



A Note from Your Pastor

Dear Calvary Church,

The date was February 1, 2022 and the time was 6:32 PM. I was reading Mark 4 when I received a text from Tim & Julie Nelson, asking, “Do you have time for a phone call this evening?” When Tim called, he simply asked,

“DO YOU HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT LIVING IN MN?”

He told me about Calvary and the process of praying began.

THERE WE WERE IN GARLAND, TX, living the life God had given us there. Minnesota was not on our radar. In fairness, no “location” was on our radar. We only wanted to be God’s will, regardless of any location.

WE DID NOT KNOW at that moment God would call us to Calvary Church, New Prague. God did! By July His will for us was very clear and in August we packed up our lives, all our belongings, said good-bye to family and friends, and moved to MN.

WE DID NOT KNOW anyone here. We were uneducated about living in the cold north, blizzards and snow-blowers. I’ll never forget our first big lesson: do not snowblow your driveway until AFTER the plow truck plows your street. Yeah, we learned that one the hard way. So, after purchasing a lot of real winter gear and discovering many things that were not on the radar of our knowledge and experience, we made it through that first winter.

YET, THERE WAS ONE THING WE KNEW FOR CERTAIN and it overshadowed everything we did not know:

GOD CALLED US TO CALVARY CHURCH IN NEW PRAGUE, MN!

We were exactly where He wanted us geographically, relationally and pastorally. We would soon discover that in the sometimes frozen land of Shakopee and New Prague, there were many warm hearts. God gave us new, life-long friends. He brought several people to salvation and moved several others into an exciting love of Him through his Word.



EVERY WEEK PEOPLE CAME TO ME WITH GRATITUDE, desires to learn more about the text and joy from the deepening of their own walk with Christ. We've walked with many through happy times and others through difficult times. We have shared life with so many of you. We have been so blessed!

THERE WE WERE, ONCE AGAIN, enjoying the life God had given us, when God decided to interrupt it. Being happy someplace is great, but

BEING IN HIS WILL, WHEREVER THAT MAY LEAD, WHATEVER THAT MAY INVOLVE, IS PARAMOUNT.

Like last time, God's call out of our current location, set of friends and all things familiar to us, came as a surprise.

WE WERE NOT EXPECTING IT. Though we have not, yet, arrived in our new location and church, nor have we gained a new set of friends, we are confident God will provide. He always has! Think about it: There are people in AZ who are presently unknown to us and us them, who are already friends according to God's plan. We just don't know each other, yet.

IT HAS BEEN BOTH A JOYOUS AND DIFFICULT TIME SINCE MY RESIGNATION TO CALVARY. Our hearts are heavy at the thought of not seeing you each week. You, however, are never out of reach. We are leaving a geographic location, but not friendships. We are leaving this local church, but not our Calvary family. We love you and are so glad that God called us here! I am so proud and grateful to have been your pastor and fellow servant for the time God designated.

THANK YOU!

Pastor Robert



WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

ATTENDANCE
(WEEKLY AVG.)

105

118

107

TITHES &
OFFERINGS
(WEEKLY AVG.)

\$7069.40

\$6828.50

\$5970.50

NEW MEMBERS

BAPTISMS

0

2



FEBRUARY 14TH-17TH - WINTER RETREAT

- Be sure to sign your student up for Winter retreat! Our annual Winter Retreat is again over President's Day weekend, and this year, that means Valentines Day too! We will head to Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls for 3 nights (Friday-Saturday-Sunday), and three days (Saturday-Sunday-Monday). Students will enjoy a retreat away, and towards a loving community, a chance to laugh and rest, and most importantly, an encounter with their creator.

Register on Church Center.

JANUARY 8TH - PARENT MEETING

- Please join me in looking at our ministry goals and vision as is, and for in 2025! We will meet at Falcon Ridge Library, Wednesday January 8th.
- We will go over our vision for how we can partner in your student's spiritual maturity and relationship with God.
- We will go over our mission for how to equip your students to bring the good news of Jesus to their friends in need.
- We will go over events this Spring & Summer, and give insight on which ones (in my opinion) you should sign up for and commit to.
- We will also offer a Christian Parenting Book Study for those interested over the 3 months following the meeting, including other suggested resources to help your student.

JANUARY 11TH - DNOW FELLOWSHIP

- DNow stands for discipleship now. In lieu of what we have done in the past two years, we are shifting our emphasis to building strong relationships amongst the young men (brotherhood), as well as the young women (sisterhood). This will be a 24-hour overnight, involving games, and outing, lessons, as well as going to church together! More information to come. Cost: \$20

FEBRUARY 8TH - POLAR PLUNGE @ WACONIA

- We will be doing the polar plunge on February 8th in Waconia! This will be a fun time to bond as a group, as well as have an opportunity to support the Special Olympics! Sign-Up after the New Year!

embrace.

Embrace your calling, embrace who God made you to be, and embrace the love and freedom of the savior.

COST:

\$150 by December 12th - January 10th

\$180 by January 11th - January 31st

Limited Scholarships Available Here:

<https://bit.ly/46TNNMA>

DEADLINE TO REGISTER & PAY: JANUARY 31ST

Upon registering, you will receive a confirmation email with directions on how to pay online or with cash/check.

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

Craig Larson

Youth Ministry Director

612-209-4794



Children's Ministry is going well. The children are engaged and retaining the Bible stories and verses. Seeing the relationships they build with each other and the volunteers is a blessing!

Calvary Kids

Sunday Morning attendance is sporadic, but that is normal at this time of year. Wednesday attendance is similar, but we have several non-Calvary attendees which is encouraging for outreach!

Katherine Kaczor

Children's Ministry Director

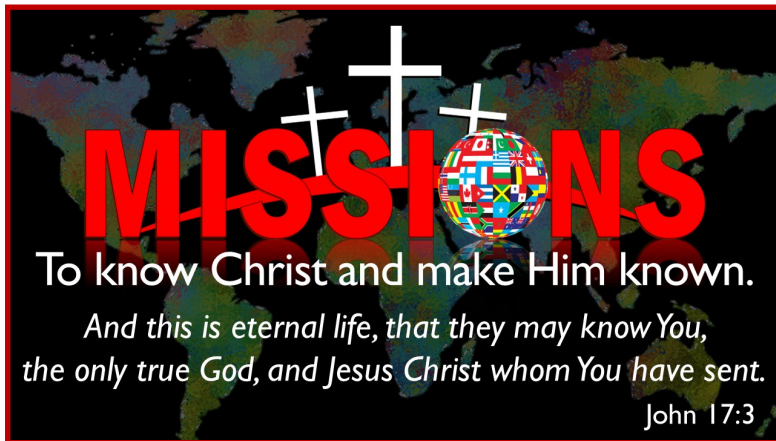


Ministry Needs

PRAYER, always. For receptive children, passionate teachers, and for Jesus to be glorified.

VOLUNTEERS for Feb – April. Please prayerfully consider volunteering, or increasing your commitment, as requests will start coming out soon.

SUBSTITUTES for the remainder of the AWANA year (end of April). We are asking for 1-3 additional people willing to come in once or twice a month to ease the burden of our very few subs currently filling gaps.



A Note from Your Missions Team

Dear Church,

As a Missions Team, we've been reflecting on the last part of 2024 and are filled with gratitude with how **our church has joined in reaching our community and beyond with the love of Jesus.**

We saw this church provide for 35 school-aged kids in foster care as they returned to school and again to 33 foster kids with Christmas presents (newborn to 18yrs old).

You gave \$800 to the State Missions Offering (through the MN/WI Baptist Association), part of which funds the Disaster Relief ministry and sent teams to Cook, MN (flooding relief) and Sikeston, MO (tornado relief).

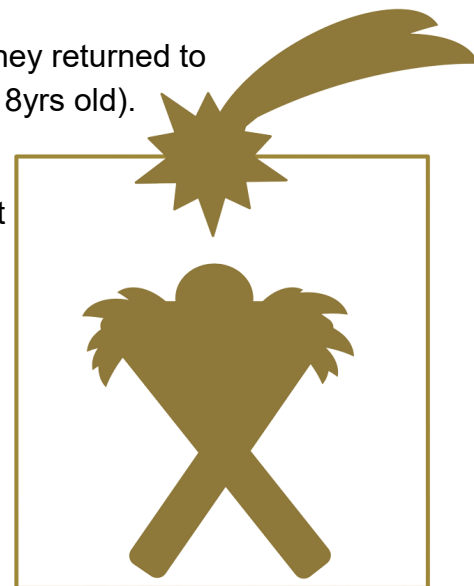
We also wanted to say **"thank you"** to those who have been giving to the Benevolence and Lottie Moon Christmas offering. In the last few months, we've been able to help with multiple car repairs and provided groceries and gas through the Benevolence fund.

The **Lottie Moon Christmas offering** goes to Baptist missionaries and ministries overseas. If this is something you feel led to give to, we'll be collecting for the offering through the end of December.

Looking ahead to the coming months, we're excited for what God can do through the Honduras Missions Trip (March 22-30, 2025) in the Lago Yojoa area, which will be highlighted at our **Missions Festival on Sunday, January 26th.** We're excited to invite you to come and see what we'll be doing, how you can be praying for our Honduras Team, and enjoy some refreshments after the service.

After the Missions Festival, we'll be promoting the **Annie Armstrong Easter offering**, which goes to support Baptist missionaries and ministries all over North America.

For any families who are interested, there is the evangelism-focused **EMPOWER conference** in Green Lake, WI on March 7-8, 2025. Contact Ed Olson for more information. You can also visit <https://www.mwbc.org/2024/03/empower-2024/> to see what the conference was like last year. Coming in April (exact date to be announced soon), there will be Disaster Relief trainings to better equip us to bring help, hope and healing to those affected by natural disasters. You can visit <https://mwdisasterrelief.org/training/> or scan the QR code for more information.



Blessings in Christ,
Your Missions Team
(Bob, Ed, Lizzie, Lori, and Mike)

IT'S WINTER! HOW COLD IS TOO COLD?

Inclement Weather Policy

The safety of our congregation is a primary concern. Weather conditions may be different, more, or less severe, depending on where one lives in relation to New Prague, where Calvary Church is located. Each family and individual should make his or her best judgment when deciding whether to make the drive to church or a church event.

The intent of this policy is to ensure the safety of Calvary Church guests, members, volunteers, and staff, as well as to provide effective communications concerning ministries and activities during severe or hazardous weather, or other emergency situations, such as power outages.

Calvary Church Elders will inform the staff of cancellations, so that the staff can expeditiously implement the necessary communication to Calvary Church. The following tools will be utilized to inform Calvary Church of such cancellations: website announcement, Facebook post, email, and text distributions.



Cancellation Guidelines:

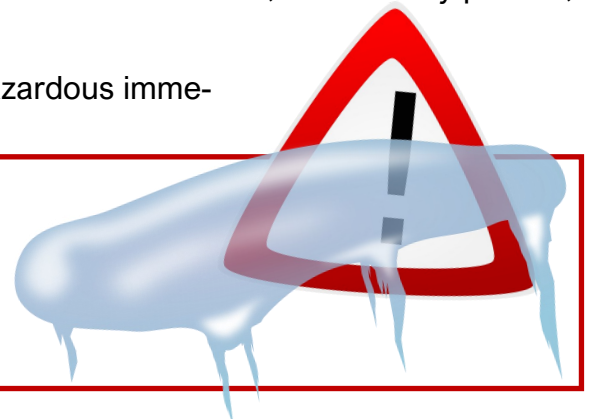
- For events during the week, when school is usually in session**, Calvary Church will follow the decision of the New Prague Area Schools.
 - If the school district cancels evening activities, Calvary Church will cancel their evening activities.
 - If the district delays start times or cancels only the daytime schedule and keeps the evening activities, Calvary Church will cancel any daytime activities, but keep evening activities intact. (This will require a staff member monitoring the school district's plans.)
- When school is not in session**, the following guidelines have been determined by the Calvary Church Elders for the cancellation of church meetings and events:

- When the temperature, whether actual or wind chill, is or is forecast to be negative 30 degrees or lower immediately prior to, during, or immediately after the meeting or event.
 - Should this occur on a Sunday, the Bible & Life hour and all Calvary Kids programs will be cancelled. Worship services will continue as planned.
- When fresh snow accumulation exceeds 5 inches or is forecast to exceed 5 inches, immediately prior to, during, or immediately after the meeting or event.
- When ice is forecast, or already present, that will make travel hazardous immediately prior to, during, or immediately after the meeting or event.

An Important Note:

There may be times when a cancellation is implemented due to a severe forecast, and the actual weather is not as severe as forecasted.

The Elders would rather make a weather safety decision that turns out to be unnecessary, than put people in danger due to last-minute decisions.



CALENDAR

- * DEC 22 – No B&L, CC, OR AWAKEN
- * DEC 23-27 – OFFICE CLOSED
- * DEC 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
- * DEC 29 – No B&L, CC, OR AWAKEN
- * DEC 31-JAN 1 – OFFICE CLOSED

- * JAN 1 – No AWANA
- * JAN 5 – No B&L OR CC
FAMILY BLESSING
- * JAN 8 – AWAKEN PARENTS' MEETING
- * JAN 11 – DNOW FELLOWSHIP
- * JAN 12 – BUSINESS MEETING



Scan to visit the
CALVARY CALENDAR

WHERE IS THE CALVARY CALENDAR?



Church Center



www.CalvaryChurchMN.org



Calvary Connection

The Sunday bulletin also contains a weekly schedule and an “Upcoming” event section.

DECEMBER 22, 2024

TODAY

8:45 AM No B&L
 10:00 AM Worship Together @ NP Middle School
 6:00 PM **NO AWAKEN** @ Falcon Ridge

THIS WEEK

M Church Office Closed this Week

TU 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service @ NP Middle School

W *Christmas Day*

SU

8:45 AM **NO** Bible & Life
 10:00 AM Worship Together @ NP Middle School
 6:00 PM **NO AWAKEN**

UPCOMING

OUR CHURCH'S GOAL:
\$1,000

100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering™ enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

imb.org/lottimoon

Dec 22 – No B&L, CC, or AWAKEN	Jan 1 – No AWANA
Dec 23-27 – Office closed	Jan 5 – No B&L or CC, Family Blessing
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service	Jan 8 – AWAKEN parents' meeting
Dec 29 – No B&L, CC, or AWAKEN	Jan 11 – DNOW Fellowship
Dec 31-Jan 1 – Office Closed	Jan 12 – Business Meeting

WHY DO I NEED THE CHURCH CENTER APP?

- **Sign up** for events
- **Connect** with a community
- **Check in** your family
- **Stay connected** with the Calvary Church Calendar



Download
the app today.



Don't want to download?

Visit www.calvarychurchmn.churchcenter.com to connect with us!

Church Center is a mobile app **and** web experience where you can explore, engage, and get involved throughout the week.

Church Center allows you to manage your profile information, see a calendar of events, pre-check your family, browse the directory, join groups, and register for events.

Scan the QR code or visit the website to get started
and connect with the life of Calvary Church!

www.CalvaryChurchMN.ChurchCenter.com



ANDROID



iOS

A Letter from Your Elders

Hope! Eager Expectation! Joy!

When I think about the first Christmas, I imagine these three emotions bubbling up powerfully within those who stood gazing on the face of their long-awaited messiah. Taking a step back to behold what God is doing at Calvary Church, we are also filled with hope! We, too, find the eager expectation of His good plans bubbling up inside! Likewise, our gaze has found its rest on Him, and we are filled with a simple joy! In this season, we are grateful for many things. Some of the things we praise God for include:

- ◆ A **CHURCH FAMILY** that loves and takes care of each other.
- ◆ The **INCREDIBLE GIFT OF WORSHIP** that we get to share every week (and were definitely touched/blessed in a special way during Christmas At Calvary).
- ◆ The exact **TEAM OF ELDERS** that the Lord knew we needed for this time of transition.
- ◆ An abundance of **KNOWLEDGEABLE/GIFTED SPEAKERS** (from among our own congregation and extended community) who will lead us in wonderful teaching from the pulpit over the next four months.
 - ◆ A **PULPIT COMMITTEE** that is ready to serve.
 - ◆ A proactive **BUILDING TASK FORCE** that searches out each next-step as we continue looking towards the future of Calvary Church.
 - ◆ And, ultimately, we are grateful for a **GOOD FATHER WHO LOVES US** and "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us" (Eph 3:20).

This Christmas season, take a moment to

REFLECT ON WHO OUR GREAT GOD IS

and what you are grateful for. May you also experience this hope, eager expectation, and Joy!

Blessings,

Aron Yingling

(for the Elder Board)