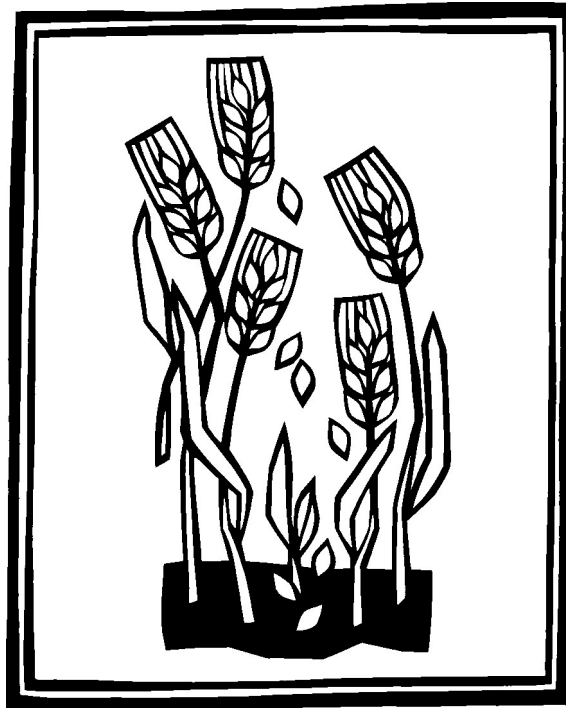
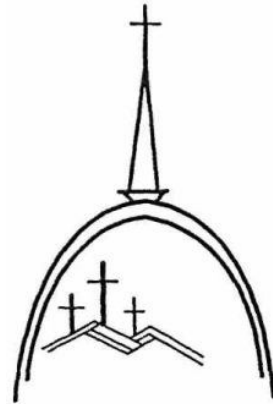


# *Calvary Lutheran Church*

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



## ***The Fifth Weekend in Lent***

*Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:15 am*

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*On this final Sunday in Lent before Holy Week, scripture turns our attention back to where we began. As children prepare to hear the sad (and violent) story of Jesus' crucifixion unfold in the coming days, remind them that the cross is where we encounter God's loving, self-giving heart. The story of Christ's passion is a story of God's love for us. The "Luther rose" (or "Luther seal") is a simple image that centers the cross within a heart. It may be a helpful visual for your congregation as we prepare to see how God turns a symbol of death into one of life, mercy, and love.*

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**Gathering Songs** "Indescribable", "I Am Not Alone", "In Christ Alone",  
"God So Loved"

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome**

**Gathering Song** "Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. (repeat)

**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.**

**Opening Prayer of Praise and Confession**

God, we come with praise and gratitude.

**Thank you for your word, for speaking to us anew today.**

**In faith and trust, we open our ears and minds to you.**

**God, you see us as we truly are,  
with our secrets and shames,  
our dreams and hopes.**

We crave your blessing, forgiveness, and direction.

**We have walked in dark places and confess  
that our hearts are heavy.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us from all evil,  
forgive our sins, and bless us with  
your insights for the future.**

People of God, your sins are forgiven by  
 The God who cares for you and watches over you daily.  
 May this time of worship renew and strengthen us  
 to live out the blessing we receive from you. **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;  
 from the guilt, the pow'r the pain, lead me to the cross of Je - sus.

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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 51:1-12**

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy,  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you, you alone, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> **You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- Here ends the reading of the Psalm

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10**

- <sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him,  
“You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you”;
- <sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place,  
“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message** "Seeds and Service" Pastor Wayne Kopitzke

#### **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** **John 12:20-33**

The Gospel reading is found in the book of John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am

lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”<sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.  
This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Pastor Wayne Kopitzke "The God Who Forgives and Forgets"

**Song of the Day** "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW 807

**Apostles' Creed** (page 105)

**Prayers of the Church** (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Offering Music** "In His Time"

**Offering Response** "Change My Heart, O God" ELW 801

**Offertory Prayer**

Together we pray,  
**Gracious God,**  
**Bless our offering and help us use it to share your love.**  
**Bless our lives and use each of us to show and share your love.**  
**In your name we pray, Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**The Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer** (page 112)

## **Communion Music**

“Feed Us Now”

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

ELW 333

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

ELW 334 vs 1-3, Lent 5

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

ELW 611

## **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, we thank you for nourishing us by being our Bread of Life.  
Whether our human bodies and minds feel strong or weak,  
we know you are always right here with us.  
In your name we pray, **Amen.**

## **Blessing of Homebound Communion**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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**    “Send Me, Lord”    ELW 809

### **Dismissal**

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

### **Postlude**

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Prayer/Confession, Worshipwords.co.uk

**Bulletin Sponsorship** is in memory of Brad Preslicka given by Arlene Preslicka,  
ten year anniversary of Brad’s passing.

### **Connections with Creation**

A seed on its own remains a seed, but the mixture of seed, soil, water, and light leads to a new life. Jesus uses this example in John to foreshadow the fruitful work on the other side of crucifixion. Resurrection is not only for Jesus but for all who fall to the earth. Sometimes when we deploy such earthly analogies, we focus on the precision of application: so much soil with exact amounts of nutrients with a clean water source and a Goldilocks, just-right amount of light. But that's where the analogy falls apart: there is no perfect earthly recipe for bodily resurrection. In the natural order, God prefigured the cycle of life, but in the resurrection, God accomplishes it miraculously.

**\*\*\*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.\*\*\***

### **2024 Calvary Council Leaders**

Mary Jo de Cathelineau - Congregational President  
Brian Henrickson - Vice President  
Bridget Pederson - Secretary  
Harley Aalfs  
Shane Baker

John Dean  
Bob Dickerson  
Caleb Hanson  
Lori Holmgren

**Hospitalized This Week:** Kathy Strom, Shirley Flaten

**Prayers and Sympathy to the Family of:** Gene Fenstra and Nyla Amundson

<b>2024 Financials February &amp; YTD</b>						
	<b>February Actual</b>	<b>February Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
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)



### **Serving Today**

<b>Preaching:</b>	Pastor - Dwaine Sutherland Saturday 5:30pm Pastor - Wayne D. Kopitzke Sunday 8:00am & 10:15am
<b>Acolytes:</b>	<b>8:00</b> - Ryan Wentzel <b>10:15</b> - Emily Johnson, Sam Miller
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>8:00</b> - Keith Neumann, Karina Rice, Lori Holmgren <b>10:15</b> - Kim & Caleb Hanson, Solenne Ruff
<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>8:00</b> - Charlette Loge, Loren & Smitty Luschen <b>10:15</b> - Harland & Diane Asche, Dennis & Karen Sportel
<b>Lectors:</b>	<b>Saturday - 5:30</b> - Jeanette Lecy <b>Sunday - 8:00</b> - Bob Dickerson <b>10:15</b> - Jean Berg
<b>Office:</b>	<b>7:45 - 9:30</b> - Amy Gilbertson <b>9:30 - 11:15</b> - Carol Toutge
<b>Sound:</b>	<b>8:00</b> - Doug Sawatzky <b>10:15</b> - Kim Larson
<b>Video:</b>	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:15</b> - Richard Reimer

### **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



### **Hope For Our City**

Thank you to all who helped at Hope For Our City last Wednesday. Great turnout of volunteers, 35 Calvary Youth and parents.

### **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.

### **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**

### **Office Manager**

Calvary Lutheran Church is looking for a full-time Office Manager. Contact Pastor Dwaine Sutherland if interested.

### **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 SW Minnesota Synod Assembly**

If interested in going to the SW MN Synod Assembly on June 6-7 at Gustavus Adolphus College, please contact the office before April 1st to get registered.

Last Weekend Attendance - 215

March 13th - 115

YouTube - households—183

General Offering - \$9,191.55

# *Calvary Lutheran Church* ***Hands of Lent***



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

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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)  
3:00pm at Svea  
7:00pm Joint Service at Vinje**

**Sunday, March 17**

8:00am      Worship Service - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke - Bell Choir Playing  
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

**Monday, March 18**

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

**Tuesday, March 19**

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

**Wednesday, March 20**

10:00am     Gather Bible Study - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
5:30pm      Evening Supper  
6:15pm      Midweek Worship

**Thursday, March 21**

9:30am      Text Bible Study - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
1:00pm      Quilters  
6:00pm      Girl Scouts Troup #3656 - Koinonia Room

**Saturday, March 23**

10:00am     Praise Band  
1:00pm      Easter Egg Hunt  
5:30pm      Chapel Service - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke

**Sunday, March 24**

Palm Sunday

8:00am      Worship Service - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
8:30am      Bake Sale - Fund Raiser for Youth Trips  
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  
8:00pm      Worship Service-WRAC 181