

CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH

TOGETHER IN CHRIST
EMPOWERED TO BE
AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Come Worship With Us

Saturday:

5:30 PM – Chapel Worship

Sunday:

8:00 AM – First Word
Worship

9:05 AM – Education for All

10:15 AM – Foundation &
Praise Worship



The Messenger

A monthly publication for Calvary Lutheran Church

www.calvarywillmar.org

January 2018

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

Paul's words to the Philippians are fitting final words as I conclude my last few days as one of your Calvary pastors. Note these words.

Thanks. I thank God for all of you. I give thanks for what you have done for Connie, myself, and our family through the years. You have welcomed us. Prayed for us. Upheld us. Supported us through all the wear and tear of these past years. I think, on the one hand, of the times of great joy . . . birthdays, confirmation, graduation, the marriages of our three children, the birth and baptisms of our grandsons, to name a few. Thank you. On the other hand, I think of those times of great sadness . . . the loss of our parents, extended family and friends. You were there. We have been blessed because of you. Thank you.



*Pastor
Timothy Larson*

Sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I think of what each of you have done, stepping forward, giving, sharing your gifts, to advance the ministry of the gospel over the years through Calvary. Our community, our ministry partners, our church, and our world have benefited because you have been willing partners in this gospel ministry to which God has called us in Willmar, MN. Thank you for paying attention and for doing what you have done in response to God's call.

Bringing it to completion. I know it's never complete. Final. This ministry of the gospel will continue till the day we cross the river but for now this phase is coming to an end for me. My call as your pastor concludes Sunday, January 7. From that day forward I give you this pledge. Connie and I will pray for you and we will do everything in our power to point you to the new leaders who will carry the baton and run the race of faith alongside you. Give them your loyalty, your trust, your grace, and your prayers. God will not fail you.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
Ephesians. 3:20-21

-Pastor Timothy P. Larson



January Special Music

January 6 - 5:30 PM Rosanne Stoltz

January 7 - 8:00 AM Calvary Choir & Rosanne Stoltz

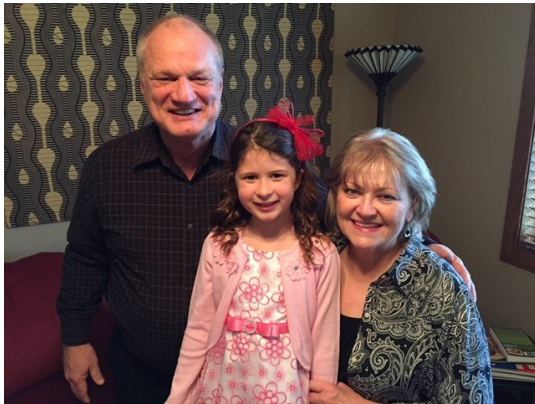
10:15 AM Rosanne Stoltz

January 27 - 5:30 PM Emily Ashburn

January 28 - 8:00 AM Calvary Bells



Welcome to Calvary
Pastor David S. Wall.
Pastor David will begin his interim
on January 8, 2018.



I grew up on a farm near Farmington, MN, and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. After college, I taught, coached and refereed for three years and I have found that to be good experiences to have for interim ministry. I am married to Catherine, who is also a church worker and is Director of Worship and Music at Christ Lutheran in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. We have three children and one granddaughter, Jannike who is 8 and is a real delight for us as grandparents.

Family Promise

As Family Promise enters a New Year, we will host the week of January 28, 2018. We have sent out a new Sign Up to fill the volunteer needs for that week. Please take time to sign up to make this week another success. We are so grateful to everyone who continues to support this wonderful outreach ministry. **YOU MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE!** Thank You to everyone for what you do. We look forward to your continued support of Family Promise.

If there is one important thing we have learned while working with Family Promise, it is that we must be flexible and always ready to adapt! We go from having 12 people for one of our host weeks to NO ONE the next time we host. We still have to plan each of our host weeks with the idea that we will have families! As hard as this is to understand, we also imagine how difficult it is for our Family Promise Director, Heidi Kohls. This is an everyday occurrence for her, and it is her dedication and compassion to serve these individuals and to help make a difference in their lives that keeps Family Promise running. Please keep her and the Family Promise program in your prayers. If you have an opportunity to see or talk to Heidi please let her know we are here to support her!

We hope you had a Blessed Christmas and we look forward to your continued support in the New Year!

- Your Family Promise Committee



A Special Thank You

As we begin a new year, we want to say **THANK YOU** to all who have worked with the children's ministry this past year. Thanks to all who teach children Ages 3-Kindergarten on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thanks to all who teach children in grades 1-6 on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you to all who teach music to our children. **We are richly blessed to have so many who love and care for our children. We thank God for your dedication and service to all our children at Calvary!**

Sunday & Wednesday school Offering

September through December our Offering was designated to go to support the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at the Selian Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania where our missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson serve. The children raised \$500.00! An anonymous donor matched our \$500.00, therefore we will be sending \$1,000.00! A huge thank you to all the children and the donor for making this contribution possible!

January through May our Offering will go to support the "Shining Up Shores" project at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp. This is the bible camp many of our Calvary kids attend during the summer! Help us support the camp as they continue a much needed remodel of the youth cabins. Offering envelopes are available in your child's classroom or at Kids' Corner. Please send an offering each week with your child!

Sunday and Wednesday schools Resume in 2018

We are ready to begin the second half of the Faith Formation year!

Wednesday, January 3– Wednesday school resumes!

Sunday, January 7– Sunday school resumes!

Early Childhood Family Sunday School

Sunday, January 7

Meet from 9:05-10:05 AM in the Youth room
(1st floor education room).

For parents and children who are pre-Sunday school age. We gather once a month and grow in faith together with a fun early childhood curriculum. This month's story is "Baby Moses."



Family Sunday school:

Sunday, January 21

Meet in Bethany Hall at 9:05 AM.

ALL Children and Families join us as we learn together about Camp!

Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas programs. A special thank you to all the teachers, helpers, the small group of youth that sang, the Calvary choir, parents and all the kids!





Skatin' Place Outing

When: Jan. 12 from 5:30-10:15 PM

Who: Grades 6-8 & friends!

What: Joint church event to St. Cloud's Skatin' Place

Cost: \$20 - includes transportation, unlimited roller skating, pizza, pop and laser tag.

Register: Online registration can be found at www.calvarywillmar.org/youth

Money & form due to Ashley by **January 3**.

High School Breakfast Club

High School Youth

Wednesday Mornings

(Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31)

7:30-8:30 AM @ the Goodness
(downtown Willmar)

FREE rolls, beverages on your own.

Come to be a part of community, pray together and start your day off right!

***NEW! 2 adults will be available to drive youth to Willmar High School afterwards!**



Film School

Sunday Mornings

9:05-10:05 AM in the Sr. High Room for
Grades 7-12

Jan. 7-28 We will be watching "Invictus."

A beautiful yet difficult story of racial reconciliation, sacrifice and loving your enemies.



Rachel Kurtz Concert

Calvary's 7-9th graders are participating in "Collaborative Confirmation" with other area ELCA churches.

We will be spending **January 17** with special musical guest Rachel Kurtz.

The congregation is welcome to join us for the concert from 6:15-7:15 PM.

Girls Night

When: January 19-20; Fri. at 5:30 PM until Sat. at 10:00 AM

Who: Grades 9-12

What: A night to relax and chill out with your friends and some adults from your church who want to give you a night to remember! It's a time of fellowship and fun! We will provide snacks, dinner, and breakfast the next day. We would like it if you'd bring anything that will make you comfortable while spending the night at the church. A goofy pajama contest is definitely included but again, feel free to wear what you're comfortable in since this is YOUR night! There will be many fun activities, along with a throwback Disney movie to end the night. Invite your friends and let us know if you're available by RSVP'ing to **Amy Arnold at 320-296-5027** or **Lisa Larsen at 320-905-9047**.

Also, please bring a pillow, a sleeping bag and \$8/person for food.



Save the Date!

Confirmation Retreat

Where: Feb. 17-18 at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN.

What: A FUN way for Confirmation youth to gather and learn how to live out their faith in their daily lives!

Cost: \$40/person or \$75/family cap (\$135/person value).

Register: Forms will be mailed to your house.

Money & form due to Ashley by **January 31**.



Planning for Summer?

How About a Summer Family Get-Away?

Join friends and families, from Calvary and beyond, **August 1-5, 2018** for a relaxing north woods get-away at Camp House in Brimson, MN! (Come for all or part of the time).

Camp House is one of GLLM's bible camps located 30 minutes from Two Harbors, MN. It is remote and removed from the hustle and bustle of "regular" life on a small quiet lake. You can enjoy all kinds of fun on-site activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, paddleboards, nature walks, playground and board games. Potential off-site activities include exploring Two Harbors, a visit to Gooseberry Falls, North Shore activities, and Duluth or Ely attractions. Sleep in comfy, but rustic cabins (toilets and showers are in a bath house on site, not in cabins), or bring your camper/tent.

Cost For All 4 Days (If you come for part of the time your cost can be prorated based on your schedule).
\$205 per cabin, sleeps 4-12; \$50 per family for camper/tent.

The cost of meals for four days is \$75 per adult and \$38 per child.

A first timer discount is available – contact Pastor Naomi for details (320)894-2863 cell or pastornaomi@calvarywillmar.org.

Adult Education

Sunday Forum "And Who is My Neighbor"

A study from Lutheran Social Service on racial equity

Starting Sunday, January 14, join Calvary member Dan Halvorson for a conversation about race during the 9:05 AM Education Hour. Calvary is fortunate to have Dan, who teaches the class "Race and Racism in the United States" at St Cloud State, facilitate our discussion. Dan will be an experienced and sensitive guide for us on this topic.

This five week study will take a look at topics such as God Made Us Different on Purpose, What is Race?, Racism is a Sin, Privilege and How Do We Listen/How Do We Tell Our Stories?

Talking about race is not easy, it never has been, but Lutheran Social Service describes this material as a grace-filled entry into this conversation. This is just a beginning conversation. Come with questions and to understand more about this topic. This class will meet in the Friendship Room on January 14, and from January 28–February 18 in the Chapel.



Calvary is embarking on a wonderful new journey in Christian formation: We're opening our own online school! This means we'll be able to take courses together on a variety of topics including scripture, liturgy, and many other areas of personal and spiritual growth. Courses are taught by experts and allow us to learn what we want, when we want, and at our own pace. We'll be able to learn anywhere there's an Internet connection on a PC, laptop, or tablet. Our school will allow us to take courses by ourselves, in small groups, or even as a congregation. There's a discussion room in each class, with access to a moderator, so we don't have to go it alone. If you would like to learn more or sign up for our online school, email Pastor Naomi at:

pastornaomi@calvarywillmar.org

Some of the courses that may be offered in our school include: Introduction to the Bible, How to Forgive, Introduction to the Gospels, Stop Worrying!, Why Does God Get Angry? and How to Handle the Work/Life Balance.

WEEKDAY ADULT EDUCATION

TUESDAYS - Men's Morning Bible Study

All men are invited to join either of the two men's Bible study groups that meet in Bethany Hall on Tuesday mornings at 7 & 8 AM. Resumes January 9.

FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH-

Circle Bible Study

On the first Tuesday of each month, various circle groups meet at different times and places. Check the church calendar or call the church office for more information.

All women are welcome! Please let your hostess know if you are unable to attend.

Circles meet on **Tuesday, January 2 :**

Hope - 7 AM – McMillan's

Humility - 8:30 AM – Friendship Room

Joy - 9:30 AM - Bethany Hall

Peace - 9:30 AM - McMillan's

Good Faith - 1 PM - Bethany Hall

Charity - 7:30 PM - Ann Amundson's House

WEDNESDAYS - Beliveau Bible Study

Meets every Wednesday in the Friendship Room at 9:00 AM for social time, and from 9:45-11:30 AM for prayer and Bible Study. **New participants are welcome at any time!** Leader is Annette Beliveau.

THURSDAYS - Worship Text Bible Study

This study group meets year around, every Thursday at 9:30 AM in the Friendship Room. Focus is on the Bible texts that will be read and proclaimed the following Sunday.

Everyone is invited to come and prepare for hearing God's Word!



Thank you to everyone that helped make another year of the Calvary Giving Tree such a great success. We had over 400 ornaments on the tree and they were ALL gone before our

deadline! Calvary has such giving and caring members. The impact of that generosity is felt in every event our Social Concerns Committee works toward. Such generosity is what our Lord encourages in many Bible passages especially in these few brief words "God loves a cheerful giver." Watch for further events scheduled for the new year.

-Social Concerns Committee

Our Parish Leadership

President: Dion Warne

Vice President: Bill Fenske

Secretary: Amanda Newberg

Our Parish Staff

Staff e-mail addresses:

Pastor Timothy P. Larson	pastortim@calvarywillmar.org
Pastor Naomi Mahler	pastornaomi@calvarywillmar.org
Pastor Dean E. Johnson	pastordean@calvarywillmar.org
David Severtson	david@calvarywillmar.org
Director of Music Ministry	
Ashley Gilbertson	ashley@calvarywillmar.org
Faith Formation Coordinator	
Janel Skindelen	janel@calvarywillmar.org
Faith Formation Coordinator	
Dawn Fisch	dawn@calvarywillmar.org
Office Manager	
Rachel Gilbertson	rachel@calvarywillmar.org
Communication Specialist	
Keith Neumann	keithn@calvarywillmar.org
Treasurer	
Calvary Library	library@calvarywillmar.org
Ron Keith, Cemetery Sexton	ronbon@charter.net
Enola Dowdell, Kitchen Coordinator	

Check out Calvary's web site at: www.calvarywillmar.org

NTY-Not Through Yet

NTY will not meet for the months of January, February and March. It will resume again in April.

January Community Meal

Sunday, January 21 at 6:00 PM in Bethany Hall.

The meal will be served by Tripolis & Ebenezer.

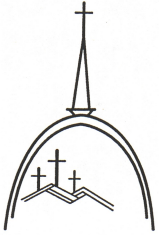
Menu: Sloppy Joes, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw and Dessert.



The Grief Care Support Group will resume on January 8. The group meets at 5:15 PM in the Friendship Room.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
General Fund Treasurer's Report
Modified Cash Basis
One Month and Eleven Months Ended November 30, 2017

	<u>One Month Ended</u>	<u>Eleven Months Ended</u>
CASH AVAILABLE AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	\$ 35,825.83	\$ 17,776.67
CONTRIBUTIONS		
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS		
GENERAL UNDESIGNATED	57,379.96	678,365.93
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	-	6,967.78
CAPITAL FUND INCOME	4,062.25	46,172.75
CHRISTMAS/EASTER	-	6,352.00
SR HI SPECIAL EVENTS	-	2,878.01
CHILDRENS SPECIAL EVENTS	-	854.83
BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP	-	700.00
RADIO BROADCAST SPONSOR	75.00	2,890.00
SUNDAY COFFEE	109.25	1,035.47
2016 TRANSFERS NOT MADE	-	12,983.50
	<u>61,626.46</u>	<u>759,200.27</u>
SPECIAL OFFERINGS		
LENTEN OFFERINGS	-	11,350.68
THANKSGIVING OFFERING	2,234.00	2,234.00
COMMUNITY MEAL	-	60.25
COMMUNITY MEAL OUTREACH	-	286.65
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	683.40	10,053.25
THRIVENT CHOICE	-	2,025.00
MISSION OFFERING	-	320.00
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	-	50.00
	<u>2,917.40</u>	<u>26,379.83</u>
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	64,543.86	785,580.10
EXPENSES		
FIRST FRUITS	5,738.00	68,507.97
PROGRAM MUSIC & WORSHIP	7,362.63	89,801.65
EVANGELISM OUTREACH	753.00	5,694.10
EDUCATION	5,397.52	59,247.44
YOUTH	5,446.61	60,332.67
LIBRARY	260.60	1,001.61
STEWARDSHIP	-	4,653.94
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	8,238.40	108,618.23
ADMINISTRATION	33,346.80	348,210.60
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	2,917.40	26,379.83
UNCATEGPROZED EXPENSE	78.04	78.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>69,539.00</u>	<u>772,526.08</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF EXPENSES	(4,995.14)	13,054.02
CASH AVAILABLE AT END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 30,830.69</u>	<u>\$ 30,830.69</u>



Calvary Lutheran Church

302 Olena Avenue SE

Willmar, MN 56201

(320) 235-2508

www.calvarywillmar.org

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2018 Equipping Congregations Day



Saturday, February 10, 2018

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Vinje Lutheran and

Bethel Lutheran

Willmar, MN

Presenter:

Presiding Bishop

Elizabeth Eaton

Speaking on the theme of
Everyday Reformers.



All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian
Educators & Leaders, Pastors...Everyone!

For information on the event, please visit

www.swmnelca.org/events page. Calvary will pay the
registration fee (includes all materials, refreshments &
lunch) and will register as a congregation. To sign up for
this fun and enlightening event, PLEASE stop by Calvary's
office or call us (235.2508) by **January 17, 2018** to ensure a
spot. It fills up fast!



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.