



The Calvary Messenger ***December 13, 2024***

Next Messenger will be sent out December 27, 2024.
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

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, Calvary Lutheran Church

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.

Holy Communion Reminders...

**Communion is celebrated at the altar rail on the first and third Sundays of each month. Communion is celebrated by intinction on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of each month. Individual cups are available on intinction Sundays for those who prefer not to intinct.*



**Wine and grape juice; bread or wafers and gluten free wafers are available at each communion station.*

In an effort to keep everyone in the congregation as healthy as possible, all who serve Holy Communion use hand sanitizer. According to the Centers for Disease Control, **hand sanitizer is better at killing bacteria and most viruses than hand washing alone.*

UPDATED		DECEMBER 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Saturday, Nov. 30th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel - Pr. Wayne preaching	
Sunday, Dec. 1st	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Pr. Dwaine preaching, Pr. Amy presiding	
Saturday, Dec. 7th	5:30pm Traditional Worship - Pr. Amy preaching	
Sunday, Dec. 8th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am YOUTH LED/SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/NOISY OFFERING Pr. Wayne preaching, Pr. Dwaine presiding	
Saturday, Dec. 14th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel - Pr. Dwaine preaching	
Sunday, Dec. 15th	9:30 Worship with Handbell Choir Pr. Amy preaching, Pr. Wayne presiding	UPDATED
Wednesday, Dec. 18th	6:30pm Blue Christmas	
Saturday, Dec. 21st	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel - Pr. Wayne preaching	
Sunday, Dec. 22nd	9:30am Pr. Dwaine preaching, Pr. Amy presiding	
Monday, Dec. 23rd	7:00pm Little Norwegian Christmas	
Christmas Eve	3:30pm Pr Dwaine preaching, Pr Amy, Pr Wayne presiding 5:30pm Pr Dwaine preaching, Pr Amy, Pr Wayne presiding 10:00pm Pr Wayne preaching	
Christmas Day	9:30am Pr Amy	
Saturday, Dec. 28th	5:30pm Traditional Worship - Pr Amy	
Sunday, Dec. 29th	9:30am Traditional Worship - Pr Wayne preaching, Pr Dwaine presiding	

Our souls weep
and we wonder how
we will get through a time of joy.

A Blue Christmas

A Service of Comfort, Hope,
Wholeness, and Renewal

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
6:30pm

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVE.
WILLMAR, MN

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**

**December 2024 "In God's Garden: What fig trees teach us about Advent" by
Hannah Hawkinson**

This Advent, we'll learn from some surprising teachers: fig trees. Astonishingly vibrant, fig trees have a zest for life. Their roots have even been known to bust through plumbing and climb walls like ivy! Yet fig trees also have a dormant period—a time when they do not grow or bear fruit. But this period of waiting and rest isn't a time of waiting around. It's a time of pruning and fertilizing and watering; a time to prepare for the fruitful season ahead.

As we prepare the way of the Lord in this season, we are in our own dormant period of waiting and anticipation. Still, Jesus calls us to "keep awake" and to prepare ourselves for God's coming.

Join us to explore what fig trees can teach us about waiting and preparing for God's coming! All are welcome and copies of the devotional can be picked up in the church office or downloaded from the links below.

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Fig-tree-devotional.pdf>

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/december-2024-in-gods-garden-what-fig-trees-teach-us-about-advent-devotional-video-supplement/>

Please return your gifts to the church office
by **December 15 for distribution**. Please use a gift bag
and attach the colored ornament to the bag. These gifts
bring such joy to the recipients and to the givers, as well.

Thank you for your participation.
Social Kindness Committee



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).

“Gledelig jul”.

You are cordially invited to the annual Norwegian language service at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar on Monday, December 23 at 7:00 pm. We are having a Lillejulaften service (Little Christmas Eve) with Norwegian scripture reading, prayers, songs, and sermon. The service folder will be in Norwegian with full English translation.

After the service in the sanctuary, there will be a fellowship time in Bethany Hall with coffee and treats.

We encourage men, women and children who have bunads (Norwegian festive garb) or Norwegian sweaters to wear them to the service.

Mange Takk,

The Little Christmas Eve Committee of Calvary Lutheran Church



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FROM CHRISTMAS WEEK TO NEW YEARS WEEK

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

Tuesday, December 24 - 7:30 - 12:00pm

Wednesday, December 25 - CLOSED

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, January 1 - CLOSED

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

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

BEFRIENDER MINISTRY

Did you know?

Calvary has a team of 8 trained lay BeFriender Ministers who are available to visit with you and listen to your concerns. We have both male and female lay volunteers who maintain confidentiality.



Are you experiencing any life events such as:

- *Death of a loved one
- *Caregiver stress
- *Financial worries
- *New parent or parenting challenges
- *Empty nest syndrome
- *New to Calvary or the Willmar community
- *Social isolation

Let us be there for you and with you! The heart of the BeFriender Ministry is listening (not counseling)

For more information contact:

Beth Bloomquist, mbbloomquist@charter.net, 320-905-8678

Nancy Holt, nholt0414@gmail.com

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 7th at 10:30am. Many hands make the work more fun. There will be treats.

CREATION CARE

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

LET'S TALK - CONVERSATIONS WITH PASTOR DWAIN WILL RESUME JANUARY 5TH AT 9:15AM

LIBRARY NEWS

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

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.

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 Kandiyohi 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:
volunteereengagement@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
heidolson@familypromiseofkc.org
Cell Phone: (320) 905-9272

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:

Memories

- **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!



Christmas
Birth of Jesus Word Search

N	K	H	F	O	S	H	I	N	I	N	G	Z	I	P
C	C	I	D	R	J	G	W	T	V	R	K	M	V	P
T	Q	H	V	A	A	K	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	W
C	W	Q	W	H	A	N	G	E	R	S	N	S	N	L
D	X	O	L	E	V	P	K	L	Z	T	G	S	H	C
O	L	J	L	H	N	R	G	I	F	T	S	I	Q	U
I	W	D	E	E	K	I	R	S	N	G	W	A	S	W
N	T	R	G	L	M	E	J	H	C	C	Y	H	D	I
N	U	S	N	H	S	O	K	E	G	J	E	S	U	S
K	R	R	A	T	S	X	N	P	F	E	K	N	L	E
E	F	C	A	E	Q	S	I	H	P	Q	N	X	S	M
E	Z	B	P	B	U	O	G	E	A	Y	O	V	A	E
P	L	H	V	S	Q	Y	H	R	M	Q	D	R	E	N
E	F	G	L	Q	K	G	T	D	Q	H	Y	B	A	B
R	D	O	G	F	O	N	O	S	I	O	R	N	H	H

ANGEL	GABRIEL	MAGI	SHEPHERDS
BABY	GIFTS	MANGER	SHINING
BETHLEHEM	GOLD	MARY	SON OF GOD
CENSUS	INNKEEPER	MESSIAH	STABLE
DONKEY	JESUS	MYRRH	STAR
EAST	JOSEPH	NIGHT	STRAW
FRANKINCENSE	KINGS	SHEEP	WISE MEN

BiblePuzzles.com

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



2024 Financials November & YTD						
	November Actual	November Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
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)	(\$100,595.03)	\$ 387.73	\$ (100,982.76)

WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

November 30 - Dec 1 - 339
YouTube - 217 households
Sunday School Attendance - 46
General Offering - \$20,500.46

December 7 - 8 - 414
YouTube - 139 households
Sunday School Attendance - 50
General Offering - \$12,367.85

2024 Calvary Council Leaders

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

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.

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 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