



# CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

February 2024



The new year rang in and that did not slow anything down here at Calvary. We welcomed Interim Pastor Jared to help guide us through this time of hardship and to continue the ministry of being disciples of Jesus. Council members whose terms ended had their last meeting and continued to work on preparing for the annual meeting. We had to say goodbye to some loved ones and friends but also got to watch little ones get baptized. We had five families become new members. Book clubs were well attended as they discussed what they read. The Unforgettables began practice again, and they had some new singers as well. Calvary youth served a pancake breakfast during the annual meeting. New council members were recognized and voted in during the annual meeting.

What a time to be at Calvary. What's next? We ask ourselves how we are altered by the spirit. Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. Congregations gather to sing the minor harmonies of the way of Jesus on the road toward the cross. This Lent we are going to look at a kaleidoscope of stories from the book of Acts, with Revised Common Lectionary suggestions that pair directly with the theme *Altered by the Spirit*. We'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our community, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JARED: “LOVE, LOVE, LOVE”



I have officiated and solemnized enough marriages to know that there are good readings in the Bible about love. And at those blissful moments of marriage, the feeling of love can be so palpable for the happy couple, their families, friends, and all others who are invited to celebrate with them. In the

Love  
Love  
Love

month of February, when many people will have their mind fixated on the love between two people, I want to draw your attention to the love of God for us and through us to the world. It is this love from God that we strive to communicate and articulate in the community of faith through the proclamation of the Gospel. The love of the Gospel we proclaim is demonstrated throughout scripture, and most assuredly in the witness to the life of Jesus.

In a reflection on first century life, the apostle Paul in the letter to the Colossians, warns the community of faith against following human-made regulations, which merely have the appearance of wisdom (2:6-23) and at the same time urges them not to conform to the culture, but to be utterly distinct from the world around them (3:1-10). Paul urges them, and by extension us, to put aside or rid ourselves of old patterns of living. Embrace a new alternative way of living that is for all people, “Greeks or Jews, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”(3:11) And Paul describes this alternative way of living in the world as an action of “clothing” those who are “holy and dearly loved” with virtues. For Paul, God clothes the people with virtues of “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,” bearing with one another and forgiving whatever grievances are held against others (3:12-13). And the virtue supreme, for the people of God to “put on” above all other virtues, is love. For it is love that “binds all of them together in perfect unity” (3:14).

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus is reported saying, “As the Father, has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love” (15:9). Jesus goes on to talk about obedience to his commands as the demonstration that his disciples are remaining in his love. Living obediently to Christ’s commands might even be described as an alternate way of living, that might reflect the virtues that Paul outlined in his letter. For Jesus, “Greater love has no one than this, that [they] lay down [their] life for [their] friends” (15:13). For your consideration, I suggest that Jesus binds a virtue of self-giving to the virtue of love, through his ministry, suffering, passion, death, and resurrection.

While the Beatles were not specifically writing for a Christian audience with their song, “All You Need Is Love”, the sentiment rings true. For a Christian community, it is the conviction that God is the source of love that enlivens and animates our lives. We are freed in Christ to love God, to love ourselves, and love others. This message about love and its source might resonate with people who have stayed away from church, as we practice the virtue of self-giving love which binds all other virtues together. Love, Love, Love...Love is all we need. The love of God is all we need.

Faithfully yours,

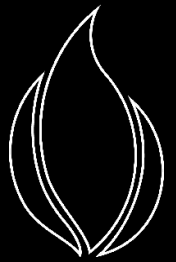
Pr. Jared Carson



**GET INVOLVED**  
Connect with People at Church



# Calvary CONNECTS



## ALL AGES BOOK CLUB

**February 18 @ 3:00 pm | Fellowship Hall**

We come together to discuss one book per month in the Fellowship Hall. The book that we are reading, *Invisible* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez & Gabriella Epstein, is located in the office. \$10 per book.

## READING RELIGIOUSLY

**February 12 @ 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 Fury* by Alex Michaelides. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

## MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will meet on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 1:00-3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program will begin at 1:30 pm with Arlene Correia, talking about *Positive Approach to Care*. The Memory Cafe is an educational event held the second Tuesday of each month for caregivers of and people living with Alzheimer's or any other type of dementia. The event is free and has many resources available. All are welcome.

## UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CONCERT

The Unforgettables Choir began their Winter/Spring Semester on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. Each Wednesday morning begins at 9:30 am with time for coffee and conversation followed by singing from 10:15-11:30 am. The cost is \$25 per person for a semester. The semester will conclude on May 8, 2024 with a concert and lunch for the community. The Unforgettables Choir is a community choir for people living with symptoms of dementia and their care partners. We are looking for volunteers and singers. Please contact Mary Ann through the church office at 701-772-4897 for more information.

## 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 starting Tuesday, February 13, 2024. For more information contact Lori at [loriswinney@hotmail.com](mailto:loriswinney@hotmail.com)

## STAFF RETREAT

The Calvary Lutheran Church staff will be participating in a Staff Retreat Day on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 am-2 pm. The office will be open from 8:00-9:30 am and again from 2:00-4:30 pm. During the staff retreat time, we will not be answering phones or responding to emails. We will focus on clarification of job duties, roles & responsibilities, mutual expectations, individual and collective purpose, examination of unspoken assumptions and express affirmation for each person's gifts here at Calvary Lutheran Church. The Congregation Council is providing lunch for this day. We appreciate your understanding and believe that this planning work will make Calvary a stronger community of faith.

## QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK

**February 27 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.

## HELP NEEDED

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](mailto:Julie.pedersen@calvarygf.org).

## KNIT & CROCHET

**February 17 @ 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

**February 1 & 15 @ 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.

## 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.

# Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE - 2024 FINANCE REPORT**

December's giving was considerably lower than the prior year, but expenses were also a bit lower. A goal achieved in 2023 was the ability to fulfill the benevolences to local nonprofits and the synod. This goal was achieved after moving the mortgage interest out of the general budget into the building expansion fund as well as using some funds given for missions. In 2022, benevolences were not able to be funded fully, so we are thankful for the opportunity to fulfill this yearly goal.

The calendar at Calvary in December was filled with activities for all. Some of the special annual events held in December were the Thursday Music Club Christmas Musicale, Unforgettables Choir concert, Christmas Cheer, Sunday and Wednesday School children telling the Christmas story, Christmas Cookie Exchange and a Quiet Christmas worship service. On December 17, we welcomed Pastor Jared Carson as our interim pastor. Noisy offering for the last seven weeks of the year was collected for the Angel Tree gifts in the amount of \$2,583.77.

Year-to-date income was 4.9% lower than the five-year average, while expenses ended the year 5.5% lower for the same time period. As we look to the future, please continue to pray for the members of Calvary to continue to make the conscious effort to support Calvary in the ways in which they are called to be members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

New members received on January 24 and 28. New member class 11:30 am at January 21.  
Annual meeting January 28 after 10:30 am service.

## **President's Report**

LaGrave meal serving: is this a mission we want to continue? Discussion was held. Council feels it's important to work towards making this a go. Volunteers prepare a meal for 35-40 people & serving has been challenging. Julie is the current champion of this ministry. Council determined this ministry is important and will work to ensure it goes more smoothly in 2024.

Gina Sanders & Pastor Jared will go through employee handbook. Discuss continuing education credits, travel expenses, approval process for working from home, how staff tracks their hours, etc.

Visitation: with two pastors, we hope to have a visitation ministry committee. Diane will work out this visitation ministry.

Planning center email: digital directory of congregation members. Diane said the information is outdated and hasn't been updated since it was originally uploaded.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Employee handbook update. Compensation policy for when staff is gone for ELCA-related things and continuing education.

Discussion was held and this will be part of the employee handbook update as we have to treat all staff equally. Questions that came from this discussion were:

- How are staff tracking their hours?
- What is our continuing education policy for pastors and staff?
- What is our in-office vs remote work policy?
- What is the approval process for staff schedules, remote work and vacation request?

**Next Council Meeting: Feb. 13 @ 7 pm**

## 2023 BUDGET

**2023 Budget 999,726.00**

Offering through 12/31/23 \$906,945.49

Expenses through 12/31/23 \$906,936.93

**Balance of Building Expansion Loan**

as of 12/31/23 \$630,158.10

## MEMORIALS



### BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Jerry Midstokke** by Mark and Gloria Sanford

### EDUCATION FUND

In memory of **Pastor Kirk Meseck** by Peter and Kari Carlson

In memory of **Budd Wennersten** by Peter and Kari Carlson

### FOUNDATION FUND

In memory of **John Lambie** by Mark Hall

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Rick Aamot** by Bonnie Aamot

### MEMORY CAFE

In memory of **Beverly Bale** by Harold Bale

### UNFORGETTABLES FUND

In memory of **Beverly Bale** by Harold Bale

## Prayers & Sympathies

Algot Ohlander died 12-18-23.

Elizabeth Bjerke's mother, Joanne Selkurt-Martin, M.D., died 12-24-23.

Richard Jensen's mother, Marvel Jensen, died 12-29-23.

Gerald Midstokke died 12-30-23. His wife is Rita Midstokke.

Carl Kroetsch's brother, Wayne Kroetsch, died 12-31-23.

Connie Strand's mother, Rae Ann Nelson, died 1-2-24.

Jeff & David Zola's father, Harold Zola, died 1-4-24.

Marilyn Skavlem died 1-15-24. Her husband is Scott Skavlem & daughter is Chelsea King.

Scott Meland's mother, Aldene Meland, died 1-20-24.

Tina Cowger's brother, Erik Bakke, died 1-21-24.

## 2024 BUDGET

**2024 Proposed Budget \$1,035,932.00**

Offering through 1/16/24 \$46,307.27

Expenses through 1/16/24 \$25,642.98

## Baptisms

**1-10-24** Archer Duke Osborn

Child of Kayla & Alex Osborn

**1-14-24** Owen Henry Rudnik

Child of Alexis & Matthew Rudnik

## FUND BALANCES

Youth	43,524.76
Honduras Mission	21,291.45
Foundation	751,796.16
Good Sam	1,179.25
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	2,839.82
Music	1,298.21
Library	1,546.02
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	714.09
Contemporary Worship	700.14
Education	683.39
Fine Arts	2,155.62
Missions	22,769.34
Quilting	2,655.28
Memory Café	14,493.27
Unforgettables Choir	12,216.96
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,124.86
Lewis & Clark Backpack	14,183.09
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,023.12
Coffee Shop	2,759.48
Columbarium	29,282.15
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	8,046.64
Organ/Piano	0.00
General Maintenance	3,692.26
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	279.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	23,810.64
Building Expansion	279,920.37
Seminary	1,103.95



### **History of SOUPER Bowl of Caring came to be.**

In 1990, a simple prayer: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat” was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

**tacklehunger.org**

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The first year, Tackle Hunger invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local area charities.

Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

Thousands of participants including: churches, schools, youth groups, community partners, grocery partners, local businesses, media partners, NFL teams and passionate individuals have experienced for themselves, the joy and satisfaction of giving, serving and inspiring people across the country to follow their generous example.

### **What is SOUPER Bowl of Caring?**

Each year, Tackle Hunger rallies participants by using the excitement of the Big Game with the Souper Bowl of Caring! Empowering communities to host their own donation drives to benefit a local food charity and inspiring a nationwide movement to make a difference!

### **What is Calvary doing to participate?**

Calvary will be participating in the SOUPER Bowl of Caring and all donations will be shared with the local food pantry. On Super Bowl Sunday, bring nonperishable food items or monetary donations to worship. You will be able to “vote” for the team that you would like to win the Super Bowl by placing your donations on that side of the table display. We’ll see who Calvary wants to win this year’s big game! Together we can tackle hunger in Grand Forks!

# LENT SCHEDULE

**13**  
FEB

**5:30 PM**  
Burning of Palm  
Ashes

**14**  
FEB

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**7 AM - 4 PM**  
Drive-up Ashes

**12 PM**  
Worship | Sanctuary

**6 PM**  
Worship | Sanctuary

\*Wednesday worship will be at 6 pm during lent\*

**24**  
MAR

## PALM PASSION SUNDAY

**9:00 AM WORSHIP**  
Sanctuary &  
Fellowship Hall

**10:30 AM WORSHIP**  
Fellowship Hall

**27**  
MAR

**6:00 PM WORSHIP**  
Holy Week Service  
Sanctuary

**28**  
MAR

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**6:00 PM WORSHIP**  
Sanctuary

**6:00 PM FIFTH GRADE  
MILESTONE EVENT**  
Fellowship Hall

**29**  
MAR

## GOOD FRIDAY

**12:00 PM WORSHIP**  
Sanctuary

**5:30 PM WORSHIP**  
Fellowship Hall

**7:00 PM WORSHIP**  
Fellowship Hall

**31**  
MAR

## EASTER SUNDAY

**7:00 AM WORSHIP**  
Sanctuary

**9:00 AM WORSHIP**  
Fellowship Hall

**9:00 AM WORSHIP**  
Sanctuary

**10:30 AM WORSHIP**  
Fellowship Hall

## Rummage Sale Fundraiser for the Honduras Mission Reflection

The annual Calvary Rummage Sale is well-known in this community. The main goal of the rummage sale is to raise money to support the Honduras Mission Team of Calvary which provides lunches and medical care to the people in a small village in Honduras, but it is so much more.

There are many heart-warming stories of how the rummage sale supports others in Grand Forks and the surrounding community. One such instance is the story of a teacher from a small nearby school district who was on the search for prom dresses for her students who typically can't afford the cost of a dress. She was able to find many dresses and was willing to pay for them out of her own pocket, but the rummage sale volunteer just gave them to her. The teacher was moved to tears and said Calvary was the only place she'd looked that was willing to be that generous. Another is the story of a wonderful lady who was finding home décor, housewares, and linens in order to help people who were moving into independent living apartments to make their new homes more comfortable and warm. Yet another is a man who comes every year to find linens, towels, and housewares for nursing home residents who might not be able to afford those items.

It's wonderful to see young moms and dads walk out with bags of like-new clothes and toys for their kids. It brings a smile to the face of the volunteer who helps children pick out a favorite book or toy and be able to pay for it with their own money.

Another positive aspect is the community that is built when people come for coffee, caramel rolls, lunch, and treats and spend time sitting in conversation with old friends and new acquaintances.

At the end of the day, the donations that haven't been sold are then donated to the local mission and thrift stores to further help people in our community.

In our prayer before the opening of the sale, we asked for help remembering that in our work, we are not only the face of Calvary, but also the hands and feet of Christ. It takes many volunteers, hours of organization, and lots of muscle to make this happen, but it is truly a labor of love that reaches far beyond the walls of our building.



**THANK YOU FOR  
HELPING RAISE OVER  
\$22,00 FOR THIS  
MINSITRY**







# 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.

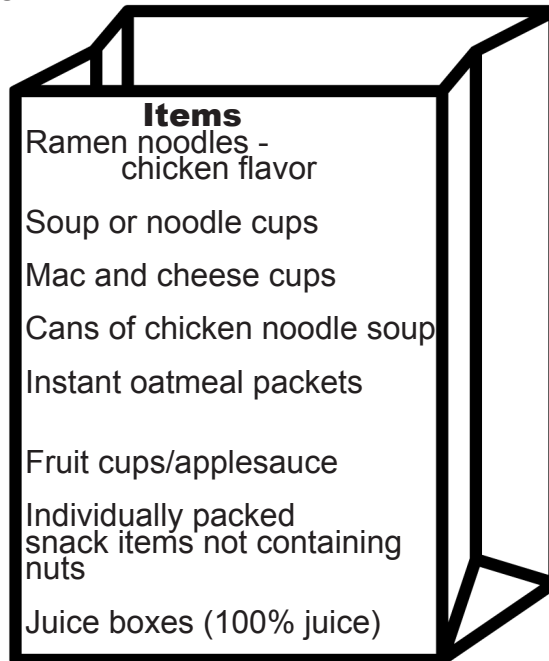
## Backpack Program:

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**

## IN WORSHIP



DROP A GIFT IN  
THE OFFERING PLATE

## MAIL



MAIL A GIFT TO  
CALVARY



# Youth and CONFIRMATION

## Confirmation Credit Opportunities:



**CITYWIDE**  
*Confirmation*  
 Featuring **JOE DAVIS & DAVE SCHERER**  
**JUST MOVE** → Wednesday, February 7th  
 7:15pm - 8:30pm  
 Calvary Lutheran Church

## Coming up:

**March 30**  
*Easter*  
**EGG**<sup>ed</sup>  
 YOUTH FUNDRAISER

**TOTALLY TABLES**  
**April 5**





### All Ages Book Club

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 18, for our all ages book club. We will be having discussion and activities around the book, *Invisible*, by Christina Diaz Gonzalez & Gabriella Epstein. Books available for purchase in the church office.

**CALVARY kids**

**SECOND GRADE MILESTONE EVENT**

*Picturing*  
**GOD**

**FEB 25**  
2PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

This event is designed for grown-ups and kids to attend together, *siblings welcome!*



**Upcoming Dates in February**

- 25 - GIFT Worship Service & 2nd Grade Milestone Event
- 28 - GIFT Worship Service

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Grand Forks, ND  
Permit NO 342

### 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