

# *Calvary Lutheran Church*

TOGETHER IN CHRIST  
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



## *The First Weekend of Lent*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023—5:30 PM**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 — 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM**

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We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

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Prelude

Welcome/Connection Cards

(10:15) Recognition of Enola Dowdell, Kitchen Coordinator

Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.  
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,  
forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

Gathering Song *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* ELW 326

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, **our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. <sup>16</sup> He told him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, <sup>17</sup> except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day."

Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the Lord God had made. The snake asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"

<sup>2</sup> "We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden," the woman answered, <sup>3</sup> "except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die."

<sup>4</sup> The snake replied, "That's not true; you will not die. <sup>5</sup> God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad."

<sup>6</sup> The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. <sup>7</sup> As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,  
whose wrongs are pardoned.

**<sup>2</sup> Happy is the one whom the Lord does not accuse of doing wrong  
and who is free from all deceit.**

<sup>3</sup> When I did not confess my sins,  
I was worn out from crying all day long.

**<sup>4</sup> Day and night you punished me, Lord;  
my strength was completely drained,  
as moisture is dried up by the summer heat.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I confessed my sins to you;  
I did not conceal my wrongdoings.

I decided to confess them to you,  
and you forgave all my sins.

**<sup>6</sup> So all your loyal people should pray to you in times of need;<sup>[b]</sup>  
when a great flood of trouble comes rushing in,  
it will not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding place;  
you will save me from trouble.  
I sing aloud of your salvation,  
because you protect me.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord says, "I will teach you the way you should go;  
I will instruct you and advise you.**

<sup>9</sup>Don't be stupid like a horse or a mule,  
which must be controlled with a bit and bridle  
to make it submit."

<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will have to suffer,  
but those who trust in the Lord  
are protected by his constant love.**

<sup>11</sup>You that are righteous, be glad and rejoice  
because of what the Lord has done.  
You that obey him, shout for joy!

Gospel Acclamation    *"We are Turning, Lord, to Hear You"* p. 205

Gospel            Matthew 4:1-11

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. <sup>2</sup>After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. <sup>3</sup>Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread."

<sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says,

'God will give orders to his angels about you;  
they will hold you up with their hands,  
so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "But the scripture also says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. <sup>9</sup>"All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him.  
The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "Led by the Spirit" Pastor David Severtson

Song of the Day *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* ELW 800

Apostle's Creed (page 105)

Prayers of the Church  
(Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Music

Offering Response *Lord, Be Glorified* ELW 744 vs. 1,4

Offering Prayer  
God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel,  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

Explanation of the Ritual of Ashes

We are reminded in the Ritual of Ashes that we are part of the dust and debris of this earth. Just as things of creation grow but also die in the cycle of life, so too our lives have times of growth and times of decay and death. Placing the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ashes is a reminder of this difficult reality but also a reminder of the presence of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Spirit in all of it. Early Christians were anointed with the sign of the cross on their foreheads at their baptism. This "sign and seal," as it is called, is a way to remember that we are marked and held as God's own, through *all* of the transformations and transitions we face.

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Communion Music *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* ELW 608  
*Just As I Am, without One Plea* ELW 592  
*Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471

## Blessing and Prayer after Communion

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

(8:00) Recognition of Enola Dowdell, Kitchen Coordinator

## Announcements

### Sending Blessing

God, the giver of love,  
Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

Sending Song    *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*    ELW 808

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love!

**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

Sundays and Seasons v.20230104.1415  
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This week's bulletin is sponsored in Honor of Harland Asche's 80th Birthday, given by Diane Asche

Hospitalized This week: Rob Hjelle, Mike Gimpl, Lu Morphew, Sandy Kemnitz

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Maxine Sweeter

Last Weekend's Worship Attendance - 236, YouTube - 90 households

Last weeks general offering - \$24,550

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**

<b>Preaching:</b>	Pastor David Severtson
<b>Assisting:</b>	Pastor Dean E. Johnson
<b>Acolytes:</b>	8:00 - Everett Halvorson & Kason Helgeson 10:15 - Anthony Thompson & Sophia Spencer
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	8:00 & 10:15 Brian Henrickson & Heather Bonnema
<b>Greeters:</b>	8:00 - Gary & Julie Wyffels, Ron & Bonnie Keith 10:15 - Gerald & Eileen Sweep, Dennis & Sharon Eastman
<b>Lectors:</b>	Saturday - Cindy Dean 8:00 - Dion Warne 10:15 - Larry Knutson
<b>Office:</b>	8:00 - Deb Lentz 10:15 - Mary Jo Ramey
<b>Sound:</b>	8:00 - Victoria Larsen 10:15 - Dean Hanson
<b>Video:</b>	Troy Pederson
<b>Imposition of Ashes:</b>	Janel Skindeliën & Susan Roepke

### **Calvary Staff**

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

### **2023 Calvary Council Leaders**

Shawn Swenson - Congregational President	Brian Henrickson
Mary Jo de Cathelineau - Vice President	Corey Nelson
Bridget Pederson - Secretary	Janel Skindeliën
Shane Baker	Amber Willis
Caleb Hanson	

## Living as Saints – Lent 2023

Lent is a time of renewal. Join us Wednesday evenings as we remember that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection and reborn saints, beloved children of God. We'll hear from various speakers about their lives as saints. Our weekly themes will be:

- Feb.22 – Marked with the Cross
- Mar.1 – Inheritance of Faith
- Mar.8 – Perseverance with Endurance
- Mar.15 – Faithful in Prayer
- Mar.22 – Striving for Justice
- Mar.29 – Dying and Rising with Christ.

A free-will offering meal of soup and sandwiches will be served at 5:15. Then, worship with Holden Evening Prayer will be held at 6:15.

## 2023 Lenten Offerings

February 22 - Ash Wednesday—Lutheran Social Service

March 1—Calvary Creation Care

March 8—Calvary Family Promise

March 15—Calvary Camp Scholarships

March 22—Lutheran Disaster Response for the Ukraine

March 29—Safe Avenues

April 6—Calvary Youth and Eagles Nest.

## Lead Pastor

Calvary Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation is seeking a Lead Administrative Pastor.

The Congregation has 2586 baptized members with 1992 confirmed members as of 12/31/22. Please share this information in order to reach out to possible candidates.

The church's Ministry Site Profile is available on the Southwestern Minnesota Synod website and the ELCA website.

Questions can be directed to Wayne Nelson, Chairperson of the Call Committee at 320-212-7987 or Bishop Dee Pederson at 507-637-3904.

Thank you

## Faith Formation Coordinator - P/T

Calvary Lutheran is searching for a Faith Formation Coordinator to provide leadership for our Sixth Grade to young adult ministry. This work involves collaborating with the Pastor of Faith Formation, the faith formation committees, and others in the congregation to provide young people and their families opportunities for growth and connection within a safe and nurturing environment. This is a 20-25 hours per week position compensated on an hourly basis. Please contact Pastor David Severtson if you are interested: [pastordavids@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:pastordavids@calvarywillmar.org), 920-264-4764. (posted 1/23/2023).

## Office Assistant - P/T

Calvary Lutheran is looking for a part time paid office position. If interested Please contact Pastor Dean E. Johnson at [pastordean@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:pastordean@calvarywillmar.org) or call 320-260-3642.

## Library News

Stop by the library and check out this new book: *The world is a confusing and painful place for children (and adults). How do you respond faithfully to your kids' big questions? Learn to craft faithful conversations and be better prepared to talk about the tough stuff with your kids. More than 30 essays from a diverse group of young Christian parents/pastors address today's toughest topics, including gender, race, bullying, mental illness, death, divorce, money, technology, and generosity.*

***When Kids Ask Hard Questions*** invites you to take a deep breath, create safe spaces for the hard conversations, and speak the truth in love.

### **A Life Well Lived**

Once again Calvary is offering a Lenten Women's Bible Study featuring A Life Well Lived by Charles Swindoll, Monday, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 at 9:00am in the Friendship Room.

This will be a video presentation with discussion. The book is optional but can be ordered through Teri in the office.

For further information contact Marcia Knutson 320-295-3753 or Carolyn Gripenrog 320-235-3799.

### **First Communion**

Please join us in congratulating the 2nd grade class as they will have their 1st Communion on Sunday, March 5th at 10:15 am. In the Narthex are the prayer boxes they have decorated. We would love for the congregation to write them a special prayer or a favorite bible verse and place them in their prayer boxes. Paper is available on the table by the boxes.

### **Grief Care**

Grief Care support group meets on Mondays at 5:15 pm in The Friendship Room. All are welcome.

### **Gather Bible Study for Women**

Third Wednesday each month, 10:00 am, in the Friendship Room.

### **Ready Set Glow**

Grades 2nd - 4th are invited to a glow party March 19th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm. Cost is \$5.00 per child and includes hot dogs, chips and water. Registration can be picked up in the office or contact Erica Mathews.

### **Pizza & Game Night Grades 5th & 6th**

Join us for a night of Pizza and Games at Calvary on March 24th, 6pm - 8pm. Cost is \$5.00 per student. Registration forms can be pick up in the office or contact Erica Mathews.

### **Creation Care Tip**

**Use Cruise Control** - Did you know cruise control actually consumes less fuel? In fact, cruise control could improve mileage by at least 15%, saving the environment, gas and money in the process. However, don't use cruise control on slippery roads!

### **The Annual Easter Egg Hunt At Calvary**

Is fast approaching. Last year we filled 2500 eggs, this year we have 5000 to fill! This event is truly made possible by the generous donations from our congregation. If you would like to donate to the egg hunt, you can drop off your contribution at the office or with Erica Mathews.

### **Adult Forum**

Sunday February 26th, 9:05am in the Friendship Room - Dean Johnson, In Whom We Believe! The Apostle Creed Revisited.

### **Enola Dowdell Recognition**

As a congregation we wish to show our appreciation and thanks to Enola Dowdell for many years as our Kitchen Coordinator. Enola has graciously organized Wednesday evening Confirmation meals, Sunday morning coffee and receptions for funerals and memorials. We are truly thankful for Enola's service to our congregation.

## **From Down the Hall by Naomi Baker**

Welcome to the first of monthly newsletter updates in Calvary's music world! In this space we can connect on the many aspects and opportunities Calvary has for YOU! Useful information and requests for feedback will be part of this column.

First off, we are in Lenten season. Wednesday evenings we will be using **Holden Evening Prayer**. This is a favorite of many. If you would like to be a song leader, please contact me. Song leaders can be 1 or more people. If you are interested and would like to practice ahead of time, I am available or I can make a recording for you.

Of course, with Lent comes Easter! A Calvary Easter Choir will be rehearsing following Wednesday evening services the following dates: 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 and following the Good Friday service 4/7. Please contact me ASAP so I can choose music accordingly.

Until next time.....

*"There's a song in you and it wants to live outside of you. The world and you both win when you express it."* John Jacobson

### **Bell Choir**

Bell Choir meets on Mondays, from 5-6pm. New members welcome. No experience necessary!

## **March is Food Shelf Month**

March is the month that we emphasize the need to stock the shelves at the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. Although food and monetary donations can be given at any-time, we have designated a food shelf weekend of Saturday and Sunday March 25th and 26th.

We ask that you bring non-perishable food or monetary donations that weekend, to be received in a processional offering.

Up until that final weekend, we are also asking the Sunday School and Confirmation students to participate:

- March 4, 5 and 8 - Canned fruit, vegetables or meats (Spam, tuna, etc.)
- March 11, 12 and 15 - soups
- March 18, 19 and 22 - Cereals, granola bars
- March 25, 26 and 29 - Pasta noodles, mac and cheese, hamburger helper, etc.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and join us in the special fundraiser. Our Kandiyohi County Food Shelf served over 500 households PER MONTH in 2022 and gave out 420,000 lbs. of food!

Thank you Calvary for your generous giving to the needs of our community.

Social Kindness Committee

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues its work to search for a Lead Pastor for Calvary Lutheran Church. Our last meeting on Monday, February 21st offered some encouragement but no candidate names for us to consider. We engaged in a brainstorming session on ways to market the opportunity to serve our congregation and draw more interest from candidates. We are currently seeking input from a marketing company on ways to show candidates all the positive aspects of our position, our congregation and our community. We did provide Bishop Dee Pederson with two names from committee members for the synod to seek permission to contact these ministers since they are outside the SW Synod and gauge their interest in Calvary's opening.

If anyone of our church congregation members has a name of a potential candidate, please provide that name to any of the Call Committee members and the name will be forwarded to the Synod and they will initiate their process.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers as we move forward in this call.

Wayne S. Nelson, Call Committee Chair

## Text Bible Study

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

## EXCITING NEWS!

Our church leadership has decided it is time for a new directory. Our dates for photography will be March 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 8:30pm and Sat March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 5pm. Don't worry, we have additional dates in May for those of you not able to join us in March. Please note we prefer to fill the March dates first.

There are 2 ways to schedule; To make an appointment online go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) or use the QR code posted, click on the Photography appt login, enter church code **mn340** and the password is **photos**. Both are case sensitive.

The second would be to sign up between services or after the 10:15am service on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>

We will need volunteers to help with the sign up process between the 8am and 10:15 service, and after the 10:15am service to sit by the laptops and help sign families up. We will also need hosts and hostesses for the days of photography. Please let the church office know if you can be of help. If you have questions please direct to Naomi Baker or Erica Mathews.



## What's for dinner?

Calvary's cookbook has great recipes that will help you plan your next meal.

Pick one up at the office for \$5.00.

**Sunday, February 26**

8:00am Worship Service – Recognition of Enola Dowdell  
9:05am Sunday School  
10:15am Worship Service – Recognition of Enola Dowdell  
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm  
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181  
2:00pm Setup for Pinewood Derby - Boy Scouts  
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

**Monday, February 27**

5:00pm Bell Choir  
5:15pm Grief Care  
6:30pm Cub Scouts  
7:00pm Boy Scouts - Pinewood Derby

**Tuesday, February 28**

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

**Wednesday, March 1**

1:30pm Deaconess Meeting  
5:15pm Soup and Sandwich  
6:15pm Lenten Worship Service

**Thursday, March 2**

9:30am Text Bible Study  
1:00pm Quilters  
6:00pm Girl Scouts - Troop 3655

**Saturday, March 4**

10:00am Praise Band  
5:30pm Chapel Service

**Sunday, March 5**

8:00am Worship Service  
9:05am Early Childhood Sunday School  
9:05am Sunday School  
10:15am Worship Service – First Communion – Noisy Offering  
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm  
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181  
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181