

CALVARY LUTHERAN CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Sunday Worship-In Person and on Facebook

April 5 th	Easter Service	9:00AM
April 12 th	Worship	9:00AM
April 19 th	Worship/Communion	9:00AM
April 26 th	Worship	9:00AM

Readers-

April 5th- Kids and Parents of
Calvary

April 12th - William Giddings

April 19th - Jody Mangler

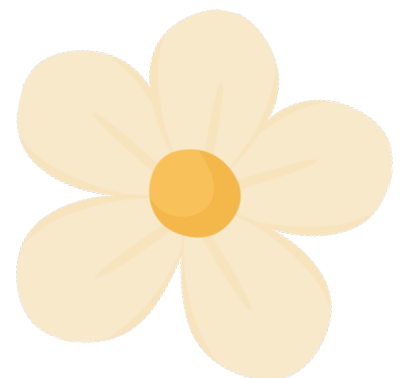
April 26th- Craig Myers

Altar Guild-

Dawn Miller

Fellowship-

Craig and Lois Hatteberg



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Pantry

April 11th: 9:00-10:30 AM

April 23rd, 5:30-6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting

April 14th 6:30 PM

Sunday School

Every Sunday 10 AM

Confirmation

Every Friday 3PM

Church Events

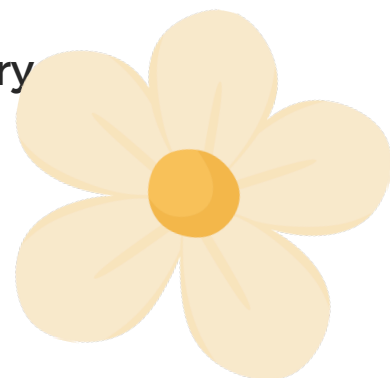
April 11th - First Communion Class 10-10:45 AM

April 14th - Paula Mangler Memorial Scholarship due by 6PM

April 25th- Blood Drive 8-11AM

Community Events

April 25th- 10 AM Piano Recital at Calvary



Happy Easter, Calvary Family,

We have made our way through Lent, Holy Week, and the celebration of Easter. And what an incredible journey it has been together!

I want to begin by saying **Thank You** to everyone who read or listened to a devotional during Lent. We had **40 different congregation members**, ranging in age from 8 to 92, take part. How amazing is that? This truly became an intergenerational project that reflects the heart of who Calvary is. Through your participation, we reached people all over the world on social media, with several videos receiving over 1,000 views. You helped share God's Word this Lenten season in a powerful way.

Holy Week began with our Movie Morning featuring *The King of Kings*. With a full candy and popcorn bar and pizza to follow. It was a fun and meaningful way to start the week. About 20 people attended, and I'm already looking forward to our next movie morning in June.

Palm/Passion Sunday was a little different this year. My hope was to help us not just hear the story, but *walk the path with Jesus* from "Hosanna!" to "It is finished." I'll admit, during rehearsal, it brought me to tears. I hope it left that same sense of reflection and emotion on your hearts as well. This is a service we will revisit again.

Maundy Thursday began in an unexpected way, gathered in the basement during a tornado warning. Around a table, we shared the story of the Passover and Holy Communion, much like the disciples did. Once it was safe, we moved upstairs, changed the cross to black, washed the altar, and prepared ourselves for Good Friday.

On Good Friday, the church remained open for quiet reflection. If you stepped inside, you know the feeling. Darkness, stillness, soft hymns, and prayers guiding our thoughts. It's a heavy day, one that reminds us of the depth of Christ's love for us.

Then came a full and beautiful Easter morning.

Willy Giddings and Michele O'Hara braved the cold to lead our Sunrise Service on the riverbank. With nine gathered in the chilly air, the words "where two or more are gathered" felt especially meaningful. Sometimes, those smaller, quieter moments become the most powerful. Thank you, Willy and Michele, for making that happen.

Following the service, Reynold, Janet, Chance, and Jody served a wonderful Easter breakfast to 35 people. What a gift to share a meal together before worship. Thank you for serving with such generosity.

Our Easter worship began in darkness and quickly moved into light and life. Lilies filled the sanctuary, beautifully arranged thanks to Jody Mangler. We were blessed by music

from John Ramser on trumpet, Michele O'Hara on piano, and our very own Calvary "Ding Dong Crew" on bells. It was a joyful celebration that showcased the many gifts within our congregation.

And truly, what makes all of this possible is *you*.

The ones filling communion cups, pulling curtains, carrying lilies, setting up the cross, running sound and slides, moving supplies during a storm, guiding children during worship and so much more. **This is Calvary.** We walk this faith journey together.

Tech Update

I know our online sound has been frustrating, and it has not been up to the standard we want. This will be part of an ongoing conversation with council as we look for solutions. Our online presence matters. Whether it's members traveling, those unable to attend in person, or others who faithfully join us from afar. While I've been editing and adding voiceovers to help, it's not a long-term solution.

Offering Updates

Each month, we have special opportunities to give and live out our faith:

- **First Sunday – Disaster Relief Sunday**
Helping neighbors far beyond our walls
- **Noisy Offering (2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays)**
Supporting our Blessing Box and giving our kids a visible role in worship

When our youth help lead, they learn that church isn't just a place they attend, it's a place where they belong and serve. That's how faith grows.

Schooling Update

I continue working through Module 3 of the TEEM program and completed my CPW course on April 6, 2026. This course has helped me grow in pastoral care and deepen how I serve this congregation.

A Call for Visiting Volunteers

One area where I could truly use help is visiting our shut-ins, members who may not be with us physically but remain an important part of Calvary.

With limited hours, confirmation, and other ministry responsibilities, my schedule can get stretched thin. If you feel called to visit, pray with, or simply check in on someone, please let me know. This is meaningful ministry we can share together.

Prayer for the month of April

Loving God,

This season feels like that in-between time. Still cold some days, a little muddy, yet showing signs that spring is coming. And in many ways, that's how we feel too. A little tired, a little hopeful, carrying worries but still looking for light.

As we continue forward, slow us down so we can notice you in the small things. In quiet mornings, shared meals, laughter in the hallway, a neighbor in need, or a whispered prayer in the car.

Be near to those who are hurting, those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or uncertain. Sit beside our shut-ins, strengthen caregivers, and watch over our children and grandchildren.

Forgive us when we lose patience, when worry takes over, or when we get too busy to look for you. Gently remind us that we are loved, forgiven, and never alone.

Bless our Calvary family. Those in the pews, those watching from home, and those we haven't seen in a while. Help us care for one another in the ways small towns do best. With kindness, laughter, and love.

And as we continue in the joy of Easter, remind us again and again:
love wins, hope rises, and Jesus is alive.

In His name we pray,
Amen.

Many Blessings to All,
Carrington Wells, SAM

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

April 2026 Dates

Saturday, April 11th 9:00-10:30 AM

Thursday, April 23rd 5:30-6:30 PM

May 2026 Dates

Saturday, May 9th 9:00-10:30 AM

Thursday, May 28th 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.

