



Calvary Lutheran Newsletter

at the Crossroads of Grace & Service

From the Crossroads of Grace and Lent ...

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. He has written **24 Hours That Changed the World.**

- This series guides us through the last day of Jesus' life.
- The DVD takes us to the Holy Land and the events include:

'The Garden of Gethsemane' on March 12th @ 4:30 and 6 pm. Soup Supper @ 5:15.

'Condemned by the Righteous' on March 19th @ 4:30 and 6 pm. Soup Supper @ 5:15.

'Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate' on March 26th @ 4:30 and 6 pm. Soup Supper @ 5:15.

'The Torture and Humiliation' of the King on April 2nd @ 4:30 and 6 pm. Soup Supper @ 5:15.

'The Crucifixion' on April 9th @ 4:30 and 6 pm. Soup Supper @ 5:15.

Holy Week begins April 13th with Palm Sunday

- Children featured at the 10:30 service.

On Maundy Thursday April 17th @ 4:30 and 6 pm

- 'The Last Supper'

Easter Saturday/Sunday April 19th and 20th

This inspiring series asks, "**Where is Jesus and where are we in the story?**"

- I have previewed each episode and the length ranges from 7 minutes to 13 minutes.
- I can tell you that Pastor Hamilton shares each part of our Lord's passion in ways that expanded my view of the last 24 hours of our Lord's life.

I invite you to come as we travel to the sites where the passion happened.

Pastor Steve

PS; Ash Wednesday with Riverside and Hubbard UMC will be March 5th @ 4:30 and 6:00 pm with a Soup Supper @ 5:15.

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 Worship Services:

Wednesday: March 5	Wednesday, March 12
Wednesday, March 19	Wednesday, March 26
Wednesday, April 2	Wednesday, April 9

Wednesday Worship is @ 4:30 & 6:00

Maundy Thursday, April 17 @ 4:30 & 6:00

Good Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 pm Riverside United Methodist

If you have **ANY** questions, feel free to call Dana Kocka @ 218-732-7284.

5TH Grade First Communion

First Communion Classes:

- † Sunday, March 23rd (9:30-10:25)
- † Sunday, April 6th (9:30-10:25)
- † Sunday, April 13th (9:30-10:25)

Orientation for Parents & 5th grader will be:

- † Wednesday, April 16 (5:00-6:00)

First Communion:

- † Thursday, April 17 (6:00 Worship)

Jr. & Sr. League Schedule

March 12th & 26th Jr. League (6:00 – 7:30)

March 5th & 19th Sr. League (6:00 – 8:00)

Calvary OWLS will be meeting for lunch @ Minnesota Fountain on March 4th @ 11:30. RSVP to Dorothy Platz @ 218-252-8029

Faith in Literature Group: Our book for March is The Sentence by Louise Erdrich. We will be meeting March 11th @ 10:00 am in the Luther Room. Questions, call Jo Judson @ 218-252-0156

~ Happy Birthday ~

Lilian 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	Rita Sundstrom	March 27
Gracyn Ruth Lembcke	March 4	Aubree Boxell	March 17	Stuart Larson	March 28
Craig VanSickle	March 4	Nicholas Graham	March 17	Luke Kosel	March 29
Cassidy Haggard	March 5	Olivia Johanning	March 17	Frank Bender	March 30
Matthew Hensel	March 5	Bjorn Jorgenson	March 17	Suzann Pederson	March 30
Julie Cook	March 6	Helen Connick	March 18	Carolyn Vrieze	March 30
Melvin Gulsvig	March 7	Emily Steffen	March 18	Laney Vrieze	March 30
Dee Kraft	March 7	Weston Briard	March 19	Andrea Hill	March 31
Mary Nepsund	March 7	Jeanie Coborn	March 19	Helen Keezer	March 31
Cuthrie Tolle	March 7	Mason Vredenburg	March 19	Tia Kocka	March 31
Mark Carlstrom	March 8	Nate Carlson	March 20	Mason Peterson	March 31
Ron Norenberg	March 8	Leah Crist	March 20	Bill Simpson	March 31
Steven Smith	March 8	Todd Fritze	March 20	Kay Winter	March 31
Lori Breitwaser	March 9	Kyllan Mjelde	March 20		
Vickie DeSchane	March 9	Harry Wenner	March 20		
Shawn Williams, Jr.	March 9	Jarrett Galzki	March 21		
Raina Adelman	March 10	Heidi Kahlstorf	March 22		
Olivia Miller	March 10	Maverick Maetzold	March 22		
Tom Stennes	March 10	Mary Pritchard-Stumbo	March 22		
Brixtyn Tomperi	March 11	Kadence Strasburg	March 22		
Michael Barr	March 12	Patty Johnson	March 24		
Chuck Brandon	March 12	Halle Landstrom	March 24		
Dee Goplerud	March 12	Jan Long	March 24		
Marcia Udem	March 12	Maya Nordick	March 24		
		Dawn Vaadeland	March 24		



~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of... Frank Kruft

Jackie Cheney Creator's Place

In Memory of... Bill Peterson

Deb & Steve Maanum Sound System
Wanda Beckman Endowment Fund

In Memory of... Heidi Lageson

Jodi & Greg Johnson Youth Group

In Memory of... Arvin Packer

Mary Bowman Hard Hat Ministry
Jackie Cheney Hard Hat Ministry
Cathrine & James Andersen Hard Hat Ministry

In Honor of... Roger Olson

Lynne & Glen Rommesmo General Fund
Sara & Mark Olson Hard Hat Ministry
Ruth Swenson Endowment Fund



The family of Heidi Lageson would like to thank all the amazing Calvary Lutheran members for their prayers and support as we grieve the loss of our daughter. Thank you also for the generous memorials given to the Calvary Youth. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Rhonda & John Lageson & family

Lent

March 2025

~ Liz Stone

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, lasting for 40 days (excluding Sundays) and leading up to Easter, Lent replicates the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 1-11).

The practice of giving something up or “fasting” from something during Lent should be considered. Jesus was devoted to us, he gave his life for us. Acts of self-denial during Lent help us to remember the struggle Jesus experienced and helps us to reorient ourselves and hearts towards Him. Jesus gave up his life for us. As an act of devotion and remembrance, we can probably each find something we could do without, something we could sacrifice for 40 days. You are challenged! What might you abstain from for 40 days? Chocolate? Social media? Smoking? TV? Video Games? Eating out? Alcohol? Fried Food? Desserts? Shopping for clothes or shoes? A hobby? Skipping your workout? What could it be? What a difference it could make!

Lenten services will be held at 4:30 and 6:00 PM every Wednesday with soup suppers at 5:15, March 2nd through April 9th. Lenten devotionals can be found on the information table in the Narthex, starting March 1st. Attend Lenten services and use the devotional to enhance your prayer life during the Lenten season.

This is a Christian season to deepen your faith and your relationship with the Lord. Give attention and thought to the sacrifice Jesus made with his life for each of us on the cross. He gave the ultimate sacrifice so we could be forgiven and live for eternity in heaven! What an incredible gift! The blood he shed for you, the blood he shed for me, washed away all the mistakes, poor choices, and sins we have made, but again, you are challenged! Take it one step further. Consider repentance. Jesus bravely gave his life. Bravely name your sins to our Lord as they come to mind and truly, wholeheartedly, courageously repent! This isn't something that needs to be done in the public square. This takes place in prayer and conversation just between you and our forgiving, loving Lord. Knowing you are forgiven is one thing, but repentance will lift the burden of those sins from your heart and mind and bring you so much closer to Christ.

In our hectic world of distractions, find time to slow down each of these 40 days. Look at your spiritual life, give it the attention it needs and reintroduce yourself to God. He wants to get to know you better.

March 2025

Did You Know?

The longest book in the New King James Version (NKJV) Bible by chapter is Psalms with 150 chapters. Psalms has 2,461 verses. If you were to measure by word count, Jeremiah is the longest book with more words than Psalms. The shortest Book of the Bible is 3 John with only 1 chapter and 14 verses, beating out 2 John by one verse. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9, "because we were only born yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are only a shadow." The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, "Jesus wept." Psalm 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man," is most often considered the center or middle verse in the Bible. The Old Testament contains 39 books while the New Testament contains 27 books for a total of 66 books between the front and back covers. The Bible is the most translated book in history. The Gutenberg Bible was the first book ever printed using movable type sometime around the year 1455. The Bible continues to be the best-selling book of all time. Esther is the only book that never directly mentions God. The Bible was composed by about 40 different authors over a period of about 1500 years! There are only 2 books of the Bible named after women: Ruth and Esther. Lutheranism is considered the first Protestant denomination. The Lutheran Church was named after Martin Luther. Martin Luther preferred the word "Evangelical" over "Lutheran". Evangelical means "Gospel". There are over 77 million Lutherans around the world. Germany, where the Reformation began, has the largest Lutheran population in Europe. The first Lutheran congregation in North America was established 1649 in what is now New York City. Reformation Day is celebrated by Lutherans on October 31st to remember the day Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses. A copy of the 95 Theses can be found in the Calvary Lutheran Narthex near the office. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran denomination in America. The ELCA was founded in 1988. The ELCA has about 3 million members in about 8,600 congregations. It is one of the largest in the world! The longest name in the Bible is "Mahershalalhashbaz" (Isaiah 8:3), who was the son of the prophet Isaiah.

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			
2025	Income	Expenses	Difference
Dec '24	\$133,537	\$121,327	\$12,210
January	\$51,425	\$64,272	(\$12,847)
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

BUILDING FUND
INCOME
January Total:
\$8,603
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
SAM / Media Specialist - Liz Stone
Treasurer - Wayne Pearson
Office Coordinator - Debby Hanneman
Worship Coordinator - Sandy James
Custodian - Collin Current
Custodian - Ronnie Benton
Organists - Sandra Lichter, Mary Nepsund, Shalom Grandy
Adult Choir & Bell Director - Mary Nepsund
Nursery Coordinator - Gracie Eischens
Bethel Cemetery - Jim Ertl

Calvary Church Council

218-255-3052 Monica Foster, President
317-796-8529 Mark Harmon, Past President
763-286-8535 Clark Ameson - 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>

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