



***3rd Weekend of Advent***

*Saturday, December 14, 2024 5:30pm*

*Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:30am*

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Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing.  
The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing.  
The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand,  
is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved.  
Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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**Gathering Music** (9:30 Calvary Bell Choir)

**Ringing of the Bell** (9:30)

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

In this season of longing and anticipation, we watch and wait for the light of Christ to come among us. God gives the promise of JOY. God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." In this season of longing and anticipation, we light the candle of JOY.

**Song - The Candle of Joy** (to the tune of "O Worship, the King")

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
For God is at work to do a new thing.  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise. .

**Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**  
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Together we pray, **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Gathering Song** “He Came Down” ELW 253

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

18 as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19 I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Isaiah 12:2-6**

2 Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.  
3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.  
4 And you will say on that day:  
Give thanks to the Lord,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.  
5 Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation** (sung)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

### **Children's Message**

## **Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18**

The Gospel reading is found in the Gospel of Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' 11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' 12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' 13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' 18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message** 5:30 Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
9:30 Pastor Amy Juel

**Song of the Day** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW 244

**The Apostles' Creed** (p. 105)

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

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Offering Music** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Calvary Bell Choir

**Offering Response** “Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW 185

**Offertory Prayer**

Together we pray, **Creator God, you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

**Communion Music** “Good Christian Friends” Calvary Bell Choir  
“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” ELW 247  
“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!” ELW 246

**Post Communion Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you  
for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord  
Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Sending Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song** “Joy to the World” ELW 267

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel!  
**We will! Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** “Joy to the World” Calvary Bell Choir

**HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:** Barb Haarstad

**Serving Saturday Night 5:30pm**

**Preaching:** Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
**Greeters:** Wayne & Lynette Emberland  
**Lector:** Susan Roepke

**Serving Sunday 9:30am**

**Preaching:** Pastor Amy Juel  
**Presiding:** Pastor Wayne D. Kopitzke  
**Acolytes:** Myah Thorson, Jayda Darger  
**Communion Assistants:** Harley Aalfs, Brandon Lothert  
**Greeters:** Carol Gilbertson, Betty Larson  
**Lector:** Joni Hanson  
**Office:** Mary Jo Ramey - 9:15am - 10:30am  
**Sound:** Doug Sawatzky  
**Video:** Jody Skindelien

**If you or a loved one would like a pastoral visit (ill, hospitalized, or just because), please contact:**

Senior Pastor Dwaine Sutherland  
 (651) 500-7657 - dsutherland@calvarywillmar.org

Associate Pastor Amy Juel  
 (320) 282-2225 - ajuel@calvarywillmar.org

Associate Pastor Wayne Kopitzke  
 (320) 841-1951 - revwayne100@gmail.com

**Our pastors are always willing to provide support in time of need.**

**2024 Calvary Council Leaders**

Mary Jo DeCathelineau - Congregational President - [grant01@tds.net](mailto:grant01@tds.net)  
 Brian Henrickson - Vice President - [brian.henrickson60@gmail.com](mailto:brian.henrickson60@gmail.com)  
 Bridget Pederson - Secretary - [bridgetpederson@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetpederson@yahoo.com)  
 Harley Aalfs  
 Shane Baker  
 John Dean  
 Bob Dickerson  
 Caleb Hanson  
 Lori Holmgren

<b>2024 Financials November &amp; YTD</b>						
	<b>November Actual</b>	<b>November Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>
Income	\$ 51,657.17	\$ 67,387.50	\$ (15,730.33)	\$ 596,569.10	\$ 741,262.50	\$(144,693.40)
Expenses	\$ 65,944.66	\$ 67,352.21	\$ (1,407.55)	\$ 697,164.13	\$ 740,874.77	\$ (43,710.64)
Net Income	\$ (14,287.49)	\$ 35.29	\$ (14,322.78)	<b>(\$100,595.03)</b>	\$ 387.73	\$(100,982.76)

### **COFFEE WITH COUNCIL**

This Sunday, December 15 at 8:30am and 10:30am, we invite you to stop for coffee in the Friendship Room to see the 2025 Proposed Budget and ask any questions that you may have on it. We are looking at a critical budget shortfall for Calvary for 2025 and we wanted to let the Congregation know. Council members will be available to answer any questions regarding the finance budget during the two coffee times. Please limit the questions to finance only during coffee on Sunday but feel free to reach out another time to any of our Council Members or Pastors regarding other church-related questions. Council and Pastor phone numbers and emails are listed on our website and in the bulletin.

### **TIME AND TALENTS NEEDED**

Please consider giving your time and talents to either the Finance or Stewardship Committee! We are looking for individuals with skills in the area of finance who are good with numbers, projections, and have good analytical skills required to prepare budgets and make profit/loss predictions. For the Stewardship Committee we are looking for individuals with skills in relationship building, are comfortable working with people, and have a strategic mind for idea creation, finding solutions, and engaging others. If this sounds like you and you are committed to serve Calvary in this capacity, please contact either Shawn Swenson 218-443-0427 (shawnsenson@gmail.com) or Caleb Hanson 320-220-4939 (calebhanson91@gmail.com).

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS BEGINNING IN JANUARY**

Is the Holy Spirit nudging you to get involved with Sunday School? Here's your chance! Our learners are in need of a teacher (or teaching team) in the **FIRST/SECOND** grade classroom and a part time teacher in the **FOURTH** grade classroom. Please contact Pastor Amy for more information!

### **GATHER BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 10:00 AM**

### **MONTHLY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Just a reminder that when the Council minutes have been approved after each meeting, the minutes will be posted on Calvary's Website.

### **MEMORIAL TREE**

#### ***Honoring the memory of those we have lost***

Thank you to all of those who have volunteered to help decorate the church for the holidays. Ornaments can be added to the Memory Tree located at the east entrance. Ornaments must be picked up by Monday, January 6th, or they will be stored for next time.

Want to help take down the tree and store the ornaments join us on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Many hands make the work more fun. There will be treats.

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Due to no Sunday School on **December 15, 22, and 29**, the library will be closed.



### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

December 23 - 7:30am - 4:30pm

December 24 - 7:30 - 12:00pm

### **December 25 - CLOSED**

December 26 - 7:30am - 2:00pm

December 27 - 7:30am - 2:00pm

December 30 - 7:30am - 4:30pm

December 31 - 7:30am - 12:00pm

### **January 1 - CLOSED**

January 2 - 7:30am - 4:30pm

January 3 - 7:30am - 3:00pm

### **TEXT BIBLE STUDY**

There will be no Text Bible Study on Thursday, December 26th.

### **DEACONESS MEETING**

The Deaconess regularly scheduled meeting is January 1. Due to the New Years holiday, it has been decided to cancel the January 2025 meeting and resume February 5th.

### **CREATION CARE**

Creation Care will not be having a meeting in December. Meeting will resume in January, 2025

**Weekly Attendance - 414**

**YouTube - 137 households**

**Sunday School Attendance - 50**

**General Offering - \$12,367.85**

**From the Staff...**

**At our weekly staff meeting we often get side-tracked sharing various stories and experiences. Last week, the topic was Christmas memories. Perhaps you can relate to some of our memories.**

**Here is our short list:**

- > **The large...hot... bulb lights on a dry tree. Or real candles!**
- > **The metal reflectors on each large bulb.**
- > **Tinsel! Some put it on in handfuls, others strand by strand. Some disposed of it after the holidays while others carefully hung it on a hanger for the next year.**
- > **Queen Anne Chocolate Covered Cherries were the "in" thing!**
- > **A brown paper bag filled with hard ribbon candy, peanuts in the shell and an apple for post- Sunday School Program treats.**
- > **Bubble lights on the tree or several on a base.**
- > **Pastor Dwaine was Baby Jesus 100 years ago!**

**We pray the Light of the World brightens your Christmas Season!**



*Memories*





## FAMILY PROMISE IS IN NEED OF MEAL PROVIDERS AND SERVERS

Family Promise is in need of Meal Providers and servers January 20, 21 & 23. Meals to be delivered at 6pm and work until about 7:30pm. To be determined are the number of people who will be served. Thank you for considering helping with a meal on a date mentioned.



### Family Promise Weekly Update December 3, 2024

**Family Promise of Kandiyohi County: A community-based effort to help families experiencing homelessness.**

The **Shelter** located on Pacific Ave in Willmar is operating with a 3 person staff and 7 housing rooms that can sleep up to 4-5 people per room depending on make-up of the family. In addition, we have 2 rooms on the second level being made ready as soon as we can.

Currently there are 21 congregations providing financial, in-kind, housing supplies, groceries and 3 weekly meals.

#### Current Guests:

1. Family of 3 (Father, Daughter 3, Daughter 4)
2. Single Female 60
3. Family of 2 (Mother, Daughter 9)
4. Family of 3 (Mother, Son 16, Son 9 Mother has them on the weekends)
5. Family of 4 (Father 34, Daughter 12, Son 9, Grandfather 60)
6. Family of 2 (Mother 36, Son 2)

#### Upcoming Host Churches:

1. December 2-8: Svea Lutheran
2. December 9-15: Unity Christian Reformed
3. December 16-22: Evangelical Covenant, Salem Crossroads UMC
4. December 23-29: Refuge Church
5. December 30-January 6: United Lutheran Lake Lillian

SEE 2024 CALENDAR [HERE](#)

\*Family Promise still receives some mail addressed to: 312 SW 6th St (Presbyterian Church). We have been gone from there for almost a year, and our mail forwarding request will expire. Please Address Mail to:  
Family Promise  
PO Box 774  
Willmar, MN 56201

Thank You: David Parker

Hopefully every church has been able to look and put the dates their church serves in their calendar. Click on the link below.

SEE 2025 CALENDAR [2025 Family Promise Meal & Grocery Support Schedule](#)

Go check out the Family Promise Christmas Tree at the Kandiyohi county Historical Society Kandi Kane Lane. Open Monday -Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Family Promise would like to welcome Katrina Robinson to the Family Promise staff! She will be taking Bram's place on December 2nd. Her email is:  
[volunteerengagement@familypromiseofkc.org](mailto:volunteerengagement@familypromiseofkc.org)

## Thank You!!!!



#### Gratitude Spotlight

Thank you to our host congregations & especially those individuals that are preparing & serving meals as well as buying groceries. The guests are very appreciative for everything provided by our area churches through the meal support.

Thank you to all our donors that make this place possible.

Heidi Olson  
Guest Relations / Case Manager  
Family Promise of Kandiyohi County  
[heidionson@familypromiseofkc.org](mailto:heidionson@familypromiseofkc.org)  
Cell Phone: (320) 905-9272

## **Greetings, Church Family!**

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of waiting, hope, and reflection. This year, we draw inspiration from Luke 3:4, which says, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Advent is the period of four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a time when we remember the anticipation of Jesus' birth and look forward to His second coming. Each Sunday, we light a candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love. Just as John the Baptist called people to prepare the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare our hearts. This can be done through prayer, reading the Bible, and acts of kindness. Think about ways you can make a difference in someone's life this season.

## **Advent Activities**

- **Advent Wreath:** Each Sunday, light a candle and reflect on its meaning. The first candle represents hope, the second peace, the third joy, and the fourth love.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend a few minutes each day reading a devotion or a passage from the Bible. Reflect on how it speaks to you and your life.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Find ways to help others. This could be volunteering, donating to those in need, or simply offering a kind word to someone who needs it.

## **Upcoming Events**

- **Advent Services:** Join us every Saturday at 5:30 PM, Sundays at 9:30AM for our Advent services. Each week, we will focus on one of the themes of Advent.
- **Blue Christmas:** Wednesday December 18 at 6:30pm
- **Little Norwegian Christmas:** Monday night on December 23 at 7:00pm
- **Community Outreach:** We have our Giving Tree in the Narthex, please return the gifts by December 15.

These are just a few ways to celebrate Advent

**Reflection** As we journey through Advent, let us remember the true meaning of this season. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, to reflect on His love and sacrifice, and to share that love with others. Let us make His paths straight in our lives and in our community.

May this Advent season bring you hope, peace, joy, and love.

Blessings from Calvary Lutheran Church

**Sunday, December 15**

8:30am Coffee Time - Council Members  
9:30am Worship Service - Bells Playing - P. Amy preach/P. Wayne preside  
10:30am Coffee Time - Council Members  
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, December 16**

5:00pm Bell Choir  
6:30pm Cub Scouts - Friendship Room  
7:00pm Scouts BSA

**Tuesday, December 17**

6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3749 - Room 201  
6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181

**Wednesday, December 18**

8:30am Hope Circle - McMillans  
10:00am Gather Bible Study  
5:15pm Hope For Our City  
6:30pm Blue Christmas Service

**Thursday, December 19**

9:30am Text Bible Study  
2:00pm Coffee and Conversation with P. Dwaine - LuLu Beans  
5:45pm Girl Scout Troop #3655 – Friendship Room  
6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3656 - Koinonia Room

**Friday, December 20**

12:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting

**Saturday, December 21**

5:30pm Chapel Service - P. Wayne

**Sunday, December 22**

8:30am Coffee Time  
9:30am Worship Service - P. Dwaine preach/P. Amy preside  
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm  
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181  
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

**This is an easy and convenient way to donate  
to Calvary. Just click on our QR code. Thank you!**

