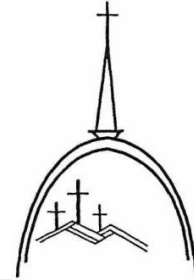


Calvary Lutheran Church

TOGETHER IN CHRIST
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:15 am

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Gathering Music (feel free to sing along)

"God of the Poor", "Creator", "Living Waters"

Ringling 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.

Call to Worship (based on John 15:1-8, today's Gospel)

The vine emerges from the earth, nourished and nourishing.

Rises without visible connection; roots hidden, promise unknown.

Strong to withstand storms, fragile when plucked too soon.

So it is that we grow...

**nourished by invisible connections to the living God, called to
nourish that which is seen and that which is yet buried within.**

Gathering Song "'Gather Us In" ELW 532

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

There come moments when our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways are exposed for all to see. God takes these moments, these sins, redeeming them through compassion and love, making us new people. Let us come with our prayers to the One who forgives us and makes us whole.

Loving God, **You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.**

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Friends hear this, God forgives you and abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, and restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Alleluia, Amen!

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray,

Heavenly Father, You give us the strength to grow in Your likeness. We praise You today for Your constant nurture and support. Please help us to become more like You as we experience Your almighty presence today. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news

about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ **Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord**

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through

him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW 172
The Gospel Reading **John 15:1-8**

The Gospel reading is found in the Gospel of John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message Pastor Dwaine Sutherland

Sermon Pastor Dwaine Sutherland


Song of the Day

ACS 1047


What Is the World Like



1 What is the world like when God's will is
2 What is the world like when God's will is
3 What is the world like when God's will is
4 What is the world like when God's will is
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
done? No more is neigh - bor - just
done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
child com - ing home; watch as the
al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
watch through the night, tend - ing our
joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
par - ent breaks in - to a run.
plac - es where once there was none.
lamps till the new day's be - gun.
voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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Apostles' Creed (page 105)

Prayers of the Church (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Music "All of Us Are Loved" Praise Band

Offering Response "Freely, Freely"

Offertory Prayer

Together we pray,

**We give thanks for the remarkable gifts
of your creating and redeeming love, O God.**

Accept our gifts as a token of our love toward you. 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 (p. 112)

Communion Music "In the Breaking of the Bread" (Praise Band)

"United at the Table" ELW 498

"Bread of Life from Heaven" ELW 474

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for this bread and wine, your body, as it reminds us of your comforting words as you walk with the unclean and unloved, share wisdom, and bring healing into lives. **Amen.**

Announcements

Sending Blessing

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing. **Amen.**

Sending Song “When We Are Living” ELW 639

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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 Prayer of the Day, thepastorsworkshop.com Austin D. Hill; Call to worship, Katherine Hawker, communion,
 offertory prayer, re:worship.com; edited from prayers of the church written by Terri and posted
 on RevGalBlogPals. Confession/Forgiveness, modified from Thom Shuman, and posted on his excel-
 lent [Lectionary Liturgies](#)

Serving Today

Preaching: Pastor Dwaine Sutherland
Presiding: Pastor Wayne D. Kopitzke

Acolytes: **8:00** - Kason Helgeson, Max Garberding
10:15 - Ethan Johnson, Domminick Moïst

Communion Assistants: **8:00** - Cathy Halbritter, Mary Jo deCathelineau
10:15 - Bridget Pederson, Christian Moïst

Greeters: **8:00** - Owen & Susan DeCathelineau, Bob & Connie Dickerson
10:15 - Jeff & Jane Miller, Sue Martin

Lectors: **Saturday 5:30** - John Dean
Sunday 8:00 - Joni Hanson
10:15 - Charles Ulrich II

Office: **7:45 - 9:30** - Dorie Larsen
9:30 - 11:15 - Marcia Knutson

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

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

| 2024 Financials March & YTD | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | March Actual | March Budget | Over/(Under) Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Over/(Under) Budget |
| Income | \$ 66,490.83 | \$ 67,387.50 | \$ (896.67) | \$ 211,395.68 | \$ 202,162.50 | \$ 9,233.18 |
| Expenses | \$ 60,116.18 | \$ 67,352.21 | \$ (7,236.03) | \$ 208,511.75 | \$ 202,057.09 | \$ 6,454.66 |
| Net Income | \$ 6,374.65 | \$ 35.29 | \$ 6,339.36 | \$ 2,883.93 | \$ 105.41 | \$ 2,778.52 |

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:
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 DeCathelineau - Congregational President
Brian Henrickson - Vice President
Bridget Pederson - Secretary
Harley Aalfs
Shane Baker
John Dean
Bob Dickerson
Caleb Hanson
Lori Holmgren

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF: Ray Norling

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Dean Ellingson, Ronald Gehrke, Mavis Larson

Calvary Cemetery News

Road Construction on Gorton Ave NW in front of the Calvary Cemetery Starts April 22, 2024 . It will be hard to enter the cemetery April 22rd - June2024.

Deaconess Committee Meeting

Deaconess committee will meet on Wednesday, May 1 at 1:30 in the Friendship Room.

Talent Show

May 5th at 9:00am in Bethany Hall come Support the youth at Calvary! Want to sign up talk to Erica! Coffee will be down in Bethany hall this day. **Coffee will be downstairs that day!**

Social Kindness Committee

Social Kindness committee will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

Gather Bible Study

Gather Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00 am in the Friendship Room.

Preschool VBS!

Join Calvary, Vinje, and Bethel Churches as we gather together **at Vinje Lutheran Church**, 1101 Willmar Ave. SW, for Preschool Vacation Bible School! VBS will run Monday, July 15 - Thursday, July 18th from 8:30am-11am. The cost is free for members. The morning will include crafts, games, and Bible studies encompassing the GLLM summer theme, Created to Be. This program is for preschool aged children, including those going into kindergarten. *All attending need to be toilet trained.* Interested? Follow the link on FB or contact Erica Mathews.

Thank You

I would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who donated to youth camp scholarships, came to our fundraisers, supported or prayed for us. We raised over \$12,000 to send **37** youth to camp this summer and another \$12,382 for youth mission trips this summer.

This is incredible!! You are all amazing!

NTY - Friday, May 10 at 12:00 noon

How much do you know about the Willmar Lutheran Campus Ministry?? Come and find out more about the Campus Ministry from our speaker, Rev. Amy Juel, at our next NTY meeting on May 10th. She has over 25 years of experience in ministry and has served in a variety of lay and paid staff ministries. She is a 2012 graduate of Luther Seminary and was ordained at Vinje Lutheran in May of that year. She has served in the Area Churches Together (ACT) Parish, at Vinje Lutheran, and is at Maynard Lutheran where she has been for almost 8 years. Pastor Amy has served as Chaplain for Willmar Lutheran Campus Ministry since 2013. She has four adult children and currently lives in Maynard with one of her daughters and their menagerie of animals. (Interesting fact: Pastor Amy is the niece of DeElla Aamot).

Please call the church office by 4:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 8 to register. Invite someone new to NTY or bring a guest! Cost for the catered lunch is \$7.00, payable the day of NTY. Please pay when you arrive and not at the church office. (Note that cancellations after Wed. and no-shows will still require payment due to increased food costs.) If you can't come for lunch, you are still welcome to come for the program at 1:00 P.M. Thank you. If any questions, please call Diane Asche at 320-295-8938.

Weekly Attendance - 284
YouTube - 100 households
General Offering - \$15,197.80

Sunday, April 28 - Communion by Intinction

8:00am Worship Service - Pastor Dwaine Sutherland – Preaching
Pastor Wayne D. Kopitzke - Presiding
9:05am Sunday School/Coffee Hour
10:15am Worship Service
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, April 29

10:00am EcoFair Group - Friendship Room
5:00pm Handbell Rehearsal-Balcony
6:30pm Cub Scouts- Koinonia Room
7:00pm Scouts - Bethany Hall

Tuesday, April 30

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

Wednesday, May 1

1:30pm Deaconess Meeting - Friendship Room
6:30pm JUST MOVE concert

Thursday, May 2

9:30am Text Bible Study - Friendship Room - Pastor Wayne Kopitzke
1:00pm Quilters
5:45pm Girl Scout Troop #3655 - Room 206/208
6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop #3656 – Koinonia Room

Friday, May 3

Saturday, May 4

5:30pm Chapel Service - Pastor Wayne D. Kopitzke

Sunday, May 5 - Full Communion - Kneeling

8:00am Worship Service - Pastor Wayne D. Kopitzke - Preaching
Pastor Dwaine Sutherland - Presiding
9:00am Talent Show - Bethany Hall - **COFFEE SERVED IN BETHANY HALL**
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
4:00pm Girl Scouts Troop #3515 Room 109/111
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

