

PROJECT VISION

“To build a spiritual home that is completely accessible and welcoming to all Lake area residents.”

“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

— John 13:34

CHURCH MISSION

Sharing God's Love with All



BUILDER'S CALL PURPOSE

United Methodist Builders have been an important part of developing churches all across the Iowa Annual Conference. They have helped new congregations buy land or build their first church facility. United Methodist Builders have provided funds to help established congregations update their facilities or build new additions.

The Spring and Fall Builder's Calls are made for specific churches which are either building new facilities or making major renovations. Recipient churches make application through their district office. Applicants are prayerfully reviewed by the District Parish Development Committee (Chair), the District Committee on Church Building and Location, the District Superintendent, by the Annual Conference Parish Development Committee, the Conference Board of Global Ministries and finally approved by the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet. Where possible, one call each year is made on behalf of a recent new church start, and one for an established church building project with special consideration given to emergency situations. We are grateful for your continued support of the Builder's Call.

Send your tax deductible checks to: United Methodist Builder's, 2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321 OR you may give through your local church offering, specifying Fall or Spring "Builder's Call".

For more information, go to www.iaumc.org/builderscall.

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BUILDER'S CALL

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Okoboji, Iowa, a town in northwest Iowa near the Minnesota border is home to The Calvary United Methodist Church. In this area in Iowa, there are three large natural glacial lakes; Spirit Lake, West Okoboji Lake, and East Okoboji Lake.

In 1875 during a harsh winter, a band of the Sioux Indians attacked Okoboji area frontier settlements. During the Spirit Lake Massacre, more than thirty-five settlers were killed and four young women were taken captive. The youngest, Abbie Gardner, was held for months before being ransomed later that summer.

Following the devastating massacre, a Methodist preacher led a funeral service for the survivors. For decades after, Methodist preachers lived and held worship services in the Abbie Gardner Cabin home site.



During the 1920's there was a movement to found a new church and ecumenical ministry in Okoboji. The newly planted Lake Okoboji Community Church was formed, met in a tent and flourished with the new planter pastor.

After the first pastor had moved on, it struggled to find a replacement. Then in 1927, the Community Church was closed and reformed as the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. They soon began construction on a permanent home.



Since then, Calvary United Methodist Church has held a unique place in the Okoboji Lakes community—developing innovative ministries and outreaches that include ministries for young families and children, a coffee house ministry, and a lakeside worship.

The Calvary UMC's old building became inaccessible to many which hindered the mission of the church—sharing God's love with **all**.



The new Calvary UMC is a 10,000 sq. ft. building on five acres on the southern edge of Arnolds Park on Highway 71. This new property is five times and the building three times larger than the previous space. The new facility is all one level with complete accessibility and designed for future growth.

Calvary has outgrown the old church which had only one room for children's Sunday School, so groups met in the corners of the Fellowship Hall. The new building has room for children, youth and elder programming. It has four separate children's spaces designed just for them and there are plans for a future family life center addition.

Appropriate outdoor space and entrances to the building and the property increase safety. Calvary will be a friendly place for every step of life from baptism to weddings and funerals.

The new building has separate offices and a conference room to support the staff whereas the old building had one 100 square foot office that secretary and pastor shared creating privacy issues. The new property has a large amount of green space available for outdoor weddings/funerals and fun events. The old church had no narthex, just a small entryway, and coatroom. During funerals, caskets were placed under the coat rack for viewings. The new building has a large open floor plan with a beautiful area for welcoming and receiving during weddings and funerals. There are spaces for families preparing for these events that provide dignity and privacy.

Calvary UMC doubles in size each summer reaching 250+ persons every Sunday in innovative lakeside worship (boat-in, bike-in, drive-in to worship!) on beautiful Lake Okoboji. The congregation has long had a deep heart for mission and service and participates in 15 different mission projects each year.

The old building held back the congregation from being able to truly welcome all people. With the new building, Calvary is partnering with Respite Angels (a local non-profit) to provide group respite care for adults who need constant companionship so that their caregivers can have time for themselves. Through campership gifts, Calvary can send 15-20 kids each summer to our Lake Okoboji UMC Camp for free!

