

Calvary Lutheran Church

TOGETHER IN CHRIST
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



Artwork by Brooklyn Pederson

The Second Weekend of Lent
First Communion for 2nd Grade
SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023 — 10:15 AM

Gathering Music *God So Loved* –Cash
Do Lord
Borning Cry ELW 732

Welcome/Connection Cards

Greeting

Friends in Christ, we welcome you with special joy today as we join the newest group of Calvary Youth in receiving the body and blood of Christ! Their journey of faith began at baptism and continues daily with the guidance and example of fellow followers of Christ.

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 *Every Move I Make*

Prayer of the Day

God, our leader and guide, **in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. We pray for our young members who will receive first communion today and we pray for the life, work and witness of this congregation, that we might foster people of all ages**

**in their journey of faith: never too young, never too old, 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 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. ²I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
But I will curse those who curse you.
And through you I will bless all the nations."

⁴When Abram was seventy-five years old, he started out from Haran, as the Lord had told him to do; and Lot went with him.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

I look to the mountains;
where will my help come from?

²**My help will come from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let you fall;
your protector is always awake.

⁴**The protector of Israel
never dozes or sleeps.**

⁵The Lord will guard you;
he is by your side to protect you.

⁶**The sun will not hurt you during the day,
nor the moon during the night.**

⁷The Lord will protect you from all danger;
he will keep you safe.

⁸**He will protect you as you come and go
now and forever.**

New Testament Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What shall we say, then, of Abraham, the father of our race? What was his experience? ²If he was put right with God by the things he did, he would have something to boast about—but not in God's sight. ³The scripture says, "Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous." ⁴A person who works is paid wages, but they are not regarded as a gift; they are something that has been earned. ⁵But those who depend on faith, not on deeds, and who believe in the God who declares the guilty to be innocent, it is this faith that God takes into account in order to put them right with himself.

¹³ When God promised Abraham and his descendants that the world would belong to him, he did so, not because Abraham obeyed the Law, but because he believed and was accepted as righteous by God. ¹⁴ For if what God promises is to be given to those who obey the Law, then faith means nothing and God's promise is worthless. ¹⁵ The Law brings down God's anger; but where there is no law, there is no disobeying of the law.

¹⁶ And so the promise was based on faith, in order that the promise should be guaranteed as God's free gift to all of Abraham's descendants—not just to those who obey the Law, but also to those who believe as Abraham did. For Abraham is the spiritual father of us all; ¹⁷ as the scripture says, "I have made you father of many nations." So the promise is good in the sight of God, in whom Abraham believed—the God who brings the dead to life and whose command brings into being what did not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Gospel John 3:1-17

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. ² One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him."

³ Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."

⁴ "How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"

⁵ "I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. ⁷ Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" asked Nicodemus.

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? ¹¹ I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. ¹² You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me, then, when I tell you about the things of heaven? ¹³ And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven."

¹⁴As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior.
The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "Lessons Learned About Faith" Pastor Dean E. Johnson

Song of the Day *If You're Happy and You Know It*
1. Clap your hands 2. Stomp your feet
3. Shout Amen! 4. Do all three

Children's Message Pastor David Severtson

Apostle's Creed (page 105)

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

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Music *Strong, Gentle Children*
Strong, gentle children, God made you beautiful,
gave you the wisdom and power you need;
speak in the stillness all you are longing for;
live out your calling to love and to lead.

Strong, knowing children, utter your cry aloud,
honor the wisdom God gave you at birth;
speak to your elders till they have heard your voice;
sing out your vision of healing on earth.

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.

First Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for these young people
who today receive bread and wine in your name
alongside fellow congregants.
Give them an understanding of the mystery
of your body and blood,
that day by day
they may grow to be more like you.

Amen.

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Communion Music *Sanctuary*
Children of the Heavenly Father ELW 781
Jesus Loves Me ELW 595
Mercy is Falling

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.

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/Noisy Offering *This Little Light of Mine*

1. This little light of mine
2. Jesus gave it to me
3. All around Calvary
4. Shine til Jesus comes

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love!

Thanks be to God!

Departure

Sundays and Seasons v.20230104.1415
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Hospitalized This week: Rob Hjelle, Mike Gimpl

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Lu Morpew

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
Acolytes:	8:00 - Brooklyn & McKenna Mathews 10:15 - Alysha & Andrew Christenson
Communion Assistants	8:00 - Janel Skindelien & Ryan Newberg 10:15 - Pam DeKraai & Elissa Nelson
Greeters:	8:00 - Jan & Colleen Ruby, Gayle & Linda Larson 10:15 - Michelle & Isaac Fernholz, Donavon & Kathleen Monson
Lectors:	Saturday - Marilyn Gjerde 8:00 - Jim Swenson 10:15 - Ethan Johnson & Emmelyn Jahraus
Office:	8:00 - Sally Olson 10:15 - Julie Olson
Sound:	8:00 - Mark Johnson 10:15 - Kim Larson
Video:	Troy Pederson

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 Skindelien
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 – Striving for Justice
- Mar.22 – Faithful in Prayer
- 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, 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 or call 320-260-3642.

Don't Forget Your Coins!

We will have "Noisy Offering" this Sunday, March 5th, during our 10:15 am service. Children will pass buckets and collect coin money. (This is in addition to our regular offering.) All proceeds from Noisy Offering from January to May will go to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Thanks for your support!

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 Gripentrog 320-235-3799.

Adult Forum

Sunday March 5th, 9:05am in the Friendship Room - Pastor Dean E Johnson, The Lords Prayer Revisited.

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.

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

Grief Care

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

Second Grade 1st Communion

Mariah Halvorson	Aubrie Pawelk
Ella Jeseritz	Danielle Rosendahl
Leah Kallevig	Avelie Schow
Kade Knott	Scarlet Skornika
Maivry Kotrba	Kendra Steinbeisser
Asher Mathews	Gracy Wolf

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.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt At Calvary

We need your help! Calvary has 5000 Easter eggs to fill with candy. We are getting together on Monday March 13th at 10:00 am in Bethany Hall. If you are interested in helping contact Erica Mathews at 320-444-0626 or erica@calvarywillmar.org

Easter Floral Splendor

Our tradition of filling the sanctuary and other spaces around the building with beautiful Easter lilies and spring flowers continues. These are provided in honor and in memory of loved ones. You are invited to purchase a plant(s) for \$10.00 each.

Friday March 31st is the last day to order your flowers. Forms are available at the office, make checks payable to Calvary Lutheran Church.

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Calvary Creation Care News

Have you noticed that Calvary is using glass communion cups again? The plastic cups we had been using were not recyclable. Calvary still had the old glass cups so we are working on being good stewards of the earth and using, the glass cups again. The Creation Care Committee purchased racks so the glass cups can be washed in the church's dishwasher. A fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 12 between church services to help pay for the new racks. Come and enjoy a homemade cinnamon or caramel roll and make a donation to offset the cost of the dishwasher racks. This fundraiser will be matched up to \$250 by a Thrivent grant.

Library News

What do you dream about in your loveliest of dreams? **God's Dream** is an introduction for the youngest readers to Archbishop Tutu's message of forgiveness and empathy. In this warm and beautiful collaboration, the answer to this question is as simple as holding hands yet as vast as a prayer. Your children will love the beautiful illustrations.

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

Congratulations On Our Third Bench

From November 2021 - February 2023 we have recycled 2,438 lbs. of plastic.

Keep up the good work!

Bell Choir

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

EXCITING NEWS!

Our church leadership has decided it is time for a new directory. Our dates for photography will be March 21st – 24th from 2pm – 8:30pm and Sat March 25th 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 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 12th, 19th or 26th



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.

Text Bible Study

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

Gather Bible Study for Women

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

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

Monday, March 6

4:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting
5:00pm Bell Choir
5:15pm Grief Care
6:30pm Cub Scouts
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 7

1:00pm Social Kindness Committee
6:30pm Charity Circle
6:30pm Creation Care
6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181
7:00pm Native American History
7:00pm Zoom Pilates with Lori

Wednesday, March 8

4:30pm Building & Grounds Committee
5:15pm Soup and Sandwich
6:15pm Lenten Worship Service

Thursday, March 9

9:30am Text Bible Study
1:00pm Quilters
6:00pm Girl Scouts - Troop 3655
6:30pm Girl Scouts #3656

Saturday, March 11

10:00am Visitation – Maxine Sweeter
11:00am Memorial Service - Maxine Sweeter
5:30pm Chapel Service

Sunday, March 12

8:00am Worship Service
9:05am Creation Care forum/fundraiser
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
3:00pm Girl Scouts #3500
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181