



Fourth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 14, 2026 5:30pm

Sunday, March 15, 2026 9:00am

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome/Greeting

Gathering Hymn "God Is Here" ELW 526

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Gracious God,

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and

for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and

for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this

one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Children's Message (9am)

Gospel **John 9:1-41 (Saturday)**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your

eyes?"²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes."³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will."³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind."³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

Gospel: **Luke 10:25-37 (Sunday)**

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself."²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead."³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when

I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Sermon Pastor Andres Albertsen (Saturday)
Pastor Justin Ask (Sunday)

Hymn of the Day *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW 779*

Apostle's Creed

Prayer's of the Church (Hear Us, O God, **Your mercy is great**)

Offering

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

(Just a reminder that you have the option to kneel for communion from Sunday, February 22 through Sunday, March 22.)

Communion Music

Blessing of Home Bound Communion

We give you thanks, O God, for all who share in this communion ministry. Bless their time together with those who are unable to be with us here in worship. May our love be present through their visits as your love is present through this Holy food. Amen.

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all reaction, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Announcements / Temple Talk - The Link

Sending Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song *"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"* ELW 538

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Marlow Norum

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Sidney Agre, brother of Carol Carlson and Marlys Loven. Sidney's funeral was held on Monday, March 9th at Harvey Anderson Funeral Home.

Serving Saturday

Preaching: Pastor Andres Albertsen
Greeters: Wayne & Lynette Emberland
Musician: Molly Aalfs
Lector: Lee Paulson

Serving Sunday

Preaching: Pastor Justin Ask
Musician: Molly Aalfs
Acolytes: Ava & Ethan Johnson
Communion: Sandra Bruns, Val Amberg, Kris Bruns
Greeters: South-Lyle & Karen Loge; East-Ken & Betty Meister
North-Craig & Susan Roepke
Lector: Shane Baker
Office: Krista Willis
Sound/Video: Doug Sawatzky/Jody Skindelien

****Thank you Pastor Andres Albertson and Pastor Justin Ask for leading our worship services this weekend! ****

Gather and Grow - March 15 - "The Link"

The Link is a faith-based nonprofit serving families in Kandiyohi County and beyond. Our mission is to walk alongside our neighbors in times of hardship, helping meet their most basic needs through food support, financial assistance, clothing, and household goods. We also provide referral information and advocacy, guiding families through unfamiliar systems and connecting them to additional community resources. We rely solely on the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches, and grant partners to fund this work, and on donations of clothing and household items to directly serve the families who come through our doors. Our mission: Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other. Some current needs are: unexpired food donations, household necessities (dishes, furniture), gently used clothing and shoes, volunteers for Community Revival, volunteers for food pick up, monetary donations, etc.

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!

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK - March 23-27

We will be hosting Family Promise on March 23-27. Meals are needed for **Monday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 24**. If you are able to help, please let Joni Hanson know. Her number is 320-220-1324. Thank you!

HANDBELL INVITATION - EASTER GATHERING HYMN

All are invited to join in ringing handbells for the Easter gathering hymn! No prior handbell experience is necessary—just a willingness to participate in celebrating the joy of Easter morning. We will rehearse briefly after the Maundy Thursday service and again before the Easter service. If you're interested in ringing, please contact the church office or speak with Molly Aalfs.

RECIPIENTS FOR OFFERINGS DURING LENT

Wednesday, March 18 - Hope for Our City
Wednesday, March 25 - Arrive Ministries
Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday - General Fund
Friday, April 3 - Good Friday - General Fund

CREATION CARE

Willmar Public Schools Community Education is offering a **FREE** Home Composting class on Monday, March 23 from 4:30 - 6pm at Jefferson Learning Center-111. The instructor is Kandiyohi County Master Gardener volunteers. Registration is required at wce.willmar.k12.mn.us, CODE W26-A-COMPOST or call 320-214-8480. If interested, please check it out!

CALVARY'S MILITARY BOARD

Calvary's Military Board needs to be updated. If you have a family member(s) that are in active duty, could you please bring a picture of them to the church office by April 15th. We would like these pictures displayed so that we are able to pray for each and every one of them. Thank you!

JOIN THE BOARD OF WORSHIP!

The Board of Worship needs **YOU!** Join us as we meet to discuss, plan, and evaluate all aspects of our congregation's worship, music, and spiritual cares. Help us to grow our hospitality and welcoming ministries! For more information, contact current Board of Worship members: Cathy Halbritter - Council Liaison, Victoria Larsen, and Michelle Fernholz.

NAME TAGS

We will be ordering Name Tags soon so if you need one, please let the Church Office know. Thank you!

MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH

March is the month that we emphasize the need to stock the shelves at the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf. In order to collect a good variety of non-perishable food, we suggest the following for each week:

Feb 28-March 1 - **Canned vegetables, fruit, meat (tuna, spam, etc.)**

March 7-8 - **Soups, crackers**

March 14-15 - **Cereals, peanut butter, breakfast items, granola bars**

March 21/22 - **Pasta, sauces, mac & cheese, etc.**

March 28/29 - **Any non-perishable food**

As always, monetary donations are welcome and can be left in the office or the offering plate (with food shelf designation). We have set a goal of \$1,600. Let's get on board and fill the cart every week! Thank you for your willingness to give. Social Kindness Committee

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Please check out the cookies that the Girl Scouts are selling today in the Narthex. They will be selling cookies also on Sunday, March 22 and March 29th.

2026 Calvary Council Leaders

Dion Warne - Chair

320-212-3556 - dwarne@hsbofmn.com

Jan Ruby - Vice Chair - Board of Finance Liaison

320-248-8646 - jcruby@outlook.com

Cathy Halbritter - Secretary - Board of Worship Liaison

320-979-0129 - jchalbritter@gmail.com

Lori Holmgren - Board of Faith Formation Liaison

320-905-8431 - clholmgren@hotmail.com

Harley Aalfs - 320-894-4446 - hlaemc@icloud.com

Meghan Knott - 320-894-3024 - meghan.knott@kcmn.us

Kim Hanson - 507-317-8072 - lieblkim@gmail.com

Dane Kallevig - 612-297-1946 - kallevig100@gmail.com

Bryan Hurley - 320-262-2637 - behurley7@hotmail.com

NEWS - PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT!

- God & Me Early Childhood Sunday School for ages birth through three - March 15 at 10:15am in the Gathering Space
- Hymn Sing on Wednesday Nights
- Girl Scout Cookie Sale in Narthex - March 15, 22, and 29
- March 16 - Faith Formation Team Meeting in Conference Room
- Spring Break MOVIE NIGHT for Grades 5-12, Friday March 27 from 7-9pm, Friends Welcome! Hosted by the Youth Leadership Team
- Youth JAM SESSIONS - Join us for music and fun! Bring your voice and/or instrument. Tuesdays at 6pm March 17, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28. Youth Led Worship with Music scheduled for April 12 & May 3
- Thank you to Brother Doug, Carter, and Molly for leading worship on Wednesday, March 11
- Thank you Andy Berg for sharing your faith story at Confirmation on Wednesday, March 11

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.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to those who designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Calvary. We recently received \$2,596.00.

Readings and Psalm for March 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Last Week's Financials

IRA/QCD	\$ 6,250.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,994.70
Sat/Sun Giving	\$ 4,758.25
Total	\$15,002.95

Happenings This Week

Monday, March 16

6pm - Faith Formation
6:30pm - Scouts

Tuesday, March 17

6pm - JAM SESSION

Wed, March 18

9am - Sanctuary Clean Up
5:30pm Meal/6:15pm Worship/7pm Confirmation

Thursday, March 19

9:30am - Text Bible Study
1pm - Quilting

Saturday, March 21

6pm - Troop #3656 - Koinonia Room

Sunday, March 22

7pm - Scouts - Bethany Hall
5:30pm - Chapel Worship/Coffee with Council
9am Worship; 10am Coffee with Council
10:15am Sunday School

Pastor Amy will be out of the state until March 26. She will return to worship on Palm Sunday, March 29. While she is away there are a number of area Pastors and Lay Leaders who are on call to help us as needed. If you have an emergency or are in need of Pastoral Care, please call the church office at 235-2508 and Paula or Marie will find the appropriate help for you. We will have a variety of Pastors and Lay Leaders preaching and presiding while Pastor Amy is gone also. Please give them a hearty Calvary welcome and extend our thanks to them for their partnership in ministry!

IF ANYONE HAS EXTRA ICE CREAM PAILS, PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!

Weekly Attendance

Wed March 4	99
(YouTube)	45
Saturday	51
Sunday	120
You Tube	85
Sunday School	32

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

