

January 2024

Newsletter

Pastor David Reedstrom

Ministers: All Members

Church: 278-3317

E-Mail: office@calvaryrapidan.org

Web site: www.calvaryrapidan.org

Worship at 10:15 am



A Message from Pastor Dave:

Grace to you and peace from God Our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Epiphany of Our Lord (the official date of the festival of Epiphany is January 6). The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek root epiphaneia, meaning "to show forth, appear or manifest." During this season, we celebrate Christ's being shown forth among us as human—as Emmanuel, "God-with-us," --Christ's appearance in the world, and Christ's manifestation as Lord. The festival of Epiphany takes place after the "twelve days of Christmas" (December 25-January 5), and begins with an ancient celebration that draws together several different themes: the birth and baptism of Jesus, the coming of the Magi (wisemen/kings), and of Jesus' turning water into wine at Cana in Galilee—his first miracle. This season after Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday, and serves as a bridge between Jesus' birth and his passion; between Christmas and Lent. It is in this time that we celebrate the expressions of both Jesus' humanity and his divinity. The Festival of Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi to greet the child Jesus. They bring with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Special emphasis is placed on Epiphany as a time of celebration—which seems a bit lost in our culture. We spend so much energy preparing for Christmas and the birth of Christ that the celebration of Epiphany and the manifestation of Jesus as Lord in our lives seems diminished. Yet, we should not neglect the deep meaning that this festival has for our worship and congregational life. We are called in this Epiphany season to remember the manifestation of Jesus as Lord, to celebrate God's incarnation as a human being in Jesus Christ, with all of humanity's vulnerabilities. We are called to follow in Jesus' footsteps—to aid those who live in distress, to help those who experience hunger, sickness, and isolation, and to champion the justice of God. This is the call of Jesus Christ made manifest as Lord.

In this Epiphany season, let us heed God's call to faithful service, that Christ our Lord may be glorified in this place.

God's peace to you this Epiphany season.

Pastor Dave

Want to know a little more about our Sunday School teachers, Cleo Matzke and Tanya Junker?

Tanya: Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live in rural Lake Crystal with my husband and two children. I work full-time and enjoy spending any time I am not at work with my family. I was raised, baptized, and confirmed Catholic and later converted to Lutheran.

Tanya: How do you engage children in your class?

I use short videos and games to reinforce the Sunday School Lesson. I try to use examples that children can relate to; to help them understand complex lessons.

Tanya: Tell us about a funny experience with your students.

When we learned about the 10 commandments, we had a fun game using pictures of celebrities. Children placed the celebrities on a wall with those that were most important to them at the top. There was some argument on where Elon Musk, Mr. Beast, and Superman should be ranked. Pastor Dave ranked higher than Santa Claus. Then we placed a cross with the word GOD on top and explained the first commandment.

Tanya: What excites you and motivates you to teach Sunday school?

I enjoy designing the lessons and finding fun ways to reinforce lessons.

Cleo: Tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in rural Sleepy Eye on a farm and attended a one room country school for grades one through six with one teacher. Back then there was not any kindergarten. The whole school had a student population of between 15-20 students depending on the year with my class having two students in it. As soon as I had somewhat mastered reading and math I was able to help the younger students in these subject areas. That is when my love of teaching began. After high school graduation I attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD obtaining a

degree in elementary education. My teaching career spanned over 38 years with 35 of those years teaching second grade which I totally enjoyed.

Cleo: How do you engage children in your class?

You have to keep the pace moving in Sunday School in order to keep the students' attention. Students have to be able to relate to what you're teaching and be able to apply the lesson to their lives. I like to incorporate role playing and problem solving into the lessons. We talk about how the week at school went and if anyone had any difficulties which need to be addressed.

Cleo: What gives you joy as a Sunday school teacher?

Seeing the children coming into the classroom with smiles on their faces and enthusiasm in their voices gives me joy. The students are quick to remember something we've done in the past and are wondering if we could do that again. The class time seems to fly by and often someone will say "It can't be over already."

Cleo: Tell us about a funny experience with your students.

A funny experience was when we were making angels and we talked about angels coming to speak to Jesus. I asked the students what they thought an angel would say if an angel came to any of them. One said if an angel did come it would have to be a Paw Patrol angel.

Cleo: What is your favorite book and why?

I have many favorite books such as Where the Red Fern Grows and Love You Forever, but a book I found so very deeply touching was "Clouds: A Memoir" by Laura Sobiech. In this book she tells of the journey of losing her son Zach to cancer and how the family's faith helped give them strength. Their son Zach wrote the song Clouds as a way to say good-bye to his family and friends.

Cleo: What excites you and motivates you to teach Sunday school?

I want our children to know that the church is their "church family" and that they can look to us for love and support. I would hope that by strengthening their faith their self-confidence will grow to make good life choices, desire to obey rules and be an asset to society.

PLEASE NOTE:

New email address: our email has changed to
office@calvaryrapidan.org

Our website address is the same:
www.calvaryrapidan.org

2024 January and February Gospel Texts:

January 14	John 1:43-51	
January 21	Mark 1:14-20	
January 28	Mark 1:21-28	
February 4	Mark 1:29-39	
February 11	Mark 9:2-9	
February 14	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday
February 18	Mark 1:9-15	
February 25	Mark 8:31-38	

PRAYER CHAIN

Are you on our prayer chain? If you would like to be included in e-prayer chain list, please contact Carla or Pastor Dave at office@calvaryrapidan.org

~ God created the first ever cordless telephone. It's called "Prayer". It never needs recharging; it can be used anywhere, and the line is never busy.

CALVARY REMEMBERS IN PRAYER

Health Concerns:

Rachel, Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ellen, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Blaine, Michelle, Eric, and the Sing Family.

In Sympathy:

Dave and Carol Reedstrom's family
Iris Nelson's family

Those serving our country:

Logan Ziegler
Travis Townsend
Emily Maxon
Dennis Hanson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Wendy Howieson
7 Mary Kranz
9 Kathy Severns
10 Adeline Sens
11 Sheila Scharping,
14 Roger Matzke
16 Jeanne Howland, Karissa Ziegler
21 David Reedstrom,
22 Taylor Ziegler
25 Lucille Doss,
28 Donna Richards, Deb Krosch
29 Doug Sing

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

14 Brian & Kathy Severns

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Jon Wingen, Weston Chham
5 Iris Nelson
6 Louise Nelson Henderson
7 Oliver Schweim
11 Roy Laborde
13 Mackenzie Schweim
16 Brock Hannem
17 Cecelia Friedman (Scharping)
29 Malinda Marble

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

20 Dennis & Paulette Nelson

BIBLE STUDY IS HERE:

Adult Bible Study continues on Wednesday mornings at Calvary, beginning at 9:00 am. We are watching and discussing Season Three of "The Chosen". Join us for a cup of coffee and good discussion.

~ Take just ten seconds of silence to think of the person that's helped who you are.
~ Smile. It is the key that fits the lock on everyone's heart!

Shoveling at Church

If you arrive for church, either on Wednesdays or Sundays, feel free to grab a shovel or sprinkle salt as needed to help us keep up. It is often hard for us to keep everything clear, especially when it is snowing, or the wind is blowing. Shovels and salt are at the entrance to the church for your use. Thank you for being a light and helping where you can.

Severe Weather Announcements

With winter in full swing, we are reminded that weather can impact traveling to church. And with that, inclement weather could necessitate the cancelling of worship.

In the event this should happen, you will receive an e-mail stating that the church is closed. We will also be sharing this with KTOE Radio, KEYC-TV and our website and Facebook page.



Annual Meeting Date

**January 28, 2024, after worship,
around 11:00 a.m. (Contingency
date is February 4, 2024)**

*~ IT'S YOU I LIKE, IT'S NOT THE THINGS YOU WEAR.
(MR. ROGERS)*

Stewardship Matters

**WE BELIEVE THAT STEWARDSHIP IS A RESPONSE TO ALL THAT GOD HAS
DONE FOR US. WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING
TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE WORLD.**

AS ACTS OF STEWARDSHIP WE...

Pray for the ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

Worship regularly and actively invite others to join us in the worship life of Calvary.

Actively share gifts, talents, and abilities within the ministry of Calvary.

Give financial support of the ministry of Calvary.

Weekly Budget	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	12/24/23	Total December Need	December Actual
Attendance	36	39	33	45	24		
Giving	\$6,395.00	\$860.00	\$1,150.00	\$4,857.00	\$1,005.00	\$9,057.00	\$14,267.00

Calvary Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023

Meeting called to order by Vice President Eric Henderson at 6:33 pm

Attendance/Quorum: Vice President Eric Henderson Secretary Carla Diesch, Treasurer Erica Kittelson, Financial Secretary Mary West, Mitch Preis, Jolene Anderson and Pastor Dave Reedstrom, President Bob Diesch.

Absent: Heather Pasbrig

Devotions: Pastor Dave read a blessing from Kate Bowler on resilience.

Reports~

- Minutes from September 2023 meeting: Minutes were emailed and handed out to the council prior to the meeting. Motion made by Bob and seconded by Mary. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Treasurer Report: Was provided to the council prior to the meeting. Erica went through a couple line items in her report. A few questions on low amounts. Motion to approve the report by Eric and seconded by Jolene. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Financial Secretary Report: Mary went through a few line items. A few questions regarding a couple of the accounts. We talked about using the Memorial Fund to pay

off the new sign. Eric made a motion to accept the report, Erica seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.

- Pastor's Report: Dave handed out his report prior to the meeting and he went through several line items. Vivian was moved by the card and notes received from our congregation for her birthday. We will do this again before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Old Business~

- Constitution update – we should be hearing from the Synod soon
- Sign Update – Bob received the final billing from Steve Krosch,
- Anniversary update -
- Last year's snow update – Dave spoke with Mike Ziegler he is good with us donating \$600.00 to our cemetery fund.
- Cruz Family Celebration on November 9, 2023 – sign up is available to attendance, still need some help with choir, etc.
- Fall Theological – Dave gave us an update on his experience last weekend in Okoboji, Iowa.
- Building Committee Update – met on October 2, 2023 Dave gave an update. Piano needs to be tuned, the alter area update committee felt we should put that on hold for now. Due to lack of money, etc. A few kitchen cabinets need to be fixed or replaced. The old alter, needs to be repaired and made sturdier. The North East room needs to be cleaned out and organized. Junkers donated a monitor that is used for Sunday School. Thank you to Andy and Jason for fixing the roof where the leak was last winter. Church lawn, "Lake Calvery" in the North lawn - ?putting in a drain/tile? ?fill in the hole? Lawn care team, building committee felt that we should go another year, \$423 for another year. Three trees on the West line of the North lawn, need to be removed. For \$1200. Phieffer tree service. Planting a tree in honor of our 150th anniversary.

New Business~

- Sewing group (6 to 9) to use church – Would we be interested in hosting them and how much would we charge. They are currently renting space from the Rapidan Heritage Society for \$50.00 per day. Council suggested \$25.00 per day rent.
- Communion Weekly – Dave is worried that not everyone is getting communion when we have it. He is suggesting that we try it for the remainder of the year and see how it goes. Depending upon pulpit supply. Starting the last Sunday of October with Pastor Gerry.
- Synod Compensation Guidelines – Dave went through some highlights. Proposing to increase several areas.
- Thanksgiving Eve – November 22, 2023. Holden evening Prayer with pie and ice cream after. Dave needs to speak with Patti and Tim.
- Christmas Eve Sunday, 10:15 am and 6:30 pm worship services.
- Cutting down the trees for \$1200, Mary made the motion and Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Eric made the motion to prepay the Lawn services for 2024 and seconded by Mitch, motion carried by voice vote of the council.

Next Meeting will be November 21, 2023 @ 6:30

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm by Jolene and seconded by Eric. Closed with the Prayer of the Close of the Day and Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Carla Diesch, Church Council Secretary

Calvary Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes November 21, 2023

Agenda:

- **Call to Order:** By President Diesch at 6:26 pm
- **Attendance/Quorum:** President Bob Diesch, Secretary Carla Diesch, Vice President Eric Henderson, Treasurer Erica Kittelson, Financial Secretary Mary West, Mitch Preis, Jolene Anderson and Pastor Dave Reedstrom

Absent: Heather Pasbrig

- **Devotions:** Pastor Dave read an article on death and grief.

Reports~

- Minutes from October 2023 meeting: Minutes were emailed and handed out prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Eric and seconded by Mary. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Treasurer Report: Erica handed out her report prior to the meeting, Erica went through a few line items. Motion to approve the report made by Eric and seconded by Jolene. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Financial Secretary Report: Mary went through a few line items in her report. Motion to approve the report made by Eric and seconded by Jolene. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Pastor Report: Dave read a thank you from his family at the death of Vicki.

Old Business~

- Constitution update: No update
- Sign update: The electrician has been contacted regarding lights for the sign. Brian needs to know what we want for the sign.
- Anniversary update: No committee meeting, a couple of interested parties for committee members. Ongoing until the event.

New Business~

- Budget Meeting 6:00 pm 12-19
- Elections- slate of officers? Mitch will be going off the council.

- Christmas Eve Sunday, 10:15 am and 6:30 pm?
- Annual meeting Date: January 28, (back up is February 4, 2024).
- Prayer Chain/calls & emails: A member of the church brought to Bob's attention the lack of communication regarding matters concerning members.
- Time & Talents: Dave shared some information from the sheets that were handed in.
- Via De Christo using the church on February 10, 2024. Eric made the motion, Mary seconded. Motion passed by voice vote of the council.

Announcements~

Next meeting December 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:18, Eric made a motion to adjourn, Mary seconded the motion. Closed with Prayer at the Close of the Day, and Lord's Prayer.

Calvary Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes December 19, 2023

Budget Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by President Bob Diesch.
Motion to approve the budget for 2024 made by Heather and seconded by Joleen.
Budget meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Agenda:

- **Call to Order:** By President Diesch at 6:46 pm
- **Attendance/Quorum:** President Bob Diesch, Secretary Carla Diesch, Vice President Eric Henderson, Treasurer Erica Kittelson, Financial Secretary Mary West, Mitch Preis, Jolene Anderson, Heather Pasbrig, and Pastor Dave Reedstrom

Absent:

- **Devotions:** Pastor Dave read from Genesis, how great is God's creation?

Reports~

- Minutes from November 2023 meeting: Minutes were emailed and handed out prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the amended minutes by Eric Henderson and seconded. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Treasurer Report: Erica handed out her report prior to the meeting, Erica went through a few line items. Eric made the motion to approve the report and seconded by Jolene. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.
- Financial Secretary Report: Mary went through a few line items in her report. Motion to approve the report made by Eric and seconded by Carla. Motion carried by voice vote of the council.

- Pastor Report: Dave went through a few items in his report.

Old Business~

- Boiler Update – recent annual check and repair
- Sign Update – lights have been installed.
- Anniversary Update – Erica has created a postcard invite, more to come.
- Building Committee Update – Rick Buck is willing to give us a quote on the kitchen cabinets. Eric reported on what is being looked at regarding the front of the church, repairs to the kitchen cabinets and emptying the high school room.
- Election slate for 2024 – Mitch is working on nomination possibilities.
- Annual Meeting dates January 28, or February 4.
- New Pew Cards have been ordered.

New Business~

- Discuss Goals for Calvary 2024 – new member Sunday, ???
- Establish Performance Plan for Pastor – goal for 2024
- Reports due for annual meeting, due to Carla, by January 21, 2023. Use list from last annual report
- Discuss Bank accounts at MinnStar – Erica got a call from the bank asking about who should be listed on the bank accounts. The banks list contained names of members who have not been on the board for some time.

Announcements~

Next meeting January 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Eric and seconded by Heather. Motion carried by voice vote of the council. Meeting closed with the Prayer at the Close of the Day and Lord's Prayer at 7:42 pm