

Callings from the Lakeshore

Calvary & St. Paul Lutheran: Two Churches, One Body

December 2025

Notes from the Pastor's Chair

Advent invites people into four weeks of deep reflection on the 'advent' or 'arrival' of God in Jesus, as well as his promised return. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, which is about a 'coming' or 'arrival'. The Latin translation of the New Testament uses *adventus* to describe God the Son's arrival on Earth, born as Jesus of Nazareth in the 1st century C.E. Celebrating Advent takes the form of focused prayer, the reading of scripture, and the lighting of candles in wreaths and hidden treasures in calendars.

Advent traditions vary, but they all share a heightened anticipation for God's arrival. It's more than a countdown to Christmas; Advent embraces the way of Jesus and encourages hopeful waiting, courageous peace-making, resilient joy, and self-giving love in our still-suffering world.

The season of Advent culminates in the celebration of Jesus' birth. It reminds us that we're living during the time between Jesus' first and second advents, leading us to lament the hardships we experience in a still-broken world, while also forming us into people who wait with longing for the renewed world to come. Each week of Advent focuses on a particular biblical theme. They are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Hope.

As a season of reflection and contemplation, Advent invites us to imagine a different kind of hope, rooted in the unchanging nature of God and God's promise to restore every part of creation. Advent hope doesn't minimize pain or difficulty, nor does it assume things will soon get better. Instead, it faces the darkness with courage. It chooses to trust that God's promises will come to pass, guaranteed by God's long-proven, faithful character.

In the Hebrew Bible, the words most often used for hope—*qavah* and *yakhal*—are also translated as "wait." To hope in God means to wait with patient expectation, trusting that God will fulfill the promises. This waiting leans forward, anticipating the day when Jesus will return to make all things new. Such hope empowers people to persevere, to act justly, and to serve others as a sign of the restoration that will arrive through Jesus.

Peace

The kind of peace envisioned during Advent comes not through military power or avoidance of reality but through the way of Jesus. He brings true peace by honestly addressing and working to heal the deeper sources of division, such as fear and pride, that compel people to violence. Jesus reconciles all things to himself, offering healing and restoration through love and forgiveness.

As Jesus continues his work of bringing real, lasting peace throughout the Earth, we can participate in that work by living as peacemakers. We join with Jesus by embracing his non-violent way of forgiveness, caring for our neighbors, and extending generous love toward all people.

Joy

We often think of joy as an experience of happiness arising from favorable circumstances: a stroke of good luck, a personal achievement, or a long-held desire finally being satisfied. But when joy depends on circumstances, it fades fast when the good times end.

Advent joy is not about general happiness stemming from good times. It's a deep sense of safety and freedom people feel because of God's loving character, which remains constant through all circumstances, and because God can ultimately be trusted to bless and heal creation as promised. Like the joy a friend's presence brings on good days and bad, we experience joy as God walks with us through the fluctuations of life's positive and painful circumstances.

In the Bible, people express joy both when God delivers them from oppression and while still in the midst of exile, persecution, and pain. As people remember God's loving, rescuing actions throughout history, they wait in joyful hope for God to act in the future, even when that waiting requires patient suffering.

This kind of joy is about being united with the God who walks with us and trusting that God will one day wipe away every tear. It looks to the future but also takes root in our present reality. The season of Advent invites us to experience joy not because everything is perfect but because God is with us and God's joy is already breaking into the world.

Love

Love is often seen as a force beyond our control, something people fall in or out of. Or it may seem like something satisfying that we can achieve, driving us to chase affection through relationships or status. "Love is all you need," they say, because it's the path to self-fulfillment.

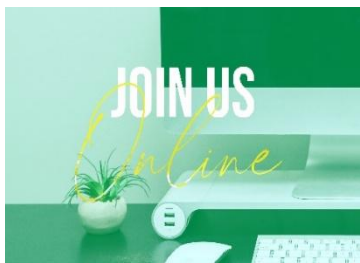
But something is missing from that picture of love. The Bible invites us to see a kind of love that's neither accidental nor driven by desire for self-fulfillment. Instead, it involves a steady commitment to care for the well-being of others—never self-seeking, always self-giving—even when it costs us.

Jesus shows this kind of love when he gives his life for friends and enemies alike. Dying on a cross, with his killers still laughing at him, Jesus cares for their well-being as he prays for their forgiveness. Living with this kind of love does not mean ignoring our own needs or devaluing ourselves. After all, Jesus says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." But it means choosing to see all people as living miracles of God, each made in God's image and deeply loved by God.

The Advent season leads us to reflect on the future God is bringing, where every interaction will be shaped and compelled by love. Even more, it invites us to live into that coming world right now by loving others the way Jesus does. As we give of ourselves to care for both friends and enemies, we demonstrate the love that Jesus shows to all people.

Celebrating Advent also means living into it by practicing a generous way of love and care for our neighbor as we partner with Jesus to bring peace on Earth.

Pastor Heather



WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

Worship services for both churches continue to be recorded and shared for everyone who is unable to come to in-person worship. Recorded services can be found on each church's website. The link for online worship is included in weekly emails for both churches. If you need help finding services online, please call the church office.

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING AT ST. PAUL (DECEMBER 21ST)

ELCA World Hunger

MONTHLY TREP FOOD DRIVES (CALVARY)

Calvary is hosting monthly food drives for TREP. Each month is a specific focus. December's focus is Cream of mushroom soup, Manwich, syrup, tuna helper, toilet paper, bar soap, body wash, shampoo, canned sliced potatoes, canned pineapple, canned mandarin oranges, canned pears.

CREATING CARDS AND CRAFTING

Meets the fourth Tuesday each month, from. **10 am - 12:30**. Learn how to make a card or work on your own projects. These can be used for church or personal use. Bring any supply needs for your project. All crafters & crafts welcome!

ST PAUL CRAFT SALE Sun, Nov 9th – Dec 28th

Calling all “Crafty” members of St Paul.

Please consider donating anything you make to sell at the Craft Sale. There will be a “Free Will Offering” for each item. If you can, please give an estimate of the craft you donate to give the purchaser an idea of what to pay. Ken’s stained glasswork & Kay T’s beautiful quilt have a bid sheet (bids close 12/16).

WOW looks forward to providing great shopping opportunities for your Christmas Gifts.

Contact Holly G if any questions- 920-374-4471

BOOK CLUB AT ST. PAUL

Thursday, December 18th

In December, Book Club will be reading “The Children's Blizzard” by Melanie Benjamin. If you’re interested in joining, please let Joy know (joycarlson4@gmail.com) and you can be added to the Book Club email list. We have library copies available to borrow.

GIVING TREE for CHRISTMAS

We are collecting clothing items for our local school children. Items needed include: socks, underwear, hats, mittens, and leggings/jogging pants (for accidents). Sizes needed are 4-8 for children K-4th grade. There will be a Christmas Tree set up on November 23rd in the Narthex with needed items printed on the ornaments. Please grab an ornament and once item(s) is purchased, place it under the tree.

FOOD AND FAITH WITH PASTOR HEATHER

The next Food and Faith will be Tuesday, **December 9th** at 11:00 am at St. Paul, and then Wednesday **December 17th** at 11:00 at Calvary. I will be providing lunch and dessert for all who come. We will read a scripture and talk about what it is saying to us. This time is open to questions and concerns about God, our faith, or anything that is pressing on our minds. I don’t promise to have all the answers, but I promise to listen. Please consider joining me.

Scrip – Planning for the Holidays

Place your order by **December 7th** to get your order in time for Christmas



Will you be buying gift cards for Christmas gifts? Plan ahead, and purchase them through our Scrip program and you’ll also be giving your church an extra gift. In addition to the gift cards we keep in inventory, we have a huge list of national retailers that we’re able to order gift cards for. Stop in the office to get a copy of the cards available.

Scrip Cards we typically on hand for you to buy:

Kwik Trip, Festival Foods, Pick ‘n Save, Menards, Fleet Farm, Culvers, Subway, Green Street, Meijer, Piggly Wiggly, Amazon, Walmart, and a few others. There are many, many other Scrip cards are available to order!

If you have any questions about Scrip, how it benefits St. Paul, how to order or any other questions, please contact Joy Carlson. Thank you!

In our Community & Beyond



16TH ANNUAL TWO RIVERS AREA CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

A community buffet style dinner will be served on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025 at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, 3201 Mishicot Road, Two Rivers. Maybe you are a family of one, are unable to prepare a meal for your family, or just prefer to be surrounded by other area residents. We invite guests to partake in the meal at no personal expense. A free will donation may be made at the dinner, but is NOT required or expected.

GUEST RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Doors will open at 11:00 am

A buffet meal will be served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Meal delivery is available to Two Rivers residents who are unable to travel to the site.
Carry out meals may be available after all reservations have been accommodated.

GUEST RESERVATIONS MUST be made no later than Saturday, December 20th.

Call Brenda at 920.901.2094

- To make dinner reservations (indicate number of people attending)
- To have meals delivered to a Two Rivers address

VOLUNTEERS...Please register by Saturday, December 20th.

Call Debbie at 920.323.3055

- If you're willing to prepare or serve food, or help with cleanup
- If you're willing to deliver meals between 10:45 am-12 pm

This event is jointly sponsored by the church members of St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Calvary Lutheran Church and Hope Community Church, along with donations from Alive & Kickin Pizza Crust, Bakery on State, Christina's Cakery, Hartman's Baker, Domnitz Flowers, and On a Whim Sweet Treats.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus by sharing a meal and fellowship with friends!



Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you fellow members of St Paul for the wonderful donations of food for Peter's Pantry. Thank you Linda Hohn for getting the Thrivent Grant for it as well. God bless each and every one of you.

Thank you Shirley Osieczanek for getting the Thrivent grant for blankets for Pink Heals Cancer Patients, Mark Gotstein for trimming them and Lynn Erdmann and Kay Trost for tying them.

Thank you Lynn Erdmann for getting the Thrivent Grant for the Blessing Box supplies.

What a wonderful family of God we have with so much love, kindness and compassion. Also thank you to ALL who helped pack up the food and then put up all the Christmas Decorations. You ALL did a wonderful job.



BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE-Dec 6th, 11am-2pm

At Peace United Church of Christ, 3613 Waldo Blvd, Manitowoc, WI 54220. A Free Community-wide Holiday event benefiting the Manitowoc Warming Shelter.

Santa will be visiting at 1:30/Free Children's activity table/Holiday Music/Raffle and silent auction /Holiday bake sale and chili sale.

If you would like to volunteer your time, talents or bake sale items for this festive fundraiser , please contact event coordinator Pastor Matt, 920.682.4688. If unable to attend, donations may be made to the MWS via their website, manitowocwarmingshelter.org. or mailed to MWS, 502 N 8th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Manitowoc Warming Shelter

2025/26 SEASON WISHLIST

For December 2025

Items may be dropped off Monday-Thursday 9:15AM-12:45PM at First Presbyterian Church, 502 N 8th St.
Use the parking lot door with the red awning. (Or contact for other arrangements.)

Single Ride Bus Token

\$25 Kwik Trip Gift Cards (*grocery only*)

\$10 Gift cards for drugstores Quarters for Laundry

Forever Postage Stamps

Backpacks

Powdered coffee creamer

Powdered coffee creamer

Large boxes Waffle Mix

Butter/Margarine

Sugar Ite

Air freshener (*non-aerosol*)

Toilet paper (*individually wrapped*)

Kitchen Paper towels

Full-Size Kleenex

Large refill size hand soap

Bathroom Cleaning Supplies

All Purpose Cleaner

Snack-size resealable bags

Two gallon-sized resealable bags

Aluminum foil

Plastic wrap

Cereal: Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Shredded Wheat

Any "sugar" cereal

Lifesavers (bulk or rolls)

Hard candy (especially mint)

Mini-Candy Bars

Chewing Gum

Soft granola bars (no nuts/crunch)

Pocket-sized note pads

Feminine hygiene products

Travel Packs of Kleenex

Travel/sample size body wash

Travel-size Shaving Cream

Travel-size Mouthwash

Deodorant

Dental Floss

Additional Items can be found at our Amazon Wish List

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2RAZSMBT64K5Q?ref=wl>

Dec 6th-YMCA Craft Fair will take place from 830am to 3pm in the Community Room at the YMCA, 205 Maritime Dr, Manitowoc.

If you are interested in being a vendor or for more info, contact Theo Lynn Hoffman,

katzenjammer@lakefield.net, or at 920-553-1776.

Sunday Suppers @ 4:30pm at St. Peter's the Fisherman

On Sunday evenings in the dining hall at St. Peter's the Fisherman (3201 Mishicot Rd., Two Rivers), they serve a community-based meal provided by volunteer host groups. All are welcome to dine with us. There is a free will offering. The dates for these meals are:

December 14th, January 18th, February 1st, February 15th

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 10am-4pm and Sunday Dec. 7th from 1pm-4pm. It is a celebration of Nativity scenes from around the world to be held at historic St. James Episcopal Church, 434 N 8th St, Manitowoc.

PETER'S PANTRY & BLESSING BOX DONATIONS (ST. PAUL)

There is a basket near the church office at St. Paul to drop off donations for Peter's Pantry. Thank you for all the donations we find in the basket each month! Your generosity to those in need is appreciated. If you have items for the Blessing Box, please place those directly in the box outside. Items should be able to withstand freezing /melting (depending on the time of year).

GRACIOUS GIVERS OF MANITWOC DONATION LIST

ATTIRE

Winter Coats
Hooded Sweatshirts
New Underwear
New Socks
New Bras
Belts
Work Boots/Shoes
Winter Boots
Tennis Shoes
Gloves/Scarves
Beanie Hats

ELECTRONICS

Phones & Chargers
Flashlights
A,B,C,D Batteries
Lamps
Hair Dryers

OTHERS

Work Scrubs
Blankets
Pillows
Wallets/Purses
Hand/Foot Warmers
Birthday Party Supplies

HYGINE/TOILETRIES

Toothbrush/Paste
Body Wash
Shampoo/Conditioner
Lotion
Sunscreen
Hairbrushes/Combse
Makeup/Nail Polish
Deodorants
Razors/Shave Kits
Dental Floss
Menstrual Supplies
Perfume/Cologne
Bar Soap
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Cleaning Wips
Dryer Sheets
Hand/Dish/Laundry Soap
Baby Diapers/Wipes

MISCELLANEOUS

Snacks/Drinks/Water
Ziplock Bags
Office Supplies
School Supplies
Reusable Bags
Reusable Bottles
Duffle Bags
Book Bags
Coffee/Creamer/Suger
Cake Mix/Icing
Foil Pans

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Walkers/Canes
Commodes
Incontinence Pads
Gauze/Bandages
Knee/Shoulder Wraps
Hand Sanitizer
Alcohol Wipes
Nail Clipper Sets
Peroxide/Rubbing Alcohol
Covid Tests
Thermometers
Blood Pressure Monitors
New Diabetic Monitors

Odds ENDS



RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

Do you have ink cartridges lying around? Calvary has a box in the gathering pew for the recycling of used ink cartridges. They take all types except the long toner cartridges from larger printers. St. Paul members if you would like to bring yours in to be recycled arrangements can be made to get them over to Calvary. The more we recycle the less that end up in the landfill!



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.

It's easy to buy cards and support this ongoing St. Paul fundraiser. Stop by the table next to the office before worship. Scrip gift cards are a practical, easy way to give a little extra to St. Paul while shopping for items you already need!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Calvary

- Scott and Samantha Spiering (Roxanne Spiering's family)
- Mary Keck (Kristin Keck's mother) cancer
- Harold Keck (Kristin Keck's father) cancer
- The families and individuals that will lose Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP

Prayer requests can be made by emailing the office at churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (920)793-3917.

St. Paul

- Dan, Dick K., Amy, Linda H, Linda W, Mary, Harold, Karen, Mike Johnson, Michelle Ninneman, and Carolee Crabb
- People who are being detained without due process, people who live in fear of being detained without due process, all who are fearful and scared of their futures.
- Individuals and families who are homeless, underpaid, underworked. Who lack healthcare or fear they will lose their healthcare.

Prayer request can be made by emailing the church office at stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com or by calling the office at (920)-682-2228.

If you would like prayer but would like to keep it confidential, please feel free to contact us with those as well.

December Birthdays!

Calvary

5th –Olive Press
9th –George Perry
20th–Caroline Curtis
26th–Scott Spiering

St. Paul

5th – Cheryl Plagemann
6th – Catherine Satori
8th – Kim Moddie
10th - Mary Satori
14th –Thomas Barry
18th –Wendy Meyer
18th –Earl Oswald
21st –Kristin Keck
22nd –Kari McKenna
25th – Julia Sieracki
26th – Annika Strazny
27th – Mary Rasmussen
28th – Carissa Veit

Anniversaries!

Calvary

6th – Stan & Cindy Phelps

St. Paul

1st – Kate & Patrick Mealy
3rd – Jim & Paula Revolinsky
12th – Mike & Mary Siewert
19th – Steven & Patricia Arneson
19th – Carol & Randy Entringer
22nd – Jami & Dave Rittich

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office



Please consider sending cards & notes to our homebound members. They are still very much a part of our church family, even if we do not see them. For safety reasons, the list will not be published in the newsletter as anyone can access it online. However, you can pick up a list at church or email Cindy for a copy.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1921 Adams St. Two Rivers, WI. 54241

Email: churchcalvarylutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.calvarytworivers.org

Phone: 920-793-3917

Church Office Hours

Wednesdays 9:00am-1:00pm

CALVARY CHURCH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President & Treasurer, Joe Bitto

bittohoney@charter.net, (920) 304-6808

Vice President, Lisa Shimanek

Lisa.Shimanek77@gmail.com, (920) 242-4493

Secretary, Kim Braun

Kbalma1@charter.net, (920) 905-5303

Financial Secretary, Lori Williams

drlwilliams2010@gmail.com, (920) 588-0109

CALVARY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Diane Grasse (920) 764-8065

Bruce Larson (920) 755-4069

Stan Phelps (920) 901-3887

Kerry Rivest

Lisa Shimanek

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2601 S. 10th St. Manitowoc, WI. 54220

Email: stpaulmanitowoc@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulmanitowoc.org

Phone: 920-682-2228

Church Office Hours

Mondays 9:00-12:30pm

Tuesdays: 9:00am-12:30pm

Thursdays 9:00am-12:30pm

ST. PAUL CHURCH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President, Dave Kriewald

Dkriewald1@gmail.com

Vice President, Sharon Schwantes

Sharonretired64@gmail.com

Secretary, Cindy York

Cyork9786@gmail.com

Financial Secretary, Julie Dahleen

beaner59@hotmail.com

ST. PAUL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lonnie Erdman

Neil Erickson

Shirley Oseiczaneck

Lana Sieracki

Carissa Veit

Linda Wallander

Pastor Heather Yerion Keck

pastoryerionkeck@gmail.com

cell: 816-820-4108

Office Hours:

Mondays by appointment

Tuesdays 9:30 am – 1:30-pm St. Paul

Wednesdays by appointment

Thursdays 9:00-1:00 – Calvary

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 WOW Meeting 11 am	4	5	6
7	8 Days for Girls-1pm	9 St. Paul Food & Faith- 11pm Calvary Council Mtg-5:45 pm St Paul Council Mtg-7pm	10 St. Paul Finance Meeting 3pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 Faith Circle-10 am	17 Calvary Food and Faith-11am	18 Book Club-3pm	19	20
21 Noisy Offering	22	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 Christmas Eve Service @ Calvary-4pm Christmas Eve Service @ St. Paul-6pm	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27
28	29	30 Craft Day-10am	31			
30	Pastor out	of office thru	January 2nd			

Calvary AA Meetings

Mondays-7 pm
Wednesdays 7 pm
Saturdays 6 pm