

Connect At Calvary



“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.’”

Luke 1:46

Mary, oh favored one of God, who was told by the angel Gabriel that she would give birth to the Son of God, we await the retelling of the story of this greatest gift this Christmas. How can we, too, as God’s children, God’s favored ones, pass on the faith and this greatest gift to others? How can we do small things in our everyday lives to live out the beauty of a gift so that our souls magnify the Lord? Even as our spirits rejoice in God, our hands can reach out to our neighbors far and wide to share that joy with those who may be hurting or hopeless. May we join together with the angel Gabriel announcing to others: “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you!”

Let us pray. Lord God, the most high, during this season of Christmas, help us to lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and embrace your mercy. Amen

December Calendar

Weekend Worship Services 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31

Sat. 5:30 pm Sunday 8:15 & 10:15 am

Wednesday Activities December 7-14 **Wed. Meal** 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm

Wednesday Education Programming

3 years – 5th Grade - 5:00 – 5:45 pm or 5:45 – 6:30 pm

6th Grade Pre-Confirmation – 5:00 – 5:45 pm

7th Grade Pre-Confirmation – 5:45 – 6:30 pm

8th – 9th Grade Confirmation – 6:30 – 8:00 pm

10th – 12th Grade - 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Wednesday Worship – 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am Quilters

Sunday, December 4

9:15 am Mixed Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 5

10:30 am Mondays with Max Study

11:00 am Praying in Color Group 1

5:30 pm Wednesday Praise Band

7:00 pm Hand Chime Choir rehearsal

Tuesday, December 6

7:00 pm Men's Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

7:00 am Men's Breakfast

9:00 am Quilters

Friday, December 9

11:30 am Keenagers

Saturday, December 10

6:30 pm Congregational Potluck

Sunday, December 11

9:15 am Mixed Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 12

5:30 pm Wednesday Praise Band

7:00 pm Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 13

9:30 am Naomi Circle

11:30 am Council Meeting

7:00 pm Men's Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 am Phoebe Circle

6:30 pm Children's Christmas Program

Thursday, December 15

9:00 am Quilters

Friday, December 16

5:45 pm Care Center Meal

Sunday, December 18

9:15 am Mixed Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 19

11:00 am Praying in Color Group 1

7:00 pm Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 20

7:00 pm Men's Choir Rehearsal

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service

6:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service

9:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service
with Communion

Christmas Day Service

10:15 am Worship Service

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Enid Asheim, Fay Swenson, Jared Hansen, Suzanne Ray, Suzanne Swenson, Linda Atene, Raylan Piebenga Murphy, Carolie Zacher, Joshua Gordon, Rachel Kuecker, Hazel Mueller, Pearl Reisch, Joann Piebenga, Julie Fraley, Marie Sugden, Mary Boyer, Charlene Buescher, Dale Keller, Pete Franklin, Allan Dewald, Glenn Haraldson, Jon Henrichsen, Bill Schmagel, Sharon Hermeling, Clarisse Brookens, Mark Schuh, Jennifer Johnson, Tom Anderson, Ron Church and family, Thomas Abell, Alevia Howe, Virginia Martin, Larry Wetsch, Jordyn Bruski, Ken Steever, All Military, First Responders and their families

SYMPATHY TO...

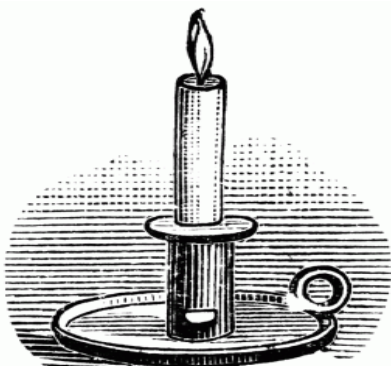
Al Spreizer and family. Al's mother, Helen Spreizer, died October 31st.

Marilyn Holmgren and family. Marilyn's mother, Leona Smith, died November 17th.



POINSETTIAS... We will again have poinsettias on our Altar for Christmas. You may purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each poinsettia costs \$10.00. Poinsettias may be purchased in the church office or at the

Ministry Center desk. **Deadline to purchase a poinsettia is Sunday, December 18th.**



Christmas Eve Worship Services
4:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service
6:00 pm Candlelight worship Service
9:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service
with Communion



CHRISTMAS CAROLING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH FROM 3:00–6:00 PM

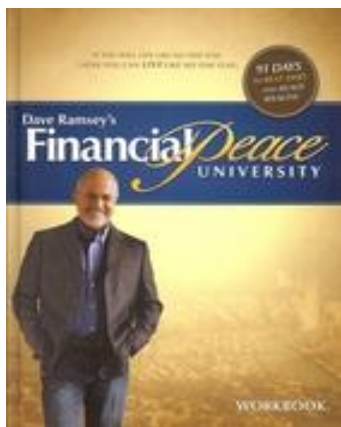
Join us as we spread Christmas cheer through song to other Calvary members in town. Meet at the church at 3:00 pm.

Bring the whole family – everything sounds better in a large group. After caroling, join us for the potluck at church. Contact Family Ministries Coordinator, Kellie Meissner at 430-9684 for more information or if you have questions.

CALLING ALL THRIVENT MEMBERS! You can help Calvary Lutheran Church through the Thrivent Choice program. Eligible Thrivent members can direct their Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations like Calvary Lutheran Church. You can go to Thrivent.com and log in to see if you have any Choice Dollars to designate. At that point, search for Calvary Lutheran and request that Thrivent direct those monies to the church. You can even direct your dollars to specific areas within the church; just let Kathy Miller know where you would like them applied. If you have any questions on this program, please call your local Thrivent office at 399-9373.

CALVARY IN ACTION CHRISTMAS PROJECT... The Calvary in Action Committee is sponsoring three Head Start classes in Pine Ridge for Christmas. We are in need of warm coats, hats, and mittens for boys and girls. You can take a tag off of the Christmas tree in the Narthex and purchase your items for a child in need. We would like your items as soon as possible. The deadline for items to be received at Calvary is December 18th.

CALVARY IS TEAMING UP WITH Wings As Eagles Ministry (<http://www.waeministries.com/>) to provide Christmas boxes to children and teens on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Load up a shoe box with items that are appropriate for the child's age and gender. If you would like present suggestions, see our website for more details. Boxes will need to be to Calvary by December 9th. Thank you! Questions?? Call Kellie Meissner at 430-9684.



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE CLASS. ARE YOU INTERESTED in joining our upcoming class? We need 10 couples to sign up by December 16th. Class starts Thursday, January 5th and goes through Thursday, March 2, 2017 (9 week class) from 6:15 – 7:45 pm. Child care will be available. We have materials for sale (\$93.00) at church. Financial Peace makes a GREAT Christmas gift for someone you care about. Sign up online at <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1029752>. Contact Kellie Meissner at 430-9684 for more information.



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Day – Worship at 10:15 am

New Year's Eve – Worship at 5:30 pm

New Year's Day – Worship at 10:15 am

CALVARY HAS HAD A VERY BUSY YEAR. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS AT CALVARY.

We formally welcomed 35 new families to Calvary this year.

Wednesday programming with education, music and fellowship is going strong.

- We have almost 400 children involved in our education program. We celebrated Milestones for the little ones all the way up to high school graduates.
- The adults are doing a bible study on the book of Mark this fall.
- We served an average of 450 dinners each week.

Summer picnics were a new addition this year. More food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

A multi-generational group explored puppet ministry by making puppets and learning how to do the puppet shows.

We added adult education with Mondays with Max and the Praying in Color groups.

BECAUSE OF YOUR DONATIONS OF DOLLARS AND “STUFF” AND TALENT -

- We put out over 250 hats and scarves for the homeless of Rapid City last winter and are continuing the program for this winter season.
- The Backpack Program (Feeding South Dakota) was the beneficiary of over \$1000 and over 500 pounds of food thanks to the education program and Trunk or Treat gifts.
- We gave socks to the mission, hygiene kits to the Hope Center, and bus passes to the women’s shelter.
- We supported Woyatan Lutheran with donations and joined them for worship and a meal.
- Food was donated to Lutheran Campus Ministries.
- The Good Samaritans visit our congregational members who can’t get out.
- We provide a meal at the Cornerstone Rescue mission each month.

There is a continuing cost to organize and fund all the ongoing and future programs. We need your continued financial HELP to make these happen.

	CURRENT YEAR 10/31/2016	LAST YEAR 10/31/2015	VARIANCE
Donations	\$660,605	\$612,506	\$48,099
Disbursements	771,340	777,670	6,330
Donations - Disbursements	<u>-\$110,735</u>	<u>-165,164</u>	<u>54,429</u>

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Miller at the church office or any of your church council members.

COLORING IN ADVENT... Each week in Advent, the bulletin will feature a coloring panel. When all four panels are placed together, they will create one picture. Also, all ages are invited to color our Advent posters that are in the Narthex. The posters will be installed on the wall to create a completed nativity picture by Christmas Eve.

MUSIC NOTES... A very happy Christmas season to all! I hope you have a blessed season of peace and joy. Thanks to all for your kind thoughts and prayers as my mom passed away just a few weeks ago. I surely miss my mom. This is the season of music! It is not too late to join a choir and be part of the music of Christmas. On December 11th we will present the cantata Bethlehem's Child. On Christmas Eve, we have three services of great music with many different offerings. The Sunday following Christmas Eve is a chance to hear your favorite carols sung again, or at least once! We will present another hymn request Sunday on the 25th of December. Thanks to all for supporting our Children's Home Concert in November; we really cherish taking time to offer something to kids in very tough situations. Thanks to all for participating and supporting. Merry Christmas to all and hopes for a bright New Year. Albin

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will resume in January; starting date to be determined. Sign up at the Ministry Center so we know how many books we need to order. Questions? Call the church office at 342-9043.

CORNERSTONE RESCUE MISSION MEAL... Calvary serves the third Friday of EVERY month. We serve our next meal on Dec. 16th. Sign-up at the Ministry Center to help.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE who donated blood at Calvary's Blood Drive on November 14th

Gerri Konenkamp, Alan Van Bochove, Lorie Van Bochove, Shari Caffee, Larry Caffee, Cindy Mitchell, Steve Mitchell, Peggy Nielson, Kelli Muck, Paige Stofferahn-Muck, Jo Prang, Nan Smith, Karen Pederson, Tamara Miller, Wes Westphal, Lauri Schleusener, Cassie Larsen, Emielia Larsen, Kellie Meissner, Gayle Simons, Jim Simons, Wayne Rosby, Lloyd Sohl, Don Gromer, Patti Gromer, George Lee, Harold Doerr, Ted Tulon, Diane Stevens, Ann Torgerson.

CRAFTING GROUP...Are you a crafter? Do you have scrapbooking, stamping, card making, needle or yarn projects that need further work? Join us on Sunday, December 11th, from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall to work on your projects with space and sharing stories with friends. If you would like more details from Jo Prang or Christie Ingalls, call 484-5815 or christie_cc@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS TIME AT THE CHAPEL IN THE HILLS...

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season at the Chapel with these special events:

Gift Shop Open

Christmas Shopping, December 3, 10, 17
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-along

Saturday, December 10th, 4:00 pm in the Chapel

Advent Worship Service

Sunday, December 11th, 6:00 pm

The Chapel and grounds will be decorated for the season.

Visitors are Welcome! Weekends, Dusk to 9:00 pm
3788 Chapel Lane, Rapid City, SD 605-342-8281

Mark your Calendars!



December 7

St. Nicholas Night

at 6:30 worship

Regular Class & Dinner schedule

Confirmation Service Project

The **8th & 9th Grade** Confirmation classes will be packing meals together in the Fellowship Hall directly after worship on December 7 for **Kids Against Hunger**. All students are asked to **bring \$10**.



December 14

Children Sing & Live Nativity

at 6:30 worship

Regular Class & Dinner schedule

Socks & Soccer Balls for Kenya

*Kids...**bring your soccer envelope offering & socks** to give during offering time at 6:30 Worship!*

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S BREAK

NO Classes, Dinner or Wednesday Worship:

December 21

December 28

January 4

Regular Wednesday schedule resumes Jan 11th

Christmas blessings from your Education Staff!

STAR - GIVING

*What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
is a star....*

*Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.*

*Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,*

*something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.*

*But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes and
packages without stars.*

*But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light.*

*And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.*

