



Calvary Lutheran Church

The Visitor

January 2023

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:10-11)

It was Yogi Berra who purportedly said, “If you don’t know where you’re going, you’ll end up someplace else.” My wife Anita knows I am a person who loves to take a different route as often as possible, whether that be a major street through the heart of the city or a county road or highway that takes us off the interstate. I may not always know where I’m going, but we do end up in some surprising places.

Where is Calvary Lutheran Church headed in 2023? Or you or me in this life’s journey? The story of the Magi in Matthew is instructive.

The Magi were following a bright star that had caught their attention. They had discerned a royal birth had taken place in the land of Judea, this kind of phenomena a part of the ancient world. The star leads them to Jerusalem where they inquire, “Where is this child born king of the Jews. We have seen the star announcing his birth and want to pay homage.”

Herod demands to know where this child was born and learns the Messiah is to come from the little hamlet of Bethlehem, the hometown of Israel’s mighty King David, the shepherd boy who ruled over a united Israel. Herod cunningly says, “Go, find this child, that I might pay him homage.”

So the Magi follow the star’s leading and come to Bethlehem, the baby Jesus now probably close to the age of a toddler. They enter the house where the Holy Family has been living and kneel in homage. They offer gifts that speak volumes about the child, who this Jesus is and who he will become. Gold, of course, is the gift fit for a king; frankincense is a costly incense associated with wisdom; and myrrh is a prized perfume and a sign of life and healing. The Magi recognize this King is destined for a much different kind of kingship—not the violence and brutality of Herod, who murders innocent children. This king will be a servant shepherd, one who comes to seek and save the lost. His rule will be one of love and mercy shown to the least.

Calvary Lutheran Church
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Green Bay, WI 54304
www.calvarygb.com

Office Hours

Mon. thru Thurs. - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Fri. - 9 a.m. to noon
Sat. & Sun. - Closed

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The Magi return home *by a different route*, refusing to do the King's bidding. They've been transformed by this holy encounter with God in the manger, beholding the Christ Child. They believe what they have heard and what they have seen with their own eyes. *They take a different route home.*

The Magi could have colluded with King Herod and done his bidding. But they chose to follow the new King, one who came not to take life but to give life. This King Jesus has come to serve, not to be served. He comes to rule with justice and mercy for all. These Magi concluded Jesus was greater and more powerful than Herod. They endured a long journey from Persia to Bethlehem to meet Jesus, the King. They risked their lives for the sake of Jesus. They rejoiced when they met him. They knelt in homage before him. They returned by a different route.

As the congregation envisions a new chapter of participating in God's mission, I invite us all to kneel before Jesus the King and be open to where the Spirit might lead.

In Christ's peace and love,

Pastor Jerry Mansholt



Looking Back – Moving Forward

Save the Date – January 15, 2023
One Worship Service at 8:00 a.m.
Congregational Event 9:15 a.m. in the MPR

All confirmed members of Calvary are invited and strongly encouraged to participate in the “Looking Back-Moving Forward” Congregational Event on January 15. It will be a morning of good food, lots of conversation in small and large groups, and a time for listening to one another. The event will be facilitated by Cathy Cowling, who has worked with churches for nearly 35 years helping them to move through change toward God’s Promised Future. In the following paragraphs Cathy writes about the importance of this event:

Periods of transition are holy times. They are moments when deep work can be done, inspiration can appear, and renewal can be leveraged to propel us into the future. Transitions are not wasted time. During a transition, congregations take time to feel (grief, joy, anticipation), to think (reflect on the past, dream of the future) and connect spiritually (through prayer and study). These are moments when the Holy Spirit breathes new life into a congregation and grows something new for the sake of humanity. These transitional times are not always welcome, but God welcomes us into them so that we can experience God more than before. After transitions, congregations and individuals are never the same, but God is constantly with us, re-creating us into the body of Christ that the world needs today.

But why take time to reflect on the past; shouldn’t we be focused on the future? The author William Bridges reminds us that all transitions begin with endings and that ‘the starting point for dealing with transition is not the outcome but the ending that you’ll have to make to leave the old situation behind’. In order to move into the future, congregations need to come to terms with their history. There is in every congregation that which has been creative and worth celebrating and that which has been debilitating. Just as human beings are shaped by their histories and experiences, so too, is a congregation.

One of our first steps in moving closer to calling a new pastor is to gather to remember our past, to tell some of the stories that have shaped us as a faith community, remembering both the happy events and the sad ones. We do this for two very important reasons, both of which will provide essential information to the call committee in calling a new pastor: In this session we will identify what is sacred from our past that we want to carry into our future and what is old baggage we need to leave behind; and we will identify and reflect on those qualities and styles of leadership under which we have thrived and those which have hindered us. And for this we need the whole community, whether you’ve been at Calvary for decades or weeks.

2022 Review and Planning for 2023

Last year is over? How did that happen? To say we were busy would best describe 2022. We hosted five public build days, a Youth build, and a private team building event. In all, we made 534 beds bringing the total built to 820 in less than two years. Our delivery teams were busy providing 555 kids with a bed to call their own last year. All 820 beds have been delivered which means since February of 2021, we have averaged over 1.2 beds delivered per day.

As we look ahead to 2023, we prepare to help another 600+ kids. We are planning to make the Youth build “Kids building beds for kids” even bigger. A Women’s build is in the works where all the beds will be built and delivered by women for girls in need. We are also working with 2-3 private corporations for team building events.

In the end it comes down to one thing:

BED + KID = SMILES, HUGS, TEARS, AND PURE JOY!

Contact info:

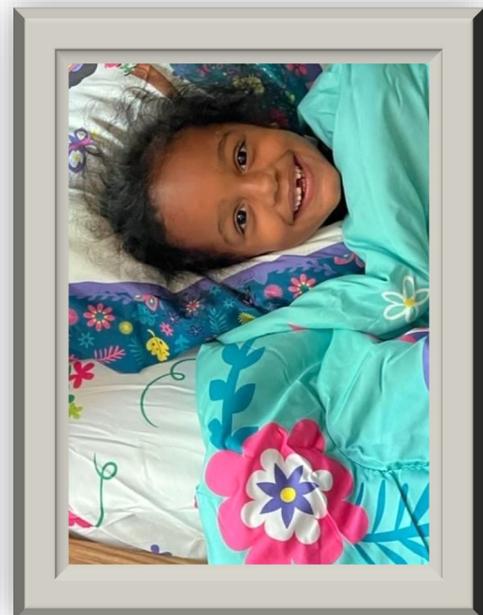
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“No kid sleeps on the floor in our town”

Follow us on Facebook @shpdepere



Your generosity provided:

- 280 pounds of rice
- 209 pounds of laundry soap
- 119 pounds of sardines
- 90 pounds of all purpose cleaner
- 84 pounds of eggs
- AND SO MUCH MORE...

★ TO 48 ★
FAMILIES!

¡GRACIAS!



AN UPDATE FROM SIMPLY SMILES

I just wanted to let you know that we passed out a HUGE amount of food this past week, and folks were thrilled. In an effort to make sure they can spend as much time as possible developing their new business ideas, we combined a few weeks worth of food in this last distribution. Again, thank you Calvary! *Kristen Graves*

DON'T
MISS OUT!



YOUTH SAVE-THE-DATES!

- ◆ Melanie is looking for volunteers to do Packer parking. More information on how to sign up and the dates/times can be found posted on the Facebook page. GO PACK GO!
- ◆ Middle School youth and high school youth will be having Christmas parties coming up in January. For more information on dates and times, please reach out to Angel at angel@calvarygb.com
- ◆ Time to play some games! There will be a game night at Calvary on January 25th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. To sign up, please email Angel at angel@calvarygb.com
- ◆ Confirmation classes will start back up again on January 8th!

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

**DECEMBER
2022**



**THANK YOU
TO:**

**KIDS
TEACHERS
PARENTS
AND
VOLUNTEERS!**



**GENESIS
PRESCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

**DECEMBER
2022**



**GREAT JOB
TO ALL THE
KIDS!**



THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers that decorate our sanctuary each year including Scott Balfanz, Grumpy Old Men, Joyce Heim, Wendy Palmer and Cheryl Vanderkam. It is so beautiful and much appreciated!

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you a college student currently enrolled in a Christian university pursuing a degree in a ministry-related service? If so, the Endowment Trust Committee is accepting scholarship applications from its Calvary college students for the 2022 second semester.

Please request an application from the church office. Submit the completed application no later than January 15, 2023. Scholarships will be awarded by January 31, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Des Jardin (920-494-2431) or text David Gehrke (920-494-2036). Thank you.

ZOOM BIBLE RESUMES JAN 3, 2023

The 1 p.m. Tuesday ZOOM Bible Study will resume on January 3rd with the topic of Luke:1-2 found on page 375 of the *Men of the Bible* book by Ann Spangler & Robert Wolgemuth. Contact Pastor Rufus if interested in joining.



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Green Bay, WI 54304

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Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA

SAVE THE DATE!

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CONGREGATION**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

**FOLLOWING THE 8:00 AM SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Education Hour: 9:15 a.m., Classrooms

Thursdays: 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Visitor is the monthly newsletter of Calvary Lutheran Church. Information for the newsletter can be dropped off at the Church Office or emailed to: Kris@calvarygb.com. ***The deadline for the February issue is January 20, 2022.***



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Lutheran Church—
Green Bay***