



## WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Starting Wednesday, January 3rd we will again use *The Wired Word* curriculum for Bible study. Their tag line is, “apply the Bible to stories ripped from the headlines”. Each week will focus on a story from the news, look at Biblical passages that provide relevant principles, and use discussion questions to explore the topic.

If you would like to participate in the study, you are welcome to come to the Wednesday groups that meet at Calvary at either 2 PM or 7 PM. If you are part of another small group study and would like to use this curriculum in your group, please talk to Pastor Jim. Study guides with the news article, Bible passages, and discussion questions will be available at the Welcome Center or can be sent to you by email or put in your Calvary mailbox.

## LIFE SUNDAY & HEALTH RESOURCES CENTER

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 21. This past year has marked the biggest change ever in the abortion climate in our country. After *Roe v. Wade* was overturned more than a year ago, many states have passed new laws restricting abortion, but many more have passed laws that make it easier than ever to get an abortion. Our country is even more divided than ever on this (and many other) topics. Here in Minnesota, we have seen funding cuts to programs that provide alternatives to abortion and increased funds for abortion causes.

There are many ways that you can make a difference as we stand with God and the Scriptures on this issue of life. You can join with any number of national and state organizations that do great work for this cause. We would ask also that you would consider praying for and donating to Health Resources here in Fergus Falls this month as we celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Day. Praise the Lord for the impact HRC has on parents and children in our community!

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Calvary Annual Meeting is Sunday, January, 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:45 PM. We will gather after the morning worship service for a Fellowship Meal at 11:45 AM before the meeting. Last names beginning with A through H, please bring a casserole or main dish to share, J-N a salad, and O-Z a dessert.

Please have all Annual Reports in to the office by Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a list on the bulletin board of all reports that are due, and responsible parties have been sent an email from the church office.

## CALVARY MISSION TRIPS 2024

**Brazil:** June 13-July 2, 2024.

**Alaska:** June 21-July 8, 2024. We anticipate two groups going up for about 10 days at a time, mainly to serve at the NET, the free coffeehouse serving the fishermen and cannery workers.

Please pray about these opportunities and talk to one of the members of the mission committee or Pastor Jim for more information.

We’d like to hear about your interest by January 15th so we can secure these weeks in Alaska.

## COUNCIL MINUTES

December 13, 2023, at 8:15 pm

**Reviewed the Deacon Report**

**Reviewed Pastor Jim’s Report**

**Reviewed Pastor Eric’s Report**

**Trustee’s Report**

*Operations & Routine Maintenance*

- Chimneys were caulked to prevent water ingress – Thank you Joel Kleinschmidt! (Long term solution needs to have chimney boots replaced)
- Front entry fan has been lubricated to eliminate noisy operation (May need replacement in time)
- Heat tape has been installed on roof valleys which have had ice build-up creating leakage from icing. (Long term solution is to add additional insulation to prevent heat rising into attic)
- Hydraulic door retractor for front entry on order. (Not in stock so will take some time)

### *Projects*

- Off balance sheet church related activities audit in process

### *Organization*

- Pastor reviews [have been completed].
- Morgan’s 90-day review with wage adjustment scheduled for January.
- Signature cards are completed at bank to remove Kaitlin and add Morgan.

### *Audio-Visual*

- Mounts installed for remote cameras; other mounts and connectivity items in transit; working on methods to remote start cameras.
- Congregational sound pickup will be added to a remote mounted camera for testing.

### **Financial Report**

General Fund Ending Balance  
-\$1,265.13 (negative balance)

### *Additional Financial Items*

- The church council approved investments of \$20,000 in a 7-month CD and \$25,000 in an 11-month CD. Interest earned will be placed in the general fund. [The funds for these investments come from funds other than the General Fund including OMA, Youth, and Facility Improvement Fund.]
- ESST (Earned sick and safe time) law for Minnesota will be implemented January 1, 2024. Calvary will make minor changes to comply with the new law.
- Review of 2024 Budget and amount of increase needed was discussed by Church Council. The council and treasurer will have the new budget ready for the annual meeting in January.
- Our two Pastor’s wage increase was agreed on. The total increase of the 2024 Budget will be 4.12%. A motion was made by Wayne Swenson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wally Stommes to approve the increases. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2024 at 8:15 PM

*These minutes have been condensed and edited to fit this format. A full version is available in the office.*

For more information on any of these items or to contact the church office, please email or call: 218-736-4282  
calvaryfreelc@gmail.com