



CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH ELCA

TIDINGS 2021



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

**5:00 p.m. service will be
livestreamed**

LOOKING FOR SPECIAL MUSIC

FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The Worship Committee is looking for people willing to share special music (vocal or instrumental) at our Christmas Eve Services, either at 5 or 7 p.m. or both. If you are interested, please talk to Rhonda Boettcher at 303-817-0529 or rboettcher2@msn.com.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We invite you to **bring a poinsettia** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia *in honor of* or *in memory of* a loved one, forms will be available December 1 outside the office door. The remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please bring your poinsettia anytime after Christmas Program on Dec. 19th and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.



BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 11th from 9 am through 7 pm.** If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.

Advent/Christmas Devotionals

Advent/Christmas Devotionals are available for you to pick up on the table outside the church office and the sanctuary. Great for your devotional time each day.



***Please Note: There will be NO Saturday night service on Christmas Day or New Year's Day!**

Advent Message

From the Pastor



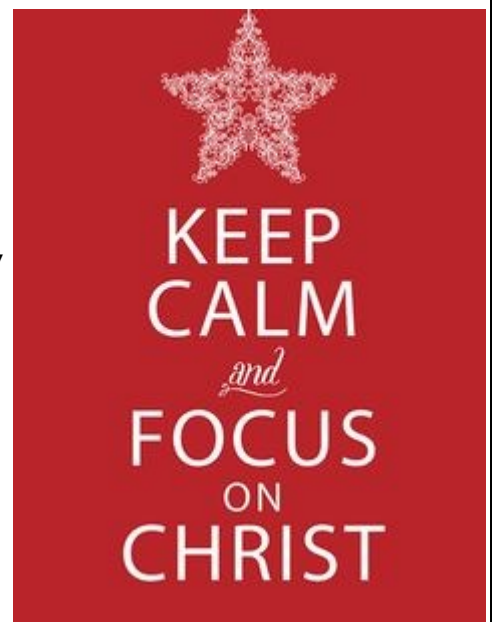
Remember the old Myth Busters? I loved that show! They took popular urban myths or legends about all kinds of things and tried to prove or disprove if they could have happened the way the legend says. Like sticking your finger in the end of a gun, (a nice Bugs Bunny/Elmer Fudd routine), but of course, it cannot happen in real life. They proved it couldn't! (No they didn't stick their finger in the end of a gun; they used a fake finger kind of like a crash test dummy affair.) They even took on the menthos/coke eruptions. Yes, it works but what they couldn't do was break it down and explain how or why.

What if we applied that to Christmas? No, not Christmas itself, there is enough historical evidence for that. I'm talking about some of the things that have sprung up around Christmas and confuse us. They range from the simply distracting like how many magi were there anyway, to the downright pernicious; like, does Santa really keep a 'naughty or nice' list? While this may help young children fueled by sugar cookies and other Christmas treats hold their energy levels down, this can adversely affect our faith. We begin to think that God has a 'naughty and nice' list and that we better be 'good' so that we can get to heaven. No matter how much we proclaim faith in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation, I am truly frustrated at how often Christianity is perceived as a 'Santa Claus' religion; if you are 'good enough, you will get into heaven!' That's definitely a myth that needs busting! Eternal Life comes by grace through faith and that is a gift of God, (yes, Ephesians 2:8).

So, what other myths or Christmas 'urban legends' need busting? Could be that already happened for you last year. I must confess last year toppled a myth I had long perpetuated. I would stand before the congregation on the Sunday the youth were to do their program and proclaim it just doesn't seem like Christmas until the youth bring us the Christmas story. Well, last year we couldn't have the youth program and though it wasn't the same, Christmas was still celebrated. Since last year was turned on its head, and many of our Christmas traditions literally went out the window, this year gives us an opportunity; an opportunity to bust some myths and start anew especially recapturing the important stuff like celebrating Immanuel, God with us, instead of stressing over whether our Christmas presents will make it off the shipping containers in time. Instead we can put our focus on celebrating God's coming and the hope and promise that God will come again.

Maybe one of the biggest myths that needs busting is proclaiming, 'Merry Christmas' because for some Christmas just isn't all that 'merry'. And no, Christmas won't be ruined if the salesclerk says to you, "Happy Holidays." because despite what anyone else might say, God still comes and God still speaks to us, "Peace on Earth, good will to all." So bust some myths this year and find God born anew among us.

Pastor Chris



COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

November 8, 2020

Nominating Committee: Many invitations are out – not receiving many responses.

Scholarship Committee: Kaitlyn Todd will be returning to Concordia University; Emma Foote returning to Hastings College. Moved to grant \$701 to each. Motion passed.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders: Background checks on our staff & volunteers who work with the youth are now set up for the company to perform. This is being done in keeping with our insurance company's requirements.

Social Ministries: Will be meeting Wednesday. Worked on Habitat for Humanity last week. Notice is only coming 1-2 days ahead of need for workers. Laundry Love will be provided the 3rd weekend of each month, Calvary will be in a 3-month rotation with other churches. January 15th will be Calvary's first time to host it. Maunette Loeks will coordinate it. Angel Tree will be happening in December – more information to follow.

Trustees: Several exterior areas need painting. Couple of different issues with the smaller exterior cross. Got the sprinkler system finished and winterized, sod around the pavement. Looking to get a commercial grade lock for the kitchen door.

Worship & Music: Jim needs help with working the soundboard on Sundays; fall decoration of altar area done.

Parish Education: Average 12-14 on Wednesdays for JAM; planning a Christmas program during church service Dec. 19th. EPIC doing things with First Methodist youth. Confirmation going well; plan on caroling on Dec. 15th. OWLS had good attendance. Generosity program will be November 21st.

Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$45,586.66 Ending Balance: \$57,775.15 Overall a very solid month.

Pastor's /Staff Reports: Baptism on Nov 28th- Maeve Singer. New member Sunday will be Dec. 12th.

Old Business: Memorial Committee would like any ideas for use of Memorial Funds. Suggestions included chairs need to be replaced, some additional tables would be nice, so they don't have to be carried back and forth. Council Dinner date will be set in December for January. Board budget worksheets are out, due back by December.

New Business: The Scottsbluff (school system) preschool is looking for an off-site location for minimum of 1 or possibly 2 semesters while their new facility is being built. They came to look at back rooms. They would need outdoor space as well. Very exploratory at this point. Estimates of getting it ready are \$10-15K. Suggested that if they select us, they pay for the upgrades needed. Annual meeting date set - Neal Blomenkamp moved, Dennis Gorr 2nd, to hold the Annual meeting January 30, 2022. No budget forum will be held, due to lack of interest in previous years. Motion made by Dawn Holub, 2nd by Neal Blomenkamp to remove William Steele and Lonnie Miller signatures from the signature card and bank statement for the Calvary Endowment Fund. New signature cards will have James Dorn, Bill Huelle and Monty Copsey as signers. Mailed bank statements should read Attn: James Dorn.

Next Council Meeting: December 13, 2021

A complete copy of the Council Minutes are available in the church office.

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

The social Ministry Board is again sponsoring the Angel Tree. Paper ornaments will be on the Angel Christmas tree outside the Fellowship Hall with first name, age, and gift idea. Names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center.

Don't forget to sign out your ornament on the table next to the tree and be sure to **MATCH** the number on the ornament with the number on the sheet. Suggested value of the gift is around \$25.

While we encourage consistency, we know some like to throw something 'extra' into the gift. It's the nature of a child to think everything should be fair and equal; therefore the Lakota Center distributes the gifts at their celebration and then sends them home to open them. Because of this, the gifts need to be securely sealed, preferably boxed so that the children are not tempted to 'look' and reach into a gift sack that is simply covered by colored paper. While the gifts are certainly valued and appreciated, the Lakota Center would really appreciate your help in this small way to make sure the children have a joyous gathering celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th.

If you are unable to purchase a gift, you may donate cash and a gift will be purchased. Simply mail or drop off your monetary gift to the church office by Monday, December 13th, so we have enough time to get the gifts bought.



THANK YOU FOR SHARING AND CARING!



How it works

1

Choose your gift.

2

Get a card.

3

Change lives.

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list.

See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit



December Mission Project

The WELCA project for December is the Angel Tree.

**Please see page 4 for detailed information
on our Angel Tree ministry.**

Pick a name or make a donation to give families a happy time this Christmas.

We also will continue to receive any **Thankofferings** that haven't been turned in yet.



We need to stock up on kitchen items: SOS pads, scratchies, dish rags, dish soap, paper towels, aluminum foil, quart and gallon Zip Lock baggies, napkins, Country Time Instant Lemonade, coffee creamer, and artificial sweetener (packets). Items may be left in the kitchen or in the box by Pastor Chris' door. Thank you from the Women's Board.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUPS

Meeting times and places as follows:

Priscilla Study Group - Monday, Dec. 13 @ 2 p.m. at Calvary's Fellowship Hall

Hannah Study Group - Monday, Dec. 13 @ 7 p.m. at Chris Thomas' Home

Esther Study Group - Monday, Dec. 14 @ 9 a.m. @ Ruth Harris' Home

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Each Tuesday at noon a group of women meet at the church to study scripture together.

Please consider joining us for a study and some great conversations.

All ladies are invited to join any of these groups!

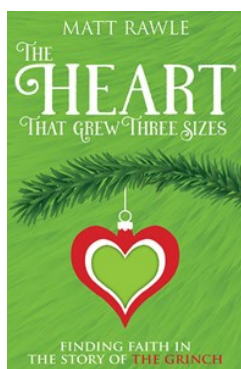


MEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Please join us every Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. A study on Paul's letter to the Galatians and expand on the belief that we are sanctified not by legalistic works but by the obedience that comes from faith in God's work for him, in him and through him by the grace and power of Christ and the Holy Spirit. A study by Warren Wiersbe. We would love to have you share an hour of your time with us!

Pastor's Tuesday Evening Study

The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes: Finding Faith in the story of the Grinch.

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Pastor Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? Join Pastors Chris and Sheryl as we look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. This 4-week study will meet at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16th & 30th (we will skip Thanksgiving week) and Dec. 7th & 14th. If interested, sign up on the sheet outside the office and let us know if you need us to order you a study book or plan on downloading a copy to your e-reader.



Pastoral Care/Prayer Requests

Prayers for healing: **Jan Van Newkirk** (back surgery), **Maeve Singer** (medical issues— Nick & Lindsey Singer's 6 month old daughter), **Kathy Johnson** (back & leg issues), **Alice Braaten** (rehab), **Kathy Rahrs** (recovering from back surgery—Val Rahrs' mother), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson's cousin's husband), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker's great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers of comfort and peace: For the family and friends of the **Bruner's and Brester's**.

Prayers for: **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regard to son Liam—Jude Walker's granddaughter & husband).

If you have Prayer Requests, please contact Nancy Steele through her e-mail—steelenlynne@gmail.com or phone her at **632-7558**.



Tammy Lutz	12/2	Julie Aschenbrenner	12/19
LuVerne Knoedler	12/6	Jessica Laughlin	12/20
Donna Judd	12/6	Wes Sell	12/25
Val Rahrs	12/6	Sid Henderson	12/26
Linda Hauschild	12/12	Vicki Schmidt	12/26
Brock Nikont	12/14	Alec Sibal	12/27
Jim Zier	12/14	Kathy Johnson	12/27
Kolten Burgner	12/16	Tracy Steele	12/28
Mary Ellen Kropp	12/17	Jack Schmidt	12/31
Janie Voss	12/18		

If we missed your birthday, please let the office know.



Thank you to the many helping hands which collected, packed, and prepared to ship all the items for Lutheran World Relief! Because of your hard work, we have helped others around the world this year with

100 school kits

350 quilts

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Brown Transfer which, for many years, has provided free shipping for our items to the Synod Office in Omaha.

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care give families around the world some of life's essentials, as well as a reminder that they are not alone. From chronic poverty and conflict to drought and typhoon, the intensity of humanitarian needs continues to increase.
GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOU ALL!



Support our local Food Programs. The Food Pantry and Backpack Programs provide important services to those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

This month's requested items are:

Food Pantry:
PACKAGED COOKIES
Backpack Program :
APPLESAUCE



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Wednesday, December 1st @ noon

Christmas celebration! We will have scalloped potatoes and ham, green beans, rolls and a festive dessert. There will be Christmas music!



thank
you!

Thank you to my great family at Calvary Lutheran Church for all the prayers and the lovely shawl that was knitted for me.
Thank you isn't enough!

Marj Nikont

thank
you

Calvary Lutheran
Thank you so much for your generous donation and all you do! Together, we can help make this community a better place.

John Mentgen



Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in
a faith community!*

Interested in Becoming a Member of Calvary?

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, Dec 12th. Following worship the Outreach Committee would like to invite everyone into the fellowship hall for a reception to welcome our new members. Please talk to either Pastors Chris or Sheryl if interested.



In Person:

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Or

**Online on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
via Facebook Live**

Or

**On demand via our Facebook page
or the link on our webpage.**

Merry Christmas

Reverse Advent Calendar

Often an Advent calendar is used to count down the days until Christmas by opening a box and discovering an ornament or something that helps you focus on the Advent journey. A reverse Advent calendar focuses on giving something instead of receiving – a Christ centered idea indeed – since Christmas is all about God giving himself to us as a baby.

The idea behind a reverse Advent calendar is simple. Pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag and fill it with food donations for your local food pantry – one item for every day in December. Then, when your bags are full, take them to the food pantry or drop them off here at Church.

This simple Advent idea encourages us to think of others as we wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What a great way to serve this Advent!

- Add one item a day or purchase several items every time you shop.
- Collect 25 items from your whole family or 25 items from each member in your family.
- Start collecting the items in the middle of November or wait until the beginning of December.

Focus on food items or practical donations or a combination of both.

You can create the reverse Advent calendar however you and your family choose.

You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:

Canned vegetables, applesauce – jars, pouches or individual cups, canned fruit, instant potatoes, canned soups, spaghetti sauce and pasta, pancake mix, canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc), peanut butter and jelly, macaroni & cheese, cereal, instant oatmeal, granola bars, biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water, boxed meals that require only water

If you would prefer to focus on helping such efforts as the Doves Program you might consider the following:

Deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, razors, shampoo & conditioner, diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper, laundry detergent, new underwear, undershirts and socks are always needed!

Calvary already gives generously to the pantry, this idea can merge what you already do with the celebration of Advent and help young children learn the importance of giving.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action



laundrylove

Laundry Love

Calvary is partnering with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in our community.

Calvary will host Laundry Love every 3rd month starting on Jan 15th. In preparation for that day we will need quarters as well as dryer sheets or softener. Laundry detergent has already been donated. So save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastors offices.

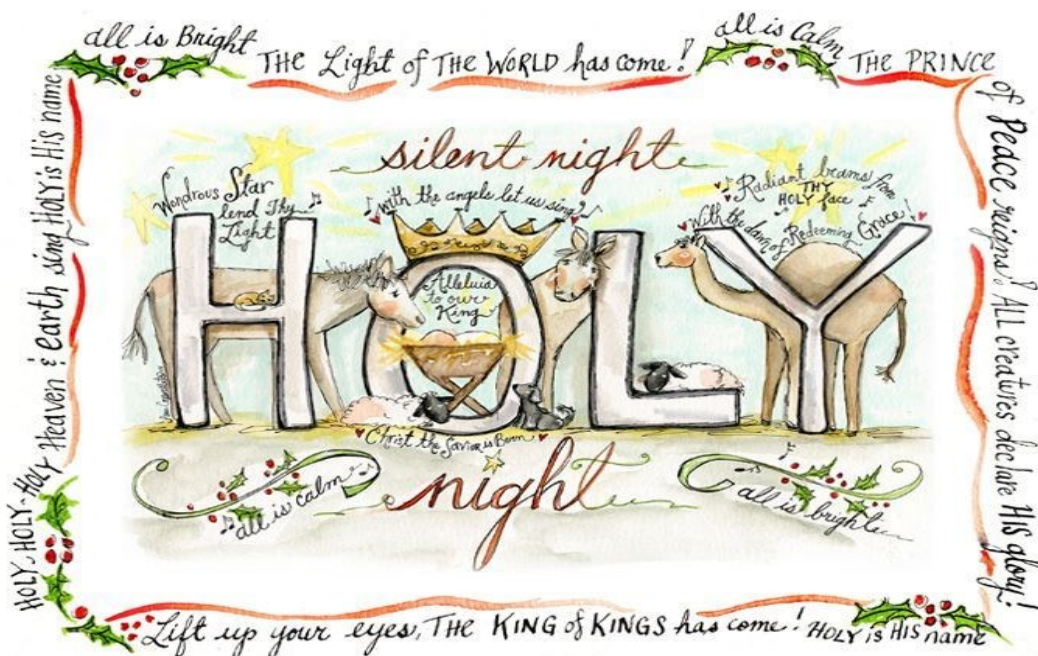
Coffee and Fellowship

Coffee and fellowship will be starting back up. We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.

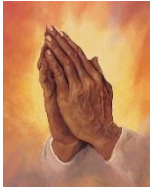


Sound System Operator Needed!!

We are in need of 1 or 2 people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested please talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or Jim Dorn.



Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.

Please save your
Main Street Market
(Panhandle Coop)
receipts for the
backpack program.
**\$100,000 in receipts
= \$1,000 for the
program!**

 Main Street Market <small>A DIVISION OF PANHANDLE COOP</small>	
Milk	2.50
Eggs	3.25
Muffins	4.50
Lettuce	1.50
Total	11.75
Thank you for shopping!	

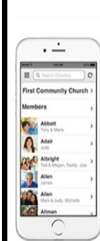
Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



DOVES

REMEMBER D.O.V.E.S
when traveling please
bring back any hotel/motel
unused shampoos, soaps,
and lotions and place them in the D.O.V.E.S. box by
Pastor Chris' office. They are very much appreciated.

CARING ONES



**Drop those odd dollar bills in the
offering plate to benefit
Lutheran World Hunger,
Cat/Pup Pack Backpacks Program,
Lakota Lutheran Center**

WANT TO SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING?

Scan the QR code to the right or go to our website:

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

to set up your giving to Calvary electronically.



SCAN ME

Please note: if you have been using the Give+ app for your donations, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app to make any future donations in this manner.

DECEMBER YOUTH PROGRAM SCHEDULES



DECEMBER 1

Christmas Program Practice
(scaloped potatoes & ham)

DECEMBER 15

Christmas Program Practice
(pizza)



DECEMBER 8

Christmas Program Practice
(sandwiches/chips)

DECEMBER 19

Christmas Program during worship

NO JAM until January 12, 2021!



Wednesday, December 15th

Confirmation & EPIC Christmas Caroling!
Join us at 6 pm to go Christmas Caroling!!



Jesus
IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON

Sunday, December 19th

Christmas Program!
Join us or help with the JAM Christmas Program!

Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus

On the very first Christmas, God graciously gave the ultimate gift of his son so people could experience the healing touch of Immanuel – God with us.

And he remains with us. By the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, he touches us and moves through us in surprising ways to bring the wonderful gift of his love to others.

Christ is with us, and he is also with others through us. We are his hands and feet – those who represent him with gentleness, with humility, and above all, with compassion.

Especially during the holiday season, many people are in need of a word or a touch or just someone to listen to help heal their brokenness.

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen's Minister, please contact Nancy Steele (632-7558) or (641-7619) or Marsha Bueide (635-1469).

We're **here** *for you.*

HOSPITALIZED? PLEASE LET US KNOW

If you are hospitalized, please contact (or have a friend or family member contact) the church office and let us know so that we can visit and pray with you. Providing pastoral care is an important part of our ministry, however, we cannot visit if we don't know, so please don't hesitate to call or email the church office, so that we can be there for you. Thanks!

Pastors Sheryl and Chris

Calvary's Church Office Phone number: (308) 632-8023 or 632-8024

Contact the Office by E-mail at: calvarylutheranscottsbluff@gmail.com

Send physical mail / offerings to: 17 E. 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

Pastor Chris Kester Beyer (402) 694-9189 pastorchriskb@gmail.com

Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer (402) 694-9182 pastorsherylkb@gmail.com

Youth & Family Ministry Dir. Angie Hinze: 631-2768 adhinze@gmail.com

Nancy Steele, PMA 632-7558 steelenlynne@gmail.com



Deadline for weekly announcements is Wed. at 5 PM. Deadline for Tidings newsletter is the 20th of each month. Please send your items to Christy the church office.

Find us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranscottsbluff>

WEBSITE


www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

FIND US ONLINE!!!!

Worship videos and bulletins as well as the "Taking Faith Home" inserts are all available on our website.

Just go to www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the worship tab.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12pm-OWLS Lunch 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice	2	3 6pm-Community Christian School Christmas Concert in Sanctuary	4 5:30pm Worship
5 10am-Worship	6	7 8:30am-Men's Study 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting 7pm-Pastor's Bible Study	8 5:30pm-Social Ministry 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice	9	10	11 9am-7pm-Bell Ringing @ Safeway 5:30pm-Worship
12 10am-Worship	13 2pm-Priscilla Circle 6pm-Council Mtg 7pm-Hannah Circle @ Chris Thomas' home 140786 Experiment Farm Road-Mitchell	14 8:30am-Men's Study 9am-Esther Circle @ Ruth Harris' 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting 7pm-Pastor's Bible Study	15 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation/EPIC Christmas Caroling 7pm-Choir Practice	16	17	18 5:30pm Worship
19 10am-Worship/JAM Christmas Program	20 5pm-Elders 6pm-Stewards 6pm-Worship & Music NewsLetter Deadline	21 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm & 7pm Candlelight Service	25 NO WORSHIP 
26 10am-Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2021

DATE	TIME	USHERS	LAY READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	POWERPOINT ACOLYTES	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD
December 5 Celebrate Service	10:00 a.m.	Kent & Dawn Holub	Marti Wegelin	Dennis Gorr	Matt Payne Brynlee Payne	Jeff Van Patten	Andi Dorn Shelly Koehler
December 12 Traditional Service	10:00 a.m.	Monty & Shari Copsey	Marissa Wright	Barb Jensen	Jack Martin Merrick Walsh	Chris Jensen	Abby Newsom Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Barb Jensen Nannie Walsh
December 19 Celebrate Service	10:00 a.m.	Deb Brown Jack Martin	Angie Hinze	Dennis Gorr	Shawna Payne Max Judy	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele Shari Copsey
December 24 Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.	Dennis & Barb Gorr	Marti Wegelin	Barb Jensen	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Chris Jensen	
December 26 Traditional Service	10:00 a.m.	Vicki Howell LaDonna Schmidt	Susan Martin	Shari Copsey	Andi Dorn Rhyann Buckley	Jeff Van Patten	Andi Dorn Shelly Koehler



If you are unable to serve,
please find a replacement and inform the church office. Thanks!





CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH ELCA

Calvary Lutheran Church

17 E 27th

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

