



LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVENUE SE
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201

The Calvary Messenger *March 8, 2024*

Next Messenger will be sent out March 22, 2024.
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.



Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a depth in the Lenten journey that offers to take us places we don't normally go. This year, our Old Testament lessons allow us a glimpse into five covenant stories from the history of the Jewish People. It's as if God layers one covenant on top of another, each offering God's people new and different ways to live in close and intimate relationship with an invisible God who wants to remind a blind and distracted people over and over again that God loves what God creates. Namely: us.

On **February 18**, the **First Sunday in Lent**, the covenant story was the story of Noah and the rainbow. God deals with the rebellious sinfulness of God's people through redemption and forgiveness. God sealed this amazing covenant with a rainbow.

On **February 25**, the **Second Sunday in Lent**, the covenant story was the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah that they would be the parents of a great and numerous nation.

On **March 3**, the **Third Sunday in Lent**, the covenant that comes to the Hebrew people is the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai – the Ten Commandments.

On **March 10**, the **Fourth Sunday in Lent**, the covenant story reminds us of the struggles that accompany us on our journey. As the Hebrew people wandered through the wilderness in search of the promised land, they were tempted to turn their back on God. The people confessed their sin and were restored as they "looked upon a bronze serpent, and lived."

And on **March 17**, the **Fifth Sunday in Lent**, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us of that hopeful promise that "the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant" with my people: a covenant that "I will write on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

People are always tempted to think that they have figured out all there is to know about God's covenant. But there is always something new, just around the corner. God adds covenant upon covenant, promise upon promise, grace upon grace. As Jeremiah looked ahead to a "new covenant" we rejoice in the new covenant that came to us in Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. We seal that covenant with Baptism, a promise from God that, from the day we're born, God's grace is our sustaining hope...and we are blessed for our journeys.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Wayne

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



*****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.*****

TIME CHANGE COMING UP...

MARCH 10, 2024 AT 2AM



**CALL
COMMITTEE
UPDATE**

The Call Committee hasn't had much activity since our last report. We have been anxiously awaiting any inquiries from interested candidates for our Associate Pastor position. To date, we have not had any RMP's to review.

Please keep the Call committee in your prayers as we wait for our work to move forward.

Thank you.

Wayne Nelson, Call Committee Chair

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)**

7:00pm at Svea

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

3:00pm at Svea

7:00pm Joint Service at Vinje

Singing Opportunities

A Good Friday joint choir with
Vinje & First Presbyterian,
March 29, 7:00pm at Vinje.
Contact Naomi asap if interested.



*A Calvary
Easter Choir!
Contact
Naomi
asap if
interested.*

FOOD SHELF MONETARY DONATION



MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH

March is the month that we emphasize the need to stock the shelves at the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. We have a goal of \$1,600.00 for monetary donations. Last year we more than doubled our goal. Let's do it again.

April 7th is Food Shelf Sunday. There will be a table in the Narthex to drop off your food that Sunday. Donations can be received any time. The amount of grant money the Food Shelf receives is determined by how much food and money they bring in between February 26th and April 9th.

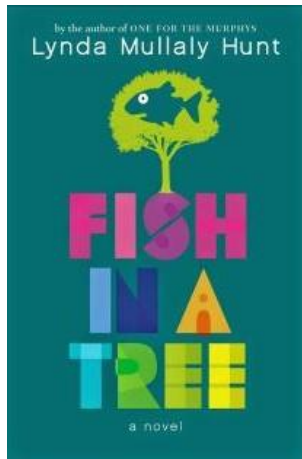
Thank you, Calvary, for giving to the needs of our community.

Social Kindness Committee

NTY

Wait!! Be patient!!

Only one more month to wait for **NTY!** We will be meeting Friday, April 12th. Our program will be **The Sunburg Fiddlers.** Mark your calendars and bring someone new for a fun & enjoyable lunch & program. If any questions, please call Diane Asche – 320-295-8938



LIBRARY NEWS

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt is a new chapter book in the Calvary library. Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Check it out!

<https://sites.google.com/view/noplasticsforlent/home>



2024



Creation Care
Resources

About

No Plastics for Lent

The **#NoPlasticsforLent** initiative, led by young adults across the church, calls us to prayer for creation, to lament the ways we have been complicit in the degradation of the earth, and to action to care for our neighbor in fasting from the things that are hurting our planet.

We want this initiative to be accessible to all, so we invite you to sustainability practices that make sense for you and are possible for you in your context or community.

We encourage you to develop a commitment to practice during this 40-days that turns our attention towards caring for creation. This could be fasting from single-use plastics, eating locally, using eco-friendly cleaning supplies, shopping at farmer's markets, etc.

Each Lent we publish a **pledge** where individuals, families, and communities can share whatever it is that they've pledged to do to fast from degradation of creation this Lenten season!

Over the course of Lent, we publish live videos, devotionals, resources, and host weekly discussion groups led by young adults who are passionate about their spirituality and about care for creation.



Past Content



ELCA Young
Adult Ministry

READY SET GLOW

GRADES 1ST - 5TH ARE INVITED TO
A GLOW PARTY MARCH 17TH FROM
3PM - 5PM.

COST IS \$5.00 PER CHILD TO
COVER THE SNACKS AND WATER
COSTS.

REGISTRATION CAN BE PICKED UP
WITH ERICA MATHEWS OR IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE.

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**



BAKE SALE

Raising funds for Nashville and Duluth

*WHEN: March 24th from 8:30-12 in
the narthex.*

*Buy some yummy treats and support
the youth!*




**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.

Use code willmardc2024

Register at www.gllm.org

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!



CONCORDIA CHAPEL CHOIR (MOORHEAD, MN) IN CONCERT

Hear the Concordia Chapel Choir perform Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm. Dr. Joseph Kemper conducts the 49-voice choir in a concert ranging from Renaissance madrigals to contemporary choral works.

Tickets are available at ConcordiaTickets.com.



Volunteers Needed

at Rice Memorial Hospital.

Hours are flexible.

Please call Julie, Auxiliary President at 507-220-4208



Grief Care

The Grief Care class will begin Monday April 1, 2024

5:15-6:30PM

with light refreshments

at 5:00PM.

Location - Bethesda Board Room,
adjacent to the Brothers Café.

BEFRIENDER AT CALVARY BeFriender's Foundation Principles:

God is present

Caring not curing

Non-judgmental presence

Active listening

Leaders are:

Beth Bloomquist - mbbloomquist@charter.net

320-905-8678

Nancy Holt - nholt0414@gmail.com



WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

February 24 & 25 - 233
February 28 - 137
YouTube - households 167
General Offering - \$23,899.60

March 2 & 3 - 366
March 6 - 133
YouTube - households - 163
General Offering - \$15,451.30

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!

Calvary Phone: 320-235-2508
Calvary E-mail: calvarylutheran@calvarywillmar.org
Calvary Website: www.calvarywillmar.org