

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri
Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112
Brian Whittle, Pastor
Email: stjohnstringtown@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnstringtown.org
Facebook: fb.me/stjohnstringtown/

January 5, 2025 † Second Sunday after Christmas

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

Today the paraments are white as we continue to celebrate the birth of the Savior!

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**).

Last Sunday, December 29, 2024:

Attendance: 75 (6 livestream)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF: 16 / 15 / 2

Offerings: \$1933 / \$0 / \$345 (electronic)

New Years' Day attendance: 17

Calvary Lutheran High School News and Information

THANK YOU! – Calvary is blessed by everyone who supports us through prayer, words of encouragement, and financial gifts. As we begin the season of Epiphany, we join with the Magi to know more about our newborn King and Messiah so we can share the good news with the world!

CALVARY GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - You're invited to join us at the Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament ***THIS WEEK*** Friday and Saturday, January 10 and 11! Come out for a weekend full of exciting games as 6 teams from across Missouri compete for the top spot. *Lady Lions' first game is Friday at 6:30pm.*

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

Jan. 9 **JV Boys/ V Boys at 5:30 v. Richland**
Jan. 10-11 **Calvary Girls Basketball Tourn**

Live stream the games: [twitch.tv/calvarylhs](https://www.twitch.tv/calvarylhs)

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

LAST CALL FOR EMBROIDERED CALVARY WEAR - DUE TOMORROW!

Embroidered Calvary wear can be ordered through January 6. Visit linkre.ee/calvarylhs to view the catalog.

CALVARY'S GIFT, BACK IN ACTION! - The volunteers took a well-deserved break! Store hours return WEDNESDAY, Jan 8. Get your donations of gently used items ready to go! You can do some cleaning and get your shop on! You are also invited to volunteer at the store. This could mean sorting items, handling donations, and ringing up sales. Come see where you can help out in the New Year! Find the volunteer application at linktr.ee/calvarylhs or Call (573)659-8176.

LAST DAY FOR \$50 EARLY REGISTRATION BONUS - Registration is OPEN for the 2025-2026 school year! Incoming 9th graders and current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can already register for next year! When you apply or re-register for next school year with your *\$100 registration fee by TOMORROW, January 6, 2025, you will receive a \$50 credit* toward your student's '25-'26 tuition. REGISTER TODAY!

SAVE THE DATE –

Jan. 10-11 Calvary Girls Basketball Tournament

Jan. 16-18 Calvary Archery Tournament

Feb. 7-8 Calvary Boys Basketball Tournament

Feb. 6 Discover Calvary Day (*Visit Day for 7th Graders*)

Happening at St. John's:

The flooring is scheduled to be replaced in the Parish Hall in early January. Help will be needed to move some of the tables, chairs, etc out of the way. Stay tuned for more information!

“Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God’s child in the peace of Jesus.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING

CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s topics include: The Promises of God, The Top Biblical Archeological Discoveries of 2024, Eastern Orthodoxy, the Book of Lamentations and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

This week:

Sunday, 1/5 9am Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
 10am Divine Service

Tues, 1/7 6:30pm Confirmation Class

Sunday, 1/12 9am Sunday School / Adult Bible Class / LYF
 10am Divine Service (Pastor Spotts is guest preacher)
 Visit from John Christman, Exec. Dir for CLHS
 Fellowship

The Epiphany

The term “epiphany” refers to a revelation or a divine visitation. In common English usage, it reflects a sudden insight, but through the history of the church, it has been reserved to indicate the day when first the Divine glory was revealed to the Magi who had come from the east.

The Feast of the Epiphany is always on January 6, twelve days after the celebration of Christmas. Since the fourth century, this is the day on which the church has chosen to celebrate the historic visit of gentiles from outside of Israel, come to visit the newborn king. It was on that day that Jesus was presented with the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew records in chapter 2 the visit of the Magi. The number of visitors is not specified; only that they brought the 3 gifts. It also indicates that they found Jesus with Mary, in a house. This, with certain archaeological evidence, suggests a different picture than you may have been imagining.

Recent discoveries suggest that there was not an “inn” as we think of it. More likely, Luke referred to a guest room on the upper floor of the house of a relative of Mary. The same Greek word would be used for the “upper room” where Jesus later celebrated Passover with His disciples (though in Jerusalem rather than Bethlehem). A different word is used for the place to which the Good Samaritan took the victim he rescued from the road.

The pieces all point to Mary and Joseph staying on the lower level of a house, where the kitchen would be, along with space to bring in animals from the cold, while the family and their guests would typically sleep upstairs. Thus, Jesus was perhaps born in a house, where animals might be kept, so there was a stone food trough (manger) there that would serve as his bassinet. This is where the star led the shepherds that night.

And twelve days later, according to custom, the star led the Magi, who brought Him gifts. In some cultures, presents are given in celebration of Epiphany rather than Christmas! This marks the end of the season and celebration of Christmas!

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his | glory,*
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.
Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!*Praise your God, O | Zion!

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.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his | glory,*
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

Kyrie

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none

like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

410 Within the Father's House

- 1 Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law
Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.

3 Yet not to them is giv'n
The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.

4 The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace

△ 6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that Your Son, the eternal Word, has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that many would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

You have blessed us in Christ, Your beloved Son, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Preserve Your Church by the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism. Raise up among us faithful preachers to the praise of Christ's glory, until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him. Continue to bless and strengthen Pastor Peter Kurowski, missionaries Joshua Wareham and David Erber, and military chaplains Bryan Meadows, Nicholas Price, and Joshua Schneider

You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein. Bless Grayson Kautsch (1/5), Adler Kautsch(1/5), Carrie Whittle(1/5), and Brad Plaster (1/9) as they celebrate birthdays this week.

You gave to Your servant Solomon unsurpassed wisdom to rule Your people Israel, chiefly the wisdom that begins in fearing You. Give to the leaders and elected officials of our nation wisdom for their task to discern between good and evil and to govern this people in peace and quietness. Be gracious to preserve our president and president-elect, our governor, and all legislators and judges

Give patience and endurance to all who are sick or in any need, especially Cindy Eggen, Marguerite Young, LeeRoy Wunderlich, Tammy Deaver, Ken Meller, Marilyn Brandt, Patty Ott, and heal them according to Your will. Receive our thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness You have shown to Your people in Christ. Give comfort and hope to all who mourn

Lord God, heavenly Father, in mercy You have established the

Christian home among us. We implore You, rule and direct our hearts to be good examples to children and those subject to us. Grant that we may not offend them by word or deed but faithfully teach them to love Your Church and hear Your blessed Word. Give them Your Spirit and grace, that this seed may bring forth good fruit and our homelife may advance Your glory, honor and praise as well as our own improvement and welfare, giving offense to no one; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

- 2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. Refrain
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl'em,
The Savior and the Lord. Refrain
- 5 All idols then shall perish
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.