

CALVARY UPDATE

December 2025

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Winger, MN 56592

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UPCOMING EVENTS

-Council Meeting December
7th after church

Find us on 

Fellowship Hour 10:30 AM
Church Services 11:00 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM



December Church Services

**All December Services will be provided
by Theresa Sandness (SAM) of Fertile.**



Dear Church Family,

What Season Is It?

As I walked through the stores, I noticed Christmas essentially started in October. The decorations started coming out shortly before Halloween, and I saw customers already had Christmas items in their shopping carts. They seem to have jumped headfirst into Christmas as soon as Christmas items were placed on the shelves. While it's certainly not a sin to do so, I wonder if we miss something in our headlong rush into Christmas. Not only do we tend to skip over Thanksgiving, but we also tend to skip over the season of Advent, which begins on December 1st.

Advent has some similarities to Lent. But these days of Advent are not quite as somber as the days of Lent. This waiting and preparation is illuminated with hope for the coming of our Savior, both at Christmas and on the Last Day. During these next 4 weeks, we prepare our hearts for the first coming of Jesus, as well as His second coming on the Last Day. We hear Scripture readings that detail prophecies of Jesus' first coming, each one becoming clearer, bringing us ever closer to the manger. And readings that point toward His second coming at the end. We also sing hymns that point both to Christmas and to His coming return in glory.

How do we observe Advent and prepare for Christ's coming? Through self-reflection, repentance, and faith. We acknowledge our need for the coming Savior, and trust in the promises of God to send Jesus, our Savior, to us as we hear those promises spoken from the mouths of the Old Testament prophets and read from the pages of Scripture. We trust that God has sent His Son, Jesus, into the world at Christmas, that He has died and risen again for our salvation, and that He will come again.

Advent counters Christmas creep and burnout, helping us focus on the true meaning of Christmas. While many rush ahead

into Christmas with good intentions of bringing light and happiness to this darker season, Advent helps us do so, too. As we light the candles of the Advent wreath at church, light grows during the darkness of winter. As we get closer to Christmas, the Light of the world begins to shine out all the clearer. Our hope builds and builds and then breaks forth in words and songs of praise and thanksgiving that our Savior has come.

So, friends, there is no need to skip ahead and rush headlong into Christmas. Whenever you decide to put up your decorations, remember Advent as well, and rest in the hope of your coming Savior.

In Christ,
Theresa Sandness, SAM



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Calvary Council met after church on November 9th. Members present included Steve, LaVonne, Marissa, Elmyrna, Dave and Theresa.

Steve called the meeting to order and Theresa led us in an opening prayer. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were both read and approved.

Under Old Business, Steve said he put an eave trough on the back porch to hopefully help with any dripping moisture coming off the roof. We also discussed earlier moving the church time to 10:30AM, however, with our various accompanists, it will not work if they are coming from other churches.

For New Business, It was brought up that the Sunday School would like to go bowling again, and hold a Blessing of the Animals service, both dates were to be determined. It was also mentioned about looking into starting baptisms and First Communion classes as parents were requesting those services.

Lastly, Steve brought up that Peggy at Immanuel wanted to know if we wanted to cash out the dividend from Garden Valley from when we were in the group parish. We would need to apply for this and if approved, it would get divided evenly. It was voted to approve the application.

Elmyrna then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave as there was no other business to discuss. The next meeting will be December 14th after church.

Marissa McWilliam-Donner, Secretary

COUNCIL CONTACTS

President: Steve Carlson
218-563-2197

V. President: Elmyrna Kaupang
218-435-1001

Secretary: Marissa McWilliam-Donner
218-280-1731

Treasurer: LaVonne McWilliam
218-938-4439

Financial Sec: Devra Carlson
218-563-2197

Deacons:

David Natwick 218-938-4211

Byron Kaupang 218-938-4175

Vance Kaupang 701-866-6358

Trustees:

Bob Vesledahl 218-687-4288

Dale Balstad 218-938-4030

Shawnn Balstad 218-945-3049

Church Secretary:

Marissa McWilliam-Donner
218-280-1731

Note date change!
Meeting is now Dec. 7th!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9: 6-7

The Sunday School kids will be practicing each Sunday from now until their program.

Join them as they perform a play, written by Joyce White, during our church service December 14th.



Prayer List:

Jesse Hickman, Pam Wang, Nicholas Buck, Ardith Nefzger, Hazel Trogstad, Orrie Flermoen, The Family & Friends of Wayne Benbo, Homebound, nursing home & assisted living members



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 7th (Advent 2)

1st: Isa 11: 1-10

Psalm: Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19

2nd: Rom 15: 4-13

Gospel: Matt 3: 1-12

December 14th (Advent 3)

1st: Isa 35: 1-10

Psalm: Ps 14: 5-10 or

Luke 1: 46b-55

2nd: James 5: 7-10

Gospel: Matt 11: 2-11

December 21st (Advent 4)

1st: Isa 7: 10-16

Psalm: Ps 80: 1-7 17-19

2nd: Rom 1: 1-7

Gospel: Matt 1: 18-25

December 24th (Christmas Eve)

1st: Isa 9: 2-7

Psalm: Ps 96

2nd: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

December 25th (Christmas Day)

1st: Isa 62: 6-12

Psalm: Ps 97

2nd: Titus 3: 4-7

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

December 28th (Christmas 1)

1st: Isa 63: 7-9

Psalm: Ps 148

2nd: Heb 2: 10-18

Gospel: Matt 2: 13-23



Just a reminder that offerings can be sent to the church at PO Box 100, or you can set up a direct deposit from your bank using ACH or Bill Pay.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

