



November 2025

Calvary Lutheran

at the Crossroads of Grace & Service

Newsletter



From the Crossroads of Grace: If I were to ask you to describe your dream home, what would you describe? Most likely, you would describe a beautiful home, set upon a beautiful location of your choice. Most people find themselves focusing on the size, the features, the upgrades, the garage, the kitchen, the bathrooms, the master bedroom, the acreage, the lake, you get the point...

The foundation is often overlooked. I find this ironic because the foundation is perhaps the most important part of the structure, yet often, it's not even a thought. The reality is, if the foundation of your home is weak or bad; the beauty, the size, the location, the amenities, they won't matter when a huge storm comes with torrential rain, heavy winds, snow or sleet. When building a house, one always looks for a solid foundation, set upon a rock.

In Matthew 7:21-29, Jesus reminds us that a strong life isn't built on words alone but on living out His truth. He tells the story of two builders — one who built on rock and one who built on sand. Both faced the same storms, but only the house with the solid foundation stood firm. Jesus' message was simple yet powerful. It is important for us to hear and be in God's word, as well as living it out.

As a child, I remember singing at the top of my lungs, "Don't Build Your House on the Sandyland," from my favorite vinyl record, *Psalty the Singing Songbook*. From my earliest days, that song spoke into my life. I can still remember asking questions about the lyrics. I knew what a solid foundation was, but as a child, I couldn't grasp why anyone would want to build their life on anything else. As I grew older, I understood that some people would rather build on the beach, where the view is better, the ocean breeze is inviting, and everything seems picture-perfect.

In the same way we fill our lives with things that we love; Family and Friends, activities, music, hobbies, collections, social media, you get the point. And all of those things that fill our lives, they take our money, they own our moments, they control our hearts, they devour our time, our sweet & precious time. We reach for the stars and we dream big. But my question for you is this: what are you building your life upon? When life gets difficult, are you able to withstand the storms that come your way?

Today, I challenge you to look to the Lord as your anchor and build a firm foundation that can withstand any storm. Spend time in prayer, talk to God, stay rooted in God's Word, go to church, and let God's truth and guidance shape your every decision.

Junior & Senior League & Confirmation

November 5th	Sr. League	6:00-8:00 pm
	9 th Grade Confirmation	7:00-8:00 pm
	8 th Grade Confirmation	6:00-7:30 pm
November 12th	Jr. League	6:00-7:30 pm
	9 th Grade Confirmation	7:00-8:00 pm
November 19th	Sr. League	6:00-8:00 pm
	9 th Grade Confirmation	7:00-8:00 pm
	8 th Grade Confirmation	6:00-7:30 pm
November 26th	NO League — Happy Thanksgiving!	

Youth Mission Trip Information Meeting

What: 2026 Youth Mission Trip Meeting
Where: Sunday School Youth Commons
When: Sunday, November 2nd @ 11:30 am
Who: Parents AND Youth (Grades 9-12)



Christmas Wreaths

\$20.00

Available beginning at Noon on Tuesday,
November 25th until sold out.

Young Children's Sunday on November 2nd, Three Year Olds will be presented with their Story Bible with Family Dinner following the 10:30 service. RSVP to Jo Judson @ 218-252-0156

Thanksgiving Worship will be held @ Hubbard Methodist Church @ 7 pm on **November 27th**.

Calvary Owl's will be meeting for breakfast @ 9:00 am **November 4th** @ The Cotty in Menahga. Please RSVP to Chris Luckeroth @ 218-255-7467. Please join us!

Faith & Literature meets on **November 11th** @ 10:00 am in the Luther Room. The book will be *The Cold Millions a novel by Jess Walter*. Any questions call Jo Judson @ 218-252-0156

Kara Carter (Gardner)	November 1
Linda Horsager	November 1
Jessica Kimball	November 1
Brian Behrens	November 2
Ruth Hed	November 2
Jaxon Lampl	November 2
Jayne Moyer	November 2
Eli Smith	November 2
Walter Stachon	November 2
Ayla Breitwaser	November 3
Shane Graham	November 3
Jean Kruff	November 3
Nolan Pederson	November 3
Dave Sharbo	November 3
Alexis Stevenson	November 3
Haley Tate	November 3
Erna Johnson	November 4
Jed Eix	November 5
Abbie Randall	November 5
Adam Shaw	November 5
Landon Strasburg	November 5
Marjorie Austin	November 6
LaDonne Edelman	November 6
Shane Kirlin	November 6
Isabel Meyer	November 6
Marleen Seach	November 6
Allie Edelman	November 7
Lela Glander	November 7
Steff Peterson	November 7
Rick Swanson	November 7
Shawn Tate	November 7
Jolynn Wettels	November 7
Josh Jordahl	November 8
Marcus Benson	November 9
Kelsey Christofferson	November 9
Marty Peterson	November 9
Damien Solien	November 9
Mike Ridlon	November 10
Pat Sullivan	November 10
Peter Young	November 10
Emmalynn Cook	November 11
Charlotte Peterson	November 11
Jodi Sullivan	November 11



Jeffrey Lageson	November 12
Curt McCabe	November 12
Steve Norby	November 12
Mark Evans	November 13
Maria Kohrs	November 13
Jill Manlove	November 13
Bryce Brovitch	November 14
Hadley Hedberg	November 14
Caelee Lundy	November 14
Hunter Safratowich	November 14
Lori Cease	November 15
Conner Hanson	November 15
Janet Kahring	November 15
Karen Welte	November 15
Patrick Simmons	November 16
Bradley Graham	November 17
Leah Hilmanowski	November 17
Cal Kehr	November 17
Alex Kirlin	November 17
Wayne Thompson	November 17
Seth Breitwaser	November 18
Eddie Carlson	November 18
Chris Coborn	November 18
Cole Coborn	November 18
Ryann Hagen	November 18
Kathy Nevins	November 18
Laila Davis	November 19
Makenzie Eberhardt	November 19
Karen Sharbo	November 19
Jeni Simpson	November 19
Jill Simpson	November 19
Jo Ashmore	November 20
Candace Gulsvig	November 20
Sarah Loktu	November 20
Dave Snelling	November 20

Cooper Baumann	November 21
Luka Kondziolka	November 21
Lynn Litzau	November 21
Macy Miller	November 21
Linda Paulson	November 21
Maurice Spangler	November 21
David Strombeck	November 21
Benn Sundsrud	November 21
Jerry Swedberg	November 21
Matthew Bruce	November 22
Kenzie Strasburg	November 22
Emma Vrieze	November 22
Amanda Bruce	November 23
Audrey Carlson	November 23
Scott Leshovsky	November 23
Dodie Egge	November 24
Sutton Hansen-Trumble	November 24
Terri Churchman	November 25
Josie Gill	November 25
Alayna Hensel	November 25
Rae Ann Jacobson	November 25
Käye Molin	November 25
Reese Splett	November 25
Olivia Davis	November 26
Dale Kendall	November 26
Symantha Massie	November 26
Gary Edevold	November 27
Pat Gray	November 27
Judy Novak	November 28
Whitney Steffel	November 28
Susan Wolfe	November 28
Dave Free	November 29
Keith Hed	November 29
Ronald Litzau	November 29
William Meggers	November 29
Krista Carpenter	November 30
Laureen Cunningham	November 30
Evan Edevold	November 30
Diana Eischens	November 30
Noah Huot	November 30
Zachery Lilleodden	November 30
Jed Nordin	November 30
Karen Roberts	November 30

~ Memorials ~

In Memory of... Kornelia Folkestad

Jackie Cheney	Gardens
Julie & Amy Bieber	Hard Hat Ministry
Colleen & Duane Folkestad	Hard Hat Ministry
Susan & Gary Heikes	Hard Hat Ministry
Luann & Michael Gesell	Hard Hat Ministry
Jana & Jon Peterson	Hard Hat Ministry
Nancy McDowell	Pastor's Discretionary
Bickey & Frank Bender	Endowment Fund



Answers to Pastor Steve's Last Month Quiz

Indulgences:

All are correct. Indulging yields to desires like eating too much. It is an extension of time for payment or homework. More importantly, it is remission from punishment in purgatory, and it was also used as payment for knights who fought in the crusades.

Purgatory:

All are correct. It describes the land between trenches during WWI. It is a state of being 'betwixt and between'. Most importantly, it is a place for purification through fire for the removal of sins. It is also the area on the football field that a player does not know which way to go.

October 31, 1517:

Martin Luther posted 95 statements for debate about the sale of indulgences and other issues.

Father of the Reformation:

Martin Luther challenged the authority of the pope from the higher authority of Scripture. He was the first not to be martyred and freedom of religion was allowed in the German states that were protestant.

Luther's reply to the demand that he recants or renounce his writings is two-fold. First, he did recant his attacks on certain people that went too far. Second, captive to the Word of God that we are justified by faith in Jesus, he would not.

Luther was taken into protective custody and hid at Wartburg Castle to protect him from being declared, 'Outlaw'. This meant that anyone could kill Luther at no cost. His hidden identity was Knight George and while there he translated the New Testament from Greek and Latin to German.

Luther's simple message is that God loves us so much that God's son Jesus died for us and gives us eternal life. Amazing Grace.

Finally, God's Word of promise is true in a world of turmoil when times are good and difficult.



A Little Better

November 2025

~ Liz Stone

There are times in our lives when we come upon things that are difficult to face—moments that feel too heavy, too messy, or simply beyond what we think we can handle. In those moments, it's easy to step back, to tell ourselves that we don't have the right words, the right resources, or the right strength to make a difference.

But what if the goal isn't to fix everything? What if the question we ask ourselves is simply, "How can I make this a little better?"

I think of a caregiver walking into a patient's room filled with suffering and neglect. The situation overwhelming. There appears to be too much to fix all at once. Instead of giving in to discouragement, the caregiver begins with one small act: opening a window to let in fresh air, offering a glass of water, or gently cleaning a wound. Bit by bit, the situation becomes a little better...for both patient and provider.

That simple phrase, 'a little better', reminds me of how God often works in our lives, not always through grand miracles, but through small acts of grace that ripple outward.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me. ~Matthew 25:40

Something holy happens when we begin to make things a little better. A glimmer of hope can be seen in the eyes of the one being helped, and, most likely, the one offering help feels that same hope stirring within. The burden becomes lighter, the air feels different, and what once seemed impossible begins to feel possible. Grace moves quietly between giver and receiver until both are changed.

Sometimes "a little better" looks like sitting beside someone who is grieving, not with answers, but with presence. Sometimes it's picking up the phone to check on a neighbor. It might be forgiving a small wrong, offering encouragement to someone who's discouraged, or taking a few minutes to pray for someone you know is struggling. Each small act carries the potential to ease a burden, to bring hope, to reflect God's love.

We may not always be able to fix what's broken or heal what's hurt, but we can bring a little light into difficult spaces. Often, that light, however small, shines brighter than we know. With God's help, even the smallest act of compassion can become a doorway to grace.

Action Thought: *How can I make this a little better?*

Who Are We In the Dark?

~ Liz Stone

"Public victories mean little if we keep losing private battles"
~ R. Miller, 2025

It's easy to celebrate the moments that others see, the times we appear generous, kind, or faithful in the light of day. But what about the moments no one sees? What about the choices we make when no one is watching?

Even the smallest "doing right" in private matters deeply. Those moments shape the person we truly are. They form our character, not the public recognition. If we cut corners, hold on to resentment, or live a certain way one in public and another in private, we create a split within ourselves, and it's exhausting to live divided.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:6, "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Our private actions, prayers, and choices are seen by God, who knows the truth of who we are. What we do in secret is not hidden from Him; it's where our faith becomes real.

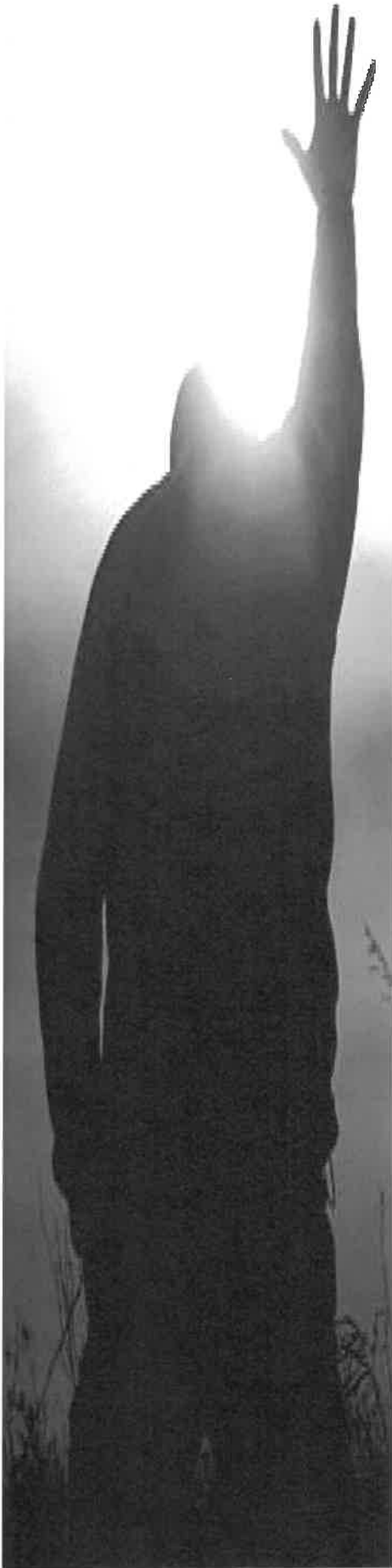
We can't be one kind of person in the light and another in the dark. Eventually, the truth of who we are shows through. **As Luke 8:17 says, "For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light."** The closer we walk with Jesus, the easier it becomes to say no to small compromises and the whisper of sin.

Jesus didn't live a double life. He didn't say one thing in public and do another in private. His integrity did not waver. What you see with Jesus is what you get. His light doesn't flicker between honesty and pretense; it simply shines true.

We're called to live that way too. We are called to be reflections of Christ's truth and love, both in public and when we're alone. That might mean choosing honesty when it's inconvenient, forgiving someone who'll never know, or praying for guidance & strength in a moment of quiet temptation.

When we "do right" in private, even in the smallest ways, something holy happens: the light within us grows stronger, making the right choices becomes easier. When that light shines from the inside out, it becomes something others can see, not as performance, but as authenticity.

The next time you find yourself at a quiet crossroads, one where only you and God know what's at stake, remember: the victory that matters most isn't the one that others will see. It's the one that happens in your heart.



DRAFT Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 9, 2025 530 PM

Members Present: Monica Foster, Mark Harmon, Clark Arneson, Wayne Koop, Sara Forsberg, Gretchen Pederson, Tony Platz, Joe McKinnon, and Stuart Larson. **Staff Present:** Pastor Steve Norby, SAM Dana Kocka, SAM Liz Stone and Wayne Pearson. SAM Dana Kocka was recognized and thanked for 20 years of faithful service to Calvary!

Pastor Steve opened the Council Meeting with a short devotion and prayer.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Motion by Tony Platz, 2nd Mark Harmon, to approve August 12th, 2025 minutes, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson was recognized and thanked for 10 years of faithful service to Calvary! Wayne Pearson presented the Accounts Balance Sheet which was reviewed/accepted. Total August income was \$59,249 and total expenses were \$55,264 which added \$3,984 to the checking account. Mortgage income was \$8,803. Mortgage payment \$10,428 was made. The mortgage balance is now \$1,235,359.

Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: The September Pickle Jar donations will go to Midwest Mission humanitarian relief, October to Headwaters Animal Shelter, PR2PR in November and Seminary Support in December. Faith Community Nursing Health Ministry has received many volunteers in the initial stages of launch.

Family Ministry: As Written. Core enthusiastically supporting Community Celebration.

Finance: As written. Motion to change copy machine 5-year contract support to Liberty Business Services at \$375/month for 11,000 copies by Tony Platz, 2nd Stuart Larson, carried.

Learning: As written. Motion to approve Confirmation updates by Dana Kocka, 2nd Sara Forsberg, carried. Pastor Steve teaches 9th Grade Confirmation classes and SAM Liz Stone teaches 8th Grade Confirmation.

Resource Ministry: As written. Sunday School windows to be frosted/tinted.

Worship Ministry: No meeting.

Youth Ministry: Youth will help run Community Celebration activities. Will purchase 9 Square in Air and GAGA Ball.

Innovation: As written. CDM app to be activated for enhanced computer performance.

Business:

Head Usher leaders needed.

Gideon Bible Presentation: Announcement during Jan worship service. Interested folks to meet between services.

Community Celebration: The Celebration Sunday Sept 14th 1-4 PM will feature spiritual comradery, free food, Dunk Tank, Bounce Houses, and 3 Bands to play. Area churches and Public are invited. Logistics fully supported and many volunteers scheduled. Some food, beverage and activities will be donated.

Other Business: Calvary will inquire about an updated Police safety briefing.

Adjournment: Chair adjourned the meeting ending with our 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	\$59,248	\$55,264	\$3,984
September	\$62,599	\$61,566	\$1,033
October			
November			
December			

**BUILDING FUND
INCOME**

September Total:
\$8,996

Monthly Mortgage:
\$10,429

If you are no longer interested in receiving the Calvary Lutheran Newsletter, please call the church office @ 218-732-7284 and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

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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