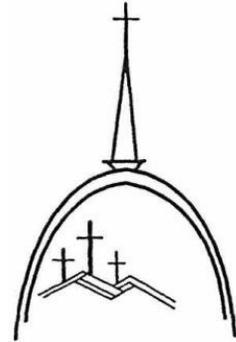


Calvary Lutheran Church

TOGETHER IN CHRIST
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



The First Weekend of Advent
Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022 - 5:30 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 - 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM

Contemplation: *What, or who, needs to be lifted up in hope this day?
Where have we fallen down in celebrating the beauty of each being?
How can we find a unity where all are included, like the circle of the wreath?
What keeps us from "making room" in our lives for God?
What perspective needs to be shifted in order to embrace joy?
Are we contributing a voice of hope or a voice of negativity?*

Prelude

Welcome

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Loving God,

We search for joy and meaning in our world. We look for it in our careers, our social circles, and along many of our paths in life. God, forgive us for not seeking Your kingdom first. Help us to have our eyes focused only on You. May we seek the ultimate treasure which is Your salvation. Help us to trust that we are a forgiven people, who find joy in the assurance that we are Yours. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Through the word we hear from God, that God is light, and in God there is no darkness. If we say that we have fellowship with God and yet walk in the darkness, we do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. **Amen.**

Focusing on Hopeful Joy

We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded.

We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

Opening Song "Heaven and Nature Sing"

Sing a new song to the Lord. **(Sing a new song to the Lord.)**

Lift your hearts with gratitude. **(Lift your hearts with gratitude.)**

Sing a new song to the Lord. **(Sing a new song to the Lord.)**

Lift your hearts with gratitude **(Lift your hearts with gratitude)**
and joy, **(and joy,)** Hopeful joy. **(Hopeful joy.)**

Your steadfast love and faithfulness. **(Your steadfast love and faithfulness.)**

is ever present in our lives. **(is ever present in our lives.)**

Your steadfast love and faithfulness. **(Your steadfast love and faithfulness.)**

is ever present in our lives. **(is ever present in our lives.)**

with joy, **(with joy,)** Hopeful joy. **(Hopeful joy.)**

We sing **(We sing)** We sing **(We sing)**

"Joy to the world". **("Joy to the World".)**

Heaven and Nature sing (Heaven and Nature sing)

"Joy to the world". **("Joy to the World".)**

Heaven and Nature sing. **(Heaven and Nature sing.)**

with joy, **(with joy,)** Hopeful joy. **(Hopeful joy.)**

Lighting of the Advent Candle-Hopeful Joy

The Advent Wreath is a time-honored tradition in Christian faith. The shape of a circle and the evergreens symbolize newness, nature, continuous life and the unending love of Christ.

Joy is always around. Joy is always with us and we can always find it EVEN when things are not so great. That's what makes it different from "happiness." Because, yes, some things are not so great in this world, but I'm still here. I'm still hopeful and so I'm still joyful. Hope is the thing that can surprise us, that DOES surprise us. And surprise happens most often when we allow ourselves to open and look around and change our perspective. So... we get surprised by a different way of looking at things, it brings us hope and we reconnect to the joy that has been there, is there, all along. That's what we'll celebrate today.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you are our joy. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly shifting our fear to compassion, and grinding our swords into plows.

Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.

Let us prepare him room in our church this day.

Let us prepare him room in the world this day... for Hope. Amen.

Psalm 98

O sing to the Beloved a new song,

for Love has done marvelous things!

By the strength of your Indwelling Presence,

we, too, are called to do great things; we are set free through Love's forgiveness and truth.

Yes, your steadfast Love and faithfulness are ever-present gifts in our lives.

All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of Love's Eternal Flame.

(translation, Nan C. Merrill)

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 2: 1-5 (CEB)

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation. Opening ourselves to a different perspective can bring a sense of hope in the midst of despair—allowing joy to creep in no matter what. Opening to the perspectives of others can shift our fear to compassion, turning swords into plows. Salvation is near, says the scripture, when we wake up, when we prepare room in our lives for new Light, new insight, new hope to enter. Let us hear from the prophet Isaiah:

In the days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
will be the highest of the mountains.
It will be lifted above the hills;
peoples will stream to it.
³ Many nations will go and say,
"Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain,
to the house of Jacob's God
so that he may teach us his ways
and we may walk in God's paths."
Instruction will come from Zion;
the Lord's word from Jerusalem.
⁴ God will judge between the nations,
and settle disputes of mighty nations.
Then they will beat their swords into iron plows
and their spears into pruning tools.
Nation will not take up sword against nation;
they will no longer learn how to make war.
⁵ Come, house of Jacob,
let's walk by the Lord's light.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading Romans 13: 11-14 (CEB)

"... make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work [God] began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message (10:15)

Gospel Acclamation *Psalm 95* by Gloria Lien

O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.
O shout to the rock of our salvation.
Come before God's presence with thanksgiving.
Shout, joyfully to God with psalms.
The Lord is a great God, we are God's people,
the sheep of God's hand.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44

³⁶ "No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; ³⁷ the Father alone knows. ³⁸ The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. ³⁹ In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; ⁴⁰ yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes. ⁴¹ At that time two men will be working in a field: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. ⁴² Two women will be at a mill grinding meal: one will be taken away, the other will be left behind. ⁴³ Watch out, then, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. ⁴⁴ If the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, you can be sure that he would stay awake and not let the thief break into his house. ⁴⁵ So then, you also must always be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Preparing or Procrastinating* Pastor Dean E. Johnson

Song of the Day *All Earth is Hopeful* (ELW 266)

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.....

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Response *"From Our Abundance We Give"*

From our abundance we give,
we who are blessed beyond measure,
grateful for all that we have,
hearts overflowing with treasure,
humbled by joy every day that we live.
From our abundance we give.
From our abundance we give.

Offering Prayer

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope and
We give in hope.
Hope for your coming reign;
Hope because of your presence with us even now.
Receive our offerings,
And use them for your work of healing and
creating hope in our world.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending Blessing

May you be blessed with a Hopeful Joy
that rings deep in your soul
so that whatever life brings,
you will have prepared room in your heart
for the birth of new ways of looking at the world,
being in the world,
bringing hope to the world.
And may you sing along with all heaven and earth!
Amen!

Sending Song *He Came Down* (ELW 253)

Dismissal

Go into the world with Hopeful Joy. Christ is near!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

***Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Diane Cordes,
sister of Char Arnsdorf***

Last week's worship attendance: 265 YouTube: 98 households

2022 Financials October & YTD

	October Budget	October Actual	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 72,110.40	\$ 61,461.32	\$ (10,649.08)	\$ 721,104.20	\$ 634,891.71
1 time only ERC (Employee Retention Credit)					\$ 73,844.64
Expenses	\$ 75,329.03	\$ 67,988.44	\$ (7,340.59)	\$ 753,289.97	\$ 752,963.17
	\$ (3,218.63)	\$ (6,527.12)	\$ (3,308.49)	\$ (32,185.77)	\$ (44,226.82)

Upcoming Services

***THEME: Heaven and Nature Sing:
Joy to the World!***

1st Weekend of Advent - Hopeful Joy

November 26th, 5:30pm
November 27th, 8 & 10:15am

Blue Christmas - Elusive Joy

November 27th, 4pm

2nd Weekend of Advent - Loving Joy

December 3rd, 5:30pm
December 4th, 8:00am,
Bishop Dee Pederson
December 4th, 10:15am,
Bishop Dee Pederson and
Children's Program

3rd Weekend of Advent - Unabashed Joy

December 10th, 5:30pm
December 11th, 8 & 10:15am

4th Weekend of Advent - Peaceful Joy

December 17th, 5:30pm
December 18th, 8 & 10:15am

Christmas - Incarnate Joy

December 24th, 3:30, 5:00, 10:00pm
December 25th, 10:00am

Giving Tree

The Social Kindness Committee is providing each of us the opportunity to give a Christmas gift to someone in need in our community. Our Giving Tree, filled with ornaments, is up! Simply choose an ornament (or two), purchase the requested gift, and return it to the church office before December 12. Please use a gift bag and attach the colored ornament to the bag. These gifts bring such joy to the recipients as well as the givers! Thank you for your participation.

Calvary's 150th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

December 3/4, 2022

Join us to decorate in Bethany Hall on December 1st and 2nd any time between 10 am and 7 pm. All are welcome! Wish to volunteer for something else? **Please contact Krista Willis (320-905-2946) or Jean Berg (320-295-8321).**

Christmas Poinsettias

Every year, Calvary decorates the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. You can buy one for just \$10, in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please stop at the office to make your payment and fill out the form. Deadline is November 29th. Let's fill the sanctuary with beautiful flowers!

Memorial Tree

***Honoring the memory of
those we have lost***

Calvary's Memorial Tree will be set up at the east entrance on Monday, November 28th. You may add your ornaments during regular office hours, M-F, 8-4. Please pick them back up by January 6th, or they will be stored for next time. Thank you!

Library Registration

Our check-out system is now computerized, so please stop by the library and fill out a form for us if you'd like to check out any books. Thank you for your cooperation!

The Amazing Collection

Join our Bible study on Mondays at 9:00 am in the Friendship Room. Everyone is welcome!

Grief Care

Grief Care meets in the Friendship Room on Mondays from 5:15-6:30 pm. All are welcome.

West Central Singers at Calvary December 11th, 4 pm

Text Bible Study

Join us on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Friendship Room. All are welcome!

Reminder—Annual Reports

Annual reports are due by December 1st! Please email to: teri@calvarywillmar.org. Thank you!

Need a Name Tag?

We encourage you to wear your name tags at church. Don't have one? Please stop by the office and we will order one for you!

NTY

Friday, November 9th - Noon

If you like Christmas music (and who doesn't like Christmas music?!!) then you'll enjoy Terry Shaw and his Christmas music program at the December NTY. Bring a guest and enjoy a good lunch followed by a fun musical presentation by Terry.

Please call the church office by Wednesday, December 7th to register. Cost is \$7.00 payable the day of NTY.

Note: Please bring a few Christmas goodies to share for dessert. If you're unable to, please come anyway! There is always enough.

Confirmation Dinner Menu

November 30 - Tater tot hotdish

Find us on Facebook and YouTube

Radio: Sun 10:45 am on KWLM 1340 AM and 96.3 FM

TV: Sun 1:00 pm & 8:00 pm, Tues 9:30 am & 6:30 pm (WRAC Channel 181 on Spectrum)

Serving Today

Preaching: Pastor Dean E. Johnson
Assisting: Pastor David Severtson
Lectors: Sat: Wayne Johnson
Sun 8:00: Brett Aamot, Sun 10:15: Mary Jo de Cathelineau
Acolytes: 8:00: Brooklyn Mathews and Maddie George
10:15: Bailey Nichols and Brooklyn Pederson
Greeters: 8:00: John & Dawn Kappers, Ron & Bonnie Keith
10:15: Gerald & Eileen Sweep, Dennis & Sharon Eastman
Office: 8:00: Nancy Fritz, 10:15: Krista Willis
Sound: 8:00: Mark Johnson, 10:15: Shawn Swenson
Video: Troy Pederson

Calvary Staff

Pastors: Dean E. Johnson and David Severtson
Director of Music Ministry: Naomi Powers-Baker
Interim Children and Family Coordinator: Erica Mathews
Office Manager: Teri Sokulski
Ministry Communications: Sheila Rohner-Quinn
Custodian: Kim Schow
Head Usher: Randy Novak
Kitchen Coordinator: Enola Dowdell
Calvary Cemetery Sexton: Ron Keith

Calvary Council

Board of Children & Family:

Erica Mathews - Chair
Elissa Nelson
Kaylee Jahraus

Board of Finance:

Shane Baker - Chair
Kevin Hanson
Shawn Swenson
Keith Neumann

Board of Outreach:

Richard Wog
Pam Dekraai
Ace Bonnema
Jodie Gulbranson

Board of Stewardship:

Caleb Hanson - Chair
Kim Larson
Amber Willis

Board of Worship:

Mary Jo de Cathelineau - Chair
Sandy Hanson
Michelle Fernholz
Cathy Halbritter

Board of Youth & Family:

Karen Loge - Chair
Karina Rice - Secretary
Jen Halvorson

2022 Executive Committee: Kim Larson (President); Shawn Swenson (Vice President);
Mary Jo de Cathelineau (Secretary); Shane Baker (Treasurer).

Calvary Calendar

Sunday, November 27

8:00am Worship Service
9:05am Adult Forum
10:15am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
4:00pm Blue Christmas Service
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

Monday, November 28

9:00am The Amazing Collection
5:00pm Bell Choir
5:15pm Grief Care
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, November 29

6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181
7:00pm Zoom Pilates with Lori

Wednesday, November 30

6:00pm Confirmation

Thursday, December 1

9:30am Text Bible Study
10:00am 150th Anniversary Decorating
12:30pm Board of Worship
6:00pm Girl Scouts - Troop 3655

Friday, December 2

10:00am 150th Anniversary Decorating

Saturday, December 3

10:00am Praise Band
5:30pm Chapel Service
6:30pm 150th Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, December 4

8:00am Worship Service
9:05am Adult Forum
9:05am Early Childhood Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm



Our souls weep
and we wonder how
we will get through a time of joy.

You are invited to

A Blue Christmas

Sunday, November 27, 2022

4:00pm

Finding Joy, Peace, Love,
and Hope in Our Hearts.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVE.
WILLMAR, MN