

sunday times

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 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>

“Star light, star bright ...” Oh, Bethlehem star of Christmas night, lead us to the humble stall to worship Christ as Lord of all. Amen.



“The Homeland of the Prince of Peace: Yesterday and Today”

Pastor Carol's sermons during this special season focus this year on the people, places, pieties and politics of the Middle East.

Here is the link for the ministries related to Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem – check it out this week and go to Bethlehem this Christmas!!

<http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org/>

Cross†Generational Engagement – *Mary and Joseph Show Us the Way to Bethlehem.*

Today at 9:15 am Everyone is invited to join us in Fellowship Hall as our Sunday School children present a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story - gearing up with excitement for the days to come! As we reflect on the different parts of the story, we will also take an opportunity to share different “perspectives” of this most holy occasion of the nativity. Please join us as we partake in the true festivities of the season!



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.

We will close the church books on January 12, 2016. Checks written in 2015 for Calvary may be submitted until that time.

Pastoral Prayers, Joys and Concerns

✠ We are praying today for Colleen Sofronas and her family. Colleen is the Office Administrator of the CNSCC. Colleen's mother, Eileen Duffy Horan (80), died this past Tuesday in Chatham. Services for Mrs. Horan were held this weekend in Bethpage, NY. Colleen is a very important member of our CNSCC family.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
5:00 pm	Children's Service
7:00 pm	Family Service, Communion
10:00 pm	Candlelight Service, Communion
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
10:30 am	Festival Service, Communion
Dec. 27	Christmas I – One Service Only
10:30 am	Eucharistic Service of Carols
Jan. 3	Christmas II – One Service Only
10:30 am	Service with Holy Communion

Come to Bethlehem and See! Our Sunday School students will lead us in worship, story and song on **Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm.** Please join us as we celebrate the true festivities of the season. Why do we present the Christmas story each year? Click on this link [Children Need to Get to Church on Christmas Eve](#) to read Carolyn Brown's blog post that articulates for parents clear reasons to make the effort.



POINSETTIAS

PLEASE LEND A HAND AND HELP US DECORATE

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

We have gathered 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 also on Tuesday, Dec 22nd.** For questions or more information email Lynda Pullis, lynda@calvarycranford.com



making education in Moshi accessible

We are very glad to announce that Amy Wendel will be here next Sunday morning, Dec. 27. In our single service of worship at 10:30am she and Chris, her father, will give us an update on Project MEMA - Making Education in Moshi Accessible. We will see photos from their recent trip to Tanzania and hear about this important work that supports young people and their future.

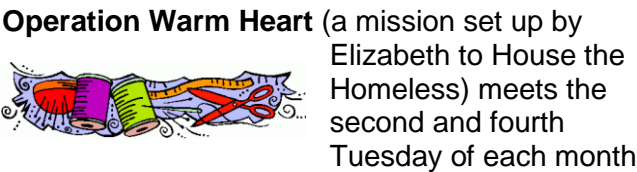


Items for Sale today - from Palestine and the West Bank

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.

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!

Operation Warm Heart (a mission set up by Elizabeth to House the Homeless) meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from December to March, 6:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford and is currently looking for a team of big-hearted sewers who would like to assist in mending the clothing of our guests. Repairs are basic, and all are necessary and appreciated. Operation Warm Heart supplies the needles, straight pins & thread. You would just bring yourself for an hour or so! Contact Robin Marko rdmarko@verizon.net or Catherine Felegi by calling her at (908) 578-8500, or emailing her at Catherine.Felegi@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.



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!



**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.

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.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

	8:15am	10:30am
Asst. Min.	Rob Seavy	Chuck Sherrick
Comm. Asst.	Anne Dawson	Eric Pastore
Ushers	Henry Wichmann Pat Wichmann Cliff Kaiser Brian McCarthy	David Ten Broeck Barb Birger Frank Kylish TBD
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Sue Bird	Sue Bird

THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

Sun 12/20	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
8:15am	Worship with Holy Communion
	Spoken Liturgy, contemporary music
9:15am	Cross†Generational Worship
9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30am	Worship w/Holy Communion
	Sung Liturgy, traditional music
4:30pm	Youth Bell Choir
Thu 12/24	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
5:00 pm	Children's Service w/Lessons&Carols
7:00 pm	Family Service w/Holy Communion
10:00 pm	Festival Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion
Fri 12/25	<i>Christmas Day</i>
10:30 am	Festival Service w/Holy Communion
Sun 12/27	<i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>
10:30 am	Eucharistic Service of Carols w/Holy Communion

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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Lynda Pullis, Director, Youth/Family Ministry & Communications
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Jeanne Elmuccio, Music Director
Tyler Simko, Associate Organist
Sean McGinity, Contemporary Musician
Marsha Stoltz, Council President

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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

Please note: Sunday Times will not be printed on December 27, 2015.