



LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVENUE SE
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201

The Calvary Messenger ***February 9, 2024***

Next Messenger will be sent out February 23, 2024.
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday Chapel Service: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:15 am Services

Svea: Sunday 11:00 am

Lenten Dinner: 5:30 - 6:15 pm

(February 14 - March 20)

Midweek Lenten Services: 6:15 pm



Genesis 3:19b "you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is what we hear every Ash Wednesday worship service as we receive ashes to remember and recognize our humanity and our mortality. The imposition of ashes in a worship service is not in the Bible per se but neither is Christmas worship, but it is an important worship service to remember that we are not Gods. It is a reminder for us that it is God who provides us with grace and faith and God gives grace freely because of God's never-failing love for us.

As we remember our mortality, we can also remember the eternal life given to us into the Kingdom of God. Ash Wednesday has always been an antinomy for me, as we are remembering our mortality, and it is the beginning of the Lent season of worship as we prepare and wait for the crucifixion of our Lord, yet we know how the story ends. Jesus returns from the tomb in his resurrection and ascension to the Father and promises us a resurrection like his. It is good that we remember our mortality because it reminds us that we are not God and it grounds us in a humble faith.

Ash Wednesday has fallen on Valentine's Day 3 times in the last one hundred years and falls on Valentine's Day this year and will again in 2029. It is a rare occasion for Ash Wednesday and Valentine's to share days and it recalls, can those two holidays reconcile? I give it a resounding yes! So, I invite you to our Ash Wednesday and Valentine celebration February 14th, 2024, and hear how those two holidays actually go together very well. Pastor Dwaine Sutherland

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee met on Tuesday evening, January 31, 2024. Agenda items included the following: Finalized the MSP for Associate Pastor position. Final amendments will be made on Wednesday and Wayne will upload the MSP to the Synod office for their review. Once they have reviewed it and approved, it will be published on the Synod site. We reviewed the job description of the Associate Pastor position.

We discussed the current make-up of the Call Committee. With only one student member at this time, the Call Committee felt it would be appropriate to add another student. Bridget Pederson announced that she would be resigning from the Call Committee to focus on her other church duties. She did come prepared with names of potential replacements. Those names were forwarded to Mary Jo for consideration by the Council, who are charged with appointments to the Call Committee.

We had discussions about candidates and the number of open positions appearing on the Synod web site. There are currently 34 open calls listed on the SW Minn Synod website. We ask that any Calvary member that knows of a pastor looking for a call fitting our position let our Call Committee know and we will get that information to the Synod. Final agenda item was a discussion about candidate questions. Dion Warne indicated he had some questions he uses in his interviews of potential bank employees and would provide them for our review.

Respectively Submitted,
Wayne S Nelson
Call Committee Chairperson

*****If you or a loved one would like a pastoral visit (ill, hospitalized, or just because), please contact Senior Pastor Dwaine Sutherland at (651) 500-7657 - dsutherland@calvarywillmar.org or Interim Pastor Wayne Kopitzke at (320) 841-1951 - revwayne100@gmail.com. Pastor Dwaine and Pastor Wayne are always willing to provide support in time of need.*****



CREATION CARE Pollinator Plot Update 1 February 2024 Edition

Did you know that Calvary has established a pollinator plot on the west portion of the former Bethesda property? Over 80 species of native plants were seeded and 2024 will be its second growing season. Native plants are important to pollinators and other wildlife all year long. Be watching for more information explaining the importance of native plants and pollinator habitat during all of our Minnesota seasons.

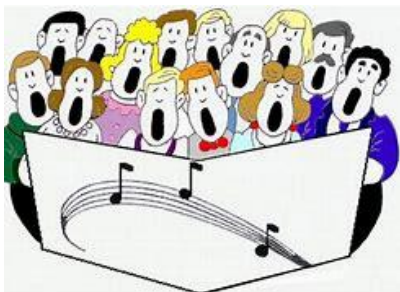


LIBRARY NEWS

The Girl From the Train, written by Irma Joubert, is an international bestseller for adults. Jakob Kowalski, a Polish resistance fighter, is planting a bomb on the tracks to destroy a German troop transport. However, six-year-old Gretl Schmidt is on an unscheduled train to reach the bomb first. Gretl is the only survivor. She finds herself lost in a country hostile to her people. When Jakob discovers her, guilt and fatherly compassion prompt him to take her in. For three years, the young man and the little girl form a bond over the secrets they must hide from his Catholic family.

LIBRARY HOURS

**The library will be open every
Sunday between the
8:00 and 10:15 services**



SINGING FOR FUN

This "Singing for Fun" group will pause during Lent and resume in April.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Hands of Lent



Calvary invites all to:
Wednesday Dinner at 5:30pm
Worship at 6:15pm

Ash Wednesday, February 14th - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland
(offering goes to Camp Scholarships)

Wednesday, February 21st - Foster Stitches & The Link
(Speaker & Offering)

Wednesday, February 28th - Calvary Creation Care
(Speaker & Offering)

Wednesday, March 6th - Hope for Our City
(Speaker & Offering)

Wednesday, March 13th - Calvary Youth
(Speakers & Offering)

Wednesday, March 20th - Arrive Ministries
(Speaker & Offering)

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, March 28th,
6:15pm at Calvary (Offering to the Foodshelf)

Good Friday, March 29th
12:30pm at Calvary (Offering to Safe Avenues)
7:00pm at Vinje

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

The Gather Bible Study will meet on Wednesday,
February 21 at 10:00 am in the Friendship Room.



Easter **EGG HUNT**

Join us at Calvary Lutheran
Church at 1PM for our annual
Easter egg hunt. We will plan to
hold it on the green space to the
west of the church-in case of too
much snow the backup will be in
the parking lot.

**SATURDAY
MARCH 23RD**

1:00PM

**CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

302 OLENA AVE SE





**15TH-
18TH
JULY**

**DAY
CAMP
2024**

**FOR YOUTH COMPLETED
GRADES K-5**



**CREATED
TO BE**
Summer
2024



We will bus the youth from Vinje Lutheran Church in the mornings to The Shores of St Andrew to spend the day, then bus back in the afternoon.

Register at www.gllm.org



Last year Calvary gave \$13,000 in scholarships to help our youth attend summer camp. This year we have the same goal! Please donate if you can!

HONOR LOVED ONES

Every Easter, Calvary likes to fill the Sanctuary with flowers, provided in honor and in memory of loved ones. You are invited to purchase plants for \$10 per plant to express your love and appreciation and help the church defray cost of providing the plants. **Friday, March 22, 2024**, is the last day to order Easter flowers. Please stop by the office to place an order for a loved one. If paying by check, make payable to "Calvary Lutheran Church". Thank you!



BEFRIENDER AT CALVARY **BeFriender's Foundation Principles:**

God is present
Caring not curing
Non-judgmental presence
Active listening
Leaders are:
Beth Bloomquist - mbloomquist@charter.net
320-905-8678
Nancy Holt - nholt0414@gmail



2024 Financials January & YTD						
	December Actual	December Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Income	\$ 60,784.64	\$ 67,387.50	\$ (6,602.86)	\$ 60,784.64	\$ 67,387.50	\$ (6,602.86)
Expenses	\$ 71,018.90	\$ 67,352.67	\$ 3,666.23	\$ 71,018.90	\$ 67,352.67	\$ 3,666.23
Net Income	\$ (10,234.26)	\$ 34.83	\$ (10,269.09)	\$ (10,234.26)	\$ 34.83	\$ (10,269.09)

WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

January 28 - 254
YouTube - 119 households
General Offering - \$18,075.10

February 3 & 4 - 329
YouTube - 116 households
General Offering - \$16,887.50

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Worship service is rebroadcast at 10:45 am on KWLM 1340 AM and 96.3 FM
(Vikings game rescinds the broadcast)

TV broadcast on WRAC channel 181:
Tuesdays at 9:30 am & 6:30 pm, Sundays 1:00 pm & 8:00 pm

YouTube channel: Calvary Lutheran Church Willmar



Announcements and other items for The Messenger are due by Wednesday at noon to be included in Friday's newsletter. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Calendar