



CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH ELCA

TIDINGS 2023



Calvary is starting off the New Year with a bang!



We have called a new minister Pastor Kathy Montira who will be joining us officially on January 1. The end of November you should have received a turquoise postcard including important dates for her during January.

Pastor Kathy has 16 years of experience including the Panhandle (Chappell, Oshkosh, and Lodgepole). Most recently she was working in the Nebraska Synod Office in Omaha on the mobility team. She is widowed and has three grown sons. The boys live in the Omaha area. Her late husband's family is all Hawaiian, so that is a favorite travel destination. Other outside interests include Tai Chi, dancing, and water aerobics. She is also a Marine. Semper Fi!



*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service*

5:30 p.m.

Service will be livestreamed

Nativities from Around the World & Histories

Chris Thomas is bringing together approx. 65 nativity scenes and creches from around the world. These scenes will be on display at the Bronson Gallery in the Western Nebraska Arts Center.

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday 9am–5pm,
Weekends 1pm–5pm

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 bulletin. Please bring your poinsettia anytime after December 17th 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 9th 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 23 or Saturday, December 30.

Go, And

As we continue to Go, And . . . December is a time to
Go, And . . . Be Present.

As we await and celebrate Christ's birth, we remember that God is present and shows up. The babe in the manger, God incarnate, is God's gift of deep love for us. We are invited to pause, be still, and be fully present in this holy season. Society calls us to a different place where busyness, spending, and rushing about are marks of success. God, in Christ, offers another way:
Emmanuel – God with us.

Questions to consider:

- What can I add to this season that would truly allow me to pause?
- What tradition do you have that nurtures being present at this time of year?
- As you are on the GO, how are you going to practice being present?

Prayer: Emmanuel, you are present with us. Help us be present with each other.
Amen.



GO AND...



PRAY



LISTEN



SHARE YOUR STORY



SERVE WITH NEIGHBORS



ASK



BE HONEST



BE PRESENT



REST



HAVE THE CONVERSATION



BE INTENTIONAL



TELL THE STORY



BE CHURCH

COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

November 13, 2023

Acceptance of Agenda – Bill Huelle moved to accept; Neal Blomenkamp 2nd - accepted. Acceptance of minutes from October 9, 2023: Grant Hinze moved to accept; Neal Blomenkamp 2nd – accepted.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders: They met and discussed the Saturday night services and went over the church budget.

Trustees: They are working on the bells in the bell tower. Also, working on heat tape for the down spouts for the wintertime.

Stewards: They met in passing about the budget

Parish Education: The Christmas program will be 12/10/23. Maunette and Val are working on a questionnaire to get an idea of what the young adults would be interested in doing as a group here at Calvary. Thoughts were expressed that this would be a good project for them to work together with the outreach team.

The Call Committee: We will wait to see how the church members vote on Sunday 11/19/23.

Worship and Music: They met and joined in with the Elders on their discussion about Saturday night services. They also discussed the budget. They are purchasing some large Christmas banners that we will be using this Christmas season.

Endowment: They have received one application so far. All applications are due by the end of December.

Social Ministry: They discussed Habitat for Humanity, and they were made aware of several high school kids that are working on the projects right now. The Angel tree will be going up on 12/2. The gifts that are bought for the Angel tree need to be back at the church on 12/15/23, to be dispersed. Bell Ringing will be going on at Safeway on Saturday, 12/9/23. They are working on helping a family that needs help correcting their water supply to their house and the needs of a new furnace. They also discussed their budget.

Nominating Committee: They met, and they have a list of people they are contacting about serving on different boards/committees.

Financial Report: Beginning Balance for October: \$30,977- Ending Balance: \$37,032

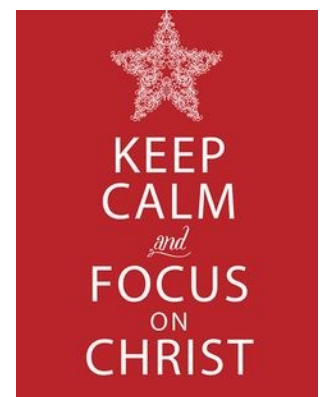
Pastor's /Staff Reports: PMA Bill Huelle reported that things are going well. He has a couple of dates in December that he is still working on pulpit supply.

Old Business: Advent starts on 12/3/23. Budget worksheets are due 11/13/2023 or before the next Council meeting which is 12/11/23. The church annual meeting is Sunday 1/28/24. A motion was made to hold the annual meeting on Sunday 1/28/24. Grant Hinze moved to accept; Neal Blomenkamp 2nd - accepted.

New Business: Annual reports are due before the Council meeting on 12/11/23. We went over preparing for the vote of our Pastoral candidate on 11/19/23. Resolution of extending a call to Pastor Kathryn Montira and resolution of initial annual compensation package. Neal Blomenkamp moved to accept; Debbie Brown 2nd – accepted.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2023

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 15th.

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 11th, so we have enough time to get the gifts bought.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING AND CARING!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS *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

<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 13th @ noon

A Very Merry Christmas! We will enjoy a dinner of ravioli bake, salad, bread, and a festive Christmas dessert! We will be entertained by the Scottsbluff High School Drill Team as they provide vocal entertainment and dancing! It will be a very fun program to get you in the Christmas spirit!



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUPS

Meeting times and places as follows:

Hannah Circle - Monday, Dec. 4 @ 6:30 p.m. at Calvary

Priscilla Circle - Monday, Dec. 11 @ 2 p.m. at Vicki Schmidt's home

Sarah Circle

The ladies will meet December 19th @ noon
Come join the ladies every 3rd Tuesday at Noon for Bible Study.
Bring your lunch and join us!

All ladies are invited to join any of these groups!

thank you!

Thank you for the prayers, love, and support given during Elnora's recent illness and following her passing. A special thank you to Bill Huelle for his caring guidance during this difficult time. Also, special thanks to the ladies who served at the luncheon following the service: Deb Brown, Marlene Downer, Vicki Howell, Barb Jensen, Kathy Randall, and Joan Smith.

God bless you.
The Family of Elnora Sell

Thank You!

Christy, thank you for all of your help.
We appreciate it.

The Sell Family



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 300 quilts.

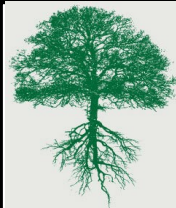
We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Brown Transfer which, for many years, has provided free shipping for our items to the Synod Office in Omaha.

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!



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, 2024.



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 PMA Bill Huelle.



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.



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.

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 narthex doors. They are very much appreciated.

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

DECEMBER YOUTH PROGRAM SCHEDULES



DECEMBER 6

Christmas Program Practice
(chicken noodle casserole/bread/dessert)

DECEMBER 10

Christmas Program
during 10am worship

DECEMBER 13

Birthday Party for Baby Jesus!
(ravioli bake/salad/bread/dessert)

DECEMBER 17

Caroling Party with EPIC! Join us at the church at 4pm to go caroling and then we will return to the church for dinner!

NO JAM until January 10, 2023!
Happy New Year!



Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Caroling Party with JAM! Meet at the church at 4 pm - we will go caroling and spread Christmas cheer! We will return to the church for dinner!



Jesus
IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON

Sunday, December 10th

"It Just Wouldn't Be Christmas Without..."
the JAM kids will present their Christmas program at the worship service!



Prayers for healing: **David Pickett** (Healing—son of Virginia Pickett), **David Stevens** (recovering), **Becky Martin** (recovering), **Fran Johnson** (recovering from surgery), **Alli Meyers** (Health Problems—Marissa Wright’s friend), **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens’ nephew’s wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer**, **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs’ mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn’s sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Elnora Sell**, **Donna Hackman** and **Darrel Schafer** (Father of Randy Schafer).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit’s son and Jim & Sheila Miller’s grandson).



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.



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!

PMA Bill Huelle

- 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.
- PMA Bill Huelle:** (308) 631-3389
- Youth & Family Ministry Dir. Angie Hinze:** 631-2768 adhinze@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 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.

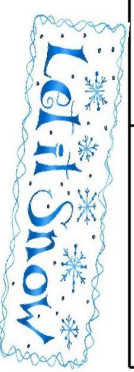
December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship	4 6:30pm-Hannah Circle @ Calvary	5 1pm-Quilting	6 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice	7	8	9 9am-7pm-Bell Ringing @ Safeway 5:30pm-Worship
10 10am-Worship/JAM Christmas Program 11am-Coffee & Fellowship	11 2pm-Priscilla Circle @ Vicki Schmidt's Home 6pm-Council Mtg	12 1pm-Quilting	13 12pm-OWLS Lunch 5:30pm-Social Ministry 5:30pm-JAM 6pm-Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice	14	15	16 5:30pm Worship
17 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship 4pm-JAM/EPIC Christmas Caroling Party!	18 5pm-Elders 6pm-Stewards 6pm-Worship & Music	19 12pm-Sarah Circle 1pm-Quilting	20 NO JAM NO Confirmation 7pm-Choir Practice NewsLetter DEADLINE	21	22	23 5:30pm- <u>NO</u> Worship
24 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship 5:30pm-CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed 	26 1pm-Quilting	27 NO JAM NO Confirmation NO Choir Practice	28	29	30 5:30pm- <u>NO</u> Worship
31 10am-Worship 11am-Coffee & Fellowship						

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2023

DATE	TIME	USHERS	LAY READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	POWERPOINT ACOLYTES	MEDIA AUDIO	ALTAR GUILD
December 3 Celebrate Service	10:00 a.m.	Monty & Shari Copsey	Marissa Wright	Vicki Howell (Head) Marlene Downer Deb Brown	Merrick Walsh Dakota Newsom	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele Shari Copsey
December 10 Traditional Service	10:00 a.m.	Kent & Dawn Holub	Mary Jo Huelle	No Communion	Andi Dorn Ayden Tompkins Rhyann Buckley	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Jim Dorn	Andi Dorn Shelly Koehler
December 17 Celebrate Service	10:00 a.m.	Vicki Howell & Deb Brown	Angie Hinze	Barb Jensen (Head) Rick Margheim Lynn Margheim	Shawna Payne Brynlee Payne Ben Moravec	Chris Jensen Jack Martin	Abby Newsom Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Barb Jensen Nannie Walsh
December 24 Traditional Service	10:00 a.m.	Chris & Barb Jensen	Marti Wegelin	Shari Copsey (Head) Tracy Steele Chris Thomas	Andi Dorn Kippen Cochran Jacey Cochran	Jeff Van Patten Jim Dorn	Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele Shari Copsey
December 31 Lessons & Carols	10:00 a.m.	Rick & Lynn Margheim		No Communion	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Jack Judy Max Judy	Chris Jensen 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

17 E 27th

Scottsbluff NE, 69361

308-632-8023

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

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God's work. Our hands.

