



The Calvary Messenger

March 13, 2026

Next Messenger will be sent out March 27, 2026

This was sent to me by a friend. It caused me to ponder and hopefully act accordingly ...perhaps it will have that effect on you, too. Blessings, all! See you soon, Pastor Amy

THE PRINCESS AND THE DOLLAR GENERAL - Sean Dietrich

Once upon a time, there was a princess who lived in a great big old castle. She was very beautiful, with long, flowy hair, and her teeth were really nice, too. Nice and straight. The princess had everything she wanted. Whenever she lacked, she snapped her fingers and said, "Bring me...!" and then she would name the object of her desire, and her servants would fall all over themselves to secure the object of her want. If her servants took too long fetching the object, however, the king would become annoyed and occasionally mention the possibility of removing their heads.

On the other side of the kingdom was a village where lived a peasant girl who was not imbued with such fortune. She was the youngest of a poor family. She worked part time at Dollar General. The peasant girl had wiry hair, since she did not use expensive shampoos but the cheap stuff. Her teeth were not super-straight. Her clothes were rags. So anyway, one day, the princess was riding her horse through the woods. Her servants were following behind, but she was galloping so fast that her servants lost sight of her. Soon, the princess was lost in the woods. Then the worst thing happened. A band of thieves fell upon her. They took everything of value that she had. They stole her fine garments, all her jewelry, and even her horse. They left her lying in rags, in a ditch, with a few broken bones. And worse, her hair was all messed up. That same afternoon, an old beggar woman walked the woodland byway. She saw the princess lying in the mud but did not know she was a princess. She saw only the ragged robes, and the mud on her face. "Please help me," moaned the princess. But the beggar woman continued walking onward. She cast not even a glance toward the princess. "I'm too old and feeble to help," replied the woman. "Someone else will be along to help you. There is always someone else." Next, there came a priest. He was working on his weekly sermon, talking to himself, gesticulating with his hands. When he saw the princess lying there, soiled from crown to foot, he pretended not to see her. "Please help me," she begged. "I'm sorry," he exclaimed with a smile. "I am late for an important supper at the rectory. But fear not, I will pray for you." So he did, he prayed right there. He grasped both of her hands and said a beautiful prayer. After his final amen, he went cheerfully on his way. The princess lay in the ditch overnight. It was very cold that evening, and she thought she might freeze to death. She heard wolves in the woods, too. The next morning, the peasant girl came walking through the woods, gathering greens and wild herbs for supper. She heard painful moans and found the princess. "Good heavens!" cried the peasant girl. She removed the princess from the mud. She fetched her father's mule and wagon and carried the princess to her own home. The peasant girl mended the princess's wounds, then heated water in a large trough for a bath. She even went to Dollar General to purchase the most expensive shampoo she could find in the aisles. Instead of just buying Suave shampoo she bought Tresemmé Rich Moisture Hydrating Shampoo which cost over \$7 bucks. Then, the peasant girl went to great pains to feed the princess a delicious dinner. She also let the princess sleep in her own bed that night. The next morning, all the king's horses and all the king's men arrived at the peasant girl's thatch hut to collect the princess. The king beat on the door.

The peasant girl opened shyly. "You have shown kindness to my daughter," proclaimed the king. "This, you did freely, without even knowing that she was a royal." The peasant girl replied, "Oh, but I DID know that she was a princess."

"How did you know?" asked the king. "Because" the peasant child said with a smile, "every child of God is royalty." So, act accordingly.

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.

Thank you, Vern Buer for sharing your faith story at Confirmation on Wednesday, March 4. We appreciate you!



NEWS - PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT!

- God & Me Early Childhood Sunday School March 15 for ages birth through three 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

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.

March Ministry of the Month Building and Grounds



We are looking for people to join the committee for taking care of our church. Ask at the church office how you can help. We want you!



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!

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

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!

LIBRARY NEWS

In the town of Wemmickville there lives a Wemmick named Punchinello. Each day the residents award stickers—gold stars for the talented, smart, and attractive Wemmicks, and gray dots for those who make mistakes or are just plain ordinary. Punchinello, covered in gray dots, begins to feel worthless. Then one day he visits Eli the woodcarver, his creator, and he learns that his worth comes from a different source. ***You Are Special***, by Max Lucado is a beautiful story that reminds us we are special to God just the way we are.

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.

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!

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



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!

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

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

March **2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday, March 1st	9:00am Youth Led Service/Noisy Offering (Gather & Grow following the service) 10:15 Sunday School
Wednesday, March 4th	5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
Saturday, March 7th	5:30 Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 8th	9:00am Worship (coffee following) 10:15am Sunday School
Wednesday, March 11th	5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
Saturday, March 14th	5:30 Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 15th	9:00am Worship (Gather & Grow following service) 10:15am Sunday School
Wednesday, March 18th	5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
Saturday, March 21st	5:30 Traditional Worship in the Chapel/Coffee with Council
Sunday, March 22nd	9:00am Worship/Coffee with Council 10:15am Sunday School
Wednesday, March 25th	5:30 Meal/6:15 Worship/7-7:45 Confirmation
Saturday, March 28th	5:30 Traditional Worship in the Chapel
Sunday, March 29th	Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship (coffee following) 10:15 Sunday School