

CALVIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



# Calvin Connection



December 2022

Merry Christmas!

December is one of those months that everyone loves. Well – for most of it – a lot of people have finals and such things! But December has Advent and Christmas; that most beloved of holidays. I read once that in the USA, by far the most favorite holiday is Christmas, followed by Halloween. I believe that. Perhaps because in both of those times, we have the chance to sort of look beyond our normal lives and be (or do) something else.

Christmas is the time of beauty and wonder, and we tell stories about a baby that has come to save the world. But for now – that is, as we tell the Story – He is a baby. Mary is young and lovely and brave, and Joseph is courageous and strong. The angels come and participate and there is so much light. I love it, too. It is also the time for Santa Clause and wonderful movies and SO many carols...presents and shopping and driving and visiting and singing and..and....and...SO many things!

On the first Sunday of Advent – the last Sunday in November this year – I talked about how Advent is a strange time. It looks forward and back. Back to tell the story of what has happened, and forward in anticipation of what WILL happen. But for now, we are in this place, in this time, in this way at the church. And that is enough.

My hope for all of you this December is that you get a chance to slow down enough to really enjoy it. To savor that egg nog and really enjoy that Christmas concert. To go for a walk in the snow and really enjoy the lights on your neighbor's homes. I also hope, and pray, that you all have the opportunity to enjoy the true wonder of the year – the thing that makes it the “most wonderful time of the year” – Christ's birth. Keep Christ in Christmas by showing love and appreciation for the life that He has given you. By cheering up another person's day or enjoying the time that you have together.

Be God's people by loving each other this Christmas season – and slow down enough to really enjoy it.

In Christ,

Pastor John



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#### DEADLINES:

**Calvin Connection**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

**Sunday Bulletin**  
Thursdays at 10am

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

**PASTORAL CARE**  
Along with Pastor John,  
Calvin's Parish Associate, Rev.  
Dwight Chamberlain, is availa-  
ble for any pastoral care  
needs that may arise

He can be reached by calling  
the church and leaving a mes-  
sage, or by calling him directly  
at (952) 937-6160

Adult Education will continue to meet each Sunday in December. It will be led by Rev. Dwight Chamberlain. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00am. We will continue having lessons on favorite, special Psalms each week.

You are very welcome to join us on Sundays.



If you would like to have a fresh flower arrangement on the altar table for a Sunday Service, please call Tammy Wenz at 612-384-9520 or email her at [tammywenz@aol.com](mailto:tammywenz@aol.com).

You may also sign up on the flower chart at church. The cost is \$35 per arrangement and payment can be made by sending a check payable to Calvin, or putting a check in the offering plate on Sunday. Flowers can be taken home after the church service.

**Men's Breakfast**  
will be the first Wednesday of December (12/7) At 8:30am at Perkins off 394 by Menards



Handbells are starting up again! Practices are on Mondays starting at 4:30 pm & will last approximately 45-60 minutes. We are looking for more bell ringers, so if you are interested in joining or learning more about it, please contact Tammy Wenz at 612-384-9520.

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.



We wish to thank our wonderful Calvin family for your many condolences, gifts, and all the love, support, and prayers we received during the recent loss of our beloved dad, Rev. Doug Potter. Calvin was an important part of both our parents' lives and will always hold special meaning to our family. We especially thank Pastor John, Pastor Carol, Pastor Dwight, and the Womens' Association who helped make the service and reception a beautiful memorial to our dad  
—**Beth Ann, Lynne, and Karen**



### Clerks Highlights of Regular November Meeting, 2022. Five session members attended the meeting together with Pastor , Clerk and the Treasurer

1. The Long Lake City Council will hold an information meeting Nov 17th immediately after the community has been served. The subject matter of the special meeting is that of their fire service situation with the city of Orono. Pastor John will greet and be present during the entire meeting.

- 2. The Session had a fall retreat on October 18th at 4:00pm at the church
- 3. The Hanging of Greens is Nov 20th will start after morning worship.
- 4. The personnel committee is seeking a new choir director and organist
- 5. Thanksgiving service will be omitted this year and resumed in 2023.
- 6. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30pm. Christmas Day service will be at 10am
- 7. Our new pianist is Ella Johnson

Please direct any questions to the Clerk of Session at Church via email or phone message.

Walter Baker,  
Clerk of Session



### Christmas Poinsettias

You can purchase poinsettias for the communion table, and take them home Christmas Eve!

Each plant (5-6 blooms) is \$15, and the deadline to order is **Dec. 4th**. Use the form found in the bulletins, or call the church directly to reserve. Checks made payable to Calvin.



- Sarah Settles 7th
- George Funk 8th
- Jim Dillman 13th
- Charlotte Oliver 13th
- Shelly Dressel 14th
- Glen Fry 16th
- Jennifer Schadewald 21st
- Krista Berbig 23rd

### Anniversaries

Joel & Sarah Settles 8th



## December 18th



# Finances

Have you ever wondered who you should ask when it comes to getting reimbursement or asking about your pledge? Hopefully the information below will help!

Cheryl Pelkey is our church Treasurer. She drafts the budget, prepares the financial reports, pays the bills for Calvin and if you need reimbursement for a purchase, you just need to submit a signed reimbursement form along with your receipt (tax will not be reimbursed) and submit it to Cheryl. You can reach Cheryl at 763-229-7946, or [cherpelkey@gmail.com](mailto:cherpelkey@gmail.com).

Tammy Wenz is the Financial Secretary. She keeps track of all pledges, sends out year-end statements, makes the weekly deposits & collects and deposits any money from special events; i.e. Community Meals, memorials, special offerings, etc. If you need an update on your pledge, feel free to contact Tammy, and if you are mailing in your pledge you can send it to her attention to keep your giving confidential. You can reach Tammy at 612-384-9520, or [tammywenz@aol.com](mailto:tammywenz@aol.com).

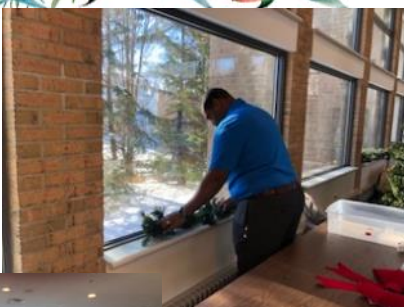
## 2023 PLEDGE ENVELOPES & PER CAPITA

This year, we have ordered a limited number of pledge envelope boxes and they will be available to pick up at the church mid-December. If you like to use them, feel free to take one. You will notice they are all dated, but there is no envelope number on the boxes or the envelopes. Pledges are recorded by your name, so the number is not actually needed any longer.

The Per Capita amount for 2023 is \$37.50 per member. Per Capita envelopes were mailed with the Stewardship letters mid-November. If you did not receive one, you can pick one up at the church.



**Hanging  
of the  
Greens  
2022**



**Thank  
you to all  
who  
helped!**

