

The Calvary Messenger

February 13, 2026

Next Messenger will be sent out February 27, 2026

Gather and Grow - Sunday, February 15 - Campus Ministry

Matthew 7:12 "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"

Lutheran Campus Ministry- Willmar serves the students, staff, and community surrounding Ridgewater College. We exist to encourage, empower, and provide resources for Body and Soul.

We provide for the health of the Body through FREE meals, Food & Household Pantry, Winter Gear give aways, gas and grocery gift cards, and other ways that students need help in order to succeed.

We also feed Souls with Bible Studies, Prayer groups, Online devotions, Student-led discipleship groups, Christians in Action (our student group in connection with the Ridgewater campus), and a variety of other ministries, events, and programs.

HONOR LOVED ONES

Every Easter, Calvary likes to fill the Sanctuary with flowers, provided in honor and in memory of loved ones. You're invited to purchase plants for \$10/plant to express your love and appreciation and help the church defray costs of providing the plants. **Friday March 27, 2026**, is the last day to order Easter flowers. Your flower dedications will be part of a special insert that will be available on Easter **Sunday, April 5, 2026**. Make checks payable to "Calvary Lutheran Church." Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERINGS

All offerings received on Ash Wednesday will go toward our **General Fund**, helping sustain the life and mission of our church. Your gift makes a difference in the work we do together.

CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS

With the start of the new year, don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Log into your Thrivent account and designate Calvary Lutheran Church as a recipient. Choice Dollars lets members choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of its funding each year.

Another way to take advantage of your Thrivent Membership is by forming a Thrivent Action Team. Organize an educational event or fundraiser and Thrivent will give you \$250 seed money and T-shirts for your group. It's easy to sign up and will allow you to donate more money back to the organization that you are working for. Our quilters have done this to purchase batting and supplies for their quilts. You only need a Thrivent eligible member to sign up an activity or event.

If you have any questions on these Thrivent opportunities, please contact the church office staff or log into your Thrivent account. Thank you!

Sharing appreciation - For those who would like to join us in offering a word of appreciation or well wishes to Naomi Powers-Baker, the following is her current contact information:

Naomi Powers-Baker, 1620 18th Avenue NW, Willmar MN
Cell # - 320-905-6576, Email: bakersrule@icloud.com

GATHER AND GROW - SUNDAY, MARCH 1

US Dakota War of 1862: History, Aftermath, Current Efforts for Healing

The US Dakota War began here, where we now live, in southwestern Minnesota. Failed treaties and corruption led to its beginning in 1862 and in many ways the war did not end until Wounded Knee in 1890. This Gather & Grow Adult Forum will trace this history, consider its impact at the time, and talk about the efforts for reconciliation and healing that are taking place today. Dean Urdahl has authored several books on this history and has been a leading voice in the efforts for reconciliation and healing. He brings a personal perspective with his family among the first European settlers in the area. He brings a professional interest as a retired history teacher. He also brings the perspective of a former state legislator who used his public position to work towards both formal and informal reconciliation and healing. Pastor Troy Pflibsen gets to tag along to talk about the Southwestern Minnesota Synod's work in the midst of the larger efforts.

CREATION CARE TIP

Clear or replace air filters – Save up to \$70 per year. Heating comprises up to 70% of total home energy use. Dirty air filters make your furnace, central air conditioner or room air conditioner work harder to circulate air. By cleaning or replacing your filters monthly, you can improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

LIBRARY NEWS

The House in the Night, by Susan Marie Swanson, is a Caldecott Medal-winning children's picture book. It's a poetic bedtime story that follows the light as it moves through a house at night, exploring the origins of light and creating a comforting, reassuring atmosphere with its patterned text and glowing illustrations.

IF SINGING IS YOUR GIFT/TALENT, WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for people who would be willing to be song leaders during regular worship on Sunday mornings. We are also looking for song leaders during the Lenten Season for the Holden Evening Services on Wednesday evenings. Please consider sharing your musical talent with the congregation. We welcome any and all ages for one service or many. If interested, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor Amy. Thank you!

FAITH FORMATION UPDATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING will be held in the CHAPEL at 10:15 for ALL AGES through May!

FREE OPEN SKATE for ALL AGES! Bring friends!

Willmar Civic Center

Saturday February 28 2-3:30pm

Hosted by Calvary Youth Leadership Team

GOD & ME Early Childhood Sunday School for littles and their special adults meets once a month- February 15, March 15, April 19- at 10:15 in the Gathering Space (first floor of the education wing). Grab a coffee, hot chocolate, or tea from the Koinonia Room (second floor of the education wing) and join us for God & Me!

REGISTER FOR BIBLE CAMP!

CAMP BOOKLETS will be sent home with Sunday School and Confirmation students February 11 and 15!

Visit www.gllm.org to register

Thanks to the support of generous Calvary members, Calvary pays ONE HALF of the cost of registration for each student who attends Bible Camp. Additional scholarships are available through the camps as well. If you have any questions, please contact the camp registrar (she's an awesome person!!!).

**????? Does your student like to SING or play and INSTRUMENT
?????**

Please let Pastor Amy or the church office know! Ms Wilson from Willmar Middle School is putting together music in worship opportunities for our students! We're excited!!!

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FOR LENT:

2/18 Ash Wednesday - Worship at 6:15 / No confirmation following worship
2/25, 3/4, 11, 18, 25 - Supper at 5:30 / Worship at 6:15 / Confirmation 7-7:45

Students are welcome to come to church after school on Wednesdays during Lent and hang out, play games, do homework or help with service projects! Parents, please let the church office know if your student will be coming to the church after school so we know who to watch for (and how many after school snacks we need to have ready! :)

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT at Camp! for grades 2-5

Green Lake Bible Camp, Chrysalis House - March 14, 2026, 9am to 1:30pm

Meet AT the camp- parents/ adults are welcome to stay with students

Fee: Paid through GLLM/Calvary Ministry Assistant partnership funds

Get together with friends at camp to learn more about Holy Communion! Workshops will be led by local pastors who are passionate in guiding youth in the who/what/and how of this important sacrament. Practice communion with oreos, and make your own communion bread! There will be time for crafts and games, and the exciting camp worships your campers know!

PARENTS: You know your child best- if they are younger than grade two and you feel they are ready for communion, or if your child is older and hasn't received communion yet and you would like them to participate in communion instruction, please contact Pastor Amy.

HINT for REGISTRATION: Register at www.gllm.org . Check the box on the registration form that says your congregation will be paying the fee for the retreat :)

FIRST COMMUNION for students who participate in this retreat will be held during Maundy Thursday worship at 6:15 on April 2.

REGISTER AT www.gllm.org BY MARCH 4th!

CAMP DAY!

Grades 3-5 | Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp

April 11, 2026

Fee: Paid through GLLM/Calvary Ministry Assistant partnership funds

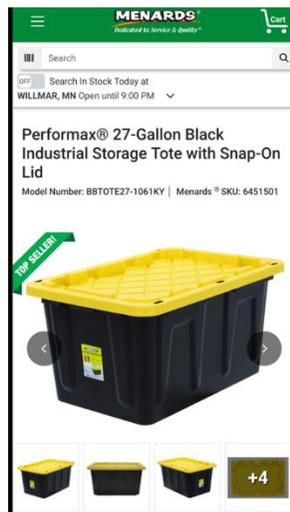
Whether you've been at camp before or this will be your first time, we want you at camp! Join us for a full day of fun as we co-create with God in creation through games, crafts, worship, and time outside. You'll help us break in new hiking trails, test out fresh activities, and hear the very first word about this summer's Bible study theme. It's a chance to explore, create, and connect—with God, nature, and new friends!

REGISTER AT www.gllm.org by Wednesday, April 1.

LOCK IN for grades 6-12 and FRIENDS!!!

Friday, May 1 8pm - Saturday, May 2 10am

Mark your calendars - Sign up info will come out after Easter!



WILLMAR COMMUNITY CLOSET

Willmar Community Closet is in need of MEN'S CLOTHING, hangers, and STORAGE TOTES! Toiletries- shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, comb, hair accessories, feminine hygiene products- are needed also! Please bring donations to the East entrance of the church and leave on the drop off table. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!

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**

2026 Calvary Council Leaders

Dion Warne - Chair - 320-212-3556, dwarne@hsbofmn.com
Jan Ruby - Vice Chair - 320-248-8646 - jcruby@outlook.com
Cathy Halbritter - Secretary - 320-979-0129, jchalbritter@gmail.com
Harley Aalfs - 320-894-4446, hlaemc@icloud.com
Lori Holmgren - 320-905-8431, clholmgren@hotmail.com
Meghan Knott - 320-894-3024, meghanreneeknott22@gmail.com
Kim Hanson - 507-317-8072 - lieblkim@gmail.com
Dane Kallevig - 952-491-3791 - kallevig100@gmail.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



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