

COME and SEE



what's happening at
Calvary Lutheran Church

165 West Crescent Ave
201-327-4786

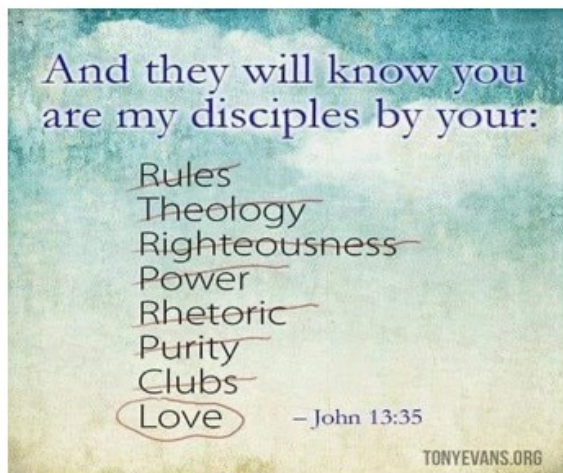
Allendale New Jersey
<http://calvaryluth.org>

December 2024

Calvary's Mission Statement

To teach and display the love of Christ
by connecting with people of all walks of life
through worship, discipleship, and outreach
to our community.

A Message from Pastor Kara



How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! (Psalms 133:1)

Greetings, Calvary Family!

I admit, I've been pleasantly drawn to those social media memes and quotes that inspire, convict, and make me laugh, all at the same time! Swing by the outside door of my office and you will see rotating images that I hope ridiculously resonate with you in some fresh way about our life in God. I chose 2 of them and a Bible verse for this newsletter that I hope you hold close to your heart during this season of holiday gatherings. Oh yes, those conversations that could arise over turkey, sausage stuffing and pumpkin pie...will they be delightful, divisive, or somewhere in-between? Even as Christians, there are things we may disagree on, but to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ is one thing that can glue us together.

Recently, I heard a song that I sung as a child, but had not heard for a while. Peter Scholtes, a Catholic priest serving a parish in the South Side of Chicago during the 1960s, was the director of an inter-racial youth choir. Not finding the right song, Scholtes wrote this hymn, one that would reflect ecumenical hopes during the Civil Rights movement and be treasured by both Catholics & Protestants. Reflect on these timely words of each stanza as you represent Christ in your gatherings this season:

1) We are One in The Spirit, We are One in The Lord. We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

***(CHORUS) And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

2) We will work with each other, We will work side by side. We will work with each other,
We will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's dignity, And save each man's pride.

(CHORUS)

3) We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand. We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand. And together we'll spread the News, that God is in our land.

***And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

I hope you make Calvary part of your gatherings this Christmas season - there are plenty listed in this newsletter! There are many opportunities to be “One in the Spirit,” to “work side by side” to “walk hand in hand.” But most importantly, may others know that “we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.”

*Keep on Loving, Keep on Trusting - In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kara*

YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT CULTURAL FOOD OUTING SUSHI-MAKING & CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

2:00 PM

PASTOR KARA'S HOME

The Parsonage: 70 Ivers Road



We will learn how to make California Rolls from P. Kara's friend, accompanied by miso soup, gyoza, and other Japanese side items.



**Prepare the way!
Come help decorate
Calvary
for Advent and
Christmas!**



**Saturday, November 30
10:00 am** any time you can give!

Altar Flowers 2025

The 2025 flower chart is in the narthex.

Please take this opportunity
to beautify the sanctuary and
celebrate the many joyous events
in your life or remember loved ones.

Please indicate one or both arrangements for the week

Each arrangement costs \$15
Payable to Kathy Peterson

FLOWERS		
 <i>January</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>February</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>March</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____
 <i>April</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>May</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>June</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____
 <i>July</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>August</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>September</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____
 <i>October</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>November</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____	 <i>December</i> DATE _____ PRESENTED BY _____

Children's Christmas Pageant



Calvary's Youth
will present the
Christmas story at the
worship service on
December 15
at 10:30!

Bring Family & Friends !

Also on December 15,
Friends with Music
String musicians
will join us during the
10:30 worship service!



Calvary's Choral Worship

December 22 at 10:30

Christmas Cantata

*Come to a special Service of
The Word and Choral Worship
including*

*"I Hear the Prophet Callin"
by Pepper Choplin*

Bring friends and family!



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24 5:00 PM

*Invite family and friends to celebrate
the birth of our Savior at
the traditional Candlelight service.*





CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

December 15 11:45 AM

Workshop Highlights:

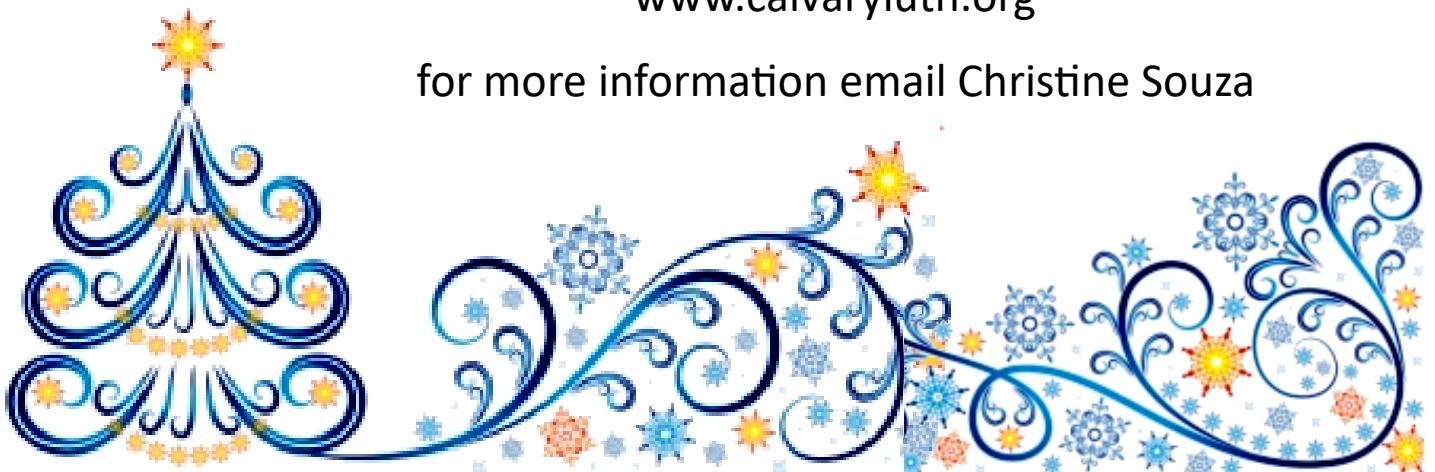
luncheon; Christmas crafts;
Christmas sing along; photos with Santa

LOVE OFFERING TO BENEFIT CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION
and/or

PLEASE BRING A NON_PERISHABLE FOOD OR BABY CARE ITEM

PLEASE REGISTER BY DECEMBER 8 at-
www.calvaryluth.org

for more information email Christine Souza



Worship Assistants

December 2023



Counters: Tori Gooden & Kristine Nooney

Dec	Altar Guild	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Lector	Ushers
1 blue	Christine Kim Kathy Peterson	Cindy Strauch Kathy Peterson	Petersons	Christine Souza	G.Strauch J.Tangen
8 blue	Christine Kim	✦	George Strauch	George Strauch	M. Levitzke N.Roller
15 blue	Christine Kim	✦	Heitmans	Children's Christmas Pageant	J.Peterson J. Tangen
22 blue	Christine Kim	✦	Glaesers	Laura Heitman Rich Karpowich	G.Strauch N.Roller
24 Christmas Eve white	Kathy Peterson	Chris Souza Cindy Strauch	Glaesers	Anna Nooney	J.Peterson G.Strauch M.Levitzke N. Roller
29 white	Cindy Strauch	✦	Mike Levitzke	Mike Levitzke	J.Tangen M.Levitzke
Jan 5 white	Alma Costello	Alma Costello Kristine Nooney	Hollands	Nancy Holland	G.Strauch N.Roller



Join us for a study
of the Gospel verses of
Advent 2025

All are welcome!

December 3
December 17
2:00 PM

December Birthdays

Your Calvary family wishes you
a happy birthday and joy in the year to come.

2 Emily Meyer
3 Christian Metri
Reed Barnard
Christian Barnard
4 Maddie Borst
5 James Strauch
8 Gale Gunhus
Sawyer Barnard
9 Clinton Poff
10 Stephen Begen
Paul Dunn
11 Connor Damstrom
Nicholas Nacion
13 Sarah Strauch



14 Anna Nooney
Chris Cauda
George Strauch
Darrell Coco
Leah Kemball-Cook
16 Scott Peterson
Clark Dunn
22 Remi Claire
23 Marilyn Agresta
24 Katrina Brauer
28 Danielle Coco
Steven Coco
30 Karen Kolstad

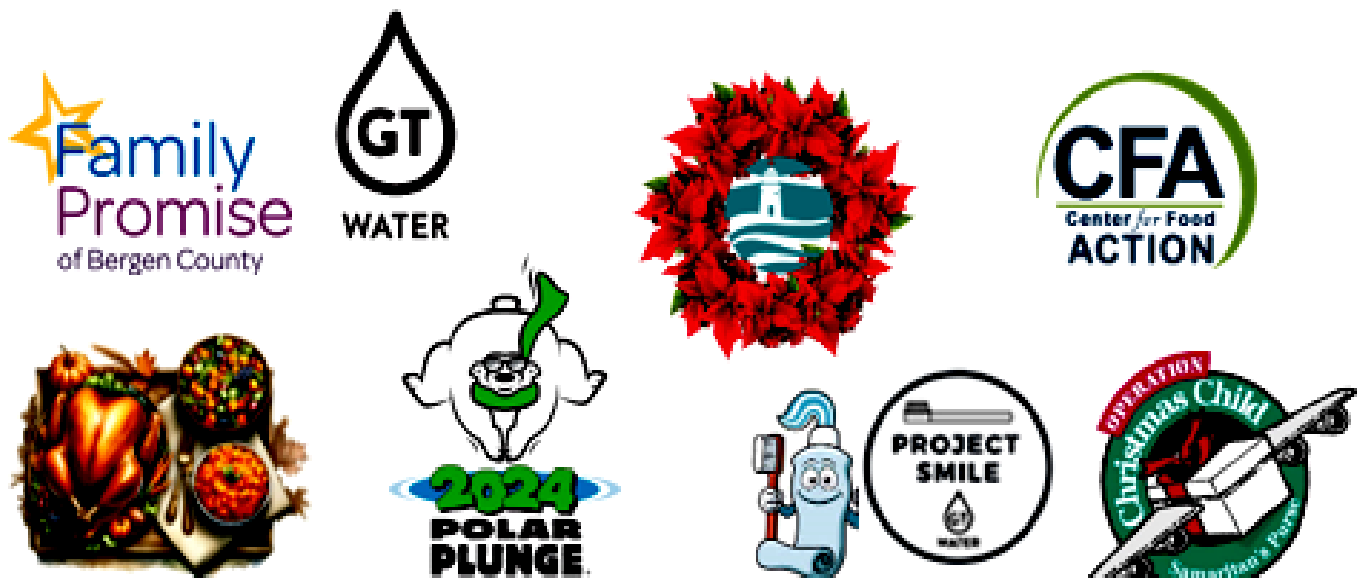
CALVARY OUTREACH

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A NOTE OF THANKS

for supporting our local and world-wide missions. Through your prayers and generosity, children are experiencing the love of God via **Operation Christmas Child**. Our neighbors, who are food challenged, were able to share a Thanksgiving meal and more because of your donations to the **CFA**. Seafarers and refugees, far from home and working in miserable conditions will feel cared for and connected as they open their satchels (**Seafarers International House**). Our friends in Haiti and Honduras can have clean water and dental proper hygiene with donations to **GTWater** and **Project Smile**. Our sponsored "plunges" benefit The **Special Olympics** and when we "Hike for Hope, we supporting **Family Promise's** work to keep families together and fight the battle against homelessness and hunger.

We have made a difference in the lives of many but there a lot more work to do.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU





NOTES FROM CALVARY'S TREASURER

Hope you are readying for the upcoming Holidays. We are working on Calvary's year-end which includes finalizing 2024 and working with you on the 2025 Budget. As we continue our processes your continued support is paramount to Calvary's short- and long-term viability. Since Calvary is a non-profit organization, your donations continue to be tax deductible. Here are a few ways that WE can pursue and ensure our ongoing ability to serve.

Giving Options:

We have several online donation options: Zelle, Bill Pay, and PayPal. We prefer Zelle and Bill Pay over PayPal due to the 3.5% convenience fee that PayPal charges.

Zelle

Use the QR code below to pay through ZELLE.



Bill Pay

We also offer Online Bill Pay (which will avoid the 3.5% convenience fee that PayPal charges): You can set this up one-time or auto-pay through your online banking account.

For any questions or if you need more info, please contact Church Treasurer, Carl Glaeser

Gift of Appreciated Securities – Cash, Bonds, Stocks, Mutual Funds. (If you want to give other assets aka coins, real estate, businesses, cars, artwork etc. please contact me)

For you to donate appreciated securities to Calvary, you need to initiate that process through your Custodian (Schwab, Fidelity, Thrivent, ML and others) There's usually a simple one-page form to fill out where the Custodian will indicate the ticker and number of shares you want to give. (if you need help identifying and contacting

your Custodian, please contact me) The only thing you should need is the name of the church account which is simply “Calvary Lutheran Church” and address, the Thrivent account number, which I can provide over a phone call if needed, and the name of the receiving firm, which would be “NFS” or “National Financial Services”. You will receive the “Fair Market Value” as a IRS tax deduction for your Gift. If you are interested and need additional information, please call or email me .

The Current Financial State of Calvary (based on October 2024)

Revenue - Source

Facility Rentals	\$2,650
Fund Raising	\$1,404
Designated Memorials	\$8,904
Member Pledges (19)	\$56,602
Non-Member Pledges	\$4,010
Non – Pledge Donations	\$21,000
Total	\$94,570
Additional Monies from Endowment	\$25,000
Total Cash Received YTD	\$119,570

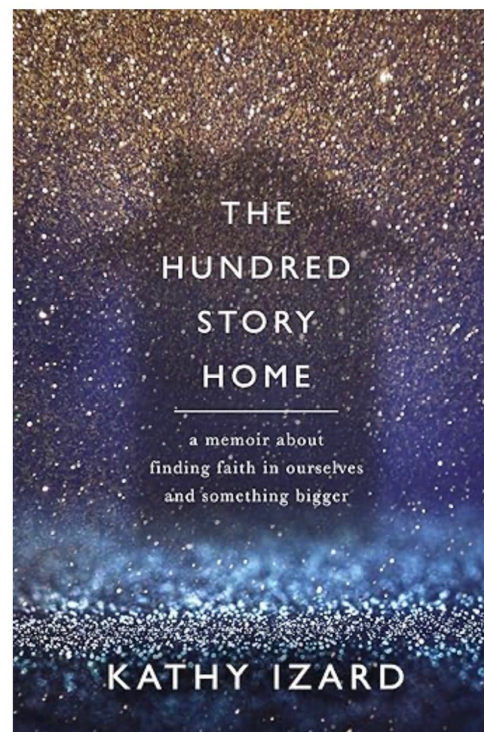
Consolidated Expenses	\$129,059
Deficit (October 2024)	(\$9,489)*

*Excludes Allendale Tax Payment

BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK DINNER

JANUARY 7, 2025 6:30

Woven together in this uplifting story of a call to social action is Kathy’s personal struggle with faith, forgiveness and fulfillment. In telling her story, Kathy invites you to consider what might be calling you and whatever it might be, big or small, trust the whisper. © Kathy Izard website



WORSHIP WITH US



BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2025

WE WILL CELEBRATE COMMUNION TWICE A MONTH.

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH,
WE WILL OFFER WINE AND JUICE
IN THE INDIVIDUAL SMALL CUPS.

ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH,
WE WILL SERVE WINE AND JUICE BY INTINCTION.

WORSHIPPERS WILL RECEIVE THE WAFER AND DIP IT
INTO EITHER A CHALICE OF WINE OR JUICE.

Calendars Wanted

Janet Berger collects and distributes calendars to local nursing homes. The brightly colored pictures are used to bring some beauty to the residents' rooms. If you find that you receive more calendars than you can use, please recycle by giving Janet the extra calendar(s).

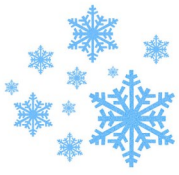


Why not start the new year as part of the
Worship Assistant Team?

Communion Assistants, Ushers, & Greeters
are needed. It's a great way to serve!

Speak to Kathy Peterson for more information or be
added to schedule.





December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Communion Service 11:45 Worship & Music Mtg	2 9:15-11:45 Office hours	3 9:15-11:45 Office hours 2:00 Bible Study	4 9:15-11:45 Office hours 7:30 Choir Practice	5 9:15-11:45 Office hours	6	7
8 9:30 Property Mtg 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 2:00 Youth/Young adult gathering	9 9:15-11:45 Office hours	10 9:15-11:45 Office hours	11 9:15-11:45 Office hours 7:30 Choir Practice	12 9:15-11:45 Office hours	13	14
15 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Children's Christmas Pageant 11:45 Christmas Workshop	16 9:15-11:45 Office hours	17 9:15-11:45 Office hours 2:00 Bible Study	18 9:15-11:45 Office hours 7:30 Choir practice	19 9:15-11:45 Office hours	20	21
22 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Choral Worship	23 9:15-11:45 Office hours	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight service	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 9:15-11:45 Office hours	27	28
29 no Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service of Song and Verse	30 9:15-11:45 Office hours	31 <i>Happy New Year</i>				

Church Information



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Holland	President
Alma Costello	Vice President
Gerry DelGatto	Secretary
Carl Glaeser	Treasurer
Mercedes Caes	Stewardship liaison
Marilyn Agresta	Worship & Music liaison
Christine Souza	Outreach liaison
Christina Metri	Caring liaison
Kristine Nooney	Education liaison
Tori Gooden	Property liaison

If you are in need of pastoral support,
please contact:

Reverend Kara Song

through the church office

Office Administrator: Edward Farnhagen

Office Phone 201-327-4786

Office E-Mail: office@calvaryluth.org

Office Hours: M,T, W, Th 9:15-11:45

Website: www.calvaryluth.org

Find us on Facebook

MINISTERS AND WITNESSES :

All the people of
Calvary Lutheran Church

Music Director
Elise Carter

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CARING

Laurie Jacober
Janet Berger,

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Glaeser

OUTREACH

Lori McCue

PROPERTY

George Strauch

STEWARDSHIP

Marilyn Agresta

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Kathy Peterson

Blessing of Confirmands & Mentors

A Symbolic process using
water & rocks



Confirmation Students:
James, Lexi, & Jayden
with their Mentors
(all their grandparents!).

Faith Formation Director
Annie Gesualdo, from
Redeemer, assisted.

Confirmation Class was held immediately afterwards
– sharing time with their mentors



Sunday School Super Heroes!

