

CALVARY LUTHERAN CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Sunday Worship-In Person and on Facebook

February 1 st	Worship/Communion	9:00AM
February 8 th	Worship	9:00AM
February 15 th	Worship/Communion	9:00AM
February 22 nd	Worship	9:00AM

Readers-

February 1st- Jody Mangler

February 8th- Sandra Kempter

February 15th- Jodi Feller

February 22nd - Kim Sandholt

Fellowship-

Sandra Kempter

Altar Guild-

Sandra Kempter



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Pantry

February 14^h. 9:00-10:30 AM
February 26th. 5:30-6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting

February 9th 6:30 PM

Sunday School

Every Sunday 10 AM

Confirmation

Every Friday 3PM

Community Events

February 21st Trivia Night at St. John's at 6 pm \$100 per table
to 8

February 28th Cassie Behr (Aldis) Benefit at 4 pm, Tilted Silo in
Goose Lake



Hello Calvary Family,

I hope everyone is staying warm during these very cold days. As we enter February, this is a natural time for us to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts for spiritual growth as we begin the season of walking with Jesus toward the Cross. This is a season that invites us to be intentional in our worship, in our prayer life, and in the way we care for one another as the body of Christ.

Lenten Services

Our first Lenten service will be **February 18th at 6:00 p.m.** Services will continue every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. through Maundy Thursday.

Lent is not just a season on the calendar; it is a time to intentionally pause, reflect, and draw closer to God. These midweek services give us space to step away from the busyness of life and be reminded of Christ's journey, His sacrifice, and the grace that meets us there. I truly hope you will join us for this meaningful and reflective season as we walk this path together as a congregation.

Carrington Vacation and Hour Change

I will be taking a much-needed vacation beginning February 9th and will return on February 18th.

During this time, I will be fully unplugged and will not be checking emails, texts, or voicemails. I will respond as soon as I am able once I return.

Craig Myers has graciously volunteered to serve as the **Emergency Contact** during this time. If you have an urgent need, please reach out to Craig at **563-321-9141** or **CraigMyers35@gmail.com**.

Pastor Katie from Faith Lutheran in Andover has also kindly agreed to assist with any funerals, should the need arise while I am away. I am very thankful for the support of our neighboring church partners and for the way we care for one another across congregations.

Because my CPW class takes place on Monday evenings, I will be moving my weekly day off to Thursdays until after Easter. I use this day to reset, reflect, and prepare for the days ahead, and this rhythm will be especially important during the Lenten season.

Offering Updates

As a reminder, we have two special offerings each month that help us live out our faith in very tangible ways: The **First Sunday** of every month is **Disaster Relief Sunday**, supporting those experiencing hardship far beyond our walls. On Sundays we do not have communion (2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays), we will have our **Noisy Offering**.

This collection helps support our Blessing Box, but it also gives our children a visible and important role during worship. When our youth feel involved in the life of the church, they begin to understand that church is not just a place they attend, it is a place where they belong and serve. That sense of belonging is part of how faith takes root and grows.

Calvary Website

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

Take a moment to check it out and stay connected at: www.calvarysabula.com

Bad Weather Reminder

We've entered that season when the weather likes to keep us on our toes. If church needs to be canceled or moved to an online-only service, updates will be shared on **Facebook** and announced on **WQAD** and **KWQC**.

Schooling Update

I'm happy to share that I passed my Module 2 Evaluation with wonderful reviews. On Monday, January 26th, I began my CPW courses, which meet every Monday from 6:00–9:00 p.m. These courses are focused specifically on preparing me for pastoral care visits, one of the most meaningful parts of ministry.

Because CPW and Lent are happening at the same time, I have decided to pause my Modules until April. This allows me to remain fully present with the church, the congregation, and my family during a very full and important season. Thank you for your continued encouragement and support as I continue this journey of learning and growth in my calling here at Calvary.

A Call for Visiting Volunteers

One area where I'm asking for help this year is **visiting our shut-ins**. Those who can't regularly make it to church but remain such a vital part of our Calvary family.

From my years serving on council, I've always known how important these visits are. Now, being on the other side of the role, I see even more clearly how meaningful, and sometimes challenging, it can be to fit visits into limited paid hours. I want to be honest about that while also sharing my heart: visiting is truly one of my favorite parts of this calling. I love sitting at kitchen tables, hearing stories, laughing, listening, and learning from the wisdom of others.

At the same time, I'm a realist. Some months, finding enough time is a real struggle. My hope is to build a small team of caring volunteers who are willing to visit those who can't be here in person, so my visits can be an added blessing, not the only connection.

If you enjoy conversation, listening, and simply showing up, this might be a meaningful way for you to serve. You don't need special training just a kind heart and a willingness to be present.

If you feel called to help in this way, please reach out to me. I would love to talk with you and share more.

Food Pantry Pie in the Face

If you weren't able to attend this service, I encourage you to watch the video online. What a joyful way to end the month and celebrate Calvary reaching its goal of over 1,000 items!

As the confirmation girls and I talked about, discipleship can even show up in receiving a pie in the face. The joy and laughter in our sanctuary were incredible, and our food pantry shelves are now stocked a little fuller because of the generosity of this congregation. It was a beautiful reminder that ministry can be both meaningful and full of joy.

A Prayer for the Month of February

Loving God,

As we enter the month that celebrates love, we ask that you be with those who are feeling unloved, struggling with self-worth, or carrying grief from the loss of someone dear.

In a world that often feels divided, guide us to be people who bring others together through your message of forgiveness, equality, compassion, and love.

Help us reflect your love in our words, our actions, and our care for one another.

Amen

Sending all my Love,
Carrington Wells, SAM

Calvary Lutheran Church Food Pantry News

The Food Pantry committee, volunteers, and patrons would like to thank everyone that has continued to donate food and money to the food pantry. Food, personal care, paper goods, and cleaning products were purchased this year to add to what we receive from River Bend Food Bank. Memorial funds were used to purchase extra food and supplies to make the holidays a little nicer for our patrons especially, frozen chicken, ground beef, and an additional 9 turkeys to add to the 10 that were donated from the Palisades Golf Course golfers and the 3 that were donated from other individuals. A huge thank you also to those that have donated to St. Stephen's Branch of River Bend to help with our handling fees for the food they send for us to distribute.

We also would like to thank the following organizations and individuals that have awarded us grants or monetary donations to help us continue our twice-monthly mobile food pantry distributions through 2025.

Food Pantry Memorial Donations Received in 2025	Amount
In Memory of Thomas Myers	\$5,000.00

Food Pantry Monetary Donations Received in 2025	Amount
Clinton National Bank Jeans for a Cause	\$ 300.00
Miles Lions Club	\$ 260.00
American Legion	\$ 100.00
Community Thanksgiving Dinner	\$ 500.00
Faith Lutheran Church Women	\$ 75.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous Donations	<u>\$1225.00</u>
Total	\$2510.00

Food Pantry Grants Received in 2025	Amount	Grant Purpose
McDonough Foundation Grant	\$2,000.00	Food Bank Handling Fees
Schoen Family Foundation Grant	\$1,000.00	Food Bank Handling Fees
Theisen's More for Your Community Grant	\$1,750.00	Food Bank Handling Fees
Community Foundation of Jackson County	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	Food Bank Handling Fees & Personal Care, Paper & Cleaning Products
Total	\$7,750.00	

We would also like to thank all the individuals, families, and organizations that have donated food and supplies to the food pantry at Calvary or at the Festival of Trees Food Pantry tree.

Organizations that Donated Food in 2025

Preston Family Chiropractic – Crack the Hunger Drive
 Faith Lutheran Church, Andover – Food Collection
 Easton Valley Student Lighthouse Team – Food for Friends Drive

Once again, we could not host a food pantry at Calvary without help from the congregation and the local communities and of course all of our food pantry workers. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Food Pantry Committee
 Cindy Myers & Abbie Koch

Calvary Food Pantry Food Drives 2025

The Food Pantry Committee would like to thank everyone from both the congregation and the wider community who participated in Synodically Authorized Minister Carrington Wells' food drives throughout the past year. Your generosity has made a meaningful difference for the Food Pantry and the Blessing Box.



In June 2025, 279 boxes of cereal were collected and shared between the Food Pantry and the Blessing Box.

During a Sunday worship service, the congregation also enjoyed a fun domino-toppling presentation using all of the donated cereal. A video of this moment was shared online and received over 30,000 views, helping spread awareness of both the food pantry and the joy of giving.



In July, the community continued its generosity by donating 153 fruit cups and 174 cans of fruit.



In November and December, Carrington and Calvary's Confirmation students (Kinley, Madi, and Hailee) organized a "Pie in the Face" food collection contest. Donations were divided into four categories: Kinley collected ravioli and soup, Madi collected canned fruit and vegetables, Hailee collected Hamburger Helper, and Carrington collected pasta and rice. The individual who collected the most food in their category would receive a pie in the face from their mother. As the contest progressed, Carrington and the Confirmation students made an additional promise: if the congregation and community collected a total of 1,000 food items, all four of them would receive a pie in the face from their mothers.



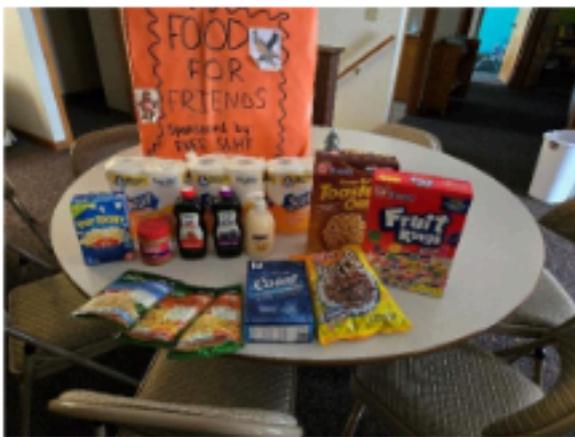
This contest inspired other communities to support Calvary's food drive as well.



Preston Family Chiropractic "Crack the Hunger" Drive



Faith Lutheran Food Drive

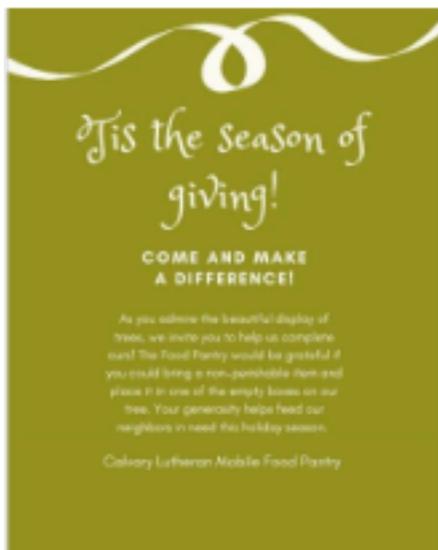


EV Student Lighthouse Team – "Food for Friends" sent food to several local food programs.



The Confirmation Students, Hailee, Kinley, & Madi sorting donated food for the "Pie in the Face" Holiday Food Drive.

Our Food Pantry Committee Co-Chair, Abbie Koch, also created a Food Pantry entry for the Sabula Community Club's Festival of Trees. She created a Food Pantry tree that was able to be filled with non-perishable food by participants of the Festival of Trees and the Holiday Scoot events. The items donated here were added to the "Pie in the Face" food collection contest for the Food Pantry and the Blessing Box.



Calvary Food Pantry also hosted Christmas Bingo and Snacks in the "Pastor Bob" Krueger Memorial Fellowship Hall during the Sabula Community Club's Holiday Scoot. The goal was to have fun, have a delicious treat and introduce Calvary's Food Pantry to the community.



Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our community, that goal of 1,000 items was not only met but exceeded, with a total of 1,024 items collected.



Kinley – Ravioli & Soup



Madi – Canned Fruit & Vegetables



Hailee – Hamburger Helper



Carrington – Pasta & Rice

As a result, during the January 25th worship service, everyone was pied in celebration of this incredible achievement. Not because anyone lost, but because our whole community won.

In case you missed the festivities, here is a recap of the conclusion of the "Pie in the Face" contest.



The Food Pantry Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all who donated, participated, and supported these efforts to care for our neighbors.

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

February 2026 Dates

Saturday, February 14th 9:00-10:30 AM

Thursday, February 26th 5:30-6:30 PM

March 2026 Dates

Saturday, March 14th 9:00-10:30 AM

Thursday, March 26th 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.

