



# CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

April 2024



Several of the photos above are from Palm Sunday. Calvary celebrated the entry into Holy Week with great fanfare and excitement. The Children sang their song and we waved our palms as we gave witness to the words of the crowd, as though we were there, "Hosanna in the Highest!" Holy Week carries our expectant hopes through the denial, betrayal, mock trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus. Holy Week holds our questions, our doubts. It brings us to the promise and hope of the resurrection, Easter! When some Pharisees try to silence the people on that first Palm Sunday, Jesus is quoted as saying, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." (Luke 19:40 NRSV). In this passage, Jesus seems to be saying that even part of creation will bear witness to the messiah - including the stones. Stones are enduring markers. Think the archeological sites in the Holy Land, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, or other lasting stone structures. Yet, it is not only monumental stonework that shout out. Indeed the change of the season, Spring, also proclaims resurrection after cold dark winter. The word Easter comes from Proto-Germanic word, Austron, which means "to shine". Not only is creation returning and the days are getting longer. The whole creation is shouting out and proclaiming the resurrection of the Light of Christ. We hear with renewed emphasis the prophet Isaiah, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. (Isaiah 9:2-3 NRSV) This passage is often heard at Christmas, yet it provides a connection between Christmas and Easter so clearly. Therefore beloved of God at Calvary, don't let anyone or anything silence you witness to the resurrection work of God in Christ. Yet, even if we are silent, the stone and all creation will continue to shout out! The light has shined on us, let us Rejoice! Blessed Easter!

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JARED



Paul wrote or dictated the earliest surviving Christian manuscripts. Early Christians thought so highly of Paul's writings that they saved them and distributed them to other Christian communities. The epistle of Philippians, as we have it, was likely at least two separate letters from Paul (3:2-4:9 [4:10-19] and 1:1-3:1), which were saved together as one document and not in chronological order. In the letter to the Philippians as it has been handed on to us, we hear Paul emphasize "joy" or "rejoice" fourteen times, the most notable occurrence is in verse 4:4. This exhortation to joy and rejoicing comes in the face of Paul's own imprisonment and reports Paul has received about divisions in the Philippian community. Paul encourages these in the midst of conflict to seek peace and unity "in Christ." This unity looks like having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus (see the "Christ hymn" of Philippians 2:1-11), a sacrificial self-giving.



Paul's words of exhortation and encouragement remain relevant for the community of faith today. The conflicts or brokenness that we experience might be different from the first century community in Philippi, but the joy of the gospel still brings unity and invites us to think beyond our own needs to have the same mind of Christ. This Christ-mindedness is what Paul gives thanks for in verse 4:10-19. The Philippians sent a messenger, Epaphroditus, to Paul with a letter and a financial gift to help Paul continue the work of proclaiming the gospel. (Note: some biblical scholars see these verses as being a fragment of a distinct third letter.) For Paul, the partnership in the gospel, the bonds of peace and unity in Christ, and the sharing of financial gifts are all related. Conforming our minds to that of Christ Jesus is what allows us to endure shame, suffering, and even death - death on a cross. And so, God exalted (raised) Jesus. Together, we are encouraged to see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us. Walking the path of Lent allows us to see that while the road is marked with pain, grief, or uncertainty as we move towards the cross of Good Friday, we know that the cross isn't the end of the story. For now we sit in the ashes of our broken hearts, but do so knowing that God sits here with us and that Easter is coming.

On Sunday, March 31, we celebrated with joy the Resurrection of our Lord, Easter! The resurrection occupies center space in the life of Christian communities and emphasizes the joy of Christ's resurrection and victory over death and by faith, we trust that we are "in Christ," being raised. Easter is a season, not just a day. It is a "week of weeks" (7 weeks of 7 days) in which we hear the stories of resurrection and celebrate Christ's victory.

This Easter season, I invite people to make one or more 15-30 second cell phone video clips responding to these prompts:

- Why do you REJOICE in the knowledge of resurrection?
- When have you been able to REJOICE in the midst of struggles?
- How have you seen the people of Calvary Lutheran Church REJOICE?
- What things are happening at Calvary Lutheran Church that cause you to REJOICE?
- I REJOICE in what God is doing at Calvary Lutheran through my financial gifts because...
- 



Email Pr. Jared ([Jared@calvarygf.org](mailto:Jared@calvarygf.org)) and he can give you instructions on how to share your video, so that it can be used on social media, website, or in other video projects. In Resurrection Joy,

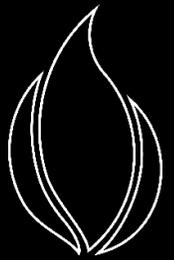
Pr. Jared Carson



**GET INVOLVED**  
Connect with People at Church



# Calvary CONNECTS



## ALL AGES BOOK CLUB

**April 21 @ 3:00 pm | Fellowship Hall**

We come together to discuss one book per month in Holy Grounds. The book that we are reading, *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj, is located in the office. \$10 per book.

## UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CONCERT

Save the date - Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Lunch will be served following the concert for a freewill donation for the choir. All are welcome!

## CONCORDIA CONCERT HANDBELLS

**April 13 @ 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

Save the date! Concordia Concert Handbells is back on the road for the first time since COVID. This year's performance will feature many familiar dance tunes from a wide variety of genres as well as some original compositions for handbells and a fresh student composition!

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Join us April 4 for an evening of stories from our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and leaders within the Greater Grand Forks community! Enjoy refreshments and a time to connect at **6:30 pm**, followed by the panel beginning at 7:00 pm in the **Fellowship Hall of United**

## MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary from 1:00-3:30 pm. The Memory Cafe is a monthly educational event for those living with Alzheimer's or other type of dementia, family, caregivers, professionals and anyone who wants to learn. The program begins at 1:30 pm. Refreshments are served following the program. The event is free and all are welcome.

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association will be holding a support group for caregivers at Calvary following the Memory Cafe each month. The support group will meet in the coffeehouse from 3:30-4:30 pm the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is April 9, 2024. For more information contact Lori at [loriswinney@hotmail.com](mailto:loriswinney@hotmail.com)

## LAGRAVE

LaGrave on First is a housing building for the chronically homeless. Individuals and organizations in the community volunteer to serve the evening meal to the individuals who live there on weekend evenings. Calvary has committed to serve the 2nd Sunday of each month. Our next evening to cook and serve is **Sunday, April 14**. We arrive between 5:30 and 6 and start serving at 6 pm. Currently we are cooking a meal for around 35 people and need help for a main dish, a side, a fruit or vegetable, and a dessert. Would you be willing to help with this important ministry in our community? Volunteer to make a favorite family dish or contact Julie for ideas and/or recipes. If you love to cook but the cost of cooking for 35 is a barrier, contact Julie and we can help.

## QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK

**April 30 from 9:30 am-2:30 pm**

We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm to help assemble the quilts. We also have a potluck lunch at noon. You can come for an hour or two or the whole day, that is up to you. We hope you can join us.

## CALVARY CHURCH WOMEN

Calvary Lutheran Church Women meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:15 am in room 1. There is a pastor-led Bible study from the *Gather* magazine. We welcome new members to our Bible study groups. Contact the church office for further information.

## KNIT & CROCHET

**April 20 @ 10:00 am in the Library**

The knit and crochet group meets one Saturday morning per month to work on prayer shawls or their own projects, get patterns, ask questions or give ideas. Beginners welcome! Patient teacher and supplies available for knitting or crocheting. All are welcome.

## SEWING CLUB

**April 4 & 18 @ 1:30 pm**

Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Library. This is open to all women who want to bring their "handiwork" for an afternoon of fellowship and sewing.

## WIDOW-WIDOWERS SUPPORT GROUP

This group helps with grief and to help make changes and adjustments in people's lives. It's spiritually centered, interdenominational, led by clergy and lay leaders. It's open to anyone in the area, for any age, who has experienced the death of a spouse. There are six weeks' worth of sessions that started on March 25, 2024, and will meet in Room 5 and Holy Grounds from 7:00-9:00 pm.

## READING RELIGIOUSLY

**April 8 @ 6:00 pm | Blue Moose**

Everyone is welcome to join our group that meets monthly to read and discuss a contemporary book. This month we are reading *The Echo of Old Books* by Barbara Davis. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

# Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE - 2024 FINANCE REPORT**

February's income was considerably higher than the prior year and was a wonderful blessing. As in January, there were a few larger gifts, that timing wise, were given in a different month in 2023.

February's events calendar began with Calvary serving a meal at Christus Rex on UND's campus. Ash Wednesday began the Lenten season on February 14. In the past, Calvary's high school youth have served a meal each week in Lent. This year, the youth will serve two of the six meals, but four other groups have volunteered to provide a meal for our congregation on Wednesday evening. The willingness to say "yes" to serving once again shows how Calvary is embracing our congregationally owned ministry that we embody. Another example of how our congregation continues to show up joyfully is through our noisy offering. Noisy offering in February was collected for the Honduras mission in the amount of \$1,115.90.

Calvary's year-to-date income through February is more than 21% higher than our five-year average and our expenses were only slightly higher than the five-year average. We are so thankful how our members and friends continue to support and embrace all the ministries Calvary does within our walls as well as in our community and the world.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Visitation ministry progress. The first of a two-part visitation training has occurred led by Pastor Jared. Pastor Aaron, staff member, Mary Ann Devig, and seven congregation members are enrolled. A wide range of ages is represented with more members interested in a potential future class.

Employee Handbook update. Gina Sanders and Pastor Jared met last week to discuss updates. A revised handbook will be presented to the council at a future meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Change request in Pastor Jared's housing allocation.

A compensation package approved at the time of hire for Pastor Jared was reviewed concerning salary and housing allocation. An adjustment to decrease salary and increase housing allocation creates no change in expense to Calvary. A motion made to approve this housing allocation request was made by Heather Burchill and seconded by Alicia Houle. Motion passed.

Silent auction items for Totally Tables. Update from President Diane Stoley with invitation from Morgan asking council for items for the silent auction.

Remaining paternity leave. Pastor Aaron Bye made a request to the council for his remaining three weeks of paternity leave. (Splitting leave to best serve Calvary during Lent and Easter was approved before Pastor Aaron's leave.) Three weeks remain on Aaron's paternity leave. Colleen Carlson made a motion to accept Pastor Aaron's proposal as written. Alicia Houle seconded the motion; Gina Sanders called for a question. Pastor Jared Carson recommended continuing discussion during the Council huddle.

**Next Council Meeting: April 9 @ 7 pm**

 **MAIN OFFICE**  
1405 S. 9th St.  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
Mon - Thurs | 8:00am - 4:30pm

#701.772.4897  
place4u@calvarygf.org  
**CALVARYGF.ORG**

## 2024 BUDGET

<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>1,019,663.00</b>
Offering through 3/15/24	183,060.32
Expenses through 3/15/24	197,943.16

<b>Balance of Building Expansion Loan</b>	
as of 2/29/24	625,499.89

## Prayers & Sympathies

Everett Knudvig died 3-2-24.  
His wife is Karen Knudsvig.

Erin Navarro's grandmother, Connie Pithey, died 3-3-24.

Logan Kassa's mother, Andrea Jenson, died 3-10-24

Walt Swingen died 3-20-24.  
Dan Swingen is his son.

Dave Ebertowski's dad, David Ebertowski, died 3-21-24.

## DEADLINES

### FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

**May 8 @ 4:00 pm**

Calvary Lutheran Church's Foundation provides perpetual financial support to further Calvary's mission of serving and igniting people for Christ, both locally and worldwide. Application forms, information and tax information about giving to the Foundation can be found on Calvary's website ([www.calvarygf.org](http://www.calvarygf.org)). Foundation grant applications are being accepted through May 8 at 4:00 pm. Applications can be emailed to [heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org](mailto:heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org) or brought to the church office.

## FUND BALANCES

Youth	59,303.92
Honduras Mission	33,300.12
Foundation	752,416.16
Good Sam	2,403.79
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	2,939.82
Music	1,820.75
Library	1,546.02
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	714.09
Contemporary Worship	850.14
Education	733.39
Fine Arts	2,155.62
Missions	28,298.77
Quilting	2,655.28
Memory Café	14,269.80
Unforgettables Choir	12,941.74
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,162.44
Lewis & Clark Backpack	13,239.97
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,413.57
Coffee Shop	2,948.90
Columbarium	31,132.15
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	9,628.14
Organ/Piano	765.77
General Maintenance	10,224.72
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	183.41
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	23,960.64
Building Expansion	286,927.44
Seminary	1,103.95

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A panel to meet our LGBTQ+ neighbors

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH**

**6:30PM SOCIAL WITH REFRESHMENTS**

**7:00PM PANEL BEGINS**

 **UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Event hosted in collaboration with United, Calvary, and Sharon Lutheran Churches of Grand Forks, ND (ELCA)

## Identifying a Phishing/Scam Email

SUBJECT: RE: Are you on campus

Hi Jim,

What I need is Google Play Gift card of \$500 face value, I need 2 of this amounting to \$1000. I need you to get the physical card, then you scratch the back out and take a picture of them, attach the pictures showing the pin and email it to me here. How soon can you get this done?

Regards,

Susan

Sent from my iPhone

### **THE GIFTCARD EMAIL**

If you receive an email from anyone you don't know, or even from someone you do know, that asks you to get gift cards for them in a dollar amount, this is 100% a scam/phishing email.

First thing to do is to check the email address. If it looks weird, then it's not from the person they say they are. Next, report it as spam and delete it.

If you have replied to the email, don't worry, just report as spam and delete.

# MEMORIALS



## **BUILDING EXPANSION FUND**

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Don and Nancy Krogstad, Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

## **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FUND**

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Gary and Sherrie Sanders, Patrick and Kimberly Reardon, Karla Anderson, Robert and Nancy Zimney, Edith Anderson, Lee and June Murdock, Bryan and Glenna Fosse, William and Michele Trader, Joan Johnson

## **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of **Marilyn Skavlem** by Bruce and Mary Hanson

## **HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM**

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Sandra Hanson, Don and Melanie Craig, Bob and Sharon St. Germain, Elizabeth Staveteig, Alan and Nancy Klatt, William and Jo Ann Watson, Meridee Danks, Fred and Donna Remer, Kenneth and Colleen Carlson, Charles and Colleen Zick, Roberta Zick, David and Brenda Staveteig, Karmen and Lisa Johnson, Timothy and Kathryn Karl, Joan Camburn, Larry McLaren

## **ORGAN FUND**

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Joyce Kingsbury, Barry and Lisa Kingsbury, Diana Iverson, Richard and Sharon Jurgens, Rodney and Joyce Medalen

## **SENIOR CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Kathy McCue

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Einar and Elaine Einarson

## **UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND**

In memory of Terry McKenna by Mike and Rhonda-Lee Poellot, Nona Wennersten, Bob and Sharon St. Germain, Carol Fettig, Mary Ann Devig, Gordon Sather, Dennis and Maryian Kadlec, Chris Blackmore, Jim and Marge Woodrow

# Baptisms



**3-10-24** Holland Allexander Horgen  
Child of Emily & Caleb Horgen

**3-24-24** Tilde Jo Thorsen  
Child of Mara & Arthur Thorsen

**3-10-24** Jakoby Wallace Vinje  
Child of Ashley & Travis Vinje





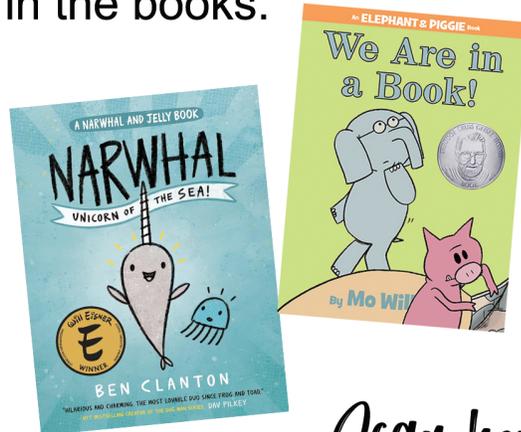
Calvary's It Takes A Village Ministry is helping Lewis & Clark Elementary students **FLOAT INTO SUMMER!**  
*Can you help?*

We are working to send students home with a few books each to help keep up the excitement of reading through the summer months. We are hoping you will help us fill the baskets of books that students will get to choose from in their last days of school.

Donate a book or two any time between now and May 5. Books must be new or like new, and appropriate for children ages 5-12. Please, no board books, books with sounds, or moving parts. We also ask that there are no marks or writing in the books.

## BOOK SERIES & IDEAS

- Pizza & Taco
- Elephant & Piggie
- Animal Rescue
- Narwahl & Jelly
- Pete the Cat
- Investigators
- Wings of Fire
- Amulet
- Dog Man
- Cat Kid
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- I Survived (Graphic Novels)



Scan here for



registry details



# It Takes a Village

God calls us to love one another and to be kind and compassionate as an expression of our faith and love. Our call to be kind and to help our neighbor is where the partnership with Lewis and Clark began. There is so much excitement and momentum to build on for our second year with our neighborhood school.

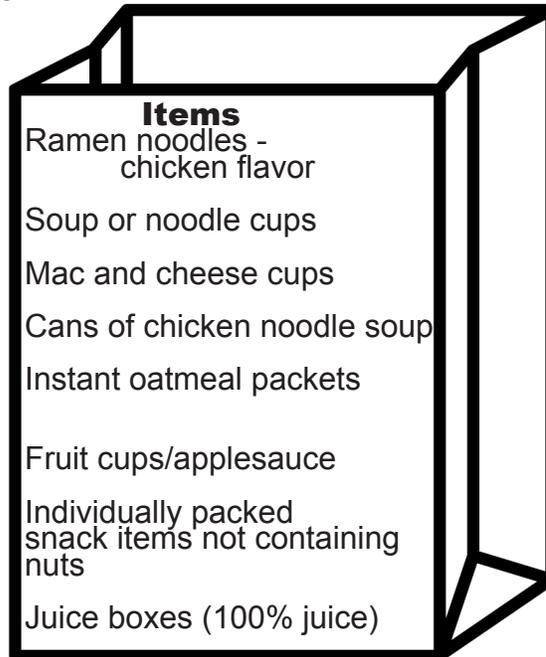
## Backpack Program:

Students identified as food insecure get assistance for lunch during the week but what happens to those same students over the weekend? For that we have the backpack program. We are filling backpacks for children identified as food insecure at Lewis and Clark.

In backpacks students will get:

- 2 breakfast & lunch items
- 2 fruit items
- 2 snack items
- 2 juice boxes

We need your help!  
Volunteers at Calvary pack the food items on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.



## Ways to get involved with this ministry:

**Pack backpacks** - on the **THIRD** Tuesday of each month, we gather in the Narthex and put together the weekend lunches.

**Food pickup:** We are so thankful for the support for the Lewis and Clark Backpack Program. Calvary is in need of individuals to pick up pre-ordered items at Sam's Club for the backpacks on a monthly basis.

If you would be interested, please contact Julie at 701-772-4897 or Julie.pedersen@calvarygf.org.

# 4 WAYS TO Give

## TEXT



TEXT ANY \$  
701-922-9020

## ONLINE



GIVE ONLINE AT  
[CALVARYGF.ORG](http://CALVARYGF.ORG)

## IN WORSHIP



DROP A GIFT IN  
THE OFFERING PLATE

## MAIL



MAIL A GIFT TO  
CALVARY



# Youth and CONFIRMATION

Join us for a night of food and fun as Calvary hosts "Totally Tables." It is a night of fun and fellowship as the youth work to fundraise to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

Elaborately decorated theme tables will fill the Fellowship Hall on April 5. Enjoy live music, served dinner, games, and a silent auction!



## Confirmation Offerings:

**Wednesday | April 3 | 7-8 pm**

### *Digitalizing Healthy Relationships*

Students and adults are invited to join us for an evening of presentations from the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC). Youth will meet in the Fellowship Hall and participate in a night of focusing on digital boundaries, social media health for friendships/relationships, and tips for online safety. Adults are invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation that focuses on how youth are using technology, the effects it has, as well as a deep dive into two popular applications: Snapchat and TikTok and how to be engaged as a parent.

## Confirmation Classes

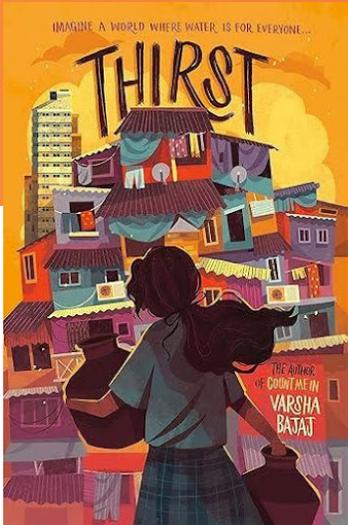
**Wednesday | April 10-24 from 7-8 pm**



## Confirmation Class

**Wednesday | May 1 from 7-8 pm**





### All Ages Book Club

Join us in Holy Grounds on Sunday, April 21, for our all ages Book Club. We will be having discussion and activities around the book, Thirst by Varsha Bajaj. Books available for purchase in the church office.

### Palm Sunday Kids' Choir

The kids of Calvary brought some joy and excitement to the worship services on Palm Sunday with their singing "Ride on Jesus Ride!" They enjoyed waving their palms and shouting "Hosanna!"



### Kindergarten Milestone Event

We met with the kindergarteners and their families to talk all about Holy Week. We read the story from our Spark Storybook Bibles and got to participate in a palm parade, foot washing, prayers for Good Friday and an Easter celebration!



### Upcoming Dates in April

- 3 - No Wed. School
- 24 - GIFT Worship
- 28 - GIFT Worship

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

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### CALVARY STAFF

Interim Pastor: Jared Carson  
Pastor: Aaron Bye  
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb  
Finance: Heather Vandervort  
Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Devig  
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt  
Education: Nichole Bye  
Youth: Morgan Olson  
Director of Faith In Action: Julie Pedersen  
Building & Grounds: Danny Navarro



Open 8:30 to 11:00 am

### HOLY GROUNDS IS LOOKING FOR HELP

Channel your inner barista and be a part of this hospitality ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church. Help provide a welcoming place for fellowship here at Calvary. Our espresso machine, lovingly named Franke, is very user-friendly and training is provided.

Two shifts are scheduled each Sunday for two people per shift. Families are also welcome to volunteer together.

Shifts run from 8:30 to 10:00 am and 10:00 to 11:30 am.



Scan the QR code to sign up!



Calvary Lutheran Church -  
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



@calvarygrandforks