

*CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH*  
TOGETHER IN CHRIST  
EMPOWERED TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 2019  
8:00 AM

---



### **Introduction to the Day**

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Prelude: David Severtson

## **Gathering**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the parent who rouses us from slumber,  
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,  
the deliverer who sets us free.

**Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

**we open our hearts to you, O God.**

**Search us and know us.**

**Reveal all that we keep inside.**

**To you, O God, we confess our sins,  
known and unknown.**

**Forgive us, renew us,  
and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.**

**Make us reflections of the radiant love  
of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High,  
you are gathered before the righteous judge  
who has mercy on all.  
Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,  
where sin is washed away in the river of life.  
Dwell peacefully in the loving arms  
of the one who nurtures all creation.  
Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven  
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,  
✠ Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

Gathering Song: *Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)

#### The Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert  
rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.  
As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our  
eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the  
coming of the Lord Jesus.  
O ransomed people of the Lord, come,  
**let us travel on God's holy way  
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

#### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Canticle: *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726 verse 3)

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

### Prayer of the Day

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### Word

Psalm: *Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723 verse 1)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10 (GNT p. 1470)

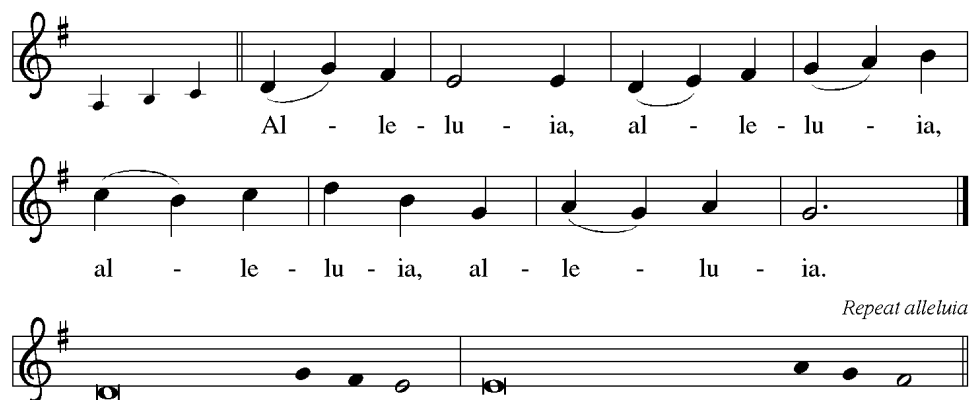
<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, my friends, until the Lord comes. See how patient farmers are as they wait for their land to produce precious crops. They wait patiently for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near.

<sup>9</sup> Do not complain against one another, my friends, so that God will not judge you. The Judge is near, ready to appear. <sup>10</sup> My friends, remember the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Take them as examples of patient endurance under suffering.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 102)



Gos- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

pel: Matthew 11:2-11 (GNT p. 1146)

<sup>2</sup> When John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. <sup>3</sup> "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: <sup>5</sup> the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup> How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

<sup>7</sup> While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? <sup>8</sup> What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! <sup>9</sup> Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' <sup>11</sup> I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "We Do Not Like Waiting In Line!!" Pastor Dean E. Johnson

Hymn of the Day: *All Earth Is Hopeful* (ELW 266)

Creed, Prayers of Intercession, Peace (ELW p. 105)

## Meal

Special Music: *He Is Born*, arr. Albrecht Emily Ashburn

Offering: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (ELW 294 verse 3)

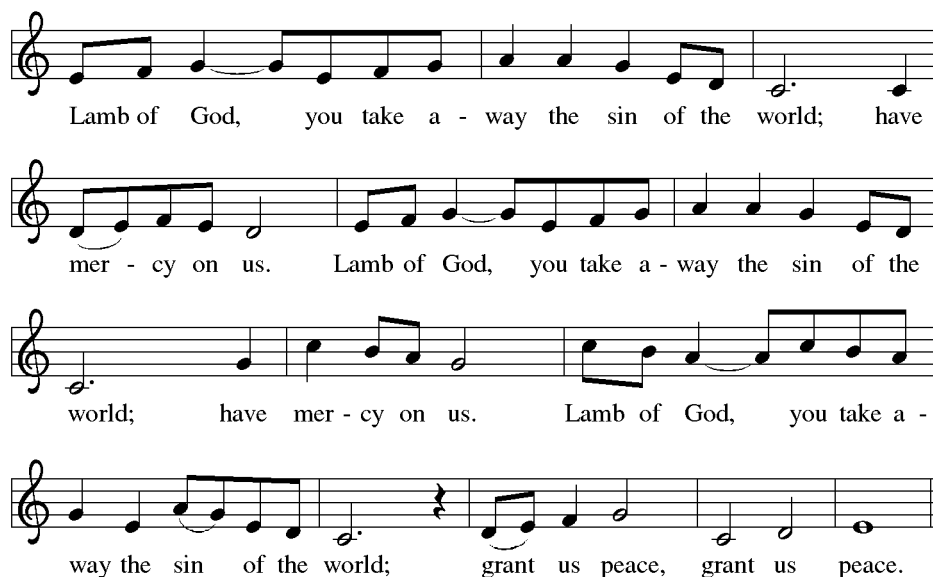
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him--give my heart.

Offering Prayer, Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 112)

Songs during Communion:

*Lamb of God* (ELW p. 112)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (ELW 490)

*Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

## **Sending**

Announcements and Blessing

Sending Song: *People, Look East* (ELW 248)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## **IN CHRIST'S NAME WELCOME TO CALVARY**

Everyone is invited to sign the Friendship Registers at the end of each pew.

**KIDS CORNER** is a place where you can find kid-friendly items to use during Worship. It is located in the Narthex next to the coat room.

**CALVARY'S PRAYERGROUND** is located in the back of the Sanctuary. This area is designated for quiet play for children together with their parents.

**CALVARY'S NURSERY** is located on the west side of the Sanctuary and is available for your use. A nursing lounge is available in the Prayer Room located on the north end of Bethany Hall (in the basement).

## **KNOWN HOSPITALIZED**

Pat Muehlbauer, Pastor Ron Hanson, Rice.

**WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY** and remember in our prayers the families of Pam Eischens, Richard Ward & John Haines.



**BAPTIZED TODAY** in the Christian faith and into the life of the Church is **Magnolia Elizabeth Ardooff-Hagen** daughter of Brandon Ardooff & Victoria Hagen. Magnolia's sponsors are Olivia Hagen, Coleen Wagner, Jessica Berghorst & Jerad Berghorst.

**SUNDAY'S ADULT FORUM:** Advent Light by Pastor Tim Malek.

**POINSETTIAS** If you would like to order a poinsettia plant in memory or in honor of a loved one for the Christmas season, please do so by **December 16**. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center and the cost is \$10.00.

**MEMORIAL TREE** The Memorial tree is up and located in the Chapel. Ornaments can be picked up after Christmas.

## **CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY:**

### **A Light in the Darkness – Art Show, Program and Dinner**

Today, December 15 at 4:00 PM, in the sanctuary, you are invited to come hear our Sunday School Children, choirs, a brass ensemble and other special music in a special celebration of the season. Prepare your heart for Christmas through this musical journey. Before and after the program you will have an opportunity to enjoy an art show with submissions from Calvary members. The program will be followed by a free meatball dinner.

## **CHILDREN'S CALENDAR:**

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:05 AM – Sunday School with Christmas Program rehearsal.

10:15 AM– Christmas Program during worship for children Ages 3 yrs - Kindergarten.

4:00 PM – "Christmas at Calvary".

Children in Grades 1-6 lead the Program.

### **Wednesday, December 18**

5:00 PM – Creative Heart/Seasonal Choir

6:00 PM – Dinner Church/Confirmation

7:00 PM – Christmas Caroling –

EVERYONE is welcome to join us!

## **REMINDERS**

### **Wednesdays, December 25 & January 1–**

No Creative Heart, Dinner Church or Confirmation.

**Sunday, December 29** – No Sunday School.

**Sunday, January 5** – Sunday School Resumes.

### **WEDNESDAYS/CREATIVE HEART**

**December 18, 5:00-6:00 pm**

Join us this Wednesday for Creative Heart!

The Seasonal Choir will meet in the Choir Room and continue to prepare for the Christmas Eve worship service. Everyone else is invited to join us in Bethany Hall as we make Holiday Cards and "Crackers" for the residents of Bethesda and Rice Care Center. After Dinner Church, we will go Christmas Caroling and deliver our gifts! EVERYONE is invited to attend.

### **DINNER CHURCH 6:00 PM-7:00 PM**

Gather with friends – new and old to worship and eat together. All ages are welcome! A donation of \$6/ person for the food is suggested, but pay what you can. All are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Meets in Bethany Hall.

### **2020 CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS**

The Church Council Nominating Committee is seeking nominations to the various boards of the church council. If you have questions and are interested in serving Calvary in this capacity, please contact Shawn Swenson at [shawnsenson@gmail.com](mailto:shawnsenson@gmail.com) or (218) 443-0427.

### **BE THE BLESSING THIS CHRISTMAS**

Calvary will host Family Promise overnight guests December 22-29. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. If you can find the time – we could use your help. Please take a minute to check out the Sign Up board in the Narthex/Lobby, or better yet, visit the online Sign-Up Genius site. If you need help to get connected, call Joni Hanson 320-2201324, or Roger Bengtson 320-905-1762.

### **CONFIRMATION SUMMER CAMP!**

Confirmation students are reminded that the \$50 deposit for summer camp is due. We will be going to Camp House on June 21-26. Scholarships are available. If you have questions or need more info see Pastor Naomi.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Programs possible! Thank you to the teachers, and helpers who faithfully teach our children week after week. Thank you to the Parents for supporting our ministry at Calvary and passing on the gift of faith to your children at church and at home. Thank you to all the kids who shared their gift of music by playing an instrument or by singing. Thank you to those who narrated and danced. Thanks to the Seasonal Choir for sharing their music with us. Thank you to Megan Davis who choreographed the dances and worked with our dancers. Thank you to David and Mandy Severtson for sharing their musical talents with us during these programs and each and every week! Christmas blessings to you all!

### **A Measure of Our Faithfulness Worship Attendance**

Saturday, December 7		42
Sunday, December 8	8:00	114
	10:15	231
Wednesday, December 11		61
<b>Total:</b>		<b>448</b>

### **Next Sunday-December 22**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25



## **Calvary Staff**

Pastors: Tim Malek, Naomi Mahler,  
Dean E. Johnson

Vicar: David Severtson

Faith Formation Coordinator: Janel Skindeliën

Ministry Associates: KJ Farhat, Karina Rice

Office Manager: Teri Sokulski

Ministry Coordinator: Dawn Fisch

Assistant Bookkeeper: Keith Neumann

Custodian: Bruce Laffen, Debbie Petersen,  
Jasmine Rankin

Head Usher: Randy Novak

Prayer Ministry: Sandi Bennett, Julie Neumann  
and Dianne Plahn

Kitchen Coordinator: Enola Dowdell

Calvary Cemetery Sexton: Ron Keith

## **Missionaries**

Philip & Lou Knutson, Southern Africa

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania

Reverend Alex LaChapelle, Republic Of South  
Africa

## **2019 Executive Committee**

President: Brett Aamot; Vice President: Mike  
Haugsbj; Secretary: Val Amberg; Treasurer:  
Peter Johnson; Pastors

### **Board of Children & Family**

Erica Mathews (17-20)

Kaylee Jahraus (18-21)

Michelle Kotrba (19-22)

### **Board of Finance**

Valerie Amberg (17-20)

Peter Johnson (17-20)

Craig Holmgren (18-21)

Jena Berget (19-22)

### **Board of Outreach**

John Kappers (18-21)

Nikki Erickson (19-22)

Holly Ulrich (19-22)

Bridget Pederson (16-20)

### **Board of Stewardship**

Brett Aamot (17-20)

Mike Haugsby (18-21)

Charles Ulrich (19-22)

### **Board of Worship**

Shawn Swenson (17-20)

Jeremy Schmidt (18-21)

Britta Willenbring (18-21)

Jeanne Ashburn (19-22)

### **Board of Youth & Family**

Scott Nichols (17-20)

Sara Bennett (19-22)

Michael Newberg (19-22)

## **Serving Today**

Preaching: Pastor Dean E. Johnson

Presiding: Pastor Naomi Mahler

Assisting: Pastor Tim Malek

Acolytes:

8:00 - Rae Holwerda, Christian Fink

10:15 - Mason Luft, Lily Hultgren

Communion Assistants:

8:00 - Rebecca Laurence, Abby Teisinger

10:15 - Jeannette Harasyn, Amy Rodelius

Greeters:

8:00 - Ron & Bonnie Keith,  
Peter & Carla Fostervold

10:15 - Brad & Bonnie Franzen,  
Lyle & Karen Loge

4:00 - Shawn & Krista Swenson

Beth Bloomquist

Dane, Sarah & Leah Kallevig

Dave & Darlene Damhof

Lectors:

5:30 - Sue Roepke

8:00 - Shane Baker

Office Volunteer:

8:00 - Dorie Larsen

10:15 - Marcia Knutson

Sound:

8:00 - Doug Sawatzky

10:15 - Nate Hultgren

Video:

Chris Bennett

December Altar Guild: Shirley Ringness,  
Janelle Higdén, Nancy Holt, Janet Haugen  
and Margaret Marsh

## Our Week at Calvary

### Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 15

8:00 AM	First Word Worship with Holy Communion
9:05 AM	Sunday School
9:05 AM	Adult Forum: Advent Light
10:15 AM	Foundation & Praise Worship with Holy Communion/Christmas Program for ages 3– Kindergarten
4:00 PM	Christmas at Calvary

### Monday 16

9:00 AM	Women’s Bible Study: Amazing Collection
10:30 AM	Prayer Time
5:15 PM	Grief Care
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	Scouting BSA

### Tuesday 17

8:00 AM	Men’s Bible Study
9:30 AM	Staff Meeting
10:00 AM	Program Staff Meeting

### Wednesday 18

9:00 AM	Beliveau Women’s Bible Study
5:00 PM	Creative HeArt/Seasonal Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM	Dinner Church/Confirmation
7:00 PM	Caroling

### Thursday 19

9:30 AM	Bible Study
11:00 AM	Circle Bible Study Leaders

### Friday 20

12:15 PM	Yoga
----------	------

### Saturday 21

9:00 AM	Foundation & Praise Rehearsal
5:30 PM	Chapel Worship with Holy Communion

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 22

8:00 AM	First Word Worship with Holy Communion
9:05 AM	All Ages Sunday School
10:15 AM	Foundation & Praise Worship with Holy Communion
7:00 PM	Little Norwegian Christmas Service

## *Advent/Christmas Worship at Calvary Lutheran Church*

### **Advent III**

**Saturday, December 14** 5:30 PM - Chapel Worship with Holy Communion  
**Sunday, December 15** 8:00 AM - First Word Worship with Holy Communion  
10:15 AM - Foundation & Praise Worship with Holy Communion  
Children 3yrs. – Kindergarten Christmas Program  
4:00 PM - "Christmas at Calvary" 1-6 grade Christmas Program

**Wednesday, December 18** 6:00 PM - Dinner Church & Caroling - Baked Ham, Cheesy Hash Browns, Vegetables and Roll

### **Advent IV**

**Saturday, December 21** 5:30PM - Chapel Worship with Holy Communion  
**Sunday, December 22** 8:00 AM - First Word Worship with Holy Communion  
10:15 AM - Foundation & Praise Worship with Holy Communion  
7:00 PM - Little Norwegian Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

### **Christmas Eve**

**Tuesday, December 24** 3:30 PM - Service of Carols, Communion and Candle lighting  
5:30 PM - Service of Carols, Communion and Candle lighting  
10:30 PM -Service of Carols, Communion and Candle lighting

### **Christmas I**

**Wednesday, December 25** 9:30 AM - Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion  
**Saturday, December 28** 5:30 PM - Chapel Worship with Holy Communion  
**Sunday, December 29** 9:30 AM - Worship with Holy Communion



## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Willmar, MN (320) 235-2508

[www.calvarywillmar.org](http://www.calvarywillmar.org)

Member of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
Southwestern MN Synod, Bishop Jon Anderson  
Partner Synod: Virginia Synod; Companion Synod: South Eastern Diocese of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa