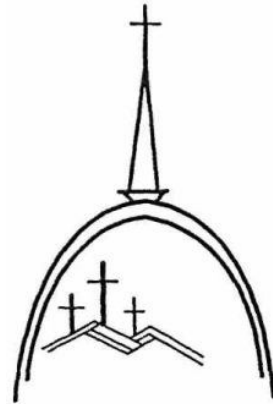


Calvary Lutheran Church

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:15 am

Our world and our lives include darkness and sin, evil and brokenness. But God's love for us and for the world is complete, passionate, and sacrificial. God is not willing to settle for part of the world, or for some of us. Instead of condemning all that is not pleasing, God gave God's own son, lifted up on the cross, so that all might have the possibility of eternal life. The light of God's love shining down from the cross demonstrates the totality of God's love and proclaims God's desire to transform the dark places in this world into places of light, healing, and salvation.

Gathering Music

Ring of the Bell

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.

Gathering Song "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" ELW 676

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Loving God,

We admit to you and to ourselves we do not always make the right decisions. Remind us that our selfish words and actions can affect others negatively. Help us to keep you in our hearts and minds as we decide right from wrong every day.

We thank you for forgiving us each and every time we mess up. We are grateful, O Lord, for your unending kindness and grace. In your name we pray, Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together,

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Canticle for Lent

Lead Me to the Cross

Graham Kendrick & Steve Thompson

Congregation

How can I — be free from sin? Lead me to the cross of Je - sus;
5 from the guilt, the pow'r — the pain, lead me to the cross of Je - sus.

The image shows a musical score for a congregation. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: 'How can I — be free from sin? Lead me to the cross of Je - sus;' and 'from the guilt, the pow'r — the pain, lead me to the cross of Je - sus.' The number '5' is written below the first note of the second line of music.

Leader sings: There's no other way, no price that I could pay,
simply to the cross I cling.
This is all I need, this is all I plead,
that His blood was shed for me.

(repeat congregational response)

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ² **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**
- ³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷ **Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**
- ¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
- ¹⁹ **Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;**
- ²⁰ he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.
- ²¹ **Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**
- ²² And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Here ends the reading of the Psalm

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, ⁴but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared be forehand so that we may walk in them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation “God Speaks Today”

In the beauty all surrounding, God speaks today.
In the love that keeps astounding, God speaks today.
As we live the invitation to restore each soul and nation,
as we strive to heal creation, God speaks today.

The Gospel

The Gospel reading is found in the book of John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon Pastor Dwaine Sutherland “The Three Uses of the Law”

Song of the Day “Amazing Grace” ELW 779

Apostles’ Creed (page 105)

Prayers of the Church and The Lord’s Prayer (page 112)

(Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Music

Offering Response “Change My Heart, O God” ELW 801

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together,
Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
Show us that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Sending Blessing

Beloved, we are God’s own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” ELW 774

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your love.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Confession & Forgiveness “Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.

Hospitalized this week: Marilyn Ulferts, Danny Elling

*****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, or Interim Pastor Wayne Kopitzke at (320) 841-1951
Pastor Dwaine or Pastor Wayne are always willing
to provide support in time of need.*****

Serving Today

Preaching: Pastor - Wayne D. Kopitzke Saturday 5:30pm
Pastor - Dwaine Sutherland Sunday 8:00am & 10:15am

Acolytes: 8:00 - Oliver Erickson, Paityn Wolf
10:15 - Rylynn & Keltyn Quist

Greeters: 8:00 - Craig & Susan Roepke, Gayle & Linda Larson
10:15 - Mike Moser & Jason & Anne Hultgren

Lectors: Saturday - 5:30 - Julie Neumann
Sunday - 8:00 - Kevin Christianson
10:15 - Laura Sehloff

Office: 7:45 - 9:30 - Mary Jo Ramey
9:30 - 11:15 - Alvina Henrickson

Sound: 8:00 - Doug Sawatzky
10:15 - Shawn Swenson

Video: 8:00 & 10:15 - David Sehloff

Calvary Staff

Senior Pastor: Dwaine Sutherland
Interim Pastor: Wayne D. Kopitzke
Director of Music Ministry: Naomi Powers-Baker
Faith Formation Coordinator - Children & Youth: Erica Mathews
Office Manager: Teri Sokulski
Office Assistant: Marie Fett
Custodians: Kim Schow & Ken Newberg
Head Usher: Randy Novak
Kitchen Coordinator: Enola Dowdell
Calvary Cemetery Sexton: Ron Keith

2024 Calvary Council Leaders

Mary Jo de Cathelineau - Congregational President	John Dean
Brian Henrickson - Vice President	Bob Dickerson
Bridget Pederson - Secretary	Caleb Hanson
Harley Aalfs	Lori Holmgren
Shane Baker	

Last Weekend Attendance - 366
March 6th - 133
YouTube - households -163
General Offering - \$15,451.30

Thank You

With the passing of my son, Joel Hansen, I want to thank Pastor Dwaine Sutherland and for all the support I have received during this time.
Gen Halvorson

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

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

Bake Sale

Sunday March 24th from 8:30am - 12:00pm in the Narthex. Raising funds for Nashville and Duluth youth trips. Buy some yummy treats and support the youth!

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 and program. If any questions, please call Diane Asche - 320-295-8938.

Time & Talents

Your time and talents are needed in the following ways - serving on the Altar Guild and/or the Stewardship Committee!

Altar Guild is looking for youth, adults, or families to serve by preparing communion for weekly services. There is a wealth of knowledge to be passed down from our faithful members and lots of fun to be had in the process! If you or your family are interested in serving in this way please check in with Pastor Dwaine and he'll get you connected.

Stewardship Committee is looking to increase it's membership and they work on important tasks such as annual stewardship campaign, fundraising, collecting time and talents info, and will be working on a Volunteer Fair this year! Please check in with Pastor Dwaine and he'll get you connected.

Singing Opportunities

March 29, 7:00pm at Vinje. A Good Friday joint choir with Vinje & First Presbyterian. Then on March 31st, A Calvary Easter Choir. **Contact Naomi ASAP if Interested**

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.

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 the 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!

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us at Calvary Lutheran Church Saturday March 23rd 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.

2024 Financials February & YTD						
	February Actual	February Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Income	\$ 84,120.21	\$ 67,387.50	\$ 16,732.71	\$ 144,904.85	\$ 134,775.00	\$ 10,129.85
Expenses	\$ 77,376.67	\$ 67,352.21	\$ 10,024.46	\$ 148,395.57	\$ 134,704.88	\$ 13,690.69
Net Income	\$ 6,743.54	\$ 35.29	\$ 6,708.25	\$ (3,490.72)	\$ 70.12	\$ (3,560.84)

Check it out!

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



2024

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



Creation Care
Resources



ELCA Young
Adult Ministry

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

Sunday, March 10

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

8:00am Worship Service - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
11:00am Svea - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
3:00pm Girl Scout Troup #3500 - Friendship Room
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

Monday, March 11

10:00am Egg Stuffing - Bethany Hall
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:30pm Cub Scouts - Koinonia Room
7:00pm Scouts BSA - Bethany Hall

Tuesday, March 12

1:00pm Finance Committee - Friendship Room
1:30pm EcoFair Committee
5:15pm Stewardship Committee
6:00pm Council Meeting - Friendship Room
6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181
7:00pm Zoom Pilates with Lori

Wednesday, March 13

5:30pm Evening Supper
6:15pm Midweek Worship

Thursday, March 14

9:30am Text Bible Study - Friendship Room - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke
1:00pm Quilters
5:45pm Girl Scouts #3655 Rooms 206/208
6:00pm Girl Scouts #3749 - Rooms 109/111

Saturday, March 16

10:00am Praise Band
5:30pm Chapel Service - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland

Sunday, March 17

8:00am Worship Service - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
11:00am Svea - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
3:00pm Glow Party - 1st - 5th Grades - Bethany Hall
4:00pm Girl Scout #3515 - Rm 109/111
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181