

CALVARY COURIER

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2026

And Through the Starting Gate We Go!

Upcoming Events

March 10th – Mornings with Mommy @ 10AM

March 22nd – Quarthaus outing @ 3PM

March 29th – Bookclub @ 3PM

April 19th Friendship Circle Event @ 4PM

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked, who does not stand on the path with sinners, and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers. But his delight is in the teaching of the Lord, and on his teaching he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and its leaves do not wither. Everything he does prospers.”
– Psalm 1:1-3

“And through the starting gate they go” is a phrase we have heard often these past few days. The 2026 Winter Olympic Games are underway in the mountains of northern Italy. Olympians who compete in downhill skiing, bobsled, speed skating, and luge all begin from starting points and race at furious speeds to the finish line. It is what they have spent years, if not lifetimes, training to do. It is their dream to win a medal at the games.

It would also be a strange thing to see your favorite American Olympian suddenly slow in their intensity, stop in their race entirely, or even had the audacity to sit down and chit-chat with the spectators. We might wonder, what is going on? What about all their training? What happened to their focus? Where is their heart? What a disappointing spectacle that would be!

Psalm 1 is the starting gate into the book book of Psalms. Psalm 1 begins with warning and encouragement. For the people of Goboth then and now, a danger existed to slow down, stop, and even sit in judgement upon God and his Word. Especially for those trained to follow in Jesus’ footsteps, we are not immune to the temptation of slowing to a stop in our race of faith. Such danger to our souls exists when we fill ourselves up with the values of the world. If we drink from its vain reason and indulge in its destructive sins we may also find our pace towards heaven slowing down with deadly distractions. We get bogged down with doubt, stand in defiance to our God, or even sit in criticism of God’s word. We need to be on guard in our lives of faith.

As temptations abound, let’s continue to remain focused with the help of God the Holy Spirit to remain in his word. Here there is a clear proclamation of forgiveness for the times we have been woefully negligent – even those times we have made a downright mockery out of what God has said. Here there is payment for all of our sins in the ugly, yet necessary, cross of Jesus. Here in the Word we have the opportunity to cherish, meditate, and apply God’s will to our hearts. Here we are rejuvenated by his grace in all areas of our life. Here we are planted by God with a specific purpose in his kingdom. Here our roots are deeply connected to Jesus and are nourished with his message of salvation. And here we flourish with our Savior, bearing his name with fruit **“that will endure”**. For as we hold to our Lord and his Word, even better than a medal, our end goal is to be home with the Lord in heaven. God has made our end goal clear and accessible entirely through our Savior. Knowing this, we can rejoice in the instruction, training, and hope given to our souls in his Word.

Hello March



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Pastor Martin Spaude

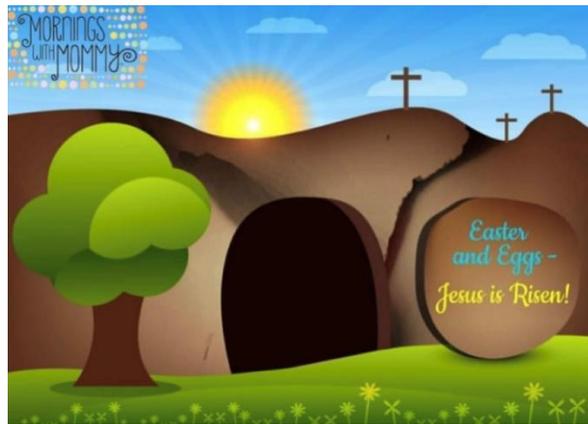


Mornings with Mommy took a break during the month of February.

Join us again on March 10th at 10AM!

Our theme is “Easter & Eggs-Jesus is Risen.”

Sign-up on the church website.



Scan this with your phone to donate to Calvary.

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

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

1270 N. Dobson Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85224
480-963-9397
www.calvarychandler.net

Worship: 6PM Saturday/9AM Sunday

March Worship

Use this Schedule to Prepare Yourself

February 28 & March 1	Lent 2
Theme: We receive salvation through faith in Jesus as our Savior. This faith is God's gift given to us throughout the gospel. Liturgy: Service of the Word & Sacrament Psalm 121 Lessons: Genesis 12:1-8; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 Hymns: Blue: 613, 570, 429, 811 Red: ---, 391, 105, 402	
March 4	Midweek Lent 3
Theme: The Truth, the Whole truth and Nothing but the Truth – Zechariah 8:14-17 Psalm 25 Hymns: Blue: 396 vs. 1-3, 6-7, 408, 633, 537 Red: 114 vs. 1-3, 6-7, 116, ---, ---	
March 7 & 8	Lent 3
Theme: In life we thirst for many things, but only one is there to satisfy our greatest need, Jesus the water of life. Liturgy: Service of the Word Psalm 95 (blue hymnal) Lessons: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-8; John 4:5-26 Hymns: Blue: 708, 394, 874, 839 Red: ---, 106, 289, 389	
March 11	Midweek Lent 4
Theme: The Kingly Priest – Zechariah 6:9-13 Psalm 138 Hymns: Blue: 674 vs. 1-4, ---, 414, 581 Red: ---, 359, ---, 380	
March 14 & 15	Lent 4
Theme: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes so that we see him and live. Liturgy: The Common Service with Communion Psalm 27 Lessons: Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39 Hymns: Blue: 576, 904, 404, 405 Red: 379, 569, 121, 319	
March 18	Midweek Lent 5
Theme: Look at the One Who Was Pierced – Zechariah 12:10-13 Psalm 32 Hymns: Blue: 433, 434, 409, 400 Red: 140, ---, 108, 411	
March 21 & 22	Lent 5
Theme: Jesus proved his power over death by raising people from the dead and by his own resurrection. Because he lives so will we forever in the glory of heaven. Liturgy: Service of the Word Psalm 130 Lessons: 2 Kings 4:17-37; Romans 8: 11-19; John 11: 17-27, 38-45 Hymns: Blue: 502, 836, 396, 517 Red: 449, 431, 114, 353	

March 25

Midweek Lent 6

Theme: What's He Worth to You? – Zechariah 11:7-13

Psalm 119c

Hymns: Blue: 717, 823, 398, 402

Red: 477, 349, 128, 103

March 28 & 29

Palm Sunday

Theme: Jesus entered Jerusalem a king so humble that many miss his importance. Hail the king who humbly comes to save us!

Liturgy: Special Service

Psalm 24

Lessons: Zechariah 9:9-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21: 1-11

Hymns: Blue: 412, 413, 543, 411

Red: 131, 130, 373, 133

Calvary Craft Day Brings Greetings to Hundreds

At the end of January, several members of Calvary, along with friends and family, came together to make a difference in someone's life. Valentine's Day is often a challenging holiday especially for those in need. This year, thanks to the hard work of artistic volunteers, people will receive a hand-made card to brighten their day. Teaming with four local charities, our group was able to produce more than 800 Valentine's themed cards. Our local charities include Thema Health, Arizona Food Bank Network, Casa de La Luz East, and Mesa Public Library.



March Worship – Identity Revealed

Our worship services in March will follow this pattern:

Feb. 28 & March 1: Lent 2

Faith

March 7 & 8: Lent 3

Water

March 14 & 15: Lent 4

Sight

March 21 & 22: Lent 5

Life

March 28 & 29: Palm Sunday

To See Your King

Friendship Circle FAMILY Event: Mark your calendars, ***ALL ARE INVITED***, for Sunday, April 19th at 4PM at Calvary for a Friendship Circle Family Event! There will be cornhole games and making your own pizza!

Dough, sauce and cheese will be provided. A sign-up sheet for toppings is on the back counter of the entryway to church.

Any questions, please speak to Debbie Spaude.

Stewardship Tools

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. In their home was a table in the living room that contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn. What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use CW 609, "We Praise You, O God."

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before you, and kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus. Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship you, O God of our Fathers, we bless you;
Thro' trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to his continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God. But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in.

*With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the liturgy. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar. God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

From Calvary's Stewardship Committee

Update on the 50th Anniversary Special Projects: Plans have been drawn up for the renovation of the **Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Sanctuary**. Presentations have been made to the voters and the congregation. More bids are being finalized. The hope is that the project can begin sometime after Easter or the beginning of May

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.



Karen Brueser

March 8, 1944 – February 4, 2026

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 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 for a multi-media Bible study of this fascinating New Testament book. Revelation: Get Pumped for the End.

Midweek Lenten Services

As in past years, our midweek Lenten services will be at 11AM and 7PM. There will be a dinner served prior to the evening service, beginning at 5:30PM. The structure of our services is as follows:



The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah Catechetical Review of The Creed

For over 1000 years, Ash Wednesday has been observed as the solemn beginning of the penitential season Lent. It began as a stand-alone Wednesday service, much like Ascension is a stand-alone Thursday service. Additional midweek Lenten services were a much later addition, generally used for catechetical review.

In Lutheranism, the Catechism has long been associated with Lent. Martin Luther himself used the season to review the parts of the catechism. In a Lenten sermon of 1529, he wrote, *"This exhortation ought not only to move us older ones, but also the young and the children. Therefore, you parents ought to instruct and educate them in the doctrine of the Lord: the Decalog, the Creed, the Prayer, and the Sacraments"* (W.30,1,233). Luther would preach on parts of the catechism and ask parents to review those portions with their children throughout the week.

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. We are featuring especially Jenna Traudt. The other Traudt children attending Pilgrim are Micah, Aaron and Grace. You can give using one of the forms at church or online at: ACSTO.org.

March's book club pick is "A Stranger's Game" by Colleen Coble...

Even though Torie Bergstrom hasn't been back to Georgia since she was ten, she was happy to arrange a job for her best friend at one of the family properties on Jekyll Island. But when Torie learns that Lisbeth has drowned, she knows it is more than a tragic accident: Lisbeth was terrified of water and wouldn't have gone swimming by choice.

Come join us at 3PM on Sunday, March 29th to find out how it ends. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend. Questions, please contact Kris Powell at 602-463-5843 or krispowell316@gmail.com.



GUINEA PIG POTLUCK BINGO 2026

What a wonderful evening of fellowship. About 43 people were in attendance. The cooks and bakers didn't disappoint us in their efforts to experiment with "new" recipes. After our delicious meal, it was time to get down to some serious B-I-N-G-O playing. The numbers were called by seasoned caller, Brad Reinke. Participants, both young and old, marked their cards by using either chips or m & m's. Bingo's top prize, the coveted prunes, was won by Dave Schroeder! We look forward to seeing you all in 2027!

Come enjoy an afternoon of **fun and fellowship** at Quarthaus in downtown Chandler on Sunday, March 22nd starting at 3PM! There's plenty of outdoor space to relax, connect, and enjoy time together, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Parking is conveniently located across the street in the parking garage. For questions and to RSVP, call or text Jackie Corry at (480) 352-2368. We can't wait to see you there!

Quarthaus – 201 S. Washington St. Chandler, 85225



March Birthdays

Paul Spaude - March 1
Barb Anderson - March 5
Loretta Gannon - March 10
Pete Sachs - March 13
Kris Powell - March 16
Sandra Mihail – March 17
Aaron Cross - March 19
Ben Coker - March 22
Kimberly Grimm - March 22
Autumn Kucenski - March 24
Kent Kominska - March 28
Sue Schroeder - March 28
Irene Grambow - March 29
Sarah Cuocci - March 30
Nathan Traudt – March 30



March

1 Deuteronomy 1-4
2 Deuteronomy 5-7
3 Deuteronomy 8-10
4 Deuteronomy 11-13
5 Deuteronomy 14-16
6 Deuteronomy 17-20
7 Deuteronomy 21-23
8 Deuteronomy 24-27
9 Deuteronomy 28-30
10 Deuteronomy 31-34
11 Joshua 1-3
12 Joshua 4-6
13 Joshua 7-8
14 Joshua 9-10
15 Joshua 11-13
16 Joshua 14-16
17 Joshua 17-19
18 Joshua 20-21
19 Joshua 22-23
20 Joshua 24
21 Judges 1-2
22 Judges 3-5
23 Judges 6-7
24 Judges 8-9
25 Judges 10-11
26 Judges 12-14
27 Judges 15-17
28 Judges 18-19
29 Judges 20-21
30 Ruth 1-4
31 1 Samuel 1-3



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