



The Calvary Messenger ***February 21, 2025***

Next Messenger will be sent out March 7, 2025.
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know if it's uniquely American, but I would be interested in knowing how many conversations between friends and acquaintances begin with the question, "How are you doing?" The response then includes some reference to how busy we are. It seems that our society's conversational script requires us to include some indication that we are very busy, industrious and hard-working people.

When I was younger, there was the prediction that by the year 2000, the average worker would be putting in maybe 30 hours a week, vacation time would be 6 weeks on average, and leisure time activities would be a major part of everyone's lifestyle. We've never gotten there. Instead, what I hear today is that people are working longer hours, for less pay, with fewer benefits, and are busier than ever. Even when we're on vacation, we fill our time with lots of activity and busy-ness.

Here's an interesting story about our "pursuit of happiness." An 18th century rabbi was watching people rushing to and fro across the town square, and wondered why they were all running so frenetically. He stopped one person and asked, "Why are you running?" The man said, "I am running to make a living." The rabbi paused a moment and then asked him, "How come you're so sure that the living is in front of you and you have to run to catch it? Maybe it's behind you, and you need to stop and let it catch up to you."

When do we stop and let our blessings catch up with us? That is called the Sabbath. Sabbath is when we celebrate the things that are important. Sometimes we just need to pause and let blessings "catch up" with us.

No doubt, many of us will be very, very busy in 2025. Sunday is no longer honored by our society as a day of "Sabbath" rest. It's very hard to slow down long enough to let the amazing blessings that we all enjoy catch up with us and our busy schedule, allowing us to stop and give thanks for the lives we share. But that is what we do on Saturday evening/Sunday morning and through on-line worship. Much effort goes into creating a worship life at Calvary that allows you to stop pursuing life and stop, and let God's amazing grace catch us.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Wayne

THANK YOU, MIKE! *A huge THANK YOU goes out to Mike Schroeder for leading Calvary through the AV Project! Thank you for your commitment, time, effort, and energy to see it through from start to finish! Thank you to all that assisted in any way with decision making and implementation. Thank you to the donors who helped make it all possible. Thank you to the volunteers and staff for rising to the challenge and continuing to learn and grow with the technology. Calvary will continue to benefit for years to come! -Calvary Church Council*

LENT 2025

Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love

“The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

Throughout our lives, we often face the reality that two seemingly different or opposite things can be true at the same time. The sun can be shining, and the temperature can be freezing. Times can be hard, and we can be filled with optimism. A project may never be finished, and it can be done. We may feel like we are both making a lot of progress, and we are standing still, or maybe even going backwards. Different realities, both true.

The same can be said for our very selves. We are never just one thing, and oftentimes, the very essence of who we are can seem like opposites. Martin Luther said that we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Two different things, opposites, both true at the same time.

Lent is an especially good time to reflect upon such things, to consider and wonder about what it means that within our very selves, we are more than one thing at any given time. This Lent, we are invited to reflect upon what this “simultaneous-ness” means for your life by dwelling in the theme *“Broken and Beloved – Stories of God’s Steadfast Love.”*

Under this theme, we will consider biblical characters who embody various experiences of brokenness and beloved-ness. We will wonder about how these characters speak to our own experiences. We will be invited to consider how brokenness and beloved-ness are a part of our own life experiences, and we will be reminded again and again that amid all the different things that can be true at the same time, one thing is a constant – the steadfast love of God.

Weekly Lenten Services 2025

BROKEN and BELOVED

Ash Wednesday, March 5th, 6:15pm
David-Broken by Sin
Psalm 51, Create in Me a Clean Heart

Wednesday, March 12th, 6:15pm
Week 2: Naomi-Broken by Grief
Ruth 1: 19b-21a, Call Me Mara

Wednesday, March 19th, 6:15pm
Week 3: Elijah-Broken by Fear
I Kings 19:1-15a, He was Afraid

Wednesday, March 26th, 6:15pm
Week 4: The Syrophenician Woman-
Broken by Desperation
Mark 7:24-30, She Begged Him

Wednesday, April 2nd, 6:15pm
Week 5: Mary Magdalene-Broken by Demons
Luke 8:1-3, Mary, Called Magdalene

Wednesday, April 9th, 6:15pm
Week 6: Peter-Broken by Failure
Luke 22: 54-62, He Denied It

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, 6:15pm
He took a Towel
John 13:3-15; 34,35

Good Friday, April 18th, 6:15pm
Torn in Two
Mark 15:21-41

Lent and Holy Week Meal and Worship Schedule 2025

3/5 6:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship (Communion)
3/12 5:30 Meal / 6:15 Worship / 7-7:45 Confirmation
3/19 5:30 Meal / 6:15 Worship / 7-7:45 Confirmation
3/26 5:30 Meal / 6:15 Worship / 7-7:45 Confirmation
4/2 5:30 Meal / 6:15 Worship / 7-7:45 Confirmation
4/9 5:30 Meal / 6:15 Worship / 7-7:45 Confirmation
4/13 8am and 10:15am PALM SUNDAY Worship (communion)
4/17 6:15 Maundy Thursday Worship (First Communion)
4/18 6:15 Good Friday Worship
4/19 5:30pm Holy Saturday Chapel Worship
4/20 8am and 10:15am EASTER Worship (communion)

Calvary Lutheran Church www.calvarywillmar.org
302 SE Olena Avenue 320-235-2508
Willmar, MN 56201

SECURITY SYSTEM UPDATE

Starting Monday, February 17th, all church doors will be locked. Please use the entrance on the East side with the ring camera for entry (left side) during the day. We will do our best to watch as people arrive and buzz you in right away. On days with Text Study, Gather, Quilters and other meetings, we will unlock the Handicap Accessible door for your use during those times. Look for the signs on the door for a number to call if we are away from our desk and don't see you arrive at church. Thank you for your patience during this new process.



NOISY OFFERING/YOUTH LED SERVICE SUNDAY, MARCH 2 at our 10:15 service. The money collected will go to the AIM Program. AIM is Advocacy & Inclusion Matter. AIM provides opportunities and resources to support inclusion and independence for people with disabilities. For more information, visit www.aimwcm.org

WE CAN HELP!

We have learned that the Campus Ministry Center across from Ridgewater serves 300+ meals each week and they wash and dry dishes by hand! They need dishtowels, so we will have a bin in the narthex beginning February 15 until the 28th. Towels should be new or very gently used.

Thank you, Calvary! Social Kindness Committee



Circle of Welcome Update

The Circle of Welcome (CoW) that has been formed between Calvary and River of Hope in Hutchinson met on February 15 for the first time with the refugee family that we are supporting. The mother and her children are from Somalia and had been living in a refugee camp in Kenya prior to coming to the U.S. Her husband is still in Kenya. The family has six children between the ages of 1 and 9 and the mom is due next month with her seventh child. They have been having difficulty finding housing and so have currently been staying with other family members that also live in Willmar.

Unfortunately, we found out that 75% of the employees with MN LSS refugee services were laid off from their jobs beginning February 19 due to the freeze of federal funding. This means that the CoW contacts we were working with at LSS are no longer employed and there are no federal funds available for the family as had been planned. We do have some assistance through a Willmar LSS employee. In spite of these changes, all of the members of the CoW team felt strongly that we need to continue to provide support for this family.

Calvary's CoW volunteers are LaNell Koenig, David Sehloff, and Cathy and Joel Halbritter. Please pray for this family and if you have any ideas of available housing or are interested in supporting this family, please let one of us know. The family needs a 3-bedroom apartment or house for around \$1,300-\$1,500/month.

River of Hope did the initial fundraising that was needed to become a CoW and had a congregational member match that funding. Calvary was then asked to join the CoW so that we would have local volunteers that live in Willmar, as refugees through LSS are placed in either the Twin Cities, St. Cloud, or Willmar. At this time, that same member from River of Hope in Hutchinson is matching any additional donations up to \$4000. If you are interested in financially contributing to this work, please contact a CoW volunteer or the Church Office. Thank you!

SOCIAL KINDNESS has changed their meeting date from Tuesday, March 4 to Monday, March 3 at 1pm.

Charity Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30pm in the Friendship Room.

Deaconess Meeting will meet on Wednesday, March 5 at 1:30pm



**March is
Food Shelf
Month**

March is the month that we emphasize the need to stock the shelves at the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. In order to collect a good variety of non-perishable food, we suggest the following for each week:

March 1 & 2 - Canned vegetables, fruit, meat (tuna, spam, etc.)

March 8 & 9 - Soups, crackers

March 15 & 16 - Cereals, peanut butter, breakfast items, granola bars

March 22 & 23 - Pasta, sauces, mac & cheese, dry milk, etc.

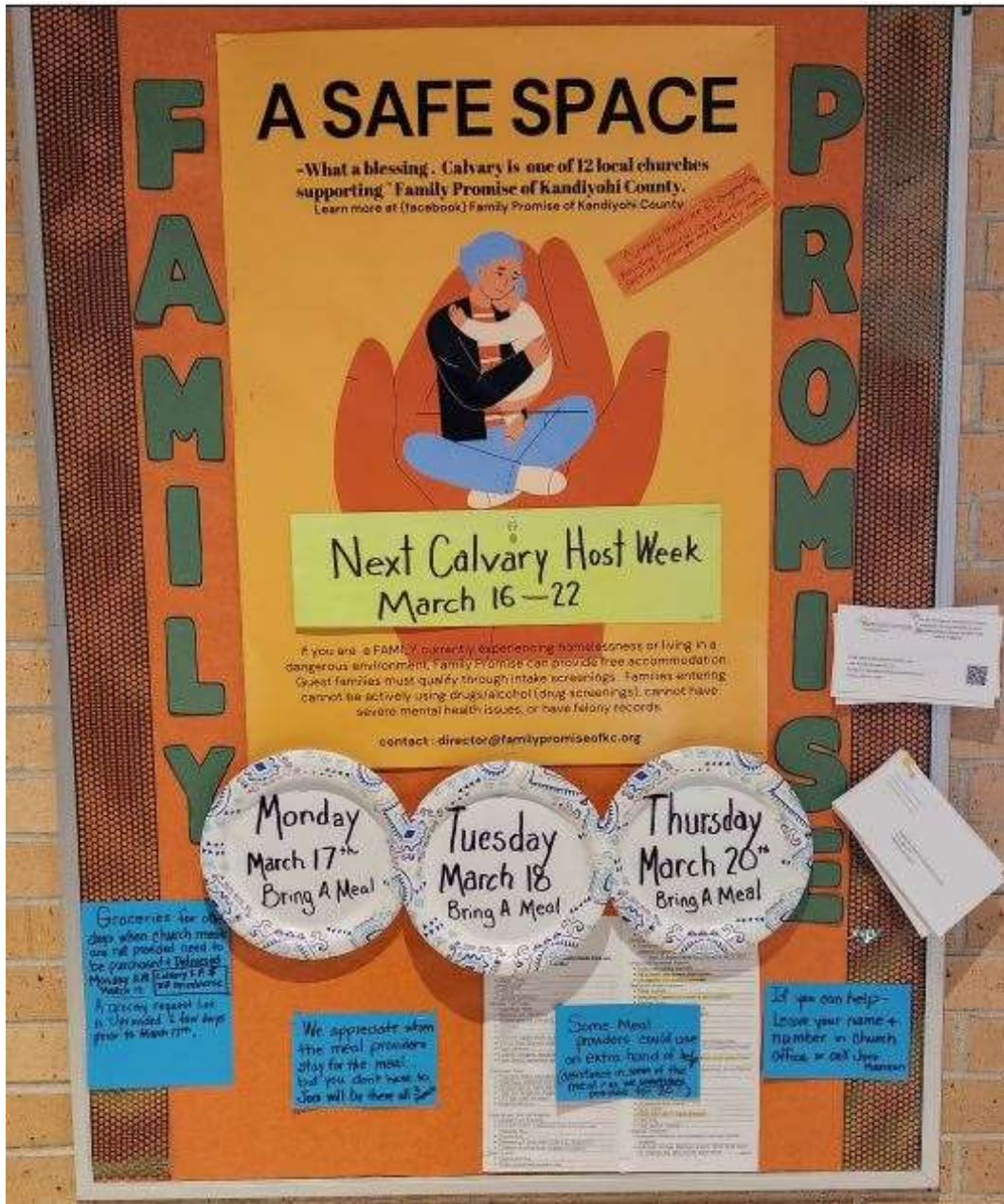
March 29 & 30 - Any non-perishable food

As always, monetary donations are welcome and can be left in the office or the offering plate (with food shelf designation). We have set a goal of \$1,600. Let's get on board and fill the cart every week!

Thank you for your willingness to give. Social Kindness Committee

MARCH 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 1st	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 2nd	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band/Youth Led/Noisy Offering
<i>*Wed., March 5th</i>	<i>6:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion</i>
Saturday, March 8th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 9th (Daylight Savings Time)	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship
<i>*Wed., March 12th</i>	<i>5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation</i>
Saturday, March 15th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 16th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship
<i>*Wed., March 19th</i>	<i>5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation</i>
Saturday, March 22nd	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 23rd	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School/Coffee w/Council 10:15am Praise Band Worship
<i>*Wed., March 26th</i>	<i>5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation</i>
Saturday, March 29th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 30th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship



Please contact Joni Hanson at (320)220-1324 if you are able to provide a meal on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. Also needed is a grocery shopper to purchase and deliver groceries on Monday, March 17th. (Family Promise will pay for the groceries).

Also Needed Donations: Pillows, bathroom towel sets (body, hand & washcloth size), laundry detergent, body wash, hand soap, paper towels, 13 gallon garbage bags, toilet paper, and disinfectant wipes.

CREATION CARE SAVE A DATE:

Calvary, Vinje and Bethel will be hosting a Creation Care booth at the 2nd Annual Healthy Earth Healthy Kids EcoFair that will be held at the Willmar Civic Center on Saturday, April 26th.



SILENT BIBLE STUDY

Silent Bible Study will meet
February 26th at 12:00 noon in the library. ALL
ARE WELCOME!

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Bethany Hall

Attendance: Bob Dickerson, John Dean, Harley Aalfs, Bridget Pederson, Mary Jo de Cathelineau, Caleb Hanson, Brian Henrickson, Lori Holmgren, Shane Baker

Staff: Pr. Amy, Pr. Wayne, Naomi Powers-Baker, Paula Lueders, Marie Fett

Absent: Pr. Dwaine Sutherland

Guests: Sara Bennet, Kim Larson, Shawn Swenson, Mike Schroeder, Jan Ruby

Shared Meal from Brian Henrickson & Devotions from Sara Bennett

Adoption of Minutes:

December Minutes – Motion to approve – Brian, Shane – second. Any discussion – none.
Motion to approve – all in favor. None opposed.

Staff Reports:

Pr. Wayne: In-person visits, hospice, and phone calls continue, visits at Bethesda, Cura, North Point. Meeting with homebound communion servers on 1/16/25 in-person, first meeting in two years, going to get info from them about what's working, etc. Deaconess meeting for January was postponed bc of New Year's Day. Did ministry and visits on New Year's Eve with a family. Calvary has been a strong supporter of families. Contacts during the holidays were made – they went great!

Pr. Amy: Update on her volunteer work at Campus Ministry, 170 kids in 40 minutes to each lunch, didn't run out of food! Java group tonight will meet. Sunday School – just coming back from Christmas break, this past Sunday is youth led, competing with sports right now. 3 Baptisms from Sunday. 2 emails from Sunday School teachers and they were enthused about the Baptism. Confirmation is a continued struggle; some things go well and some things don't. We will continue to grow where we can, build on things going well. I am focused on Faith Formation which is learning about faith and learning about your faith and your relationship with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Getting some push back about it not being fun enough and too focused on learning. Parents and kids are coming to talk to me. I am here and available to talk to anyone.

- Education Position – no new info

Paula: working on the Annual Report, still need a couple reports, working with finance to get a few details, large bill from West Central Tribune, wondering if we really need as large

of an ad for Christmas, looking to trim back the size, color, etc. Working on the install of the AV Project, going well.

Naomi: we are trying a few things with the 10:15 a.m. service, trying to move forward with making it more contemporary.

AV Update and Report – Mike Schroeder; things are under way to do the install of the AV project. This is an exciting time but also can be a scary transition but it's good for us to give ourselves a fresh look and fresh start. Today was 5 different companies working Firefly IT, Hyda Cabinets, REACH, Freetly Electricity Co, Heartland Security. Project is going well. Removed old wiring for the old system, old system takes more wire than the old system, new wire is pulled, hooking things up. Did a walk-around with the project manager from REACH – video and audio pulled to all the places we talked about – sanctuary, overflow room, friendship room, basement, chapel, nursery. Wednesday taking old speaker stack down, leave the screens for last thing. Hoping to get done this week. We just need to make sure there is audio for this Sunday. This is an exciting project! Crew is putting in 12 hour days, crew of 5. We are still on schedule!

Upcoming needs for AV Project: clean up after this crew, they aren't making a huge mess, very conscientious about how their equipment affects the building, maybe put something out to the congregation to come help and clean. Future need for tech volunteers – please ask for people to help!!

Finance Committee – Shawn Swenson; two coffee talks happened, we had an increase in giving for December – was hoping for \$80k but we were \$30k more than that. So pleased! Thank you to the congregation for stepping up with donations! Ended the year negative \$20k which is more manageable than what we were sitting at in Oct / Nov. See Financial Statements for more detail. Asset areas are looking very solid. Thrivent account had a 4.5% annual return in 2024, conservative portfolio – good performance for a conservative portfolio. January is 3 years since we invested the funds, we are not looking at a building project at this time. Carol Carlson gift was discussed. Strategic plan is a priority to help us make decisions on how to use the funds. Jerry Anderson fund is 4.1 million. Carol funds \$550k gift needs to be invested – looking at it being an endowment type of fund for specific needs asks. Maybe looking at a long term funds for these funds. We need to decide where to invest these funds. Discussed budget and the committee chose to keep it the same, general offerings \$660k offerings for 2024. Adjusted transfer from capital from \$30k to \$20k, budget shows a negative of \$120k proposed. Made the last payment for the acoustic panels today, will manage the payments going forward, we will be making a transfer from Jerry Anderson funds for the remainder of the cost of the AV Project.

Adoption of Financial Reports:

November & December – Motion to approve – Brian, John – second. Any discussion – none. Motion to approve – all in favor. None opposed.

Budget proposed to Pr. Dwaine from the Finance Committee and he was asked to show it to staff and get any feedback about their departments. Pr. Dwaine shared with Shawn that there was no feedback from staff. Naomi Baker shared she has never seen the budget or been asked about it at a staff meeting. Paula supplied her with a copy.

Motion to approve the budget for 2025 – Bob, Lori – second. Any discussion. Motion to approve – all in favor. None opposed.

Stewardship Committee – Caleb Hanson – added Chuck Ulrich and Scott Glup to the Committee. This will be the Board of Stewardship & Outreach going forward if ByLaws are approved at Annual Meeting.

Strategic Planning – Dion Warne looking for dates in February to have a meeting, he is going on vacation in January.

Security Update: waiting for the part needed to finish the job of adding in the key pad.

Endowment Committee – Karen Rinke and Ann Hanson willing to serve. Shane moved, Caleb second. No discussion. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Bridget Pederson shared the proposed Ballot for the Annual Meeting and summarized the work the committee did.

Motion to bring the ballot as stated Brian, second Shane, Paula have question about ballots that Bridget said she would call during the week to discuss. No other discussion. All approved, none opposed.

ByLaws – Bridget Pederson shared the one line in each Board section that discusses how the Boards get filled is an addition plus the adjustments to the Organizational Chart that were recommended at the Coffee with the ByLaws.

Motion to accept addition to each chapter – Brian, John – second. Any discussion. All approved. None opposed.

First Fruits Resolution – same thing as last year. Motion to bring the same as last year – John, Brian – second. No discussion. All approved. None opposed.

Coffee w/Council – this Sunday at 9 a.m. 1/26 annual meeting in Bethany Hall. Agenda will come via email to vote.

Other Items:

Appointments for Council for 2025, two appointed positions will need to be reappointed (Bob and Lori). Bridget shared that the two positions we appointed last year were appointed correctly however, the length of term was done incorrectly – we are only allowed, via our Constitution, to appoint until the next Annual Meeting. Therefore, we will need to re-appoint at our council meeting in February.

Next Month: Meal time – Staff; Devotions – Pr. Amy

Closing Devotions – Pr. Wayne; adjourned at 7:22 p.m. and went into a closed session.

2025 Calvary Council Leaders

Brian Henrickson – Chair - 218-770-0318, brian.henrickson60@gmail.com

Dion Warne - Vice Chair - 320-222-0050, dwarne@hsbofmn.com

Bridget Pederson – Secretary - 320-262-2638, bridgetpederson@yahoo.com

Harley Aalfs - 320-894-4446, hlaemc@icloud.com

John Dean - 320-212-5235, jaydeawillmar@gmail.com

Cathy Halbritter - 320-979-0129, jchalbritter@gmail.com

Lori Holmgren - 320-905-8431, clholmgren@hotmail.com

Meghan Knott - 320-894-3024, meghanreneeknott22@gmail.com

Jan Ruby - 320-796-0247, jcruby@outlook.com

2025 Financials January & YTD

	January Actual	January Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Income	\$ 50,791.06	\$ 54,416.63	\$ (3,625.57)	\$ 50,791.06	\$ 54,416.63	\$ (3,625.57)
Expenses	\$ 57,530.12	\$ 64,485.51	\$ (6,955.39)	\$ 57,530.12	\$ 64,485.51	\$ (6,955.39)
Net Income	\$ (6,739.06)	\$ (10,068.88)	\$ 3,329.82	\$ (6,739.06)	\$ (10,068.88)	\$ 3,329.82

If you would like to contribute to the mission of Calvary Lutheran Church, please click on our QR code. Thank you!



WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

February 8 & 9 - 173

YouTube - 138 / Sunday School - 35

General Offering - \$23,873.93

February 15 & 16- 206

YouTube - 118 / Sunday School - 43

General Offering - \$11,509.77

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

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