

Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVENUE SE
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201

The Calvary Messenger ***March 7, 2025***

Next Messenger will be sent out March 21, 2025.

If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

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.

**DON'T FORGET
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS!**

Spring ahead 1 hour. Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 9th**. We don't want you to be late to worship with us!

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

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

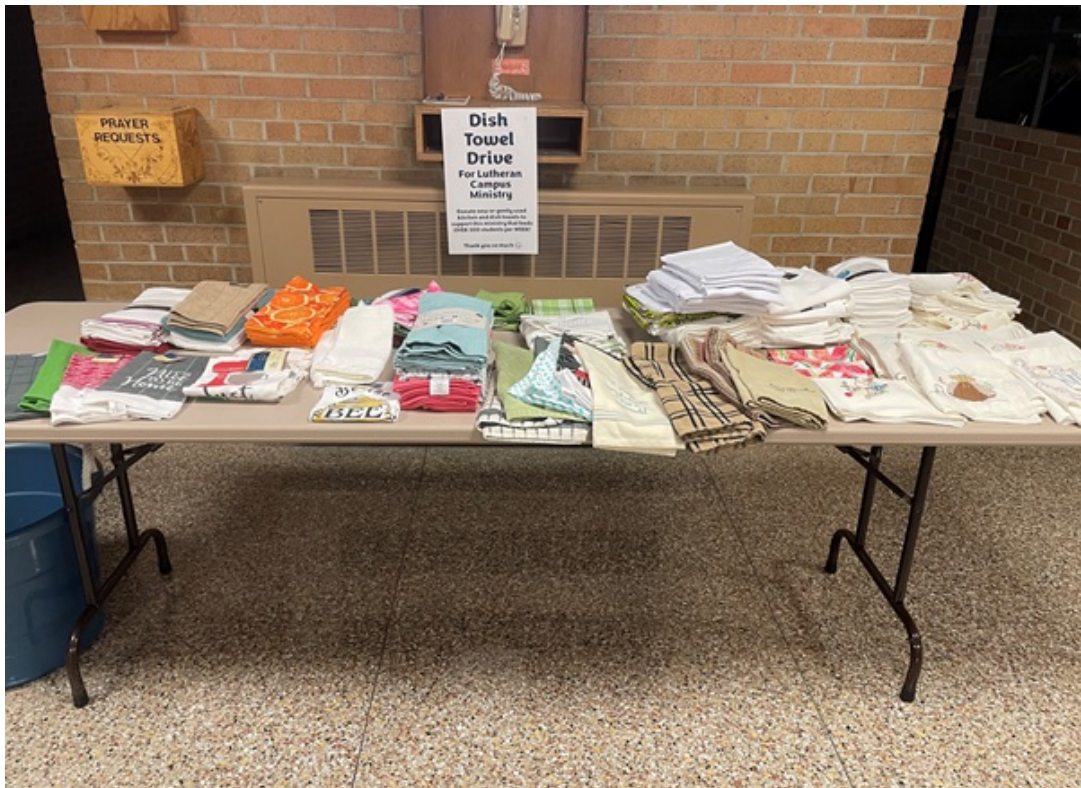
Toilet Bowl Cleaner

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

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



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 Schedule 2025

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- 3/5 6:15 Ash Wednesday Worship w/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 8 & 10:15am PALM SUNDAY Worship w/Communion
- 4/17 6:15 Maundy Thursday Worship/First Communion
- 4/18 6:15 Good Friday Worship
- 4/19 5:30 Holy Saturday Chapel Worship
- 4/20 8 & 10:15am EASTER Worship w/Communion

YOU ARE AWESOME CALVARY!

Thank you for your donations to New 2 You. We received gift cards from Be The Good totaling \$280 to give back to the community.

CREATION CARE

Open your shades on winter days for natural light and warmth. Save up to \$10 per year. Taking advantage of winter sunlight can help make a dent in your heating costs. Open blinds during the day to provide natural lighting and capture free heat.

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!



**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 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
*Wed., March 12th	5:30pm Meal (Goulash, bread, veggies/dip, bar/cookie) 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation
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
*Wed., March 19th	5:30pm Meal (Hotdogs, Mac & Cheese, veggies/dip, bar/cookie) 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation
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
*Wed., March 26th	5:30pm Meal (Creamy potato bacon soup, Chicken noodle soup, bread, crackers, veggies/dip, bar/cookie) 6:15pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Confirmation
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

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.



SILENT BIBLE STUDY

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

A colorful poster for a choral event. The background is a collage of musical notes, sheet music, and piano keys. The text is arranged in a vertical column on the left side of the poster.

WEST CENTRAL
SINGERS
presents
A to Z:
A Choral
Smorgasbord

Director Naomi Powers-Baker
Accompanist Kari Stadem

Saturday, March 29, 2025
4 pm | Faith Lutheran Church
310 Medayto Drive | Spicer, MN

Sunday, March 30, 2025
4 pm | Calvary Lutheran Church
302 Olena Avenue SE | Willmar, MN

westcentralsingers.com
Tickets Available at the Door
Children & Students Free!
Adults \$10

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Come celebrate with Lee Paulson celebrating her 90th Birthday!



*This beautiful lady
is 90 years old!
Help us celebrate!*



When: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (open house for Lee)

Where: Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar Minnesota

Your presence is present enough, so please no gifts.

Her actual birthday is March 20 and she would love to hear from you!



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

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

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



WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

*February 22 & 23 - 215
YouTube - 119 / Sunday School - 35*

General Offering - \$23,396.99

March 1 & 2 - 218
YouTube - 122 households / Sunday School - 32
General Offering - \$10,418.40

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

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