



Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
LUKE 6:36

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 23, 2025 10:15am

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

We Gather & Prepare to Hear God's Word

Gathering Music

Ring of the Bell

Welcome/Invocation

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

Responsive Call to Worship

We seek to love God with every fiber of our being.

We seek to love our neighbors as well as our enemies.

We begin by loving ourselves.

In loving ourselves, we find the strength to love others.

Let us be open to receiving what we need from God...

**to find the compassion to love strangers and
the courage to love our enemies.**

Let our self-love empower us to give our love away freely to the world.

**In loving ourselves, we bear witness to the love at the heart of all
things-God. Let it begin here, and now. Amen.**

The love of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(Sharing of joy/peace)

Gathering Song "You are My All In All"

Responsive Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

It may be the hardest thing we will ever do, caught up in our self-righteousness, honing our pain.

The one who offended may not deserve forgiveness and we are not obliged to offer it. Why, then, should we forgive?

Because we have all caused pain.
Because we all miss the mark.
Because we can deepen our souls if we forgive.
Because restoring even one relationship heals many hearts.
Because we would be forgiven ourselves.
Because drawing closer to one another builds our communities.
Because the alternative is endless bitterness.
Because the world we seek to create is a world filled with forgiveness.
Because we need not remain caught up in our self-righteousness and pain.
It may be the hardest thing we will ever do.

Let us take the first step now.

We close our eyes and place our hands over them...
Lord God, forgive us for turning our eyes away from you.
Forgive us for being dissatisfied with the good things you have given.
Lord God, have mercy on us.

We place our hands on our lips...
Lord God, we are sorry for the things we have spoken which hurt or condemn. Open our lips so we can tell of your love.
Lord God, have mercy on us.

We open our hands and hold our palms out to God...
Lord God, forgive us for not doing the good you place before us.
Help us to use our hands to serve you and others.
Lord God, have mercy on us.

We place our hands over our heart...
Lord God, create in us a clean heart. Forgive our self-centeredness and fill us with your Holy Spirit—to live for others.
Lord God, have mercy on us.

We lift our hands over our heads up to the sky...
We give you thanks gracious God for your faithful love to us, that in your mercy we receive complete forgiveness for our sins. **Amen.**

Song "Change My Heart, O God" ELW 801

Scripture Readings

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;

**2 for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.**

3 Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

**4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:

**6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.**

7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

9 For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

**10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.**

11 But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.

**39 The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.**

40 The Lord helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Setting 11

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Now we lis - ten to God's Word.

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All Creation Sings

Gospel Reading Luke 6:27-38

The Gospel reading is found in the Gospel of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Amy Juel

Song of the Day **Build a Longer Table**



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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The Apostles' Creed (p. 105)
Prayers of the Church (God of grace, **hear our prayer.**)
Offering Music "His Mercy is More"

Offertory Prayer

Together we pray, **We give gratefully for all that God has given us. We measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give. Let us give generously, to bless your church, your people, and your creation. 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 "Let Us Break Bread Together" ELW 471
"United at the Table" ELW 498 "Eat This Bread" ELW 472

Post Communion Prayer

May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. **Amen.**

Announcements

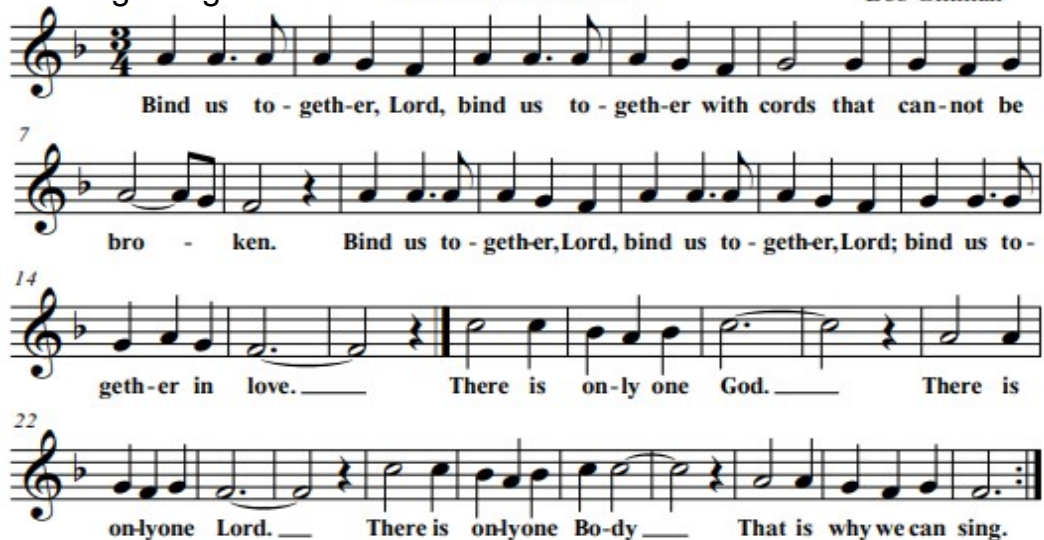
Installation of Council Members

Sending Blessing

Sending Song

"Bind Us Together"

Bob Gillman



Bind us to - geth-er, Lord, bind us to - geth-er with cords that can-not be
bro - ken. Bind us to - geth-er, Lord, bind us to - geth-er, Lord; bind us to -
geth-er in love. There is on-ly one God. There is
on-lyone Lord. There is onlyone Bo-dy That is why we can sing.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope!
We will. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Churchart.com, https://www.carolynshymns.com/the_candle_of_hope

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Nathan Eckhoff

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF: Dorothy Beseman

Readings and Psalm for Next Week

Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone

Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

Serving Sunday 10:15am

Preaching: Pastor Amy Juel
Acolytes: Alex Baker, Nicholas Larsen
Communion: Kim Hanson, Chase & Derek Hyatt
Greeters: Kevin Christianson, Isaac & Michelle Fernholz
Lector: David Sehloff
Office: Alvina Henrickson - 9:30 - 11:15am
Sound: Victoria Larsen
Video: Jody Skindelien

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
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Meghan Knott - 320-894-3024, meghanreeneeknott22@gmail.com
Jan Ruby - 320-796-0247, jcruby@outlook.com

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 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.

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**

Social Kindness Committee
NEXT CALVARY HOST WEEK
March 16-22

Meals are needed Monday, March 17, Tuesday, March 18, and Thursday, March 20. Also needed is a grocery shopper to purchase and deliver groceries on Monday, March 17 (Family Promise will pay for the groceries)
Please contact Joni Hanson if you are able to provide a meal or do the grocery shopping.

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.

SILENT BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday, February 26 at 12:00 noon in the library. All are welcome!

Weekly Attendance - 206
YouTube - 118 households
Sunday School - 43
General Offering - \$11,509.77

BAPTIZED TODAY:
Tobias Gary Dickerson, son of Jason and Gretchen Dickerson (Holmgren). Sponsors for Tobias are Abigail Samuelson and Hunter Samuelson.

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

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

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, contact from one of the CoW volunteer or the church office. Thank you!

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.

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.

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
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Willmar, MN 56201

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. Pictured below are examples of what is needed. Thank you Calvary!

Social Kindness Committee



Sunday, February 23

8:00am Worship – P. Amy
9:00am Coffee Time
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
4:00pm Scouts set up for Pinewood Derby
4:30pm Lakeland Conference - Vinje
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

Monday, February 24

6:30pm Scouts
7:00pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

12:00pm Silent Bible Study - Library
6:30pm Confirmation 6-9th – Friendship Room

Thursday, February 27

9:30am Text Bible Study – Friendship Room
1:00pm Quilting

Saturday, March 1

5:30pm Chapel Service

Sunday, March 2

8:00am Worship – P. Wayne
9:00am Coffee Time
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship/Youth Led/Noisy Offering
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
4:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3515 – Room 201
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

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

