

Annual Meeting of
Calvary Lutheran Church

Hauppauge, New York

January 26, 2025



The purpose of the annual meeting is for church members to make decisions that affect their common life together and to conduct the business for the year.

Organizing and Administering Congregational Annual Meetings, ELCA

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God’s love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ’s love. In Psalm 93, we read: “More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore” (4-5).

God’s love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God’s love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church’s ability to share the message of God’s love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you’ve helped carry this message of God’s majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God’s promises, sure of God’s love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to day,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

MINUTES OF THE 1/28/2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Jeannine Comito kept attendance and asserted a quorum (40+2 late arrivals) of voting members (121) was present.

Laura Aupperle, President, called the Annual Meeting to order.

Pastor Zach began the meeting with the Opening Devotion.

Ellen Hoffman made a motion to Approve the Agenda of the Annual Meeting, seconded by Robert Munder, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Melanie Einsfeld made a motion to Approve Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting January 29, 2023 seconded by Geri Ott, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Leadership Reports:

President's Report, Pastor's Report, Minister of Music Report

Kathy Schwarz made a motion to accept the Leadership Reports, seconded by Ellen Hoffman, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Annual Committee Reports:

Worship, Music & Altar Guild – No additions

Christian Education – Tanya Behnke discussed the new Cradle Roll program.

Social Ministry – Melanie Einsfeld encouraged new volunteers to the committee and thanks Caitlyn Toback for helping with new posters. Eileen Hausle shared the history of Coffee Hour.

Youth – Pastor highlighted our need to build back up our Youth Ministry

Let's Get Together – After 30+ years running LGT, Bob Walter happily announced Karen Kraemer-Singh will be co-chair of LGT. Encouraged everyone to support Ziti with your Sweetie fundraiser for the Youth.

Heavenly Hosts – Jane Hafner encouraged new committee members and requested volunteers for soup on Maundy Thursday.

Property – Michael Decker offered thanks for the hard dedicated work so many provide for the upkeep of the property including Tom Dyer, Mark Dyer, Helga Dyer, Laura Aupperle, the Hallam family, Jeannine Comito, Fred Hausle, Jim Hausle, Robert Munder, Joe Pentecoste, and others. Potential upcoming projects including adopt-a-window, outdoor church bells/music, mural, drain repairs, alarm system update, and hired landscapers were discussed.

Finance – Tanya presented Income and Expense charts from 2023.

Fundraising – Bob Walter recognized Robert LaRocca for 15+ years of running the annual Golf outing, raising over \$6,000 over the years, and thanking Lenny Ott for taking over the position. Robert Munder stated that there will again be two deliveries of Pumpkins. Karen Kraemer-Singh stated there will be a God's Work, Our Hands project in the fall.

Pastor thanked Christie Mansfield for publishing Calvary's newly formatted Annual Report.

Jeannine Comito made a motion to Approve the Annual report, seconded by Lenny Ott, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Statistical Report for 2023 and Attendance Overview

Written report presented by Pastor Zach. Kathy Schwarz made a motion to Approve the Statistical report, seconded by Lori Boyle, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Hymn

New Business:

Christian Education Deacon Call Vote – Bill Bushman made a motion to Renew the Call to Deacon Tanya Behnke to serve as Christian Education Deacon at Calvary, seconded by Michael Decker, all approved, none objected, none abstained.

Visitation and Worship Deacon Call Vote – Deacon Tanya Behnke made a motion to Call to Deacon Robert Lewis to serve as Visitation and Worship Deacon at Calvary, seconded by Bill Bushman, all approved, none objected, none abstained. He will be installed next Sunday, February 4, 2024.

Cell Tower Bylaws Resolution – The resolution Amending the Guidelines for use of Cell Tower funds, as approved by church council, was presented. Joe Pentecost discussed possible additional carriers and legal counsel for lease agreements that may be needed. Robert Munder made a motion to accept guidelines, seconded by Lenny Ott, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Property Resolution – The Property Resolution, as approved by church council, was presented. Bill Bushman made a motion to accept guidelines, seconded by Robert Munder, all approved, none opposed, none abstained

Election of Church Council Members – Lori Boyle has been asked and has agreed to serve on council. Laura Aupperle nominated, and Pastor Zach seconded, Caitlyn Toback for council, she agreed. No other nominations from the floor. Youth members Mason & Jacob have been asked, and pending their schedules, may be sharing a youth position on council. Tanya Behnke made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Seconded by Bill Bushman, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Budget – Deacon Tanya presented and explained the proposed balanced budget as prepared by the finance committee and approved by Council. Motion made by Bill Bushman to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Jeannine Comito, all approved, none objected, none abstained. Budget Passed.

Adjournment – Bill Bushman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lenny Ott, all approved, none opposed, none abstained.

Respectfully submitted, Eva Decker, Recording Secretary

YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Calvary is so blessed! I say this every year, and I thank and praise God for the opportunities we have been given to be a blessing in the world! This is my fifth year serving as council president at Calvary, and I feel honored to do so. I have learned so much along the way and feel a wonderful connection to my church family.

I would like to welcome all our new members who have joined us in finding fulfillment in life through faith. As we gather every Sunday to hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, we learn to find purpose through the Holy Spirit in us, which helps and guides us to accomplish our ongoing vision and mission goals at Calvary. We are so happy you are here, and look forward to getting to know you better in the new year.

Congratulations are in order for Pastor Zach and Ana Dean, who proudly welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Lillian Mae, on June 29th! She is one of Calvary's cutest newest members this year! Calvary is very fortunate to have such a lovely family, who empowers and encourages our journey forward to successfully bring the Good News to our community and beyond! Pastor Zach is a kind, thoughtful, and very capable person, who continues to surpass my expectations! He is always making wonderful improvements to our worship services and has helped Calvary focus on reaching our vision and mission goals over the year.

I am so proud of what our congregation continues to do together, always improving our usual activities to make them even better; like our Pumpkin patch fundraiser and the Pumpkin Festival, our Thanksgiving food donation drive and the little food pantry box to help people in need, our Christmas toy donations, and sharing our sanctuary so the Haitian Methodist Church has a place for worship too! We are focusing on new ways to accomplish our vision and mission goals to be a more welcoming church; with Reconciling In Christ forums continuing through out the year, helping us to genuinely expand our horizons; and our renovation task force, meeting with an architect to plan and design improvements for our building and worship space.

I want to thank the leaders of all our church committees for their service and dedication, and ALL OF YOU, our church members, who follow their lead to keep Calvary's light shining bright for all to come and see!

I want to thank our finance committee; our treasurer, Erich Schwarz, who diligently pays the church bills every month, Bob Walter, and all our tellers who do the counting and deposits every week, and Deacon Tanya Behnke, who keeps our financial records up to date and guides the council with ongoing financial decisions.

I want to thank Pastor Zachary Dean and Deacon Tanya Behnke for setting up all our council meetings, finance meetings, committee meetings, and weekly Bible study meetings, on Zoom and in person. I am so grateful for the wonderful fellowship we have at our lively Sunday coffee hour, Sunday school classes, committee meetings, Women's Group meetings, Bible and Brews meetings, Let's Get Together group meetings and senior luncheon meetings, all held on a regular basis throughout the year!

I want to thank our Minister of Music, Paul Elsener, for providing beautiful music every Sunday at Calvary. He knows when we need that good old familiar hymn and when we are up for trying something exciting. Working with Paul and our new little choir is our talented cantor, Ari O'Connell and her fiancé, Michael White, providing beautiful music for all to enjoy. A big thank you to all our altar guild volunteers, who prepare and beautify our sanctuary for all our worship services year round.

I want to thank Pat, our Parish Secretary, for continuing to do her work with joy and dedication.

I also want to thank Deacon Bob Lewis, for his behind the scenes work in preparing our leaders for worship and visiting folks throughout the year.

I want to thank Jeannine Comito for her six years of service on the council, always volunteering to help out. I also want to thank Michele O'Haire for her three years of service on the council. I want to thank ALL our council members for sharing their time and talents, doing wonderful things inside and outside of our church walls. You are very much appreciated!

Thanks to everyone, who applied for Thrivent action funds to help support many events at Calvary. We purchased signage to invite our community to join us for Sunday school classes, Easter services, VBS, the pumpkin patch, and Christmas services. We also purchased Interfaith Thanksgiving postcards to mail out to the community. Now as we begin a new year we have much to be joyful for, and so we will continue our journey of possibilities for Calvary's next 60 years. I pray that, with God's help and guidance and wisdom, we can focus on accomplishing our church's vision and mission goals together with Hope, Faith, Peace, and Love! Amen!

Yours in Christ,

Laura Aupperle

First, thank you! The opportunity to step away for family leave this year was only possible because of strong congregational leadership. Deacons Tanya and Bob, Paul, Ari, Pat, council president and vice president Laura Aupperle and Len Ott, altar guild, and dear colleagues who were willing to step in if needed—all of these put me at ease knowing all would be well. Second, I'd like to offer a few relevant statistics and highlights from this year:

Statistics

8 baptisms, 4 marriage preparation/2 marriages, 4 funerals
16 adult members received, 5 youth members received, 6 members reclassified
average weekly worship attendance of 69 people

Highlights

It has been moving to see Calvary's powerful witness to God's welcome as we continue through the Reconciling in Christ process. I have grown as a leader, both in how I am able to walk with you and in my faith convictions that God's welcome is for all people.

Calvary's music staff has a palpable sense of enthusiasm in their work. Paul's encouragement of and willingness to create room for Ari's ideas and Michael's leadership enriches our worship and brings people into participation, especially through the reintroduction of a choir.

The rich time spent in confirmation class with twelve students is something I regularly look forward to, and knowing that I am part of an education team with Deacon Tanya is a gift. Teaching is a joy for me, and getting to supervise Seminarian June Bradshaw was also a gift!

This year, I spent less time visiting members at home, and yet Calvary's at-home members have received more attention than ever thanks to sharing that work with Deacon Bob and Jane Hafner. This is something I hope continues to grow and involve more people.

I sense a renewed sense of purpose and dedication from Calvary's council. These leaders take seriously their task to evaluate our activities in light of our mission and goals. There is a thoughtfulness in our meetings that I do not take for granted.

Our building is well in hand with the detail-oriented work of our renovation task force. This plus our community outreach with Pumpkinfest, a new mini free food pantry, and activities like blessing of the animals and drive-thru ashes are signs of an exciting future in this place.

I look forward to sharing that future together,

Pastor Zach †

A WORD FROM DEACON TANYA: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year has been an amazing year for Calvary and our Christian Education programs, and I am so thankful that I get to be a part of it!

For the little ones, a new Cradle Roll program is rolling out. This new program, mailed two times a year for newly baptized babies, will include faith-based board books for families to add to their home book collections! We're hoping to tie the end of the program into a welcome to Sunday School for these families. We've also added and moved our Calvary's Kids Corner to make it more accessible to parents and kids during church services. This area has toys and books to ensure families always feel welcome in worship.

Sunday School and Confirmation are thriving! I am so thankful for the help of Sherri, Caitlyn, and a rotation of confirmation helpers! Last year, I was a little nervous about a no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant, but it was so well received that we did it again! Pastor has even used our pageant as a sample for others considering this over the stress of rehearsals.

Christian Education doesn't stop at confirmation. I was so excited throughout the year because 2024 held many opportunities for adult education at Calvary. Fun fact, this year will be ten years since I left an article in our pastor's office with a post-it saying "can we do this?", and our Bibles & Brews group has since been meeting to discuss a whole range of topics ever since. Our RIC process included forums and book readings, which I am excited to continue. Adult opportunities didn't stop with our congregation. Between us finishing up hosting a Growing in Faith class and hosting continuing education for synod deacons, we were able to invite others into Calvary for learning opportunities.

Outside of Calvary, I am blessed to have opportunities to be involved in young adult ministries as well. This year I volunteered for my third ELCA National Youth Gathering, where about 15,000 youth gathered in New Orleans. It is an opportunity for youth to learn, grow, and worship together with similar youth from all over the country! I'm also so blessed to serve Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries. This year, we had three young adults from Calvary attend the summer session! I also was able to put my love of teaching to use, leading discussions at both our Alumni and Winter Weekend sessions.

If you can't tell, although I spend my work day at a computer looking at numbers, I love learning and creating opportunities for others to learn (it's actually how I ended up a student in Growing in Faith classes to begin with!). Being able to focus on Christian Education inside and outside of Calvary brings me so much joy. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve and to take ideas I have and bring them to life here!

With so much gratitude, Synodical Deacon Tanya Behnke

DEACON BOB TALKS ABOUT MINISTRY:

VISITATION AND WORSHIP

During the year 2024 I sought to serve the ministry of Calvary Lutheran in several ways. In my Letter of Call it was established that my areas of ministry would be Visitation and Worship. On visitation, Pastor Zach and I alternate visiting two different lists of people. Pastor visits part of the group one month while I visit the other group and then we switch the following month and so on. We also alternate conducting the monthly visit to the Arbors Assisted Living facility in Hauppauge where we hold a brief worship service and serve Holy Communion to a few of the residents. For worship services, my duty is to ensure that everything is in place and ready for worship: lectionary book is marked and in place, acolyte(s) are robed and ready, candles lit, assisting minister and cantor are robed and ready and I am available to answer any questions regarding the order of service.

I also serve on the RIC committee, the renovation task force, and the music and worship committee, and I attend the monthly council meetings.

Calvary is not just a church, it is a ministry, and it is my pleasure to serve alongside my wonderful siblings in Christ. I'm excited to see what wonderful things God has in store for us here in Hauppauge.

Synodical Deacon Bob Lewis

MUSICAL NOTES FROM A MUSICAL MAN:

PAUL ELSENER, MINISTER OF MUSIC

While still in the celebratory mood of the Christmas/Epiphany seasons, our music program for 2024 began with planning for the upcoming Lenten season. Pastor Zach and I worked with the members of the worship and music committee to plan midweek and Sunday services that would enhance the reflective mood of the Lenten season culminating in Holy Week and the shift to the joyous strains of Easter. Ari sang at all the Holy Week and Easter services. For the Easter Vigil we welcomed Megan O'Haire, who accompanied on flute. For Easter Sunday we welcomed Brian McCoy and Melissa Barnett who played trumpet as we joined in the festival setting of the liturgy.

Moving through the liturgical year we arrived at Pentecost, where six students received first Holy Communion, followed by Trinity where new members were welcomed to the Calvary family. There was also a brief prayer service following the regular Sunday service to acknowledge Memorial Day. Starting with the end of July, for five weeks the liturgy was centered on the theme of “bread.”

The week of August 12, Calvary held VBS. I assisted with the music. As in past years, we found it best not to try to utilize the prescribed thematic music. We have much more fun revisiting “top of the chart” camp songs from prior years. I appreciated the help of volunteers who assisted with the movements for the songs.

During the summer Pastor and the Calvary family awaited the imminent arrival of baby Dean! Pastor planned well ahead so that Calvary would not skip a beat while he was on paternity leave. On September 22nd we all celebrated the baptism of baby Lily. The music for the baptismal service was special. Erik Stenswold, Pastor Zach’s close friend, composed “Arise Today,” which was sung by Ari as an offertory piece. During communion distribution, his piano piece, “Lily’s Lullaby” was played. It was particularly moving to witness Pastor baptizing his own daughter. Prayers and blessings were overflowing.

The liturgical year wrapped up with Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King. The end of the year came and went quickly, as we made our way through Advent and into Christmas again. For Christmas Eve, Brian McCoy and Blake Carey accompanied the festival setting of the liturgy with trumpet and trombone and added variety to the traditional carols. Once again, Ari sang at all the special services.

We are so fortunate to have Ari O’Connell as our cantor, occasionally joined by her fiancé, Michael White, who gives willingly of his time and talents. Their generosity was just demonstrated by the benefit concert at Calvary this month that raised over \$3,000 for hurricane disaster relief. They took it upon themselves to arrange for a total of 15 musicians to take part in a spectacular array of performances that were enjoyed by all. Most recently, Ari and Michael have started a choir at Calvary. Both singers and congregation appreciate this and we look forward to its further development.

Overall, it was a busy and productive year. I continue to enjoy working with Pastor to plan for each service. We introduce new music to the congregation from time to time. It is particularly helpful to have Ari leading the music as cantor. When not available to cantor, Ari has been able to find substitutes to fill in. The congregation has learned a lot of new music and handles it quite well. Thanks to everyone for the ongoing support and encouragement of the music program.

Paul Elsener

COFFEE HOUR

I want to thank everyone who has supplied the goodies this past year. Due to health problems, I haven't been able to do it. Coffee Hour was started by my husband, Jim, after my friend Ursula and I had a difficult time one Sunday with our preschool class, due to one student who knew how get the class all wound up! We came out wanting a cup of coffee. The next week, Jim came in with a Mr. Coffee and anything else he needed to give us our coffee. Since his death I have continued it with help from my son, Jimmy. For this reason. I was glad others stepped in to take over the work. I just want to say THANK YOU! As for the supplies we've been using, I still have more at home. My sons say they will continue to supply them. Just let Jim in the tech room know what is needed, or me if I'm at church.

Eileen Hausle

CELL TOWER

After many years of working with the Town of Islip and Verizon, the Cell Tower was finally completed and Verizon was issued a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for the installation in 2024. In order for Verizon to get the CO, the Town of Islip insisted that Calvary get a permit for the aging garage, which we did. The Town is now requiring Calvary to get the CO for the garage. The garage was inspected and passed by the Town Inspector but we have an action to submit a certificate for the electric which is in process. I anticipate getting the CO soon.

In parallel, Verizon is working with other potential carriers to be included on the Cell Tower.

Joe Pentecoste

A NOTE FROM ALTAR GUILD

We give thanks to everyone that has contributed to the success of the altar guild. Thank you to Janet Read for doing a wonderful job in coordinating the purchase of all the flowers for our plant sales, and the ordering of all the plants that were used to decorate the church for the holidays. Thank you to those people that have donated communion wine for our worship services. We also thank the members of our congregation that volunteer to help decorate the church for Easter and Christmas holidays. A special thank you to those people who have donated fresh flowers to grace our altar in order to beautify the sanctuary for worship service, and to Karen Kramer for picking up those flowers from the florist. Thank you also to Pat Bombace for her help in ordering the necessary supplies needed by altar guild throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted, Madeline Riedell and Ellen Hoffman, Co-chairs

PUMPKINS

Congratulations to everyone at Calvary for your support and volunteering which generated \$35,197 in pumpkin sales this year. Calvary's portion of the sales was \$14,078, and with donations of \$1,144 the church netted \$15,222.

Some interesting facts about this year's sale:

- Calvary placed 107 (last year we were 144) in sales among Pumpkin USA's 896 sites, and out of 18 locations in New York, Calvary ranked third. Pumpkin USA cannot give us a breakdown for the other locations in New York selling pumpkins.
- We received approximately 4,000 large/bulk pumpkins (priced \$8.00 to \$25.00), and over 3,000 small pumpkins/gourds (priced \$1.00 to \$5.00)
- Calvary's members provided over 400 volunteer hours that included selling, preparing for the sale, and setting up and cleaning up the patch.
- Smithtown Youth provided over 200 volunteer hours through unloading pumpkins for both deliveries and on the weekends, helping to keep the patch neat, taking photos, and assisting visitors.
- Pumpkinfest hosted two food trucks and one beer truck, a craft sale, and children face painting/pumpkin painting that were well received, and generated our best day ever of sales of \$4,381.
- We received, for the second time, a second delivery of pumpkins to refresh the patch.

When our second delivery arrived with pumpkins that we did not request, some of them were donated as follows:

Arbors, Hauppauge, Islandia, and Bohemia – 250 pumpkins

PRONTO – 100 pumpkins

Ronald McDonald House, New Hyde Park – 150 pumpkins plus gourds

Brentwood Food Pantry – 50 pumpkins

St Charles Hospice – 25 pumpkins

Hauppauge Library Trunk-or-Treat – 250 assorted mini pumpkins and gourds

Ronald McDonald House Gala – 100 pumpkins and gourds for table centerpieces

Nine Thrivent Actions Plans were received totaling \$2,250 that was used for food, outdoor picnic tables, internet advertising, banners, decorations, reusable bags and supplies.

At the end of sale, we had around 600 pumpkins left with all of them donated to local farmers, Hoyt Farms, and Sweet Briar who came, and took them. The only pumpkins we discarded were the small gourds and white ones.

The second delivery of pumpkins has raised some concerns, and it has been recommended by our provider since 2021. The restocking of pumpkins is to make sure we have fresh ones up to the last day of our sale, and having extra pumpkins visible to the public helps to promote sales up October 31.

With the success of Pumpkinfest generating an additional \$2,000 sales that included more people visiting Calvary, another Saturday “event” such as a yard sale has been recommended. We will need a volunteer(s) to manage it as a stand-alone event such as Pumpkinfest.

Another suggestion is to have Smithtown Youth help with the pricing and selling of pumpkins under the supervision of a Calvary member.

Bob Munder, Jeannine Comito, Joe Pentecoste

Pumpkin Sales History:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Sales	\$8,885	\$9,560	\$11,332	\$12,339	No Sale	\$20,910	\$26,950	\$30,262	\$35,197
Profit	\$2,599	\$3,183	\$3,773	\$4,108	Covid	\$7,318	\$9,432	\$12,104	\$14,078
Our percent	30%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%		35%	35%	40%	40%
Days Open	16	15	22	26		27	30	31	34
Weekend Days Open	6	5	6	7		8	9	10	10
Columbus Day	\$0	\$0	\$872	\$638	No Sale	\$1,282	\$2,162	\$1,793	\$1,912
Avg. Sat/Sun Sales	\$1,161	\$1,327	\$857	\$1,220	Covid	\$1,698	\$1,973	\$1,863	\$2,287

COMMITTEE REPORTS
CAN BE FOUND IN
THE ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET

LET'S GET TOGETHER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

CHECKING ACCOUNT

2024 Beginning Balance: **\$2,576.35**

Expenses:

\$26.94	reimbursement for Valentine's Day lollipops
\$3.00	bank fee for paper statements
\$32.00	reimbursement for two tins of cookies

Deposits:

\$90.00	2024 dues
\$531.00	Golf Outing fundraiser
\$100.00	donation for Golf Outing

2024 Ending Balance: **\$3,235.41**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

2024 Beginning Balance: **\$1,148.60**

2024 Ending Balance: **\$1,148.83**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Aupperle, Let's Get Together Treasurer

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT & 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Administrative Expenses: Calvary's ministry is carried out through the extensive time and energy of our pastor, staff, council, and committees. Administrative expenses are the resources needed for continued ministry, such as salaries, printing, insurance, licenses, and digital services. Calvary also supports the local fire/ambulance, conference, synod, and other ELCA programs through our benevolence support. Pastor's salary and benefits have been increased in the 2025 budget to the 2025 synodical guidelines for a third year pastor. A separate salary adjustment was made to compensate Pastor Zach via salary (\$9,000), landscaping expenses (\$2,000), and additional time off for partial cost of family health insurance that is covered by Ana's insurance, with the understanding that if health insurance is needed, these adjustments will be removed and family coverage provided. This year's budget is a combination of both. No expense is included for 2025 since Pastor Zach is remotely supervising a student for this academic year. As recently announced, the job of parish secretary has been removed. A part time communications coordinator and a financial administrator will be hired. With this in mind, the line for parish secretary has changed to administrative salaries, based on what has already been paid this year and estimates for the new positions. Full administrative expenses/budget are detailed below.

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed Budget		
			General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Annual Meeting Expenses	400.00	0.00	400.00		400.00
Bank Service Charge	50.00	3.00	50.00		50.00
Benevolence Expense	5,000.00	4,319.00	0.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Bonus	0.00	2,622.80	0.00		0.00
Copy Machine Monthly Fee	2,100.00	2,287.00	2,100.00		2,100.00
Copy Machine Use & Supplies	1,000.00	709.35	1,000.00		1,000.00
Delegates Expense	0.00	0.00	625.00		625.00
Dues / Subscriptions	1,000.00	1,476.51	1,740.00		1,740.00
Finance Expense	1,500.00	735.90	1,500.00		1,500.00
Insurance - Quarterly	12,500.00	13,928.20	14,500.00		14,500.00
Office Equipment	300.00	0.00	300.00		300.00
Office Expenses/Supplies	1,000.00	426.42	1,000.00		1,000.00

			2025 Proposed Budget		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Pastors Benefits	20,875.00	19,905.82	34,500.00		34,500.00
Pastors Salary	64,184.00	61,226.62	63,500.00		63,500.00
Postage / Mailings Expense	700.00	648.96	800.00		800.00
Secretary Salary	23,193.00	23,168.52	24,000.00		24,000.00
Seminarian Reimbursement	500.00	696.00	0.00		0.00
Website	400.00	0.00	400.00		400.00
Total Administration Expenses	134,702.00	132,154.10	146,415.00	5,500.00	151,915.00

Christian Growth & Response Expenses: Calvary supports both the congregation, members, and communities through various programs. This care to members goes further than financial support, with Heavenly Hosts visiting and providing care, and senior lunch gatherings. All of our fundraisers, such as the pumpkin patch, pumpkinfest, ziti with your sweetie, and yard sales, give the surrounding community an opportunity to gather at Calvary, meeting others, and potentially becoming part of our community. Previously, Let's Get Together expenses were combined with Social Ministry's. We've added their own budget line. Let's Get Together are expenses for social gatherings, Social Ministry includes expenses for community drives, and Heavenly Hosts is for Calvary's home visit and card ministry.

Church Picnic	300.00	274.55	300.00		300.00
Evangelism	50.00	-	50.00		50.00
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	23,775.65	0.00		0.00
Heavenly Hosts	400.00	-	0.00	400.00	400.00
Let's Get Together	0.00	-	250.00		250.00
People in Need	0.00	2,499.36	0.00		0.00
Social Ministries	100.00	612.05	250.00		250.00
Stewardship	200.00	-	200.00		200.00
Youth Ministries	500.00	1,097.96	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total C G & R Expenses	1,550.00	28,259.57	2,050.00	400.00	2,450.00

Christian Education Expenses: Educational opportunities are provided through Sunday School, First Communion and Confirmation classes, Bible study, Bibles & Brews, RIC, and new member programs. This past year, we welcomed new members/families! The synod's Growing in Faith program is an adult education program for anyone looking to expand their faith knowledge. Calvary completed our time as a host site but plan on hosting continuing education classes. There is offsetting income for this program, as it covers all of its costs.

			2025 Proposed Budget		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Adult Education	200.00	176.51	200.00		200.00
Confirmation Program	200.00	149.62	810.00		810.00
Cradle Roll Education	150.00	-	250.00		250.00
Growing in Faith	0.00	3,175.00	0.00		0.00
Library	50.00	-	50.00		50.00
Newsletter	100.00	-	100.00		100.00
Sunday School Materials	800.00	536.05	800.00		800.00
Vacation Bible School	750.00	348.75	750.00		750.00
Total Education Expenses	2,250.00	4,385.93	2,960.00	0.00	2,960.00

Worship & Music Expenses: Calvary's worship depends on the involvement of so many, including our pastor, our deacons, our minister of music, Paul, our cantor, Ari, all of our assisting ministers, ushers, altar guild, guest musicians, and so many more. Our worship and music expenses include the expenses directly related to our worship services. The 2025 budget includes a 5% raise for our minister of music.

Director of Music/Organist	13,876.88	13,884.62	14,570.73		14,570.73
Flowers Expense	2,000.00	2,000.20	2,000.00		2,000.00
Music Expense	7,000.00	7,405.70	7,000.00		7,000.00
Choral Vespers	2,000.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Publicity Expense	100.00	0.00	100.00		100.00
Pulpit Supply	1,750.00	766.75	1,000.00		1,000.00
Worship Exp. - Installation	400.00	295.00	0.00		0.00
Worship Supply/Bulletin Exp	2,250.00	1,408.34	2,250.00		2,250.00
Total Worship/Music Expenses	29,376.88	25,760.61	26,920.73	0.00	26,920.73

Property Expenses: This includes both the church building and the parsonage where our pastor lives. While Church is more than the building, regular upkeep ensures a safe and comfortable space for all to worship and meet, allows other community groups to meet at Calvary, and reduces the potential for unexpected costly repairs. The expenses are broken up between property expenses and the connected utilities. 2024 included some repairs to the parsonage, including a new HVAC system. For the 2025 budget, improvement funds above emergency use funds include repairs to the church windows, continued renovation work with the architect, and parsonage roof replacement. These projects are specifically being funded by cell tower funds. Specific projects beyond these may require congregational approval.

			2025 Proposed Budget		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Building Maintain/Repair	10,000.00	4,913.22	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Church Cleaning	5,980.00	5,870.00	7,800.00		7,800.00
Equipment Maintain/Repair	300.00	-	300.00		300.00
Grounds Maintenance	8,000.00	9,397.35	9,000.00		9,000.00
Renovations	0.00	8,500.00	0.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
Total Church/Grounds	24,280.00	28,680.57	17,100.00	97,000.00	114,100.00
Parsonage Maintain/Repair	12,000.00	11,036.16	2,000.00	20,000.00	22,000.00
Total Parsonage	12,000.00	11,036.16	2,000.00	20,000.00	22,000.00
Alarm System (Quarterly)	680.00	401.76	680.00		680.00
Carting Church	800.00	822.50	1,000.00		1,000.00
National Grid Gas Church	5,900.00	4,509.53	5,900.00		5,900.00
PSE&G Electricity Church	3,600.00	2,779.24	3,600.00		3,600.00
Telephone/Internet Church	2,040.00	2,014.29	2,040.00		2,040.00
Water Church (Quarterly)	800.00	548.87	800.00		800.00
Total Utilities Church	13,820.00	11,076.19	14,020.00	0.00	14,020.00
Carting Parsonage	550.00	544.83	550.00		550.00
National Grid Gas Parsonage	1,700.00	1,436.53	1,700.00		1,700.00
PSE&G Electricity Parsonage	1,600.00	1,552.00	1,800.00		1,800.00
Telephone/TV/Internet	1,560.00	1,569.87	1,560.00		1,560.00
Water Parsonage (Quarterly)	600.00	709.09	800.00		800.00
Total Utilities Parsonage	6,010.00	5,812.32	6,410.00	0.00	6,410.00

			2025 Proposed Budget		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Total Expenditures	223,988.88	247,165.45	217,875.73	122,900.00	340,775.73

Giving/Revenue: Calvary recognizes that there are many ways that members contribute to our ministry, not all of which can be quantified in a budget. We encourage in-kind donations to be submitted to the office for inclusion both in donor records and expenses for a more inclusive budget. When considering the 2025 budget, non-recurring sources include designated giving and grants, while Miscellaneous other includes sources like Thrivent Choice Dollars and VBS. Fundraising income for 2024, net of expenses, was \$17.3k.

Giving/Revenue			2025 Proposed Budget		
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	General Fund	Cell Tower Fund	Combined Funds
Member giving	135,196.96	141,792.94	148,882.59		148,882.59
Flower donations	3,500.00	3,064.00	3,500.00		3,500.00
Use of Building	10,000.00	9,398.00	14,000.00		14,000.00
Cell Tower	42,772.80	42,879.73	11,014.14	33,042.42	44,056.56
Fundraising	19,000.00	41,081.21	20,000.00		20,000.00
Non-Recurring	3,000.00	11,616.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Music Fund	3,000.00	171.92	1,000.00		1,000.00
People In Need	0.00	11,306.00	0.00		0.00
Misc Other	5,000.00	3,111.34	5,000.00		5,000.00
Interest	4,000.00	5,090.97	6,000.00		6,000.00
Transfer from pre-existing Cell Tower Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
Total Revenue:	225,469.76	269,512.11	214,396.73	128,042.42	342,439.15
Net Revenue	1,480.88	22,346.66	(3,479.00)	5,142.42	1,663.42

NEW BUSINESS

LET'S GET TOGETHER RESOLUTION

Recommended by the Finance Committee, January 6, 2025.

Approved by the Church Council, January 14, 2025.

WHEREAS, organizations may be formed as “outgrowths and expressions of this Congregation’s life” (C14.01 in the Congregation’s Constitution);

AND WHEREAS, the Let’s Get Together group has functioned for many years as a social and fundraising expression of community life at Calvary,

AND WHEREAS, each generation creates community in unique, life-giving ways,

THEREFORE LET IT BE IT RESOLVED that the Let’s Get Together group, while continuing to exist and create social connection, will no longer function with separate financial reporting from the congregation,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Calvary gives thanks for the ways the Let’s Get Together group contributes to community life,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bank account of the Let’s Get Together group be closed and any funds remaining be received fully into Calvary’s finances as a fund for activities moving forward.

2025 PUMPKIN PATCH PLANS

First Delivery – Friday, September 26, 2025

Pumpkins distributed to patch – Saturday, September 27, 2025

Yard Sale – Saturday, October 4, 2025

Second Delivery – Saturday, October 11, 2025

Pumpkinfest – Saturday, October 18, 2025

RENEWAL OF CALL FOR

SYNODICAL DEACON TANYA BEHNKE

LETTER OF CALL

Tanya Lee Behnke

A Synodical Deacon of the Metropolitan New York Synod ELCA
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
With prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to do God's will,

Calvary Lutheran Church, Hauppauge

A Congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Meeting on January 26, 2025
Renews to you the call to serve as

DEACON

DESCRIPTION OF CALL

Tanya will work with the Pastor, Council, and members of Calvary to promote and strengthen the faith formation and education of Calvary's members of all ages.

This will include continuing in her coordinator role in the Sunday school program, developing and teaching curriculum for both Sunday school and first communion classes, leading Calvary's monthly Bibles and Brews discussion group, coordinating and writing devotions for Calvary's weekly Wednesday devotions that are emailed and posted for members and the community, creating stand-alone adult education opportunities and using Calvary's social media presence to further share items that support the faith formation, education, and support for the community.

Additionally, Tanya will work with the Pastor to find non-conflicting opportunities to participate in worship and occasionally leading the congregation in Service of the Word.

RENEWAL OF CALL FOR

SYNODICAL DEACON BOB LEWIS

LETTER OF CALL

Robert Lewis

A Synodical Deacon of the Metropolitan New York Synod ELCA
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
With prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to do God's will,

Calvary Lutheran Church, Hauppauge

A Congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Meeting on January 26, 2025
Renews to you the call to serve as

DEACON

DESCRIPTION OF CALL

Bob will work with the Pastor, Council, and members of Calvary to maintain the connection between the congregation's worship and those who receive pastoral visits. This call will involve Bob in two primary roles: visitation and worship.

On Sunday mornings, Bob will, when present, provide a spiritual atmosphere of readiness for all worship leaders, including acolytes, assisting ministers, and any guest leaders. Prior to the service, Bob will ensure everyone is prepared for worship to begin and help answer any questions that leaders might have. Bob himself will also regularly have a role in worship, occasionally leading the congregation in Service of the Word. Outside of Sunday mornings, Bob will maintain a presence on Calvary's Worship & Music Committee.

From worship, Bob will assist the Pastor in bringing Holy Communion to those who receive visits, maintaining a schedule of visits, and communicating with Heavenly Hosts as to those who are in need of spiritual care.

2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

VOTING MEMBER ELECTIONS

C5.04

“This Congregation shall choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by the Congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

At the January 14, 2025 meeting of the congregational council, the following Calvary lay members were nominated to serve as voting members of the 2025 synod assembly:

Bill Bushman & Caitlyn Toback

Jeannine Comito & Daisy Bushman (alternates)

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

C13.03

“A Nominating Committee of up to six voting members of this Congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be selected by the Congregational Council.”

Laura Aupperle, Council President; Len Ott, Council Vice President; Jeannine Comito and Michele O’Haire, outgoing council members; and Pastor Zach served as the nominating committee this year. At their January 12, 2025 meeting, they nominated the following people to serve on church council, all of whom have accepted their nominations, and have been approved by council at their January 14, 2025 meeting:

Sarah Acunzo (second term), **Jane Hafner** (first term), **Claudia Lyman** (first term)

Outgoing Council Members: Jeannine Comito, Michele O’Haire, Mason Pastore

Current Council Members: Laura Aupperle, President; Len Ott, Vice President; Caitlyn Toback, Secretary; Lori Boyle, Bob Hallam



Reconciling in Christ Exploratory Vote

Calvary is engaging in a process to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. As a review of what that means, there are four criteria:

1. Adopt a welcome statement (to be presented in the coming weeks).
2. Be open to calling an LGBT or person of color pastor (Calvary already has).
3. Allow weddings of LGBT persons (Calvary already does).
4. Make a meaningful annual contribution to support ReconcilingWorks (included in the 2025 proposed budget), which offers educational resources for congregations.

If a vote were held today, how would you respond (circle one)?

Yes No I am uncertain and still have questions:

Other Questions/Comments:

How frequently would you like more education? 1-2 times per year / quarterly

Suggested Topics:



ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION