



**Calvary
Lutheran**
at the Crossroads of Grace & Service

January 2025

Newsletter

From the Crossroads...

Commit your way to the way of the Lord; trust in him and he will act. ~Psalm 37:5

Happy New Year! Every Year Millions of people from around the world make New Years Resolutions, resolutions to improve themselves, their lifestyles, or their choices. The most common New Years Resolutions include; improving fitness, diet, or finances. But we all know, making those changes can be difficult because they require major lifestyle changes. Truth is, data is stacked against us as we strive to beat the odds. Data tells us that 80% of New Year's resolutions are forgotten by February and only 9% of those resolutions are continued throughout the year. I do believe that setting attainable goals is important within our lives.

But this year as we look upon 2025, instead of focusing only on those resolutions already set, may we also set a resolution within our hearts. Ask yourself, 'How can I be more generous this year?' Ponder that question and pray about it.

Ask yourself, 'How can I be more generous with my time? How can I be more generous with my forgiveness? How can I be more generous sharing my talents, gifts, or abilities? How can I be more generous in the way I care for others?

God calls us to be generous people. This year as we continue to look onward towards yet another year, may our hearts continue to be transformed. May we look towards Christ as our example and may we be generous.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving us your written word. Help me to grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom this year. Help me, to be a reflection of you. AMEN.

Dana Kocka, SAM

Calvary Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Notice Scheduled for January 26th, 2025 @ 11:30 am

1. Opening Worship
2. Secretary Report
3. Pastor's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election Offices, committees & governing board
6. Adoption of spending guide
7. President's Report
8. Resolutions (voting will be allowed only on official agenda items)
9. New Business (this may be discussed, but not voted upon)
10. Benediction

Jr. & Sr. League Schedule

January 8th & 22nd Jr. League (6:00 – 7:30)
January 15th & 29th Sr. League (6:00 – 8:00)

Confirmation Schedule

9th Grade (7:00 – 8:00) January 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th
February 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
8th Grade (6:00 – 7:30) January 15th & 29th
February 5th & 19th

Mission Trip Meeting – January 12th @ 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall



Sunday, January 26th, 2025

(following the Annual Meeting)

Everyone is Welcome to attend! Subs & Chips Lunch @ 12:30! Bingo begins @ 1:00 pm. Donations of NEW or GENTLY USED items that could be used as prizes would be greatly appreciated! (Bring to Church office)

3-Day Event Vitalant Blood Drive is being held at Calvary Lutheran on the following dates & times:

Monday, January 6th @ 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 7th @ 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, January 8th @ 7:30 am – 2:00 pm

To sign up for appointment Call Kathy Peterson @ 218-255-4098

~ Happy Birthday ~

Kathy Olsen	January 1	Harper Fogarty	January 18
Eric Billing	January 2	Pat Snelling	January 18
Jason Runyan	January 3	Zach Behrens	January 20
Russell Busch	January 4	Lewis Herrin	January 20
Elaine Landrigan	January 4	Tom Jacobson	January 20
Hyatt Safratowich	January 7	Brenda Norby	January 21
Mary Beth Anderson	January 8	Kornelia Folkestad	January 21
Nykai Tomperi	January 9	Augustus Grzybowski	January 22
Caitlyn Wolfe-Hanson	January 9	Robert Bruce	January 23
Amy Aasen	January 10	Wayne Koop	January 23
Bailee Hedberg	January 10	Jerry Leverson	January 23
Bailee Jerger	January 10	Brooke McMahan	January 23
Janet Nepsund	January 10	Tammy Boyd	January 24
Lucas Pritchett	January 10	Aliazah Paulson	January 24
Carol Winskowski	January 10	Justin Tweedale	January 24
Bennett Berttunen	January 11	Betty Beireis	January 25
Wayne Classon	January 12	Nikky Pederson	January 25
Shalom Grandy	January 12	Shari Clack	January 26
Audrey Hensel	January 12	Michael Sorenson	January 26
Rhonda Lageson	January 12	Quinlin Linkowitz	January 27
Trever Nyland	January 12	Roger Olson	January 27
Ben Soderberg	January 12	Bria McMahan	January 28
Tyler Breitwaser	January 13	Grace Baumann	January 29
John Cook	January 13	Kris Lund	January 29
Bob Hammerstrom	January 13	Darlene Swanson	January 29
Sandra Busch	January 14	Ethan Cox	January 30
Ben Koppelman	January 14	Barb Pyburn	January 30
Barb Billing	January 15	Betty Thomsen	January 30
Alec Nordin	January 15	Jerry Bunting	January 31
Briella Boyd	January 16	Angie Graham	January 31
John Lund	January 16	Laura Kirlin	January 31
Terri Peterson	January 16	Mara Lundgren	January 31
Matt Walker	January 16	Jan Swedberg	January 31
Micheal Kruger	January 17	Sara Tate	January 31
Royce Peterson	January 17	Kevin Thompson	January 31
Landyn Schmidt	January 17		
Arianne Warmbold	January 17		

Pastor Steve invites you to Faith Conversations "**Bonhoeffer Agent of Grace**" on the following dates;

Sunday -

January 5th -Part 1 @ 9:30 am

January 12th - Part 2 @ 9:30 am

Thursday -

January 9th - Part 1 @ 6:30 pm

January 16th - Part 2 @ 5:00 pm

What is a moral person to do in a time of savage immorality? That question tormented Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran clergyman of great distinction who actively opposed Hitler and the Nazis. His convictions cost him his life. More than just a biographical portrait, *Bonhoeffer; Agent of Grace* sheds light on the little-known efforts of the German resistance. Come & learn!

Calvary Owls will meet on **January 7th** @ 11:30 am @ Pizza Hut for lunch. RSVP to Chris Luckeroth @ 218-255-7467



~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of... Heidi Lageson

Erna & Wayne Johnson	Youth Group
Char & Ros Westrum	Youth Group

In Memory of... Joanne Wright

Marilyn Schmidt	Quilters
Erna & Wayne Johnson	Quilters

In Memory of... Mary Packer

Betty & Curt McCabe	Quilters
Char & Rod Westrum	Church Library

In Memory of... Nancy Stromback

Jodi Gruchow	Endowment Fund
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In Memory of... Emma Jorgenson

Marilyn Schmidt	Quilters
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In Memory of... Rose Emerson-Wright

Helen & Bob Keezer	Endowment Fund
Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund

In Memory of... Sheila Moe

Chris & Fred Luckeroth	Bell Choir
Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund
Linda Paulson	Bell Choir
Renee & Larry Bexell	Bell Choir

In Memory of... Helen Peterson

Char & Rod Westrum	Gardens
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In Honor of... Ellis

The Baumgart's	Pastor's Discretionary
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We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who shared caring words, sent a card, made a donation & attended Mom's service. We truly feel we are surrounded by a loving and caring community in Calvary. Your support has been so meaningful to our family. Thank you.
Sincerely, Jennifer & Bob Bateman, and the family of Sheila Moe

January 2025



Make This YOUR Year!!!

~ Liz Stone, S.A.M.

Instead of setting New Year's resolutions or personal goals, choosing a personal theme can provide a personal guiding principle for your year. As opposed to a resolution or goal, a theme provides you with flexibility. A theme keeps you focused on your broader intention. Resolutions and goals can result in a narrowed focus and ultimately frustration and disappointment with yourself when you don't meet them. A personal theme for the year provides you with new perspective. You might recognize opportunities you may have otherwise missed. Most importantly, ask for God's guidance and help as you honor yourself and do your best to stay true to your theme for the new year!

Here are some personal theme suggestions to consider:

Personal Restoration: Prioritize healing, renewal, and balance in an area of your life, such as physical or emotional health, finances, faith or time management. Ask God for help to live in the Holy Spirit and to resist giving into fleshly desires.

Courage: Recognize areas of your life where you are hesitant or fearful. Ask yourself if there are things you have been avoiding. Be honest with yourself and embrace bold decisions. Step outside your comfort zone and face challenges with faith.

Abundance: Remember or recognize your blessings in every situation. Focus on the ways you've been blessed, even during the hardest of times, and praise God for his goodness in your life.

Connection: Work on being present in the moment. Deepen your relationships with your loved ones, friends, and our Lord. Take time to recognize times and moments in your life when you are distracted or preoccupied and identify what's causing it. Work to keep distractions from getting in the way of what is most important.

Discipline: Commit to consistency or improvement in one area of your life. Consider spiritual growth, praying every morning, being on time, taking a break from social media, making time for a positive hobby...you get the idea!

Communication

January 2025

Hubs

Calvary Lutheran wants to remind you about the tools available to keep you informed and connected! All members of Calvary Lutheran Church have a physical church mailbox located just down the hall from the office. Utilizing the church mailboxes is a great way to communicate and are used by church staff and members to share ministry related documents, personal notes and as a storage cubby for nametags, etc. **Don't forget to check your mailbox regularly!**

Calvary Lutheran also has a communication tool available through the MyUCD app for your mobile phones. "MyUCD" stands for : My Universal Church Directory and is provided free of charge to all members who choose to utilize this communication tool. Please see this information on this app below and how to get it set up on your mobile device. The app is a great tool for staying connected to the church. It provides opportunities to watch online worship, an online directory of members, a link to our church website and giving platform as well as the YouVersion Bible! **If you would like to utilize the MyUCD app, stop by or email the office for your unique access code!**



STAFF
Connect with church staff

CALL
Just click to call the church

YouVERSION BIBLE
Link to scripture

CALVARY LUTHERAN WEBSITE

STAFF
Email Calvary Lutheran Church

ONLINE WORSHIP

GIVE
Online giving & donations

CHURCH CALENDAR

DIRECTORY
Online giving & donations

CALVARY LUTHERAN FACEBOOK PAGE

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up - Proverbs 12:25

APPROVED
Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes
November 12, 2024

Members' Present: Mark Harmon, Monica Foster, Gretchen Peterson, Tony Platz, Joe McKinnon, Shalom Grandy, Stuart Larson, Ericka Randall, Nicole Brandt. **Staff Present:** Dana Kocka, SAM, Liz Stone, SAM, Wayne Pearson. **Devotion:** Liz Stone, SAM

Reports:

Secretary Report: Motion by Tony Platz, 2nd by Ericka Randall to approve October 8, 2024, minutes. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson reported October had lower offerings than previous years at \$35,738.60. Mortgage income \$13,260.79 plus a principal. Outliers on expenses this month were foam on flat roof \$4,493 and insurance payment of \$4,292.80

Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: Monica reported that the committee met with Connie Carmichael concerning the services that are offered for seniors through Living at Home. She discussed volunteer opportunities through this organization. She will meet with Brian Long to see how the people that Hard Had Ministry works for could be referred to for other programs in the community. The committee is also planning a Christmas party for the participants at Creator's Place. People's Church has invited Calvary members to visit and attend 3:00 Sunday Services. A schedule for the Welcome Desk is established while Suzie is recovering from surgery. Puerto Rico trip volunteers have had an orientation meeting and will visit PR in February. Pickle Jar donations are set for December and January.

Family Ministry: Gretchen Pederson reported on the October event at Pike's Pumpkins, 88 people attended.

Finance Ministry: Tony Platz reported that the committee is working on building the budget for 2025. Also discussed Estate Planning for members that are interested in this method of giving.

Learning Ministry: Ericka Randall reported on the Release Time activities.

Resource Ministry: Joe McKinnon reported on planned repairs, a new lock for the north and south doors. The committee has designated a subcommittee to look at the possibility of solar power. Jerry Bunting is working on solutions for sound mitigation and fundraising for a new sound system in the fellowship hall.

Worship Ministry: Shalom Grandy reported a new alter guild co-chair's Jill Manlove and Dorothy Meyers. Piano tuning is planned for 2024 and 2025 budget.

Youth Ministry: Nicole Brandt reported that members are growing in both the Junior and Senior Leagues. About 50 youth attended the last Junior League meeting.

Innovation Core: As written. Stewart Larson reviewed the member survey asking for any changes that members would like to see in the survey. The survey will be distributed at church services and the monthly newsletter. Stuart will distribute the results of the new member survey conducted this summer. The main reasons that membership increased were hospitality, service message, the sermons and youth programs.

Business:

1. Update on Community Dinner. Tony Platz reported that the dinner is planned for September/October. Monica Foster to assist in recruiting volunteers to serve the dinner and clean up.
2. Budget Requests. Core ministries were asked to turn in their budget requests by the end of November. Core chairpersons had questions about their individual budgets which Wayne Pearson answered.
3. Core Sustainability Form. Mark Harmon reminded members to complete the forms and submit these forms with their budgets. This information will be used by new chairpersons of each of the Core Ministries and by the nominating committee.
4. Marketing Responsibilities. Jennifer Bateman reported on the activities of the marketing subcommittee over the last 4 years. Jennifer has decided not to continue to serve as chair of this committee. It is a recommendation of the Executive Committee to sunset this committee after their November meeting. A thank you was extended to Jennifer and the committee for all their work over the past 4 years.
5. Thank you gift, to Barb Thomason for coordinating the Altar Guild was discussed. Shalom made a motion to purchase a \$100 gift card to a local restaurant. Nicole Brandt seconded. Motion carried.
6. Other Business. Monica Foster requested that an addendum to the church directory be printed – it would include the names and contact information of the new members. This would be distributed at the Welcome Desk for all Calvary members.

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			

BUILDING FUND INCOME

November Total:
\$12,133
 Monthly Mortgage:
\$10,429

Announcements: Reports need to be submitted to the office by no later than noon, the Thursday prior to the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Monica Foster, Council Vice President

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

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U.S. Postage/PAID
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56470
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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

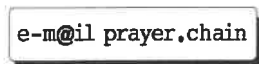
317-796-8529 Mark Harmon, President
218-255-3538 Bob Hansen
218-255-3052 Monica Foster, President Elect
218-616-2087 Wayne Koop, Secretary
651-206-3673 Wayne Pearson, Treasurer
612-708-6548 Sara Forsberg, Caring & Outreach
612-827-8236 Gretchen Pederson, Family Ministry
952-988-6961 Tony Platz, Finance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