

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 by appointment only. Call the Church Office.

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Long is generally available at Mt. Calvary Monday 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK – were given to the glory of God by Theresa Johnston in celebration of her birthday and in thanksgiving for her many blessings.

FLOWER CHART, 2023 – The Flower Chart for 2023 has been posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for any Sundays you would like to provide flowers for the altar. **There are still openings on the chart – February 5th and 19th are currently open.**

ENVELOPE BOXES FOR 2023 – One mystery solved – McDaniel Envelope Company claims they never sent our 2023 envelopes and probably won't get them to us until the middle of January. Evidently they are behind in production. Second mystery – if they didn't send us the 2023 envelopes, what was in the boxes Glenn carried upstairs earlier this year.

So what do we do with our offerings? Please continue to make your offerings as you normally would but put them in a plain envelope with your name on it. From that we can register the offering in the data base in your name until we can get your new envelopes to you.

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.

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

January 29, 2023 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Psalms 15

Micah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12

WEATHER ALERTS – With the onset of winter weather here are ways to receive cancellations. The TV stations, WMBD, WEEK, and WHOI will be notified, an e-mail will be sent out (if I don't have your e-mail and you want these notifications, please let me know) and it will appear on our web-site (www.mtcalvarypeoria.org) and facebook page.

FOOD FOR THE POOR – On Sunday, February 5th the Rev. Gerald Kovac will be visiting to tell us about the work of Food for the Poor. He had been scheduled to visit in August of last year, but got sick with COVID. Rev. Kovac is a retired Missouri Synod Pastor who now supports Food for the Poor, a group whose mission is to provide food and housing for people in 17 countries, primarily in the Caribbean and Latin America.

FROM FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE – They will be sponsoring a Valentine's Lunch on February 5th at 1:00 pm. More information to follow.

POINSETTIAS – The poinsettias from the Christmas services are on the table in the Parish Hall. They are now “salvage on the high seas”. Take one home and enjoy it.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAIL BOXES – We are beginning to use them again. **Besides, your new 2023 membership directory will in them soon!**

TODAY IS LIFE SUNDAY – PLEASE JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE! -- In celebration of

life God has given to each of us, the Peoria Area Lutherans for Life asks for your help. May each member thoughtfully consider donating to our Pennies for Life collection. **This is an opportunity**



we hope you will use to express your thankfulness to your Heavenly Father by contributing a penny for each year of life that you have been granted. (Of course, larger contributions will be gratefully accepted too.) This special collection will be taken **today, Life Sunday, January 22nd.** Donations collected will be used to support pro-life education and also lending financial support for local organizations like Central Illinois Right-to-Life, Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center, Women’s Care Center, and Lutheran Hillside Village. We thank you for your help in our endeavor to uphold the sanctity of life.

HELP US GATHER ITEMS FOR OUR VALENTINE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE YOUTH AND MILITARY --

During the second week of February, Women of Mt. Calvary will be packing boxes for our young people who are in college or serving in the military. In this endeavor we need your help: **1) Please get the names and addresses of your college youth to Dawn Henderson (691-5547);** and **2) Consider contributing candy, microwave popcorn, individually wrapped snacks, tissue packages, pencils, pens, hotel samples (no bar soap, please), or anything a young person away from home might need. Your items can be placed on the kitchen counter, but please mark them for Women of Mt. Calvary College Student Project. The ladies would like them there by **Sunday, February 12th.****

TIME TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR SYNODICAL PRESIDENT, 1st VICE CHAIRMAN, OR, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT –

This summer is the Triennial Synodical Convention. If we want to nominate a candidate for the above listed offices, the nominations must be in by February 28, 2023. This requires action from our voters, so we will have to call a Voter’s Meeting before February 28th. If you wish to

make a nomination please talk to Pastor Long or Jerry Horst asap.

POSTAGE STAMPS – The Women of Mt. Calvary are saving postage stamps for LWML. Please cut out your postage stamps from envelopes and leave them in the office. Judy will get them to the ladies. They will trim the stamps and send them to LWML to support their mission work. Thank you.

TREATS FOR FAMILY HOUSE – We provide treats for Family House on the fourth Monday of each month (see note on bulletin board). If you are able to help, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or contact LaVelle Borders (309-681-9414). **The sign-up for 2023 is up.**

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION –The Crafts and Conversation Group is meeting again at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings and is open to anyone. Bring a craft or activity you like to do, needlework, coloring, etc. Sometimes Paula and LaVelle ask for help packing goody bags for children that come to pantry. Sometimes Judy has mailings to put together. Come join them, bring your lunch and eat with the group.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – During January our pantry will be in need of **Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Manwich, Pasta Sauce, Vegetable Oil, Pop Tarts, Juice Boxes, and Canned Fruit.** **They are also looking for the heavier plastic bags that grocery stores use for delivery.** If you can help out by bringing any of these items, your donation can be left in the church office during regular office hours.

CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Sunday School Classes – **Sunday, January 22nd.** Please bring your child to class by 10:30 am. Then parents, you are welcome to join the adult class that meets in the Parish Hall. The children will be discussing “*John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus*”

Sunday Morning Adult Class – ***Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?*** Based on Pastor Matthew Richard’s book of the same title, this video series and discussion (led by him) will explore some of the false images of Jesus that tempt Christians to turn from the Lord Who actually comes to us. The books for this study are available and have been a gift of the John Riddle Memorial. We thank the family for providing these books.

Men's Bible Study Topic – The Reason I Believe –
We'll be reading Allen Quist's book on the basics of Christian apologetics – a branch of theology focused on defending and explaining why Christianity is the true faith and Jesus our only Savior. Text will be provided.

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am at Gebby's Family Restaurant at 726 East War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights.

Thursday Lunch Together and Bible Study!

We've added a little extra to our Thursday lunches: a Bible study. As we start expanding our offerings at Mt. Calvary, one of the natural places to begin is around a time of fellowship and meal sharing. So, the plan is to gather for lunch at Noon, eat and visit for a while, and then read a chapter of Scripture together and talk about it. Some days we might have more to say, some days less – so there's no "set" time for this. In fact, if you need to run after lunch, you can; and if you don't want to join us until we get to the Bible part – you can do that too (try to arrive around 12:30 pm for that). We're reading the Gospel according to St. Matthew together. Come join us!

STEWARDSHIP – Please remember that the ministry of Mt. Calvary continues even in these odd days. Your prayers and contributions are still needed.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2022 showed the year's expenses at \$347,112.72, and income of \$332,955.18, which includes the \$58,038.29 from the Endowment and \$906.00 from Thrivent Choice. You may mail your envelopes in (checks only, please), or drop them by the office. You can also make electronic donations through our web page: (www.mtcalvarypeoria.org) by clicking the "donate" tab and setting up a profile with VANCO. If a donation is given using a credit card or debit card there is a 2.75% fee. If an electronic check is used the fee is 1.00%. People have begun donating through e-giving and have learned how easy it is to use.

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE.ORG-- KFUE

Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfue.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us **on** social: @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Study John 4-5 on Sharper Iron's "The Word Made Flesh" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Ruth 2-4 and Esther 1-2 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study what Baptism is on Concord Matters (1/28 at 10:00 a.m.

CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfue.org or the KFUE Radio app!

THE LUTHERAN LADIES LOUNGE – Rachel's Trivia

Challenge: Martin Luther on Women -- Because it's January (and let's face it: January is boring), Rachel and the Ladies need something to entertain them ... and this time, that *something* is a Trivia Challenge all about what Martin Luther said and wrote about women!

Offering riddles, true-false questions, and other trivial queries, Rachel covers a range of occasionally outrageous quotes from Luther's sermons, lectures, personal letters, and "table talk" discussions. Which biblical women did Luther seem to preach on most often? Should marriage (according to Luther) make life easier ... or harder? How did he (and did he not) provide for his wife after his death? How did becoming a husband and father help Luther understand and appreciate women more?

To learn more, check out *Luther on Women: A Sourcebook*, edited by Susan C. Karant-Nunn and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks.

For those who were curious about the Widow Luther's male guardian: Sarah was right. It was Johannes Bugenhagen.

ISSUES ETC. -- EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF LUTHERANS -- PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR LUTHERAN LAITY

-- You're invited to attend the 2023 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: LCMS President Matt Harrison, Mollie Hemingway of Fox News, Mark Hemingway of RealClear Investigations, Kyle Mann of The Babylon Bee, Pastor Peter Bender of the Concordia Catechetical Academy, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Pastor Will Weedon of The Word of the Lord Endures Forever. Early bird registration is \$140 and includes three meals. Reduced room rates, including on-campus dorms, are available. For more information, visit issuesetc.org or call (618) 223-8385.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

-- In the day of trouble the people of Christ seek not the finger of death but the face of the Lord (Psalm 27:5, 8). Though carrying surprise pregnancy may appear foolish, though enduring unto natural death may seem senseless, though advocating the sanctity of life may earn us ridicule, the word of the cross preserves us—and our neighbors—in the very power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

CONCORDIA OPEN HOUSE

This Sunday afternoon, January 22nd, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Concordia will hold their annual open house. This is a good time to tour the facility, meet the faculty and school board, and learn about all the programs available at the school for our students.

SAVE THE DATE! – BLOOD DRIVE AT CONCORDIA

-- On Thursday, February 9th, Concordia will again host a Blood Drive. The Blood Drive will be held in the Commons from 2:30-6:30. Please consider this opportunity to serve others by being a blood donor. Set up an appointment by contacting Mrs. Ibe via libe@concordiapeoria.com. You can also set up your own appointment on the Red Cross website or contact Red Cross directly. Additionally, a volunteer is needed to help run the drive from approximately 2:15-3:45. If you are able to help in this way, please contact Mrs. Ibe. Thank you!

CONCORDIA TRIVIA NIGHT – Friday February 3, 2023

-- Concordia Band Parents are once again hosting a trivia night at Redeemer Lutheran Church to benefit the band program at Concordia. Registration begins at 6:00 pm with Trivia beginning at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$8 per person with 8 persons per table. See poster on bulletin board for more information.

LUTHERAN HILLSIDE VILLAGE COOKIE WALK

-- It is with much enthusiasm that I share positive news of our annual Cookie Walk. It went above and beyond our expectations! We had 7 local pastors stop by for their free gift. We raised \$3,009.25 for the Benevolent Fund, for those residents that have outlived their resources. It was my goal to exceed \$2,000. We did it!

Many thanks to Mary Ann Auer for her help as a greeter welcoming our 157 customers over the 5 hours we were open for business. Our gratitude to Phil King who graciously supports our efforts AND voluntarily washed dishes and platters for us. Our thanks to anyone else from Mt. Calvary who donated baked goods. Please consider baking or making a monetary donation towards our next bake sale on May 12, 2023. Submitted by LWGP delegate Lisa Mack from Redeemer (309)360-2669. *Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and praise His name. Psalm 100:4*

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF GREATER PEORIA --

On Friday, February 10th, we welcome ladies of all ages to 6801 N. Allen Road, Peoria. Redeemer will host the General Membership Meeting for Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria. We will begin promptly at **9am** with a serenade by a local Barbershop Quartet. A hot breakfast and coffee provided. We will hear from an employee of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois followed by a meeting highlighting our events planned for 2023. We will conclude our morning by 11am. Please RSVP by Feb 3rd to Lisa Mack (309) 360-2669 so we can plan accordingly. *May the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

THE CHURCH MOUSE -- If you or your loved ones have outgrown your shoes, coats, clothes, toys, etc. please consider The Church Mouse when deciding where to take the items. Donations accepted M-Sat from 10am – 3pm, 600 West Main Street, Peoria near the campus of Bradley University. Questions may be directed to Shirley or Joan at (309) 673-2363. *There is a time for everything and a season for every activity -- a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away -- Ecclesiastes 3:1,6*