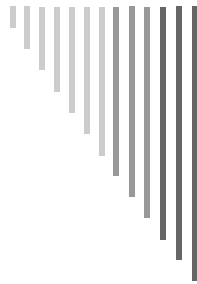


Calvary Call 2020

Volume 1, Issue 1 December, 2020



Introduction to "Vision"

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"before you build a tower... tally the cost"

What will it cost to follow Jesus? Jesus said before you build a tower or go to war tally up what it will cost (Luke 14:25-33). If we are honest it will cost us everything to follow Jesus.

Suffering may indeed be the cost and the future for Calvary and the church. God has not promised us an easy future, yet we know in the end God will indeed cast down the wicked and restore everything to perfection. We have hope of eternally life with Jesus in the new heavens and the new earth. In the mean time we live in a vale of tears, struggling with doing "the right thing" and following Jesus.

The following newsletter is an attempt to plan for the future and pray about

how God might use Calvary Lutheran church. The key is "might."

Each board and group was asked to creatively think how they see God working among them 10 years from now. The following may be achieved. If it is, it will only be with God's help. God may even have a different direction for His Church. As you read this be excited but always pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

Pastor James Travis



Worship & Music

Calvary's Annual Boar's Head Festival

This year marks Calvary's 10th Annual celebration of the Boar's head festival. It started following Calvary's 75th anniversary in 2011, and this year there will be 3 services to allow as many people to attend as possible: Sunday December 20 at 2 PM and 7 PM and Wednesday December 23 at 7 PM.



The Boar's Head is a 14th century Christmas festival/program incorporating traditional Christmas Carols and drama set in the court of King Wenceslas. The boar's head symbolizes the devil who is slain by Jesus himself. It also symbolizes how the Christmas story swallows up the pagan customs of the 14th century. However, this is not simply a festival at Good King Wenceslas Court. No, midway through the

court's celebration the church is transformed dramatically to Bethlehem, culminating with not just Shepherds and Wise Men bowing before Jesus, but the entire court of Good King Wenceslas is transported back in time to do the same.

This year we are hoping to involve over 60% of Calvary's members in the cast, music and supporting roles! Get tickets early for you, your family, and friends as the 900 tickets are expected to sell out before December 12. Cost is \$5 per ticket. Families can attend at the family rate of \$20.

Remember this is not just a program, but a worship service allowing all to participate by bowing before Jesus our King!

Worship Committee Plans Christmas Events


Free Music: For Christmas 2020, Calvary's Worship Committee has purchased MP5 Music video clips for families to enjoy after both Christmas Eve services: Family Worship at 5:30 PM and the Candlelight at 11:00

PM. Make sure you take one home for you and your family!

Christmas Musicians Needed: If you will have extra time over the Christmas holiday, please join and sing either

(Continued from page 2)



with the Praise Singers (Thursday evenings 7 PM), Calvary Choir (Tuesdays at 7 PM), or the Calvary Bell Choir (Tuesdays at 8 PM) choir. They will be sharing their gifts at the Christmas worship services and the Boar's Head Festival.

New Music Purchased for Boar's Head Festival

This year the Worship and Music committee purchased instrumental pieces (Star Carol, Joy to the World, Children's Carol) by John Rutter to enhance this year's Festival. As a result we will need all congregational instrumentalists to help play these beautiful pieces!

New Hymnal Technology comes to Calvary



Same hymnal, same screen, new venue. As you know the Synod's hymnal LSB has a new twist for those who have trouble following the service or need it in large print. Apple computers have released their inexpensive I-Pad 4 which allows the user to control the settings. It has an auto pilot setting especially good for new members and

visitors that automatically turns the pages. You control print size as well flip through the book.

You can even follow along with the scripture readings and search Bible passages for Bible Study. These are available surprisingly for \$200 each! We are seeking to have 50 of them available for use at services.

Technology



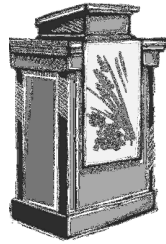
Are you unable to get to church because of work or health issues?

You can watch our worship services on-line at www.calvaryleeds.com.

You can also have one of the pastors bring you communion once each month.

Even with the best technology it is still important hear our Lord's comforting words, "Take eat...take drink this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sins."

December Sermons



Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16

Advent Series: The Christmas Blues

Sunday, Dec. 6, 8 & 10:30 am:

TBA

Sunday, Dec. 13, 8 & 10:30 am:

TBA

Thursday, Dec. 24, 11 pm:

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:

“Shepherds & Angels”

Friday, Dec. 25, 9 am:

Christmas Day “Jesus”

Sunday, Dec. 27, 8 & 10:30 am:

First Sunday of Christmas “Jesus in the Temple with Simeon”

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 7 pm:

Combined Wednesday & New Year’s Eve service

From the Elders:

Welcome New members!

Elders to hand out treat bags following the Children’s Program & Boar’s Head festivals.

The elders again are planning to hand out treat bags after the Children’s Program and at each of the Boars Head services.

Our nine elders would like to thank the congregation for their participation in Thanksgiving services during November when we received two new families into the congregation:



Mr. & Mrs. Dick & Jane Hernandez and family

Mr. John Doe and his children John Doe Jr. & Jane.





Outreach Center Success

We plan to set up a Christmas "Angel" tree at Calvary's Outreach Center on the corner of Hwy 75 and Outer Drive in the old Implement Dealer building

Since opening the Center, participation in our After School program has exploded! People are hearing about Jesus. We hope that

many will enroll in our alternate Confirmation program.

Also with Christmas coming up please consider donating non-perishable canned or boxed goods to help those in need. These can be taken to the outreach center or placed in the collection box in the narthex of the church.



Care Team Scores Big!

This past year the care team ministry reviewed *Christian Care Giving, a Way of Life* by Kenneth Haugk. Ten new members completed the Stephen Ministries training, bringing our number to 40.

Each zone now has at least four people using their God-given gifts to make evangelistic and caring contacts among members in their zone as well as to others in our community. The care team, elders and lay people, made over 2,500 personal contacts, not including the internet, to assist in a variety of spiritual needs in the past year.

Events included our annual Christmas caroling; working

through the *Find Your Fit/ Discover Who You Are* study encourage our newest members to use their respective spiritual and life gifts; and supervising eight special projects involving an array of talents and resources from across Calvary's membership in order to uplift and to aide.

One project included the Care Team and Calvary's Social Ministries team, working together to build a wheelchair ramp for one of our members. It is with joy and humbleness that endeavors continue in this ministry. "Let us not grow weary in doing good..." so all can know the joy of loving, serving, and living for

Bag-A-Lunch Plans for 2021



– It’s time to start planning for Spring of 2021. 50 kids attended our Bag-a-Lunch/Christian Day Care program each day last summer.

We are in need of toys, teachers, assistant teachers and helpers in June, July

and August. Children from the neighborhood, families, and even whole day care centers bring their children to this ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church.

Elders Report on New Legislation

No one can say anything negative about anyone...called "hate speech"

The Elders are concerned about how the newly passed laws concerning what churches can proclaim will affect the congregation. As you know, the law says that no one can say anything negative about anyone else otherwise it will be classified as hate speech.

Since our church believes that all of us need to have sin pointed out in our life, we can’t help speaking in ways that are sometimes hard to hear. Yet, these painful admonitions are always done out of love whether from the pulpit, private words of the pastor, or during an elders visit.

The elders resolved that Calvary should remain faithful to the Bible and not soften the message of sin, but to always try to follow such words with grace and forgiveness. After all, Jesus came to take away the seriousness of sin. The verse is cited, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23

The elders resolved that the church carry higher insurance coverage for the pastor in case people misunderstand our teaching, but not to back down on teaching the truth in love.

From the Director of Christian Education

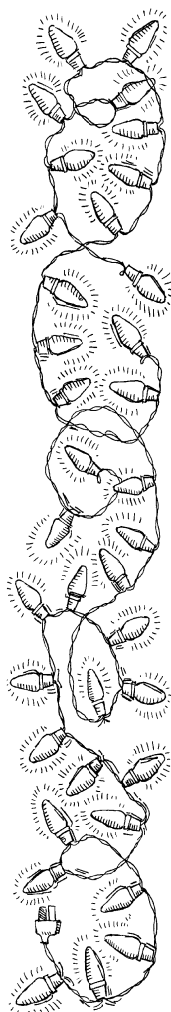
“It is difficult to find people who can produce the materials of dreams. Almost all of us have some dream power in our childhood, but without encouragement it leaves us and we become bored and tired and ordinary....we are apt to forget the dream spirit that is born in us.” Grant Wood

It is exciting to read through the dreams of the leadership of Calvary. There is an understanding of the rich blessings God has given His people and the responsibility of these blessings as understood through Jesus’ words to his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

As he prepared for battle against three armies, all odds against his winning the battle, King Jehoshaphat assembled the people and to-

gether they prayed to God for assistance. The prophet then spoke, “The battle is the Lord’s. Stand firm, hold your position (hold your dreams) and see the salvation of the Lord.” The army was lead, not by generals, but by the choir singing praises to God. The king trusted God fully. God granted the victory without one life lost. (Read 2 Chronicles 17-20 for the full amazing story.)

God has blessed Calvary with eighty-five years of togetherness with Him, His Word, and His people. The dreams shared in this special addition of the Call take our mission outside the four walls out into the world. Let us join together in prayer that God calls each one of us to our special task in making these dreams a reality for the Glory of God. Let us prepare and ready ourselves and trust in God for the “victory”. Matthey 19: 26 “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is **impossible**, but with **God** all things are possible.”



December 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed



6 8 Worship w/HC
9:15 Education Hour
10:30 Worship
11:30 Youth Board
12:15 Children's practice

7 3:45 Library Corner
7 Book Club II

1 7 Deborah Circle
7 Dorcas Circle
7 Trustees
7 Choir practice
8 Bell Choir Practice

2 9:30 Bible S
9:30 Lampligh
10:30 Bible Cl
5:30 Confirma
7 Advent Mid-

13 8 Worship
9:15 Education Hour
10:30 Worship w/HC
12:15 Children's practice
1:45 Hanging Greens
4 Caroling

14 9:30 LWR Quilters
3:45 Library Corner
6:30 Social Ministries Board

15 9:30 Rebekah Cir.
6 Care Team
7 Martha Circle
7 Ruth Circle
7 Elders Board
7 Choir practice

16 9:30 Bible
10:30 Bible Cl
5:30 Confirma
7 Advent Mid-

20 8 Worship w/HC
9:15 Education Hour
9:15 Children's practice
10:30 Worship
2 Boar's Head Festival
4 Children's Service
7 Boar's Head Festival

21 3:45 Library Corner

22 11:30 Book Club I
7 Choir practice
8 Bell Choir Practice
7:30 Lydia Circle

23 9:30 Bible
10:30 Bible Cl
7 Boar's Head

27 8 Worship
9:15 Education Hour
10:30 Worship w/HC

28 9:30 LWR Quilters

29

30 9:30 Bible
10:30 Bible Cl
7 New Year's
ship w/HC

Calvary Lutheran Church
 4400 Central St.
 Sioux City IA

Church Phone: 712-239-1575
 Outreach Center: 712-555-1212
 Fax: 712-239-8727
 Web: calvaryleeds.com

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Study Prayer Lighters Bible Class Confirmation Mid-week 1	3 7 Praise Team practice	4 4-8 pm Set up for Cookie Walk	5 8:30-11:30 am CLWL Annual Cookie & Candy Walk
Bible Study Bible Class Confirmation Mid-week 2	10 9:30 Naomi Circle 7 Praise Team practice	11	12 10 Library Corner
Bible Study Bible Class Confirmation Mid-week 3	17 6:15 Worship & Music Board 7 Praise Team practice	18 9:30 Sarah Circle	19 8 Men's Prayer Coffee 8am—2 pm Calvary's Day of Prayer 10 Library Corner
Bible Study Bible Class Lead Festival	24 Christmas Eve 5 Family Worship 11 Candlelight w/HC	25 Christmas Day 9 Worship w/HC	26
Bible Study Bible Class Christmas Eve Wor- ship	31 New Year's Eve (Church Offices Closed for holidays)		



Education & Youth

Education Keeps on Growing!



The Board of Education has reached its goal for 2020 and is looking to increase the percentage in 2021 for adult education.

We had 70% of our adults in a Bible study program through classes held at church and through our new Calvary Computer Network. With Pastor in

the sound room we are able to broadcast five classes a week. We are hearing "through the grapevine" about friends and distant family members getting involved in these studies.

The Board is planning to expand the classes offered through this program.

Another Successful "Trunk & Treat"



Our Trunk & Treat program, started in 2010, has expanded beyond our wildest imagination. Our parking lot is full of decorated cars filled with treats for children; our parish hall is filled to capacity with booths highlighting Bible stories for everyone to enjoy.

This adventure has been a real blessing to Calvary as we have had fifty new families join the church during the past ten years as a direct result of this outreach into our community. People are saying "Calvary is a great place to be with my family."

Newest Game Released: Noah's Ark



The Board of Education is proud to announce the newest release of our interactive video game series: *Noah's Ark*.

Parents are encouraged to log on to our website to link to our video game

links. Noah's Ark is the 10th game in this series for children.

We hope to bring the *Fierly Furnace* story/video game next year.

Library



The computer age hasn't taken over completely. People of all ages continue to check out books from Calvary's library.

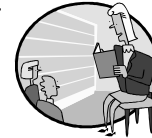
The Sunday School classes take turns coming to the library, the kids can check out books and most of them get returned.

We now have a computer and all the books are cataloged and inventoried. Our collection of books contin-

ues to grow.

We have several volunteers who help check out books, catalog new books, and put up book displays.

Our Library Corner Program is well attended. Volunteers read books every Monday at 3:34 pm & Saturdays at 10 am, in our newly remodeled library.



Sunday School—Christian Education

Practice! Practice, Practice! Parents and children and youth.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it **all for the glory of God.**” I Corinthians 10:31



For our gift of worship at Christmas we want to give our best. Our best means we need to practice our words and actions so the worship service may give full Glory to God and praise to Him who gave His Son to us. Practice times for the Children's Worship Service are:

Sundays, December 6 and 13 at 12:15 to 1:45 pm

Sunday, December 20 at 9:15 am.

A light meal will be served immediately after the 10:30 am worship service on the first two Sundays so students will be ready to practice at 12:15. All students in Sunday School, confirmation, and high school Bible study have been given part of the Great Gospel to share. We need everyone to join together in the practices so we can give full glory to God.

Confirmation—This Month's Memory Work

December:

The Lord's Prayer,
the First & Second Petitions:

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth

and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

(Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation)



From the Youth:

Calvary's high school youth group have completed plans for the 7th All-circuit lock-in at our outreach Center. They are expecting 100+ youth for the event, which will feature a local Christian band, battle ball competitions and an Internet interface with youth from Australia.

This event was entirely planned by the youth. Money was raised for the event with funds from the annual Baked Potato Din-

ner, attended by 300+ people.

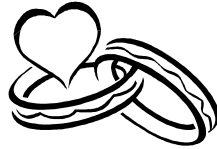
The youth's next project is planning the servant event in Sioux City to remodel four homes for the elderly. Our confirmation class will be working with the high school youth on this project.

If you are interested in helping do the work or to donate money, contact Jim Wim, president of Calvary Youth.



Family Ministry

Marriage at Calvary



Are you newly engaged or considering getting married at Calvary? Did you know 50% of both Christian and non-Christian marriages end in divorce? Likewise did you know that 99 % of marriages where the couple prays together and actively par-

ticipates in faith in Jesus remain together?

Talk to one of our pastors immediately and take part in a new seven part marriage program. We will learn about the power of a living faith in marriage. These statistics are too dramatic to ignore!

Pre-natal Classes begin



Five parents completed the fall session of “Prenatal to Baptism” Classes. We look forward to the healthy birth of these children over the next couple of months and welcoming them into the family of God through Holy Baptism.

Our spring session begins the 2nd Monday in February and goes for five

weeks. Families expecting a child in April through June are strongly encouraged to attend. You will meet other expectant parents and learn about the gift of God you are about to have the privilege of raising with God as your partner. For more information call Calvary Lutheran Church and talk with the DCE.

Contact us: Calvary Lutheran Church, 4400 Central Street, Sioux City, Iowa, 51108. Phone 712-239-1575; FAX 712-239-8727; Cell: 712-202-8516; email — Pastor Travis: Rev.Travis@hotmail.com DCE Storm: CalvaryDCE@aol.com; Church Office: CalvarySecretary@aol.com; Church Website: calvaryleeds.com

Building & Maintenance

New Equipment & Upgrades



The Board of Trustees has purchased a new snow blower for the ATV. The old blower was no longer repairable. The last few winters have been hard on our snow removal equipment. Head custodian John Anderson said the old blower probably wouldn't make it another season.

John has checked all the heating equipment and all is ready for the winter season. He said that since all the old systems have been replaced our utility bills should be less than last winter.

The Trustees have decided to bring the pews from the basement back into the sanctuary to accommodate the larger attendance.

The larger classrooms downstairs have worked out well. Now all age groups can be in their own room.

The Trustees will be looking for men and women interested in serving on the Board. We have three openings for next year. Get your name on the ballot for the spring elections.

Minor repairs have been made to the Central Street parking lot. The Parking lot fund is up to \$17,546. the new lot will be concrete which will be much easier to keep clean and maintain. When our goal is reached, the work will begin.

Final note: Three years and NO roof leaks!

Church Council News:



The Church Expansion Committee met on Tuesday to finalize the presentation for expanding the church seating capacity.

Calvary has exceeded its goal of seating 200 worshippers at each Sunday service, and 100 at the Wednesday evening services.

Bible Studies & Fellowship

CLWL Announces Three New Circles

The President of the Calvary Lutheran Women's League is proud to announce the formation of three new circles this year.

Naomi Circle is composed of stay-at-home mothers with very young children and meets on the second Thursday morning at 9:30 in the members homes. They have 7 young mothers and invite others to join them. As part of their meetings, they discuss the challenges and joys of raising children and have spirited discussions during Bible study.

Lydia Circle meets on the fourth Thursday evening at 7 pm and is composed of working women of all ages.

They enjoy reaching out to the community and learning more through mission projects and Bible study.

Sarah Circle meets on the third Friday morning at 9:30 am at the church. This is an excellent group of recent retirees. They enjoy having time to do more for the church and our community through many outreach projects, as well as Bible study.

Of course, Dorcas, Deborah, Rebekah, Martha and Ruth Circles are still going strong and always welcome new members.

Be a part of the Calvary Lutheran Women's League and see where YOU belong!



We have a Study for You!

There's always time for Bible Study and we have a number of times to suit your schedule.

In addition to our Adult Class on Sundays at 9:15 am, we have studies on Monday evenings, Wednes-

day mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Check the list on the board at church or on our website. We are always adding times, topics and locations, and suggestions are always welcome!



What Calvary Stands For:

Caring, Abiding, Love Another, Vital Importance of the Bible, Adore the Christ, Resurrection of the Dead, Your life can be changed

The Final Article

The third and final article of the Apostles' Creed explains how faith in Jesus is possible. The creed concludes: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Calvary – Bringing Faith, Hope & Strength to all Christ's People.

Ten simple words that are the basis for who we are and why we exist. Every institution, no matter how large or small, must have a reason for being, a reason for living. Here at Calvary, we have been given our mission, our reason for living, by our Lord Jesus Christ. In his Great Commission in Matthew 28, Jesus said, "Go and teach everything I have commanded and Baptize in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit." With this command he also promised to be with us as we carry

out HIS mission for the Church.

Goal:

Our goal is to live this great commission in everything we do. St. Paul says that **Faith** comes by hearing the message of Jesus Christ. We strive to share that message not only amongst ourselves, but also with those in our community who have not heard of God's gift of love for them. The author of Hebrews reminds us that **Hope** is being certain of what we do not see. And this is done by faith. We endeavor to bring the hope of eternal salvation to all of Christ's people by reaching out in love to those who don't yet know him. In the Old Testament we are told to be **Strong** and courageous for the Lord God is with us. He will not fail or forsake us. The strength we have comes from the knowledge that we are children of God through Baptism. We are also made stronger to carry out our task by receiving the Lord's Supper.

Mission:

Our **Mission** is to bring Faith, Hope and Strength to all Christ's people with the understanding that Christ is with us assisting and directing our efforts.

