th, 8:30 a.m.

The November Ladies' Bible study will be on **Saturday, December 6th** and will be from the Lutheran Women's Summer 2025 Quarterly and shared by everyone.

Join us in the Church Library on **Saturday, December 6th** at 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Luncheon (Wednesday, December 10th, 11:30 a.m.)

Arni's Restaurant, Greenwood

The **Christmas Luncheon** at Arni's in Greenwood is **Wed, Dec 10** 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 3. Questions? Contact Emily Spelde.



Extravagant Sharing

Calvary responded EXTRAVAGANTLY to the need for food during a recent time of crisis for many in our community. Emmaus Lutheran Food Pantry in Fountain Square supported many family needs with the special food donations brought to them from Calvary. A box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a can of soup says to those in need; someone cares about me. As there is always a need, continue to place your food donations on the Extravagant Sharing Shelves in the church narthex/lobby. Special Christmas treats of candy and sweets would be appreciated by many who are unable to afford those goodies on their own. Thank you for your generosity and donations from your caring hearts. What a special joy it is to pass on our blessings from God to lighten the burdens of others in our community.

Blankets for Babies Fall Schedule

Blankets for Babies will **not** meet during the months of December, January, or February. We will start back up in March for Spring!

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 group 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 26. 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 2025 the Outreach team 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 May 31, helping with Children's Ministry Kickoff of August 22, helping with, assisting the Fellowship team with the outdoor family cookout on October 18, participating in the PTL Trunk-or-Treat on October 24, hosting a welcome table at the Women In Mission Calvary Bazaar on November 8, 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 2025

Stirring Things Up

December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday in Advent

Rev. Scott Zeckzer

It is time for decorations and baking. There will be a lot of stirring up. God stirs things up to get us ready for His coming.

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:3

Readings: Psalm 105:4-8; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Featured Choirs: Zion (Bull Rapids) Lutheran Church Choir, Woodburn, Ind.; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Antwerp, Ohio; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.

Lord, Give Us Patience

December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday in Advent

Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was the Messiah because earlier John had preached that the Messiah would come in judgment. John did not see this happening in Jesus' ministry. In response, Jesus indicates that He is indeed the Messiah and that John should be patient. In this account, God also teaches us about patience.

Sermon Text: Matthew 11:2-10

Readings: Psalm 146:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-10

Featured Choirs: St. John Adult Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.

The Word Became Flesh

December 21, 2025 – Christmas Day (observed)

Rev. Shayne Jonker

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14a ESV). The Son of God came in humility that we might be glorified. He came in poverty that we might be rich. He came to die that we might live. He came to dwell with us that we might dwell with Him, His Father, and the Spirit.

Sermon Text: John 1:14

Readings: Psalm 2; Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Christmas Can't Be Stolen

December 24, 2025 – Nativity of Our Lord; Christmas Candlelight

Rev. Paul Shoemaker

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas was not successful because he did not realize the true meaning of Christmas was not in things. We know the true meaning of Christmas is to be found in Jesus. This world's Grinch, Satan, still tries to steal Christmas joy from us. Let's focus on Jesus, the Reason for the season.

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-14

Readings: Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Peter's Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Choir of Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind.

Save the Child!

December 28, 2025 – First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. William Mueller

Aside from the fact that the text tells us about the not-any-older than 2-year-old Jesus, this Gospel reading seems so out of place in the Christmas season. Yet, there is an important truth to be discovered and a searching question to be asked.

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-23

Readings: Psalm 111; Isaiah 63:7-14; Matthew 2:13-23

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

6111 Shelby Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227
www.clcs.org
Phone: 317-783-2000
Fax: 317-783-7096

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

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Associate Pastor: Mark Schumm

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Youth & Family Pastor: Sam Troemel

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Tamil Indian Ministry: Pastor Udhay Raji

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Dir. of Connection & Engagement: Kara Hiatt

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Dir. of Adult Ministry: Barb Sorgius

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Youth Ministry Director: Brian Krohmer

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Music Director: Ryan Rosenau

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Principal: Stephen Rensner

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Chief Administrative Officer: Tia Kochan

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School Secretary: Megan McAtee

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Bookkeeper: Sara Brannon

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