



The Calvary Messenger

December 12, 2025

Next Messenger will be sent out December 19, 2025
 If you have questions, contact the church office at 320-235-2508.

ANNUAL REPORTS

If you have not submitted your annual reports to Paula, please do so as soon as possible. Email them to plueders@calvarywillmar.org THANK YOU!

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES:

ALL AGES:

December 12	Noon	NTY (Not Through Yet) Lunch and Entertainment / Christmas Program by Terry Shaw
December 12	6:30-8pm	"Gingerbread" Cardboard House Creating in Bethany Hall
December 18	9:30am	Text Study in the Friendship Room
December 25 & January 1		NO TEXT STUDY
December 27	5pm	Worship in the Chapel with Thomas Bonnema preaching
	6pm	Gather & Grow (formerly Adult Forum) conversation with Thomas Bonnema regarding his journey through Seminary
December 28	9am	Worship in the Chapel with Thomas Bonnema preaching
	10am	Gather & Grow (formerly Adult Forum) conversation with Thomas Bonnema regarding his journey through Seminary

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

December 13	2-4pm	Christmas Program Practice Meet in the Sanctuary
December 14	8:30am	Meet in the Koinonia Room to Prepare for the Christmas Program
	9:00am	Christmas Program in Worship
	10am	Potluck Christmas Party for ALL!!! Bible Challenge Prizes and Christmas Gifts will be shared
December 21 & 28		CHRISTMAS BREAK! Watch your email, mail, and Facebook for fun Christmas Break Events!!!
January 4, 2026	9am	Youth Led Worship & Noisy Offering
	10:15am	Sunday School Resumes! Bible Challenge and Attendance Contest start for the New Year!



FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES continued:

CONFIRMATION:	December 17	5:15pm	Confirmation SERVICE NIGHT at Hope for Our City OR Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Cash Wise or Wal-Mart. Parents please bring your student(s) to their designated service site (lists were sent home with students on 12/10 and via e-mail 12/5) by 5:15 and pick them up from that site at 6:30 to bring them to Culvers for the Christmas Party.
	December 24 & 31		CHRISTMAS BREAK! Watch your email, mail, and Facebook for fun Christmas Break Events!!!
	December 28	2:30-4pm	Skating with Friends at Civic Center Families are welcome!
	January 7	6-8pm	Confirmation Resumes! Bible Challenge and Attendance Contest start for the New Year!

THANK YOU! To our amazing Sunday School Teachers and Helpers, Confirmation Guides, and Adult Faith Formation Coordinators! We are blessed by your commitment to Faith Formation for all ages here at Calvary! Blessings for a wonderful 2026!

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A Note from Pastor Amy

Dear Friends- We're in the midst of a busy time of year- there are so many things on our plates- literally and figuratively. Expectations and schedules pull us in a multitude of directions. Sometimes we never seem to get ahead. It's easy to become frustrated or feel a bit discombobulated (one of my favorite words!).

As we watch and wait for who we know is truly the Reason for the Season, that infant King born in the manger, please join us in worship as you are able. Center yourself on what is truly the most wonderful gift- the Light of the World. Know that you are loved, not only by your Savior, but by your siblings in Christ! We are stronger when you are with us and we miss you when you are gone. We want to support you in the joys and challenges of your life, and we need your encouragement when we are down.

Christmas is a time for coming together- letting go of the past that haunts us, growing and serving in faith in the present, and joyfully working toward God's preferred future for us, as individuals, as a congregation, and as a world-wide church.

THANK YOU for the ways you love others so well.

God Bless Us, Every One-

-PA

LEFSE MAKING TIME AT CALVARY

Thank you to all who joined us making Lefse from the "experienced" to "some not so experienced." Many hands make the load lighter. I believe we have a "tradition" in the making." Thank you everyone!



BUILD YOUR OWN CARDBOARD "GINGERBREAD" HOUSE EVENT FOR ALL AGES - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 FROM 6:30—8PM

Family and Friends of all ages are invited to join together to make a cardboard "Gingerbread" house! Boxes and supplies, snacks and beverages will be provided.

CALVARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 @9am THE TWELVE PRAYERS OF CHRISTMAS

We will share in favorite Christmas Scriptures and Hymns and follow our worship with a Potluck Christmas party for all ages!

CALVARY'S GIVING TREE

Please choose an ornament (or 2), purchase the gift and place it in a gift bag with the colored ornament attached. Gifts need to be brought to the office

BEFORE DECEMBER 14TH to be distributed before Christmas. What a joy this will bring to those who may not otherwise receive a gift. THANK YOU!

Social Kindness Committee

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAKING DAY

Annual Baking Day will be Tuesday, December 16 at 9am. Lunch will be served. If you are interested, please give Bob & Connie a call at 320-354-4272 so they can plan accordingly. Thank you!

MEMORIAL TREE

Honoring the memory of those we have lost

Our beautiful Memorial Tree is located at the east entrance. You may add your ornaments during regular office hours, Monday-Thursday 7:30 - 4 and Fridays 7:30 - 2:30. Please pick up ornaments by Monday, January 5th or they will be stored for next time. Thank you!

DECEMBER 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 6th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Dec. 7th	9:00am Array Worship/Youth Led/Noisy Offering (coffee following) 10:15 Sunday School
Saturday, Dec. 13th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Dec. 14th	9:00am Youth Christmas Program Christmas Potluck to follow (no formal Sunday School classes)
Thursday, Dec. 18th	6:30pm Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, Dec. 20th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, Dec. 21st	9:00am Array Worship (coffee following) (no Sunday School)
Tuesday, Dec. 23rd	7:00pm Little Norwegian Christmas Worship
Wednesday, Dec. 24th	3:30pm, 5:30pm, 10:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, Dec. 25th	9:00am Christmas Day Worship in the Chapel
Saturday, Dec. 27th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel - Coffee and Conversation with Thomas Bonnema following service
Sunday, Dec. 28th	9:00am Traditional Worship - Coffee and Conversation with Thomas Bonnema (no Sunday School)



CREATION CARE TIP

Block drafts of cold air around your doors – Save up to \$10 per year. The edges of doors are often poorly sealed, allowing cold air to seep into your warm home. For a free, quick, and easy solution, block cold air drafts with rolled up towels.

CALVARY ACTIVITY CANCELLATIONS

We will follow the Willmar Public School's closing due to weather conditions. If school closes early, there will be no evening activities at Calvary. Announcements will be posted on Calvary's Facebook Page and Operation Snowdesk on KWLM radio. Constant Contact emails will be sent.

2026 PLEDGE CARDS

A huge thank you to those who have turned in their 2026 pledge cards. We have had over 100 turned in! To those who have not had time to get them turned in yet, it's not too late. Please take a minute to fill out your pledge card and drop them in the offering plate, in the mail, or at the church office. We appreciate each and every one of you and hope that you are Blessed with a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



BEFRIENDERS VIRTUAL EVENT JANUARY 13, 2026

Teepa Snow's Normal Vs. Not Normal Aging

Calvary BeFrienders welcome you to join us for this virtual event on Tuesday January 13, 2026 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Friendship Room. In this session you will learn what normally changes in our minds as we age, and what changes may not be normal and possibly a sign of dementia or other illnesses. Amy House, a recognized leader in dementia care and education, will discuss what to do if something is not normal and how to approach the subject with a loved one or family member. Pre-registration is required with a cost of \$10 per person. Please call the church office by Friday, January 9th to register or for more information.
Calvary BeFriender Leaders,
Beth Bloomquist and Nancy Holt

ORAL DENTAL RECYCLING

This picture shows our recent boxful of oral dental products being sent off for recycling. You are making a difference in saving our planet. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**



LIBRARY NEWS

The library has six new Dog Man books. Dog Man is a graphic novel series perfect for children around ages 7-10. The series is written and illustrated by *Dav Pilkey*, the author of the *Captain Underpants series*. Stop in and check out these brand new books!

Thank You from the Baker Family

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers, concerns, caring words, smiles and actions toward my family. The bizarre string of illnesses Briana, Kyle and I are experiencing is frustrating and challenging. Add to that the death of my amazing mother-in-law and we've been sent spinning. Our faith and your support are getting us through. Blessings to you and Merry Christmas, Naomi and family

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

Calvary's Family Promise Host week will be January 12-16, 2026. We need volunteers to bring meals for Monday, January 12; Tuesday, January 13; and Thursday, January 15. We also need someone to purchase groceries for the week on Monday, January 12. Please contact Joni Hanson at 320-220-1324 if you are able to help. Thank you!

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



***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.**

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

2025 Calvary Council Leaders

Brian Henrickson - Chair - 218-770-0318, brian.henrickson60@gmail.com
Dion Warne - Vice Chair - 320-222-0050, dwarne@hsbofmn.com
Harley Aalfs - 320-894-4446, hlaemc@icloud.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

