

The Calvary Messenger

March 27, 2026

Next Messenger will be sent out April 10, 2026

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So, she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbor said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally, she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week... Do you know her?'

Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?'

'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest...! Who is she and why is she following us..?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ' Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it.'

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

I know you smiled! 😊😄



**Last chance to purchase Easter flowers to honor
and remember your loved ones is extended to
Monday, March 30th. Stop at the church office to
fill out a form and pay the \$10 per plant.**



NTY
FRIDAY, APRIL 10
12:00 Noon

It's Spring and time for NTY to get together again in 2026!! Geoffrey and Mallory Loge Luzuriaga will still be in Minnesota in April, so we are lucky to have them available to come to NTY on April 10. They will be sharing about their experiences as missionaries living in Trujillo, Peru! Mallory grew up in Calvary and Geoffrey is from Peru. They have been married 3 ½ years - living and serving the Lord together in Peru! They will talk in detail about their call into missions, the mission work they do, interesting facts about Peruvian culture, and will share some Peruvian music with us. Come and enjoy hearing about a different culture and experience music from the Andes Mountains and maybe even learn some Spanish. Please call the church office by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8th to register. Guests are always welcome. If you can't make it for lunch, you're welcome to come for the program at 1:00 p.m. Cost for lunch is \$7.00, payable to Sue Roepke on the day of NTY. (Note that cancellations after Wednesday and no-shows will still require payment due to increased food costs.) Thank you. If you have any questions, please call Diane Asche at 295-8938.

BIDS FOR MOWING THE CEMETERY THIS YEAR

Our cemetery committee is seeking bids to mow our church cemetery this year. If you know of someone, please contact Kevin Hanson, 320-894-7949. Thanks for all of your help. Kevin Hanson



Thank you, Andy Berg, for sharing your faith story at confirmation on Wednesday, March 11. We appreciate you!

Thank you, Kim Hanson, for sharing your faith story at confirmation on Wednesday, March 18. We appreciate you!



Thank you Geoffrey & Mallory Loge Luzuriaga for sharing your faith story at confirmation on Wednesday, March 25. We appreciate 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

April Ministries of the Month

BeFrienders
BeFriender is for anyone desiring a caring, confidential, and faith-based presence in their life. If you are experiencing loss, illness, or a major life transition, BeFriender may be for you!



BEFRIENDER
MINISTRY
A Listening Presence



Deaconess
Deaconess board meet the first Wednesday of each Month at 1:30. The Deaconess visit shut ins and bring them a flower each month when they visit.



Contact the church office if you have questions about the BeFrienders or Deaconess

Creation Care Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, please reach out to Ellen Dolph, the Environmental Education Director. Ellen can be contacted by phone at 320-354-5894 or by email at Ellen.d@prairiewoodselc.org.

Earth Day Event Volunteer Roles

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center is seeking individual volunteers for their upcoming Earth Day Event, which will be held on Saturday, April 18th, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to help lead activities such as game stations, craft activities, and check-in tables during the event.

Ongoing and Seasonal Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the Earth Day Event, there will be additional volunteer opportunities available during the summer and fall. Prairie Woods maintains a list of active volunteers and regularly sends out information about new opportunities as they become available. If you would like to be added to this list and stay informed about upcoming volunteer roles, Ellen would be happy to include your name.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet by Jeanette Winter

In this beautiful picture book for children, learn the story of Greta Thunberg, the sixteen-year-old climate activist who has sparked a worldwide student movement and is demanding action from world leaders who refuse to address climate change.

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.

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 are interested in ringing, please contact the church office at 320-235-2508 or speak with Molly Aalfs.



NAME TAGS

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

EXCITING NEWS FOR FAMILY PROMISE!

Exciting News! Family Promise is Moving to a 5 Acre property just west of Willmar! After 3 years renting a downtown dormitory facility, God has taken the lead & guided Family Promise into a sensible purchase agreement on a very appropriate, healthy property for housing local homeless families. Family Promise continues to be thankful to Calvary for blessing this ministry by volunteers and financial gifts, prayers and donations. God's work in our hands.

NEWS - PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT!

- Thursday, April 2 at 6:15pm Maundy Thursday/First Communion Service
- Spring Break MOVIE NIGHT for grades 5-12 / Friday, March 27 from 7-9pm / Friends Welcome! Hosted by Calvary Youth Leadership Team
- Youth JAM SESSIONS: join us for music and fun! Bring your voice and/or your instrument! Tuesdays at 6pm March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28. Youth Led Worship with Music scheduled for April 12 and May 3
- Thank you to Brother Doug, Carter Kowitz, Deb Bremseth, Kristin Pierce, Kristine Benson, Molly Aalfs, Kaylee Aalfs for their talents during worship times
- Thank you to Pastors Jennie & Daryl Thul, Pastor Mary Hovland, Pastor Andres Albertson, Pastor Justin Ask, Pastor David Nelson, and Danette Hendrickson for filling in for Pastor Amy while she was away
- Girl Scout Cookie Sale - Sunday, March 29
- Youth Led Service/Noisy Offering - Sunday, April 12



The 2026 Monthly and Year-to-Date Financial Report of the General Fund:

	February			Year-to-Date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual > Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual > Budget
Inflows:	\$77,548	\$54,167	\$23,381	\$141,114	\$108,333	\$32,781
Outflows:	(-50,092)	(-50,396)	305	(-103,631)	(-100,793)	(-2,838)
Net Inflows > Outflows	\$27,456	\$3,770	\$23,686	\$37,483	\$7,541	\$29,942
Transfers In-Capital Fund*	953	1,667	(-713)	1,633	3,333	(-1,701)
Net Income	\$28,409	\$5,437	\$22,972	\$39,116	\$10,874	\$28,242

\$\$\$ Borrowed from Special Funds in 2025**	Balance Owed Special Funds 12/31/2025 \$108,440	Balance Repaid in 2026 \$39,116	Balance Owed Special Funds 02/28/2026 \$69,324
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* Income transferred from Capital Funds to pay for capital-related expenditures.

** Funds transferred back to Special Funds for what was borrowed in previous year. Goal to re-pay the Special Funds \$2,500 per month.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Fenske at 320-894-1184 or fenskeb13@gmail.com

WEST CENTRAL SINGERS
25TH ANNIVERSARY
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 | 2 PM
BRAU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
WILLMAR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
DIRECTOR NAOMI POWERS-BAKER. ACCOMPANIST KARI STADEM
GUEST DIRECTORS ROLF ANDERSON (FOUNDER/DIRECTOR) & JOHN JAHR (PAST DIRECTOR)
HONORING PAST DIRECTOR DR. CHET SOMMERS IN MEMORIAM
PREMIERE OF "BEAUTY BOUNDLESS" BY CAROL MEIER
WESTCENTRALSINGERS.COM
Tickets Available at the Door
Children & Students free! | Adults \$10

Please note a couple of things:

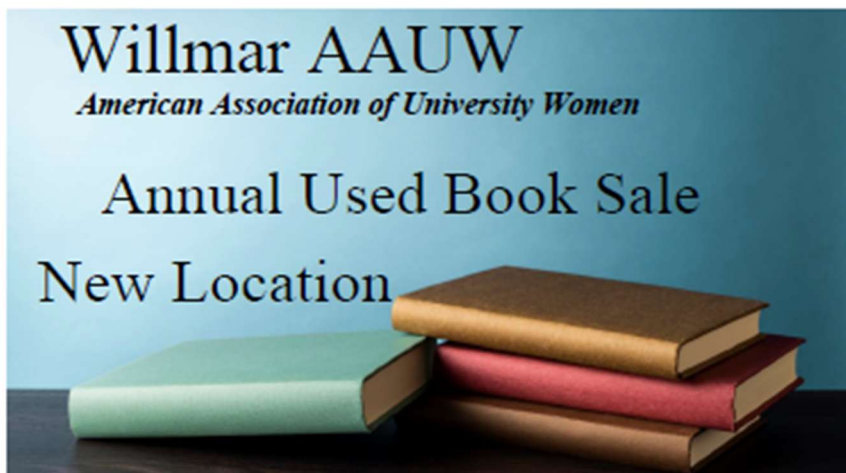
- There is only one concert this season because of the magnitude of the anniversary concert.
- In memory of Chet Sommers, Naomi Powers-Baker will direct 2 songs chosen by Chet's family.

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



SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you like to spend time on a Pontoon enjoying a summer day on Green Lake, catching a fish or two and creating wonderful memories? Become a volunteer with **Let's Go Fishing** and you can join others providing this experience to Seniors, youth and other adults from over 35 organizations in our area. Trips are Monday through Thursday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon and can either be fishing or boating. You can decide what time and day you would like to volunteer to help as a "first mate" or to pilot one of the two Pontoons. Have questions or need more information? **Call Rick Loseth at 320-979-9231 or Ron Haugen at 936-707-9023.**



Thursday, Apr. 30 Friday, May 1

8:00—7:00

8:00—4:30

Saturday, May 2

9:00—12:00 Noon

We accept book donations Wednesday, Apr. 29, Noon—5:00

New Location: Calvary Lutheran church

302 Olena Ave S. E., Willmar

Proceeds fund 2 women student scholarships at Ridgewater College,

A donation to Willmar Civic Scholarship Association for Willmar High,

and a contribution to AAUW's National Fellowship Fund for Higher Education

Hard Cover Books \$2/each • Paperback Books \$1/each • Children's Books 2 for \$1

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



APRIL



Saturday, April 4th	5:30pm Chapel Worship	
Sunday, April 5th	9:00am Easter Service/Easter Breakfast No Sunday School	
Saturday, April 11th	5:30pm Chapel Worship	
Sunday, April 12th	9:00am Youth Led Service/Noisy Offering (coffee following) 10:15am Sunday School	
Saturday, April 18th	5:30pm Chapel Worship	
Sunday, April 19th	9:00am Worship / Gather & Grow - "The Link" following service 10:15am Sunday School / "God & Me" / Greeter/Usher Training	
Saturday, April 25th	5:30pm Chapel Worship/Coffee with Council	
Sunday, April 26th	9:00am Earth Day Sunday Worship/Coffee with Council 10:15am Sunday School	



2026 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

