

January 2026

The Calvary Corner

Calvary Lutheran Church, 112 South Park Ave, P.O. Box 187 Park Rapids, MN 56470, (218) 732-7284

Trust Like Joseph

~ Liz Stone

Life doesn't always unfold the way we expect. We make plans, imagine the future, and picture a smooth path forward, but then something happens to disrupt it. A relationship shifts, a dream falters, or an unexpected responsibility lands squarely in our lap. It's in these moments that faith is tested, and the choices we make may define who we become.

The nativity story captures this tension. Before there are angels, shepherds, or a manger, there is Joseph facing a life that suddenly looks nothing like the one he planned. Matthew tells us simply, "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." (Matt. 1:24). With just one sentence, Scripture reveals a profound act of faith. Joseph chose trust.

He trusted that God was present in the disruption of his life. He trusted when his carefully imagined future unraveled. He chose a path that would bring misunderstanding, whispered accusations, and lifelong questions. He chose to stand beside Mary when walking away would have been easier. He chose to raise a child who was not biologically his own. He chose obedience, not because it was simple or safe, but because it was faithful. Joseph's story may start to sound a lot like ours.

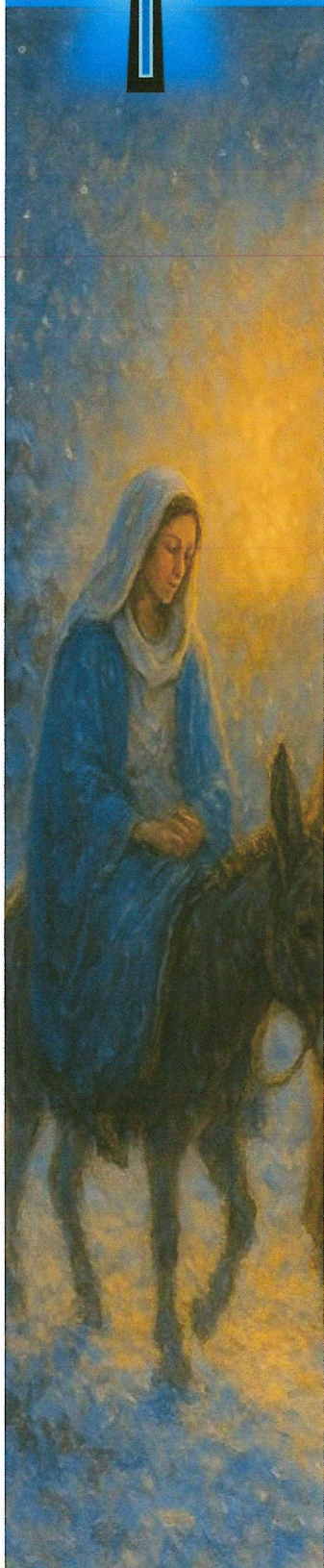
Most of us don't face angels in dreams, but we do face Joseph-like moments...times when life doesn't go according to plan, when expectations collapse, when the road ahead feels unfamiliar and uncertain. Often the choice before us isn't between right and wrong, but between what makes sense and what requires trust.

Sometimes faith looks like choosing compassion when judgment would be easier. Sometimes it looks like standing by someone when walking away would protect our reputation. Sometimes it looks like telling the truth when silence feels safer. Sometimes it looks like forgiving when resentment feels justified.

Joseph reminds us that prayer isn't just about asking God to bless the plans we've already made. Prayer is about listening, especially when God interrupts us. Faith isn't having all the answers; faith is trusting that God is present even when the path forward is unclear.

Joseph's story tells us something essential about who God is and how God works. God does not wait for perfect circumstances to come among us. God comes into ordinary mornings and average days and into disrupted lives and into hard choices. God comes into the places where trust feels risky and obedience feels costly.

This is Emmanuel; God with us. God with us in our fear and with us in our uncertainty. God with us in the moments when we don't know what to do next. And like Joseph, we are invited, not to have everything figured out, not to follow our own plan, but to wake up, step forward, and choose trust.



Kathy Olsen	January 1
Eric Billing	January 2
Jason Runyan	January 3
Elaine Landrigan	January 4
Hyatt Safratowich	January 7
Mary Beth Anderson	January 8
Julia Grande	January 9
Nykai Tomperi	January 9
Caitlyn Wolfe-Hanson	January 9
Amy Aasen	January 10
Bailee Hedberg	January 10
Bailee Jerger	January 10
Janet Nepsund	January 10
Lucas Pritchett	January 10
Carol Winskowski	January 10
Bennett Berttunen	January 11
Wayne Classon	January 12
Shalom Grandy	January 12
Audrey Hensel	January 12
Rhonda Lageson	January 12
Trever Nyland	January 12
Ben Soderberg	January 12
Tyler Breitwaser	January 13
John Cook	January 13
Bob Hammerstrom	January 13
Ben Koppelman	January 14
Mihaela Solien	January 14
Barb Billing	January 15
Alec Nordin	January 15



Briella Boyd	January 16
John Lund	January 16
Terri Peterson	January 16
Matt Walker	January 16
Micheal Kruger	January 17
Royce Peterson	January 17
Landyn Schmidt	January 17
Arianne Warmbold	January 17
Harper Fogarty	January 18
Pat Snelling	January 18
Zach Behrens	January 20
Lewis Herrin	January 20
Tom Jacobson	January 20
Brenda Norby	January 21
Gus Grzybowski	January 22
Robert Bruce	January 23
Wayne Koop	January 23
Jerry Leverson	January 23
Brooke McMahon	January 23

Tammy Boyd	January 24
Aliazah Paulson	January 24
Justin Tweedale	January 24
Betty Beireis	January 25
Nikky Pederson	January 25
Shari Clack	January 26
Michael Sorenson	January 26
Quinlin Linkowitz	January 27
Roger Olson	January 27
Bria McMahon	January 28
Grace Baumann	January 29
Kris Lund	January 29
Darlene Swanson	January 29
Ethan Cox	January 30
Barb Pyburn	January 30
Betty Thomsen	January 30
Jerry Bunting	January 31
Angie Graham	January 31
Laura Kirlin	January 31
Mara Lundgren	January 31
Jan Swedberg	January 31
Sara Tate	January 31
Kevin Thompson	January 31

~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of.... Shirley Lingle

Leslie & Ron Neppi	Library
Emmit Lingle	Hard Hat Ministry
Barbara Peterson	Pastor's Discretionary
D.C. Swanson	Library
Char & Rod Westrum	Library
Susan Klein	Library
Jo & Al Judson	Endowment
Sharon & Jerry Gorden	Endowment
Stacy Bauman & Robert Sauvageau	Endowment
Nora & Bill Simpson	Endowment
Peggy & Daniel Sauvageau	Endowment
Sharon Goplerud	Endowment
Julianne Angstman	Endowment
Ruth & Brian Long	Endowment
Cleo & John Young	Endowment
Hope & Donald Seeger	Endowment
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Kyidt	Endowment
Susan & Richard Hinrichs	Endowment
Mara Lundgren	Endowment
Jill Stevenson	Endowment
Linda & Dale Grover	Endowment
Jill & Deane Johnson	Endowment
Donna Simpson	Endowment

In Memory of.... Carolyn Pratt

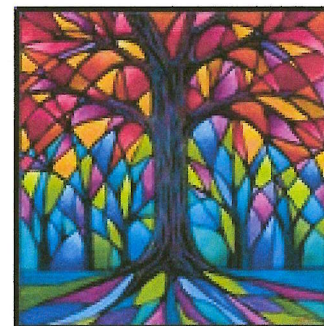
Carol Schreurs	Music
Sara & Shawn Tate	Music
Marjorie Mills	Music
Margaret Tutty & Murray Fant	Music

In Memory of.... My Parents

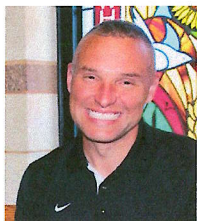
Jodi Gruchow	Art & Decorating
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In Honor of.... Jill Johnson's Birthday

Diane Reuter	Quilters
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**"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come."
~ 2 Corinthians 5:17**

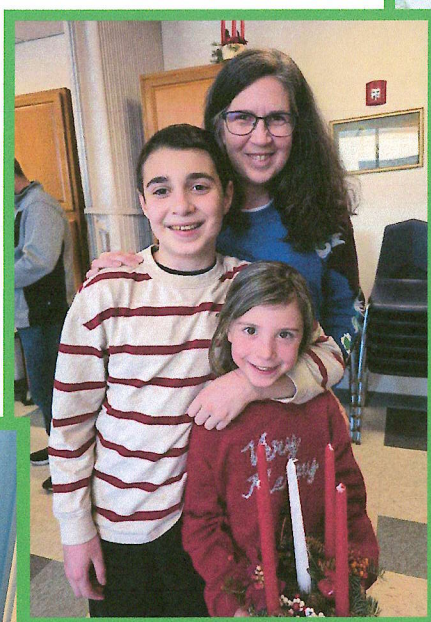


Happy New Year! Every year millions of people from around the world make New Years resolutions, resolutions to improve themselves, their lifestyles, or their choices. This year as we continue to look onward towards yet another year, may our hearts continue to be transformed. May we look towards Christ as our example because ultimately our greatest forgiveness and new beginning is found in Christ. No matter what the past holds, God restores us from the inside out. He doesn't just improve us—He makes us new.

As this year begins, may you bring Christ with you in your new beginnings. Let His love, truth, grace, hope and forgiveness shape your choices. May His Word guide your steps, and may His Spirit transform you from the inside out!

Happy New Year! Dana Kocka

The Calvary Lutheran Advent Event!



Calvary Happenings

Jr. & Sr. League Schedule

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

January 4 th	Sr. League	6:00 – 8:00
January 11 th	Jr. League	6:00 – 7:30
January 18 th	Sr. League	6:00 – 8:00
January 25 th	Jr. League	6:00 – 7:30

8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Schedule

January 7 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
January 14 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
January 21 st	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
January 28 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
February 4 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
February 11 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00

No Classes During Lent

April 8 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
April 15 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
April 22 nd	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00
April 29 th	9 th Grade	7:00 – 8:00

March 4 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
March 18 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
April 1 st	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
April 15 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00

Annual Meeting
Notice
January 25th @
11:35 am



Sunday, January 25th, 2026

(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)

Thank you to all the Youth Silent Auction bidders! The sale definitely helps the expenses for this meaningful Mission Trip. It was a great success!

Give the Gift of Life

A Blood Drive will be held at Calvary Lutheran on **January 5th, 6th & 7th**. Make appointments on line @ www.vitalant.org or contact Kim Hoff @ 218-280-6335

Calvary Owls will meet for breakfast on **January 7th** @ Great Northern Cafe. Please RSVP to Chris Luckeroth @ 218-255-7467

Youth Mission Trip Meeting is scheduled for **January 11th** @ 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please attend to get updates!

Faith & Literature meets on **January 13th** @ 10:00 am in the Luther Room. The book will ***The Midnight Library by Matt Haig***. Any questions call Jo Judson @ 218-252-0156

Adult Community Book Study

Mary Magdalene Revealed: The First Apostle, Her Feminist Gospel & the Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet
(by Meggan Watterson)

Thursdays, 5:30pm -7:00 @ Calvary Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN

A Six-Week Study – beginning **January 8th**
Class dates: January 8, 15, 22, 29, and February 5, 12

A light supper meal will be served at each session! Books will be available at the first session. If you have questions, contact Cindy Martens @ 507-273-7211

Class size is **limited to 20**.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

11:35 a.m. January 25, 2026

DEVOTION

AGENDA

I. BUSINESS

- A. APPROVE MINUTES
- B. SPENDING GUIDE
- C. BALLOTS/ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- D. BETHEL CEMETERY - Ratify By Law Changes
- E. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

II. REPORTS

- 5. Pastor Steve Norby
- 5. Pastor's Discretion
- 6. Youth & Education Director, Dana Kocka, SAM
- 6. Media Specialist, Liz Stone, SAM
- 7. President's Report
- 8. Calvary Statistics
- 8. Treasurer Report
- 9. Caring & Outreach Ministry
- 9. Family Ministry
- 9. Resource Ministry
- 10. Finance Ministry
- 10. Learning Ministry

- 11. Learning Ministry (con't)
- 11. Carol Hammer Fund
- 11. Bethel Cemetery
- 12. Mission Endowment
- 12. Worship Ministry
- 13. Youth Ministry
- 13. Innovation Core
- 14. Hard Hat Ministry
- 15. Hard Hat Ministry (con't)
- 15. Quilting
- 16. Baby Quilts
- 16. Puerto Rico Mission

III. ADJOURNMENT—LORD'S PRAYER

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
11:45 a.m. January 25th, 2026



Sunday, January 25th, 2026

(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)

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	\$42,624	\$64,824	(\$22,200)
November	\$62,380	\$59,564	\$ 2,816
December			

BUILDING FUND INCOME

November Total:
\$7,245

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.

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

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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
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 linanorenberg@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