

CALVARY UPDATE

January 2026

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday School resumes
January 4th.
- Council Meeting January 11th
after church

Find us on 

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

January Church Services while Theresa is on Vacation:

January 4th- Nathan Johnson

January 11th- Jenny Lien

January 18th- Nathan Johnson

January 25th- Jenny Lien



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we step into the new year. January always feels like a threshold moment when we pause between what has been and what is yet to come. As we enter 2026, I find myself reflecting on new beginnings in faith and the quiet ways God continues to shape our lives.

The Christmas season has reminded us once again that God chooses to dwell with us—not far off, not distant, but here, in the ordinary rhythms of our days. As we move into the season of Epiphany, we are invited to look for the light of Christ breaking into the world in unexpected places. My prayer is that this month becomes a time of renewed attentiveness to God's presence in your homes, your work, and your relationships.

In the coming weeks, our congregation will be focusing on spiritual practices that anchor us—prayer, Scripture, service, and community. These are not resolutions to keep but gifts to receive. I encourage you to join us in worship and fellowship as we explore how these practices shape us into people of hope.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to embody Christ's love in our church and community. Your generosity, your prayers, and your willingness to show up for one another are signs of God's grace at work among us.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in this new year. May Christ's light guide your steps. And may the Holy Spirit stir in you a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

In Christ's peace,

Theresa Sandess SAM



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Calvary Council met after church on December 7th. Members present included Steve, Bob, Dave, Elmyrna, Bryon, LaVonne, Marissa, and Theresa.

The meeting was called to order by Steve, and Theresa gave a devotional prayer. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were both read and approved.

For Old Business, LaVonne spoke with FarmChek regarding a quote on what it would cost for processing Theresa's payroll in 2026. Going from a contracted position to a regular paid employee of Calvary Lutheran Church. We also discussed having the Christmas Eve service at 4 P.M.

Under New Business, LaVonne stated her computer is 15 years old and in need of a replacement. The current one is running slowly and having issues running the 2010 Quicken software. Updated software will also be needed. The software is no longer sold for a one-time fee. It is only sold now as an annual or monthly fee.

Dave made a motion to approve the purchase of a new laptop computer and updated Quicken software. Bob seconded the motion. Also, with changing technology, we need updated Wi-Fi. This will help with many events or projects throughout the church. Elmyrna made a motion to approve increasing the Wi-Fi speed and router. Byron seconded the motion.

LaVonne requested a motion for money to be transferred from the Memorial Fund to the General Fund, if needed, to help with the yearly benevolence and World Mission payments in the budget. Dave made a motion to approve the money transfer. Elmyrna seconded the motion.

Finally, we went over the Covenant Contract extension for Theresa for 2026. Bob made a motion to accept the contract. Dave seconded the motion.

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 15th. The next council meeting will be after church service on January 11th.

Marissa McWilliam-Donner, Secretary

"And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

-Revelation 21: 5

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

Prayer List:

**Jesse Hickman,
Hazel Trostad,
Orrie Flermoen, The
Family & Friends of
Blanchard Krogstad,
Homebound, nursing
home & assisted
living members**

**Thank you to the kids, Devra
& Katie for the Christmas
program, based on the story
written by Joyce White.
Classes will resume January
4th.**



**The Annual Meeting
will be held February
15th after church with
potluck!**

**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.**

**LECTIONARY
READINGS FOR
JANUARY**

January 4th (Christmas 2)

1st: Jer 31: 7-14

Psalm: Ps 147: 12-20

2nd: Eph 1: 3-14

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

January 6th (Epiphany)

1st: Isa 60: 1-6

Psalm: Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14

2nd: Eph 3: 1-12

Gospel: Matt 2: 1-12

January 11th (Baptism of our Lord)

1st: Isa 42: 1-9

Psalm: Ps 29

2nd: Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel: Matt 3: 13-17

January 18th (Epiphany 2)

1st: Isa 49: 1-7

Psalm: Ps 40: 1-11

2nd: 1 Cor 1: 1-9

Gospel: John 1: 29-42

January 25th (Epiphany 3)

1st: Isa 9: 1-4

Psalm: Ps 27: 1, 4-9

2nd: 1 Cor 1: 10-18

Gospel: Matt 4: 12-23





2 Corinthians
5:17 KJV

"Therefore if any
man be in Christ,
he is a new creature:
old things are passed
away; behold, all things
are become new."