



First Weekend of Christmas

Saturday, December 27, 2025 5:30pm

Sunday, December 28, 2025 9:00am

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.



Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome/Greet each other

Gathering Hymn *The Bells of Christmas ELW 298 vs. 1 & 4*

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn Love Has Come ELW 292

Scripture Isaiah 63:7-9

7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior
9 in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

1 Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

**2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

**4 Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**6 He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
**8 fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

**10 Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**12 Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

Praise the Lord!

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

Hebrews 2:10-18

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *What Child is This* ELW 296

Gospel Matthew 2:13-23

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message (9:00)

Sermon Thomas Bonnema

Hymn of the Day *Let All Together Praise Our God* ELW 287 vs. 1,2,6

Christmas Creed

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel
begun in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;
and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world,
in towns both large and small.**

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ
from my life today.

I believe in the one whom the rulers of the earth ignored
and the proud could never understand;
whose life was among common people,
whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:
I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms,
whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,
who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in
them, who by love brought sinners back to purity,
and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God:
The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,
the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown
cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best.
I believe in Jesus, the son of the living
God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.
I believe in the Holy Spirit who mysteriously leads us to
transformation and a new life.

Prayers of the Church (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of glory, **great are your wonders among us**
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Communion Music	<i>Your Little Ones, Dear Lord</i>	ELW 286
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW 279
	<i>All My Heart Again Rejoices</i>	ELW 273

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

Sending Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain* *ELW 290*
Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Share Christ's light!
We will! Thanks be to God!

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HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Andy Jaeger

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF: Lois Fostervold-Renstrom of the passing of her brother-in-law Darrell Fostervold

Serving Saturday

Preaching/Preside: Thomas Bonnema/Pastor Amy Juel
Greeters: Al & Elaine Simon
Musician: Naomi Baker
Lector: John Dean

Serving Sunday

Preaching/Presiding: Thomas Bonnema/Pastor Amy Juel
Acolytes: Nicholas Larsen, Julian Larsen
Communion: Keith Neumann, Janel Skindelien
Greeters: Jack & Caryn Behr, Carol Toutge
Musician: Naomi Baker, JoAnn Halverson
Lector: Wayne Nelson
Office: Linda Broberg
Sound/Video: Doug Sawatzky/Jody Skindelien

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.

Last Week's Financials

IRA/QCD/s	\$ 5,814.56
Online Giving	\$ 3,087.55
Sat./Sun. Giving	\$ 7,126.50
Total	\$16,028.61

Weekly Attendance

Saturday	49
Sunday	119
Video	98

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



Monday, Dec 29
Tuesday, Dec 30
Saturday, Jan 3
Sunday, Jan 4

Happening This Week...

2pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Worship Committee
5:30pm Chapel Worship
9am ARRAY Worship/Youth Led/Noisy Offering
10am Coffee Time/Gather & Grow (Adult Forum)
10:15am Sunday School

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK

We are in need of 1 more family to supply a meal on Tuesday, January 13. Please call Joni Hanson if you are able to help - 320-220-1324.

TODAY - FREE OPEN SKATE at Willmar Civic Center - 2:30 - 4pm - Hosted by the Youth Leadership Team. For all ages! Families, singles, couples! Hope to see you there!

JANUARY 2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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