



**Calvary
Lutheran**

at the Crossroads of Grace & Service

Newsletter

From the Crossroads...



The Bible presents giving love in four different ways. There is Eros, known most commonly as romantic love which the Lord intended for the covenant of marriage and described in the Song of Solomon. There's Philia which is the love we have for dear friends (Proverbs 17: 9 & 17). The third kind of love is Storge, the caring love & the gratitude we hold for our family members, the kind of love we see in the story of The Prodigal Son and the kind of forgiving love Joseph gives his brothers in Genesis 45:14-15. Finally, there is Agape. The love that is selfless. The love that is sacrificial. The love Jesus gives us. The kind of love Jesus wants us to practice & to give.

This month, when store shelves are filled with big red cardboard hearts full of chocolate & greeting card aisles are splashed with pink & red & white and the world seems to only be thinking of romantic love, I want you to also think of Agape love. The love that Jesus gives us every day. The love that Jesus showed us as he felt the whip, carried the cross, wore the thorns, and hung from the nails. Be like Jesus. Love like Jesus.

Be kind. Look for the lonely. Love your neighbor. Be like Jesus.
 Help anyone. Volunteer. Donate. Serve selflessly. Be like Jesus.
 Show appreciation. Compliment. Honor. See the value in everyone. Be like Jesus.
 Care. Give gratitude. Thanks. Be honest. Be like Jesus.
 Be patient. Be understanding. Give grace. Show mercy. Be like Jesus.
 Forgive. Protect. Hope. Observe. Persevere. Be like Jesus.
 Be humble. Be happy. Be careful. Be wise. Be like Jesus.
 Pray. Meditate. Walk. Wash their feet. Be like Jesus.
 Work. Play. Learn. Teach. Feed. Save. Be like Jesus.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7~

Be like Jesus.

Liz Stone, SAM/Media Specialist

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

**Valentine Goodies will be available
by the Calvary Youth on Sunday,
February 9th**

Free donations will be taken

♥ **HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY** ♥

Jr. & Sr. League Schedule

February 12th & 26th Jr. League (6:00 – 7:30)
February 5th & 19th Sr. League (6:00 – 8:00)

Confirmation Schedule

9th Grade (7:00–8:00) February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
8th Grade (6:00–7:30) February 5th, 19th

3rd Graders Receive Bible & Confirmation Enrollment

When: March 2nd

Time: 9:30 – Parents & 3rd Grader's meeting in the Community Room.

10:30 Worship – The 3rd Grade class will receive their Bible and blessing as they begin the Confirmation process.

*Calvary Owls will meet in the Calvary Lutheran Fellowship Hall on **February 4th @ 11:30**, for **OWLS POTLUCK PICNIC** followed by game time (bring your favorite).*

RSVP: Dorothy Platz 218-252-8029

A thank you to everyone who donated items for the Family BINGO. Your generosity is so appreciated!

~ Happy Birthday ~

Marilyn Klettenberg	February 1	Jan Pederson	February 13	Steve Cunningham	February 22
Tristan Breitwaser	February 1	Linda Van Bruggen	February 13	Dave Otterness	February 22
Danielle Kondziolka	February 1	Alice Hawes	February 14	Norita Smith	February 22
Mary Krabbenhoft	February 1	Cameron Hoyt	February 14	Patty Stephens	February 22
Reed Mykland	February 1	Christine Lilleodden	February 14	Marcy Jacobson	February 23
Colton Carey	February 2	Christian Kurtz	February 15	Robert Miller	February 23
Nancy Hall	February 2	Tanya Miller	February 15	Heidi Pachel	February 23
Desarae Kohrs	February 2	Rod Westrum	February 15	John Vrieze	February 23
Nichole Weston	February 3	Bill Cowman	February 16	Linda Eickman	February 24
Eryn Picken (Simpson)	February 3	Wendy Crandall	February 16	Clayton Hoyt	February 24
Connor Smythe	February 4	Warren Warmbold	February 16	John (Jack) Hughes	February 24
Wayne Gaustad	February 5	Les Hansen	February 17	Nick Michaelson	February 24
John Jacobson	February 5	Hazel Rasmussen	February 17	Jan Schilling	February 24
Alexander Boyd	February 6	Jack Bateman	February 18	Bob Schinnert	February 24
Robert Grandy	February 7	Katrina Ellingson	February 18	Char Westrum	February 24
Wesley Splett	February 7	Janet Graalum	February 18	Guy Griebe	February 25
Alyza Edevold	February 8	Gary Indrehus	February 18	Jesseca Pritchett	February 25
Justin Peterson	February 8	Morgan Koppelman	February 18	Darien Simon	February 25
Grant Ertl	February 9	Alex Pederson	February 18	Jon Smythe	February 25
David Hepola	February 9	Shayla Rogness	February 18	Monica Foster	February 26
Steven Osterman	February 9	Lindsay Bugge	February 19	Bob Hansen	February 26
Logan Lewis (Norby)	February 10	Jennifer Gytri	February 19	Kendra Mikesh	February 26
Sherry Safratowich	February 10	Chelsea Johnson	February 19	Mandy Runyan	February 26
TJ Simon	February 10	Kelsey Kruger	February 19	Deb Maanum	February 27
Thomas Fogarty	February 11	Mary Nelson	February 19	Kolby Crabb	February 28
Allan Kiecker	February 11	Dana Kocka	February 19	Danika Jensen	February 28
Shirley Lingle	February 11	Mark Behrens	February 20	David Penning	February 28
Presley-Anne Partlow	February 11	Kay Dyre	February 21	Amy Schmidt	February 29
Olivia Peterson	February 12	Tony Olson	February 21		
		Lana Schmidt	February 21		
		Joel Steffel	February 21		
		Marty Leistikow	February 21		



~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of... Heidi Lageson

Brenda & Warren Carpenter	Youth Group
Jill Stevenson	Youth Group
Sharon & Bob Hansen	Youth Group
Jo & Al Judson	Youth Group
Dawn Fishel	Youth Group
Heather & Joel Steffel	Youth Group
Anne & Steve Koe	Youth Group
Elizabeth Shaw	Youth Group
Jill & Deane Johnson	Youth Group
Carolyn & Mark Gilbertson	Youth Group
Tia & Dana Kocka	Youth Group
Melissa & Ben Koppelman	Youth Group
Lori & Harry Aho	Youth Group
Helen & Bob Keezer	Youth Group
Jeanette & James Peterson	Youth Group
Roger Olson	Youth Group
Judy & Ed Novak	Youth Group
Mary Beth & James Berntson	Youth Group
Trevor & Rebecca Nickalson	Youth Group
Ann & Peter Jacobson	Youth Group
Nora & Bill Simpson	Youth Group
Renee & Kevin Brauer	Youth Group

In Memory of... Heidi Lageson (con't)

Jean & Joel Kirchner	Youth Group
Sharon & Justin Clack	Youth Group
Molly & Cory Aukus	Youth Group

In Memory of... Bill Peterson

Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund
Barbara & Mark Thomason	Mortgage Fund
Kim & Mark Harmon	General Fund
Kathleen & Jeff Peterson	Pastor's Discretion
Elaine Landrigan	Endowment Fund
Deidra & Robert Anderson	General Fund
Laurie & Perry Melbo	General Fund
Jill & Deane Johnson	General Fund
Cathy & Guy Reich	General Fund
Joan & Cliff Tweedale	Puerto Rico Fund
Kathy Olson	Pastor's Discretion
Sue & Tom Harmon	General Fund
R. Lynn Nelson	Pastor's Discretion
Barb Peterson Family	Mortgage Fund
Karen Roberts	Endowment Fund
David & Amy Andersen	Endowment Fund
Kim Hoff	Pastor's Discretion

In Memory of... Bill Peterson (con't)

Gretchen Pederson	General Fund
Renee & Kevin Brauer	Pastor's Discretion
Bill & Nora Simpson	Youth Group

In Memory of... Ross Everson

Cheryl Steinborn	Hard Hat Ministry
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In Memory of... Frank Kruft

Dorothy & Tony Platz	Creator's Place
Bickey & Frank Bender	Caring & Outreach

In Memory of... Carol Knodle

Kathy & Stuart Larson	Puerto Rico Fund
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The family of Bill Peterson wants to express their gratitude to all of the people of Calvary who gave their time, talent and love in a very busy season. It is so greatly appreciated.

Barbara Peterson



Daily Discussion

February 2025

~ Liz Stone

As the sun rises, or maybe even before, and all is quiet, consider starting your day in conversation and prayer with the Lord. Maybe even before conversation begins, sit in the quiet, let His presence settle around you and wait for The Holy Spirit to stir within you. He might actually be the one to talk first! Maybe you already have something weighing on your mind and you can't wait to meet with the Lord so you can talk it out and pray it through.

The challenges of our lives, that cause us stress and nervousness, can feel much more manageable when we look at them through a lens of faith rather than fear. Daily discussion with our Lord, waiting on Him to speak to you and time in prayer will prepare you for the day ahead. Be patient and let The Holy Spirit fill you with wisdom, peace, strength, and perspective.

Maybe your heart is light upon waking. Discuss with the Lord all the goodness he has surrounded you with. Thank him for all the things that fill your heart with gratefulness. Ask him to guard your mind, guard your mouth, and guard your heart, so that your thoughts, words and deeds aren't unkind or judgemental. Ask him to guide your mind, guide your mouth, and guide your heart so that you make good choices and so that He may work through you to make others feel cared for, respected and understood.

If you prefer a more guided time with God, there are many daily devotion resources that can be found online or in print. The You Version Bible, found on Calvary's United Church Directory App is an easy to use and easily accessible option. God Pause, an online resource provided by Luther Seminary and sent out weekly in Calvary Lutheran's Constant Contact email is another great option for daily or weekly devotions. (Our own member, Pastor Mark Olson is a God's Pause contributor in February!) Pray.com offers a daily morning and evening devotion. If you prefer paper over screen, devotionals can be found on the resource table in the fireplace room at Calvary Lutheran or daily devotional books dedicated to varying subjects can be purchased at the local bookstore or online.

Whatever your preference, morning, noon or night, paper or digital, make it a daily "have-to" to get quiet with the Lord. Don't let anything get in the way of your time with Him. This special time will change your relationship with Him in so many wonderful ways and bring peace and love and joy to your life! Don't wait any longer. Go get quiet with the Lord and talk to Him...or maybe sit in the quiet and wait for him to talk first.

February 2025

Thank you Calvary Lutheran Church for your kindness and support! We wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your generous gift. We are using the money over the next 3 years as the funds dedicated to our Christmas Store!

♥ - With Much Love,
Jessica Leckner and
Pine Point Staff

Mrs. Harstad - Kindergarten
Kelsey Mosher and First Grade
Mrs. Leckner, Sarah, Cielito, Remmy
MIKE, JOSIAH, AARON
Mrs. Roering 4 Third grade
Katie Novak and John, Delmarquez, Makaelyn
(4th/5th)
Shari Emerson and class - Thank you for supporting our kids.
Avery
Casper
Miki
Lilly
Leo
Sondra

YOU make a difference!

The smiling faces in these pictures to the right and the sentiment in the thank you note above say it all! The kindness of Calvary Lutheran filled up the "Change Makes a Difference" pickle jar offering and made it possible for the children at Pine Point to open their Christmas Store this year. Not only did your change make a difference this year, but your giving hearts are going to make a difference for three MORE years! The smallest gift can lead to the greatest joy!



APPROVED
Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes
December 10, 2024

Members Present: Mark Harmon, Monica Foster, Wayne Koop, Bob Hansen, Sara Forsberg, Gretchen Pederson, Erika Randall, Joe McKinnon, Shalom Grandy, and Stuart Larson. Staff Present: Pastor Steve Norby and Wayne Pearson.
 President Mark Harmon opened meeting. Then Pastor Steve led Council devotion by reading an introspective poem "Unexpected and Mysterious" to "...ponder God's mystery and await the coming Christ to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life..."

REPORTS:

Synod Staff: Bishop's Assistant, Pastor Genelle Netland introduced Synod Council Member Aaron Bieberdorf via teleconference who praised Calvary and Synod outward service to people which grows our faith in Christ. We are blessed to have 54 SAMs in our Synod and have two here Calvary.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Bob Hansen, 2nd Monica Foster, to approve November 12, 2024 minutes amended to include SAM title, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson reported November offering was \$44,534, 2nd best offering month ever. Total November income was \$120,152 and total expenses were \$61,543 returning \$58,608 back into the checking account. Mortgage income was \$12,132 plus \$61,840 paid to principal reduction. Mortgage payment \$10,429 was made.

Note: The additional mortgage payment funds put into checking will be paid out in December. Year-end mortgage balance is expected to be under \$1,300,000.

Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: Calvary group dinners were enjoyed by 88 members and sign-ups are ongoing. Pickle Jar donations to Pine Point are approximately \$2000 in November. Jar donations will go to Family Safety Network in December and to Eagle Pass in January.

Family Ministry: Family event to make Advent Wreaths, cookie decoration and ornaments was enjoyed by many.

Finance: As written. New sound system in Fellowship Hall has received \$9,000 of \$22,000 needed.

Learning: Building Youth Christmas program and props/costumes. Practice Dec. 14th 2:30 – 4:30 PM. Program at 10:30 Worship Service Dec. 15th.

Resource: Ron Benton hired for part-time janitorial duties. Lights in Narthex to be cleaned.

Worship: As written.

Youth: Youth Senior and Junior Leagues growing in size! Mission Trip planned June 15-21 to Perry FL and/or Waynesville NC.

Innovation: As printed. Distribution of a Calvary Member Survey and a Nonmember Survey were discussed.

Business:

Core Fair: To explain the many Calvary Service opportunities via Core Committee table displays and conversations in joyful service and the blessings received. Planned for Mar 30th between services (Apr 6th if weather delayed).

Theme 2025: Council supported Sara Forsberg to select a Theme for 2025. Many suggestions were discussed. Youth input to be sought.

President Elect: Nominating Committee seeking President Elect to complete the slate of Nominees up for election at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting: Calvary Annual Meeting is set for January 26th at 1130 AM.

Other Business: Bethel Cemetery manages their funds. Any Calvary designated funds are passed on to them.

Council Agenda items/Reports need be submitted to the office by no later than Noon, Thurs. prior to each meeting.

Adjournment: Council adjourned at 645 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Koop, Council Secretary

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	\$41,066	\$59,943	(\$18,876)
March	\$79,907	\$56,522	\$23,385
April	\$64,847	\$60,303	\$ 4,544
May	\$43,061	\$61,767	(\$18,706)
June	\$56,392	\$56,249	\$142
July	\$42,778	\$62,022	(\$19,244)
August	\$58,516	\$55,172	\$3,344
September	\$83,553	\$66,742	\$16,811
October	\$55,323	\$76,502	(\$22,179)
November	\$120,152	\$61,544	\$58,609
December	\$133,537	\$121,327	\$12,210

BUILDING FUND
INCOME
December Total:
\$22,681
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
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56470
PERMIT #7

Address Service Requested



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

Calvary Church Council

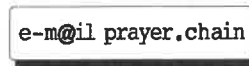
317-796-8529 Mark Harmon, President
218-255-3538 Bob Hansen
218-255-3052 Monica Foster, President Elect
218-616-2087 Wayne Koop, Secretary
651-206-3673 Wayne Pearson, Treasurer
612-708-6548 Sara Forsberg, Caring & Outreach
612-827-8236 Gretchen Pederson, Family Ministry
952-988-6961 Tony Platz, Finance 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>



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