



Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia (Mo.) Records (C4764)

Collection Number: C4764

Collection Title: Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia Records

Dates: 1963-1988

Creator: Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia

Abstract: The Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia records consists of documents, membership lists, meeting minutes, newsletters, bulletins, and photographs and slides of the organization from 1977 until its dissolution in 1988 and reabsorption into another congregation.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic foot, 3 film reels, 72 color slides
(31 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number *Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia (Mo.) Records* (C4764); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia.

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Harold Boyer, on July 11, 2013.

Processed by: Processed by Jonathan Phillips, October 16, 2025.

Historical Note:

The Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia was a short-lived, splinter congregation originally deriving from the Trinity Lutheran Church after Pastor Herbert C. Swanson was dismissed in 1977. After his dismissal, several Trinity members followed him to create a new congregation, named the Calvary Lutheran Church, which was later formally incorporated in 1978. Reverend “Herb” Swanson served as the congregation’s pastor from 1977 until 1986, when he departed for Christian Fellowship, also in Columbia, to which several Calvary members also moved to. After his departure, Reverend Vernon Robbins became the new pastor for the church, which was renamed to Calvary Covenant Church of Columbia that same month.

Originally, the congregation met in several locations including the Tiger Hotel and a Seventh Day Adventist Church before they bought land and built a new church building at 2900 Barberry Ave. in Columbia, Missouri. The first service held in the new building took place on February 11, 1979. The last official service of this congregation was held on May 29, 1988, after which the building was sold on June 16, 1988, to Great Commission Church of Columbia, while the congregation itself was dissolved on July 28, 1988.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 9 series:

- Bulletins
- Film Reels
- Governing Documents
- Minutes
- Miscellaneous
- Newsletters
- Photographs
- Records
- Slides

Scope and Content Note:**Bulletins**

Material within this series is a collection of church “bulletins” which would have been handed out at the beginning of each service. The bulletins for the first week of each month usually contain a calendar of church events for that month, while all usually include extra pages either folded or stapled to the bulletin outlining what was to be discussed during that service, as well as general or event related announcements that the church wanted to disperse to its members.

One folder consists of various religious papers, usually in the form of sermon notes, and a 186-page workbook related to Lutheran teachings, including fill-in-the-blank worksheets designed to help study the relevant passages in the Bible.

Film Reels

This series consists of three reels of 8mm film containing recordings of both the ground breaking of the church foundations and the dedication day of the finished church building, both dated for 1978.

Governing Documents

This series consists of the materials which make up the founding and governing documents of the Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia, including several versions of the Constitution and Bylaws, the earliest of which dates back to 1963, a pamphlet regarding the installation of Reverend Herbert C. Swanson in 1975, and the articles and certificates of incorporation and regarding their tax-exempt status through the years of its operation.

Minutes

This series contains the minutes of the meetings which took place for the church along with any relevant reports and notes needed and discussed during said meetings. Though the congregation operated from 1968, the minutes for these meetings did not begin until July of 1977.

These meetings, in order, listed attendance, a pastor's report on normal operations, an elder's report which detailed spiritual concerns and non-typical activities, evangelism (outreach) programs discussing things such as training classes, phone calls, and relevant materials needed, education concerns, which discussed potential future education opportunities, stewardship and trustee concerns, which primarily consisted of membership concerns, building committee notes for the planned 1978 church building, which ended the need for this section afterwards, constitution committee notes when needed, and what old business and new business existed that did not fit into any of the previous categories. During its last months in 1988, there was discussion regarding the future of the congregation and the fate of the building they had built.

Miscellaneous

This series contains the miscellaneous materials which did not fit into any other series in the collection. This series contains a pamphlet of an undated event, a newsletter not belonging to the series itself, correspondence, several undated meeting minutes, and parish directories for Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia for 1968 and 1973.

Newsletters

This series contains a group of newsletters which were distributed by the Calvary Lutheran Church monthly from the end of 1979 to its dissolution in 1988. These newsletters contained news and stories about and from other Church members both within and outside of the church itself. It also contained events and their details, obituaries of church members, and various other topics related to the Lutheran faith.

Photographs

This series contains photographs of the inside and outside of the church, as well as various gatherings and events which took place within the church. The photos are undated.

Records

This series contains four types of materials all related to the general records of the Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia.

The first type consists of a pair of guest registers, detailing visitors to the church from March 1979 to January 1984.

The second type consists of the documents related to the purchase and acquisition of land and the building plans and permits for the church building constructed for this congregation during 1978 to 1979, with the plans, permits, and acquisitions from as early as 1967.

The third type consists of the materials related to the official membership lists of the church from its earliest days in 1968 to the end of its congregation in 1988, along with several undated lists during that time including a rolodex of names.

The fourth type consists of the parish register, including further membership lists, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, and removals which took place within the church, 1976-1987.

Slides

This series contains four different events depicted in slides. This includes the ground-breaking of the new church building, a church picnic outside, a service which took place on the concrete foundation of the new church building before the roof had been started, and the dedication day of the new church, all of which are dated to 1978.

Container List:

- f. 1 Bulletins, 1977
- f. 2 Bulletins, 1978
- f. 3 Bulletins, January 1979 – July 1979
- f. 4 Bulletins, August 1979 – December 1979
- f. 5 Bulletins, 1980
- f. 6 Bulletins, 1981
- f. 7 Bulletins, 1982
- f. 8 Bulletins, 1983
- f. 9 Bulletins, 1984
- f. 10 Bulletins, 1985
- f. 11 Bulletins, 1986
- f. 12 Bulletins, 1987-1988
- f. 13 Religious Papers
- f. 14 Film – Ground Breaking and Dedication of Church, 1978
- f. 15 Governing Documents
- f. 16 Minutes, July 1977 – May 1980

- f. 17 Minutes, June 1980 – October 1982
- f. 18 Minutes, November 1982 – June 1988
- f. 19 Miscellaneous, 1968-1986
- f. 20 Newsletters, 1979-1988
- f. 21 Photographs
- f. 22 Records – Guest Book, March 1979 – July 1980
- f. 23 Records – Guest Book, August 1980 – January 1984
- f. 24 Records – Land and Building Documents
- f. 25 Records – Membership Lists, 1977 - 1978
- f. 26 Records – Membership Lists, Undated
- f. 27 Records – Parish Register, 1976-1987
- f. 28 Slides – Church Ground Breaking, 1978
- f. 29 Slides – Church Picnic, 1978
- f. 30 Slides – Dedication Day, 1978
- f. 31 Slides – Service on concrete before roof is added

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Index Terms	Folder	Mediums	Image
Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia (Mo.)	1-31		
Calvary Lutheran Church of Columbia, (Mo.)	21, 28-31		Yes