



Second Weekend of Christmas
Sunday, January 4, 2026 9:00am

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.



Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome/Greet each other

Gathering Song *Joy to the World* ELW 267

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

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Song

Jesus, the Light of the World



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

Scripture Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.
⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."
¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:12-20

12 Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
**13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you.**
14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
**15 He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**
16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.
**17 He hurls down hail like crumbs—
who can stand before his cold?**

18 He sends out his word and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Children's Message

Song Love Has Come ELW 292

Gospel John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon Br Doug Dockter

Song of the Day *He Came Down* ELW 253

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>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	ELW 294
	<i>The First Noel</i>	ELW 300
	<i>Angels from the Realms</i>	ELW 275

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

Sending Song/Noisy Offering *We are Marching in the Light of God* ELW 866

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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Preaching/Preside: Brother Doug Dockter n/OLF
Greeters: Craig & Susan Roepke
Musician: Naomi Baker
Lector: Lee Paulson

Serving Saturday

Preaching/Presiding: Brother Doug Dockter n/OLF
Acolytes: Lucettee Strommer, Brooke Madsen
Communion: Corey & Elissa Nelson, Michael Schroeder
Greeters: Jasmine & Raymond Opsal, Joanne Milham, Kris, Leah, Ben & Danielle Rosendahl
Musician: Naomi Baker
Lector: Lola Nelson
Office: Amy Gilbertson
Sound/Video: Kim Larson/David Sehloff

Serving Sunday

Creation Care Plastic Recycling

We are working toward our 7th bench!

A reminder that even though we love earning the benches, our #1 goal should be to **REDUCE our use of plastic.**

Thanks for all your efforts!

*****A special thanks to Deb and Leon Lentz who transfer plastics and textiles from Calvary to the businesses that collect for recycling.*****

Thank you SO much for welcoming me back to the piano and organ benches. Your love through words, actions and notes speak volumes. I can't think of a better Christmas gift!

Blessings, Naomi

Weekly Attendance

Christmas Eve

3:30pm - 302

5:30pm - 132

10:00pm - 66

Christmas Day - 9am - 26

Sat, Dec 27 - 5:30pm - 34

Last Week's Financials

IRA/QCD/s	\$	0
Online Giving	\$	1,564.60
Christmas/Sat	\$	23,598.72
Total		\$25,163.32

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



PLEASE NOTE: The Quilting Group resumes Thursday, January 8th at 1pm. Please join them for the many jobs putting together a quilt and wonderful fellowship. Yummy treats are served also!

BIO OF BROTHER DOUG DOCKTER, n/OLF

Brother Doug Dockter, n/OLF, is a senior seminarian at Luther Seminary and serves as Lutheran Chaplain at Willmar Campus Ministry Center (serving Ridgewater students and the community). He retired as a commissioned officer after nearly 24 years in the U.S. Air Force, then managed North American supply chain and materials management operations for a Japanese semiconductor firm until 2009. Before seminary, he worked in music, entertainment, and radio. Pastor Amy has supervised his contextual training in both parish and campus ministries.

Brother Doug also belongs to the Order of Lutheran Franciscans, the ELCA's first vowed religious community, which has grown from three to over 150 members since 2011. The order follows Franciscan traditions of prayer, poverty, chastity, obedience, and a commitment to supporting the poor, caring for creation, bridge-building, spiritual renewal, and nonviolence.

THANK YOU to Brother Doug Dockter for assisting in Worship through Christmas Week! Thank You also for providing pulpit supply and being on call in case of pastoral emergency while Pastor Amy is on vacation December 31 through January 7. *If you have an emergency or are in need while Pastor Amy is gone, please call the church office at 235-2508 or Brother Doug at (320) 444-7716.

GATHER & GROW FORUM

(formerly Adult Forum)

*Sunday, January 4th following Worship

*Lyle Loge will teach us about our AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and how to give immediate medical aid in a church setting - Held in the Friendship Room

*Coffee and goodies will be served

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 at 10:15am. Remember to bring your Bible- we'll be keeping track from now until the end of the Sunday School year and giving prizes for those who bring their Bibles each week!!!

CONFIRMATION RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7! Supper at 6pm. Classes from 6:15-8pm. Bring your Bible- we'll be keeping track from now until the end of the Confirmation year and giving prizes for those who bring their Bibles each week!!!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Sunday, January 11 at Noon - Koinonia Room

CHRISTMAS GIFTS for Sunday School and Confirmation families

If your family did not receive a Christmas gift following the Christmas Program on December 14, please let Pastor Amy know or stop by the church office to pick one up!

Hutchinson Anyone?

Creation Care is looking for anyone who happens to drive to/thru Hutchinson as that is where we bring our hard styrofoam (polystyrene) for recycling. We don't want you to make a special trip but if you're headed that way, please contact Jack Behr, Cathy or Joel Halbritter or Naomi Baker. Thanks!

McLeod County Environmental Services in Hutchinson accepts a wide variety of polystyrene (Styrofoam) materials for free drop-off, provided they are **clean, dry, and free of tape or labels.**

Accepted Polystyrene Materials

- **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Packaging:** Large rigid blocks used for shipping electronics, appliances, and other household goods.
- **Food-Service Foam:** Clean cups, egg cartons, meat trays, and carry-out containers.
- **Packing Filler:** Packing peanuts, air pillows, bubble wrap, and miscellaneous foam fillers.

Not Accepted Materials

- **Dirty or Wet Foam:** Any food-service items with food residue or moisture cannot be recycled and should be placed in the regular garbage.
- **Contaminated Foam:** Materials with tape, stickers, cardboard, or glue still attached.
- **Curbside Recycling:** Polystyrene is strictly prohibited from curbside single-sort recycling carts and must be taken to the [Hutchinson drop-off facility](#).
- **Extruded Polystyrene (XPS):** While the facility focuses on EPS, certain local guidelines specify that pink or blue insulation foam sheets are generally not accepted for standard recycling.

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

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.

ANONYMOUS INSPIRATIONAL NOTE FROM A CALVARY MEMBER

**May we all start 2026 with a fresh slate and live life
as GOD would like us to live**

Dear siblings in Christ at Calvary-

After careful consideration, your Church Council has decided to withdraw the proposed Bylaw change and vote from the January 25 Annual Meeting agenda.

The proposed change was recommended by interim Pastor Rick Hoyme. He suggested that the bylaw, as currently written, is a process that he has not seen churches use for several years. Most churches have amended their by-laws to take the onus off the pastor of the church to make individual visits to people who have not been active in the life of on congregations for multiple years. Interim Pastor (former Bishop) Hoyme wrote the amended version of this bylaw prior to his departure. Church council moved forward with placing this on the agenda for the annual meeting, but we realize now that more discussion within the congregation is necessary prior to holding such a vote.

We apologize for any confusion or frustration that this has caused. We thank Paula and Marie in the church office for doing their best to alleviate people's worries. We appreciate those congregation members who have asked questions and brought concerns in a loving and constructive manner.

In His humble service,

Calvary Church Council

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

Dion Warne – 320-222-0050 – dwarne@hsbomn.com

NEW for 2026 - MISSION of the MONTH

We had so much fun bringing you the Mission & Ministry Fair this past fall- and were SO impressed by the participation of our many outreach and in-house ministries that we decided to continue to celebrate these Missions and Volunteer Opportunities throughout the year! Each month we will invite a Calvary Mission/ Outreach/ In House ministry to prepare a small table or easel display to be placed in the Narthex. Please check out the display and take whatever information is interesting to you! Contact ministry representatives to join in the fun!

MISSION of the MONTH for January 2026 is SOCIAL KINDNESS

Our Social Kindness Committee meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1pm. During the year they have various fundraisers such as:

March - Food Shelf

May - Mental Health

July/August - Stuff the Bus

September - LSS Personal Items; God's Work Our Hands

October - Hats, Mittens, and Sock Drive

November/December - The Giving Tree

Contact Linda Nelson at 320-905-2333 for more information

Happening This Week...

Monday, Jan 5

8am - Stewardship Committee - McMillans
2pm - Staff Meeting
5pm - Bells
6:30pm - Scouts

Tuesday, Jan 6

11:30am - Finance/Stewardship/Exec Committee Special Meeting - Friendship Room
1:00pm - Social Kindness
6:30pm - Charity Circle

Wednesday, Jan 7

7pm - Native American History - Bethany Hall

Thursday, Jan 8

1:30pm - Deaconess - Friendship Room
6pm - Confirmation Grades 6-9

Saturday, Jan 10 **Sunday, Jan 11**

9:30am - Text Study
12pm - Executive Meeting
1pm - Quilting
6pm - Troop #3656 - Koinonia Room
6pm - Troop #3655 - Friendship Room
5:30pm Chapel Worship
9am Worship with Baptism Adalynn Larsen
10am Coffee Time/Gather & Grow (Adult Forum)
10:15am Sunday School
12:00pm - Youth Leadership Team - Koinonia Rm
3pm - Troop #3500 - Friendship Room
4pm - Troop #3515 - Rooms 203/205

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