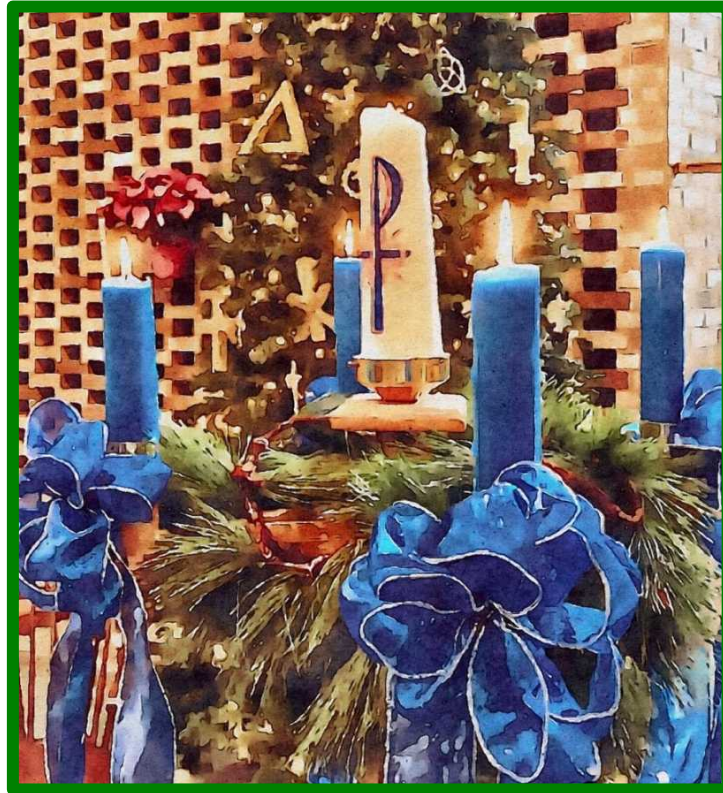


Come and See



What's Happening At Calvary Lutheran Church

165 West Crescent Ave
201-327-4786

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

December 2025



It's time to decorate!

Saturday Nov. 29

9:30 am

Come join in the Calvary tradition!

*It's time to **PREPARE THE WAY!***

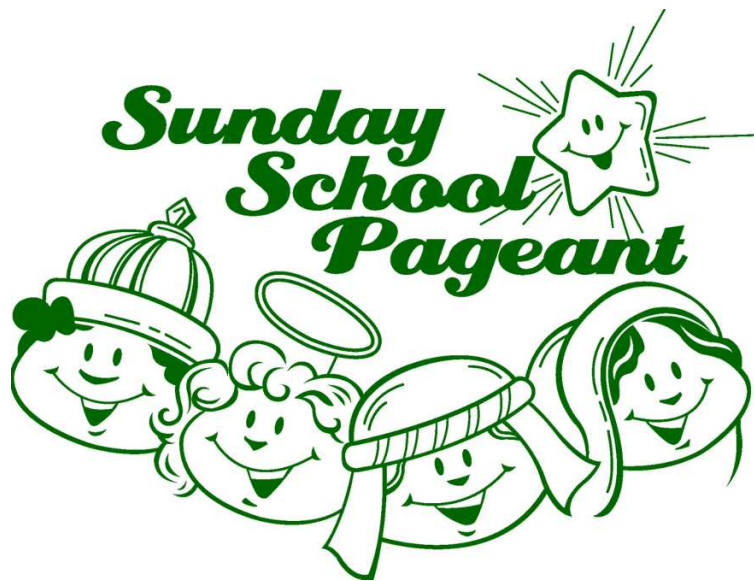
Did you know...



Christmons are Christian symbols used as Christmas decorations, designed to emphasize the religious meaning of the season. The term "Christmons" combines "Christ" and "monogram," referring to symbolic representations of Christ such as the cross, fish (ichthys), Chi-Rho, Alpha and Omega, dove and anchor. These ornaments serve as visual theology, telling the story of Christ's birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and eternal kingship. The tradition began in 1957 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, where Frances Kipps Spencer sought to replace secular decorations with ones that reflected Christian significance. Her handmade or-

naments- typically crafted in white and gold to symbolize purity and glory- quickly inspired other congregations. Today, Christmons are often handmade by church members and used in worship spaces and homes, offering a meaningful way to prepare for Advent and connect generations through shared symbols of faith. from: [ornaments share the story of Jesus- Living Lutheran](#)

Our Christmons were made by CLCW (Calvary Lutheran Church Women) in the early 1970's.



December 14

10:30

*Calvary's Youth
will present the Christmas story
at the worship service on
December 14*

*Also on December 14,
Friends with Music
Young string musicians
will join us during the
10:30 worship service!*



December 14 -Following the Children's Pageant

❖ Christmas Crafts

and Photo with SANTA



Sunday School Schedule

December

- 7 Sunday School – 10:30am
- 14 Christmas Pageant –9:30 Practice
- 21 Sunday School – 10:30am
- 28 NO Sunday School (Schools closed)
Pageant rehearsals to follow



Supporting one another through intentional prayer is important to the Calvary family of faith.

As we continue this important ministry into 2026, we are taking this time to review and update the prayer list.

We want to ensure that our prayer list reflects the current needs and concerns of our people to ensure that we are praying specifically and appropriately.

We ask that you consider any names that you previously submitted.

If the person no longer needs ongoing prayer, please let us know so we can remove them from the list.

Keeping our prayer list current helps us focus on present needs and gives space to include new requests. Of course, if there are continuing or new concerns, we welcome those updates as well.



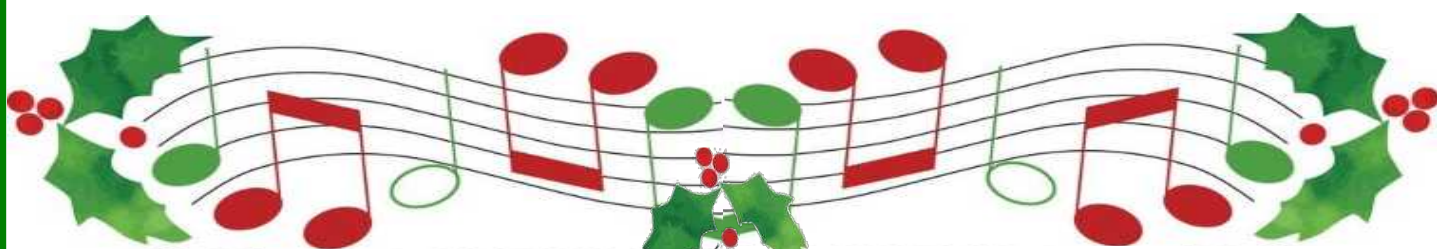
Calvary's Choral Worship Service

December 21 at 10:30

Come to our traditional service of The Word and Song

including Calvary Choir singing the cantata,

A Festival of Christmas *by Mary McDonald*





Advent Bible Study

*Join us for a study of Advent
as found in scripture*

Tuesdays

December 2 & 16

2:00-3:00



December Worship Assistants



DATE	ALTAR GUILD	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	COUNTERS
7 blue	K.Peterson C.Kim	Alma Costello K.Peterson	Peterson	Christine Souza	J.Peterson M.Levitzke	Christina M Alma C
14 blue	*****	*****	Youth	TBD	Youth	Christina M Alma C
21 blue	*****	*****	Holland	Anna Nooney	G.Strauch J.Tangen	Christina M Alma C
24 Christmas Eve white	Kathy Peterson	Cindy Strauch George Strauch	Strauch	TBD	Jon Tangen Jim Peterson George Strauch Mike Levitzke	Christina M Alma C
28 white	Kathy Peterson	*****	Glaeser	Rachel Dillon	J.Peterson J. Tangen	Christina M Alma C
Jan 4 white	Kathy Peterson	Alma Costello Kristine Nooney	Levitzke	Mike Levitzke	J.Peterson M.Levitzke	TBD

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS - PLEASE NOTE: In case of a conflict, please find a substitute and then inform the church office at 201-327-4786.

OUTREACH

Thank you for supporting the Center for Food Action's Thanksgiving program and throughout the year. You made a difference for local families who suffer from food and housing insecurity.

Calvary's Christmas Giving Tree

New for 2025

The
Season of Giving
is upon us and this year
we can make Christmas a
little cheerier for a few families
in our community. Please consider
selecting an item posted on our **Giving Tree**
to give to a neighbor in need of assistance. In just
three easy steps, you can bring some joy and support.
Please return your gifts wrapped by December 14 so they can be
delivered the week before Christmas.

Thank
You

Select a tree from the GIVING TREE on November 30 or Dec 7.
Purchase the indicated item OR a grocery store, Amazon or bank gift card.
Wrap the gift and tape the top of the label to the package. If you have chosen to give a gift card,
please use the envelope offered and give directly to: Pastor Kara
If you need help shopping or prefer to donate cash, please contact Lori McCue .
Thank you for your generosity and compassion and Merry Christmas to ALL.

Satchels bound for seafaring friends will be delivered to Port Elizabeth the first week
of December. Thank you to all who donated items or sent cards.
We are now collecting hoodies, t-shirts, socks and **KNITTED HATS** for next season.





December 24
5:00 pm

*Invite family and friends to celebrate
the birth of our Savior at
the traditional Candlelight service.
We will be accompanied
by a guest harpist!*



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 Guitar lesson	2 2:00 Bible study	3 6:15 Guitar lesson 7:30 Choir practice	4 7:00 Christian Education Meeting	5	6
7 9:30 choir practice 1030 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Service	8 7:00 Guitar lesson	9	10 6:15 Guitar lesson 7:30 Choir practice	11	12	13
14 9:30 Pageant Practice 9:30 choir practice 10:30 Children's Pageant, Friends with Music 11:45 Advent Craft workshop	15 7:00 Guitar lesson	16 2:00 Bible study	17 7:00 Choir practice	18	19	20 3:00 Choir at The Bristol
21 9:30 choir practice 10:30 Christmas Cantata 11:45 Council Meeting	22 7:00 Guitar lesson	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 10:30 Worship service of Lessons and Carols	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

December 2025 – Notes from Calvary's Treasurer

Dear Calvary Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, I hope you are finding time for reflection, joy, and peace.

We are now finalizing Calvary's **2025 year-end** and beginning work on our **2026 Budget**. Through mid- November 2025 our revenue is \$19,000 less than last year while Calvary's expenses increased ~ \$20K versus 2024. Our shortfall has been covered by Calvary's Endowment Fund.

Your continued generosity and engagement are absolutely essential to Calvary's mission and long-term vitality.

Because Calvary is a **non-profit organization**, your contributions may be **tax-deductible**.

Below are several ways you can help sustain our ministry as we close out the year.

Cash Giving Options

We offer several **online donation methods**:

Preferred Options – Zelle and Bill Pay

We encourage the use of **Zelle** or **Bill Pay** since these methods avoid the convenience fees charged by PayPal and Venmo.

- **Zelle** You can give directly through Zelle by scanning the QR code below or using your online banking app.

Use the QR code below to pay through ZELLE.



- **Bill Pay** You can also make contributions through your bank's **Online Bill Pay** service (including TD Bank and others). This option can be set up as a **one-time payment** or **recurring auto-pay**—and it avoids the 3.5% fee charged by PayPal and Venmo (commercial fees).

- **Plate Offerings**

Every Sunday and Holiday, we still do it the “old fashioned way” by putting your envelope or cash/check in the offering plate.

Whatever method you choose, Calvary appreciates the contribution of your time, talent and treasures.

For questions or help setting up your preferred giving option, please contact me at



Gift of Appreciated Securities

You can also donate **appreciated assets** such as **cash, bonds, stocks, or mutual funds**.

To make this type of gift:

1. Contact your financial **Custodian** (e.g., Schwab, Fidelity, Thrivent, Merrill Lynch, etc.).
2. Request their **one-page donation form**, where you'll indicate the security ticker symbol and number of shares you desire to transfer.
3. Use the following information for the transfer:
 - o **Account Name:** Calvary Lutheran Church
 - o **Receiving Firm:** National Financial Services (NFS)
 - o **Account Number:** [provided upon request by phone for security reasons]

You will receive an **IRS tax deduction** for the fair market value of your gift.

If you are considering gifts of other appreciated assets—such as **real estate, coins, cars, artwork, or business interests**—please contact me directly to discuss our options.

Closing Note

On behalf of the Calvary Council, we thank you for your faith, generosity, and partnership.

Together, we are ensuring that Calvary continues to serve our community today—and for generations to come.

Warm wishes,

Carl Glaeser

Treasurer, Calvary Lutheran Church



Calvary Lutheran is seeking a volunteer with experience in finance, accounting, or bookkeeping to audit our church books. If you—or someone you know—would be willing to volunteer their time and expertise, we'd be grateful!

To learn more or suggest a name, please contact the church office or Jim Holland.
Thank you for supporting faithful stewardship!



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ALLENDALE
165 W. CRESCENT AVE

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

DEC. 14TH- 11:45 AM

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

LUNCHEON; CHRISTMAS CRAFT;
CHRISTMAS SING ALONG; AND PHOTOS
WITH SANTA

LOVE OFFERING TO BENEFIT CENTER
FOR FOOD ACTION
AND/OR

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
OR BABY CARE ITEM

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!

PLEASE REGISTER
BY DEC. 10 2025 AT



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 kpeter58@yahoo.com
for more information or be added to schedule.



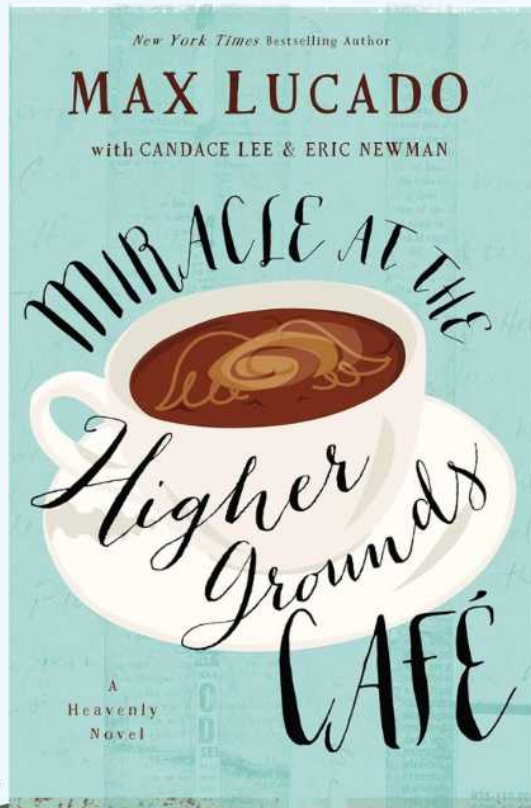
Your Calvary family wishes you
a happy birthday and joy
in the year to come.

- 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

BOOK DISCUSSION & POTLUCK

Jan 29 @ 6:30pm



Step inside the Higher Grounds Café, a place brimming with whop, a heaping helping of comfort food, and a direct line to heaven. Where faith lives, all things are possible, for a family, a community, and one woman who wasn't sure she had the courage to believe again."
—Lisa Wingate, New York Times bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours*

*For more info contact:
Christine Souza (csouza0167@gmail.com)*

Attendance via Zoom is available!

KOINONIA

ADVENT 2025

Highland Lake, 165 Lake View Dr,
Highland Lake, NY 12743, USA

We invite you to step away from the noise and into a peaceful rhythm of reflection, joy, and preparation at Koinonia

Each weekend retreat offers:
caroling, devotions, Bible study, crafts, Nativity walks, youth activities, and our famous Kookie Krunch Party

Join us for any or all of the four weekends:

Advent I: November 28–30

Advent III: December 12–15

Advent II: December 5–7 (full)

Advent IV: December 19–21

All are welcome — individuals, families, youth, and groups

Rates

Lodging: \$100 per room, per night

Cleaning Fee: \$35 per stay (one-time)

Meal Pricing (per meal):

Adults: \$15

Children (ages 6–12): \$10

Children (5 and under): Free

Special Event Programming Fee: \$10 per person

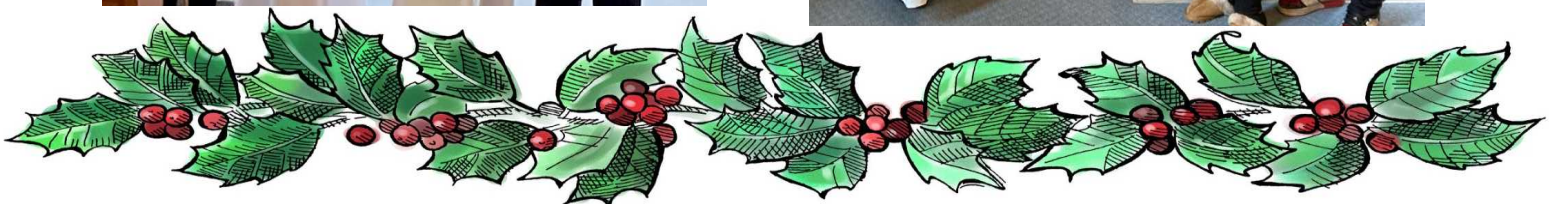


For more information:

<https://www.koinonianyny.org/events>

Meet the Pestano Family!

Leo came to the US Feb 1996. He was born and raised in the providence called Cabanatuan, Philippines. Amy was born and raised in Midland Park. We met at Allendale nursing home Dec 2000, we both worked as certified nursing assistants. We instantly hit it off. We were married in July 2003. I went to nursing school with the support of my husband and graduated with my LPN Jan 2006 and have been working as an LPN since. I returned to school in 2022 for my BSN and just graduated Aug 2025. We got our first surprise in 2008 with our handsome son, Jeremy. He will be 18 in April and is currently a senior at Midland Park High School. Jeremy is looking at colleges to attend in the fall and has been preadmitted to 84 colleges. He has been accepted to one closer to home, Montclair University. He is going to major in music. Ella is 14 and she is a super athlete being on 2 national basketball teams. She is also on a nation volleyball team. She loves exploring nature where she can see God's beautiful creatures. She also is a good artist. She is in 8th grade and goes to Midland Park High School. Scott is 9 yrs old. He is a sweet, kind hearted handsome boy. He loves to help everyone. He also tries to help his friends when they are sad by cheering them up or just giving them a hug. He loves sports. For some reason that is unknown to us, he is a huge Bills fan. He, like Ella plays basketball, football and baseball. He is always asking questions of how things work and figuring out the purpose of why and how we do things. We are a tight family unit and we are always there for each other. We will go exploring and try to find fun things to do that will give the kids a small education without them realizing they are learning. One favorite thing to do is finding historical places and learning of the past, going to places like Gettysburg to educate our countries past.



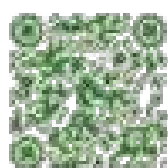
SATURDAY ...

3RD

JANUARY @ 2PM

**CARTER-
GLENNON
PRESENTS**

SCAN TO
RSVP



**Masayo Ishigure and
Miyabi Koto Ensemble**



Nate Tota Jazz Quartet



**Bone Appetit Trombone
Quartet**



**Michelle Baker and Martha
Locker- Horn and Piano**



An Eclectic Concert

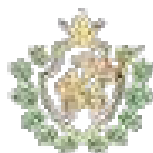
Slides, Strings, and Swing

Suggested Donation

\$25

Calvary Lutheran Church

165 W Crescent Ave, Allendale, NJ 07401



CARTER-GLENNON
CENTER FOR ARTS AND NATURE

Join us for an eclectic afternoon of
music that will cross cultures, times,
and styles.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One Million People Now Have Clean Water. Here's What That Actually Means.

GT Water Marks Historic Milestone in Haiti and Honduras

Ramsey, NJ – December 2025 — GT Water www.gtwater.org celebrates a milestone made possible by generosity, partnership, and belief in a simple idea: *every person deserves clean water.*

Thanks to supporters like you, over one million people in Haiti and Honduras now drink safe, reliable water every single day through GT Water's affordable bucket filtration systems.

One million people who no longer fear the water they drink.

One million families with fewer illnesses, fewer medical bills, and more hope.

Why This Matters:

Your support doesn't just deliver clean water — it restores dignity, stability, opportunity, and life itself.

WHO estimates clean water can reduce deadly diarrheal disease by up to 58%, meaning thousands of severe illnesses prevented and hundreds of children's lives saved.

But the impact stretches far beyond health:

- Children stay in school
- Parents return to work
- Women reclaim hours once spent searching for water
- Communities build strength, resilience, and local jobs

A Local Model That Works — Because It's Led by Local Heroes

GT Water's approach is different: local teams lead everything.

They deploy systems weekly across rural Haiti and Honduras, train families, support schools, and ensure long-term impact.

Your donations fuel *their* work — and *their* work changes lives.

Haiti: Schools, Orphanages & Hospitals Now Served |

Thanks to donor support and our Haiti-based team, GT Water now provides clean drinking water to:

Schools:

Flore Kindergarten • Bon Samaritan • École Nazareth • École Luthérienne
École Baptiste • École Bon Berger • École Saint Michel
École Hadem • École de la ~~Prophétie~~
Lycée Philippe Guentier des Cayes • Eben-Ezer des Cayes

Orphanages:

Agape Orphanage • Foyer des Petits

Hospitals & Clinics:

St. Michel Hospital • Clinic of Barault

Plus: weekly community distributions through local churches and their networks across the region.

Every school, every hospital, every orphanage on this list represents hundreds of children, parents, teachers, and patients who now drink clean water because donors chose to care.

Faces of Impact

Marie from Haiti watched her children battle sickness month after month.

"After receiving the filter, my kids stopped getting sick within a month," she says.

"Clean water gave us our life back."

At a Honduran orphanage, 35 children regained their health within six weeks.

"They are healthy, in school, and laughing again," shared José, a volunteer.

Multiply that hope by one million.

Our Role in What Comes Next

One million lives reached — but millions more still waiting.

- \$25 provides clean water to a family of five
- \$35 supports a school classroom
- \$500 equips an entire orphanage, clinic, or school
- Monthly giving ensures permanent, stable access

Your generosity is the difference between surviving and thriving.

Join Us

To give or learn more, visit www.gtwater.org

About GT Water

GT Water deploys affordable bucket filtration systems across Haiti and Honduras through locally trained teams. Since 2016, the organization has prioritized local ownership, immediate impact, and solutions that reach the people who need them most.

GT Water

PO Box 626

Ramsey, NJ 07446

###

Media Contact:

John Collins, GT Water Board Member john@kingtides.io

###



Contact Information



CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Holland	President
Alma Costello	Vice President
Gerry DelGatto	Secretary
Carl Glaeser	Treasurer
Sara Strauch	Stewardship
Ned Roller	Worship & Music
Christine Souza	Outreach
Christina Metri	Caring
Kristine Nooney	Christian Education
Tori Gooden	Property

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

Reverend Kara Song
through the church office

Office Administrator: Sam Choi

Office Phone 201-327-4786

Office E-Mail: calvaryallendale@gmail.com

Office Hours: M,W,F 10:00-2:00

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

PROPERTY

George Strauch

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Glaeser,

OUTREACH

Lori McCue

STEWARDSHIP

Bill Scher,

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Kathy Peterson



Scenes from the Youth/Young Adult Cultural Food Outing -Nov 23



Also November 23...

...Praise Band



...Blessing of two Confirmands and their Mentors

