✢ Mt. Calvary News and Announcements ✢
December 9, 2018

Interested in Lutheranism, membership?

If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the basics of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, please contact Pastor Long – he may be reached through the church office or by e-mail at PRBLong@aol.com.

Confession

Private confession is available on Saturdays before a Sunday with Communion as a preparation for the Sacrament on those Saturdays between 1 and 2 pm or by request; just contact Pastor Long for an appointment.

Office hours

Pastor Long is generally available at Mt. Calvary Tuesday through Friday mornings, or by appointment should you need or want to have conversation with him. You may reach him by e-mail at: PRBLong@aol.com.

Hospital calls

If you or a loved one have an illness or hospitalization that needs to be brought to the attention of Pastor Long, please call the office as soon as possible so that he may visit you. Note: Be sure the hospital knows that you are a member of Mt. Calvary and that you wish to have Pastor Long visit you. However, the hospitals do not always call the church—it is best if you let the office know.

Prayer chain

Please take advantage of this opportunity to pray for your needs and those of your friends and family. Cards are available in the pew rack. To activate the chain please call Ardeane at 691-8007.

Hearing assist device available

The Multi-Media Committee has made available a "hearing assist device" for use by those who cannot hear the service clearly. You can call the office during the week (688-4321) or see Pastor Long or the elder for the day on Sundays if you are interested in using one. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear clearly and plainly the means of grace offered in the services.

Christian day school

Our congregation operates Concordia Lutheran School together with the congregations of Redeemer and Trinity. Call the Concordia School office at 691-8921, or check their web site at www.concordiapeoria.com for information.

Concordia staff from Mt. Calvary

Brooke Barr	-	Grade 2, & Cheerleading Coach
Jan Heien	-	Title I Reading Tutor
Michele Keehner	-	2nd Grade Teacher's Aide
Becky Garvey	-	Administrative Assistant

Scripture lessons for next Sunday:

December 16th – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Psalm 85
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 7:18-35

This week's flowers – were given to the glory of God by Jerry & Paula Horst in celebration of Jerry's 70th birthday, and for God's many blessings.

Weekly stewardship update – Our offering for the General Fund for December 2, 2018, was $6,982.00. Our weekly need for 2018 is $7,222.93. We started this fiscal year with a "clean slate" in terms of expenses vs. income. But we'd still like to make up some of the ground we lost last year – so please continue to give as generously as your means allow.

Mid-Week Advent Services -- Mid-Week Services are being held at 11:15 am with a light lunch following the service, and at 6:30 pm. (Interest in the evening meal still seems too low to justify bringing it back.) The theme for the season is *"The Days are Coming,"* using the Old Testament Lessons. This week we will look at the topic, *The Messenger of the Covenant, Malachi 3:1-7b.* This week's lunch is *Chili, Corn Bread, Peaches/Cottage Cheese, Carrots/Celery/Dip, and Dessert.*

THANK YOU – The Altar Guild and Linda Khattar would like to thank all those who helped with decorating the church for the Christmas season. It is looking very festive.

DECEMBER SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING -- The December Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting has been scheduled for **today, December 9th at 9:30 am**, during the Bible Class Hour. The main topic of discussion will be the 2019 budget. We will need 25 people for a quorum.

2019 PLEDGES – If you forgot or lost your pledge form, there are extra copies on the table in the Narthex. Pledges can be mailed to the church office or brought to church anytime in the next few weeks – the Pledge Box will be out and the pledges gratefully accepted.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES? – We are still looking for people to help with lighting the candles on **December 16th (8:00), and 23rd (10:45).** This involves the responsive reading and then actually lighting the candle. We will welcome Sunday School types, teens, or even families. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board – just select your Sunday and the service time. Pastor will help you know what to do.

POINSETTIAS – Linda has ordered the poinsettias for Christmas Eve. This year they will cost $10 per plant. Envelopes are in your boxes so that you can place your order for them. Deadline for ordering will be Dec. 23rd.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Children's Christmas Program – Rehearsals for the children's Christmas program have begun. Mrs. Garvey and Mr. Tagge have been working with the children on music and speaking parts. Join us in the **10:45 worship service next Sunday, December 16th**, to hear the story of Christmas in the words and music of the children.

Christmas Party for Baby Jesus – **On Sunday, December 23rd at 9:30 am**, Linda Khattar will be hosting a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus. All Sunday School age children are invited to attend. Hear the wonderful news of the birth of the Savior, play games, do a craft, and have refreshments.

And On December 31st – There will be no Sunday School for the children on December 31st. (Adult Bible Study will still be on.)

FROM CONCORDIA

Choir and Recorder Concert – **Today, December 9th at 2:00 pm,** Concordia will present its Choir & Recorder Christmas concert at the school. The program is open to the public, so feel free to join them.

Band and Orchestra Concert – Then **this Tuesday, December 11th,** the children of the Concordia Band and Orchestra will present their Christmas concert **at 6:00 pm.** This also is open to the public.

Dine to Donate – This fundraiser will benefit Concordia Band. Bring everyone you know to Chili's, Peoria or East Peoria, through December 29th, and Chili's will donate 15% of their sales back to the Concordia Band. Vouchers can be found on the table in the Narthex or Parish Hall. (See poster on bulletin board across from Pastor's Office.)

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH – Come join the fun and fellowship! We're going to again join the youth from other Peoria area Lutheran churches for the Christmas Party sponsored by Trinity. Here are the details! We'll meet at Landmark Cinema (use doors at the Bowling Center entrance) on Friday, December 21 at 4:30 PM for a pizza dinner and the movie "Aquaman". Then we'll drive to Concordia for a time of play in the gyms (dodgeball, 9 square in the air) or games & visiting in the Commons. Parents can pick up at Concordia (Common doors in back) at 11:00 PM. Cost for the evening is $12 and will include the pizza dinner, movie ticket, and small popcorn/drink. To let Landmark know how many to plan for, we need to know who is coming no later than Sun., Dec. 16. Use the sign-up sheet across from Pastor's office, or call Michele 693-8095 or Brande 258-3216.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – During **December** our pantry will be in need of **Pasta Sauce, Canned Soup, Fruit, & Cereal** If you can help out by bringing some, your donation can be placed in the baskets in either the Narthex or the Parish Hall or on the table in the Pantry room and will be greatly appreciated.

FROM WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY –

Lutheran Social Services Holiday Hope Chest

Don't forget, today is your last chance to bring unwrapped gifts for the Lutheran Social Services Hope Chest. Tomorrow they will be picked up and delivered to Lutheran Social Services for distribution.

Treats for Family House – Family House offers a home away from home for the families of patients receiving medical treatment in Peoria. Women of Mt. Calvary have signed up to sponsor treats on **the 4th Monday of each month**. These treats may be store

bought or homemade, and do not have to be individually wrapped. Family House is also in need of laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. If you would like to donate, **please sign the sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office** and bring your treats to church, leaving them in the kitchen marked "*Family House.*" Questions? Call LaVelle Borders, 681-9414.

Postage Stamps – The Women of Mt. Calvary are saving postage stamps for LWML. Please cut out your postage stamps from envelopes and place them in the striped box on the table in the parish hall. We will trim the stamps and send them to LWML to support their mission work. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING -- Congregational Caroling is scheduled for **next Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 PM.** This is such an important event for our shut-ins who so much enjoy and appreciate the time that we give to them during this special time of year. So please mark your calendars for this special congregational event and watch for additional details!

THANK YOU! – FOOD & DRINK – We understand that some folks and families need to bring beverages and food into the sanctuary to help keep everyone content and healthy during services. We would simply ask that you make sure crumbs, spills, and scraps are picked up before you go. Thanks!

LOCK YOUR CARS! – Please remember to lock your cars at all times when on our parking lot and do not leave anything of value in them. And, especially in the evenings, be aware of your surroundings. More lighting had been installed, and the security cameras have been put up. They are on a motion sensor and will record anyone or anything that crosses in front of them. New signs warning that the cameras are there are now posted and the police department knows about them also.

HELP! PEOPLE TO STAFF NURSERY NEEDED! – Women of Mt. Calvary would like to have at least two people in the nursery during the 10:45 am worship service **every** Sunday. Please consider helping with staffing the nursery and then sign the sheet indicating when you are available to serve. **Sign-Up sheets are on the bulletin board through January 2019.**

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – The Gospel of God's grace awakens us to approve what is excellent (Philippians 1:10). Is facilitating a suicide "excellent"? Is experimenting on embryos a "fruit of righteousness"? Is advocating for abortion access "pure and blameless"? These involve ending a life that began by the holy work of God. And even when we cannot foresee how, He will bring it to completion, as sure as Jesus finished His mission, as sure as we ourselves exist. *Gracious Savior, fill our hearts and throats with Your glory and praise. Amen.*

Peoria Area Lutherans for Life usually meets every 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm except during the summer. We welcome anyone who would like to attend and learn more about life issues. Please call Deb Lakamp at 309/712-9751 or e-mail her at lakamps@gmail.com if you have any questions. Our new meeting place is Bethel Lutheran Church, 325 E. Queenwood Rd., Morton.

ISSUES ETC. – TALK RADIO FOR THE ADVENT SEASON -- Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's teachings include: The Advent Hymns "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" & "Once He Came in Blessing," Messengers from John the Baptist, Mary Visits Elizabeth and more. You can listen at live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUO.ORG, – Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, hear midweek Advent service broadcast live from Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, MO, on 12/12 at 12:00 p.m. CT, continue studying the book of Revelation on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and hear from Deaconess Heidi Goehmann about discouragement in ministry on The Coffee Hour (12/11 at 9:00 a.m. CT). Hear programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

COOKIE WALK AT LUTHERAN HILLSIDE VILLAGE – This Friday, December 14, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Homemade fudge, homemade cookies and candies, individual loaves of bread, a variety of sweet treats - sound good? Stop by the main entrance of LHV at 6901 North Galena Road in Peoria. The goodies will be displayed on long tables, and you can select your own personal favorites. Sound easy? It is! Your Styrofoam container will be weighed - you can get a lot of yummy sweets for a pound! Proceeds benefit LHV's Benevolent Fund for those folks who have outlived their resources. The event is sponsored by the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria.

Bakers are needed for this event. We are requesting donations to be in containers that you do not need back delivered to the main lobby/front desk of Lutheran Hillside Village between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13. We will gladly accept homemade cookies, fudge, baked breads, or Christmas candies. The residents and staff will be delighted by your efforts!

FROM THRIVENT -- Thrivent members pray for those who have been affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Thrivent – a membership organization of Christians – is mobilizing its financial resources and members to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who want to help with recovery efforts are encouraged to visit Thrivent.com to learn more.

EARN A RETURN AND HELP OUR LCMS CHURCHES! -- The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) provides resources to churches in our Central Illinois District that wish to grow God's ministry through building or expansion. We are able to do this because of conscientious LCMS members like you who support our churches by investing in the CID-CEF - we need your continued support and investments! As an added blessing for your investment, we are now offering a 24-Month SPECIAL RATE of 2.35% (minimum investment $500) to you as well as our church organizations to support the LCMS ministry. Please contact Chris Anderson or Susan Short at the CID-CEF (phone: 217-793-1802, email: cef@cidlcms) or visit our website (www.cidlcms.org, see link in lower left corner) for this special interest rate and other recent rate increases for our investment options. Thank you for investing in the future of our LCMS!

+ Christian Education at Mt. Calvary+

Sunday:

Youth:

Sunday School: – **Ages 3-Grade 8 meet in the basement.** Today in Sunday School, the children learned the account "Mary Visits Elizabeth." In the presence of the Son of God growing within Mary's womb, John the Baptist leapt inside Elizabeth's womb. God fills us with Himself in Word and Sacrament and we, like Mary, offer our praise and worship. Consider asking*, "How or when does God fill us with His presence today?"*

Adults:

Letter to the Hebrews: In a world of disorder, trouble, and faithlessness, how does a believer hang on? Through confidence in the reality of Jesus' reign here and now. This is a letter of encouragement and exhortation for believers to hold fast to their confession of faith and to keep looking to Jesus. Join us as we work through this letter to see how it speaks to the challenges we face today. **Meets in the Parish Hall at 9:30 am.**

Wednesday:

Men's Bible Study:

1st Samuel: The men are jumping from Genesis to 1st Samuel in order to consider God's work in establishing the kingdom. YHWH is faithful to His promises despite the weakness of the people, and provides for them by raising up Samuel, Saul, and finally David. Join us Wednesdays at 6:30 am. **We meet at the Bob Evans on Allen Rd. near the Walmart.**

Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study:

On Hiatus until in January.. Meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The class is discussion format rather than lecture.

Thursday:

Afternoon Bible Study:

Deuteronomy: Join us as we finish reading the "Five Books of Moses" with the study of Deuteronomy. This is Moses' "farewell address" to Israel as they prepare to cross into the Promised Land. But, more than that, this is a renewal of God's Covenant with a new generation, and an explanation of how the Law applies to their new lives. Even though the book contains a lot of political and ceremonial law that doesn't apply to us — the moral law still holds us. And the same God still calls us to live out love for Him and our neighbor in tangible ways. So, come learn with us. **We meet Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.**

+ This Week's Calendar +

Sunday	*Second Sunday of Advent*	
12/09/2019	Worship	8:00 a
	Fellowship Coffee	9:15 a
	Sunday School	9:30 a
	Semi-Annual Voters' Meeting	9:30 a
	Worship	10:45 a
	Worship & Music Committee	12:00 p
	Concordia Choir & Recorder Concert (at Concordia)	2:00 p
Monday	Pastor Teaches at Concordia	8:30 a
Tuesday	Pastor Teaches at Concordia	8:30 a
	Concordia Band & Orchestra Concert	6:00 p
Wednesday	Men's Bible Study – *1st Samuel*	6:30 a
	Pastor Teaches at Concordia	8:30 a
	Mid-Day Prayer (Lunch Follows)	11:15 a
	Evening Prayer	6:30 p
Thursday	Crafts & Conversation	10:00 a
	Bible Study -- *Deuteronomy*	1:00 p
	Divine Service	6:00 p
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p
	Neighborhood Watch	7:00 p
	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:45 p
Friday	Pastor Teaches at Concordia	8:30 a
Saturday	Private Confession	1-2:00 p
Sunday	*Third Sunday of Advent*	
12/16/2018	Divine Service	8:00 a
	Fellowship Coffee	9:15 a
	Sunday School/Bible Class	9:30 a
	Sunday School Children's Christmas Program	10:45 a
	Youth Confirmation	1:30 p
	Congregational Caroling	3:00 p