



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

March 2024



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 AARON:



I recently had coffee with a friend the other day, and we soon found our conversation had moved to the topic of perfection. Knowing full well that perfection is impossible, it didn't stop us from wondering about all of the ways we all try to live up to the unattainable expectations of perfection. Whether set by ourselves, others, or even the world we live in; we often see our need for perfection come out in the way that we treat our bodies, our grades, our careers, our relationships, our families, our legacy, and even our places of worship and community. Next thing we know, we find ourselves striving to grab ahold of the next quick fix or self-improvement plan that will finally get us to this goal. We hope to live up to our New Year's resolutions and find ourselves creating bigger and bigger goals to achieve. Yet we know that the perfection we are all striving for is impossible without the unconditional grace of God.

In a season traditionally marked with giving things up, to what end? Is it really to make us feel more connected to God or is it again a mark of perfection? Proving to ourselves that we have the discipline that others may be lacking. So in this season of Lent, instead of striving for perfection, what would happen if we let the Holy Spirit alter our perception? What if we stepped back this Lent and recognized that we are all beautifully imperfect? And through this imperfection, the Holy Spirit comes to each of us where we are, how we are, and helps alter our perception through God's perfect love. And through this love we see that life is beautiful and life is hard, for everyone.

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.

So I invite you to wonder with me. How will we see the Spirit transforming our perceptions? How will we invite others into this journey as beloved instead of as competition? How will the Spirit move our hearts away from the need for perfection and towards the way of grace and love? Because the Spirit is alive in, with, and under our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us forth into an alternative way.

A blessing for Lent... by Kate Bowler:

Some days I need to be reminded
that I am not the perfectibility project
I set out to be.
I am full of bounce and brimming with hope...

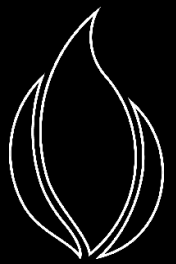
Bless me, oh God
in the ways I trick myself into believing
that my life is something I've made,
that all my accomplishments
and successes
and mastered mornings add up to something independent of you...

Blessed are we, a mess of contradictions,
in our delusions and deep hopes,
in our fragility and finitude.

GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



ALL AGES BOOK CLUB

March 24 @ 3:00 pm | Fellowship Hall
We come together to discuss one book per month in Holy Grounds. The book that we are reading, *The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman, is located in the office. \$10 per book.

PARENTS OF LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

The Parents of Loss support group for those grieving the loss of a child meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The church is at the corner of Cherry Street and 24th Avenue South in Grand Forks. The group typically ends around 9 pm, and you are welcome to come and go as you please. We do understand, for we too are Parents of Loss. More information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/parentsofloss>

EASTER FLOWER SIGN-UP

Sign up today

Easter flower sign-up has begun! Each Easter we decorate the worship spaces with beautiful spring flowers. Sign up to purchase a plant in honor or in memory of someone and have your message shared on Easter Sunday. Plants are \$15 and be sure to sign up and leave your message in the church office!

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.

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 March 12, 2024. For more information contact Lori at 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 second Sunday of each month. Our next evening to cook and serve is March 10. 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? Contact Julie in the office if you'd like to help.

QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK

March 26 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.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 1:00-3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program "What I Know Now" will be presented by a panel of caregivers starting at 1:30 pm. All are welcome. The event is free. Refreshments will be served following the program.

KNIT & CROCHET

March 16 @ 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

March 7 & 21 @ 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 starting Monday, March 25, 2024, and will meet in Room 5 and Holy Grounds from 7:00-9:00 pm.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

March 11 @ 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 Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE - 2024 FINANCE REPORT

Income in January was 32% higher than our prior year which is always a promising start to the new year. There were several large annual gifts given in January that we did not see in the prior year January.

January events included the Honduras rummage sale, New Member Sunday, and Calvary's annual meeting. The Honduras team raised \$23,000 through the rummage sale to be used to support the lunch program and medical care in El Triunfo, Honduras. Calvary welcomed five families on New Member Sunday. Before the annual meeting, Calvary youth served a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for their trip to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering. Calvary collected \$844 for the Good Samaritan fund.

Year-to-date income through January was 11% higher than the five-year average, while expenses were also higher at 3%. Each year the goal for financials is to stay consistent or improve over the prior year. Our prayers as a team are for the congregation to continue to support Calvary through their time, talents, and gifts.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on continuing LaGrave ministry.
Employee Handbook Policy update.
Update on visitation ministry.

NEW BUSINESS

Organ maintenance contract discussion.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

At the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, Calvary members elected a new slate of council members, a new Foundation Board member, and new Nominating Team members.

Your council members are as follows:

Diane Stoley – President (re-elected for another term)
Gina Sanders – Vice President (re-elected for another term)
Colleen Carlson – Secretary
Kevin Ritterman – Treasurer
Shari Storbakken – Stewardship
Brad Tweten – Property
Cheryl Hest – Evangelism
Alica Houle – Youth

Those staying on council for another year are:

Sally Grosgebauer – Community Relations
Heather Burchill – Education

The Foundation Board added Ethan Hodnefield to the existing board of Jan Kurtyka Mott, Jonathon Rentz, Jim Stoley, and Brandon Heider.

The Nominating Team added Erica Sundby and Liza McClean to the existing members Erin Navarro and Shari Elgin.

Thank you to all who said yes to these important roles in service to Calvary.

Also many thanks to those leaving the council: Heather Petricig, Ethan Hodnefield, Brian Harris, Liza McClean, Erica Sundby, and Michelle Garske. Thank you to Jana Hanson and Bethany Rentz leaving the Nominating Team, and to Mike Grandall leaving the Foundation Board. Your time of service is much appreciated, and we are blessed with dedicated people.

If you missed the meeting, there are extra annual reports available in the church office.

Next Council Meeting: Mar. 12 @ 7 pm

2024 BUDGET

2024 Proposed Budget	1,019,663
Offering through 2/11/24	120,208.04
Expenses through 1/16/24	121,952.68

Balance of Building Expansion Loan
as of 2/29/24 627,899.73

Prayers & Sympathies

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

Brad Bail died 1-30-24. His wife is Amy Bail. His sister is Mary Hanson.

William Morris died 1-30-24. His wife is Ida Morris.

Evelyn Hensrud's sister-in-law, Eloise Thorwaldson, died 2-4-24.

John Lindquist's mother, Lois Lindquist, died 2-7-24. Tim Lindquist is her grandson.

MEMORIALS



BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Mark and Gloria Sanford, Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

In memory of Jerry Midstokke by Ruth Larson

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FUND

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Jerry and Mardell Humble, Lyle and Rebecca Mac Iver, Maurice Sorlien

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Eric Bakke** by Marilyn Lundberg, Kathleen Ramsay

In memory of **Lloyd Blackwell** by Marilyn Lundberg

In memory of **Lona Schuett** by Marilyn Lundberg

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

In memory of **Jerry Midstokke** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

In memory of **Marilyn Skavlem** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

HONDURAS

In memory of **Brad Bail** by Peter Tropman and Virginia Graves

MEMORY CAFE

In memory of **Loi Ravnaas** by Charles and Colleen Zick

Baptisms



2-11-24 Drake August Odegard
Child of Hannah & Evan Odegard

2-18-24 Beau Alice Johnson
Child of Ciara & Tyler Johnson

2-25-24 Audrey Lock Kossan
Child of Brooke & Tylden Kossan

FUND BALANCES

Youth	49,811.94
Honduras Mission	37,386.48
Foundation	752,196.16
Good Sam	2,249.89
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	2,889.82
Music	1,208.21
Library	1,546.02
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	714.09
Contemporary Worship	800.14
Education	733.39
Fine Arts	2,155.62
Missions	23,604.34
Quilting	2,655.28
Memory Café	14,514.42
Unforgettables Choir	12,530.74
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,183.86
Lewis & Clark Backpack	13,115.67
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,259.67
Coffee Shop	2,920.01
Columbarium	29,282.15
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	9,030.24
Organ/Piano	0.00
General Maintenance	11,302.95
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	279.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	23,810.64
Building Expansion	284,402.48
Seminary	1,103.95

Interim Ministry Update - Forming a Transition Team

The contract that Calvary has with Pr. Jared is for ministry through May 2025. The initial task for Pr. Jared has been to build relationships with staff, congregation council, and congregation participants.

He explained to the council and members that as the Intentional Interim Lead Pastor he has two functions,

- 1) to be the pastor of the congregation for the specified time
- 2) to serve as a consultant/guide to the congregation and leaders.

The work of a consultant/guide is not undertaken alone. Pr. Jared will be working with a Transition Team. The Transition Team will guide the congregation in answering the question, "Where are we going?"

The old adage, "if you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there" is true. The transition team is a time limited commitment of 6-9 months and will meet every other week with Pr. Jared learning and planning. Then the Transition Team will put into practice their learning and lead the congregation through some large group conversation. Finally, the Transition Team will draft the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which a Call Committee (to be formed in the future) will use to interview and identify a pastoral candidate. This process might seem long, but it will go by very quickly. The congregation will emerge with a better communal sense of identity, purpose, and mission in the Grand Forks community.

If you are interested in serving on the Transition Team or would like to recommend someone who would be a good team member, please contact Pr. Jared, Jared@calvarygf.org or call the office at 701-772-4897.



Calvary is looking for men and women who are interested in sharing God's love by joining our Visitation Team Ministry

Visitation Team Training



2:00 PM in Holy Grounds

Contact Pr. Jared with any questions

LENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

MARCH

6

5:00 PM

Meal in Fellowship Hall

13

6:00 PM

Worship | Sanctuary

20

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
Sanctuary

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

Closet Essentials

CLOTHING

DRIVE

for Lewis & Clark Elementary



MARCH 10 & 17

Join us as we collect items of great need each week for our friends at Lewis & Clark.

SOCKS • SWEATPANTS • LEGGINGS • UNDERWEAR

In sizes 5 to adult Medium

OR

Scan the code below to order an item off the registry.

SCAN HERE



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER WAYS TO HELP

 **CALVARY** LUTHERAN CHURCH





It Takes a Village

It takes a village to raise a child! In the spirit of community and compassion, Calvary is thrilled to announce our upcoming clothing drive dedicated to our neighborhood elementary, Lewis & Clark. Items will be collected at the church through March 19. Our goal is to provide essential clothing items to ensure the comfort and confidence of young students in need.

We invite you to pick up a pair of socks, underwear, leggings, or sweatpants—basic necessities that often go overlooked but play a crucial role in a child’s daily life. Sizes 5 through adult medium are the primary sizes of need. They will keep the items at the school and give them out to those who could use a refresh, have an accident etc.

Children are our future, and it’s so important that they feel comfortable and secure as they navigate their educational journey. By contributing to this clothing drive, whether through donations or spreading the word, you’re directly impacting the lives of young ones in our community, ensuring they can focus on learning and growing without the distraction of inadequate clothing.

Here’s how you can get involved:

- 1. Donate:** We encourage anyone who is able to donate new or gently used items of socks, underwear, leggings, and sweatpants. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a significant difference in a child’s life.
- 2. Spread the Word:** Share information about the clothing drive with your friends, family, and colleagues. The more people we reach, the more support the better!
- 3. Volunteer:** We welcome volunteers to assist with collecting, sorting, and distributing donations. We pack and prepare food bags for this ministry every month on the third Tuesday at 6 pm.
- 4. Be a Champion:** Advocate for the importance of providing basic necessities to elementary school children. By raising awareness about the challenges faced by families in our community, we can work together to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for all.

Join us as we come together to make a positive impact in our community and take seriously the call Jesus put on our hearts to love our neighbors as ourselves.

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

Lent worship Assistant-students can earn confirmation credit for assisting during lent worship services! Sign up at calvarygf.org/confirmation



Easter EGGed
YOUTH FUNDRAISER

How would you like to wake up to a yard filled with stuffed eggs & a note from the Easter Bunny?

- \$25 - 25 EGGS
- \$50 - 50 EGGS
- \$75 - 75 EGGS
- \$100 - 100 EGGS

Registration opens March 10

Support Calvary Lutheran Church High School Youth as they raise funds for their trip to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!

TOTALLY TABLES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
APRIL 5
for an evening of FUN as we support our youth!

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN ONLINE, IN WORSHIP, AND IN THE APRIL CALLING

EASTER

Youth Fundraiser
\$2

Cinnamon Rolls



All Ages Book Club

Everyone is invited to join us in Holy Grounds on Sunday, March 24, for our all ages book club. We will be having discussion and activities around the book, *Unteachables* by Gordon Korman. Books available for purchase in the church office.



MARCH 24

Palm Sunday Kids Choir

9AM | 10:30AM



Palm Sunday

Sunday School students will sing a song in worship (9am traditional and 10:30am contemporary) that we have been practicing during music time.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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