

CALVARY LUTHERAN CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Sunday Worship-In Person and on Facebook

September 6th Bluegrass Service in Andover 9:00AM
September 13th Worship 9:00AM
September 20th No Service
September 27th Worship 9:00AM

Readers-

September 13th Barb Marburger
September 27th Austin Demoss

Fellowship-

September 13th - Sandra Kempter
September 27th - Pat and Julien Balk

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



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Pantry

September 3rd 4-6 PM

Church Council Meeting

September 21st 6:00 PM

Sunday School

First Day September 13th!

Calvary Highschool Youth Group

September 27th After Service

Church Events

September 6th Bluegrass Service in Andover (No Service at Calvary)

September 13th Congregational Vote on Future of Food Pantry

September 19th S'mores, Songs, and Scripture Service 6 PM

September 20th No Sunday Service

September 27th Linda Eckman Leading Service

Community Events

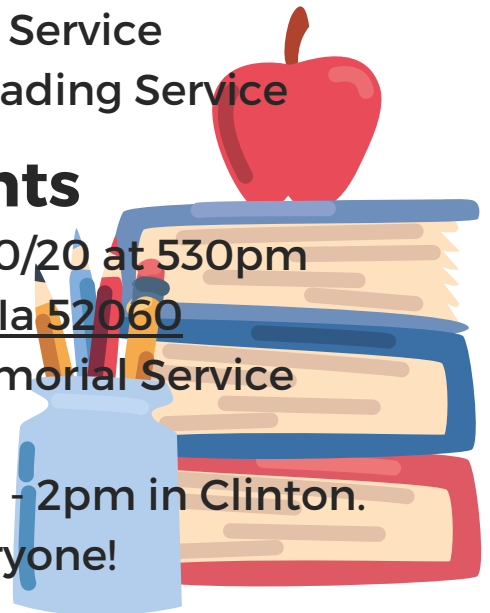
Grief Support Every Tuesday 9/15- 10/20 at 530pm

611 W Quarry St Maquoketa Ia 52060

Sept 2 at 430pm will host Fall Memorial Service

Sept 27 "Gods Work. Our Hands." 11:30 - 2pm in Clinton.

Volunteer options for everyone!



Happy September Calvary Family,

Time is flying by this year, and we are taking advantage of every moment! September is another busy month at Calvary, with plenty of opportunities to worship, serve, gather, and grow together.

TEEM Program

I wanted to begin this letter by letting everyone know that I have officially begun Module 4 of the TEEM program! This last module carried some personal experiences that were draining, but they were also full of learning opportunities. Looking back, I can see how much I have grown through all of it. I cannot begin to find the words to thank each and every one of you for supporting me on this journey. Your encouragement, patience, prayers, and willingness to learn right alongside me mean more than you know.

And on that note, I would also like to thank Jody Mangler for encouraging me to apply for the ESTARL scholarship through Eastern Star Iowa. Grandma surprised me during our August 9 service by presenting me with a scholarship check for over \$7,000!

I cried, my family cried, and I know a few members of the congregation cried right along with us. The love in the room could literally be felt. I am incredibly grateful for the financial support toward my education and for the people who continue to believe in this call alongside me.

Special Services

We have some special worship opportunities coming up this month, and I am very excited about all of them!

September 6 – Bluegrass Worship in Andover

We are traveling to Andover for a shared service with Calvary, Faith Lutheran, St. John's, and Ascension. This year's Bluegrass Service will be a little different because it is a true example of churches working together. Leaders and musicians from all four churches have worked hard to bring a new service to the community. So grab a lawn chair and head to Andover for worship, music, and fellowship!

September 19 – S'mores, Songs & Scripture

On SATURDAY, September 19 at 6:00 p.m., bring those lawn chairs to Calvary's backyard! We will gather around the campfire for S'mores, Songs & Scripture. Calvary will provide hot dogs, chips, and s'mores while we eat, sing, worship, and enjoy an evening together. And because sometimes church means getting out of our normal routine, there will be NO Sunday worship service on September 20. So come join your Calvary family Saturday night instead!

September 27 – A Special Sunday at Calvary

Council President Linda Eckman will be leading worship on September 27! I am excited for Linda to share her gifts with our congregation and for us to experience worship from another voice within our Calvary family.

Sunday School Is Back!

Sunday School begins September 13 at 10:00 a.m.!

Sunday School is open to children ages 3 years old (potty-trained) through 6th grade. We are excited for another year of learning Bible stories, asking questions, making things, probably making a little bit of a mess, and most importantly, helping our kids know how deeply God loves them.

If you haven't registered your child yet, please do so! And as always, there is room for more adults who would like to help with Sunday School throughout the year.

Congregational Vote – Food Pantry

During worship on September 13, we will hold a congregational vote regarding the future of Calvary's Food Pantry. River Bend will no longer be offering the "mobile food pantries" that Calvary has participated in. However, our Food Pantry Committee knows that the need in our community has not disappeared and would like Calvary to continue this ministry in a new way.

The Food Pantry Committee and Church Council are recommending that Calvary operate our own Food Pantry, offering food distributions quarterly. This is an important ministry to our community, and we want the congregation to be part of deciding how we move forward. If you have questions before the vote, please reach out to a council member.

"God's Work. Our Hands."

This year, Calvary is joining with Zion, St. Paul, and Faith Lutheran (Andover) for God's Work. Our Hands. on September 27th from 11:30am–2pm in Clinton.

There are several different ways to serve, so there is truly something for everyone. Take a look at the flyer included in this newsletter, find an opportunity that speaks to you, and come spend a few hours putting our faith into action alongside our neighboring churches. Sometimes God's work really does begin with simply showing up and offering our hands.

Calvary's High School Youth Group

Something new has started at Calvary! Our High School Youth Group officially kicked off in August, and I am excited to see where it goes.

The idea behind this group is to meet our youth where they are. We want to welcome them to join us for worship, hang out with friends, and talk about what faith looks like in real life. We'll meet after worship on the 4th Sunday of each month to talk about that morning's message, ask questions, share what's on their minds, and simply spend some time together.

There's no homework, no pressure, and you definitely don't have to be a Bible expert. Just come as you are and know that this is a safe place to ask questions, have honest conversations about faith, and figure some of it out together.

ALL high school students are welcome, whether you attend Calvary every Sunday, once in a while, or have never stepped foot inside our church before. So if you have a high school student in your life, please help us spread the word!

Prayer for the Month of September

Dear Lord,

As summer begins to wind down and fall routines begin, help us notice the people around us who need encouragement, a helping hand, or simply someone to listen. Bless our students and teachers as they settle into a new school year. Bless our farmers as harvest approaches. Bless our families, our community, and everyone who calls Calvary home.

Guide us as we worship in new places, gather around campfires, teach our children, serve our neighbors, laugh together, and continue to grow in faith.

Above all, help us remember that wherever we go, we carry Your love with us. Give us the courage to share it freely.

Amen.

Many Blessings to All,

Carrington Wells, SAM

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice has introduced exciting updates that simplify the program and give more clients with membership the opportunity to support the organizations and causes they care about. Here's what's new:

1. **One Annual Designation.** In mid-April, Choice Dollars were designated up front as a single annual lump sum. Members can now direct their full amount anytime between now and year-end. Don't wait until December 31st. Direct today!
2. **More Members are Eligible.** Now, **all** Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars, expanding the reach of generosity. If you've been eligible in the past, nothing changes about how Choice Dollars are calculated. Never directed before? Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more.

The heart of the program remains the same: Members continue to have a voice in where millions of dollars in grant funding go each year-strengthening causes, congregations and communities nationwide.

The Choice is yours!!

CALVARY LUTHERAN MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

1st Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 PM

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

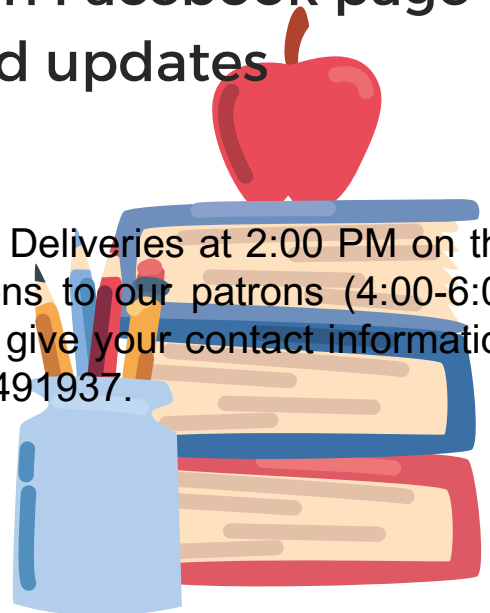
September 2026 Date October 2026 Date

September 3rd 4-6 PM

October 1st 4-6 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 first Thursdays of the month or with the distributions to our patrons (4:00-6:00 PM), even if you can only help occasionally, please give your contact information to Cindy Myers at cinmyers27@gmail.com or (563)2491937.



CALVARY BIRTHDAYS

Gretta Creger
Josh Marburger
Lindsey Rittmer
Jace Beauregard
Cruz Johnson
Lois Hatteberg
Beth King
Brayden Adcock
Charlotte Schulz
Barb Diercks
Brent Marburger
Karley McCombie
Jody Mangler
Dan Rathje
Chad Bott
Colton Peska
Coralie Beck
Evan Meyer

Vicki Johnson
Jaleen Melaas
Chrystal House
Megan Meyer
Shannon Jorgensen
Colby Mangler
Sabrina Schulze
Cy Sandholdt
Jenna Cummings
Owen Wentz
Barb Green
Kevin Kempter



FAITH AND FUN

BIBLE WORD LADDER

CAN YOU CHANGE LAMB INTO LORD BY CHANGING ONE LETTER AT A TIME?

RULES:

CHANGE ONLY ONE LETTER IN EACH STEP.

EACH NEW WORD MUST BE A REAL ENGLISH WORD.

DON'T REARRANGE THE LETTERS.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE SHORTEST PATH!

START: LAMB

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

↓ _____

FINISH: LORD

HINT: TRY CHANGING THE LAST LETTER FIRST!





Meet our

SUNDAY SCHOOL

TEACHERS



3 Year-Kindergarten



Lily Cheramy

A LITTLE ABOUT ME!

Hello! My name is Lily Cheramy. I am a junior in high school, and I enjoy going on the river with my family and shopping!

ONE THING I LOVE ABOUT WORKING WITH KIDS:

One thing I love about working with kids is how creative they can be.

MY FAVORITE BIBLE STORY:

My favorite story in the Bible is Noah's Ark because it reminds me to trust in God and His plan.

IF I HAD TO SURVIVE WITH ONLY ONE SNACK:

If I had to survive with only one snack, I would probably pick Goldfish.



3 Year Old - Kindergarten



Madison Peiffer

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF!

My husband, Zach, and I are new parents as of 4.5 months ago. Our son's name is Callahan and we have a 1.5 yr old golden retriever named Ruby.

I enjoy hanging out with my family and watching my son develop new skills every day! I am a speech-language pathologist and love helping others. I enjoy reading books when I have "extra" time.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING WITH KIDS?

I love working with kids because their little brains and hearts grow so quickly and they really learn so much in the first few years of life. I love getting to be a part of their development and helping them grow. Sometimes their commentary makes me laugh too.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORY OR FAVORITE THING ABOUT CHURCH?

My favorite thing about church is getting to be part of such a welcoming community, especially with a 4.5 month old who is still learning church etiquette 🙏

IF YOU HAD TO SURVIVE AN ENTIRE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR WITH ONLY ONE SNACK, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Oooo this is the toughest question for someone who is a snacker... if I had to choose one, it would have to be white cheddar pop corners!



Meet our SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

1st - 3rd Grade



Kaitlin Wilke

My name is Kaitlin Wilke. I am married to Jacob Wilke and together we have two little girls, Emersen and Maisie, and also a bonus daughter, Jaydynn. We have 1 dog, Mavis, and live in Goose Lake. I work for Sedgwick as a Leave of Absence Coordinator. In any free time I have, I enjoy reading and making memories with my family.



ONE THING I LOVE ABOUT WORKING WITH KIDS:

Being able to help shape and grow their minds and watching as they begin to understand the things they are taught.



MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT CHURCH:

The community itself. Knowing it's a place where all are welcome and no judgement is passed.



IF I HAD TO SURVIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR, I'M BRINGING:

Peanut butter M&M's, they may not be healthy, but they certainly are delicious!



1st - 3rd Grade



Nicole Christensen

Hi! I'm Nicole! My husband and I live in Preston with our four kids—Tucker (11), Cash (8), and twins Louis & Magnolia (2)—and our dog. We'll celebrate 13 years of marriage this October! I'm a stay-at-home mama, and at this point my hobbies are pretty much whatever my kids' hobbies are! We love spending time together and staying busy with all of their activities.



WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL?

I have many years of experience teaching Sunday School and am excited for the opportunity to teach your children this year. I've always loved teaching kids and believe each one is a precious gift from God.



A VERSE I LOVE:

"Be still, and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10
In such a fast-paced world, we all need the reminder sometimes to slow down and remember that He is in control.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SURVIVAL SNACK:

Animal crackers!



Meet our SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

4th - 6th Grade



Michele O'Hara

I am a musician, piano teacher, yoga instructor and a fitness instructor. I love bicycle riding, kayaking, boating and the River. I have been married to my husband Mike for longer than I can remember, and I am a loving mother to my son James and his girlfriend Ashley. I am also known to keep my brother Pat and my nephew Julian in line.

★ WHAT IS ONE THING YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING WITH KIDS?

My specialty is finding several ways to teach the same thing. I like to see the kids eyes light up when they understand what they are learning.

🎵 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORY OR FAVORITE THING ABOUT CHURCH?

I enjoy playing music for the church service when the congregation sings along. It makes me so happy!

IF YOU HAD TO SURVIVE AN ENTIRE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR WITH ONLY ONE SNACK, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

My Sunday School survival food is Aldi's Dark Chocolate & Peanut Butter Protein Bars.



♥ This year, we are blessed with a Sunday School team full of different gifts, experiences, creativity, and most importantly, a love for our kids.

★ Together, *Lily*, *Madison*, *Kaitlin*, *Nicole*, and *Michele* will help our children learn Bible stories, ask questions, have fun, and grow in their faith, all while reminding them that Calvary is a safe space where they are loved and always belong.

✝️ *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them." — Matthew 19:14*

We are so thankful for these five women who said **YES** to walking alongside Calvary's kids this year!

📅 **Sunday School begins September 13th at 10am.**

Whether your child comes every Sunday or once a month, there is always a place for them here. ♥

— Abbie Koch, Board of Education

