



THE VISITOR January 2024

920-494-2431

1301 S. Ridge Road
Green Bay, WI 54304
www.calvarygb.com

New Year, New Us

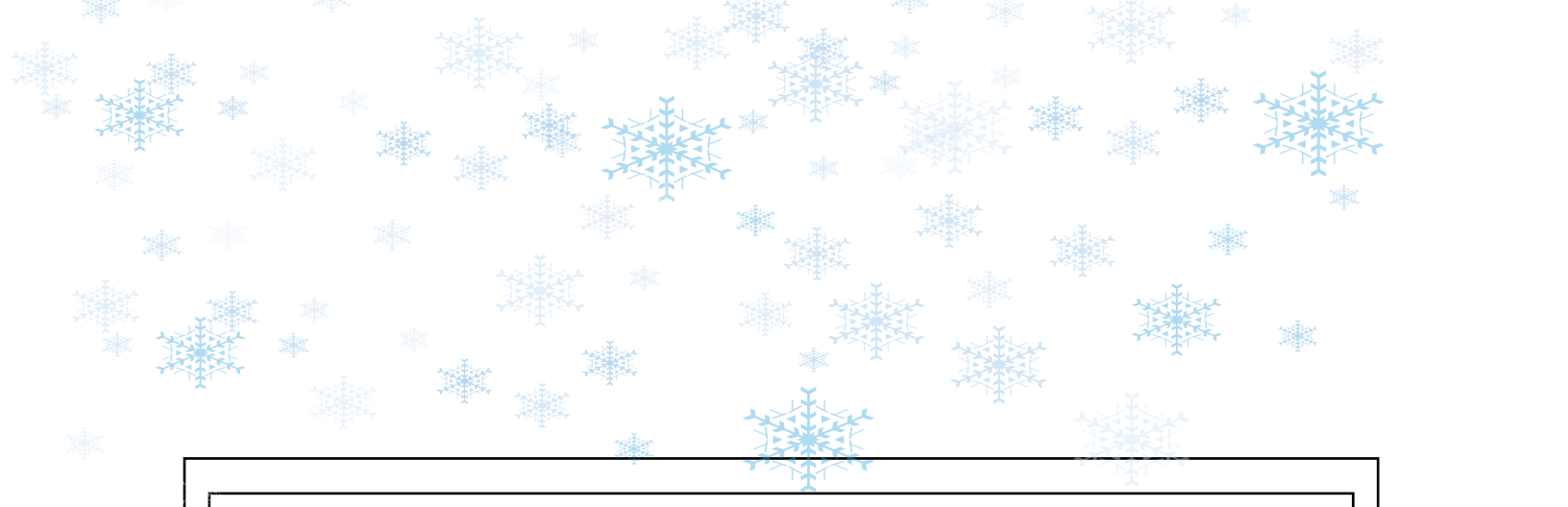
"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

It is once again the beginning of a new year, a time of resolutions and goal setting, of new beginnings and new habits. I have a fondness for the beginning of a new year. It's full of potential yet to be discovered. On January 1st, the whole year sprawls out ahead of us like an open highway. It is common to be setting New Year's Resolutions right about now. In my own experience, resolutions tend to be set in vain. I have good intentions, but ultimately lack the motivation or will to truly make a lasting impact.

This time of year, I am reminded about the futility of setting these sorts of resolutions. But I am also reminded of the hope that these resolutions give us. It was said to me best one Sunday afternoon at camp. I was leading the opening session of a week-long high school summer bible camp. I knew some of the campers from years prior; so, I knew how hard it might be to get them to focus! But, when I went to start the session, they immediately turned to face me, and sat down. I couldn't believe it! I told them I was impressed and that they must have matured over the last year. One camper, a junior in high school, raised his hand and said, "What can we say? New year. New us!"

That's the hope, we Christians, find at this time of year. We are in the middle of the story of Jesus being born, living life among us, and making his way to Jerusalem – where he will be sentenced, put to death on a cross, and ultimately, rise from the grave Easter morning. And in that story, everything old passes away – everything becomes new! As Paul writes, "...God was reconciling the world to himself..." This new year is an opportunity for us to be transformed by God's love in Christ Jesus; to become the new us that the Holy Spirit is calling forth from the tomb. And this is God's work of reconciling the world to himself. God does not count our past failings to love God and love our neighbor against us. Rather, God gives us a new identity as children of God with a new purpose unfolding before us.

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God entrusts to us the message of reconciliation; of restoring right relationship with God and with one another. And that is our new beginning this year, Dear Ones. The last several years have wreaked havoc on communities throughout the world; and you too have certainly felt that tension here. You have been learning to hold space as you let go of what has passed while looking forward to God's preferred and promised future. And now, the Holy Spirit is calling us to something new, a new identity and purpose for God's ministry here at Calvary.

As you well know, living, learning, and loving in community – yes, even Christ's community – is difficult. And it becomes easier when we look to God and the unfolding story the Holy Spirit is unraveling before us. It becomes easier when we see that God is actively bringing new life and energy into our community. It becomes easier when we let God do what God does best: love people through our brokenness. So, this new year, let us ground ourselves in God's story of love; let us join God's work of restoration; and let us proclaim, "New Year! New Us!"

With resolved hope,
Pastor Ben

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 2023

THANK YOU TO: KIDS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS!



GENESIS PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 2023

GREAT JOB TO ALL THE KIDS!





A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers that decorate our sanctuary each year, including Scott Balfanz, Cheryl Vanderkam, Cheryl Cimbalo and so many others.

It is so beautiful and much appreciated!

Genesis Preschool

Happy New Year! We are glad to be back in the classroom after our winter break. We are excited to be welcoming two new students to our classroom as well. It's hard to believe we are almost halfway through our school year already! We have so many fun activities planned for this month.

On January 15th we will start accepting registrations for next school year. Packets will be available by January 8th in the church office, on the church website and in the Genesis Classroom. If you or someone you know has a child who will be 3 years old by September 1, 2024, please consider Genesis. We would love to give you a tour of our facility! Please call 920-494-2431 ext. 110 with any questions.

April Peterson

Director and Administrative Teacher

Genesis Christian Preschool

920-494-2431 Ext. 110



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

As 2023 comes to a close we would like to say Thank You to all the Calvary Thrivent members who donated their Choice Dollars to Calvary Lutheran Church. We wouldn't be able to do great things for our Church, Calvary members in need or our community without your help. In 2023 we were able to donate Thrivent Choice Dollars to EPH for a community project and to the Calvary Lutheran Church general fund to help offset our current deficit. We ask for your help by continuing to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Calvary so we can continue to do great things. Have a blessed 2024!



NEW COMMUNITY SHELTER

Thank you to all who prepared hot dishes, baked cookies and served on December 12th. Approximately 135 people were fed a filling hot meal on that cold windy night. Special thanks to confirmands Luke, Vivian and Peyton for serving. And thank you to the anonymous Calvary member who donated script to the NEW Shelter. The gift cards will be used by the shelter to purchase undergarments for people entering the shelter having nothing.



Christmas Dream

Each night when Jake would get ready to go to sleep on the cold hard floor of his bedroom, he had a dream about one day having his own brand new bed. In his dream, he saw it decorated and all dressed up with a new mattress, sheets to match his favorite sport heroes, a pillow and a warm new hand tied quilt that was put together with loving hands that he could snuggle in and go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace just like all the other boys and girls he knew.

So early one morning he awoke and told his mom about his dream of receiving his brand new bed. He also told her that in his dream, he hoped that he would be able to help build it with his own hands and place it in his bedroom in just the right spot. So just at that moment he heard a noise outside his door. He opened the blinds and much to his surprise there was a vehicle and a trailer parked right outside his home by his front door. He then saw the trailer and remembered the name, seeing it in his dream, hoping it was the crew from Sleep in Heavenly Peace pulling up to deliver his brand new bed. Soon there was a knock on the door, and when he opened it, he said to his mom with much excitement, they are here mom, my new bed is here, can we help them bring in my new bed and show them to my room.

So as the crew came in with their tools and supplies, little Jake led the way upstairs to his bedroom to show the crew where his new bed would be built and to make sure it was put in just the right spot. As the crew busily placed all of the parts and materials in his room, Jake was ready to build his new bed. We put the head boards, side rails and bolts in place and gave Jake the power driver that he would use to assemble his bed. So, with a pull on the trigger, the building began and with little delay it was done.

He and his mom picked out his sports hero sheets, hand tied quilt, stuffed the pillow into the case, and with a leap into the bed and huge smile on his face, he was laying in his new bed that he built, knowing his dream finally came true. that he could snuggle in his own warm bed and no longer had to Sleep on the floor.

And with that we were off to the next delivery remembering our mission:

"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town"

GORG GAME NIGHT

This game is a youth favorite!
Join us for an evening of fun!

Thursday, January 25

5:00pm - 6:30pm



Sign up using the QR
Code or contact
Angel at
angel@calvarygb.com.



Tubing at Kewaunee Winter Park

This event is sponsored by the Synod Youth Team!

Saturday, January 27, 11:00am-3:00pm

The cost is **\$10.00 per person** for 2 hours of tubing.



Parents will need to complete
waiver forms.

Rides will not be provided to or
from the location. Please contact
Angel with questions..

Intro to Pickleball

JANUARY 6, 2024

Learn to play in 90 minutes

Come and join in on the fun !
Grasp the basics and start pickling.



Calvary Lutheran Church
Contact Mike at 920-471-5812



Calvary Lutheran Church
Staff

Office Hours

Mon. thru Thurs. -
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fri., Sat. & Sun. - Closed
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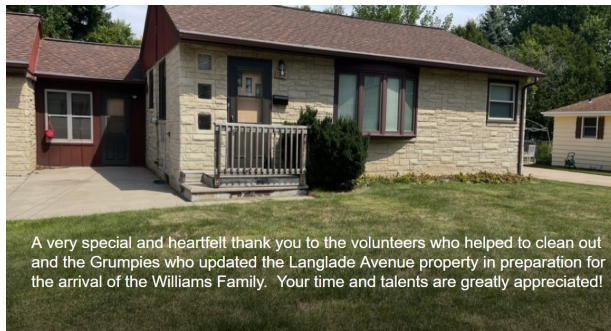
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Jim & Sofia Lemmens
Custodial Staff
Office: 920-494-2431

What's Happening



We Care About You!

To receive a pastoral call and communion,
please call the Church Office at
920-494-2431

Pastors and Communion
Volunteers would love to
bring communion and
pray with you!



Watch us on
You Tube

Just a reminder that you can watch Sunday Worship on

Calvary's YouTube Channel
Please go to our website
<https://www.calvarygb.com/home>
and click on the
Calvary's YouTube Channel



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Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

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: dawn@calvarygb.com.

The deadline for the February issue is January 19, 2024.

***Find us on YouTube.
Search for Calvary
Lutheran Church—
Green Bay***

