



CALVARY COURIER

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2026

Upcoming Events

Mornings with Mommy —
Tuesday, Jan. 6th @ 10AM
"Red, Hearts & Valentine's Day"

Guinea Pig Potluck & Bingo -
Sunday, Feb. 1st @ 4PM



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A Primer on Epiphany

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove. A voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."
Luke 3:21-22

As the season of Christmas winds down and the calendar year ends, the Church Year still continues on. After the season of Christmas, we go through the season of Epiphany until Lent begins. For this month's newsletter, I wanted to give a brief introduction to the season of Epiphany, as well as to teach about what to expect during Epiphany.

Origin: The season of Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons that is observed in the Church Year. The only one older than it? Easter. Epiphany begins on January 6th, and it seems that the date has its origins in a pagan festival that celebrated the birth of Aeon. Back in the first century, the church replaced this festival with a celebration about the baptism and birth of Jesus.

Name and Themes: The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation" in Greek. This season focuses on Jesus' manifestation as true God and true man. You see this with the inclusion of texts like the baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration, which really proclaim that truth. Texts about Jesus' miracles are also common in this season (like his first miracle at the wedding at Cana), and they bear witness to his identity as God. Another theme in this season is light, and it is often reflected in the hymns. As the season progresses along, the readings typically switch the teachings that are found in the earlier parts of Jesus' ministry.

Color: The color for the season of Epiphany is green. (The first Sunday is white as it marks the Baptism of Jesus.) Green often depicts growth and fulfillment. Green is also used during the season of Pentecost (which is the longest season of the Church Year). The idea of the color green being used can lead credence to the idea that Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture, and that the prophecies about him, his work, and his coming are being fulfilled.

Length: The season of Epiphany can vary in length. This year, it will be six Sundays long, and can include as many as *nine* Sundays depending on the year. What effects the end date? When Easter occurs.

As we begin the season of Epiphany, I hope this little article will bless your understanding of the season and add to your appreciation of it. See that Jesus is true God and true man who came to save you and all from sin's condemnation to hell.

Pastor Martin Spaude





Happy Birthday, Jesus! Our December session was a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season while remembering the true reason for the season - Jesus' birth. We heard the Christmas story, had several fun nativity arts and crafts, played with red and green kinetic sand, made pretend birthday cake and donuts, and ended by singing happy birthday to Jesus with a cupcake treat!

Our next session is Tuesday, January 6th at 10AM. The theme is **“Red, Hearts & Valentine’s Day.”** If you would like to volunteer or assist at the 2026 sessions or behind the scenes, please speak with Director, Bridget Spaude.



Calvary's Mission Statement

As members of this congregation, our constant aim is to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people based on the inspired, infallible Holy Scriptures and to exemplify our faith through Christian living commissioned by our Savior.



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1270 N. Dobson Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224
480-963-9397
www.calvarychandler.net
Worship: 6PM Saturday
9AM Sunday

Calvary's Church Leaders

Pastor Martin Spaude 602-903-0035
Pastor Roger Sprain 480-330-9269
President: Nathan Traudt 720-354-1951
Secretary: Kenneth Marks 480-550-1442
Financial Secretary: David Kultala 480-363-6297
Treasurer: George Grafakos 480-938-0920
Evangelism/Stewardship Director: Phillip Cross 480-370-0549
Education Director: Tim Tucker 269-808-3566
Property Director: Pete Sachs 602-576-5299

January Worship

Use this Schedule to Prepare Yourself

January 3 & 4	Christmas 2
<p>Theme: God tells of the surprising way that he will reveal his glory and righteousness: they will be seen in God's people.</p> <p>Liturgy: Service of the Word & Sacrament</p> <p>Psalm 148</p> <p>Lessons: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Ephesians 1:3-18; John 1:14-18</p> <p>Hymns: Blue: 362, 383, 358, 337</p> <p>Red: 42, 86, 35, 60</p>	
January 10 & 11	Epiphany 1, Baptism of Our Lord
<p>Theme: At his baptism Jesus was revealed as the Son of God and commissioned to carry out his work of saving the world.</p> <p>Liturgy: Service of the Word</p> <p>Psalm 45</p> <p>Lessons: Isaiah 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17</p> <p>Hymns: Blue: 384, 377, 374, 692</p> <p>Red: 93, 89, ---, 299</p>	
January 17 & 18	Epiphany 2
<p>Theme: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful human beings.</p> <p>Liturgy: The Common Service with Communion</p> <p>Psalm 51b</p> <p>Lessons: Isaiah 49:1-6; Colossians 2:6-15; John 1:29-41</p> <p>Hymns: Blue: 398, 814, 375, 929</p> <p>Red: 128, 397, 81, 745</p>	
January 24 & 25	Epiphany 3
<p>Theme: Our Savior is the light of the world, and we reflect his light onto everyone around us.</p> <p>Liturgy: Service of the Word</p> <p>Psalm 27</p> <p>Lessons: Isaiah 8:19—9:4; 1 John 2:3-11; Matthew 4:12-23</p> <p>Hymns: Blue: 881, 904, 376, 517</p> <p>Red: ---, 569, ---, 353</p>	



Thank you to everyone that
 attended the fellowship event at Organ
 Stop Pizza on Sunday, December 14th!
 We look forward to this event each year!

Christmas for Kids 2025

Christmas for Kids occurred on the morning of December 6th and was an exciting time for the kids and the volunteers involved. The theme was “The Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus” where the kids went with the shepherds to find out the true meaning of Christmas -- that Jesus, the Son of God, came down to earth to be our Savior from sin.



The morning focused on learning about the birth of Jesus and the related events. Our event included a Bible story time, crafts tied to CHRISTmas, fun snack time, and multiple music sessions with festive hymns focusing on Jesus' birth. The day concluded with most families participating in a hot dog social that provided additional time to visit with each family.

Twenty kids from thirteen families were registered for the event. Seventeen kids from ten families were able to attend. The morning served six Calvary families, three sister member families, and one non-member family. Families were invited to join us for church the following day and nine kids were able to sing the hymn they learned, “Away in a Manger”.

This was a Calvary family effort!! We had 22 plus volunteers participate in helping the event be a success including 19+ adults helping during the day of the event. It was a fun and uplifting morning centered on the Christ child during time that is often over commercialized and “too busy” for Jesus...





Friendship Circle Event

The Friendship Circle hosted an evening in downtown Chandler on December 12th. We arrived as darkness descended on the city. Although our original plans did not work out, we adapted and shared a wonderful evening of lights, friendship, and good food. Festively decorated lights adorned the buildings and trees in the downtown creating a merry atmosphere. We enjoyed the decorations and then secreted ourselves to Chandler's Speakeasy - the Ostrich for some tasty food and beverages. A fun time was had by all.

Friendship Circle is open to all females at Calvary Lutheran. We hold events every two months to encourage friendship and community. All are welcome. For more information on Friendship Circle, contact Sue Schroeder at sue@schroeder.net or by phone 480-776-9827 OR Kris Powell at krispowell316@gmail.com or 602-463-5843.



Update on the 50th Anniversary Special Projects: The focus of the congregation is on redoing the **Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Sanctuary**: This will include luxury vinyl flooring for the fellowship hall, teen room and kitchen (since we are picking out flooring, we will also redo the entryway of the narthex with the same); sound baffling panels on the ceiling of the fellowship hall; redoing the bathrooms in fellowship with new vanities, toilets, flooring, configuration and stalls; reconfiguring the kitchen to move the double oven to change flow through the kitchen.

A special offering fund for the 50th Anniversary is available if you are moved to make special offerings to help with these projects. Please place your donation in an envelope with your name on it and marked 50th Anniversary.



January Worship – Identity Revealed

Our worship services in January will follow this pattern:

January 3 & 4: Christmas 2

The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

January 10 & 11: Epiphany 1

Jesus Is the Christ, the Anointed One

January 17 & 18: Epiphany 2

Jesus Is the Lamb of God

January 24 & 25: Epiphany 3

Jesus Is the Light

Stewardship of “New”

The one who was seated on the throne said to me, “Look, I am making everything new. He also said, ‘Write, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for his resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so he gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and he gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

From Calvary’s Stewardship Committee

Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO): Christian education is important. Helping our children to grow in their faith in their Savior Jesus is vital for their eternal welfare. Providing an education in a Christian environment where they can learn math, science, history, and all subjects, through the lens of God's Word will prepare them for living productive, Christ-centered lives in this world. We are blessed to have Pilgrim Lutheran School in Mesa and Emmanuel Lutheran School in Tempe to help with the Christian education of our children. To help with the cost of this Christian education, Arizona's Private School Tax Credit Program is incredibly important. Through this program, you can support Christian education. You can participate in the Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona state taxes. We have some member children who attend Pilgrim Lutheran School that you can recommend for a scholarship with your tax credit donation to ACSTO: Jenna, Micah, Aaron and Grace Traudt.

You can give using one of the forms at church or online at: ACSTO.org.

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

New Sunday Adult Bible Study, Starting January 4th!

Dragons, angels, talking frogs, locusts with scorpion tails, seven-headed monsters, a woman with wings. Oh my. What is this? Characters from the latest sci-fi film? No. They are details from a 2,000-year-old vision the Apostle John received on the Greek island of Patmos. This vision is recorded in the last book of the Bible: *Revelation*. Join our Sunday morning Bible Class, beginning, January 4th for a multi-media Bible study of this fascinating New Testament book. Revelation: Get Pumped for the End.

Wednesday Evening Bible Classes

New Wednesday Evening Bible Class: Calculus won't give you the answers, but Colossians will. A multi-media Bible Study on the New Testament book of Colossians will begin on Wednesday, January 7th at 7PM.

Upcoming Event!

Guinea Pig Potluck & Bingo

Join us Sunday, February 1st @ 4PM for our annual event.

Bring a dish you have never prepared before for everyone to try.

The Bingo games are great fun, but even more fun is finding out what you win when you do win a game. It is fun and excitement for all ages. A sign-up sheet is on the back counter.


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JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Calvary Book Club will be beginning it's 2026 year with another book by Amy Trueblood. Amy was the author who joined us in September and answered all our questions. It was a very enjoyable time and we enjoyed asking her many questions about her work. She was extremely relatable. Her book is based on the life and times surrounding the building of the Golden Gate bridge. Her writing captures the moment and makes you feel that you are right there in that period of history. The name of the book is *Across a Broken Shore*.

We try to meet on the last Sunday of the month at 3PM in the fellowship hall unless there is a conflict. January's meeting is Sunday, January 25th. We try to get the update in the bulletin so all will be informed. Also, we are looking for "good reads". So if you have read a book that you like and would fit our group, we would like to have you suggest your book to us. We still have a few openings for membership and also encourage "drop-ins", so consider joining us!

January Birthdays

Best wishes to the following who celebrate birthdays this month:

Peggy Nieto	January 1
Erin Hasulak	January 3
Laramie Rasmussen	January 11
David Schroeder	January 12
Liz Johnson	January 13
Debbie Spaude	January 16
Pam Abbe	January 21
Arlene Heller	January 22
Craig Anderson	January 26



Through My Bible in a Year JANUARY

1	Genesis 1-3
2	Genesis 4-6
3	Genesis 7-9
4	Genesis 10-12
5	Genesis 13-15
6	Genesis 16-18
7	Genesis 19-21
8	Genesis 22-24
9	Genesis 25-27
10	Genesis 28-30
11	Genesis 31-33
12	Genesis 34-36
13	Genesis 37-39
14	Genesis 40-42
15	Genesis 43-45
16	Genesis 46-48
17	Genesis 49—Exodus 1
18	Exodus 2-4
19	Exodus 5-7
20	Exodus 8-10
21	Exodus 11-13
22	Exodus 14-16
23	Exodus 17-19
24	Exodus 20-22
25	Exodus 23-25
26	Exodus 26-28
27	Exodus 29-31
28	Exodus 32-34
29	Exodus 35-37
30	Exodus 38, 39
31	Exodus 40

If you would like to submit information for the monthly Courier, please email it to Randi at office@calvarychandler.net by the **15th** of the prior month. Thank you.