



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

January 2024



As the year ended, we take a look back and reflect on all the events that have happened in December. The Sunday school kids and Unforgettables sang their hearts out and put on wonderful performances. The cookie exchange grew this year. The number of people that signed up this year compared to the past nearly doubled. We welcomed in an interim pastor to guide us through this new journey. And all of you helped create a cheerful and merry Christmas to those who were in need. The smiles and stories that were told, warmed our hearts, and we could not have done any of it without you. We would like to thank all of you, for everything you have done this year and let's keep being disciples of Jesus as we move into 2024.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JARED: “DO NOT BE AFRAID”



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Calvary Lutheran Church,

Do not be afraid! I bring you good tidings of great joy: Grace, peace, and love to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ! “Do not be afraid!” is one of the most common greetings that a messenger of God gives to people in scripture. So, it seems appropriate that I, a preacher and teacher of the gospel, share this message with you. God’s grace, peace, and love ARE, and have been, with you. Therefore, do not be afraid during this time of pastoral transition.

My name is Jared Carson, and I am pleased to share that the Congregation Council of Calvary selected me to serve as your Intentional Interim Pastor. My ministry among you began on December 17. I will provide worship leadership, education, and pastoral care to the congregation as we walk together in faith. My family is relatively new to North Dakota. We moved to West Fargo, ND, from southern New Mexico in the fall of 2021. My wife Laura Carson, a rostered deacon in the ELCA, has been called to serve as Associate with the Bishop for Formation and Administration in the Eastern North Dakota Synod. She and I are graduates of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. We have served together as a ministry team for more than 14 years in both Torrance, CA, and Las Cruces, NM. We have two boys, Andrew (12) and Aaron (10). Most recently, I served as the interim pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. My journey of ministry has been guided by the Holy Spirit and marked by: relationship building, love of worship, welcoming the stranger, caring for others, and equipping disciples for direct service to the wider community.

While at St. John Lutheran, that congregation and I grieved with you the death of Pr. Kirk. No one could possibly be like or replace Pr. Kirk. He was uniquely gifted by God for the ministry. Part of my task, as your Intentional Interim Pastor, is to make space for those who still need time to grieve Kirk’s death and to help the staff and congregation members navigate the changes in the congregation system caused by Kirk’s absence. We know that individuals can experience grief, and it makes sense then that groups of people hold grief collectively, too. Acknowledging grief doesn’t mean people are crying all the time...grief can simply be expressed as frustration that things aren’t the way they once were.

While pastoral transitions are not new (just consult the New Testament Epistles), I encourage you again with these words, “Do not be afraid!”

In our baptismal liturgy and in our rite of welcome to new members, we ask people to make the following commitment:

- “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
- + to live among God’s faithful people,
- + to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
- + to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- + and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?”

And in turn we respond, not simply with a “yes.” But with a bold declaration of trust in the God who is present to us, saying, “I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.” And with God’s help and guidance we have no reason to be afraid.

I look forward to meeting you all and serving together at Calvary Lutheran Church.

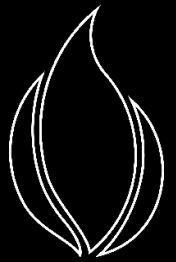
Peace in Christ,

Jared Carson, Intentional Interim Pastor

GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church



Calvary
CONNECTS



ALL AGES BOOK CLUB

January 14 @ 3:00 pm | Fellowship Hall
We come together to discuss one book per month. The book that we are reading, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, will be available in the office for \$10.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

January 15 @ 6:00 pm
Everyone is welcome to join our group that meets monthly to read and discuss a contemporary book. This month we are reading *this is not a book about benedict cumberbatch* by *tabitha carvan*. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 1:00-3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program has yet to be determined so keep an eye out on future announcements. The Memory Cafe is a monthly educational event for anyone wanting to learn about Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. All are welcome. Refreshments are served following the program.

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CONCERT

The Unforgettables Choir will begin the Winter/Spring semester on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The Unforgettables Choir is a community choir for people living with memory loss and/or a diagnosis of any type of dementia and their care partner. The Unforgettables Choir is a place where every voice matters, and the dementia does not. The choir meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Registration is \$25 per person each semester. Directed by Mary Ann Devig, you are invited to call the church office at 701-772-4897 with questions or to register.

QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK

January 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.

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.

KNIT & CROCHET

January 13 @ 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

January 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.

Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

FINANCE - 2023 FINANCE REPORT

November's giving was considerably lower than the prior year. The timing of larger gifts made the difference when comparing monthly receipts from the current and prior year. In 2022, there were three large annual gifts in November that have not yet occurred in the current year.

Noisy offering in November was collected for Angel Tree and UND Mortar Board for their Thanksgiving turkey baskets in the amount of \$431. The November events calendar continued with regularly scheduled worship, education classes and youth events. Some of the annual events occurring in November were All Saints Day and remembering our loved ones, a Milestone event titled "Remembering Your Baptism" for first graders and the Advent Festival.


Income through November was 3% lower than the five-year average while expenses were 3.7% lower for the same time period. While Calvary's financials look more promising than one year ago, giving in December will be a factor as we determine what ministry looks like for the coming year. As Calvary finishes the financial year, please pray for our congregation to continue to support all the good things Calvary is able to share within our walls as well as in our community.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DIANE STOLEY

Calvary Lutheran Church will be holding our annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, immediately following the 10:30 service in the Fellowship Hall.

Why it is important to attend the annual meeting? Most importantly, the annual meeting is a time for our whole congregation to gather and discuss the business of the church. It's important to hear about the programs, the budget, and the journey our church has taken in the past year. We are a congregationally owned church, and we as the congregation need to be present and participate in this important aspect of the church life. It's a great time to celebrate the ministry that has taken place and what will take place in the coming year as well as to gain an understanding of the church operations. We also are required to have a quorum in order to vote to adopt the budget and to install a new slate of officers, so your presence is needed. Please put Sunday, January 28, on your calendars and join us on this important day.

Next Council Meeting: Jan. 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

OFFERINGS



Offerings through 12/15/23:

\$759,746.58

BUDGET/LOAN

2023 Budget 999,726.00

Expenses through 12/15/23 \$864,882.50

Balance of Building Expansion Loan

as of 12/31/23 \$632,409.78

Prayers & Sympathies

Algot Ohlander's wife, Ivy Ohlander, died 11-26-23.

Robert Johnson died 11-27-23. His wife is Carol Johnson.

David Holt's father, Mark Holt, died 12-1-23.

Stacey Robertson's mother, Sandy Kylo, died 12-1-23.

Carol Siverson's sister-in-law, Maren Bakken, died 12-6-23.

MEMORIALS



BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Charlotte Moen** by Ervin Olson

In memory of **Mylah Olson** by Ervin Olson

FELLOWSHIP HALL BLINDS

In memory of **Pastor Kirk Meseck** by Glen and Nancy Yoshida

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **John Lambie** by Bob and Sharon St. Germain

In memory of **Pastor Kirk Meseck** by Bob and Sharon St. Germain

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

In memory of **Robert Johnson** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACKING

In memory of **Pastor Kirk Meseck** by Chris and Michelle Garske, Ryan and Lacey Buchholz, Jean Middleton

MEMORY CAFE

In memory of **Ruth Omdahl** by Joy Bostrom

QUILTING FUND

In memory of **Cheryl Vreeland** by Kathy McCue, James and Sonya McDonald, Richard and Sharon Jurgens, Mark and June Thompson, Elizabeth Staveteig, Jean Middleton

FOUNDATION GRANT

Grants Approved on December 15, 2023

\$2,500 Feed My Starving Children -

MobilePack Event 2024

Baptisms

12-3-23 Camden Allen Klostreich
Child of Amanda & Seth Klostreich

12-17-23 Samuel Francis Schaefer
Child of Molly & Nickolaus Schaefer

12-31-23 Kensley Jean Kosel
Child of Brianna & Brett Kosel

FUND BALANCES

Youth	41,922.04
Honduras Mission	23,786.45
Foundation	668,554.77
Good Sam	1,220.76
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	2,799.82
Music	1,648.21
Library	1,546.02
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	439.09
Contemporary Worship	700.14
Education	700.76
Fine Arts	2,155.62
Missions	26,769.80
Quilting	2,600.28
Memory Café	14,115.46
Unforgettables Choir	11,185.15
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,124.86
Lewis & Clark Backpack	16,457.45
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,023.12
Coffee Shop	2,653.52
Columbarium	29,512.74
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	7,866.94
Organ/Piano	0.00
General Maintenance	5,242.29
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	279.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	23,685.64
Building Expansion	267,590.81
Seminary	1,103.95

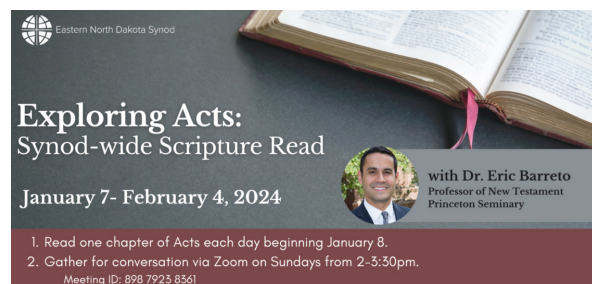
THANK YOU



Thank you Calvary for your gifts that provided a Merry Christmas to 172 people this year. Your thoughtfulness and kindness during this holiday season brightened the lives of families and individuals served by Northeast Human Service Center, Red River Valley Community Action, Tufte Manor, Lewis and Clark Elementary, and Calvary Lutheran Church.

Thanks also goes out to the volunteers who helped shop for the gifts on leftover tags. Also thanks to our volunteers who helped sort gifts into their correct groups and added all the tissue paper!

Special thanks goes out to Allie Penny for the countless hours she spent putting together our online presence with thoughtfulness and kindness toward each individual on our list and for all the checking and rechecking gifts to make sure the right gifts went to the right people! Words can't express how much we appreciate you.



New Year's Reading Plan

As we each approach a new year, we hear a lot about resolutions that we hope to keep. Often the resolutions we make are hard to maintain for 365 days and we can feel defeated. Make a resolution to set a manageable goal and rely on the accountability of others in the body of Christ to encourage you. Pastor Jared is making this commitment to participate in the Eastern North Dakota Synod, Exploring Acts: Synod-wide Scripture Read and he is inviting you to join him!

This reading plan runs from Jan. 7th to Feb. 4th with individual daily reading and online Zoom conversations Sundays at 3:30pm. Children, Youth, Families, circle groups, and your friends/neighbors who are members can all participate. Let's make a resolution to start the year by reviewing the Holy Spirit's work in the early church! Don't spend \$39.95 on that one month gym membership that you will let lapse for 3 additional months - exercise your faith! If you have questions you can contact Pr. Jared, Jared@calvarygf.org or visit the Eastern North Dakota Synod website, www.eandsynod.org.

Calvary Lutheran Church Honduras Mission Trip 2024



When: February 15-26, 2024

Who: Anyone 16 years or older (at the time of the trip) interested in serving with the people of El Triunfo, Honduras

Cost: \$500 per person (scholarships available) and participation in fundraising activities

Trip Activities: Children's Lunch Program at 3 sites, Medical clinic, Deparasiting medication and Fluoride treatments, Bible school, Church service, Playtime with kids, Painting, Small construction projects and community interaction. All in a safe and controlled atmosphere. We have well established relationships and routines in the area.

Contact Susan Zelewski for more information or to join the team:
suzkaye@hotmail.com or (701) 330-0416.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser for the Honduras Mission

Saturday January 20, 2024

7-8 am: \$3 Early Entry Fee

8 am-1 pm: Regular Sale

1-4 pm: Half Price Sale

2-4 pm: Clothing Bag Sale



Donations can be dropped off at Calvary starting at noon on Sunday January 14 through Wednesday January 17. If you are not able to drop off donations at that time, early pick up of donations can be arranged by calling (701) 330-8331 and leaving a message. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and organize starting at noon on Sunday January 14 and throughout the week. We are also looking for help on the day of the rummage sale as well. This is a fun event and a good opportunity to help raise funds to support our mission effort in Honduras. Contact Susan Zelewski at suskaye@hotmail.com or (701) 330-0416 for further information.





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.

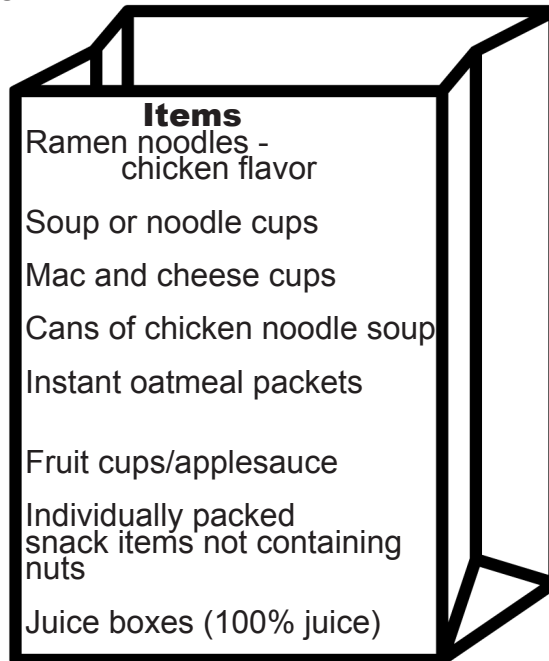
Backpack Program:

Students identified as food insecure get assistance for lunch during the week but what happens to those same students over the week-end? For that we have the backpack program. We will again be 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 beginning in September.



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 Classes This Month

January 10-31
Wednesdays | 7:00-8:00 pm
-Seven Habits

- Creeds & Commandments
- Sacraments & the Lord's Prayer
- Bible Basics

* no class on Jan. 17

Alphanumeric data



CITYWIDE Confirmation

Featuring JOE DAVIS & DAVE SCHERER

JUST MOVE



Wednesday, February 7 | 7:15-8:30PM

Join us for an evening of poetry, music, and conversation around faith, anti-racism work, and our call as God's beloved people. This event is hosted by Grand Forks ELCA churches and is geared towards middle & high school students and their leaders!

ANNUAL MEETING pancake breakfast

pancakes | sausage | fruit | juice



Sunday
JAN
28

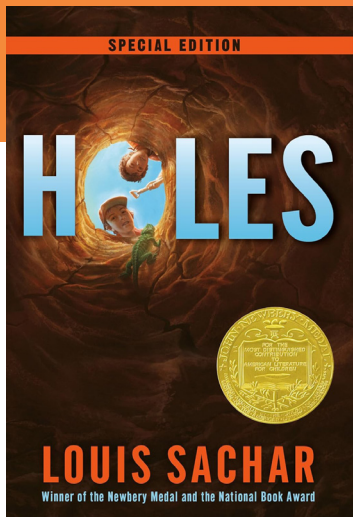
free will donation

Proceeds support Calvary High School students headed to the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA.



Rise and Shine is a time for high school breakfast and Bible study. We meet Friday mornings at 6:30 am for yummy breakfast before the kids head off to school. All high school students are welcome! Would you consider supporting these young people (10-14 kids) in their faith journey with some breakfast? Contact Morgan for more information.





All Ages Book Club

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 14, for our all ages book club. We will be having discussion and activities around the book, Holes, by Louis Sachar. Books available for purchase in the church office.



Calvary Kids Christmas Program

This year our Calvary kids helped tell the story of Jesus' birth through the ABCs of Christmas. It was so fun to have kids singing and telling the "Good News." Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this a special day!



Upcoming Dates in January

- 7 - Sunday School resumes
- 10 - Wednesday School resumes
- 17 - No Wednesday School
- 28 & 31 - GIFT Worship Service

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



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