



The Calvary Messenger ***September 19, 2025***

Next Messenger will be sent out October 3, 2025
If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

Dear Members and Friends of Calvary,

On rare occasions, pastors may receive anonymous letters from people, either within or outside of the congregation. As leaders of our congregation, we want you to know that such letters, because they are anonymous, are not given credence or value.

On the other hand, communications from members and friends of Calvary, signed and constructive, are always of value and appreciated greatly.

In His Service,

Brian Henrickson, Congregation President

Dion Warne, Congregation Vice-President

Bridget Pederson, Congregation Secretary

The time is drawing closer for all of you to begin praying (if you aren't already) for the process of calling your next pastor.

On September 28 your Church Council, pastors and Transition Team will be meeting at Green Lake Bible Camp for an afternoon retreat to begin creating "Reinvention Concrete Ideas" for Calvary's near future, all built upon the results of the Church Assessment Tool (C.A.T.) that many of you participated in this summer.

This retreat will be followed by an October 2 "Constant Contact" to all of you with a summary report of the C.A.T. findings as given to us by our consultant, Pastor Kurt Jacobson. The Transition Team will then be hosting an October 9 gathering at 7:00 p.m. for the people of Calvary when the Team will be presenting the C.A.T. findings along with a report on the "concrete ideas" created by the Church Council.

Along with the above gatherings, the Transition Team, and 2 or 3 others suggested by the Church Council, will be working on the Ministry Site Profile, which is a document the Southwestern Minnesota Synod staff uses as it searches for candidates to be interviewed for the next pastor position..

The Church Council will also, as directed by our constitution, be appointing a Call Committee which will oversee the interviewing of pastor candidates recommended by the synod, and the recommendation of a final candidate to the Congregation to consider calling as your next pastor.

That's a lot to pray about! But this entire process must be covered in prayer. After all, as I shared with you in my first sermon, it is important to remember that ultimately this is not about what "we want," it is about what "God wants!"

Pastor Rick

Some Quick Facts about Who Participated in C.A.T.

- Age demographic: 5% are 0-34; 11% are 35-54; 12% are 55-64; 71% are 65+
- Households: 29% are one-person; 53% are two-person; 16% are three to four persons; 2% are five persons or more.
- Tenure: 72% have been members 20+ years; 15% under 11 years.
- Education attainment: 15% high school diploma; 32% some college; 30% college graduate; 7% some post graduate work; 15% graduate degree.

Your Pastor Transition Team

Caleb Hanson; Kim Hanson; Susan Roepke and Bridget Pederson

And here are some upcoming events for you to watch for;

On October 2, the congregation will receive a "Constant Contact" email from the Transition Team with a final summary of the Church Assessment Tool (C.A.T.) and on October 9, at 7:00 p.m., the Transition Team will be hosting a gathering at church to present these findings to you.

FAITH FORMATION / SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS:

****Thank you all for a great first day back in Sunday School! It was awesome to see so many kiddos and families 😊**

**** Sunday School begins at 10:15 and ends at 11:15. There is coffee fellowship in the Friendship Room as well as a new COFFEE BAR in the Koinonia Room on the second floor of the Sunday School Wing. Parents are invited to stay and socialize, join in when Adult Forums are offered, check out the Library, or just relax!**

**** Students in grades 1-5 have Opening in the Sanctuary at 10:15- they can go to the Sanctuary before going to their classroom. Students in 3-year-old, 4-year-old, and Kindergarten classes can go to their classrooms to begin their day.**

**** Offering Envelopes were given to each student today. We are going to receive Sunday School offering during music time in the Sanctuary. Students were told about why offerings are collected (to help others) and we plan to decide as a Sunday School where our offerings will be donated. Just a reminder that there are many types of offerings and sharing of gifts- helping a friend is an offering; donating a coin is an offering; praying a prayer or singing a song is an offering. Please have a conversation with your child/children about loving others by giving of our time, skills, talents, or finances, and be blessed to share in whatever way is best for your family.**

**** "God & Me" monthly EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL for families and their students younger than three years old will begin on September 21. Elissa Nelson is leading the group. We will meet in the Gathering Space from 10:15-11:15 on the THIRD SUNDAY of each month. Elissa will lead parents and children through a Bible Story and activities, songs, toys, and crafts that connect with the story of the day.**

**** BRING YOUR BIBLE CHALLENGE- Each Sunday our classes will be tracking who brings their Bible to Sunday School with them! Before Christmas Break and at the end of the school year we will award PRIZES to those who have brought their Bibles THE MOST 😊. EACH STUDENT who has brought their Bibles EVERY SUNDAY OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR will receive a \$10 DAIRY QUEEN GIFT CARD!!!! (Students who do not have a Bible can get one from Pastor Amy)**

****THREE YEAR OLDS and THIRD GRADERS will receive Bibles during worship on Youth Sunday, October 5th. If you have a student who is older than 3 or older than 3rd grade who has not received a Bible, please contact Pastor Amy or the church office and we will present a Bible to your student as well!**



PreK - 5th Grade will be singing
October 5th at 9:00am Array Worship!

 2025 WORSHIP AT CALVARY	
Saturday, Sept. 6 th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Sept. 7 th	9:00am SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF <i>Back to School/Teacher/Helper Blessings</i> 10:00am Games/God's Work-Our Hands 11:00am Potluck
Saturday, Sept. 13 th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Sept. 14 th	9:00am Traditional Worship - coffee following 10:15am Sunday School 
Saturday, Sept 20 th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Sept. 21 st	9:00am Array Worship - coffee following 10:15am Sunday School
Saturday, Sept. 27 th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Sept. 28 th	9:00am Traditional Worship Coffee with Council following worship in <u>Friendship AND Koinonia Rooms</u> 10:15am Sunday School

ADDITION TO THIS SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE - ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH FOLLOWING THE 5:30PM CHAPEL WORSHIP, THERE WILL BE COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM.



The Interior Decorating committee is looking for a donation of 8-10 real pumpkins to use in our Fall Harvest decorating in November. A few gourds would also be welcome. If you have any that we could use, please contact Lori Holmgren (320-905-8431) or Cathy Halbritter (320-979-0129). We can take them prior to November and store them.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Calvary Library is looking for volunteers to work in the library after the 9am Sunday Worship during the Sunday School hour. This is a no stress volunteer opportunity and training will be provided. If this is something that you might be interested in helping with, please contact Beth Bloomquist (320-905-8678), Kristi Glup (320-979-0295), or Cathy Halbritter (320-979-0129).

Book Summary

The Boy with Big, Big Feelings by Britney Winn Lee is relatable for any child -- especially for a child experiencing anxiety, extreme emotions, a child identified as a Highly Sensitive Person, or a child on the autism spectrum. Beautifully illustrated and written in rhyming verse, children and adults explore the whole spectrum of feelings and readers navigate the emotional challenges they face throughout the day. The boy in the story tries to cope by stuffing down his feelings, but with a little help and artistic inspiration, the boy realizes his feelings are something to be celebrated.



Willmar Middle School Gateway to Technology classes are looking for 1/2-gallon cardboard containers. The goal is to have 40 by December for their upcoming project. Be sure to rinse the containers and can be dropped off near the harvest share table at the east entrance. Thank you!

A huge **THANK YOU** from Marian Gilbertson for all the people that sent her Birthday cards and greetings in honor of her 100th Birthday in April. She really appreciates the kindness that was sent her way.



CREATION CARE TIP

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Notice the order! Reducing is the most important and reusing is next. It actually takes a lot of energy to recycle. Try to think about reusing something before putting it in the recycle bin.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Financial Summary for August 2025

General Fund

- Total General Fund income is \$56,225, over the monthly budgeted income by \$1,808
- At \$52,317 the general offerings is under budget by \$433
- Actual monthly budgeted operating expenses were \$62,424 which is under budget by \$2,061
- Net Loss for the month is \$6,199, YTD Net Loss \$87,620
- Total Net Assets are (\$107,689)

***If you or a family member has a health update, is hospitalized, or is in need of a visit, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE and we will visit you. We appreciate the opportunity to share all aspects of your life with you- both the celebrations and the sadness. You are not alone... and you are loved.**

Associate Pastor Amy Juel
(320) 282-2225 - ajuel@calvarywillmar.org

Interim Pastor Rick Hoyme
(715) 579-6208 - rhoyme@calvarywillmar.org

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



WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

*September 6-7 - 260
YouTube - 85 households
Offerings - \$10,658.60*

*September 13-14 - 229
YouTube - 85 Households
Offerings- \$16,780.27*

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

Calvary's Worship Services are available:

Sundays - 10:45am KWLM 1340AM or 96.5FM

- 1 & 8pm WRAC 181

Tuesdays - 6:30pm WRAC 181

Anytime on YouTube -

www.youtube.com/@calvarywillmar



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