



## ***The Calvary Messenger*** ***December 27, 2024***

**Next Messenger will be sent out January 10, 2025.**  
**If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.**

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Dear Friends in Christ,

*“...it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor. 4:6)*

Ever so slowly and gradually God is turning up the light. Starting right around the annual winter solstice, the short winter days begin growing longer. How symbolic that Christmas is so close to the winter solstice. The increasing light of the sun reminds us of the light of God’s Son. That was one of the themes of our Blue Christmas service held on December 18.

The season of Christmas will last now for 12 days, followed by the season of Epiphany. The season of Epiphany – from January 6 through March 2 – gives us time to reflect upon God shining into our hearts through Jesus. The stories that we will hear during the epiphany season will draw us again and again to the revealing of an identity. Who is this person born in Bethlehem? The Magi bring gifts of identity: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, myrrh for the embalming of a body. At Jesus’ baptism a light poured from heaven and a voice said, “You are my Son, my Beloved.” At the wedding in Cana Jesus did the first of his signs and revealed his glory. Through the stories of Jesus’ reading from the Isaiah scroll to the catch of fish at Galilee, to his transfiguration on the mountain – Jesus’ identity is revealed.

When we live as people upon whom the light has shined, we are different. We are not like the sun, shining with its own heat and light – we are more like the moon, reflecting what shines on us. We are a mirror rather than a fire. We are reflections of God’s love to our world.

As the Magi brought gifts to Jesus for the living out of his identity, so too are we given gifts for the living out of our lives as God’s children. We Christians have a life to live, not just a message to tell; love to be acted out, not only explained; hope to be given, not merely kept privately for ourselves. Our ongoing task as Jesus’ disciples is to share our gifts and to bring God’s light and love to a world so much in need.

With you on the journey...  
Pastor Wayne

## Sunday School Christmas Program December 8, 2024





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The updated Org Chart and Proposed Bylaws additions and edits has been approved by the Church Council, and we will share it via constant contact email and have printed versions in the Narthex right after Christmas! A Coffee w/the Bylaws Committee will be scheduled for Sunday, January 5th. I extend much gratitude to the committee members and pastors, past and present, for their hard work and dedication to this endeavor!

Thank you, Bridget Pederson, Bylaws Committee Chair

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### **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!

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### **THANK YOU!**

As 2024 comes to an end, the Social Kindness Committee wishes to thank you all for your generosity throughout this year. We were amazed at the results from the drives we have held during the year: School supplies, personal needs, hats and mittens and our big one, the Giving Tree. Christmas gifts have been distributed to those in need. It says so very much about our Calvary Church family and the generous outpouring for each of the causes. We appreciate it so much, as do the recipients of your kindness!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Social Kindness Committee

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### **FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE**

Thank you to all who have signed up to serve meals January 20, 21 & 23. We now need a grocery shopper to purchase groceries for that week using Family Promise funds. Groceries will need to be brought to Family Promise the morning of January 20th. Please call Joni Hanson 320-220-1324 if you are able to help out. Thank you!

## SOCIAL KINDNESS COMMITTEE

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

### JANUARY 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 4th	5:30pm Traditional Worship - Pastor Dwaine preaching
Sunday, January 5th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Pr. Amy preaching, Pr. Wayne presiding
Saturday, January 11th	5:30pm Traditional Worship - Pr. Wayne preaching
Sunday, January 12th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am YOUTH LED & NOISY OFFERING Pr. Dwaine preaching, Pr. Amy presiding
Saturday, January 18th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel - Pr. Amy preaching
Sunday, January 19th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Pr. Wayne preaching, Pr. Amy presiding
Saturday, January 25th	5:30pm Traditional Worship - Pastor Dwaine preaching
Sunday, January 26th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Pr. Amy preaching, Pr. Wayne presiding



**NOISY OFFERING AND YOUTH LED SERVICE  
WILL BE HELD ON  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH.**

**CONFIRMATION RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 8TH AT 6:30 IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM.  
SEE EVERYONE THEN!**



**Hey Calvary campers, our  
camp week is set!**

**OUR CONGREGATION IS GOING  
TO CAMP JUNE 15-19!**



#### **NAME TAGS**

If you requested a new name tag, please stop by the Church Office to pick it up. Thank you.

I want to thank those of you who have taken the time to stop by and say hello and introduce yourselves to me and make me feel welcome here. A special thank you to those of you who dropped off snacks, cards and gifts this Christmas Season. To say I am Blessed with my new family at Calvary is an understatement...**you are amazing** and do such great things for our community! I am extremely happy to have been chosen to work at Calvary, the team here supports and lifts each other up every day. We work hard to get things done, make some mistakes, and when things get tough, we tend to laugh a lot. Thank you ALL for your patience with me this past year as I know that change is hard, but **God is Good all the time** 😊 Paula

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



#### **WEEKEND ATTENDANCE**

**December 14 - 15 - 169**  
**YouTube - 104 households (9:30am)**  
**General Offering - \$10,206.21**

**December 18, 21, & 22 - 252**  
**YouTube - 60 households (9:30am)**  
**General Offering - \$17,707.32**

## **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

Lori Holmgren

Bob Dickerson

Caleb Hanson

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**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](mailto:dsutherland@calvarywillmar.org)

Associate Pastor Amy Juel  
(320) 282-2225 - [ajuel@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:ajuel@calvarywillmar.org)

Associate Pastor Wayne Kopitzke  
(320) 841-1951 - [revwayne100@gmail.com](mailto:revwayne100@gmail.com)

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

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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

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***Announcements and other items for The Messenger are due by Wednesday at noon to be included in Friday's newsletter. Thank you!***



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Calvary Phone: 320-235-2508  
Calvary E-mail: [calvarylutheran@calvarywillmar.org](mailto:calvarylutheran@calvarywillmar.org)  
Calvary Website: [www.calvarywillmar.org](http://www.calvarywillmar.org)