



The Calvary Messenger

December 19, 2025

Next Messenger will be sent out January 2, 2026

Come and Worship

With eyes wide open
and our ears on edge,
we look for shepherds
and listen for the songs of angels.
In the light of winter's moon,
with the Southern Cross lighting the way,
we gather outside the door of a mystery,
wondering if we dare go enter.
With folks and friends we love,
with strangers we have just met,
we gather, becoming the holy family
for this time and in this place.

We pray...

Now in the silence,
 whisper of joy which comes
 into every life.
Now in the comfort of carols,
 sing of hope which
 takes away the despair
 which envelops us.
Now in familiar words heard anew,
 speak to us of grace
 which is born into barren lives,
 of peace which is birthed
 in war's shadowed fears.
Now leaning next to those
who have always been a part of us,
and those from whom we have been apart,
 remind us of your heart
 which always accepts us,
 always welcomes us.
Now in the love which is ours forever,
 draw us closer to your heart,
 so we can be surprised by wonder,
 swaddled in serenity,
 embraced by tenderness.
Now touch us once again with Christmas- God in Community, Holy three in One,
Immanuel.
-Amen

WELCOME HOME!

On Saturday, December 27 and Sunday, December 28 we welcome Calvary's own, Thomas Bonnema to bring our sermon message. Thomas is a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Following each worship service, he will join us for coffee fellowship in the Friendship Room and share with us an update on his Seminary journey. We hope that you will join us for either of our worship services and stay for coffee. Please wear your nametag to help Thomas recognize you and call you by name!



ANNUAL MEETING - AMENDMENT OF BYLAW C8.05E01

The Annual Meeting for Calvary will be held on Sunday, January 25th in Bethany Hall following the 9am service. At the meeting there will be a vote to amend Bylaw C8.05e01 of the Calvary Constitution. A letter and email were sent out to all contacts in our system, and we will have copies of the letter in the office.

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)

CIRCLE OF WELCOME UPDATE

Circle of Welcome Update - Greetings! Even though you have not heard from us for awhile, we continue to work in supporting our refugee family. We have been busy helping with transportation and support at medical appointments, assisting with some daily living challenges at the apartment, and most recently, working on getting everything completed that is necessary for their green card applications. Sadly, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has recently paused or put under review many green card applications. These new rules, effective December 2025, mean no final decisions are being made, and a full re-review of all cases is underway. We ask you to continue to keep this family in your prayers.

CREATION CARE TIP

Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter – Save up to \$70 per year. You can save up to 10% on your heating bills by simply turning your thermostat down for 7-10 degrees for eight hours.

Creation Care is changing its meeting date /time to the 4th Tuesday at 4:30pm starting **Tuesday, December 23**. Any questions, please contact Jack Behr.

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

LIBRARY NEWS

For being such a little bug, Fly Guy makes a *big* buzz for early readers. Kids are drawn to Fly Guy books because they're packed with humor, eye-catching photographs and illustrations, and thrilling action! Parents and teachers love these books because they appeal to both reluctant and eager readers, and help kids ages 4 to 8 transition to independent reading. Large text and plenty of dialogue (along with the occasional speech bubble) make these books accessible to growing readers of all levels. The Calvary library now has six new Fly Guy books.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

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



As 2025 comes to an end, the Social Kindness Committee wishes to thank you all for your generosity throughout this year. We have been amazed at the results from the drives we have held during the year: School supplies, Food Shelf, hats and mittens and our big one, The Giving Tree. The Christmas gifts have been distributed to those in need. It says so very much about our Calvary Church family and the generous outpouring for each of these causes. WE appreciate it so much, as do the recipients of your kindness! We also want to thank Paula and Marie for their extra help and Pastor Amy and the Youth

Leadership Team for their help with shopping. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Social Kindness Committee.

JANUARY 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 3rd	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, January 4th	9:00am Array Worship/Youth Led/Noisy Offering 10:00am Gather & Grow (Adult Forum) 10:15am Sunday School
Saturday, January 10th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, January 11th	9:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Gather & Grow (Adult Forum) 10:15am Sunday School
Saturday, January 17th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, January 18th	9:00am Array Worship (coffee following) 10:15am Sunday School
Saturday, January 24th	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, January 25th	9:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Annual Meeting (Coffee & treats will be served) 10:15am Sunday School (led by Youth Leadership Team)
Saturday, January 31st	5:30pm Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, February 1st	9:00am Array Worship/Youth Led/Noisy Offering/Scout Sunday (coffee following) 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Annual Scout Chili Feed

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**