

August 2026

The Calvary Corner

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

Guard Me, Guide Me

~ Liz Stone

Lord,
Guard my heart, guard my mouth, guard my mind,
and guard my steps. Lord, guide my heart, guide my
mouth, guide my mind, and guide my steps. Amen.

This simple prayer invites God into every part of our daily lives.

Sometimes hearts drift toward negative feelings instead of compassion and understanding. Asking God to guard our hearts helps to avoid becoming weighed down by things such as bitterness, jealousy, fear, or discouragement.

Sometimes what comes out of our mouths are words we wish we could take back. Words have tremendous power. A careless sentence can wound a relationship, while a kind word can bring healing and hope. Asking God to guard our mouths helps us pause before we speak, so our words reflect His love instead of our emotions.

Ask the Lord to guard your mind because the voices around us—and sometimes even the voices within us—can fill us with worry, judgment, or lies that pull us away from the peace of God and distract us from what we know to be true and safe with Him.

Sometimes the steps we take are in a direction that we shouldn't go. Asking God to guard our steps helps us to avoid wandering down paths or following things that seem right in the moment but ultimately lead us away from the life God intends for us.

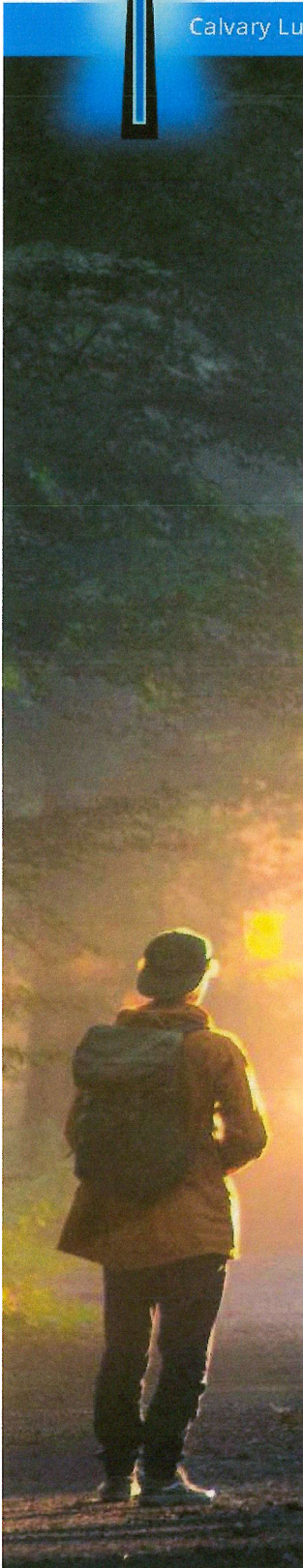
The Christian life however, isn't just about being aware and trying to avoid what is harmful.

The Christian life is also about becoming who God created us to be, so we ask God to guide our hearts to love more deeply, forgive more freely, and follow Him fearlessly and completely. We ask the Lord to guide our minds so our thoughts reflect His wisdom instead of the world's fears. We ask Him to guide our mouths so our words encourage, comfort, and speak truth with grace. We ask Him to guide our steps so that we make good choices, walk the path he desires for us and become vessels that carry the love and light of Christ into the world.

Guarding is about protection. Guiding is about purpose.

**"Lord, guard my heart, guard my mouth, guard my mind, and guard my steps.
Lord, guide my heart, guide my mouth, guide my mind, and guide my steps.
Amen."**

It won't make every day easy, but it will make us more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments—the conversations we have, the choices we make, the thoughts we entertain, and the places our feet take us.



Lacey Baumgart	August 1
Jill Dickinson	August 1
Hailee Gruchow	August 1
Jeff Kniss	August 1
Bill Walker	August 1
Carolyn Warrington	August 1
Renee Bexell	August 2
Marsha Dennis	August 2
Caitlynn Sonneman	August 2
Rusty Uscola	August 2
Julie Warmbold	August 2
Gail Ahart	August 3
Tyler Crissinger	August 3
Alex Huot	August 3
Joe McKinnon	August 3
Diane Lechner	August 4
Kaitlyn Nelson	August 4
Tatum Mercer	August 5
Curtis Tolle	August 5
Marie Zander	August 5
Elliot Cook	August 6
Magnolia Kimball	August 6
Brielle Krabbenhoft	August 6
Roger Buggert	August 7
Bea Etter	August 7
Kurt Hansen	August 7
Riley Partlow	August 7
Amos Anderson	August 8
Jane Hyjek	August 8
Lori Johnson	August 8
Arvayda Carter	August 10
Edie Hensel	August 10
Jodie Johnson	August 10
Don Gytri	August 11
Kristi Peterson	August 11
Laura Walker	August 12
Brent Johnson	August 13
Brett Kent	August 13
Judy Stennes	August 13



Kate Aukes	August 14
Joe Delaney	August 14
Maddison Massie	August 14
Richard Meech	August 14
Melanie Nordin	August 14
Laurie Osterman	August 14
Jill Stevenson	August 14
Nicole Walker	August 14
Madison Carey	August 15
Paul Dennis	August 15
Gary Wood	August 15
Taylor Edelman	August 16
Marley Maetzold	August 16
Jeanine Mikus	August 16
Kristi York	August 16
Terri Blasey	August 17
Joanne Perpich	August 17
Erika Randall	August 17
Lisa Coborn	August 18
Lori Cannon	August 19
Jesse Dennison	August 19
Carrie Eix	August 19
Ritchie Ness	August 19
Greta Ertl	August 20
Kimberly Guertin	August 20
Rich Steffen	August 20
Eric Mikus	August 21
Vicki Newman	August 21
Laura Schauer	August 21
Joanne Schmider	August 21

Nick Randall	August 22
Steve Rude	August 22
Maggie Carrier	August 23
Norma Dissmore	August 23
James Ertl	August 23
Chris Oppitz	August 23
Julie Osterman	August 23
Sheri Reuss	August 23
Lexi Vrieze	August 23
Aaron Anderson	August 24
Landry Skjonsby	August 24
Grace Bateman	August 25
Nikki Gack	August 25
Michael McCann	August 25
Jake Mikus	August 25
Kathy Peterson	August 25
Cheri Gustafson	August 26
David Simmons	August 26
Toni Becker	August 27
Dawson Griebe	August 27
Taylor Hilmanowski	August 27
Erik Lageson	August 27
Andria Nordick	August 27
Bentley Rautio	August 27
Gordon Strasburg	August 27
Richard Swenson	August 27
Austin Jerger	August 28
Erika Johanning	August 28
Dorothy Platz	August 28
Pam Evans	August 29
Henry Jenson	August 29
Scott Smith	August 29
Caitlynn Stromback	August 29
Danny Frisby-Griffin	August 30
Marianne Potratz	August 30
Brenna Behrens	August 31
Sherri Klasen	August 31
Nolan Michaelson	August 31
Rilee Michaelson	August 31

Whose Will? What happens when God's will and our will collide? Join us **August 9 & 16** as our Youth Mission Team shares stories from their mission trip to Pennsylvania and leads a powerful two-week sermon series, "**Whose Will?**" Together we'll discover what it means to follow God's will with **open hands, open hearts, and open minds**. You won't want to miss it!

The Calvary Owls will meet @ Douglas Lodge for breakfast @ 9 am on **Thursday, August 6th**. RSVP to Chris Luckeroth @ 218-255-7467

In search of Sunday School and Release Time Teachers. Tag teaming is an option. If you are interested, please contact Dana Kocka @ 218-732-7284

Faith & Literature book for **August 11th @ 10 am** in the Luther Room will be ***All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker**.

Don't Miss Out!! Our 5th "**Come to the Table**" sign up opportunity will happen on July 26th & 27th, and August 1st & 2nd. Caring & Outreach welcomes you to be a part of a 4-month Fall fellowship opportunity making new and lasting connections. For more information contact Pat Gray, Nancy Hammerstrom or Dorothy Meyer or leave your name with Debby at the office if you miss the sign-up Sundays. "**Come to the Table**"....grow together and be blessed!

Newborn Kits: packing will be Thursday, **August 13th @ 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, contact Rachel Aanenson @ 218-252-8062

WHO are the "Women of the ELCA or Welca"? All women in our congregation are members of WELCA by virtue of being a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. The NW MN synod is divided into 8 Conferences and each conference holds a spring and fall gathering. Perhaps you attended our May program when Calvary Lutheran hosted our spring meeting and welcomed Emma Vrieze, Miss Minnesota, as our inspiring speaker and singer. So many of you already take part in our amazing Quilters, monthly bible studies and join with others in putting together 200 Newborn Kits each year. Perhaps this is the year you wish to get more involved at the Synod level. We invite you to consider joining several Calvary women this September and attend this fall convention on Saturday, September 18th in Crookston, MN. For more information, contact Dorothy Meyer or Rachel Aanenson by August 21st. *God's work, our hands.*

Women of the ELCA

Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization

38th Annual Convention

September 18 & 19, 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, Minnesota

Theme: Button Up Your Faith

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do.

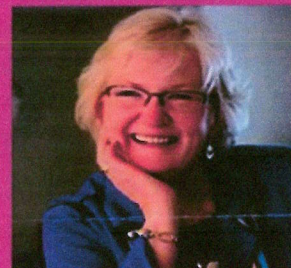
Business Meeting
Bible Study by Pastor
Rebel Hurd
Closing Worship by Bishop
Bill Tesch

Breakout Sessions
Dana Johnson & Silas
Victim/Witness Coordinator- Facility Dog Handler

Camp Knutson

Carolina Diaz
Care & Share Homeless Shelter

Keynote Speaker



Gaye Lindfors
Inspirational Christian
Speaker and Author
Native of Climax, MN
gayelindfors.com

Check www.nsynod.org
for more information
and updates.

Button Up Your Faith
Wall Hanging Project
Participate by bringing a button to attach to
our quilted wall hanging.

APPROVED Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

May 12, 2026 - 5:30 PM

Council Members Present: Clark Arneson, Monica Foster, Richard Gilbery, Wayne Koop, Sara Forsberg, Tony Platz, Lynn Litzau, Joe McKinnon, Renee Brauer and Stuart Larson. **Staff Present:** Pastor Steve Norby, SAM Dana Kocka, and Wayne Pearson. Clark Arneson opened the meeting with Pastor Steve leading in prayer.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Motion by Monica Foster, 2nd Renee Brauer to approve April 14th, 2026 minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Pearson presented the Accounts Balance Sheet which was reviewed/accepted. Total April income was \$53,726 and total expenses were \$70,379 which deducted \$16,653 from the checking account. Mortgage donations were \$7,505 and a \$150 contribution to principal reduction. The mortgage payment of \$10,428 was made. The mortgage balance is now \$1,077,933. Higher quarterly expense noted was \$4,885 for insurance.

Core Committee Reports:

Caring and Outreach: As written. Of note, Pickle Jar schedule is for June-Well Spring, July-Camp Emmaus, August-Food Shelf, Sept-Society of St Vincent De Paul, and Oct-Seminary Support.

Family Ministry: Petting Zoo held May 9th was well attended.

Finance: As written. Endowment Funds being studied to clarify use and purpose.

Learning: As written. Motion by Liz Litzau, 2nd Joe McKinnon to create Library subcommittee under the Calvary Council was approved/carried. Vacation Bible School to be on June 1-4.

Resource Ministry: As written. Additional Building security cameras added. Worship/church functions may include locked doors with a person monitoring/allowing member entrance.

Worship Ministry: As written. Mary Nepsund is actively pursuing the purchase of a new piano to include donation funding campaign.

Youth Ministry: Youth Rummage Sale received approximately \$5,000 in donations and Mother's Day Pie Auction received approximately \$14,000 in donations toward Youth Mission Trip to Altona Pennsylvania June 14-21.

Innovation: As written. A "Connect with My Church" communications app Zoom demonstration will be on May 14 at 2 PM. App will inform Congregation of Church activities and allow members to sign up on-line.

New Business:

Core Fair Facilitator: A Facilitator is sought for the Core Fair to be held on Rally Sunday, Sept 13th.

New Members: Motion to approve new members Ron & Jane Brinkman, Dave & Amy Christianson, Vallaurie Crawford, Angela, Kasey, William & Elenora Hulett, Steve & Cindy Rude, and Ryan & Alexis Vrieze by Richard Gilbery, 2nd Tony Platz, carried.

Seminary Support: Motion to provide \$1,000 through Northwestern Lutheran Synod to support Calvary member Jed Eix to attend Seminary by Clark Arneson, 2nd Tony Platz, carried. Finance Core to address further support.

Announcements:

Accolades: Calvary voted Best Worship 2026 by Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

June Outdoor Worship: Calvary Worship service to be at Deane Park on June 28th at 9 AM.

Adjournment: President Clark Arneson adjourned the meeting at 750 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

~ Memorials & Honorariums ~

In Memory of.... Chris Berdahl

Bonnie & Hugh Vallely	Youth Group
Mary & Robert Berdahl	Youth Group
Sue & Tom Harmon	Youth Group
Bonnie & Tom Miller	Youth Group
Renee & Kevin Brauer	Youth Group
Phyllis & Everett DeCamer	Youth Group
Sheila Hastings	Youth Group
Sara & Frank Forsberg	Youth Group
Sharon & Bob Hansen	Youth Group
Dar & Wayne Swanson	Youth Group
Judy Dulski	Youth Group
Deb & Steve Maanum	Hard Hat Ministry
Barb & Larry Smith	Youth Group
Jan & Mike Vold	Youth Group
Rachel & Denny Aanenson	Youth Group
Elaine Landrigan	Endowment Fund
Sharon & Jerry Gorden	Endowment Fund
Carolyn & Maurice Spangler	Youth Group
Liz Smith	Youth Group
Kathy Olsen	Pastors Discretion
Joan & Cliff Tweedale	Youth Group
Bobbi Zigmant	Youth Group
Renee & Larry Bexell	Youth Group
Linda & Tom VanBruggen	Youth Group
Betty & Curt McCabe	Youth Group
Carol & Lowell Schellack	Youth Group
Dorothy & Tony Platz	Endowment Fund
Lynn & Bill Persinger	Youth Group
Sara & Mark Olson	Youth Group
Marcia & John Richman	Youth Group
CoCo & Mike Cohrs	Youth Group
Cindy Hill	Youth Group
Rich Lorenz	Youth Group
Rhonda & John Lageson	Youth Group
Sherry & Ken Sutton	Youth Group
Richard Lorenz	Youth Group
Stuart & Kathy Larson	Hard Hat Ministry

In Memory of.... Gere Huebner

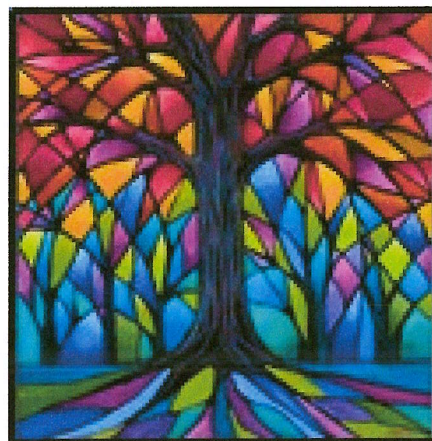
Rachel & Denny Aanenson	Youth Group
Judy Dulski	Prayer Shawls
Suzanne Just	Hard Hat Ministry

In Memory of.... Carol Nelson

Ruth Swenson	Calvary Gardeners
Sara & Frank Forsberg	Calvary Gardeners
Diane Hoffstedt	Endowment Fund

In Memory of.... Calvin Tormanen

Kathy & Stuart Larson	Hard Hat Ministry
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"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

GENERAL FUND (Operational) MONTHLY FINANCIAL- **Monthly Goal: \$62,945**

2026	Income	Expenses	Difference
Dec '25	\$196,645	\$ 65,993	\$130,652
January	\$ 61,088	\$ 69,124	(\$ 8,036)
February	\$ 77,922	\$ 63,066	\$ 14,855
March	\$ 74,832	\$ 65,929	\$ 8,903
April	\$ 43,510	\$ 70,379	(\$ 16,653)
May	\$ 61,245	\$ 57,583	\$ 3,661
June	\$ 43,906	\$ 60,819	(\$ 16,913)
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

BUILDING FUND

INCOME

June Total:

\$ 3,740

Monthly Mortgage:

\$10,429

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

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

763-286-8535 Clark Arneson, President
218-255-3052 Monica Foster, Past President
218-790-3489 Richard Gilbery - 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
218-255-0911 Tony Platz, Finance Core
218-616-0429 Lynn Litzau, Learning Core
218-556-4674 Joe McKinnon Resource Core
206434-1950 Renee Brauer, 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-m@il.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