

2025-11-09 Congregational meeting

Sunday, October 12, 2025 9:02 PM

Mt Calvary November 2025 Council Meeting

President: Ken Tague

Date: 11/9/2025

- ☐ Call to order and opening prayer
- ☐ *Review for Approval: Previous Meeting Minutes

Pastor's update	Pastor Tom
DCE Report	(Vacant)
Elders' Report	Jake Hermanson

Vote on

*Financial Report	Linda Norton
*Treasurer's Report	Mary Barkley

Board Reports

Education	
Evangelism	
Discipleship	Ed & JoAnn Chapman
Worship	Jen Olson
Parish Nurse	
Youth	Natasha Cooper
Records	David Cormeny
Stewardship	
Property	Terry Pauling

Old Business:

- Local Mission Fund status (December)
 - o \$50k left to allocate
 - What is this: Separate from missions fund that we contribute 1% of our budget too, unallocated funds
 - Options (*Faith based)
 - ☐ Nancy's place
 - ☐ WeLift

- ☐ *Lutheran Family Services
- ☐ Others

New Business:

- Recognizing contributions around the church
- 25-26 fiscal year Budget
 - o Review
- Organizational change discussion (Pastor)

Tabled items:

- 2026 LCMS Convention (July 17-23, 2026)

Next Meetings:

- December 15th 2025, 6PM

- ☐ Adjourn
- ☐ Closing Prayer

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 20, 2025**

Attendance: Pastor Vanderbilt, Ken Tague, Jake Hermanson, David Cormeny, Ed

Chapman, JoAnn Chapman, Mary Barkley, Terry Pauling, Jen Olson, Linda Norton, Natasha
Cooper

Ken called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Jake motioned to approve September 2025's council minutes. Mary seconded the motion.
Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Pastor Report- (See Email Attachment)

“Bridging the Gap”, October 4th with Keith Haney

-Where Are We?

-Who is in our community?

-How do we bridge the gap?

Pastor would like to give this presentation at the Congregational meeting. Please see his attachment.

DCE Report- N/A

Elder's Report- Jake (See Email Attachment)

-The new candelabras are too high for the acolytes. The elders' plan to build a step box for them.

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)

-David motioned to approve September 2025's Financial Report. Terry seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report- Mary Barkley (See Email Attachment)

-Choir director's pay is now coming out of LCEF.

-Natasha motioned to approve September 2025's Treasurer's Report. Linda seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Education Report- N/A

Evangelism Report- N/A

Discipleship Report- Ed and JoAnn Chapman (See Email Attachments)

Worship Report- Jen Olson (See Email Attachment)

Parish Nurse- N/A

Youth Report- Natasha Cooper (See Email Attachments)

Records Report- David Cormeny (See Email Attachments)

Stewardship Report-N/A (See Email Attachments)

Property Report- Terry Pauling (See Email Attachments)

- Parking lines will be painted on Thursday

- The walking path and firepit are ready by the pond. Firewood is available.

Terry motioned that we donate \$20,000 to the WeLift Compassion Fund. Jen seconded the motion.

- Pastor Tom had concerns that we may be doing good works but not uplifting Christ in our donations.

Terry withdrew his motion.

Council discussed options for our \$50,000 local mission donation.

- Pastor Tom suggested a new service from Lutheran Services. Donating money to cover the cost of adoption into Lutheran families.

- Ken suggested Nancy's Place. This organization helps handicapped people get housing with handicapped access.

- Council decided to table the discussion until December. More time is needed for additional thoughts and ideas.

Church council discussed the five organizations that would be giving donations to in 2026.

- Terry motioned that organizations remain the same except that Hope Foundation would be replaced by WeLift Compassion Fund. Jen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Jake motioned that the 2026 Mt. Calvary Church Council Budget be approved. Natasha seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Jake motioned that we take the \$25,000 from the endowment fund into our general budget.

Terry seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

-JoAnn needs volunteers for Wednesday meals. We will bring this to the congregation at November's meeting. We will also add it to Calvary's Current.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was offered by Jake, a second by Jen.
Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
David Cormeny

An Executive Summary of the 2025 Convention of Iowa District West

Pastor Vanderbilt and Ken Tague attended the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West at Camp Okoboji from June 8-10, 2025. Every congregation of the District is allocated a pastoral and lay delegate. The following is a quick summary of the three days of proceedings.

Elections

The Rev. Dr. Steve Turner did not seek re-election as District President, instead retiring from ministry after 40 years total. Rev. Paul Egger (St. John, Galva) was elected the new District President and was installed at the convention. He began his duties in late July of this year.

The Rev. Jonathan Riggert (Trinity, Cherokee), formerly 2nd Vice President of Iowa District West, was elected as 1st Vice President. Rev. Ben Dose (Trinity, Algona) was elected to serve as 2nd Vice President.

Pastor Vanderbilt let his name stand for election as chair of the Human Care Committee but was not elected. Rev. Chadrich Dietrich (Immanuel, Rockwell City and Trinity, Manson) was elected to that position.

However, it was revealed in October that Rev. Riggert had left the ministry and was no longer able to serve as 1st Vice President. Therefore, per District by-laws, Rev. Dose was promoted to 1st Vice President and Rev. Chadrich Dietrich was appointed by President Egger to become 2nd Vice President. This caused the District's Human Care Committee to become vacant and President Egger has appointed Pastor Vanderbilt to this role.

Also, Rev. Michael Barnes (Peace, Des Moines) has also retired from the ministry, leaving a vacancy in the role of Circuit Visitor for the Des Moines East Circuit (Mt. Calvary's circuit). Rev. Kevin Johnson (Holy Cross, Carlisle) was elected by the circuit to fill this role.

Resolutions

Actions taken in District Convention are not binding to local congregations. They are always given as suggestions and directions for congregations to consider. However, they may be binding to the District and so they can serve as a way for the people of Iowa District West to bring their concerns to the District. Here are the first batch of Resolutions that were considered by the Convention:

- "To Promote Wellness Among Church Workers"
- "To Build a Culture of Church Work Formation and Recruitment"
- "To Encourage Every Congregation to Enact Sexual Abuse Prevention Strategies"
- "To Give Thanks for the One True Faith as Confessed in the Nicene Creed on Its 1700th Anniversary"
- "To Support and Encourage Adoption"
- "To Commission a Study to Support Ethnic Ministry Pastors and Commissioned Workers"
- "To Advance the Reach of Word and Sacrament Ministry in Our Local Community"
- "To Allow Greater Access to the Lutheran Confessions"

The Resolutions to support adoption and to commission a study on ethnic church workers will be sent by the District as overtures to the Synodical Convention in 2026. All the resolutions above were passed except for the final one concerning the Lutheran Confessions. It was defeated because there was not enough information on the accessibility of the materials in question.

The second batch of Resolutions that were presented for consideration were the following:

- “To Recognize and Give Thanks for the Leadership of President Steven Turner”
- “To Strengthen through Realignment Congregations of Circuits 1, 6, 8, 16”
- “To Bring Awareness to Congregations by Encouraging Them to Develop a Disaster and Risk Response Plan”
- “To Support the Compassionate Mission of Lutheran Family Service”
- “To Embrace Biblical Stewardship for the Flourishing of Christ’s Mission”
- “To Review the Handbook of Iowa District West”

The resolution on re-alignment had a minor impact on Mt. Calvary as the Des Moines East Circuit (Circuit #8) gained Our Savior’s in Leon and Immanuel, Osceola to our group. This realignment was necessary due to Synodical requirements for circuits. The LCMS by-laws state that a circuit must have between seven and twenty congregations with a combined total of 1,500 to 10,000 confirmed members. The former Circuit 16 (Clarinda, Shenandoah, Villisca, Bedford, Corning, Leon, and Osceola) was disbanded because they had dropped below 1,500 confirmed members between their 10 congregations. Those 10 congregations were assigned to Circuits 1, 6, and 8 as recommended by the committee.

Pastor Vanderbilt can provide more details on these as requested, but most of these were perfunctory. He can also share a complete record of the proceedings and resolutions to anyone who would like them.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

Pastor's Semi-Annual Report
November 9, 2025

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. (Psalm 111:1-2)

The events that follow in this report are not my works but the works of the Lord. He continues to be faithful through His Word and Sacraments and we see the fruition of His grace and mercy displayed below.

Since our last Congregational Meeting, we have not celebrated Holy Baptism for any new members, but we do have some in the coming months.

We have transferred three of members from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant: Carolyn Pauling, Joseph Bousquet, and Becky Sponsler. We look forward meeting them again the Church Resurrected.

On October 4, I joined Laurie and Justin Herndon in Holy Matrimony in ceremony conducted at Smith Chapel on the Campus of Simpson College. We pray God's richest blessings on their union.

Finally, we've had other updates to our membership. Mary and Bruce Barkley transferred in from Trinity, Blair, NE. Aaron and Erika Finkel transferred their membership to St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN. Finally, Jill Johnston and her children, Isabel and Nate Christensen were granted a peaceful release from membership at Mt. Calvary.

These are the good works that God has allowed us to witness over the last six months. To Him be all praise and glory.

Faithfully submitted,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



Semi-Annual Board of Elders Report

November 9th, 2025

In Work:

- Church Policy Manual (Wedding, Confirmation, Prayer List mgmt., Weather, Baptism, Communion, Memorials, etc.)
- Establish church custodian roles, responsibilities, and expectations
- 5th Sunday Consolidated Worship service in conjunction with Elders Breakfast

Recent Accomplishments:

- Staffed the Church Custodian position
- Assisted in recent Strategy/Vision plan “Bridging the Gap”
- Discussing past DCE role/position in the Church based on “Bridging the Gap” Initiatives
 - Part-time Media/Marketing Staffer
 - Director of Christian Outreach
 - Vicarage
 - Director of Christian Education
- Hosted 2x Elders Breakfast events

Upcoming Business:

- Next Elders Breakfast June 29th
- Appreciation to Gene Grimm and Steve Hauge for their past efforts and contributions as Elders

Name	Installed	Expires
Jacob Hermanson	July 2025	July 2027
Steve Smith	July 2025	July 2027
Mike Oeffner	July 2025	July 2027
Dave Jordan	July 2024	July 2026
Dave Cooper	July 2024	July 2026
Brad Rodemeyer	July 2024	July 2026

Brad- A-D

David C.-E-H

Steve S.-I-L

Mike O.-M-Q

David J.-R-U

Jake-V-Z

Caring Family Sharing Christ

Discipleship Agenda Nov 3rd, 2025

Opening Prayer

Bible studies and Classes

Sundays

Men's Bible Study – Mondays at 12:00 Small Catechism.

TEXTILE Tuesdays – 9am Every Tuesday 2nd Tuesday all day!

L.I.F.E Class

Thursday Bible Study – Pastor lead

Coffee Conversation and cards – Is Discontinued. We will find a 50+ event for evening. No ideas yet. If anyone has an idea let us know. Prefer activity vs Bible Study.

Wed night high school youth. Sara will lead.

Ken will be coordinating with Pastor to reschedule his Thrivent Presentation.

Nov 16th [between services.](#)

Old Business

Congregation Meeting and Thanksgiving Meal

1. All turkeys are pickup and can be picked up this week, weekend.
2. Much needed break in Oct. But on to New Business. [Setup Sat at 10:30](#)
3. Confirmation, we had 175 members and guest for late service.

New Business

1. Christmas Cookie Exchange, The Board of Ed. is having there Christmas program Dec.17th. It's a Birthday party for Jesus and they are doing the meal. Many asked if we could the Cookie Exchange [on Sunday the 21st. Between services](#)
2. January is quickly approaching. Amanda thought the 24th of January would work best for the Chili cookoff and Trivia night, or Feb 28th. Cabaret weekend is the last weekend of January. [The committee](#)

discussed and thought a Sunday after late service might work a little better. Amanda will not be able to help us. We are sure we can recruit some of the youth to help.

3. Feb would be the Turkey noodle luncheon. Maybe the 15th of Feb. We would make noodles Sat. Feb 7th and possibly do pies also for the luncheon. We would freeze and bake that day! We talked about Adult Prom, we have not had real good feedback for this! The committee decided that Feb 15th would be a good day for Turkey and noodles. We will be making noodles and possibly pies for dessert on Feb 7th at 10:00am.
4. We are still doing between 40—50 meals on Wed night. We only have 1 night in Dec. that meals will need to be made (We think). All meals have been taken until Jan. We have had interest from Ian Whedling who is a student at Simpson. He is in a fraternity, and they need to do community projects. We explained how our meals work and how to be reimbursed! He will get back to us for Jan. That is when there hours reset.
5. Jan we will start talking about summer meals. We spent about \$4500 this year for 1500 meals. Approximately \$3 a meal. **Well done crew.**
6. **This is our last year for being Discipleship chair. We are working on a outline of everything that we have done. We will not be leaving discipleship committee just won't be chairs.**

Discussion

Next Meeting Dec 1st. 6pm No Meeting in Dec.

If we don't have anything to discuss we will put this off until Jan 5th at 6pm.

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church

Worship Board

November 2025

The Worship Board met 11/1. Preparations for All Saints Day completed.

The Board served Mid week meal October 22 and will serve again 12/10.

Christmas decoration day December 6 at 9AM. Removing Christmas decorations will be January 10 at 9AM. Many hands make light work.

Bulletin and Newsletter article for the Memorial Gift Committee will be in November/December.

Worship Board is still looking for candle oil that could burn longer. The new candles do not burn as long.

Continued efforts to add members to the Worship Board. Prayerfully consider.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Olson

Board of Youth Meeting Minutes from 11/4/2025

Those in attendance: Jeret Koenig, Caroline Koenig, Tom Vanderbilt, Sara Vanderbilt, and Natasha Cooper

We had five students attend the junior youth gathering in West Des Moines October 18-19th and will have five attending the high school youth gathering November 21-23 in Des Moines.

Jared and Carolyn have reached out to our high school student's families and will be starting a bible study for our high school 9-12 graders based on 2 Timothy 1:6.

What: Fanning the Flame: Who's Next? will discover where God is answering "Who's Next?" in the LCMS. This seeks to raise up young leaders and explore and experience what God may be calling them to do.

Called by God: Every Christian has a specific calling from God, which can manifest in various forms, such as being a parent, teacher, worker, or community member.

Frame Curriculum:

Bible Study is at our core (sample from Set Apart to Serve (SAS))

Leading Lives that Matter

Seeing Yourself in a Church Work Vocation

I AM the Alpha and Omega

SAS [Set Apart to Serve - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#)

The Harbor [The Harbor Leadership Collective | Raise up to send out](#)

Governance Model (servant shareholder-centric and shareholders will start a "new business" each year)

Where: Church or other meeting place TBD, starting NOV 16th, 2025, the schedule will follow the meeting dates of Sunday school.

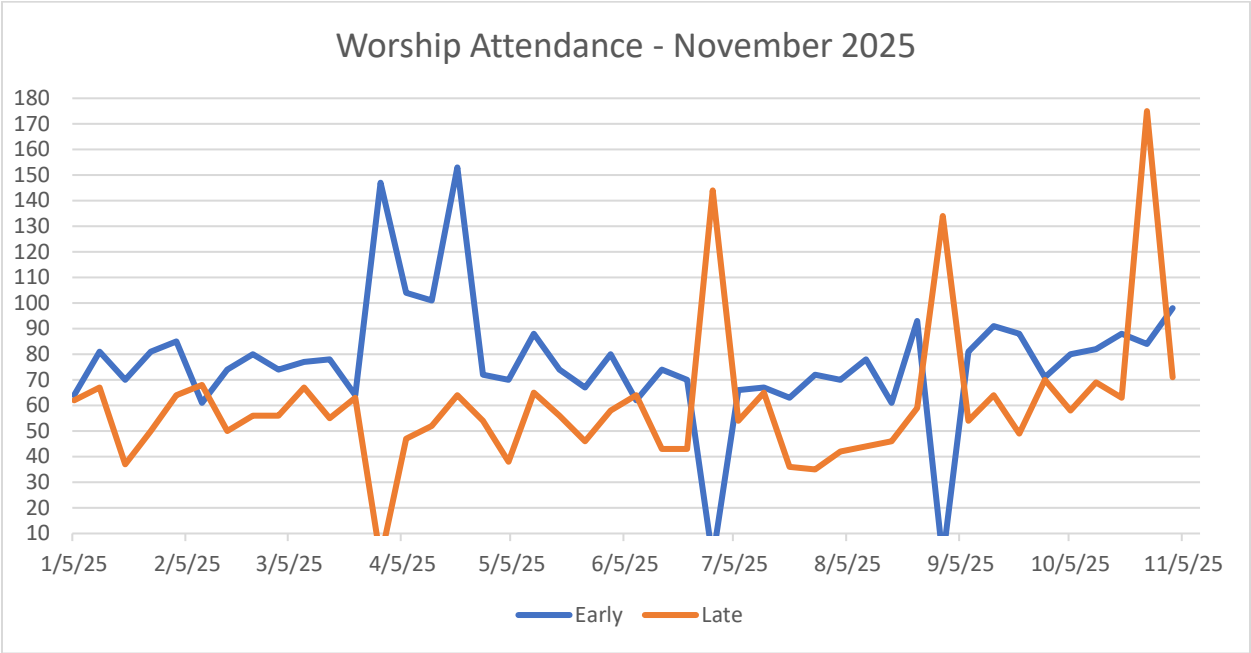
When: every Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 AM at Mt Calvary

Why: Stir up the gifts from God that are placed in us

Key Leadership Gifts:

Admin/Office Management, Accounting/Finance, AV/Tech, Children's Ministry, Communications, Counseling, Event Planning, IT Management, Pastoral Ministry, Property Management, Social Media Marketing/Marketing, Video Editing, Worship Team Ministry, Youth Ministry, Recruiting/Retention, Other

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Records Report Attendance



Membership		
Date	Communicant	Baptized
12/31/2024	442	554
10/31/25	446	555

Property Board Updates

September of this year was the 20th anniversary of the dedication of this building.

NOTE: Decorating for the Christmas Season will be Saturday December 6th at 9am.

This past year has seen many maintenance updates to our building.

- A pantry has replaced the preschool bathroom, which now helps everyone monitor food supplies that are used for midweek and mid-summer meals.
- The outside door and lock to the kitchen was replaced.
- The Front Doors to our building were replaced.
- A 15-Passenger Van that was purchased last year, has been very helpful when attending events, including travel to the National Youth Conference in New Orleans this past summer.
- The Council approved the replacement of the east parking lot, which is now complete. The property board will seed the areas along the curbs next spring.
- Thank you to the Beautification Committee for their devotion in keeping the landscape looking great all season long.
- The landscape plants in front of the Sanctuary were replaced last spring and have greatly improved the looks of the front of the building.
- Pond

We want to thank Steve Roush for his devotion, labor and equipment in converting the pond from an eyesore to one that will be a blessing to our congregation.

- a. A firepit was installed, along with a trailer full of wood for members to use.
 - b. A walking trail was created around the pond and has been seeded so anyone is welcome to walk the trail to experience the wonders of the outdoors.
 - c. The pond has been stocked with some fish, with more to be added each year, which means fishing will improve in about three years.
- The ceiling in the fellowship hall will be repaired and plans are to install a new access to make it easier to repair the building's sprinkler system.

If you notice anything that requires maintenance, please contact Terry Pauling 515.249.9192



Thank you to Steve Roush, Andy Bakke, Bill Sponsler and Ken Gill for their dedication and help in completing all the improvements mentioned above.

Terry Pauling, Property Board Chairman