

The Chimes

Volume 52 Issue 12

December 2023

SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY SERVICES

December 2nd and 3rd

December 9th and 10th

December 16th and 17th

December 24th (9:00 a.m.)

December 24th (7:00 p.m.)

December 30th and 31st

First Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent Children-led Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

1st Sunday of Christmas



Join us Sunday, December 24th.

Our children will lead the 9:00 a.m. service. Consider how the sound of various bells tells the story of God's glory and the humble arrival of the babe of Bethlehem.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Maxine Gray
Office & Financial Secretary: Laurie Modjewski
Accountant: John Breiten
Custodian: Jerome Ravey

CHURCH COUNCIL

Steven Ahlborn, president
Paul Heykes, vice-president
Jim Springer, secretary
Ed Brown
Kathy Hoffmann
Linda Dube
Mary Leppi

We Celebrate



Diane Olson	12/6
Penny Ravey	12/7
Sandi Gurtner	12/8
Stephanie Lewis	12/10
Ray Wilde	12/10
Betty Schneider	12/22
Gary Bayer	12/29



Happy Anniversary!

Mary Jo & Joe Perry their 42nd on 12/5
 Lloyd & Maxine Gray their 53rd on 12/19
 Angel & Lenny Olivera their 36th on 12/28



"and there shall be endless peace"

Isaiah 2:7

**Working Together:
 Thank You for
 What You Do**

Budgetary Status as of October 31, 2023

	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Current Income	\$17,908.46	\$60,735.85
Current Expenses	<u>17,157.07</u>	<u>61,154.09</u>
Difference	\$751.39	-\$418.24

Deficit Reduction

<u>Total Last Month</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
\$3,000	\$3,032	\$6,032

Can the Deficit Total: \$32

Thrivent Choice

Adrien Kranz

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars is a charitable grant program that lets eligible clients choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of its funding each year. To see if you are eligible

- Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- Call 800-847-4836.
- Contact your local Thrivent financial advisor.

We appreciate offerings of any kind.

Community Table Donors

Mary Anderson Kathy Hoffmann
 Lee & Sharon Samuelson Lori Schmidt
 Cook: Paul Heykes

Community Table Workers

Jill Cullen Pastor Max Carmen Kranz
 Nancy Heykes Art & Mary Leppi
 Garyn Roberts

Winterizing Fellowship Hall

Steven Ahlborn

Cleaning Pews: Kelly Brown

Fixing Loan Closet Equipment

Ed Brown

Memorials

Max and Sandy Fritschel

James & Colleen Fritschel

Worship with Us

Worship As We Begin a New Year

A new year, you ask? That doesn't begin until January, don't rush things Pastor. It is true that on your calendar January 1st is the beginning of the year. The church, however, operates on a different set of seasons and dates. A new year begins for us with Advent, with December 3rd being the first Sunday of Advent. So we change our paraments to blue, a color of hope. This year we begin reading our gospel lessons from the book of Mark. Advent is a time to prepare for the major holy season of Christmas, when God sent His own Son to bring us an up close and personal understanding of who God is. It is through Jesus that we see how His will is to play out in human life, and what that plan of salvation entails. As always we add the Advent wreath to our worship setting so we keep track of our progress toward Christmas; as we watch for the Messiah. It is during Advent that we begin to understand the real reason for the season which is coming.

The gospel readings during these weeks remind us that no one knows the day or hour of the coming of the Lord. John the Baptist came to announce his first coming so that the people would get prepared but even with that proclamation not everyone wanted to listen. In the return of the Messiah, the event will be an even greater surprise but we need not fear, for we have the means for being ready, if we remain alert. So our worship will focus on these things for the first three weeks in December.

The 4th Sunday of Advent is on the 24th. Our 9 AM service will be led by our youth as they help us consider the ***Sound of the Bells***. They will help us consider how the sound of various bells tells the story of God's glory and the humble arrival of the babe of Bethlehem. It is a story that bears repeating again and again. We will be anticipating that birth, as Mary did so many years ago.

At 7 PM on that day we will celebrate Christmas Eve with candlelight worship. We join together to hear that well-known story told by angels and shared by the shepherds. We will sing that especially loved carol of 'Silent Night' with our burning candles held high. Come and be with us.

On the 30th and the 31st we will complete our Christmas season as we recall Jesus' presentation at the temple and Simeon's faith.

November 5 ~ All Saints Sunday



With rejoicing and a celebratory march our CLAC students ushered in All Saints Sunday. Sticks clacking and everyone singing "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In", we got into an upbeat mood. Their T-shirts read "Love and Blessed" and we learned the truth that our Lord does indeed love us so much that he names us 'saints' as we clothe ourselves with Christ. Then we are blessed by God's attendant honor which is lavished upon His children.

This service gave time for remembering those individuals who were taken from us this past year and in years past. We give thanks that while they were with us the Light of Christ shined in them so we could see the way we need to walk. Our cross became filled with candles burning.



Learn with Us

Children Learning At Calvary

There will not be CLAC on December 27th.
Classes resume on January 3rd.



Sunday Zoom Bible Study

December 3 & 17 ~~~~~ 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Contact the office for the link and study materials

December 3rd Session (Dec. 10) 2nd Sunday of Advent

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Focus: Wait with Patience

“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.” 2 Peter 3:8

What do you think one day with the Lord would be like?

What is God waiting for you to do?

(Dec. 17) 3rd Sunday of Advent

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Focus: Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

How do you define God's will?

How might the second coming of Christ be a joyful event?

Men's Bible Discussion

The men meet at 1:00 PM on Mondays. New participants are welcome.

Women's Bible Study

The women will meet Monday December 18th at 1:00 p.m. and use the Women of the ELCA's *Gather* magazine.

December 17th Session

(Dec. 24) 4th Sunday of Advent

Romans 16:25-27

Focus: To God be the Glory Forever!

“Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages. . .”

Romans 16: 25

What words of praise summarize God's actions through Jesus Christ?

How is God to be glorified?

(Dec. 31) 1st Sunday of Christmas

Galatians 4:4-7

Focus: Adopted as God's Own Children

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son ... so that we might receive adoption as children.” Galatians 4:4-5

Why is it so difficult to accept the free and unmerited love and grace of God?

What does it mean to know that you are a child of God?

Lifelong Faith Formation

Study the Bible. Explore church traditions. Talk about contemporary issues and so much more. Lifelong Faith Formation has become one way for the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to be church together. Join the conversation and enjoy the fellowship through courses offered each fall and winter.

Held online via Zoom, with occasional in-person options, classes are FREE but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials.

Contact Deacon Lori Ward if you have any questions or to sign-up for announcements when new class schedules open for registration.
(615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org



From the Church Office

**Office Is Closed
December 25th and January 1st**

Offering Envelope Boxes and Numbers

The boxes of offering envelopes will be ready to be picked up by December 17. For those who do not want a box, you have an Offering Number. Your Offering Number is assigned which keeps track of your giving so you have the information available for taxes and personal goal setting. Those with new Numbers, you can pick up reminder cards on December 17th too.

Please!

DO NOT use the boxes and new numbers until
2024 begins. Doing so may result in your offering
being credited to someone else.
(That is very stressful for Laurie!)

Year End Offerings Deadline

Any offerings you want on your 2023 Year End Statement needs to be in by January 5, 2024.

Changes in Addresses

Betty Oldenburg
Country Terrace
8730 Packing Plant Rd Room 6
Minocqua WI 54548

Vern Schroeder
Rennes
1970 Navajo St Room 100
Rhinelander, WI 54501

New Council Member



Mary Leppi and her husband Art have been Calvary members since 1970. They live in Minocqua. Their son, Bryan, lives in Berlin Germany. Mary and Art currently serve as counters.



Order Christmas Poinsettias Now!

JJ's Acres gives churches a 15% discount on poinsettias. There is an order sheet on the kiosk. If you will not be coming to church, call the office to order. The deadline for ordering is December 4th. Make checks payable to Calvary WELCA.

4.5" Poinsettia \$5.74

Color Choices: Red White
Pink Burgundy

6" Single Poinsettia \$15.78

Color Choices: Red White Pink
Burgundy Jingle Bell

7" Double Poinsettia \$25.50

Color Choices: Red White Pink
Burgundy Jingle Bell

There is a limited supply of the Jingle Bell color.
Have a 2nd Color Choice just in case

Calvary Women of the ELCA



Everybody Likes To Eat

Thanks to everyone who helped provide a hearty November 5th evening meal of Sausage Rice Casserole, Green Salad and Apple Cake for

Frederick Place residents:

Ingredients - Mary Anderson, Pastor Max, Kathy Hoffman, Nancy Heykes, Barb Thompson;
Apple Cakes: Susie Breiten;

Cooking and Delivering -Nancy Heykes

Calvary WELCA has decided to continue organizing this bi-monthly Calvary ministry in 2024. Watch for our January opportunity.



Need Gifts?

**Don't Forget the Equal Exchange
Coffee & Chocolate and
the Kraft Kiosk/Shelf!**

To Seek and Serve This Community and Beyond by Showing and Sharing Jesus



Lutheran World Relief Kit of the Month: Fabric Kit:

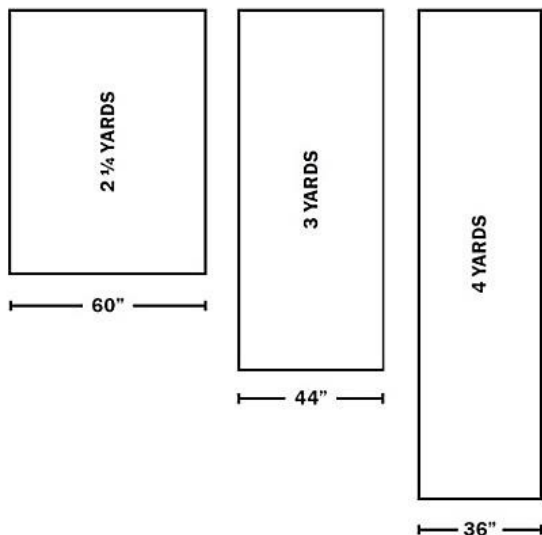
Sewing is a valuable skill that can help men and women earn reliable income. Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits provide fabric and thread for vocational training programs teaching sewing and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. LWR Fabric Kits are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency.

**** TWO** spools of neutral-colored, general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

**** TWO** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits of 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the sizes below:

- 2¼ yards of 60" wide fabric
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

You do not need to donate an entire kit and the 2 pieces of fabric do not need to match nor be the same size.



Food for Kidz



We packed just shy of our goal, with 244,000 + oatmeal packages created. These and the Rice & Bean meals were delivered to our local pantries and to backpack programs in our multi-county area. We give thanks for the hundreds of workers and the many supporters, who sponsored tables, gave personal donations, provided cookies, and worked so hard.

GARDEN NEWS A Note of Thanks

Dear Gardeners,

Each Tuesday we'd await the delivery of your wonderful green and veggies. It was a joy to be able to tell our guests that the produce "came today" from a local garden. Many happy families came our way. So, I am sending those smiles onto you and all the gardeners! You make a difference.

Thank you, thank you,
Pam Thul-Immler
Produce Lady at the Lakeland Pantry

To Seek and Serve This Community and Beyond by Showing and Sharing Jesus

November 10, 2023 - Caritas Annual Donation Plea

2023 has been a record-breaking year so far. The Caritas mission began in 2013; we have never experienced this level of need.

Housing and Homelessness continue to be the top issue for our clients. Caritas has done what we can, paying late rent to avoid evictions and homelessness, paying campground fees, and providing short-term hotel stays when possible. We have spent \$48,522 (Jan-Sept) on housing and emergency stays for the homeless. Many people are forced to live in campgrounds, their vehicles or in situations that are unhealthy, unsavory, or even dangerous. Now that campgrounds are closed the only option is to live in a vehicle or out in the elements.

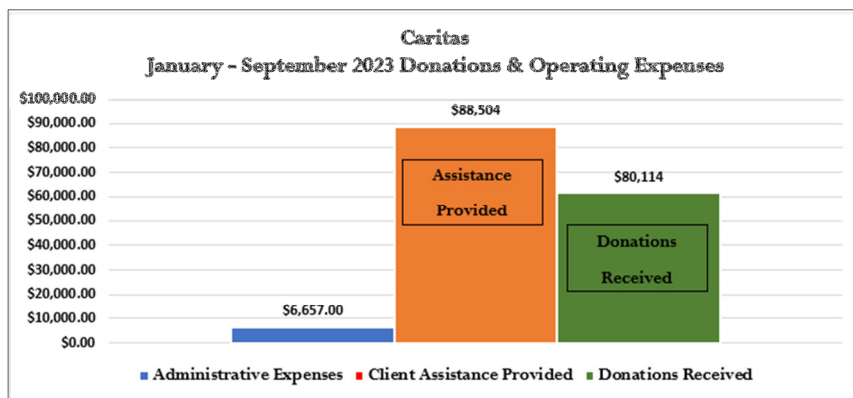
Assistance with energy needs (gas, electric, propane) is another way we've been able to help. Our volunteers have become extremely proficient at advocating for clients with energy companies to avoid shutoffs, forgive late fees and to negotiate reasonable payment plans.

with other organizations. We are ALWAYS looking to welcome new volunteers and we promise it will be a challenging but a "oh so rewarding" experience! Interested? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact: Stephanie Rajnicek, Caritas Administrator at office@stmatthiasminocqua.com or (715) 358-0355.

Blessings,

Stephanie Rajnicek
Caritas Administrator
office@stmatthiasminocqua.com
715-358-0355

Donations can be mailed to
Caritas
PO Box 936
Minocqua, WI 54548.



Caritas continues to provide help to clients with transportation issues, energy bills, the need for food, personal products, clothing, household items and furniture. We have helped with dentals bills, prescription drugs, phone cards, and much more.

Due to this challenging year, Caritas will not have sufficient funds to open at full capacity for clients going forward. We urgently need donations to continue our work in helping our community members that are desperate for help.

Dedicated volunteers do their best to make every dollar count, asking clients to pay what they can and often sharing expenses, and working closely



FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP PASTOR JIM DUEHRING

“Got Hope?”

Several years ago, a very wise and competent person said to me, “Hope is not a strategy.”

The context was not about church matters, but about a significant project involving lots of money and many, many action steps. Barriers to the goal were multitude, yet the vision of the project remained. The key people on the project were not wanting or willing to give up.

I think really what he meant to say was that “wishful thinking” or “magical thinking” is not a strategy to help us move forward to achieve the outcome we want.

The Bible says a lot about HOPE.

Probably the most famous passage about HOPE is from Jeremiah 29:11:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (NRSV)

Romans 8:25 is helpful:

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” (NRSV)

Pastor Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message* version of the Bible, wrote the following in his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*:

Hope defined Hoping does not mean doing nothing.... It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it.

I really like what Peterson says about hope. There’s a lot of solid wisdom and perspective contained in those words above.

I’m glad we have many churches with HOPE in their name. Here in Marquette, we have Marquette Hope—a shared ministry of four Methodist ministries. I’ve never run across a church named, “No Hope Here”.

There are a lot of things and institutions that we have lost hope in. Most people have no hope that Congress can run efficiently. I still don’t want to give up hope in that matter because we need good leadership and decision making in Congress. I will try to stay informed. I will vote. Most importantly, I will pray for our nation’s leaders no matter my personal feelings about them.

I don’t have hope that I will get back to my weight at age 17. But, I’m still trying to lose some weight and exercise.

I don’t have hope that I will become an astronaut. That was my dream as a young boy, but I will keep looking up at the stars and stand in amazement of it all.

I don’t have hope that all our churches will see a grand influx of youth coming back to our churches, or all our adults engaging in bible study, or all our budget projections being perfectly met, or all of our pastors/LLMs and council leaders always agreeing with each other and never experiencing challenges and conflicts. But I have hope in the power of God to look at the “Dry Bones” of our lives and church institutions and declare to us, “You are my Beloved. I can still breathe my Spirit in you. I’m not going to abandon you even though you may have abandoned me.”

I have hope not because I have a crystal ball for the future, but because I have seen and felt God and God’s people come through many a storm in the past. I also read throughout the scriptures that God is a God of HOPE.

Without a sense of HOPE, we can lapse into nihilistic, chaotic, self-fulfilling doom and gloom. I don’t want to live like that. I don’t want to see the people and the world around me like that.

I will continue to cling to HOPE, not as a magical dream, but as my faith in a God who loves this world. And I sure HOPE that God will help me and you live out the vision of God’s loving and just purposes for all. God give us HOPE!!

Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Pray with Us

If you know someone in need of prayers, call Zelda Ahlborn (715-356-6125) to start the Prayer Chain.

COMPASSIONATE CONCERN

Zelda Ahlborn
Mary Anderson
Bev Bauman
Art Bawden
Nancy Behn
Eva Marie Bybee
Deb Combs
Milton Daeffler (uncle, Linda Dube)
John Dwyer
Jane Grundy
Carol Gukich
Arleen Handrich
Roy Hannon (son-in-law, Arleen Handrich)
John Heinrich (brother, Jeanne Korry)
Carrie Imlah
Dave Imlah, Jr.
Ray Korry
Ragnar Kuehl
Melanie (cousin, Barbi Carlson)
Betty Oldenburg
Angel Olivera
Chuck Peglow
Scott Peterson
Lee Samuelson
Dave Schlichting
Jeff Schmidt
Joy Sorenson (sister, Penny Ravey)
Karen Springer (wife, Jim)
Rick Syré
Helen Thom

TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/RECOVERY

George Anderson
Ben Caldwell (Friend, Jason Kranz)
Bob Mahoney (cousin, Vicky Stephens)
Arden Mikich
John Obermann
Vern Schroeder
Jim Springer

CARE FACILITY

Bev Bauman (LakeShore Living, Lake Tomahawk)
Lois Conant (Hearten House II, LaCrosse)
Margie Lippke (Riverview Terrace, Wausau)
Laverne Mattick (Manor Grove, Kirkwood, MO)
Betty Oldenburg (Country Terrace, Minocqua)
Diane Olson (Milestone, Woodruff)
Scott Peterson (LakeShore Living, LdF)
Jan Schroeder (Milestone, Woodruff)
Vern Schroeder (Rennes, Rhinelander)
Donna Stephan (Matthews of Neenah)
Mary Weinkauff (Bell Tower, Merrill)
Ray & Faith Wilde (Bethany Home, Waupaca)



Praying is not only a meaningful addition to your Christmas dinner, but also calls guests in towards reflecting on their relationship with God.

Women's Day December 2022

Note: Feel free to give us names for the Prayer Corner. Remember to tell us when they have improved.

We Remember . . .



Women of the ELCA 



Catherine "Kate" M. Stulken
May 8, 1919 — July 7, 2023

Remarkable is an overused word, but it absolutely describes the life of Catherine Stulken. She was born in the town of Fort Dauphin, Madagascar. Her parents, the Rev. David Lovaas and Emma (Hogie) Lovaas were Lutheran missionaries there until 1931, visiting the U.S. only briefly during those years. They travelled home on a steamship through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, then across the Atlantic Ocean. Her father was called to two small congregations in Wisconsin, and Catherine grew up in Prairie Farm. She attended 4 different high schools, graduating from Minnehaha Academy. She went on to Augsburg College and graduated with a degree as an English teacher. Later she earned her Master's Degree in literature from UW LaCrosse.

She married Donald Stulken, a fellow teacher, in 1942. They moved to Chicago so he could attend Optometric School, then opened a practice in Viroqua, Wisconsin. They moved to LaCrosse for several years, then back to live in Viroqua, while she taught English at Westby Junior High and High School. In between the teaching, professional organizations, volunteer work and further schooling she raised three children. They continued to travel widely around the US, visiting all four national borders.

She and her husband had been members of Calvary when they retired and moved to Woodruff in 1980. Kate became president of Calvary's American Lutheran Church Women group when Helen Scoval resigned in May 1982. Kate served through 1983 and 1984. She was an official delegate to the Constituting Convention of ELCA June 11-14, 1987. Kate served again after the merger as the first president of Calvary Women of the ELCA from 1988 to 1992.

After Donald's death in 1985 she moved to Waunakee, Wisconsin, to be near children and grandchildren in Madison. She continued to travel, visiting several areas of Canada, the United Kingdom, Norway, and The Netherlands. She was always interested in seeing new places and meeting people from different cultures. Late in life she made a visit back to Madagascar, to see the places where she spent her childhood.

Catherine was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and youngest son Randall (Lana). She is survived by her son Donald G. (Sally), daughter Kristi (Roch) Gersbach, and granddaughters Mariah Stulken (Reed Molls) and Larissa Stulken (special friend Skylar McLeod.) She will be missed by nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Catherine was an avid reader and lover of books and words. She was also a prolific knitter whose children and grandchildren still have many of the hats, mittens, scarves and sweaters she knit over the years. She was awarded the President's 4000 Hours award for the charity knitting she did through RSVP. She was a member of the Lutheran Church, which has become the ELCA. She was a lifelong learner who was always interested in new things. And until the last few months of her life she could beat nearly everyone at Scrabble. She ended her longest journey on Friday, July 7th. A Celebration of Life was held in Waunakee on July 19th.

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹	² 5 pm: WORSHIP
³ 1st Sunday of Advent 9 am: WORSHIP 6 pm: Al-Anon 7 pm: Zoom Bible Study	⁴ 3 pm: Council 1 pm: Men's Bible Discussion 1:15 pm: WINGS Cook	⁵ 9 am: LWR Workshop 6:30 pm: Brass Rehearse	⁶ 9:30 am: WELCA Noon: AA Meets 3:45 pm: CLAC	⁷ Noon: Rotary	⁸	⁹ 5 pm: WORSHIP
¹⁰ 2nd Sunday of Advent 9 am: WORSHIP 6 pm: Al-Anon	¹¹ HOPE in a Backpack Packing 10:30 am: Clergy Text Study 1 pm: Men's Bible Discussion 1:15 pm: WINGS Cook	¹² 9 am: LWR Workshop 5 pm: Community Table at St Matthias	¹³ Noon: AA 3:45 pm: CLAC	¹⁴	¹⁵	¹⁶ 5 pm: WORSHIP
¹⁷ 3rd Sunday of Advent 9 am: WORSHIP 6 pm: Al-Anon 7 pm: Zoom Bible Study	¹⁸ Newsletter Articles Due 1 pm: Women's Bible Study 1 pm: Men's Bible Discussion 1:15 pm: WINGS Cook	¹⁹ 9 am: LWR Workshop	²⁰ Noon: AA 3:45 pm: CLAC	²¹	²²	²³
²⁴ 4th Sunday of Advent 9 am: WORSHIP Children-Led Christmas Eve 7:00 pm: Candlelight Service	²⁵ Christmas Day Office is closed	²⁶	²⁷ Noon: AA	²⁸ Noon: Rotary	²⁹	³⁰ 5:00 pm: WORSHIP
³¹ 1st Sunday of Christmas 9 am: WORSHIP World Hunger Sunday 6 pm: Al-Anon						

The Chimes
Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church
PO Box 63
Minocqua WI 54548

The Chimes
Volume 52, Issue 12
December 2023

Worship Times

December 2 - 17:
Saturdays 5:00 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
December 24th, 9 a.m. ~ 4th Sun. of Advent
Children-led Service
December 24th, 7 p.m. ~ Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 30th (5 p.m.) & 31st (9 a.m.)
1st Sunday of Christmas



Alert us to new addresses, e-mail & phone numbers!
Want to correspond with us?
PO Box 63, Minocqua WI 54548
715-358-0067
celc2@calvaryelc.org
Visit our website: www.calvarylakeland.org