



September 2025

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

Newsletter

From the Crossroads of Grace:

Come Join Us as we Kick Off the Church Year – A Sunday of Worship & Fun!

The countdown is on! We're starting the church year with a **powerful Sunday** you won't want to miss.

RALLY SUNDAY (Sunday, September 7th)

Let's rally together as a church family and launch into a year of growth, worship, and connection.

JOIN US FOR:

- **WORSHIP (8:30 & 10:30)**
 - **Blessing of the Backpacks:** we'll bless them for the school year ahead.
 - **Blessing of the Jerseys:** Wear your favorite team jersey & we will have a Blessing of the Jerseys.
 - * both blessings during Sunday Worship
 - Sunday School Teacher Installation
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR (9:35-10:20)**
 - Sunday School Kickoff (9:35-10:20 for ages 3 and up)
 - * Bible Stories, Music, Games, Doughnuts, etc..
 - **Check out the Core Fair**
 - * Discover ministries, groups, and opportunities to connect at Calvary & grow your faith
 - **Doughnuts, Coffee, Cookies** – sweet treats and warm smiles to start the morning right.



Let's start the church year strong — with worship, laughter, food, and community — **together!**

It's going to be a great year! Dana Kocka (SAM)

Adult Education begins Sunday September 14th @ 9:30 in the Luther Room.

"Together by Grace – Bible Conversations ... MATTHEW".

"Through scripture, God speaks to us to create and sustain faith. ... The Bible conversations you share in "Together by Grace" sessions do not simply relay information – they provide opportunities for adults to engage with the Bible and to build relationships in ways that connect with daily life and transform lives." (pp 4&5)

Suggested donation: \$13.00.

Contact office to reserve your copy!

Teacher: Pastor Steve

Christian Life Study Group will begin a new series, **The Book of Romans**, starting Monday, **September 8th** @ 4:30-5:30 in the Luther Room. Suggested donation for the class material is \$15. We are a group who enjoys lively discussions & respects each other's viewpoints! Please join us! ...the door is always open to learning more about our Lord and ourselves! If you have questions, contact Lin Norberg @ 218-255-3414.

Join us! WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

"The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." ~ Proverbs 9:10

8-session Women's Bible Study of Lifeway's "The Way of Wisdom: A Study of the Book of Proverbs" led by Sara Forsberg & Tina Crabb.

Thursday evenings 6:30-8:00 PM, beginning September 25th.

*Sign-up by Monday, **Sept 15th.***

Books available in the office.

Suggested donation: \$20.



You are invited to a **Funeral Pre-Planning Choice Seminar**, presented by the Bethel Cemetery Committee. Take this opportunity to learn how to document your funeral preferences in advance & learn about the history of Calvary's Bethel Cemetery. No obligation.

Date: Wednesday, September 10th

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: Luther Room

RSVP to Jim Ertl at ertlhome@live.com or (218) 371-1848

Justin Dennis	September 1
Asher Kocka	September 1
Don McGregor	September 1
Larry Sundsrud	September 1
Bonita Larson	September 2
Jean Anderson	September 5
Brooke Jerger	September 5
Karen Onstad	September 5
Jillian Albrecht	September 6
Ryan Cook	September 6
Jodi Gruchow	September 6
Tiffany Hansen	September 6
Florence Jacobson	September 6
Cal Broughton	September 7
Betsy Meyer	September 7
Lynn Johnson	September 8
Emmett Lingle	September 8
Susan Ryan	September 8
Jeff Adolphson	September 9
Jennifer Bateman	September 9
Craig Becker	September 9
Berry Crist	September 9
Kayley Eberhardt	September 9
Greg Johnson	September 10
Wayne Jordahl	September 10
Wyatt Newman	September 10
Jack Bugge	September 11
Sarah Bugge	September 11
Tina Crabb	September 11
Charity Ridlon	September 11
Troy Roberts	September 11
Allie Snelling	September 11
Kim Splett	September 11
Brian Johnson	September 12
Ben Stumbo	September 12



Eric Haugland	September 13
Oakley Peterson	September 13
Sarah Schultz	September 13
John Vaadeland	September 13
Rob Anderson	September 14
Mary Niklaus	September 14
Wyatt Bruce	September 15
Darrin Hoverson	September 15
Madison Johnson	September 15
John Lageson	September 15
Jenna Jordahl	September 16
Jace Weller	September 16
Lilian Alberg	September 17
Jerald Anderson	September 17
Sharon Hansen	September 17
Kim Hoff	September 17
Agnes Kyllonen	September 17
Allison Jenson	September 18
Michael Jenson	September 18
Henry Johnson	September 18
Spencer Fritze	September 19
Debbie Junge	September 19
Chelsea Dennis	September 20
Taylor Graham	September 20
Bryce Klasen	September 20
Joan McKinnon	September 20
Keith Mikus	September 20
Allison Pachel	September 20
Kyja Penning	September 20
Jaime Eischens	September 21

Christopher Baumann	September 22
Dave Carrier	September 22
Kathy Larson	September 22
Jamie Linkowitz	September 22
Rian Soderberg	September 22
Joan Hensel	September 23
Joan Jacobson	September 23
Sharon Schinnert	September 23
Nicole Shaw	September 23
Kaden Crabb	September 24
Chuck Dennis	September 24
Jenny Eischens	September 25
Tara Strasburg	September 25
Macy Boyd	September 26
Dale Johnson	September 26
Ann Krenik	September 26
Rollie Nevins	September 26
Holly Roepke	September 26
Mark Hewitt	September 27
Lili Lawhorn	September 27
Anna Miller	September 27
Emma Miller	September 27
Tucker Coborn	September 28
Clarence Davis	September 28
Pat Dove	September 28
Andrew Eischens	September 28
Drew Hilmanowski	September 28
Jill Hughes	September 28
Beth Baker-Knuttila	September 29
Macie Lichter	September 29
Gary Mills	September 30
Dion Pederson	September 30

~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of... Dean Klicker

Betty Klicker Building Fund

In Memory of... Heidi Lageson

Betty Klicker General Fund

In Memory of... Barb Masanz

Sharon & Jerry Gorden Endowment fund
Elaine Landrigan Caring & Outreach
Kathy & Hubert Davis Youth Group

In Memory of... Ila Judd

Sharon & Lynden Nelson Quilters

In Honor of... Bender & Swedberg Anniversary

Frank & Sara Forsberg Gardeners

In Honor of... Bender Anniversary

Renee & Kevin Brauer Worship Music



September 2025

Fall!

~ Liz Stone

With fall comes the excitement of Sunday School and new opportunities to become involved with the Calvary Lutheran Family to grow, worship and connect. **Sunday, September 7th** will be a busy day! It's **Rally Sunday, kicking off another year of Sunday School for our kids ages three years and up!** Sunday School Registration can be taken care of on this day and kids are treated to a bounce house, games, chalk drawing & bible stories outside in the parking lot! Sunday School will start in the classrooms on Sunday, September 14th.

Along with Rally Sunday, **The Core Fair** will be held indoors. **This event provides information about the many ways people can connect, grow and serve within our church.** Each committee and ministry organization will have a booth with displays highlighting the work they do and the opportunities available to get involved! Whether you are looking for a place to share your gifts, grow in faith, or simply learn more about the heartbeat of our church, The Core Fair offers the perfect chance to explore! You'll be able to ask questions, meet ministry leaders, and sign up for committees, activities and service opportunities that match your interests.

Worship also offers an opportunity for extra blessings. As the school year begins we pause to **bless the backpacks of our children.**

Backpacks are more than just vessels for books and supplies. They represent hopes, dreams and challenges that come with learning and growing. As we bless the backpacks, we are blessing our students with courage, curiosity and kindness. We are praying for steady friendships, patient teachers & open hearts. God goes with each of our students into their classrooms and into every new experience at school!

Another beloved sports season begins as well this time of year. Whether it's football, volleyball, soccer, or another team, jerseys remind us of the joy of play, the power of teamwork, and the excitement of cheering together. **Wear your favorite jersey for the jersey blessing! In blessing our favorite team jerseys, we celebrate community, camaraderie, and a healthy competition.** We ask God to bless athletes with safety, perseverance, and good sportsmanship, and to remind us, as fans, that the greatest victories are found not just on the scoreboard, but in the ways we show respect, grace, encouragement and unity.

Blessings of the backpacks for school and jerseys for play mark the rhythms of fall in our church community. They remind us that God cares about every part of our lives: our learning, our playing, our working and our resting. **Wherever we go, into classrooms or stadiums, on to playgrounds or playing fields, God's presence is with us!**

Calvary Happenings!

September 2025

Calvary Community Celebration!!

WHO:

Calvary Lutheran is hosting a Community Celebration Event for all ages!

WHAT:

An afternoon of live music featuring the praise & worship bands from Calvary Lutheran, Eastside & Faithbridge churches, bounce houses, a dunk tank, food trucks!

WHEN:

Sunday, September 14, 2025
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

WHERE:

Calvary Lutheran Church
Parking Lot

ADMISSION:

Free

Jr & Sr League Kickoff

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

September 17

Senior League (6-8)

September 24

Junior League (6-7:30)

Confirmation

8th Grade: November 5th & 19th (6-7:30)
December 3rd & 17th (6-7:30)
March 4th & 18th (6 - 8)
April 1st & 15th (6 - 7:30)

9th Grade: **1st Semester-Wednesday (7-8)**
September 10th , 17th , 24th
October 1st , 8th , 22nd , 29th
November 5th , 12th , 19th
2nd Semester- To Be Determined

10th Grade: **Final Confirmation Meeting**
Sunday, Sept. 21st @ 11:30 FH

Wednesday, October 22nd

Gown Pick up 7:45 pm
Rehearsal 8:00 pm

Confirmation Sunday

October 26th 10:30 am

Sunday School – Ages 3-Adult

September 7th 9:35 – 10:20

Release Time - Wednesdays

Begins October 1st

Grades 1-3 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Grades 4-6 2:00 – 3:00 pm

We are still in search of Release Time teachers. If you are willing to team teach a class, please contact Dana at 218-732-7284.

APPROVED
Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes
July 8th, 2025

Members Present: Monica Foster, Mark Harmon, Clark Arneson, Wayne Koop, Sara Forsberg, Tony Platz, Shalom Grandy, Nicole Brandt and Stuart Larson. **Staff Present:** SAM Dana Kocka, SAM Liz Stone and Wayne Pearson.

President Monica asked SAM Dana to open the Council Meeting in prayer.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Motion by Clark Arneson, 2nd Sara Forsberg, to approve June 10, 2025 minutes, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson presented an Accounts Balance Sheet which was reviewed/discussed. Total June income was \$57,272 and total expenses were \$60,695 which subtracted \$3,423 from the checking account. Mortgage income was \$7,266. Mortgage payment \$10,428 was made. The mortgage balance is now \$1,248,098.

Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: No meeting. The Pickle Jar donations will go to Community Celebration in August, and SAM Seminary Training in September. Future suggestion was to donate again to the Food Shelf.

Family Ministry: Young Families picnic planned for Heartland Park 1st week of August.

Finance: As written. Temple Talk planned July 26 & 27. A 5yr Sprinkler inspection is required at \$1600.

Learning: Meeting July 22 to discuss confirmation requirements.

Youth: Meeting this week. Youth Mission experiences to be told at 3 worship services in August.

Innovation: As written. A Parish Nurse program is being discussed.

Business:

Community Celebration: A letter to 14 area churches will be sent inviting participation and support in the Community Celebration featuring spiritual comradery, free food, Dunk Tank, Bounce House fun, and 3 Bands to play. Public is invited on Sunday, Sept 14th. Budget to be presented at next meeting.

New Member: Motion to accept new members, Jed Eix and Joe Delaney by Tony Platz, 2nd Shalom Grandy, carried.

Core Fair: A Fall Core Fair will be held on September 7th, Rally Sunday.

Adjournment: President Monica Foster adjourned the Council Meeting at 629 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

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

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	\$76,015	\$57,485	\$18,530
March	\$70,456	\$59,524	\$10,932
April	\$49,453	\$68,300	(\$18,847)
May	\$49,529	\$57,430	(\$ 7,901)
June	\$57,272	\$60,695	(\$ 3,423)
July	\$44,420	\$61,075	(\$15,755)
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

BUILDING FUND
INCOME

July Total:
\$5,671
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 Arneson - 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