



March 2024

Calvary Lutheran Newsletter

at the Crossroads of Grace & Service



From the Crossroads ...

I recently stumbled upon this reading called, Bring them to church. The struggle of bringing young kids to church is real. As a church, we need to continue encouraging and supporting parents as they bring their kids to church. Studies tell us over and over again that the biggest influence in a child's faith, is their parents. So from one parent to another, I want to encourage you with these words:

BRING THEM TO CHURCH

Bring them to church. Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor, even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet, bring them to church. Bring them to church even when it's hard, even when you find yourself standing while swaying back and forth, bring them to church. Bring them to church even when the row you sit in, looks like a small hurricane just went through. Bring them to church.

Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running towards our Savior. If they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them to do what makes them feel happy and to follow their heart's desire. But we are blessed to teach them to guard their hearts and follow God's plan and will for their lives. The world can and will direct, confuse, and misinform them. The world will attempt to bring them far off course, but we are blessed to show them how to live in this world, but not for this world. The world won't teach them about Jesus, but we can! We can pray, worship, and praise with our children. We can read our Bibles; we can seek Jesus and always point our children towards Jesus. So, in this season of Lent, don't forget to

....BRING THEM TO CHURCH!

While people often give something up during Lent, I want to encourage you to add something that will help you grow in your faith. And for all of those families out there,

BRING THEM TO CHURCH ☺

"Let the children come to me" Mark 10:14

World Day of Prayer

Will be held at
Crystal Brook on **March 1st @ 2:00 pm**
1006 Crocus Hill St., Park Rapids
All are welcome to attend!

LENTEN WORSHIP REPORTS

During the season of Lent, those enrolled within our Confirmation Program (grades 8-9) are required to complete Five worship reports and Grade 7 is required to complete Three. Worship reports can be completed during the following services;

Wednesday, March 1st

Wednesday, March 6th

Wednesday, March 13th

Wednesday, March 20th

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

Lenten Worship Services are @ 4:00 & 6:00

Good Friday, March 29th @ 7 pm @ Riverside Methodist

If you have ANY questions, call Dana @ 218-732-7284

5th Grade FIRST COMMUNION

5TH Grade First Communion Class Schedule:

† Sunday, March 3rd (9:30-10:30)

† Sunday, March 10th (9:30-10:30)

† Sunday, March 17th (9:30-10:30)

Orientation for Parents & 5th Grader

† Wednesday, March 27th (5:00-6:00)

First Communion

† Thursday, March 28th (6:00 Worship Service)

JR LEAGUE AND SR LEAGUE

(Jr League: Grades 6-8 / Sr League: Grades 9-12)

March 6th Sr. League (6:00-8:00)

March 13th Jr. League (6:00-7:00)

March 20th Sr. League (6:00-8:00)

March 27th Jr. League (6:00-7:00)

March is Food Shelf Month!

13th Annual Chili Challenge benefitting the Hubbard County Food Shelf will be held at the American Legion on March 6th from 11-1pm. Calvary Lutheran will be serving delicious chili at 2-stations. **Please join us!** Additional contributions can be sent to Calvary Lutheran designating Food Shelf in the memo line.

~ Happy Birthday ~

Lylian Hill	March 1	Anna Crist	March 14	Kirsten Edevold	March 25
Debbie Thompson	March 1	Brenda Kent	March 14	Catherine Herrin	March 25
Halle Eischens	March 2	Pam Mueller	March 14	Tricia Hoyt	March 25
Jackie Christianson	March 3	Deane Johnson	March 16	Mark Snelling	March 25
Autum Schmidt	March 3	Steve Jordahl	March 16	Cheryl West	March 25
Jan Braun	March 4	Sally Peterson	March 16	Mary Packer	March 27
Gracyn Ruth Lembcke	March 4	Aubree Boxell	March 17	Rita Sundstrom	March 27
Craig VanSickle	March 4	Nicholas Graham	March 17	Stuart Larson	March 28
Cassidy Haggard	March 5	Olivia Johanning	March 17	Luke Kosel	March 29
Matthew Hensel	March 5	Bjorn Jorgenson	March 17	Frank Bender	March 30
Julie Cook	March 6	Helen Cornick	March 18	Suzann Pederson	March 30
Melvin Gulsvig	March 7	Emily Steffen	March 18	Carolyn Vrieze	March 30
Dee Kraft	March 7	Weston Briard	March 19	Laney Vrieze	March 30
Mary Nepsund	March 7	Jeanie Coborn	March 19	Andrea Hill	March 31
Cuthrie Tolle	March 7	Mason Vredenburg	March 19	Helen Keezer	March 31
Mark Carlstrom	March 8	Nate Carlson	March 20	Tia Kocka	March 31
Ron Norenberg	March 8	Leah Crist	March 20	Mason Peterson	March 31
Steven Smith	March 8	Todd Fritze	March 20	Bill Simpson	March 31
Lori Breitwieser	March 9	Kyllan Mjelde	March 20	Kay Winter	March 31
Vickie DeSchane	March 9	Jarrett Galzki	March 21		
Shawn Williams, Jr.	March 9	Maverick Maetzold	March 22		
Raina Adelman	March 10	Mary Pritchard-Stumbo	March 22		
Olivia Miller	March 10	Kadence Strasburg	March 22		
Tom Stennes	March 10	Patty Johnson	March 24		
Brixtyn Tomperi	March 11	Halle Landstrom	March 24		
Michael Barr	March 12	Jan Long	March 24		
Chuck Brandon	March 12	Dawn Vaadeland	March 24		
Dee Goplerud	March 12				
Marcia Udem	March 12				



~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of... Glenn Anderson

Ruth Swenson	Endowment
Chris & Fred Luckeroth	Hard Hat Ministry
Jan & Jerry Swedberg	Hard Hat Ministry
Marleen Seach	General Fund
Vickie & Mark DeSchane	Hard Hat Ministry
Betty & Curt McCabe	Hard Hat Ministry
Carol & Lowell Schellack	Hard Hat Ministry
Kim Hoff	Hard Hat Ministry
JoAnne Wright	Hard Hat Ministry
Jill & Deane Johnson	Hard Hat Ministry
Phyllis Anderson	Hard Hat Ministry
Pete Anderson	Hard Hat Ministry
Sandra & Mike Lichter	Hard Hat Ministry
Sara & Mark Olson	Hard Hat Ministry
Olga & Jeff Mosner	Hard Hat Ministry
Kristi York	Puerto Rico Mission
Sharon & Bob Hansen	Endowment Fund
Helen & Bob Keezer	Hard Hat Ministry

In Memory of... Carol Frisby

Mallisa & Troy Linder	Music
Tania & Mike Woessner	Music
Deane & Jill Johnson	Music
Gary Gauldin	Music
Renee & Kevin Brauer	Pastors Discretion

In Memory of... Judy Garden

Sharon Goplerud	Youth
Bickey & Frank Bender	Caring & Outreach
Karen Roberts	Youth Group
Jackie Cheney	Youth Group
Jill & Deane Johnson	Endowment Fund
Jo & Al Judson	Endowment Fund
Sharon & Bob Hansen	Endowment Fund
Linda & Dale Grover	Endowment Fund

In Memory of... Glenys Hotzler

Sharon Goplerud	Service Group
Bickey & Frank Bender	Caring & Outreach
Karen Roberts	Pastors Discretion
Char & Rod Westrum	Youth Group
Claire & Karen Anderson	Endowment Fund
Meals on Wheels	Service Group
Jan & Cal Kehr	Service Group
Ruth Swenson	Garden Calvary
Beth Baker-Knutilla	Hard Hat Ministry
Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund
Janet Peterson	Kitchen

In Memory of... Norm Leistikow

Bickey & Frank Bender	Youth Group
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In Honor of... Roger Olson

Renee & Kevin Brauer	Worship Core
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Miscellaneous

Roger Olson	Education
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The Worship Carriage

46 days before Easter marks the beginning of Lent and, more specifically, Ash Wednesday. Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter & ends with Maundy Thursday, the Thursday prior to Easter Sunday and the day of the Last Supper.

For the six weeks prior to Easter Sunday, the worship carriage in Calvary Lutheran's Narthex will display a trio of crosses. God's plan of salvation for the world included the death of God's son, Jesus Christ, upon a cross. The cross in the worship carriage is mounted on a hill. The hill represents the top of the world. Let's not forget, Jesus was the gift that the Lord gave to the whole world!



The crosses flanking either side of the center cross symbolize the hope of humanity and the promise of Jesus of eternal salvation. When we look at the story of Jesus on the cross in the Gospel of Luke, we learn of two other men, often referred to as thieves, that were being crucified in the same fashion as our beloved Jesus Christ. One of the thieves, mockingly asks Jesus, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." This thief asks to be taken down & so he is. The other thief, however, believes in the innocence of Jesus and His promise. Instead of asking to be taken down to end his suffering, the second thief asks to go with Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom. ~ Luke 23:42 Jesus replies to this faithful believer, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." ~ Luke 23:43

How fortunate are we, to be given the gift of eternal salvation, of a life in heaven that is so much better than the one we live here on this earth? God offers all we have and all we need if only we will believe & ask for his forgiveness. So the table will be set at the end of Lent, on Maundy Thursday, with the objects of God's generosity; the bread and the wine, the body and blood of our beloved Jesus Christ.

Tied with Love

Never stop doing little things for others.
Sometimes those little things occupy the
biggest parts of their heart.

~ Unknown

Calvary Lutheran youth spent a frosty winter evening making fleece tie blankets for Hubbard County kids who are removed from their homes when moms & dads or their other caregivers are having a tough time. With teamwork & the guidance of some crafty adults, the Calvary Lutheran Youth made 27 blankets in just a few hours! Blankets will be given to Hubbard County Social Services to hand out to children as needed. A warm blanket provides so much comfort to a child going through a traumatic experience. Thank you Calvary Lutheran Youth for being so kind and caring to kids who need a little extra love and reassurance that Jesus sees them, Jesus loves them & Jesus will help them.



Lucky Dog

In October of last year, Calvary Lutheran blessed member's pets. As an added treat, representatives from the Humane Society came to speak & introduced the congregation to Lucky who was in need of his forever home. For those of you wondering, Lucky was adopted shortly after the weekend of the pet blessings! He lives with a kind family who says Lucky is settling

in well, is so sweet and they are so "Lucky" they found him! Yay Lucky!

Approved
Calvary Lutheran Church Council
January 9, 2024

Members Present: Bob Hansen, Shalom Grandy, Erika Randall, Dennis Aanenson, Mandy Runyan, Tony Platz, Sara Forsberg, Bob Berdahl

Also Present: Pastor Stephen Norby, Dana Kocha, Wayne Pearson, Carol Shellack, Nancy McDowell, Brian Long

Devotions: Pastor Norby

Reports

Secretaries Report: The December 7, 2023 draft was amended to delete under Business "All these wedding services will be performed at Calvary" MSC Judson/Runyan. The revised secretary's report was accepted MSC Berdahl/Platz Typo corrections to Dan(a) and Erika.

Wayne Pearson presented the finance report. December was an outstanding month for both general (\$122,811.76) and building (\$47,843.80) accounts. On-line giving has increased. The financial report was accepted.

Carol Shellack and Nancy McDowell gave an update on the church directory. There were a few surprises in the task such as: It took longer to do than anticipated; Lack of participation of young families with children; Challenging to find appropriate technology support.

The on-line APP use is good for 3 years; photos can be added or removed. Liz Stone will be the administrator of the APP. Several addresses and phone numbers have changed without notification to the church office. There were several attempts to "members" who have not responded. A note to remember this when the next directory is produced.

Brian Long gave an update on the Hard Hat Ministry. The group completed over 80 projects in 2023 including 4 large projects. The team has been asked to work on renovation inside the Pregnancy Resource Center. The Hard Hat Ministry will perform the labor and the Center would provide the funding. Brian also emphasized that Hard Hat Ministry will not accept projects that require licensed trade work or contain unsafe conditions (e.g. roofing, electrical, plumbing, public safety code violations).

There was discussion involving combining some of the cores. This will be discussed at future meetings. There was discussion regarding the suggested budgeted financial support of the NW MN Synod. More information will be sought.

The 2024 recommended budget to the January 28 congregation meeting was approved MSC: Randall/Runyan.

The annual meeting agenda was approved MSC: Runyan/Platz (Innovation Core was added to the reports given for the annual meeting).

A Calvary Leadership Workshop for the new council was discussed with more planning needed. A recognized challenge was successfully involving more younger members.

Caring and Outreach: Emphasis on the theme: "Welcome to the Table."

Family: Busy schedule of those involved. "Suds of Service" is going well.

Finance: Report was printed.

Learning: Did not meet.

Resource: Did not meet.

Worship: Did not meet.

Youth: Christmas gathering went well. Blankets for kids who need them were prepared.

Innovation: Report was given.

Adjourned at 7:15 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Alan Judson

**GENERAL FUND (Operational) MONTHLY
FINANCIAL- Monthly Goal: \$62,945**

2024	Income	Expenses	Difference
Dec '23	\$122,811	\$45,782	\$77,030
January	\$69,123	63,318	\$ 5,805
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

**BUILDING FUND
INCOME**

January Total:

\$ 8,113

Monthly Mortgage:

\$10,429

Calvary Lutheran Church
112 Park Avenue South
P.O. Box 187
Park Rapids, MN 56470

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage/PAID
Park Rapids, MN
56470
PERMIT #7

Address Service Requested



Lead Pastor - Steve Norby
SAM / Education & Youth - Dana Kocka
Treasurer - Wayne Pearson
Office Coordinator - Debby Hanneman
Worship Coordinator - Sandy James
Media Specialist - Liz Stone
Custodian - Collin Current
Organists - Sandra Lichter, Mary Nepsund, Shalom Grandy
Adult Choir & Bell Director - Mary Nepsund
Nursery Coordinator - Nicole Roepke
Bethel Cemetery - Jim Ertl

Calvary Church Council

317-796-8529 Mark Harmon, President
218-255-3538 Bob Hansen
218-255-3052 Monica Foster, President Elect
218-616-2087 Wayne Koop, Secretary
651-206-3673 Wayne Pearson, Treasurer
612-708-6548 Sara Forsberg, Caring & Outreach
612-827-8236 Gretchen Pederson, Family Ministry
952-988-8961 Tony Platz, Finance Core
218-791-0801 Erika Randall, Learning Core
218-556-4674 Joe McKinnon Resource Core
612-325-0804 Shalom Grandy, Worship Core
320-894-3199 Nicole Brandt, Youth Core
701-430-7466 Stuart Larson, Innovation Core

Mission Partners: Iglesia Luterana San Lucas, Eagle Pass, Texas/ Mission Partner in India/San Pedro Lutheran
in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico

Calvary's Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-2:00pm
Phone-218-732-7284

Office Email- calvarylutheranpr@gmail.com
Website: www.calvaryparkrapids.com



<http://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranchurchparkrapids>

e-mail.prayer.chain

Join Calvary's e-mail prayer chain to share, receive & pray
for the needs of others. Contact Lin Norenberg at
218-255-3414 or lindanorenberg@gmail.com

Calvary Lutheran Church, at the Crossroads of Grace and Service, shares Jesus Christ with others so
that all may discover and experience God's Hope