



The Calvary Messenger ***March 21, 2025***

Next Messenger will be sent out April 4, 2025.
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Let It Go” was a popular song from Disney’s film, *Frozen*. “Just let it go!” Has anyone ever said that to you? How do you let go of those anxieties or fears that come into your life? Or maybe someone has done something or failed to do something that hurt your feelings or made you angry. How does one “just let it go”?

It would be nice if there were some easy answers, some formula which we could follow and all would be right again.

Well, maybe there is. But it isn’t always easy to follow. It may take some time, some patience and most definitely - trust. It requires taking time and spending it with God. Most of us don’t take enough time to step back, breathe deeply, and just open our hearts and minds to God’s wisdom.

It can be scary too. After all, if we let go of those things that are churning around in us, what will be left? What will fill that void? We need to trust that God’s love and goodness will fill us with whatever we need at the time, will feed us with whatever our hearts hunger for, and will bring peace and assurance for our souls.

God will never leave a void in our lives. God will make those dark places light, smooth out the rough places, straighten that which is crooked, and fill those places that may be empty with love, kindness, and joy.

Lent is a perfect time to “just let it go.” As we spend time in meditation and contemplation of the journey to the cross, it is the perfect time to turn those slights, hurts, fears, anger, and anxieties over to God. It’s a perfect time to lay them at the foot of the cross, freeing our hearts and souls to be more intentional in our walk with God.

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. We ask for the strength and courage to accept the reality that your wisdom is ever present and available to us. Help us to be open to you knowing that you are ready to fill us with new understanding, life, and light. Be with us and guide us as we continue our journey to the cross in this season of Lent. In your name we pray. Amen.

With you on the journey...
Pastor Wayne

While your kids are in Sunday School, please come and meet our new council members. They will be having coffee and treats in the **Koinonia Room (2nd floor of Sunday School wing)** on **Sunday, March 23 at 9:00am**. It is not a formal meeting; it's a time for fellowship and getting to know each other. Open to all ages. Bring any ideas or suggestions you may have. See you then!



Taken by our Sunday School Teachers of our youngsters. Look at those smiles. Doesn't it make you just smile yourself?



Greetings! It has been brought to our attention that there have been some members getting emails requesting purchasing gift cards. Please know that none of the staff at Calvary will send out a personal email requesting you to purchase a gift card. If you should receive a personal email from any of the Pastors or staff that is questionable, please contact the church office at 320-235-2508 before sending anything out. We want to keep you all safe.



Thank you to Connie Anderson, mother of Val Amberg who made this beautiful Wall Quilt for Calvary.

Marian Gilbertson, a longtime member of Calvary turns 100 years old on April 10th. Here is her address if you would like to send her a birthday card:



Marian Gilbertson
1006 19th Avenue South
Moorhead MN 56560-3651

SOCIAL KINDNESS

Social Kindness Committee meets on Tuesday, April 1 at 1:00pm in the Friendship Room.

DEACONESS

The Deaconess Committee meets on Wednesday, April 2 at 1:30pm in the Friendship Room.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, April 7th at 8:00am at McMillans.

A recruitment poster for an Easter choir. The background is a soft-focus image of a cross in a field of tall grass at sunrise or sunset. The text is arranged in a clear, inviting layout. At the top, a rounded rectangle contains the title and a question. Below that, the text 'Will you volunteer?' is centered. To the left, the phrase 'JESUS HAS Risen' is written in a mix of fonts, with 'Let's sing about it!' below it. To the right, the text 'ALL ages & ALL abilities welcome!' and 'Please see Naomi ASAP' is displayed. A small graphic of a crown with musical notes is in the bottom right corner.

Easter Choir...
EVERYONE WANTS ONE,
RIGHT?
Will you volunteer?

JESUS
HAS Risen
Let's sing about it!

**ALL ages &
ALL abilities welcome!**
Please see Naomi ASAP

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

2025 Lenten Offerings will be donated to Circle of Welcome, a new outreach ministry partnership between Calvary and River of Hope in Hutchinson through Lutheran Social Services. We thank the CoW Team- Cathy and Joel Halbritter, David Sehloff, and LaNell Koenig for their commitment to this ministry. If anyone is interested in more information about Circle of Welcome or would like to be a part of the team, please contact team members or the Church Office.

Lent and Holy Week Schedule 2025

- 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

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 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

APRIL 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE	
Wednesday, April 2nd	5:30 Meal 6:15 Lenten Worship Confirmation follows Worship
Saturday, April 5th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 6th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship
Wednesday, April 9th	5:30 Meal 6:15 Lenten Worship Confirmation follows Worship
Saturday, April 12th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship-Sunday School Children process with Palms
Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday	6:15pm Worship - First Communion
Friday, April 18th Good Friday	6:15pm Worship
Saturday, April 19th Holy Saturday	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, April 20th Easter Sunday	8:00am Worship 10:15am Worship
Saturday, April 26th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel Earth Weekend/Creation Care
Sunday, April 27th	8:00am Traditional Worship 9:05am Sunday School 10:15am Praise Band Worship - Earth Sunday/Creation Care

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!



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A BIRTHDAY PARTY

80 Years
in the Making
(est 1945)

CELEBRATING
ALEX BARRETT
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH
Details on Reverse Side

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
ALEX BARRETT
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH

SHHH!!! THIS IS AN OPEN HOUSE SURPRISE PARTY! IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET THE BDAY BOY SOMETHING, HIS FAVORITES ARE MCDONALD'S, PENNOCK PIT STOP COFFEE, SCRATCH OFFS, AND SWEETS. He would also love a card or a visit another day, if you are unable to make it.

12:00-2:00 PM

7280 21ST AVE NW PENNOCK, MN 56279

KINDLY RSVP BY APRIL 1ST
BRIELLE BARRETT
(320)894-8913
Barrett_Brielle@hotmail.com

We also invite you to join the St. John's Lake Facebook page if you haven't yet @
<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/18fwe5VUTy/>



SILENT BIBLE STUDY

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

WEST CENTRAL
SINGERS
presents
A to Z:
**A Choral
Smorgasbord**

Director Naomi Powers-Baker
Accompanist Karl 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

NTY

Friday, April 11
12:00 Noon

It's Spring and time for NTY to get together again in 2025!! Remember Carolyn Sowinski, the author, from Michigan? She was with us in August 2023 and would like to speak to our group again about another book she wrote and its connection to Calvary. It's a biography of Gabriel Stene, son of Norwegian immigrants who settled in Lake Andrew Township in 1867. He and his family lived in Willmar in the 1880's and were part of the Calvary congregation. Please call the church office by 4:30pm Wednesday, April 9th to register. Guests are always welcome. If you can't make it for lunch, you're welcome to come for the program at 1:00pm. The cost for lunch will be \$7.00, payable on the day of NTY. Please pay Sue Roepke in Bethany Hall and not at the church office. (Note that cancellations after Wednesday and no-shows will still require payment due to increased food costs.) Thank you. If you have any questions, please call Diane Asche at 295-8938.

Have you ever wished you had extra silverware (not plastic) when hosting a holiday or a party?

Calvary's Creation Care Team is gathering an assortment of slightly used silverware to create a silverware library.

Calvary members would be able to "check-out" the silverware so that they would not need to purchase plastic silverware, which ends up in the landfill.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can donate any extra silverware (in good condition) that you may have. Please drop off at the church office.

Thanks for your help reducing the use of plastic!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE PLANET BUT DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO START

Check it out!



Saturday April 12, 2025
12:00-4:00pm
Cost: FREE
All Ages Welcome!

Interactive exhibits on water quality, energy efficiency, & conservation

Live presentations w/Science Museum of MN at 12:30pm & 3:00pm

+Rock climbing wall +Guided prairie walks & pond study

+Outdoor gear sale to support Prairie Woods

+Hands-on kids' activities +Food truck on site!

**OUR
POWER,
OUR
PLANET**
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Summer Volunteer Opportunity

Do you like to spend time on a Pontoon enjoying a summer day on Green Lake, catching a fish or two and creating wonderful memories? Become a volunteer with **Let's Go Fishing** and you can join others providing this experience to Seniors, youth and other adults from over 35 organizations in our area. Trips are Monday through Thursday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon and can either be fishing or boating. You can decide what time and day you would like to volunteer to help as a "first mate" or to pilot one of the two Pontoons. Have questions or need more information? **Call Rick Loseth at 320-979-9231 or Ron Haugen at 936-707-9023.**

2025 Calvary Council Leaders

Brian Henrikson - 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

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



WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

March 8 & 9 - 239

YouTube - 100 households / Sunday School - 29

General Offering - \$16,474.56

March 15 & 16 - 183

YouTube - 105 households / Sunday School - 37

General Offering - \$8,931.95

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