



CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH ELCA

TIDINGS 2022



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. service will be
livestreamed



Christmas Day Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - 10:00 AM



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 and/or Becky Martin at 308-436-3993.

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 December 18th 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 17th from 9 am through 7 pm.** If you are willing to volunteer, please stop in or call the church office to sign up.



*Please Note: There will be **NO** service on Saturday, December 31, New Year's Eve.



"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people" - Luke 2:10

Have you noticed? The days are getting shorter. The temperatures are dropping. The darkness seems to extend farther around us a bit more each week. Some say it is "the most wonderful time of the year!" Christmas lights appear, holiday songs begin to play, and shopping deals abound. For some this is a season of hope and expectation, but for others this is a season of darkness and maybe even a little despair.

The word Advent means Arrival. But just what is it exactly that is arriving?

During the Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, I watched on the television as commentators provided their thoughts about the various floats and bands. Then something BIG happened — Santa Claus and his reindeer came down Sixth Avenue! The commentators were thrilled, exclaiming, "now the holiday season has officially started!"

Is that the arrival for which we are waiting? Santa Claus? Or is it the arrival of the much anticipated holiday sales? A Nebraska win over Iowa — is that what we were waiting for? (No comment!)

During this season of growing darkness, the church has a different way of viewing God's work in the world. The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of a new church year — reminding us that God is doing a new thing among us, even in the midst of darkness. Advent is a season of waiting... awaiting the arrival of God's son, Jesus the Christ.

While parades, shopping, and lights dazzle and cry for our attention, God is preparing to enter the world. Not with glitz and fame, but in a manger with lowly shepherds as his guests. He is called "Emmanuel" — God with us.

I wonder how this holiday season feels to you? Is it a season of joy and anticipation? Or are you dreading the approaching holidays? However you feel, we can trust that God is coming down to be with us. In the darkest season, while the winds may howl and storms may come, God is coming to be near to us. He comes to us as a vulnerable, weak, and helpless baby; needy and dependent on others for his care.

Whatever you are facing this holiday season, whether it is good gifts or intense grief — God is with you. With faith and humility, may we all prepare our hearts for his arrival.

*Peace to you all,
Pastor Brett*

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

COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

November 8, 2020

We did a Dwelling in the Word exercise led by Pastor Brett.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders: They discussed if there were possible people coming to worship that may want to become members—that was a negative. Discussed Pastor Brett going to visit our shut ins. Had a discussion on the future of Saturday night services with it being hit or miss with the amount of people coming to that service.

Social Ministries: They will be meeting on Thursday 11/17/22. The CROP walk went well and collectively raised \$2,883 from three congregations.

Trustees: They are working on replacing the ceilings in the hallway. They changed the filters in the heating system. All is working well.

Worship & Music: It was decided to not do a combined service with Rejoice after all. We are doing a food drive for our Harvest Sunday Festival. Still discussing where we will take our donations. Possibly CAPWN. Getting geared up for the Advent and Christmas services. We will continue to wear nametags on Sundays for those that would like to. They discussed the logistics of the Saturday night service.

Parish Education: JAM is going well. Christmas program will be 12/11/22 during the church service. EPIC is going well - it's a small and close group. They plan to go caroling in December.

Endowment committee: We are sending information to a family that may be interested in a giving a gift to the church.

Financial Report: Beginning Balance for June: \$18,326 Ending Balance: \$17,922. A motion was made to pay the Scottsbluff Fire Department \$300 as a donation for the inspection of the Bell tower. Neal Blomenkamp moved to accept; Jim Dorn 2nd-accepted. The treasurer's report was given by Mary Jo Huelle. Dennis Gorr moved to accept; Neal Blomenkamp 2nd-accepted.

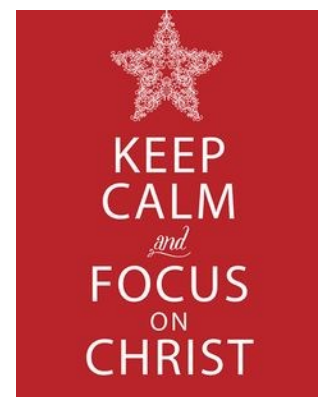
Pastor's /Staff Reports: Pastor Brett has been visiting several church members (shut ins), etc. Confirmation has anywhere from 4-7 students—it's going well. He shared the congregational surveys with us and encouraged feedback. JAM has around 10-15 students. We have some college kids that enjoy helping with this. Pastor Brett updated the church website. Saturday night services were discussed. How should we handle the low attendance of this service? Pastor Brett will be offering first communion and new member classes, upcoming soon. The adult book study on Sunday mornings has been well attended.

Old Business: We discussed Adult Bible stud/education during the Pastor's report. We discussed the Nominating committee and what/how many were needed on each board. We discussed how our church profile is coming along and how the call committee will work.

New Business: Pastor Brett covered this in the Pastor/Staff Reports. Emma Foote will receive the endowment scholarship for the spring semester. Dennis Gorr made a motion to accept the amount of \$1,231; Neal Blomenkamp 2nd; accepted. The Council Dinner was proposed for January 2023. The annual meeting will be January 29, 2023, following the church service.

Next Council Meeting: December 12, 2022

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



December Mission Project

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 16th.

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!



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

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.



We need to stock up on kitchen items: SOS pads, scratchies, 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 the narthex doors. Thank you from the Women's Board.

Merry Christmas



OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Wednesday, December 7th @ noon

A Very Merry Christmas! We will enjoy a dinner of ravioli bake, salad, bread, and dessert! We will have musical entertainment that will put you in the Christmas spirit! If you would like to participate in a cookie exchange, let Angie know by December 2, and she will organize this! Call or text Angie at 631-2768!



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUPS

Meeting times and places as follows:

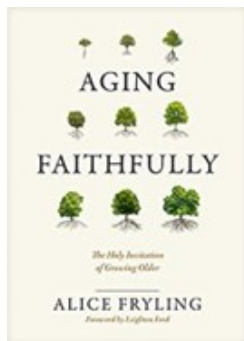
Priscilla Study Group - Monday, Dec. 12 @ 2 p.m. at Vicki Schmidt's home

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!

Pastor's Sunday Morning Bible Study "Aging Faithfully"



You are invited to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM from November 6 - December 4 as we go through Aging Faithfully by Alice Fryling. As many at Calvary Lutheran enter later seasons of life, questions of life and faith take on new meaning. Aging faithfully doesn't 'just happen,' but there are wise guides who have modelled the way into this uncharted land. The group will be facilitated by Pastor Brett.



In Person:

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

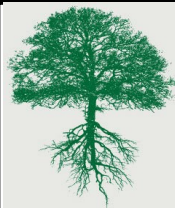
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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.**



Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in
a faith community!*

**Interested in Becoming a Member of
Calvary?**

Or have questions about becoming a member? Please talk to Pastor Brett.

Pastoral Care/Prayer Requests

Prayers for healing: **Joy Arnold** (cancer— friend of Deb Brown), **Marsha Bueide** (stroke), **Marj Nikont** (covid), **Randy Schafer** (issues from another stroke), **Cindy Cole** (recovering from surgery—Carolyn Jensen's sister), **Marti Wegelin**, **Mel Knoedler** (recovering), **Mary Jane Brown** (stroke—Deb Brown's mother-in-law), **Becky Michael** (stage 1 breast cancer), **Paul Bueide** (recovering), **Kevin Feil** (sepsis & cancer—Lindsey Singer & Melissa Guerrero's father), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law), **Mary Jo Haack** (Becky Martin's mother).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of Rita Schafer (Randy Schafer's mother).

Prayers for comfort and safety: Jeffery Christeleit (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson), B.J. Carr (deployed to Poland—Dee Brady's son-in-law).



| | | | |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Tammy Lutz | 12/2 | Jacey Cochran | 12/18 |
| LuVerne Knoedler | 12/6 | Julie Aschenbrenner | 12/19 |
| Donna Judd | 12/6 | Jessica Laughlin | 12/20 |
| Val Rahrs | 12/6 | Wes Sell | 12/25 |
| Angela Bonow | 12/9 | 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 | | |



We **ENCOURAGE** every family of Calvary to participate and support our Food Pantry. The pantries provide important services to those in need and can really help aid those families who are less fortunate.

This month's Food Pantry item:

PACKAGED COOKIES

This month's Backpack Program item:

APPLESAUCE

JANUARY'S items will be:

CEREAL

16 OZ PEANUT BUTTER

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.



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 has partnered 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; our next event is January 20th. In preparation for that day we will need quarters as well as laundry detergent, dryer sheets and softener. So save your quarters and drop them in the Laundry Bottle outside the pastor's office.

Coffee and Fellowship

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 additional people who would be willing to run the sound system during worship services, especially on Praise Team Sundays. If interested please talk to Jim Dorn.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

We would like to share with you that since our Scholarship Fund started in the mid 70's, we have helped 19 students and paid \$35,433 to different Protestant colleges.

If you feel you would like to give a donation at the end of the year—the Scholarship Fund would be an excellent place and would be greatly appreciated by our youth.

Any amount of a donation would be wonderful, a \$12,000 donation at one time, over a period of time or a paid up life insurance policy would put your name on the Donors' plaque by the Fellowship Hall with 14 other donors. This can be done by dropping a check by the church office or contacting one of the committee members.

Scholarship Committee:

Diane Vandenberg, Chairman

Dennis Gorr

Barb Gorr

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

| | |
|---|-------|
|  | |
| Milk | 2.50 |
| Eggs | 3.25 |
| Muffins | 4.50 |
| Lettuce | 1.50 |
| Total | 11.75 |
| Thank you for shopping! | |



Endowment Fund application forms are now available in the office. These funds may be used for outreach: Churchwide, Nebraska Synod, and local. The deadline is January 31, 2022.



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

336 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 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!**

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.



DECEMBER YOUTH PROGRAM SCHEDULES



DECEMBER 7

Christmas Program Practice
(cheese ravioli/salad/bread/dessert)

DECEMBER 11

Christmas Program
during worship

DECEMBER 14

Christmas Caroling Party!
(pizza/dessert)

NO JAM until January 11, 2023!
Happy New Year!



Wednesday, December 14th

Christmas Caroling Party with JAM! Meet at the church at 5:30pm - we will go caroling and spread Christmas cheer! We will return to the church for pizza!



Jesus
IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON

Sunday, December 11th

"A Living Nativity" the JAM kids will present their Christmas program at the worship service!

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 Bill Huelle (631-3389) 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!

Pastor Brett

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 Brett Vander Berg

Youth & Family Ministry Dir. Angie Hinze:



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 at 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 |
|---|--|---|--|-----|-----|--|
|  | | | | | | |
| 4 9am-Pastor's Bible Study 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship | 5 | 6 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting | 7 12pm-OWLS Lunch 5:30pm-Social Ministry 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice | 8 | 9 | 10 5:30pm-Worship |
| 11 9am-Pastor's Bible Study 10am-Worship/JAM Christmas Program 11am-Coffee & Fellowship | 12 2pm-Priscilla Circle @ Vicki Schmidt's Home 6pm-Council Mtg | 13 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting | 14 5:30pm-JAM/Confirmation/EPIC Christmas Caroling Party! 7pm-Choir Practice | 15 | 16 | 17 9am-7pm-Bell Ringing @ Safeway 5:30pm Worship |
| 18 9am-Pastor's Bible Study 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship | 19 5pm-Elders 6pm-Stewards 6pm-Worship & Music | 20 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting  | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm & 7pm Candlelight Service |
| 25 9am-Pastor's Bible Study 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship  | 26 | 27 1pm-Quilting | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 5:30pm <u>NO</u> Worship |

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2022

| DATE | TIME | USHERS | LAY READERS | COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | POWERPOINT ACOLYTES | MEDIA AUDIO | ALTAR GUILD |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| December 4 Celebrate Service | 10:00 a.m. | Dennis & Barb Gorr | Angie Hinze | Shari Copsey (Head) Rick Margheim Lynn Margheim | Shawna Payne Merrick Walsh Max Judy | Chris Jensen Trea Hess | Abby Newsom Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Barb Jensen Nannie Walsh |
| December 11 Traditional Service | 10:00 a.m. | Monty & Shari Copsey | | NO Communion | Andi Dorn Ayden Tompkins Micaela Hess | Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Jim Dorn | Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele Shari Copsey |
| December 18 Celebrate Service | 10:00 a.m. | Kent & Dawn Holub | Mary Jo Huelle | Barb Jensen (Head) Vicki Schmidt Deb Brown | Matt Payne Brynlee Payne | Chris Jensen Val Rahrs | Andi Dorn Shelly Koehler |
| December 25 Traditional Service | 10:00 a.m. | Chris & Barb Jensen | Dennis Gorr | Vicki Howell (Head) Marlene Downer Abby Newsom | Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Dakota Newsom Rhyann Buckley | Jeff Van Patten Jack Martin | Abby Newsom Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Barb Jensen Nannie Walsh |

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

Scottsbluff NE, 69361

308-632-8023

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361
PERMIT #110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

