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M–F 8:00am—12:00 pm
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Up Coming events! !

Nov. 2 - Daylight Savings

Don't forget to FALL back 1

Nov. 13 - Ruth Circle Mtg.

**Nov. 9 - Church Thanksgiving
Dinner**

Nov. 9 - Congregational Mtg.

**Nov. 21 - 23 Sr. Hi. Youth
gathering**

**Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Eve
Service 7:00pm**

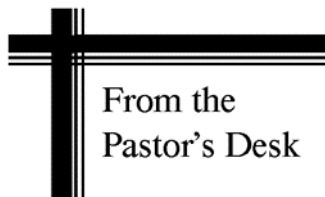
Nov. 28 - church office

**Nov. 30 - Fifth Sunday
One Service - 9:15 am
Traditional Service
10:15 am Elder Breakfast!!!**

Living in the **Shadow of the Cross**

Vol. 46 No. 11

November 2025



From the
Pastor's Desk

The Power of Thankfulness

As we enter this season of gratitude, it's worth pausing to reflect on what it really means to live with a thankful heart. Thankfulness is more than a polite "thank you" or a momentary feeling when life is going well. It is a way of seeing the world—a posture of the heart that recognizes God's goodness in every circumstance.

Scripture reminds us, **"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"** (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Notice Paul doesn't say *for* all circumstances, but *in* them. Gratitude isn't about pretending everything is perfect; it's about trusting that God is at work, even in the imperfect. When we choose thankfulness, we shift our focus from what we lack to what God has already provided.

Living gratefully transforms us. It opens our eyes to everyday blessings—a sunrise, a kind word, the laughter of children, the comfort of prayer. It softens our hearts toward others and strengthens our faith. Gratitude draws us closer to God, reminding us that every good gift comes from Him.

As a church family, we have much to be thankful for. We thank God for the fellowship we share, for those who serve faithfully behind the scenes, for the ministries that touch lives, and for the opportunities we have to bridge the gap between God and our community.

This month, let's make thankfulness a daily practice. Write down three things you're grateful for each day. Send a note of appreciation to someone who's blessed you. Offer a prayer of thanks for God's unending grace.

When gratitude becomes our habit, joy follows close behind. In giving thanks, we not only honor God—we discover the peace and contentment that only He can give.

In Christ,

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt

New Custodian
Faith and Wilson Sandquist have
been attending services here at
Mt. Calvary for a few months.
Faith has a cleaning business
FKS Cleaning Services, and she
has added our church to her clean-
ing list. Thank you Faith, for your
work here at Mt. Calvary.
We appreciate you!



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan to attend.

Saturday December 6, 2025 @ 9:30 am.
We will be decorating the church for the
Christmas season.



Empowering people to save starving children

18th ANNUAL HUNGER FIGHT

2025 Fight Week Totals:

TOTAL: 1.47 million meals
packaged during the week

TOTAL: enough meals to feed
5,680 children for one year

.47

Mt Calvary's 2025 team



Team members: Becky and Derek Hammer (not pictured),
Steve Roush, Terry Boettcher, Barb Gould, Darl (hidden) and
Ethel Lee, Karla Roush, Linda Norton, Connie Boettcher,
Celeste Gebhart, Cheryl Gebhart



Thanks to the Mt.
Calvary team for
their part in
packaging meals
to feed hungry
people throughout
the world!



Parking Lot Project—Fall 2025



Please let us know

If you know of someone, from our church, who has been hospitalized, please inform the Church Office. Hospitals no longer inform us when one of our members is admitted to their care. Therefore, we need your help for information regarding hospital stays. Pastor Vanderbilt tries to prioritize hospital visits but he doesn't always know when someone has been admitted. We appreciate your help. Thank you!

Don Norton Trap Shoot

THANK YOU to all who attended the Don Norton Memorial Trap Shoot at Izaak Walton Sunday., September 28.

Melody Collett, First Place Shooter for the second year in a row, took home the Traveling Shot Gun Plunger Trophy.

Thank you also to Mike Olson, Craig Daugherty, & Steve Roush for leading the event;

Denise Rudolph & Karla Roush for keeping score;

Thrivent Financial & Nick Rundlett for the wonderful smoked pulled pork;

Maxine Bohannon for the yummy deserts; Lisa Wiese, Julie Daugherty, Anna Sickels & Jill Sickels, and Jonah, Kira, & Amanda Cawthorn for their help in serving the meal; and to Barb Gould for her great artistic skills used to create the advertising poster.

An extra special thank you goes to Kyle Wiese whose inspiration and hard work made this event a reality. How you were able to repurpose the mess of stuff you acquired when fulfilling a promise to a friend is truly amazing!

Proceeds from the event will be given to the Mt. Calvary Youth Group.



Connecting with the Church

Happy Birthday!
November



Kenna Roan	1-Nov
Terry Pauling	3-Nov
Isaac Tague	3-Nov
Rhonda Duncan	5-Nov
Jill Sickels	5-Nov
Shari Vail	6-Nov
Julian Garrett	7-Nov
Marilyn Groth	7-Nov
Grant Sickles	9-Nov
Phyllis Chumbley	9-Nov
Kari Matthias	10-Nov
Don Van Dyke	11-Nov
Andrew Sponsler	11-Nov
Charlotte Weaklend	15-Nov
Megan Schafnitz	16-Nov
Gia Bingham	18-Nov
William Strike	23-Nov
Joan Van Diepen	23-Nov
Jan Evenson	28-Nov
Nancy Hauge	28-Nov
Darl Lee	28-Nov

Please notify the church office of updates or changes to your address or contact information or any corrections to the

Church Directory at office@mt-calvary.com

or call 515-961-4321.

THANK YOU!

Colleen DeLanoit

Office Administrator

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 am -12:00 pm

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Funeral— Becky Sponsler 10-25-2025



HELPING HAND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Dish Soap
Mac & Cheese
Canned Ravioli
Hamburger Helper
Canned Soup
Cereal
Ramen Noodles
Chili Beans
Peanut Butter

**This month Mt. Calvary
Delivered
grocery items to support
the Food Pantry.
Thank you for your
continued support!**

Opportunities to Serve



Available dates to donate flowers for the altar on Sunday.

Nov. 2 – Ruth Circle

Nov. 9 - available

Nov. 16 – Jen Ohnemus

Nov. 23 – Darl & Ethel Lee

Nov. 30 - Available

Altar Flowers – Needed: Individuals can sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the “Flower Fund.” Place checks/cash in the offering and mark “Flowers” or you can use the online option to donate. You may sign up for a specific week on the flower calendar located on the Pillar. If you have a special occasion and would like flowers ordered for you and placed on the altar, contact Sherrie Engel. We need two arrangements for the altar total cost \$50.00. Contact Sherrie Engel, 515-490-2333 for more information. There are plenty of Sundays available.



Available dates to host Sunday Morning Treats

Nov. 2 – Ruth Circle

Nov. 9 - Available

Nov. 16 – Peg & Carter Bousquet

Nov. 23 – Lisa & Kyle Wiese

Nov. 30 – ELDER BREAKFAST!!



Available dates to Host a Mid-Week Meal

Nov. 5 - Available

Nov. 12 - Available

Nov. 19 - Available

Nov. 26 NO MEAL

Dec. 3 - Available

We are needing help preparing our Wednesday night, Midweek meals. If you are willing to help please sign up on the signup sheet on the pillar in the fellowship hall. We offer financial assistance to anyone willing to prepare the meal. Everyone is welcome to attend our Wednesday night meals!

LWML Baby Shower for AGAPE



Dear Mt. Calvary Family,

We want to extend our deepest thanks for hosting the baby shower for Agape and blessing us so abundantly with your generosity. The blankets, clothing, wipes, diapers, and so many other thoughtful items will go directly toward meeting the needs of the families we serve.

Your kindness allows us to continue welcoming moms and dads who come through our doors with the tangible love of Christ, giving them the ability to provide for their children and experience hope in practical, meaningful ways.

We're so grateful for your partnership in this work and for the way your church family continues to pour into our mission and community.

Thank you for being such a blessing.

Katlin Leichty, B.A.
Care Manager



A: 2550 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

P: (515) 255.0243 F: (515) 255.5058

W: www.agapedsm.com



Thank you for your ongoing
support of our mission projects!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that helped support the **LWML bake sale**, contributed to the **big mite box** for LWML Sunday, and **the baby shower for Agape Pregnancy Center!**

Thank you to everyone for your support of the bake sale! We will be able to continue to donate funds to wonderful charities this Fall.

All the money donated to the mite box makes a big difference in supporting mission projects throughout the world! Thank you!

And especially, thank you for the items donated for the baby shower! The items were delivered to Agape Pregnancy Center in Des Moines and they were **thrilled** with the amount and variety of donations for their Resource Center. They conveyed their thanks to all of you!

May God bless all of you! Your willingness to help others in need is unmatched!





A BIG Thank You

A BIG Thank You to all the volunteers who have given so generously of their time and talents in serving Mt. Calvary this past summer.

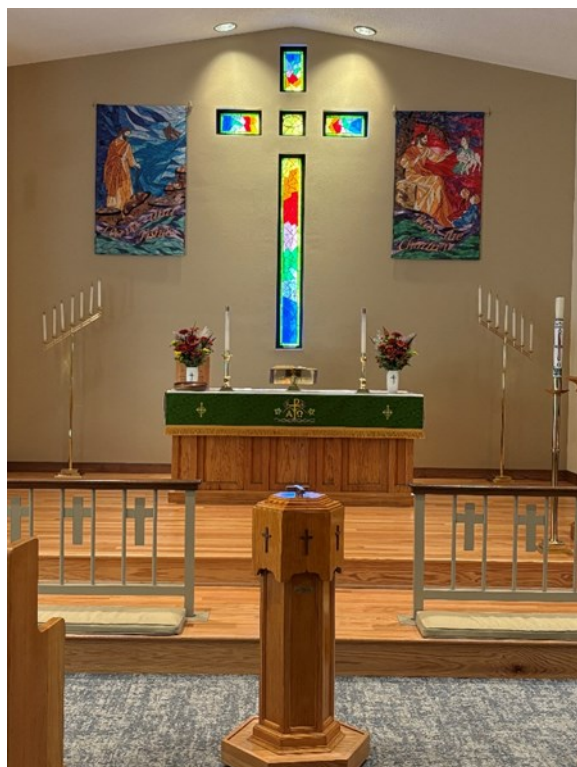
Lawn mowers

Those that watered & maintained our church gardens

Those who helped with our summer meals at the park.

Those who helped with the day camps we offered.

It takes lots of people & many hours to maintain the church grounds & help make events happen.



New Candleabras

Sunday, September 21, 2025, we had a blessing of the new candleabras purchased with memorial money from several families who have lost loved ones.





SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2025

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US ... for our Congregational Dinner & Meeting.

We will be enjoying a Thanksgiving feast with Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy being provided.

Please bring a dessert, or salad or vegetable dish to share. We will provide drinks, and table service.

Our meal will start right after the second service at 11:30am in the fellowship hall here at church.

Our semi-annual congregational meeting will be held, at approximately 12:15, after our dinner.

Don't miss this big event. See you there!

If you wish.... there is a signup sheet, on the pillar in the fellowship hall, for help preparing the turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Thank you.

Discipleship Board

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
September 15, 2025**

Attendance: Pastor Vanderbilt, Ken Tague, Jake Hermanson, David Cormeny, Ed Chapman, Jo-Ann Chapman, Mary Barkley, Terry Pauling, Jen Olson, Linda Norton
Ken called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Jake motioned to approve August 2025's minutes, with amendment to treasury notes. Terry seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Pastor Report- (See Email Attachment)

The 3 Functions of the Law

Curb or Fence- Let's you know when you're off the path

Mirror- It makes you look at what you're doing. If you see a speed limit sign, you look at your speedometer

Guide- shows us the way we should walk

-Paul warns of trying to use the law to do something it's not supposed to do. Like when the Pharisees tried to use the law to ascend to God.

-Timothy 1:12

-Paul uses the law as a mirror to acknowledge his sin. After recognition he

praises Christ's grave.

-Mathew Ch. 9- It's not the healthy that need a physician. It is the sick.

-Pastor closed devotion in prayer.

-October 4th, district representative, Keith Haney will be here. 9:30am – 12:30pm

Keith will be discussing how we need to get the people and the vision of the Church before forming Church structure.

-Pastor, "Let the record show I got done early". In reference to his allotted time presenting.

DCE Report- N/A

Elder's Report- Jake (See Email Attachment)

-Jake presented the quote from FKS for custodial services.

-Jen motioned to approve the quote and begin hiring their services. Mary seconded the motion. Motioned passed with unanimous vote. FKS would begin in October.

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)

-Jake motioned to approve August 2025's Financial Report. Jen seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

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

-Van maintenance and license will be filed under Property 985

-In October, council will need to decide what to use the 4% dividend on.

-\$50,000 still needs used from endowment for mission purposes.

-Message from Thrivent. Richard and Katherine Pratt have made a donation to the Church.

Treasurer's Report-

-Terry motioned that the August 2025's Treasurer's Report be confirmed. Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

-Please submit your board budget proposals for 2026.

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)

-Work will begin next week on the parking lot.

-Property is planning on putting in a new entrance to access the sprinkler system.

The sprinkler system might need maintenance repair. Terry is looking into quotes.

New Business

-Council needs to decide what to do with the 4% Dividend.

-Submit and review budget in October's meeting.

-Confirmation will be on the last Sunday of October.

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



ELDER CARE LIST

If your last name begins

With the letter:

Your Elder is

A – D	Brad Rodemeyer	515-669-3108
E – H	David Cooper	515-971-3197
I – L	Steve Smith	641-414-2704
M - Q	Mike Oeffner	712-579-2586
R – U	David Jordan	515-371-3360
V – Z	Jake Hermanson	515-205-9117



Fall Youth events.....



Confirmation Sunday — Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

Youth being confirmed at the 10:30 service are

Isabella Allen
Sydney Jackson
Ethan Loux
Rachel Sickles

Noah Allen
Hunter Koenig
Kenna Roan
Carson Vail



Senior Youth Gathering

Dean - Pastor Alex Slotter

Theme – “God’s Calling Your Life” (Ephesians 2:10)

November 21-23

Holiday Inn at the Airport, Des Moines

Cost \$250

**God’s Calling
Your Life**

SDW YG GATHERING 2025



		new Accolytes !!					
			SERVING IN WORSHIP				
Date		Accolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Elders	Readers	Counters
2-Nov	E	Blake & Gia Bingham	Jo Pulse & Jean Schroeder	Steve Roush & Bud Bohannon	Steve Smith	Jeret Koenig	
	L	Anna Sickels &	Dave & Judy Zwanziger	Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan	Jake Hermanson	Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
	L	Jocelyn Cawthorn					
9-Nov	E:	Finn & Zane Koenig	M. Meyer & L. Norton	Mark & Diane Johnson	Brad Rodemeyer	Linda Norton	
	L:	Eric Loux	Julie Jordan	Kyle Wiese &	Dave Jordan	Charlotte Weaklend	Dave & Julie Jordan
16-Nov	E:	Sophie Helgeson &	Mark & Diane Johnson	Paul Ophus & Jerry Ohnemus	David Cooper	Terry Pauling	
	E:	Penny Helgeson					
	L:	Anna Sickels	Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Kraig & Julie Daugherty	Mike Oeffner	Jill Sickels	Mike & Jen Olson
23-Nov	E:	Kade & Kori Roan	Brad & Nancy Rodemeyer	Bill Sponsler & Terry Pauling	Steve Smith	Jean Schroeder	
	L:	Kira Cawthorn	Nancy Hauge	Steve Hauge &	Jake Hermanson	Bill Engel	Mike & Emily Oeffner
26-Nov	Thanksgiving Eve						
		Finn & Zane Koenig	Steve & Karla Roush	Mike Miller	Brad Rodemeyer	Barb Gould	
30-Nov		William Griffith, Sr.	Barb Gould & Marilyn Groth	Steve Roush & Andy Bakke	Dave Jordan	Melinda Grimm	Dave & Judy Zwanziger
one service							
3-Dec		Sophie Cormeny &					
advent		Gia Bingham	Laurel Cogswell	Kyle Wiese	Mike Oeffner	Caroline Koenig	
7-Dec	E	Blake Bingham	M. Meyer & L. Norton	Bud Bohannon & Terry Pauling	David Cooper	Jeret Koenig	
	L	Anna Sickels	Nancy Hauge	Steve Hauge &	Mike Oeffner	Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
			Thank you for serving. If you are unable to serve please find someone who can!				

Opportunities to Serve

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in great need of Volunteers to step up and help with our MidWeek Meals on Wednesday nights. We have guests that come every week expecting a meal as well as Heal House guests and our church member students that attend our education classes. If we have no volunteers, our Discipleship group members have been stepping up to make sure there is a meal. Our Discipleship group cannot continue to make every meal. If we do not have volunteers to prepare meals, there will be no meals. So find a couple friends and create your own group to help with a meal. Discipleship is willing to purchase ingredients the weekend before if you cannot afford to buy the ingredients but would be willing to make a meal. If you would like to purchase the ingredients and be reimbursed you need to fill out a reimbursement form found in the kitchen cabinet. If you don't know how much food to make for the meal (we serve between 40-50 each week), we can help you with the amounts needed. Contact Ed & JoAnn Chapman @ 515-250-3847 or djchapman@chapmanhome.tech.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

Talk to the church office about becoming a Reader in Worship.

Talk to an Elder about becoming an Usher at either service.

Volunteer to be a song leader at our 10:30 am Sunday service.

Sunday Morning treats – Volunteers needed to host at Sunday morning coffee time.

A sign up sheet is on the pillar in the fellowship hall.

Altar Flowers – Needed: Individuals to sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the "Flower Fund." Check out the flower chart on the pillar in the fellowship hall.

November 2025

November 2025							December 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	8	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20	21	15	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27	28	22	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
30						29		29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2 Daylight Savings Ends 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended	3 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Board 6:00pm Discipleship	4 9:00am Textile Tuesday	5 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 6:30pm CHOIR PRACTICE	6 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	7	8
9 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended 11:45am	10 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Board of 7:00pm 4-H Meeting	11 9:00am Textile Tuesday	12 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 6:30pm CHOIR PRACTICE	13 8:00am 10:00am Ruth Circle Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study:	14 Pastor Tom out of Office	15
16 Pastor Tom out of Office 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended	17 5:00pm 12:00pm Men's Bible Study	18 9:00am Textile Tuesday - 9:00 am - 3:00pm	19 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 6:30pm CHOIR PRACTICE	20 6:30pm Bible Study: Christians in a woke world	21 5:00pm Sr. Hi. Youth Retreat Airport Holiday Inn	22
23 Sr. Hi. Youth Retreat Airp 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended	24 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Elders Meeting	25	26 5:30pm No Meal No Classes 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 Thanksgiving Day! Office closed	28 Office closed	29
30 9:15am Traditional ONE SERVICE 10:15am ELDER BREAKFAST - join	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6