

**CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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[calvinchurch.net](http://calvinchurch.net)

**November  
Birthdays**

- Nov 7 Sarah Anderson  
Nov 15 Mary Ann Goodall  
Nov 16 Maighread Shaughnessy  
Nov 19 Jack Lutz  
Nov 20 Isabella Berbig  
Nov 24 Lois Sturman  
Nov 30 Arlo Vande Vegte

**Anniversaries**

- Nov 7 Ron & Nancy

**DEADLINES**

***Calvin Connection*** :  
Third Friday of the month

**Sunday Bulletin  
announcements:**  
Thursdays at 10am

*Email articles and/or  
announcements for the  
Connection & Sunday  
bulletins to the church  
office.*

# Calvin Connection



November 2022

## The Journey with Pastor John

### Thanksgiving

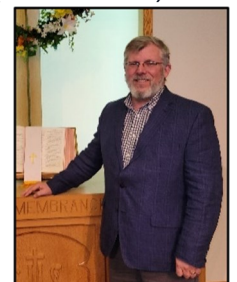
November is the month of Thanksgiving. The last Thursday in November, in the US is Thanksgiving, the national holiday – and I think it is fitting to talk about it in the monthly letter I write to you. Because it is fundamentally, a Christian thing that we do. We all do it slightly differently, but almost all of us in this country celebrate it. On this day, we sit down with family and eat a HUGE meal. Most of us watch football, if we're honest. And the next day, we go out entirely too early to go shopping. However, it has its roots in American history and folklore, and the idea is that we take this time to be thankful to God for the blessings that we have been given.

The harvest is the backbone of this, too – that around November the farmers have brought in the food that they have grown and stored it for the winter. And it is a shared experience – folklore tells us about the Native Americans helping the “Pilgrims” and having a shared meal [almost certainly not something that actually happened in history].

Giving thanks is what we do as Christians – in fact, it's an important word in the New Testament and even though we Protestants don't use it very often, *ευχαριστία* is an important concept for us. We get our word Eucharist from it – the Lord's Supper that we celebrate monthly. We give thanks for what God gave us – in all things, really, but especially the gift of the Son for us. God came down from heaven to earth and gave us hope and salvation. I've seen in lots of places an idea about “30 Days of Thanksgiving” and I would challenge you to think about that this month.

See if you can honestly be thankful for something every day this month. Keep it at the forefront of your minds and hearts. What have you been given? Friends, family, a home? A job that you love? A child (or children) who have blessed you? You are blessed. Which, of course, just means that God has given you something. And we are called to give thanks for the things that we have been given! May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you -

In Christ,  
Pastor John



### PNC update

The Presbytery has approved our Ministry Information Form and the Pastor Nominating Committee is beginning to review information provided by persons interested in obtaining a pastoral position.

### Choir Updates

Brian Brokofsky will be leading the choir on the following Sundays 11/6, 11/13 & 11/27  
**NOTE:** There WILL be choir practice on the Wednesdays prior to these Sundays at 7:00pm.

### Men's Breakfast



If you are interested in attending a men's breakfast once a month please let Dwight Chamberlain know.



Thursday, November 17, 2019

5:30-6:30pm @

ALL ARE WELCOME!

There is no cost for these meals, but

### City of Long Lake Meeting

The City of Long Lake will be hosting an Open House to discuss the future of the Long Lake Fire Department and provide community feedback on November 17th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Calvin.



### Adult Education

Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am  
 Everyone is welcome  
 November we will begin a new series of lessons on selected, special, favorite Psalms, One Psalm each Sunday.

- 11/6 Psalm 1— Being like a fruitful tree and not like a Chaff blown away in the wind.
- 11/13 Psalm 8—The Lord is majestic, full of glory and we have responsibilities too.
- 11/20 Psalm 16—Beautiful promises and prophecies fulfilled in Christ.
- 11/27 Psalm 19—God's word in creation, God's word in scripture



### Ruth / M&M Circle

Will begin gathering again starting Thursday Nov 10 at 1:30 at the church or on zoom for a hybrid gathering.

This year's theme is Celebrating the Sabbath, and we will start by looking at the Sabbath as a gift from God for each of us. Many of us may not want to change our lives so much as make a mid course correction to some of our ways.

### Hanging of the Greens

We will be decorating the church Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> after worship.  
 Help is needed getting décor out of the garage on Saturday, November 19th at Noon



## PW Update

- ◆ Thanks to everyone who donated items for the rummage sale, helped with set-up, organizing, pricing and working at the sale, and for all who came to pack up everything, clean-up and put the church back together!
- ◆ The 2022 Fall Rummage Sale brought in \$3,684!!! The Calvin PW will be using these funds to support WeCAN, Westonka, IOCP & Delano Helping Hands Food Shelves, Feed My Starving Children, Salvation Army/Hurricane Ian, Missions Inc/Home Free & the Adopt-a-Family program.
- ◆ December 6 is our PW Christmas Salad Supper. All the members of the church and their friends are invited to spend an evening with us and the Ding Dong Dollies, a bell choir. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert, that would be great. The PW rummage sale committee will be providing 2 main salads. The Salad Supper will start at 6 PM. Pastor John happened to mention that his birthday is December 6. If he would like to bring his family and spend the night with us, he is invited.

## Message from Belinda

- ◆ Calvin is serving the Community Meal on Thursday, November 17 from 5:30 to 6:30. That same night Calvin will be hosting Long Lake and Orono community members who are meeting about proposed changes to the Long Lake Fire Department; that meeting starts at 6:30. Because we are serving a community meal, the people who are attending the meeting are invited to join us for dinner. I'm thinking of serving spaghetti with a salad, bread and dessert. I will need some people to help with food preparation. I would prefer to serve this as a dine-in meal with take-out only for those who are delivering meals to shut-ins.
- ◆ I have registered Calvin Church as a group that will donate ten \$50 Target gift cards for the Interfaith Outreach holiday event. You may either buy the gift cards and give them to me or contribute money through the church and I will get the cards. I will have Chelsea set-up a sign-up sheet for this. I need the cards by December 6. In case you don't get to sign up for the gift cards, I will also be looking for the gift requests from Home Instead, the company that helps seniors stay in their homes. That list may not come out until sometime in November.

## Clerks Highlights of Regular October Meeting, 2022.

Five Session members attended the Session Members Training Retreat - meeting together with the Pastor, Clerk, and the Treasurer.

1. The "Mission Information Form" which is the information about Calvin that is given to ministers who may wish to be selected as our next pastor is being distributed by Presbyterian Church USA.
2. Pastor John conducted a Bible history study together with a history of the Presbyterian Church, review of selected provisions in the Presbyterian Church book of order and reviewed qualifications and questions for ordination.
3. Yearend planning was discussed with regard to the Thanksgiving eve service which will not be held this year and the worship services and events regarding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. More details will become available in the future as well as in this version of the connection.
4. The session received an update with regard to the HVAC system and when it will be completed and what additional work may be necessary including maintenance and upkeep costs.
5. The monthly financial report regarding the receipts and disbursements to date was reviewed and the Finance Committee will be taking appropriate action as well as creating a draft budget for 2023
6. Please direct any questions to the Clerk of Session at Church via email or phone message.



**CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN**

Connect with us!



**PASTORAL CARE**

Along with Pastor John, Calvin's Parish Associate, Rev. Dwight Chamberlain, is available for any pastoral care needs that may arise

He can be reached by calling the church and leaving a message, or by calling him directly at

We have **fresh flower arrangements** on the altar table! If you are interested in signing up for flowers, please call Tammy Wenz at 612-384-9520 or email her at [tammywenz@aol.com](mailto:tammywenz@aol.com), to check on available dates. The cost is \$35/arr., and payment can be made by sending a check to the church payable to Calvin. If you wish, you will be able to pick up your flowers after the recording of the Sunday service.



# Stewardship

**\*GASP!! THE 'S' WORD!\***

Yup, brothers and sisters, it's that time of year. We need to talk about stewardship. And really, it's a year round thing that we really OUGHT to talk about more. No, not so much the MONEY of stewardship, but the IDEA of stewardship. It is the idea that we are called to take care of the things that God has given us. In the church, it's usually used to talk about budget time (and let's be honest, that is true – the church needs a budget!).

But we are supposed to be taking care of what God has given to us all through the year. You have a car, right? And that car needs regular maintenance or it isn't going to work for you, is it? It's the same way in the church. Calvin Presbyterian Church needs you to take care of it in the same way – regular maintenance and caring. So this year, I would like you to think about all the different ways that Calvin gives you hope and love. How can you help the local church here? This year, we're going to be talking a few weeks about what the church is doing and how you can help. During the worship services leading up to Stewardship Sunday (which is November 13<sup>th</sup>), we will be having a few people speak about what is going on in the church.

But here are a few things that I am thinking about...

- Looking for a new pastor. This maybe is THE big one. Calvin Presbyterian is on the prowl for a new called and installed pastor. We have to not only pay this person, but also find and "woo" this person and show them that we are a church worth pastoring!
- Building a playground. Recently, a long time member of the church asked for donations to be given in her honor for a new playground – instead of other memorial gifts. At her funeral we talked a bit about it and there is a sizable fund building up for that. And what a blessing that would be for the kids at Calvin to have!
- Music program. As you all know, we're having some issues finding a new pianist. We're not sure what the new program will be looking like moving forward, but we know it's important.
- Sunday school. We are having more kids coming to church and they need to continue to learn about Jesus and His love for them. Right now we have a great Sunday school teacher (thanks, Terri!), but she could always use some help!

We have been blessed – all of us. How can we, as a community, a congregation, help our church to be the best that she can be? Volunteering, giving money, time, and prayer? Please consider how you can help the church that you love to do the things that need to be done.

Your transitional pastor,

Rev. Dr. John R. Gay