



The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 9, 2025 10:15am

When you hear the word wilderness, what emerges? The Greek word in the gospel is eremos and can also be translated as “desert” or “desolate.” We often associate Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness with spiritual desolation. And yet, deserts—supposedly desolate places—are full of life! Deserts house complex ecosystems and are often home to endangered species. As we imagine ourselves in a Lenten desert, we can also learn from earthly deserts that life can flourish even in desolation.

We Gather & Prepare to Hear God’s Word

Gathering Music “Cornerstone”, “God So Loved the World”, “This I Believe”

Ringling 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 gather as broken brothers and sisters in Christ.

We realize our brokenness and seek strength and courage in the midst of our faith community.

We gather as beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

We seek and embrace daily love and courage in the midst of our faith community.

We are reminded that we are broken and beloved at the same time.

As broken and beloved saints and sinners, we are comforted knowing God’s love is steadfast.

The steadfast love and peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(we greet one another)

Gathering Song/Psalm 91 “On Eagle’s Wings” ELW 787

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

In the season of Lent, we are invited on a journey. We are invited to walk a path of reflection, acknowledging both the shadows and light of our lives.

Trusting in the grace of God, and before one another, let us admit the shadows and light.

Holy God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Sometimes we pretend to be better than we are. We do things we know will hurt others and act as though we are blameless. We are guilty, and we are broken. We ask for your forgiveness, because you love us more than we can imagine. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who came to show us the way. Amen.

Friends in Christ hear this; trust in the Lord, and let your heart rejoice, for indeed we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Song “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” ELW 334 (v. Lent 1)

We Listen to the Word of God

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, 5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. 6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

Drive Out The Darkness

P. Zach, I Wardell, D. Marotta,
John Swinton, Owen Stroud

6 Come, O - come, be our light, drive out the dark - ness, come, & end all the

10 vio - lence; come, & do not be si - lent; come, we cling to Your

prom - ise; come, You'll break all in - jus - tice. Come, Je-sus, come.

Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13

The Gospel reading is found in the Gospel of Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

9 Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Pastor Amy Juel

We Respond to the Call of God

Song of the Day "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" ELW 333

The Apostles' Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of the Church "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" ELW 752

Offering Music "For By Grace You Have Been Saved" ELW 598

Offertory Prayer

Together we pray, **We bring you only what is yours, Creator God, that you might use this offering for the building up of your kingdom and the glory of your name. Amen.**

We Celebrate the Table of God

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 "I Am the Bread of Life" ELW 485

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, as you did not spare your own Son, but gave him up to die on the cross for us all: Grant that we may live in him and he in us, as we serve you all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Announcements

Temple Talk *Circle of Welcome*, David Sehloff

We Depart to Serve God

Sending Blessing

Sending Song “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil” ELW 721 (sing twice)

Dismissal

May the Lord, who is your stronghold, help you in times of trouble.

Trust in the Lord!

We will. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Sundays and Seasons v.20231227.1545 Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Drive Out the Darkness, CCLI #698435; Communion prayer from lca.org.au; Bulletin cover from Churchart.com,

Readings and Psalm for Next Week

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

Luke 13:31-35

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

Weekly Attendance - 218

YouTube - 122 households

Sunday School - 32

General Offering - \$10,418.40

2025 Financials February & YTD						
	February Actual	February Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Income	\$ 78,790.47	\$ 54,416.67	\$ 24,373.80	\$ 129,581.53	\$ 108,833.30	\$ (3,625.57)
Expenses	\$ 69,534.62	\$ 64,485.39	\$ 5,049.23	\$ 127,064.74	\$ 128,970.90	\$ (1,906.16)
Net Income	\$ 9,255.85	\$ (10,068.72)	\$ 19,324.57	\$ 2,516.79	\$ (20,137.60)	\$ 22,654.39

Serving Sunday 10:15am

Preaching: Pastor Amy Juel
Acolytes: Rylynn & Keltyn Quist
Comm Assts: Caleb Hanson, Chase & Derek Hyatt
Greeters: Gregg & Karen Laurence, Chad & Krista Willis
Lector: Shane Baker
Office: Diane Asche - 9:30 - 11:15am
Sound: Mark Bloomquist
Video: Jody Skindelien

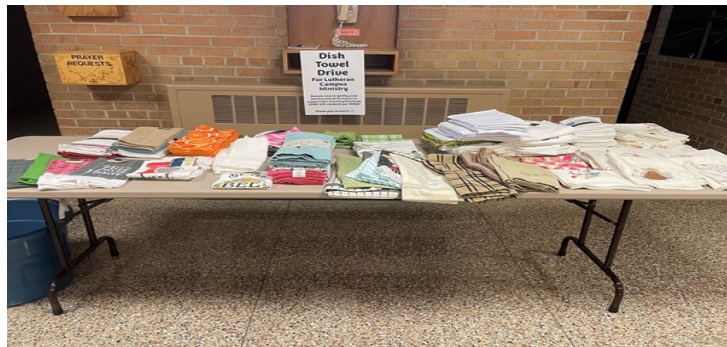
2025 Calvary Council Leaders

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
Lori Holmgren - 320-905-8431, clholmgren@hotmail.com
Meghan Knott - 320-894-3024, meghanreeneeknott22@gmail.com
Jan Ruby - 320-796-0247, jcruby@outlook.com

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Pat Binger, sister of Tom Renstrom (sister-in-law Lois Fostervold Renstrom)

Thank you, Calvary, for your wonderful donation of towels.



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

HONOR LOVED ONES

Every Easter, Calvary loves to fill the Sanctuary with flowers, provided in honor and in memory of loved ones. You are invited to purchase plants for \$10 per plant to express your love and appreciation and help the church defray the cost of providing the plants.

Friday, April 11, 2025, is the last day to order Easter flowers. Please stop by the office to place an order for a loved one. If paying by check, make payable to "Calvary Lutheran Church". Thank you!

THE NEXT SILENT BIBLE STUDY will meet March 12th and March 26th at 12:00 noon in the library. All are welcome!

ATTENTION CALVARY MEMBERS:

LSS Circle of Welcome needs supplies for our Somali Refugee family. Listed below are items needed. If you are able to donate, please call Cathy Halbritter (320-979-0129). Please call Cathy first before purchasing items so that they are not duplicated. **Thank you for your urgent help!**

Kitchen Chairs – 6 to 8

Table

Sippy cups – 4

Vacuum Cleaner

Broom

Dustpan

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Sponges/cleaning rags

Trash Bags

Waste Baskets

Bathroom Cleaner

Kitchen Cleaner

Dish Soap

Hand Soap

Laundry Detergent

Mattress Pad – 1 Full Size

Mattress Pads – 6 Twin Size

Lamps – 3 – not too tall or tippy

Bath Towels – 5-6

Hand Towels – 5-6

Wash Cloths – 8-10

Light Bulbs – 12

Television

Toys – no little pieces; the children are ages 1-9 years old

Books – Ages 1-9 years old

Diapers – LOTS!! – Sizes 4, 7, and

Newborn

WEST CENTRAL SINGERS

Mark your calendars! West Central Singers will have their concert **"A to Z: A Choral Smorgasbord"** at Calvary on Sunday, March 30 at 4pm.

Creation Care- Caring for People and Our Environment

SOLAR LIGHTS FOR UKRAINE- Several months ago, the Vinje Creation Care Committee heard about the Willmar United Methodist Church's project of assembling solar lights for the Ukrainian people. The project raises funds to purchase solar lights that are assembled and then sent to Ukraine to provide a source of light in homes experiencing the impact of the Russian invasion of their country.

The Vinje committee reached out to the Care Committees at Calvary and Bethel Lutheran churches in Willmar about partnering together to duplicate the efforts of the United Methodist Church. A quick affirmation of support followed, and the joint fundraising began with the Creation Care members of the three churches asking for donations. The funds raised surpassed expectations – the dollars provided supported the purchase of parts for 150 lights and covered expenses to help with transportation and shipping.

Dave Nonemacher with the New Horizons Foundation brought parts for 100 lights to assemble in December (2024). Over 60 volunteers came together to hear from Dave about the origin of the different parts of the lights and how gratefully they are received in Ukraine. In February (2025) Dave brought 50 more lights to assemble – over 30 volunteers came to assemble and get ready for shipping. Volunteers came from Vinje, Calvary, Bethel Lutheran, and the United Methodist Church for both events. The finished lights and other needed supplies are shipped by boat and unloaded in Germany, go to Poland, and are then delivered to families in Ukraine.

Caring for our environment and caring for people go together. Solar Lights for Ukraine shows how each of us can help others and show support for our environment.

Vinje Creation Care Committee

FAMILY PROMISE Next Calvary Host Week is March 16-22

We will be serving 10 adults, 6 preteens, 2 age 5 and one toddler. We want to thank: the Calvary BeFriender Ministry Group for doing the grocery shopping for the Host Week; Andy and Jean Berg, Beth Bloomquist, and Cindy Rice for making and serving meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; and the Calvary Quilters for their donation of 10 quilts. The quilts were so appreciated!

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.

MARCH 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 (Goulash, bread, veggies/dip, bar/cookie)</i> <i>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 (Hotdogs, Mac & Cheese, veggies/dip, bar/cookie)</i> <i>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 (Creamy potato bacon soup, Chicken noodle soup, bread, crackers, veggies/dip, bar/cookie)</i> <i>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

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
~ from Luke 4:1-13

Having been baptized by John, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. There the devil tempted him: to turn stones into bread to satiate his hunger, to worship the devil and be given all the kingdoms of the world with a snap of the fingers, and to jump from the highest temple peak and let the angels catch him. Henri Nouwen, in his book *In the Name of Jesus*, points to even deeper temptations below the surface: to be relevant, powerful and spectacular. That's not to say that being relevant, spectacular and powerful are bad in and of themselves. Jesus turns five loaves and a few fishes into enough for 5000 people. He demonstrates some pretty spectacular miracles like walking on water and healing disease. And he utilizes all the power of heaven to thwart death.

That these are listed as Jesus' temptations doesn't mean the way to follow Jesus is to do their opposite: abdicate our power, never let the light within us shine too brightly, and never help anyone. Throughout the season of Lent, we are invited to follow Jesus, who is certainly relevant, powerful and spectacular. However, what we learn as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond is that Jesus is never any of these things for his own sake. Instead, Jesus is all these things *so that we might trust the One who has the spectacular power to bring us from death into life.*

Nouwen claims the way out of these temptations is to move from relevance to prayer, from popularity to community, and from leading to being led. The tempter offered Jesus a shortcut - an opportunity to have everything without going to the cross. But you can't bypass the cross when it comes to following God.

Many have noted that we are currently wandering in a wilderness of our own making, and we are lost and weary. To find our way into a new day is through connecting with God in prayer and being part of a community where you can be real about the fears that want to lead in your life and where you can learn to lead with trust instead...and through standing up for and speaking out in ways that bring life and hope to the vulnerable in our communities. How might you shape your season of Lent to include these practices in your daily life?

Holy God, during these forty days of Lent, may we learn to trust your power and utilize our own for the sake of our neighbor. May we find spectacular ways to bring about justice and healing that builds community and makes a difference in the lives of those pushed to the edges. Amen.

Written by Pastor Liz Eide, Published by Cherish All Children - a ministry within Lutheran Social Service MN that partners with churches to prevent child sexual exploitation.

Sunday, March 9

8:00am Worship – P. Amy - Temple Talk – CoW – David Sehloff
9:00am Coffee Time
9:00am Girl Scout Troop 3655 - Cookie Sales
9:05am Sunday School
10:15am Worship – Temple Talk – CoW – David Sehloff
10:45am Worship Service on KWLM 1340 am or 96.3 fm
1:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181
3:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3500 – Friendship Room
8:00pm Worship Service-WRAC 181

Monday, March 10

5:00pm Bell Choir
6:30pm Scouts
7:00pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, March 11

12:00pm Finance Committee
6:00pm Council Meeting
6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #3749 – Room 201
6:30pm Worship Service - WRAC 181

Wednesday, March 12

12:00pm Silent Bible Study – Library
5:30pm Meal
6:15pm Worship Service
7:00pm Confirmation 6-9th grade

Thursday, March 13

9:30am Text Bible Study – Friendship Room
1:00pm Quilting
5:45pm Girl Scout Troop #3655 – Friendship Room

Friday, March 14

1:30pm EcoFair Meeting – Friendship Room

Saturday, March 15

5:30pm Chapel Service – P. Wayne

Sunday, March 16

8:00am Worship – P. Wayne
9:00am Coffee Time
9:05am Sunday School
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

