

Calvin Connection



December 2015

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The Season of Advent

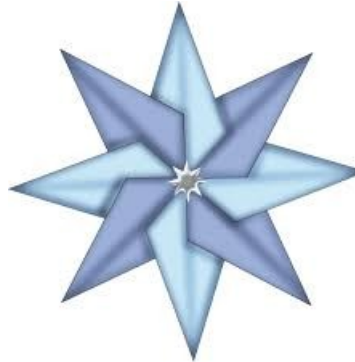
Advent is the season in the church beginning on November 29th and prepares us for the coming of the birth of Christ

This year, are you looking for ways to celebrate Christmas that will simplify life and truly honor the birth of Christ?

Be intentional if you hope to begin some new family traditions:

Use the Advent daily resources available in the Gathering Hall at church – there are ones for children, youth, and adults

Volunteer as a family or in a group at a food pantry or another organization serving community meals



Participate in Adopt a Family through Calvin – giving a gift to others who are in need in our own community

Find ways to move from gift giving as the focus of the holiday – perhaps give a gift certificate to someone on your list to spend time with them or help with something

Or discuss with your family the possibility of doing at least one *alternative gift*, making a donation to an agency in someone's honor instead of buying another present

Calvin Church is offering alternative "shopping opportunities" – a description is available for each gift purchased plus a decorative card to give to the person on your list





Pastor Carol's Corner

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us...
John 1:14*

On November 17th a tent appeared in the parking lot of the shopping mall near my home. By November 18th a small forest had sprouted up around the tent. At least it appeared like that with all the Christmas trees that were there. By mid-November there were Christmas lights in my neighborhood that had already been lit for a week. Christmas decorations had been in the stores for weeks and employees must have already been getting bored with the Christmas music reminding us what season this is – in case we hadn't noticed. Black Friday seems to have become as significant as Thanksgiving as a day that captures the nation's attention.

This is it, to quote a familiar carol, the most wonderful time of the year. But December can also be a time that is filled with stress and sadness and anxiety. It is easy to feel expectations for planning the perfect celebration, baking the perfect cookies and meals, buying the perfect gifts. Christians can get caught in that mad dash to December 25th as much as anyone.

As Christians we have the season of Advent to remind us what is at the heart of this season. We set aside time in worship each week to consider how we are preparing ourselves for the coming of the Christ into our lives. We listen again to the story of the birth of God's incarnation, born to a poor family in difficult circumstances, a humble bed for the newborn child.

This year, when so much of the news from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, even north Minneapolis is anything but peaceful, it seems more important than ever to focus on the coming of the Prince of Peace. I would encourage you to consider what is at the center of all the rushing and shopping and parties. I pray that in this busy season, your Advent and Christmas will include focus on the one whose birth we are celebrating – a Savior, Emmanuel, God with us.

Lord, by your presence, light up the past
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.

As we watch and wait and pray,
may we be always ready to encounter the Lord
who is already and always with us. Amen.

[Prayer from Candles and Conifers by Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, Iona, Scotland](#)

Carol

Greeter/Liturgist Schedule

December 6 - Communion

Greeter - Lillian Miller
 Liturgist - Pam Vande Vegte

December 13

Greeter - Mitch Nelson
 Liturgist - Mitch Nelson

December 20

Greeters - Walter & Susan Baker
 Liturgist - Shirley Tulberg

December 27

Greeters - Joel & Sarah Settles
 Liturgist - Joel Settles



STEWARDSHIP

Pledge cards are still being received. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed to church, or given to the financial secretary.

The Per Capita amount per confirmed member for 2016 is \$32.87. That amount is then divided as follows: \$20.50 to the Presbytery, \$7.12 to the General Assembly of the PC(USA), and \$5.25 to the Synod of Lakes & Prairies.

Winter Schedule

- 9:00am Adult Education, Fellowship Hall
- 9:30am Chancel choir practice, Choir Rehearsal Room
- 10:00am Worship
- 10:00am Sunday school (for the 1st Sunday of the month), all other Sundays the children will be in worship until the children's message
- 11:00am Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Activities

- Sunday
 - 9:00am Adult Education
 - 9:30am Chancel choir rehearsal
 - 10:00am Worship/Sunday school
 - 11:00am Fellowship time
- Tuesday
 - 10:00am Exercise
- Wednesday
 - 6:00pm Handbell practice
 - 7:00pm Chancel choir practice

Monthly Activities

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Men's Breakfast | 1st Monday | 8:00am |
| Session Meeting | 2nd Tuesday | 6:30pm |
| Lunch Bunch | 1st Wednesday | 12:00pm |
| Confirmation | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 5:30pm |
| PW Meeting | 3rd Monday | 9:00am |
| Ruth Circle | 2nd Thursday | 2:00pm |
| Mary & Martha Circle | 4th Wednesday | 9:30am |



THANK YOU

Thank you to Kathy Berg for all her work and creativity making the cornucopia and creating such a beautiful arrangement that we enjoyed on the Communion Table in November.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:



The children will perform their Christmas program on Sunday, December 20th during worship. Practice is from 9am-11am on Saturday, December 5th and Saturday, December 12th; with dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 19th.



The whole congregation is invited to join the confirmation class for Christmas caroling this Sunday, December 6th at 3:30pm. We will meet at Calvin, then go to spread Christmas cheer to some of our shut-ins and senior church members.



Family Gingerbread House event - Everyone (young and old) is invited to make and decorate a gingerbread house after worship on Sunday, December 13th. The houses will already be baked, we will assemble and decorate them. One house per family please. The cost is \$10. Please sign up in the Gathering Hall. Deadline for signing up is Monday, December 7th.



Calvin Youth will be holding fun & exciting fundraisers in 2016 to raise money for camp, a summer mission trip, and the Presbyterian Triennium. Watch for more details regarding these upcoming events!



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!



ADULT EDUCATION

Fellowship Hall - 9:00am
Everyone is welcome!



A Bible Study Series on the theme
SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

Unit One: What We Bring to God

Led by Rev. Dwight Chamberlain & others in the congregation

Sunday, Dec. 6 - Lesson 1, The Lord's Day -- Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-16

Sunday, Dec. 13 - Lesson 2, Acceptable Offerings -- Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33

Sunday, Dec. 20 - Lesson 3, Dedication of the Firstborn (Christmas) -- Exodus 13:13b-15; Luke 2:22-32
and Lesson 4, Sincere Giving -- Matthew 23:2-12; Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, Dec. 27 - No Adult Education class

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to or helped assemble the school bags and hygiene kits that we sent to Church World Service. Calvin shipped 71 school kits and 49 hygiene kits! Know that you are helping children have a better day at school and showing compassion to people at a very stressful time in their life.



Birthdays

- December 7 Sarah Settles
Darwin Swanson
- December 8 George Funk
- December 13 Jim Dillman
Charlotte Oliver
- December 16 Glen Fry
- December 21 Jennifer Bowman
- December 30 Angela Coccoluto



Celebrate!

Anniversaries

- December 8 Joel & Sarah Settles
- December 21 Dave & Gay Kearin

Feed My Starving Children

For thirty plus years Calvin has had a group serve meals at Loaves and Fishes in north Minneapolis. We are shifting our mission outreach and will now be working at Feed My Starving Children the first Tuesday of every month from 2:30 to 4:30 beginning January 2016 and running through August 2016. There is room for ten people to volunteer each month and it's open to all ages (5 years old and up). Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Gathering Hall. The address for Feed My Starving Children is 18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen. Questions can be directed to Belinda Breit.



PW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual PW Christmas Salad Supper is on Monday evening, December 7th, beginning with refreshments at 6pm. Our entertainment will be Iris Kolodji, our new choral scholar. Our Christmas party is the PW gift to the women of the church, but we do allow them to bring their male friends. Dinner is provided by the PW board. Mark your calendars for this fun evening!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Ruth Circle Meeting Dec. 10th @ 2pm
PW No December meeting
Mary & Martha Circle No December meeting





Thank you to all that stayed after worship on Sunday, November 22nd to help decorate the church for the holiday season. It looks great!



Advent Calendars - There are advent calendars available for anyone that would like one. They can be picked up in the Gathering Hall. The youth and young adults have their own, as well as an advent chain-making activity for the younger youth.



Poinsettia orders and payment are due in to the church office by Tuesday, December 8th. Plants are \$11.00 and order forms are available in the Gathering Hall (as well as in Sunday's bulletin announcements). We will have an assortment of poinsettia colors to choose from again this year.



Christmas caroling - The whole congregation is invited to join the confirmation class for Christmas caroling this Sunday, December 6th at 3:30pm. We will meet at church, then go to spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins and senior church members.



MUSIC News



Greetings once again from the Music Corner! We are so grateful for your support in the wonderful pre-Thanksgiving Music Sunday we had on the 22nd. The Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir, and soloists all worked extremely hard to offer a meaningful Sunday of music, and we hope it was a special day for you - it certainly was for us! As we enter into the busy Advent and Christmas season, we will be preparing some beautiful, familiar carols, and some new things! What a wonderful opportunity to test-drive your participation in the music department. It's my hope that our contribution to worship adds joy to the season as we look forward to Christmas.

~Mark Bilyeu, Director

Do you love to sing? The Calvin Chancel Choir is always welcoming new singers! No experience is necessary—only a love for music! There's also no need for a long-term commitment. Join us for one rehearsal and see if you like it. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm in the music room.



DECEMBER 2015



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><i>Fellowship Time is on Sundays at 11:00am (following worship)</i></p>		<p>1 10am Exercise 3:45pm Loaves & Fishes</p>	<p>2 12pm Lunch Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9am—11am Children's Christmas program practice</p>
<p>6 Communion 9am Adult Education 9:30 Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school 3:30pm Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>7 8am Men's breakfast 3:30pm Crisis Nursery 6pm PW Christmas Party</p>	<p>8 10am Exercise 6:30pm Session</p>	<p>9 6pm Bell practice 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>10 2pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9am—11am Children's Christmas program practice</p>
<p>13 9am Adult Education 9:30 Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school 11am Family Gingerbread House activity</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10am Exercise</p>	<p>16 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Bell practice 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 9am—11am Children's Christmas program dress rehearsal</p>
<p>20 Children's Christmas program 9am Adult Education 9:30 Choir rehearsal 10am Worship 11:15am Bell and Choir practice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 <i>No Choir practice</i></p>	<p>24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 5:30pm Christmas Eve worship service</p>	<p>25  Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 No Adult Education No Choir rehearsal 10am Worship No Sunday school</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>No Choir practice</i></p>	<p>31 </p>		

NOTES:

CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

177 Glendale Drive
Long Lake, MN 55356

Phone: 952-473-5419

calvinchurch.net

Connect with us!



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
10:00am - 2:00pm

*Pastor Carol is in
the office Tues - Fri
(or can be reached at
her home phone #)*



Please recycle

*We extend a most cordial invitation
to you to participate in worship,
study and the many other activities in
the life of our Calvin family.*



Church Staff

- Pastor - Rev. Dr. Carol Reed
- Parish Associate - Rev. Dwight Chamberlain
- Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Douglas Potter
- Clerk of Session - Walter Baker

- Music Director - Mark Bilyeu
- Handbell Director - Mark Bilyeu
- Choral Accompanist - Taylor Burkhardt

- Office Administrator - Angela Coccoluto
- Treasurer - Pat King
- Financial Secretaries - Marj Eisinger & Tammy Wenz
- Custodian - Dave Zajac

Email address contacts:

- Carol Reed carol.reed@calvinchurch.net
- Angela Coccoluto angela@calvinchurch.net

Calvin Connection deadline: Second Friday of the month
Sunday Bulletin announcements deadline: Thursdays at 10am
Email articles and/or announcements for the Calvin Connection & Sunday bulletins to Angela (see email address above), or drop them off in the church office. Any questions, please call Angela at 952-473-5419.