

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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January 25, 2026 ✝ The Conversion of St. Paul

St. John's Lutheran Church is a supporting congregation Calvary Lutheran High School, Jefferson City, 638-0228.

Today the paraments are white as we rejoice in the conversion of St. Paul. Through his testimony, the Word of God spread, and we today are strengthened by the faith revealed through him.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated today. If you have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and believe that with the bread and wine Christ gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins and belong to the LCMS fellowship, you are invited to join in this blessed Sacrament. Gluten-free wafers are available; speak with Pastor or an elder prior to worship. (If you are desiring to commune for the first time at St. John's as a Lutheran or you are a non-Lutheran, **please see the pastor prior to the service**).

Sunday, January 18, 2026:

Attendance: 77 (no livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 14 / 17 / 4

Offerings: \$2933 / \$151.30 / \$170 (electronic)

Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

CALVARY INSIDER – What happened at Calvary after returning from break?

- On Tuesday, basketball seniors and their families were honored at the games for Senior Night.
- Pastor Resner led Wednesday chapel. Following chapel; the students, faculty, and parent chaperones were given a special send off as they headed to Washington D.C. for the National March for Life.

LION BASKETBALL – Upcoming games at **Home:**

Jan. 30 HOMECOMING: V Girls/V Boys at 6PM v.

Bunceton

Visit calvarylhs.org/calendar/ to view the full calendar!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT at CALVARY BASKETBALL: Middle school students (grade 5-8) are invited to attend the Calvary varsity basketball games Tuesday, Feb 3 beginning at 6 PM. 5th-8th graders wearing a Calvary shirt OR a shirt from their current school will receive free admission. Come out, rep your school and cheer for the Lions!

DISCOVER CALVARY DAY! – The Calvary Student ambassadors are looking forward to a Visit Day event on February 5! This day is intended for 7th grade students to discover the advantages of a Lutheran high school education and the many opportunities available at Calvary. If you know a 7th grader (or 8th grader that has not attended before) who would benefit from knowing more about the Calvary experience, contact John Christman at 573-638-0228 for more information.

SAVE LIVES AT THE CALVARY BLOOD DRIVE – Mark your calendars for the next Calvary blood drive on Tuesday, February 23, from 1-6 PM in the Café at Calvary Lutheran High School. Please consider donating to help save a life!

UPCOMING EVENTS –

Jan 30	Homecoming Basketball Games, 6PM
Feb. 3	Middle School Night at Calvary Basketball Games
Feb. 5	Discover Calvary Day (7 th Grade Visit Day)
Feb. 6-7	Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament
Feb 20-21	Winter One Act Performances
April 25	Crimson & Silver Dinner Auction
May 29	Calvary Golf Tournament

At the annual voters' meeting last week, we elected the following new officers and board members: President – Ron Klatt; Secretary – Barbara Stahlman; Treasurer – William Kautsch; Elder – Tim Meller; Trustee – Donn Schmoeger; Evangelism – Cindy Kautsch; Sunday School – Abby Distler; Finance – Marla Young. We also approved renovating the church office, discussed Church Suppers before the midweek Lent Services, and reviewed what needs to be done for fellowship Sundays.

“The One who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God who fashioned us and gave us our first beginning in the womb. It is God who brings forth life. It is God who created us, who ‘knits us together,’ so that we are ‘intricately and wonderfully made.’ Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And—it is a sin to shed innocent blood.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON SERIES...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to a series of interviews with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, author of the new book “Finally Free: Three Lessons in the Parable of the Prodigal Son” at issuesetc.org/prodigalson.

This week:

Sunday, 1/25	9am 10am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF Divine Service
Mon, 1/26	6:30	Confirmation
Tues, 1/27	7pm	Lutheran Basics
Wed, 1/28	10:20	Chapel at Calvary LHS
Sunday, 2/1	9am 10am	Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF Divine Service

The Gift of Life

January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its decision in the case of “Roe v. Wade.” This is the historic date in which abortion was declared a legal right according to the United States Constitution.

Though the decision was reversed in 2022, it did not bring an end to legal abortions, but simply put the choice in the hands of the states. The high Court proclaimed that the United States Constitution does not offer or protect a “right to abortion,” but individual states could offer such protection as they saw fit. Missouri is currently torn and undecided on the issue, based on various decisions at different levels of courts.

Whether or not abortion is legal is a separate question from the morality of it. God clearly speaks against taking the life of anyone, of any age, for any reason beyond specific consequences of specific sins, for which the government is given the authority of the sword.

Scripture is clear that God is the author of all life. See especially Job 10:9ff and Jeremiah 1:5; though these authors spoke of their own lives, we recognize that their statements apply to all life. Scripture is also clear that God alone has the power of life and death (Genesis 9:6), because “God made man in his own image.”

It is appropriate always to uphold God’s gift of life, but especially as we approach the anniversary of the landmark case legalizing abortion in the United States for so many years. The number of abortions in the United States hit approximately 750,000 in the year after the 1973 decision, rising to an estimated 1.5 million per year in the early 1990s. Though the number has declined, there has still been an average of nearly 1 million abortions every year, even after the Dobbs decision.

Please pray for all those affected by abortion. Whether or not it is legal, it is sad not only for those babies who would otherwise live, but also for everyone who is faced with such a decision. Pray that God would work through His church to provide hope and help to those who think that abortion is the answer to their problems.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

sts. 1, 12, 3

- 1 By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.

12 *The Conversion of St. Paul (January 25)*

Praise for the light from heaven
And for the voice of awe;
Praise for the glorious vision
The persecutor saw.
O Lord, for Paul's conversion,
We bless Your name today;
Come shine within our darkness,
And guide us on our way.

- △ 3 Then let us praise the Father
And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory
And praise to God alone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

LSB 185

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 89:1, 5, 15–16; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.
I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,*
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*

who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,

who exult in your name | all the day*

and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*

and shall not be | put to shame.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the

Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine

throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And

immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Galatians 1:11–24

¹¹For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. ²⁰(In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 19:27–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the nineteenth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁷Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” ²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and

glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the enemies of Christ, that God would bring them through the flood of Holy Baptism and wash them of their wickedness in order to confess that Jesus is the Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all pastors, that God would embolden them like His servant Paul to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ; and that He would open the ears and hearts of their listeners to believe the message that the King of kings has given His life for all; for Pastor Brian Thieme and Pastor Joseph McCalley (Trinity, Columbia), for missionaries Steven Mahlburg, Nancy Jane Morizio, Krista Trump, and Michael Morizio, and for military chaplains Jason Dart and Peter Burfeind, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For husbands and wives, parents and children, that the Lord would bless them, make His face shine upon them and make known to them His saving power, that they, in turn, may make His truth known on the earth to the coming generation, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the nations and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that we may walk in the path of justice and responsibly exercise liberty; and that peace might rule the nations and all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the troubled, the sick and the dying, [*especially Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, and Beth Depke*], that by the prayers of Christ Himself they would be brought through their trials, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune today, that as recipients of new life and eternal treasures stored up in heaven, we might receive this feast for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith and love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the unity of the Church and harmony among its members; and for our life together in worship, witness, prayer and service to those within and outside of the household of faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P In thanksgiving for the saints who remained faithful unto death and have received the crown of life, that we would be given courage to follow where they have led the way, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Salutation

LSB 201

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.

832 Jesus Shall Reign

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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