MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Living in the

Shadow of the Cross

Vol. 47 No. 11 November 2026

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M –F 8:00am—12:00 pm

Please notify the church office of updates or changes to your address or contact information or any corrections to the Church Directory. Thank You!!

Events in November

Nov. 1 - Don't forget to move your clocks back 1 hr.

Nov. 3 - General Election Fellowship Hall all day

Nov. 15 - Congregational meeting & Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Eve service 7:00pm

Nov. 26 & 27 - Church Office Closed for the holiday

Nov. 29 - 5th Sunday Combined Service 9:15 am

From the Pastor's Desk

Good Friends, Faithful Neighbors

"...give us this day our daily bread..."

Grandma looks around the house and can't help but smile. Her home is as full as her heart today. It's Thanksgiving Day, and the children and grandchildren are all at her house to celebrate. The day begins with the hustle and bustle of people arriving, cooking, and setting the table. Her son and daughter renew the old arguments of their teenage years, this time with the warm smiles of memory instead of the bitterness of before. The ladies are in the kitchen checking and rechecking all the dishes. The men are on the couch watching the Lions play football. The grandchildren have found an old football and headed outside to throw it around. Each group is doing its own thing.

Until the food starts moving to the table. Jack, the youngest, takes a break from the game, comes inside, and notices the potatoes, dressing, and rolls heading for the dining room. He flings open the door. "Hey guys! We're gonna eat!" he yells to his cousins. Everyone hurries to find a chair.

And that's when it happens. Three generations come to the same table at the same time to share a meal. The television clicks off. Phones go into pockets. Eighty-something Grandma sits next to five-year-old Jack. Jack talks non-stop about everything kindergarteners love to talk about, and Grandma soaks up every detail, every moment, thanking God for daily bread.

It may seem odd to call a Thanksgiving feast "daily bread." But look at Luther's explanation of the Fourth Petition and you'll find many of the things we celebrate on Thanksgiving. "Food and drink" are there, of course, but there's more. "A devout husband or wife, devout children" are on the list. Family is a gift from God, to be sure. So are "good friends, faithful neighbors." In this petition we don't only ask for food for today. We also ask for people to share it with. We were created for community.

That's what "Bridging the Gap" is about here at Mt. Calvary. Like Grandma's house before dinner, a congregation can drift into separate rooms: the older generation in one, the younger in another, each doing its own thing. Screens aren't the enemy. We use them every week to share God's Word with people who might never otherwise hear it. But a screen is only a doorway. Our favorite TV star doesn't know we exist, and an online celebrity won't answer our messages. The people we gather with in the Divine Service will listen, laugh, and pray with us.

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Here's one place to pull up a chair. Starting Sunday, November 22, our Adult Bible Study will help write the Advent sermons. Each week we'll open the next Sunday's text together, beginning with Isaiah 64: "We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand… we are all your people." Bring your questions and your stories. Eighty-somethings and twenty-somethings alike, I want to hear from you.

And there's an even better Thanksgiving table waiting for us. The early church called the Lord's Supper the *Eucharist*, from the Greek word for "giving thanks." So set down the remote, put the phone in your pocket, and come. Kneel with eighty-year-olds and kindergartners side by side at the same altar. Feast on something far better than turkey and mashed potatoes: the body and blood of your Savior, Jesus Christ, given for the forgiveness of your sins and the hope of everlasting life. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8), for "his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations" (Ps. 100:5).

In Christ,

Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



From the Discipleship Team

Meal Prep event!

We have had a hard time getting volunteers for midweek meals. We serve usually between 35-40 people. Many people depend on this community outreach to feed them and their families.
We are going to try a workday to make 4-5 different casserole meals. We will be supplying all materials. These meals will then be frozen in the freezer. If you would like to volunteer, to set up and serve and clean up. The meal will already be done. We will also ask volunteers to make desserts to be frozen to use with these meals.

Date Nov 11th

Time 2 p.m.

A meal will also be made for that evening meals.

Thank you for your consideration to help with this. That we can continue our Wed Mid-Week meals.



Trap Shoot

The Don Norton Memorial Trap Shoot that was to have taken place Sunday, September 27 was cancelled due to the unrelenting rain we've been experiencing. However, we had a lot of good food prepared and ready to be shared! Thank you to all who shared lunch and fellowship at church after second service. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial & Nick Rundlett for the wonderful smoked pulled pork; Sherrie Engel for the yummy deserts, Lisa Wiese, Amanda, Jonah, & Kira Cawthorn for their help in serving the meal; and to Barb Gould for her great artistic skills used to create the advertising poster. An extra special thank you goes to Kyle Wiese whose inspiration and ingenuity has made this event a reality each time over the past 10 years. Proceeds will be given to the Mt. Calvary Youth Group.

LWML
Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Bake Sale

Thank you to all who purchased items at our Bake Sale to support the work that we do. We appreciate you!

Please plan to join us at our quarterly LWML meeting on October 26 at 6:00 pm

All women are invited and encouraged to attend the events. See you there!



Changes Coming from Ruth Circle

It has been said that only babies like a change. In this instance, the members of Ruth Circle would like to make some changes, and the details are listed below.

For Sunday Morning Treats: the members of Ruth Circle are donating milk and juice. The current choices are milk, and either Apple Juice or Sunny D. The juice can be found in the south refrigerator in the kitchen, and the milk is in the north refrigerator.

For LIFE Meals: the members of Ruth Circle are donating the lemonade mix. The canisters are marked and sitting on the counter to the left of the south refrigerator.

Note: Small, clear glasses are in the cupboard to the right of the south refrigerator for serving juice, milk and lemonade. Other cups are too large.

Join us for our meetings – next one is Thursday, October 22 at 11 a.m. at Z's Eatery to honor Pastor Tom.



Meals from the Heartland

Empowering people to save starving children





Thanks to the 2026 Mt. Calvary team for packaging meals to feed hungry people worldwide!

MtC Team members: Derek Hammer, Becky Hammer, Barb Gould, Karla Roush, Linda Norton, Connie Boettcher, Steve Roush, Michelle Meyer. Plus Special members: Kris Lange and Becky Watkins











Connecting with the Church



Kenna Roan	1-Nov
Terry Pauling	3-Nov
Isaac Tague	3-Nov
Rhonda Duncan	5-Nov
Jill Sickels	5-Nov
Shari Vail	6-Nov
Marilyn Groth	7-Nov
Grant Sickles	9-Nov
Don Van Dyke	11-Nov
Charlotte Weaklend	15-Nov
Megan Schafnitz	16-Nov
Gia Bingham	18-Nov
Joan Van Diepen	23-Nov
William Strike	23-Nov
Ben Youngblut	24-Nov
Jan Evenson	28-Nov
Nancy Hauge	28-Nov
Darl Lee	28-Nov



Updates to our 2026 Church Directory



Heal House. . . Current needs.

Powdered Coffee Creamer Coffee Pods
Toilet Paper Paper Towels
Disinfecting Wipes Kleenex Boxes
Hand Soap

They also have a wish list on amazon.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/