

February 2026

The Calvary Corner

The Face of Jesus

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

~ Liz Stone

What if, in every interaction we have, we imagined we were looking into the face of Jesus? Not as a metaphor, but quite literally, pausing long enough to picture Christ looking back at us through the eyes of the person in front of us.

At the grocery store. In traffic. At school. On social media. On the television. Across the table from someone who disagrees with us. In conversations that feel tense, rushed, or misunderstood.

Would we say the things we say? Would we do the things we do? Would we think the thoughts we think?

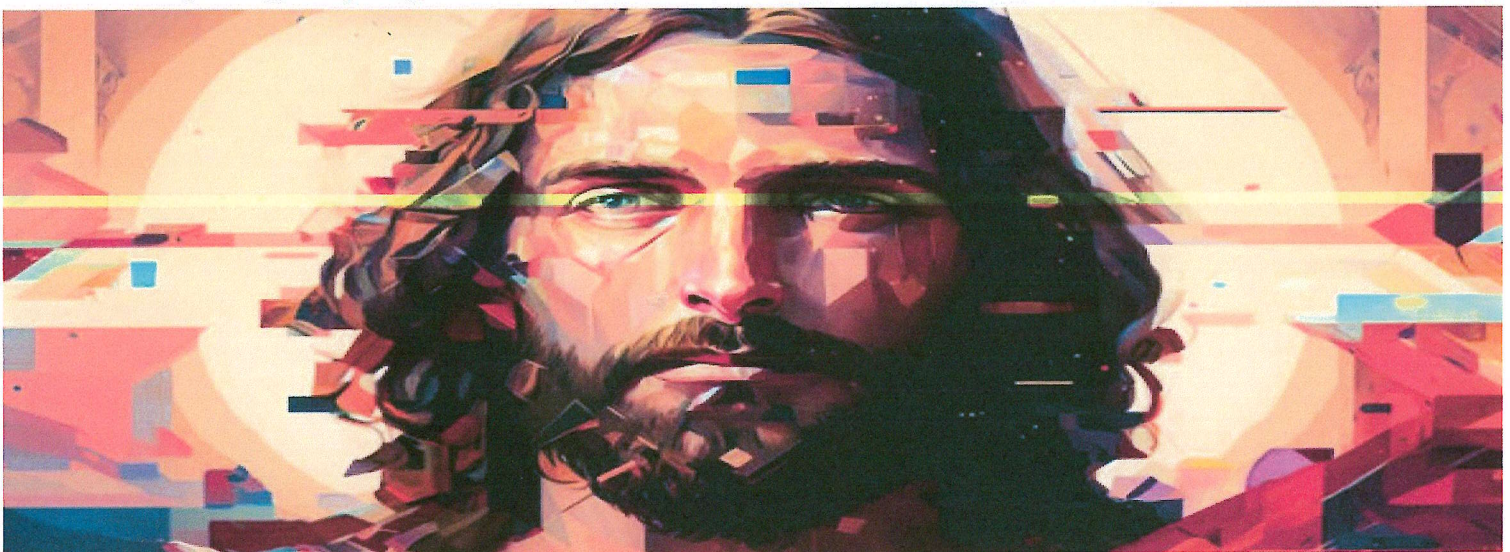
Jesus himself invites us into this way of seeing. In Matthew's Gospel, he tells us, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV). Jesus locates himself not in abstraction, but in people...in real, imperfect, complicated people.

We live in a tumultuous world, one that constantly urges us to take sides, draw lines, and reduce one another to labels. It is easy to forget that Jesus never looks at us that way. While we often see only actions or opinions, Jesus sees hearts. As Scripture reminds us, "The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Jesus sees the choices we make, and it is safe to say he is not pleased with all of them, but he does not hold them against us. Instead, his heart breaks for us. He understands the pain, fear, and heartbreak that sometimes lead to the choices we wish we had not made. As Paul writes, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Grace comes first. Always.

When we begin to see others the way Jesus sees us, with honesty, compassion, and mercy, we are freed from the burden of judgment and invited into empathy. Jesus tells us, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

So let us look at one another differently. Let us intentionally see the face of Jesus in each person we encounter...pausing, imagining, and allowing that vision to shape how we speak, how we act, and how we love.



Tristan Breitwieser	February 1
Marilyn Klettenberg	February 1
Danielle Kondziolka	February 1
Mary Krabbenhoft	February 1
Reed Mykland	February 1
Jerry Benham	February 2
Colton Carey	February 2
Nancy Hall	February 2
Desarae Kohrs	February 2
Nichole Christofferson Weston	February 3
Aubree Griebe	February 3
Eryn Simpson	February 3
Connor Smythe	February 4
Wayne Gaustad	February 5
John Jacobson	February 5
Alexander Boyd	February 6
Robert Grandy	February 7
Wesley Splett	February 7
Alyza Edevold	February 8
Justin Peterson	February 8
Grant Ertl	February 9
David Hepola	February 9
Steven Osterman	February 9
Logan Lewis (Norby)	February 10
Sherry Safratowich	February 10
TJ Simon	February 10
Thomas Fogarty	February 11
Allan Kiecker	February 11
Presley-Anne Partlow	February 11
Olivia Peterson	February 12
Jan Pederson	February 13
Linda Van Bruggen	February 13
Alice Hawes	February 14
Cameron Hoyt	February 14
Christine Lilleodden	February 14



Christian Kurtz	February 15
Tanya Miller	February 15
Rod Westrum	February 15
Bill Cowman	February 16
Wendy Crandall	February 16
Warren Warmbold	February 16
Les Hansen	February 17
Hazel Rasmussen	February 17
Jack Bateman	February 18
Katrina Ellingson	February 18
Janet Graalum	February 18
Gary Indrehus	February 18
Morgan Koppelman	February 18
Alex Pederson	February 18
Shayla Rogness	February 18
Lindsay Bugge	February 19
Jennifer Gytri	February 19
Chelsea Johnson	February 19
Kelsey Kruger	February 19
Mary Nelson	February 19
Dana Kocka	February 20
Mark Behrens	February 21
Kay Dyre	February 21
Marty Leistikow	February 21

Tony Olson	February 21
Lana Schmidt	February 21
Joel Steffel	February 21
Steve Cunningham	February 22
Dave Otterness	February 22
Norita Smith	February 22
Patty Stephens	February 22
Marcy Jacobson	February 23
Robert Miller	February 23
Heidi Pachel	February 23
John Vrieze	February 23
Linda Eickman	February 24
Clayton Hoyt	February 24
John (Jack) Hughes	February 24
Nick Michaelson	February 24
Jan Schilling	February 24
Bob Schinnert	February 24
Char Westrum	February 24
Guy Griebe	February 25
Jessica Pritchett	February 25
Darien Simon	February 25
Jon Smythe	February 25
Monica Foster	February 26
Bob Hansen	February 26
Kendra Mikesch	February 26
Mandy Runyan	February 26
Deb Maanum	February 27
Kolby Crabb	February 28
Danika Jensen	February 28
David Penning	February 28
Amy Schmidt	February 29

~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of.... Roger Olson

Jackey Chaney	Hard Hat Ministries
Mark & Pam Evans	Endowment Fund
Nancy McDowell	Seminary Student
Kathy & Stuart Larson	Bethel Cemetery
Lori & Ted Johnson	Puerto Rico
Steve & Deb Maanum	Youth Group
Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund
Betty & Jeff Haukebo	Endowment Fund
Sara & Frank Forsberg	Youth Group
Jeanne Flagstad	Hard Hat Ministries
Gail & Jerry Leverson	Hard Hat Ministries
Bickey & Frank Bender	Hard Hat Ministries
Jill Manlove	Pastor's Discretion
Jane & Paul Graalum	Hard Hat Ministries
Jan & Cal Kehr	Hard Hat Ministries
Sherry & Tim McPherson	Hard Hat Ministries
Char & Rod Westrum	Friends of Itasca
Caludia Quinnild-Souba	Hard Hat Ministries
Audrey Carlson	Seminary Student
Cheri & Cedric Gustafson	Hard Hat Ministries
JoAnne & Jerry Perpich	Hard Hat Ministries

In Memory of.... Roger Olson (con't)

Lin & Ron Norenberg	Hard Hat Ministries
Lin & Ron Norenberg	Bethel Cemetery
Karen Roberts	Youth Group
Edward Poitras	Hard Hat Ministries
Sara & Shawn Tate	Youth Group
Michael Peinovich	Hard Hat Ministries

In Memory of.... Rick Stennes

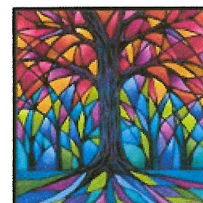
Judith & Tom Stennes	Calvary Gardeners
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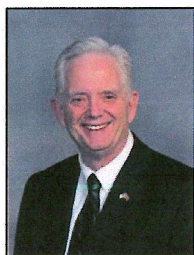
In Memory of.... Stephen Pritchard

Diocese of Minnesota	Music
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In Honor of.... Grandpa Tony Platz

Sarah & Stephen Lindow	Hard Hat Ministries
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With all the misinformation and stories floating through society, I came across 3 questions to ask before sharing something online or in person.

1. Is it true? Verify the source and gather more information before sharing it with others.
2. Does it do harm? If the information contributes to injury, it is best not to share it.
3. Is it helpful? If the information serves no purpose, it is not worth sharing.

Exodus 20:16; "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Remember ... this was the commandment that was broken in our Lord's first trial before Caiaphas. The result: "Jesus deserves death."

James 3 teaches that the tongue (speech) like the rudder of a ship is small but it guides our life.

Calvary Memories...

... of Friday Morning Men's Fellowship

I asked my brothers and sister what they remembered about the beginning of Calvary's Men's Fellowship.

Our dad, John Haugland, made coffee for the group. Pastor Roger Olson came to Calvary Lutheran in 1963. Roger believed they began meeting in 1963 or 1964. John was dedicated, setting up Thursday afternoons, so he just had to plug the coffee in Friday mornings. He obtained day old doughnuts from Myer's Bakery for snacks. The men's coffee and doughnuts (if the designated volunteer remembers) is continuing today with 25 to 20 men meeting each Friday at 7 am.

The men's group started meeting in the pastor's office off the west door of the original church and later, meeting in the original Fellowship Hall when the office was out-grown.

Roger began the weekly meeting asking the group broad topics such as "What makes you happy?" to get the conversation going. Outside speakers from the community came to inform the group of matters of interest. The weekly lessons of the church were also shared. In the 1960's Roger led weekly Bethel Bible Study classes, and it was often reviewed at Men's Fellowship.

The men with the help of the Luther League Youth Group held an annual deer/turkey season barbeque. In the 1960's, the deer season-opener was a much bigger event than it is today. Three cinder block spits the length of the parking lot were set up for barbequing the turkey for a popular dinner and to take home.

The Luther Leaguer's responsibility was embalming what seemed like thousands of turkey carcasses in preparation for the spit according to my brother Mark. The process involved an apparatus consisting of a rubber tube, the end was as placed in a gallon jug of pale-yellow liquid (as I recall some concoction of lemon juice, salt, garlic and who knows what else). The other end of the tube was attached by a one-way valve to a syringe with a barrel the size of a toilet paper roll. The Luther Leaguer would pull back on the piston, aspirating the yellow stuff into the barrel, insert the hollow needle into the turkey flesh, and then pumping it full of deliciousness-to-be. Each breast and thigh got many stabs and doses. Each drumstick and proximal wing got fewer. After this grisly operation, the countertops and floor of the church kitchen were wet and slimy with blood-tinged leakage. Valiant Luther Leaguers cleaned up the mess.

Early members of the Men's Fellowship included Russ Skoe, Dr. Paul Grimes, John Haugland, brothers Erling & Jake Jacobson, Ozzie Anderson, and Mark Sherman, a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Roger left Calvary Lutheran for Christ the King Lutheran in Moorhead in 1970. Men's Fellowship continued after he left and his return after retiring.

Submitted by Eric Haugland

Calvary Happenings

Jr. & Sr. League Schedule

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

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

8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Schedule

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

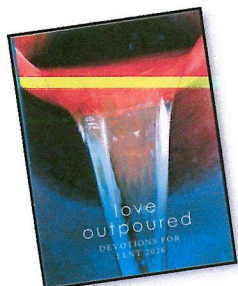
March 4 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
March 18 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
April 1 st	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00
April 15 th	8 th Grade	6:00 – 8:00

Holy Communion Instruction

March 8 th	5 th Grade	9:30 – 10:15
March 15 th	5 th Grade	9:30 – 10:15
March 22 nd	5 th Grade	9:30 – 10:15
April 1 st	Orientation @ TBD	

Mark Your Calendars!

Youth Fund Raiser Valentine's Event
February 7th & 8th



Lent Devotional Books are available at the Welcome Center Desk beginning February 14th & 15th

Ash Wednesday Worship @ 6 pm (no meal)

Lenten Worship @ 4 & 6 pm
Soup Supper @ 4:45 pm

Adult Education Opportunity

"How We Got the New Testament" with Pastor Greg Kaufmann.

"Why does our Bible have a New Testament, comprised of only 27 books? ... With the help of dozens of original graphics, this course will help you answer this and many other questions surrounding the formation of the New Testament."

Instructor: Pastor Steve
5 Sessions. **9:30 am Sundays Luther Room; 5:00 pm Mondays**

Session 1; February 1st and 2nd
Session 2; February 8th and 9th
Session 3; February 15th and 16th
Session 4; February 22nd and 23rd
Session 5; March 1st and 2nd
Cost: \$0

Calvary Owls will meet for **Potluck Lunch** on **February 3rd** in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Dorothy Platz @ 218-252-8029

Faith & Literature meets on **February 10th** @ 10:00 am in the Luther Room. The book will **Sister Lumberjack by Candance Simar**. Any questions call Jo Judson @ 218-252-0156

Caring & Outreach

Change Makes a Difference Pickle Jar
February 14th & 15th

Northwoods Wildlife Rescue, Inc. was created after learning how few wildlife rehabilitators are available in Minnesota. As soon as we were licensed, we began to receive calls and people started bringing us animals from near and far. The business is a 501©3. The mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release wild animals back into the wild where they belong. We accomplish our mission through collaboration of the community, the DNR, and other rehabilitation centers. We receive no government funding and rely on monetary, time and products needed to facilitate rehabilitation.

Visit our website page for additional information and picture gallery.

<https://sites.google.com/view/northwoodswildliferescue/home>

Approved
Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes
November 11, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

Council Members Present: Monica Foster, Mark Harmon, Wayne Koop, Sara Forsberg, Gretchen Pederson, Tony Platz, Erika Randall, Joe McKinnon, Nicole Brandt, and Stuart Larson. **Staff Present:** Pastor Steve Norby, SAM Dana Kocka and Wayne Pearson. Blake Leopold attended. Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Motion by Sara Forsberg, 2nd Stuart Larson to approve September 9th, 2025 minutes, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson presented the Accounts Balance Sheet which was reviewed/accepted. Total October income was \$42,624 and total expenses were \$64,824 which deducted \$22,200 from the checking account. Mortgage income was \$5,688. Mortgage payment \$10,428 was made. The mortgage balance is now \$1,220,046.

Core Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: The Pickle Jar donations will go to Community Celebration (Nov), Theological Support (Dec) and Gideons (Jan). Faith Community Nursing Health Ministry will address medical device needs.

Family Ministry: An Advent event is being planned for Dec 7th.

Finance: As written.

Learning: As previously written.

Resource Ministry: As written. Church member safety at Calvary receives continued emphasis looking at window tinting and outside cameras.

Worship Ministry: Bibles are available in the NEW REVISED UPDATED VERSION.

Youth Ministry: Christmas Wreaths sales begin Nov 26th, Silent Auction to be Nov. 30th through Dec 8th.

Innovation: As written.

Business:

Safety & Security: Calvary safety during services, education & activities is under review. Procedures/training to address hostile persons who wish to disrupt or harm Calvary services, members or property are being researched.

New Members: New Members were Jed Eix, Joe Delaney, Terri Churchman, Mark Hamborg, Marjorie Austin, Debbie Duda, Luetmer Family, Corrine Neisess, and Terri Holler. Motion to approve New Members made by Tony Platz, 2nd Mark Harmon, carried.

Adult Ed: New subcommittee to be fledged reporting the Council will recognize/coordinate many ongoing study groups and will be reviewed at December Council.

Confirmands: Recently confirmed members were Allie Snelling, Charlie Johnaon, Haley Tate, Jaden Davis, Kyllan Mjelde, Levi Gack, Mason Peterson, Mathew Cunningham, McKenna Norton, and Kiera Nord. Motion to approve confirmands by Mark Harmon, 2nd Sara Forsberg, carried.

Nominating Committee: Mark Harmon, Shawn Tate, Kathy Peterson, Joan Tweedale, Heather Steffel, and Jill Johnson are working to fill upcoming vacancies.

Audit: To be performed by Pam Evans, Bob Hansen, and Brian Long.

Calvary Property Policy: Committee members to study this issue and draft policy are Erika Randall, Stuart Larson, and Sara Forsberg. Motion to follow current practice to communicate to inquirers that Calvary does not allow any protest group to conduct activities nor to use Calvary properties by Mark Harmon, 2nd Stuart Larson, carried. No parking lot barriers will be installed concerning this issue.

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	\$ 42,624	\$ 64,824	(\$22,200)
November	\$ 62,380	\$ 59,564	\$ 2,816
December	\$196,645	\$ 65,993	\$130,652

BUILDING FUND
INCOME

December Total:

\$20,510

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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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