

sunday times

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., Cranford, NJ 07016-2122
(908) 276-2418 office@calvarycranford.com <http://www.calvarycranford.com>

Loving God, if people here today are putting on a happy face for the season but feeling sad inside, help them sense your comforting touch – maybe even through me.

If you are visiting with us today, please fill out one of the yellow "Welcome Friend" forms located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.



"The Homeland of the Prince of Peace: Yesterday and Today"

Cradle of Civilization, Manger of Jesus, Holy Land of Chaos...the season of Advent calls us to consider anew Christ's Coming in our lives and in our world today. Pastor Carol's sermons during this special season will focus this year on the people, places, pieties and politics of the Middle East. Pastor Carol is enormously grateful to Dr. David Grafton, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, for his lectures which have informed and inspired these sermons. We ask for God's direction and blessing during this important time.

We are assembling a **Youth Bell Choir** to ring the bells on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec 24, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, January 3, at 10:30 AM. All youth in Grades 7-12 are invited to participate. Jeanne Elmuccio will rehearse with the Youth Bell Choir on Sundays, 4:30pm – 5:15pm. **Please join us TODAY for rehearsal and on Sunday, Dec 20, and Tuesday, Dec 22.** For questions or more information email Lynda Pullis, lynda@calvarycranford.com.



CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

Calvary's income for YTD November 2015 is \$266,981. Our expense totaled \$283,850 which leaves us with a shortfall of \$16,869. Thank you for all that helped to close the gap from early in the fall as we look to close out the year in a positive position. Please take the time to complete your pledge. Calvary is able to receive your gifts by:

- Making credit card payments through the church's website www.calvarycranford.com
- Adding us to your bill paying procedure on your bank website - we appear on many drop down menus.
- For those of you who prefer to use your smartphone, the QR code is above.

Pastoral Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- ✠ Paul Kaiser, son of June Kaiser, was diagnosed with melanoma. He is awaiting further tests.



ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA THIS MORNING!

Help to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Worship! The cost of each plant is \$14.95; order forms are in the bulletins and in the narthex. The deadline was extended until **today**.

Advent Cross†Generational Engagement

Lucia: Saint of Light. Today at 9:15 am.

Everyone is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Lucia. Shining the light of Christ for all the world, Lucia devoted her life to God giving all she had to the poor. We will honor St. Lucia thru story and song, decorate cookies and weave heart baskets.

The **Prayer Shawl group** will meet **TODAY, December 13th**, in the Betty Dahlquist room between services. **Drop in anytime between 9:15 am - 10:30 am** and join our friendly group.



Making Ornaments
Inviting all **Infants and Toddlers (ages baby to 3 years)** wishing to make a personalized holiday gift for their parents or grandparents. Today, we will be making holiday crafts from **9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.** in the downstairs classroom room # 402. Please stop in and join us!

The **Women's Bible Study** is dining at 12:30pm, Friday, **December 18** at the Chestnut Chateau in Union. The cost is 28 dollars per person. All are welcome. Call June Kaiser 908-276-2546.



AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR ALL AGES TONIGHT AT 5:30 PM

All are invited!! Bring your voices & enthusiasm as we go caroling and spread Christmas joy to Calvary's shut-ins. We will gather **TODAY** at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall to begin our evening of caroling. After caroling, we will meet back at Fellowship Hall for some light refreshments.

PLEASE LEND A HAND AND HELP US

DECORATE the Sanctuary for Christmas. We will be gathering after the 10:30am service on Sunday 12/20 to decorate our tree and put out the poinsettias and the rest of our holiday trimmings!



Items for Sale today - from Palestine and the West Bank

Part of our special Advent sermon series includes an opportunity for congregants at Calvary to help our brothers

and sisters in the Middle East. You are invited to "shop" up at the Calvary tree during this Advent season. You will find:

Olive Wood Ornaments - \$1.00 each, made in Bethlehem @ Wi'am, the Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center.

Kafiyeh Scarves - \$15.00 each - made in Hebron by local workers.

Olive Oil Soap - \$5.00 each - pure olive oil, no additives, very moisturizing, made using traditional methods in the village of Zababdeh, northern West Bank (be sure and take a card with your purchase - which explains where and how these items are made).

Sales are on an "honor" basis. Please put your cash or checks (made out to Pilgrims of Ibillin) in the red decorated box. Pastor Carol encourages everyone to be generous - no change will be given, put something extra in, if you can. These sales help to fund school projects and assist our neighbors in Palestine and the West Bank. Check out their website: www.pilgrimsofibilin.org and thank you for your support of this important effort!

REACHING FOR HOME SEAN GARNHART'S NEW CD IS HERE FOR YOU AND FOR CALVARY Sean's newest album is full of contemplative piano music and will be on sale in the narthex during the month of December. The CD costs \$15, \$5 of which Sean will donate to Calvary. Pick up your copy today!



Christmas Cookies Every year Cranford Church Women United provides Homemade Cookies for The Cranford Hall Christmas Party. This year the party is scheduled for Dec. 23rd. The cookies must be there by Monday, Dec. 21st. Please call Lois Hasselman at (908) 789-0670. She will pick up cookies and deliver them to the nursing home. Please help us do our part.

JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE - 67 coats were donated to Jersey Cares coat drive and 10 coats to Operation Warm Heart. They were delivered by Richard and Robin Marko. Thanks to all for your generosity!



**Share the Vision -
Make a Difference**

Members and Friends have received Stewardship materials in the mail, which included an Estimate of Giving form for 2016. We are asking everyone to submit a pledge for next year. This is a big part of our Calvary family values – we believe that everyone makes our mission and vision possible. Extra forms are available on the table in the narthex and may be placed in the blue box. If you prefer to send this electronically, please see the form attached to Sunday's Coming each week.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

	8:15am	10:30am
Asst. Min.	Carla Flint	Donna Schlenker
Comm. Asst.	Leslie Schreiber	Karl Schlenker
Ushers	Henry Wichmann Pat Wichmann Cliff Kaiser Brian McCarthy	David Ten Broeck Barb Birger Chuck Sherrick TBD
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Melissa Sullivan	Melissa Sullivan

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Sun 12/13	Worship with Holy Communion
8:15am	Spoken Liturgy, contemporary music
9:15am	Cross†Generational Worship
9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30am	Worship w/Holy Communion
4:30pm	Sung Liturgy, traditional music
5:30pm	Youth Bell Choir Christmas Caroling
Thu 12/17	Midweek Worship w/Holy Communion
1:15pm	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Sun 12/20	Worship with Holy Communion
8:15am	Spoken Liturgy, contemporary music
9:15am	Cross†Generational Worship
9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30am	Worship w/Holy Communion
4:30pm	Sung Liturgy, traditional music Youth Bell Choir

Our office hours are:
Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Tues and Thurs: 10:30am – 5:30pm

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor,
Lynda Pullis, Director, Youth/Family Ministry & Communications
Kathleen Jacinto, Parish Manager
Jeanne Elmuccio, Music Director
Tyler Simko, Associate Organist
Sean McGinity, Contemporary Musician
Marsha Stoltz, Council President

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Stacy Nick-Casey, Director

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Calvary Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) serving Cranford and the surrounding area for more than 85 years.

www.calvarycranford.com

From the Finance Office Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the church narthex. Also, someone picked up envelope #84 by mistake. If you have it, please return it. Thank you.