

CALVARY LUTHERAN CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Sunday Worship-In Person and on Facebook

December 7 th	Worship/Communion	9:00AM
December 14 th	Worship	9:00AM
December 21 st	Worship/Communion	9:00AM
December 28 th	Worship	9:00AM

Fellowship-

December 7- Lola Giddings
December 14- Sandra Kempter
December 21- Jody Mangler
December 28- Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild-

December 7- Volunteer Needed
December 14- Sandra Kempter
December 21- Volunteer Needed
December 28- Volunteer Needed

Readers-

December 7- Janet Giddings
December 14- Jody Mangler
December 21- Barb Marburger
December 28- Jodi Feller

Food Pantry

December 13th 9:00-10:30 AM
No Thursday Food Pantry

Carrington Wells, Synodically Authorized Minister
calvarysabula@gmail.com 563-219-5722

Church Council Meeting

December 8th 6:30 PM



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday School

Every Sunday 10 AM

Confirmation

Every Friday 3:15- 4:15 PM

Church Events

December 14th - Last Sunday of Food Collection

December 21st - Blue Christmas Service - 6 PM

December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5 PM

December 28th - Christmas Carol Service

Community Events

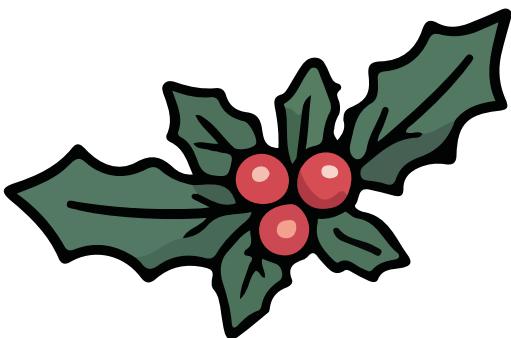
December 6th - Local Piano Recital at Calvary - 10 AM to 11 AM

December 6th - Preston Lighted Christmas Parade - 6 PM

December 20th - Festival of Trees at Sabula City Hall - 4-8 PM

December 21st - Festival of Trees at Sabula City Hall - 4-8 PM

Visit with Santa 6 PM



Greetings Calvary Family,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and found at least one quiet moment to breathe, look around, and recognize the blessings in your life. Even on the hardest days, God's love has a way of breaking through and reminding us that the light is still there. Sometimes small, but always steady.

Alright, let's dive right into what's happening here at Calvary!

Schooling Update:

Thanks to the confirmation ladies hosting service on November 16th, I officially turned in my final project and paper. The next step will be an interview with my panel. I'm also enrolled in my continuing education group that begins in January which means 3-hour Monday night Zoom meetings with other students as we continue growing together. I'm truly excited for this next part of the journey.

Speaking of the confirmation girls...

I could not be more proud of them. There are full-grown adults who would rather wrestle a bear than read in front of the congregation (which is completely okay, we all have our gifts!), and yet these girls stood up there and did everything. As 8th graders! Their confidence, their courage, and their willingness to stretch themselves was just incredible. Every time I think I've seen all their potential, they show me even more.

And as if leading church wasn't enough, they ALSO volunteered to be pied in the face to encourage donations for our local food pantry. They are collecting designated items through December 14th. Whoever has the most of their item will be pied... unless we collect 1,000 designated items total then ALL FOUR will get pied by their MOTHERS. What a Christmas dream, right?

Here's what each is collecting:

Kinley Jorgensen: canned ravioli & canned soup

Hailee Woodhurst: Hamburger Helper

Madi Cheramy: canned fruits & vegetables

Carrington Wells: pasta

Let's help them make a big, joyful, messy memory!

Calvary Website

Did you know Calvary has a website? It's newly updated and full of helpful information: upcoming events, recent services, food pantry details, community resources, and more.

Take a look and stay connected at: www.calvarysabula.com

Bad Weather Reminder:

Unfortunately, we're entering that time of year when the weather likes to keep us on our toes. If church needs to be cancelled or moved to an online-only service, we will share updates on Facebook and make announcements on WQAD and KWQC. We know the disciples weathered all sorts of storms... but we are not them! If conditions are unsafe, we want everyone home, warm, and snug in their space. Your safety matters just as much as your presence.

Blue Christmas Service:

We also have something new this month. Our first ever Blue Christmas service. Jackson County Hospice reached out and shared that there is a need in our area, and Calvary is opening its doors to meet that need. This service is for anyone carrying sadness, grief, worry, or loneliness into the holiday season. It's a gentle, quiet space to breathe, to honor those feelings, and to be held in God's comfort. The service will be Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m., and ALL are welcome.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 5 p.m. on December 24th. Like many churches, gathering as a family to sing the classics and hold candles is a cherished tradition. I want to honor all family traditions this year. If you have a Christmas tradition you grew up with or one you've created with your family, please feel free to send a photo or video to us privately on Facebook Messenger or to calvarysabula@gmail.com. I'd love to include and celebrate the many ways our families make this season meaningful.

And one more exciting thing!

We will also be having a Christmas Carol Service on December 28th. So if you're like me and love to sing the classics, come join us for a service filled with music and a little backstory on how some of your favorite Christmas hymns came to be. It's the perfect way to round out the season with joy, tradition, and a whole lot of singing.

A Final Word as We Approach the New Year:

I'd like to end by reminding everyone that New Year's resolutions are right around the corner. I encourage each of you to take a moment to pray and listen for where God may be guiding you to serve in the coming year both at Calvary and out in our community. God uses all of us as His hands in this world. He's given every one of us unique strengths, gifts, and passions that we are called to confidently embrace. So take a moment, breathe deep, and ask yourself: Where are you being guided this coming year?

A Prayer for the Month of December:

Holy and gracious God, As we enter this Advent season, turn our hearts back to the true meaning of these weeks. In a world full of noise, help us slow down long enough to remember why we wait, why we prepare, and why this season matters. We wait for Jesus, the One who stepped into our world as a tiny child not in a palace, not with fanfare, but in a quiet, humble place that looked a lot like home. In that holy birth, You reminded us that Your love often comes quietly, unexpectedly, and right where ordinary people live their ordinary days.

As we light each Advent candle, fill us with the gifts only You can give:

Hope that rises like the sun over our little island town.

Peace-that settles over Sabula the way the river calms on a still winter morning.

Joy that echoes in the laughter of our children and the gathering of neighbors.

Love that stretches from one end of our community to the other, from the campgrounds to the Savanna/Sabula bridge, from the church pews to every home.

Lord, help us make room for Jesus this month: in our schedules, in our traditions, and in the quiet corners of our hearts. Let the story of His birth change us all over again reminding us that light breaks through darkness, that hope is stronger than fear, and that Your love is always, always drawing near.

Bless Calvary, bless Sabula, and bless every person who needs Your comfort, Your presence, and Your steady hand this season. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

I am Thankful for all of you!

Carrington Wells

CALVARY LUTHERAN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

2nd Saturdays 9:00-10:30 AM 4th Thursdays 5:30-6:30 PM

Families are eligible to attend food pantry services twice each month

Calvary Lutheran Mobile Pantry Services serves the following towns in Iowa: Andover, Green Island, Hauntown, Miles, Preston, Sabula, Spragueville, and Teeds Grove

December 2025 Dates December 2025 Dates

Saturday, December 13th 9:00-10:30 AM
No Thursday Food Pantry

Saturday, January 10th 9:00-10:30 AM
Thursday, January 22nd 5:30-6:30 PM

**Watch Calvary Lutheran Church Facebook page
for announcements and updates**

If anyone would like to help with Food Pantry Truck Deliveries at 2:00 PM on the Thursdays before the 2nd Saturday or on the 4th Thursdays, or with the distributions to our patrons, even if you can only help occasionally, please give your contact information to Cindy Myers at cinmyers27@gmail.com or (563)249-1937.

