



# CALVARY COURIER

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2025

## The True Joy of Christmas



Here's some great news. Christmas brings us joy that does last—the true joy found in Jesus.

With a love that we cannot comprehend, our heavenly Father gave his only Son, born to be our Savior. With perfect obedience Jesus lived the life all of us are unable to live. Each and every evil thought, evil word and evil deed we have done has been picked from us by our heavenly Father and placed on Jesus. On Calvary's cross, Jesus bowed his head in death declaring, "It is finished." These words of Jesus bring us true joy. They mean that all is done and Easter's announcement "He Is Risen!" guarantees that God our Father has accepted Jesus' life and death as payment in full for all our sins. True joy is the forgiveness of sins that is ours through faith in Jesus.

After hastily opening the wrapped package and making the obligatory thank-you, it certainly didn't take long to turn away from the thoughtful gift as something ho hum.

Just then six year old Emily came along and stopping by the discarded item exclaimed, "Oh, my, what a beautiful gift! Is that yours? You must be so happy?" As she walked away I thought to myself, "Why don't I have the joy of that little girl?"

At times we have those feelings which cause us to cry out, "I need more joy in my life!" That is so often true at this time of year when for one reason or another we find ourselves lacking joy. There are indications everywhere that joy should fill our lives. Decorations are going up inside and outside. Christmas music surrounds us and cards are arriving daily.

Some days the festive joy fills our hearts as we excitedly go about our holiday shopping and schedule planning. But yet deep down we know that this joy will not last. Planning becomes overwhelming, schedules start falling apart and decorating gets tiresome. Above all, we know from experience, there will be no joy when we find we don't have enough money to purchase the perfect gift or when credit card payments come due. All of this leads us to shout out, "I need more joy! I need joy that will last!"

While we are in the midst of the season when it seems hard to keep joy in our lives, focus on the true Joy Giver. Ponder again the words of the angels to the shepherds, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord." Come and worship the Babe born in Bethlehem, and may God the Holy Spirit fill you with a joy that never ends.

Pastor Martin Spaude



### Upcoming Events

Dec, 6<sup>th</sup>—Christmas for Kids  
@ 9AM-11:45AM

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>—Friendship  
Circle Christmas Concert @  
5:30PM

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>—Organ Stop  
Pizza @ 4PM



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November's **Music and Instruments** themed session was music to everyone's ears. We started by reading how God is the ultimate musician, creator of all sounds. The little musicians had a rockin' good time making **MUSIC** with our musical instrument puzzle and toy instruments in our fine motor skills center and dancing on the pi-  
ano **MUSIC** mat in the gross motor skills center. They also enjoyed creating shaker instruments in the craft center, painting xylophones in the arts center and playing with the mini instruments in the sensory bin. The session ended up with a **musical** treat: string cheese "piano keys". The highlight of our session was our **musical** guest presenter, Paul Spaude. A big thank you to him for sharing his talents and knowledge with us!

Our next session will be our annual **Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party** on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM! If you would like to volunteer to assist at our upcoming 2026 sessions or behind the scenes, please speak with our 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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CalvaryLutheranChurchChandler

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: Rodger Johnson 480-235-0016

Financial Secretary: David Kultala 480-363-6297

Treasurer: Blake Corry 480-688-3827

Evangelism/Stewardship Director: Phillip Cross 480-370-0549

Education Director: Mark Mundt 602-577-1322

Property Director: Pete Sachs 602-576-5299

## December Worship

Use this Schedule to Prepare Yourself

<b>December 3</b>	<b>Midweek Advent 1</b>
Theme: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1-3, 14 Hymns: Blue: 315, 327, 301, 321, 921 Red: 28, 23, 2, 17, ---	
<b>December 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>Advent 2</b>
Theme: The scene is Judgment Day and we stand before the Judge, who is Jesus. How great it is to know that the judge already paid for our sins. Liturgy: Service of the Word & Sacrament Psalm 130 Lessons: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 Hymns: Blue: 312, 316, 317, 318 Red: 11, 16, 20, 15	
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Midweek Advent 2</b>
Theme: Jesus is the Light of the World. John 1:4-9 Hymns: Blue: 323, 327, 630, 357, 919 Red: ---, 23, 280, ---, 221	
<b>December 13 &amp; 14</b>	<b>Advent 2</b>
Theme: We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus. Liturgy: Service of the Word Psalm 146 Lessons: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-11 Hymns: Blue: ---, 324, 358, 519 Red: 6, 18, 35, 747	
<b>December 17</b>	<b>Midweek Advent 3</b>
Theme: Jesus came from the Father full of grace and truth. John 1:14-18, Exodus 20:1-6 Hymns: Blue: 309, 327, 638, 313, 526 Red: 1, 23, 288, 12, 120	
<b>December 20 &amp; 21</b>	<b>Advent 4</b>
Theme: Emmanuel means God with us. When Jesus was born, God came into this world. Jesus is both true God and true man. Liturgy: Common Service with Communion Psalm 89 Lessons: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25 Hymns: Blue: 360, 327, 320, 333 Red: 47, 23, 5, 65	
<b>December 21</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Eve Service @ 6PM</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Carol Service @ 6:30PM</b>
Theme: Christ Our Savior is Born Hymns: Blue: 347, ---, 358, 350, 333, 328, ---, 346, 344, 354, 337 Red: 80, 37, 35, 61, 65, 24, 56, 63, 67, 55, 60	
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service @ 10AM</b>
Theme: Christ our Savior is Born Hymns: Blue: 354, 353, 330, 352, 340, 344, 350 Red: 55, 62, ---, ---, ---, 67, 61	

**December 27 & 28**

**Christmas 1**

Theme: Because of Jesus we have been brought into the family of God.

Liturgy: Service of the Word

Psalm 2

Hymns: Blue: 332, 340, 355, 353

**December 31**

**New Year's Eve**

Theme: We praise our Lord for keeping us safe through this past year. We look forward to his blessings in the new year.

Hymns: Blue: 820, 367, —, —, 880 vs. 1-2, 880 vs. 7-8, 665, —

Red: 441, 69, 73, 72, 551 vs. 1-2, 551 vs. 7-8, 742, 70

**Midweek Advent services** will be held on Wednesdays on  
December 3, 10 and 17 at 7 PM.

There will be a dinner provided prior to the service  
beginning at 5:30 PM.



### **The Children's Christmas Service**

This year the Children's Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM. This move from Christmas Eve to the Sunday before Christmas is being tried on a one year basis to see how feasible this is. Please join the kids for this service of praise to Jesus as we celebrate his birth.



### **The Christmas Eve Carol Service**

On Christmas Eve, at 6:30PM, there will be a Christmas Eve carol service. What a wonderful time to celebrate the birth of our Savior by singing familiar Christmas hymns and hearing the accounts of the birth of our Savior.



**Christmas Day Song Service,  
December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.**



**New Year's Eve Communion Service  
December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7PM.**



## Christmas for Kids!



**Bible Story Skit** — Watch the story of the shepherds and baby Jesus come to life through a kid-friendly performance.

**Music Station** — Sing joyful Christmas songs and learn simple worship tunes that celebrate the Savior.

**Craft Station** — Create festive keepsakes and decorations to take home and share with family.

**Game Station** — Play themed games that build teamwork and holiday cheer.

**Make-a-Snack Station** — Decorate cookies and enjoy a tasty treat while learning about giving and gratitude.

Event Date: Dec. 6th at 9:00 – 11:45AM



## Organ Stop Pizza

The most entertainingly affordable pizza in town. Home of the Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. Calvary's annual group outing to Organ Stop Pizza (1149 E. Southern Ave., Mesa – Stapley and Southern) will take place on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4PM. There is a sign-up sheet for this on the back counter at church.

**Update on the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



## December Worship – Imminent Arrival/Christ the Savior Is Born



Our worship services in November will follow this pattern.

November 29 & 30: Advent 1  
 December 6 & 7: Advent 2  
 December 13 & 14: Advent 3  
 December 20 & 21: Advent 4  
 December 24: Christmas Eve  
 December 25: Christmas Day  
 December 27 & 28: Christmas 1  
 December 31: New Year's Eve  
 January 3 & 4: Christmas 2

*Imminent Arrival of the King*  
*Imminent Arrival of the Judge*  
*Imminent Arrival of the Messiah*  
*Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel*  
*Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia*  
*Holy Infant So Tender and Mild*  
*Son of God*  
*Reflections on the Year Gone By*  
*The Dawn of Redeeming Grace*

## Pointing to the Rock of Ages

Not the labor of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;  
 could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
 all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone. (CW 839 vs.2)

While the classic hymn "Rock of Ages" shows up in Christian Worship in the "Hope and Comfort" section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!



*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](http://ACSTO.org).

### **Sunday Morning Bible Classes:**

The class is studying **Just Jesus**. The lessons are below (and on our website.)

#### **Re: *Heaven, Hell, Holy Scripture***

The Rich Man & Poor Lazarus; The Pharisee & Tax Collector (Luke 16; 18)

#### **Re: *Forgiving & Being Forgiven***

The Unmerciful Servant; A Mustard Seed Faith (Matthew 18; Luke 17)

#### **Re: *Why "Bad" Things Happen to "Nice" People***

The Healing of a Blind Man; The Raising of Lazarus (John 9; 11)

#### **Re: *Proper Priorities***

The Feeding of the 5,000; "I Am the Bread of Life"; The Wise and the Foolish Builders (John 6; Luke 6)

### **Friendship Circle December Event - Chandler Concert in the Courtyard - December 12, 2025**

Join us in celebrating the Christmas holiday with a free Christmas Concert in downtown Chandler (near the library) on Friday, December 12, 2025, from 6- 8PM. We will carpool from the church, meet at 5:30PM. The event is outside, so dress appropriately and wear comfortable shoes. Downtown Chandler is highly decorated, so we can always wander around and check out the downtown area. For more information, please contact Kris Powell at 602-463-5843 or [krispowell316@gmail.com](mailto:krispowell316@gmail.com).



## December Birthdays

Best wishes to the following who celebrate birthdays this month:

Zachary Altman	Dec. 5
Alan Egelseer	Dec. 5
Michelle Burchette	Dec. 6
Emmitt Warskow	Dec. 7
Easton Warskow	Dec. 7
Warren Converse	Dec. 7
Arabella Spaude	Dec. 10
Tanner Lowry	Dec. 11
Sandra Vermie	Dec. 14
Madison Cole	Dec. 16
Sarah Caswell	Dec. 19
Trisha Gourlay	Dec. 19
Roger Johnson	Dec. 20
Kayla Johnson	Dec. 25
Carol Egelseer	Dec. 26
James Armbruster	Dec. 28
Clare Hasulak	Dec. 29
Riley Cole	Dec. 29



If your birthday is not listed, please email the office manager, Randi at [office@calvarychandler.net](mailto:office@calvarychandler.net) so your records can be updated.

## Through My Bible in a Year DECEMBER

- 1 2 Corinthians 5-8
- 2 2 Corinthians 9-13
- 3 Galatians 1-3
- 4 Galatians 4-6
- 5 Ephesians 1-3
- 6 Ephesians 4-6
- 7 Philippians 1-4
- 8 1 Thessalonians 1-5
- 9 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 10 1 Timothy 1-6
- 11 2 Timothy 1-4
- 12 Titus 1-3
- 13 Philemon 1
- 14 Hebrews 1-4
- 15 Hebrews 5-7
- 16 Hebrews 8-10
- 17 Hebrews 11-13
- 18 James 1-5
- 19 1 Peter 1-2
- 20 1 Peter 3-5
- 21 2 Peter 1-3
- 22 1 John 1-3
- 23 1 John 4-5
- 24 2 & 3 John
- 25 Jude-Revelation 1-2
- 26 Revelation 3-6
- 27 Revelation 7-10
- 28 Revelation 15-18
- 29 Revelation 19-22

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