

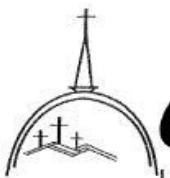


LUTHERAN CHURCH
302 OLENA AVENUE SE
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201

The Calvary Messenger

January 16, 2026

Next Messenger will be sent out January 30, 2026



LUTHERAN CHURCH - A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
302 Olena Avenue • Willmar, MN 56201 • Phone (320) 235-2508 • E-Mail: calvarylutheran@calvarywillmar.org

PASTOR: Amy Juel

January 14, 2026

Dear Siblings in Christ at Calvary,

It is difficult to write this letter. In a perfect world, the work of the church would not be stifled because of financial or budgetary constraints. In a perfect world, all would have what they need and more. However, at this time in Calvary's history, our funds available for operating expenses do not meet our financial needs for operating expenses.

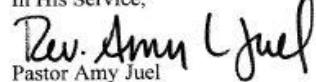
Last night, your Church Council had to make a very difficult fiscal decision to eliminate the position of Director of Music Ministry. Budgetary conversations and discussions regarding options for cutting expenses and prioritizing needs over wants have been ongoing for months. Your staff has done an amazing job of saving money and cutting back wherever possible. Your Board of Finance has worked diligently to ensure that bills have been paid on time and that the unexpected expenses of 2025 were addressed in the best ways possible.

The knowledge of these things does not make this announcement any more palatable, and it does not make the grief any less. There will be many questions that arise in the days to come. Please bring those questions to members of your Church Council. You may have constructive ideas regarding moving forward, please bring those ideas to your Church Council members. I'm sure there will be much discussion both inside and outside of the church building about yet another change at Calvary, but please remember that open, honest, constructive conversation with church leadership is more productive and promising than gossip, complaints or hearsay shared in cafes and coffee shops.

Hearts are grieving today. Naomi Powers Baker is a multi-talented and caring person. This decision in no way reflects on her personally or professionally. She has given so much of herself to Calvary. I thank her for sharing her talents and skills with so many, for teaching me personally about this congregation and the communities we serve, and for providing consistency through tumultuous times these past years. Thank you, Naomi.

Please reach out to me or your church leadership as needed in the days and weeks ahead.

In His Service,


Pastor Amy Juel

Brian Henrickson - Chair - 218-770-0318, brian.henrickson60@gmail.com
Dion Warne - Vice Chair - 320-212-3556, dwarne@hsbomn.com
Bridget Pederson - 320-262-2638, bridgetpederson@yahoo.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, meghanreeneeknott22@gmail.com
Jan Ruby - 320-796-0247, jcruby@outlook.com
Teri Sokulski - 320-444-6935, tsokulski@charter.net

"JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER." HEBREWS 13:8

GATHER & GROW FORUM

(formerly Adult Forum)

*Sunday, January 18th following Worship

**Mallory Loge and Geofrey Luzuriaga serve as missionaries in Trujillo, Peru with Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). Mallory is a lifelong Calvary member and Geofrey is from Peru, they have been married for the last 3.5 years. Their vision is to see students' lives transformed by the gospel, local churches empowered, and vulnerable communities served with God's love. Believing that, through working with the local church, a generation of students passionate for Jesus can be raised up and can transform not only the universities but also the entire city for Christ. They are currently working on raising financial support while here in the United States and will be sharing more about their mission work after the service. All are welcome to come, listen, ask questions, and learn about what ministry looks like in Peru!"

A CHALLENGE FOR CALVARY PLEASE HELP SUPPORT MALLORY & GEOFREY!

The endowment committee has requested to give \$1500 of the non-restricted Missionary Fund, in the Special Fund account, to Geofrey & Mallory (Loge) Luzuriaga, along with challenging the congregation to match the \$1500 with offerings. We will have a special box in front that you can leave your offerings when you come for communion or drop off in the Church Office. Thank you!

NO ANNUAL MEETING BOOKLETS AVAILABLE UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A COPY PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE PICK ONE UP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 1, is Scout Sunday. The Scouts will be ushering and lectoring. They will also be having a chili lunch served in Bethany Hall from 11am to 1pm. Free will offering. All are welcome!

LIBRARY NEWS

An Elephant in the Garden, by Michael Morpurgo, is inspired by historical truths, and by his admiration for elephants. Lizzie and Karl's mother is a zookeeper; the family has become attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene, who will be destroyed as a precautionary measure so she and the other animals don't run wild should the zoo be hit by bombs. The family persuades the zoo director to let Marlene stay in their garden instead. When the city is bombed, the family flees with thousands of others, but how can they walk the same route when they have an elephant in tow, and keep themselves safe? Here is a story that brings together an unlikely group of survivors whose faith in kindness and love proves the best weapon of all.

CREATION CARE TIP

Save Energy - Post reminders next to all light switches to turn off the lights when leaving the room and at the end of the day. Replace lights in your home with LEDs. They use much less energy and last longer.

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.**

**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**

Calvary Council Leaders

Brian Henrickson - Chair - 218-770-0318, brian.henrickson60@gmail.com
Dion Warne - Vice Chair - 320-212-3556, dwarne@hsbofmn.com
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Harley Aalfs - 320-894-4446, hlaemc@icloud.com
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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