

August 2026

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 2

Sent with What You Have

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 9

Sent into the Storm

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 16

Sent Beyond Boundaries

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 23

Sent with Confession

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 30

Sent with Surrender

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendar for our Church Picnic on **Wed., Aug. 19, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Park Shelter #2**. While the polka band wasn't available this year, we're looking forward to a relaxed evening of food, fellowship, and fun together. **Calvary will provide sandwiches, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share.** We'll also enjoy yard games, Backpack Blessings, and time together before the fall season begins. Please bring a lawn chair, as shelter seating is limited.

Join us each Sunday in August at 10:00 a.m. for worship, either in person or online, as we continue our summer series, Follow Me: Called • Changed • Sent, exploring themes of discipleship, growth, rest, service, and Christ's presence in everyday life.

****Please note: due to the Sanctuary screen update, worship on Sunday, August 30, will be held in the Fellowship Hall.**

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RACHAEL

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This summer, we've been hearing Jesus tell stories about seeds. Tiny seeds. Hidden seeds. Seeds scattered into ordinary soil. Again and again, Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom of heaven often grows quietly, beneath the surface, in ways we cannot always see or measure. Growth takes time. It requires trust. And often, the harvest belongs to someone else. Those parables came to life in an unexpected way for me this week.

As our Care & Concern Minister, MaryAnn recently arranged a series of meet-and-greet visits for me with Calvary members living in long-term care communities throughout our area. As I made my way around the table, listening to stories and sharing conversation, I realized I was sitting among seed planters.

One visit was with a longtime Calvary member who helped establish our church's Foundation. Years ago, he and others had the vision to create something that would support ministry well into the future. Today, the Foundation continues to bless our congregation and community through grants that strengthen Christ's mission in ways those early leaders could only imagine.

Later that same day, I visited another member who helped establish the Advanced Placement and Dual Credit writing program at our local high school. While her work was not directly connected to the church, it was no less an act of planting seeds. For years, students have benefited from opportunities she helped create, many never knowing the person whose vision made those opportunities possible.

As I reflected on those conversations, I realized that even the visits themselves were possible because of seeds planted by generations before us. Churches, including Calvary, invested in ministries of care, helped envision senior living communities, supported chaplaincy, and remained committed to walking alongside people through every season of life. It made me wonder how much of our own lives are possible because someone else planted before us. This church did not simply appear. Someone prayed. Someone sacrificed. Someone gave generously to build these walls. Someone taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, served on committees, welcomed strangers, dreamed new dreams, and trusted God with a future they would never fully see.

We are living in the harvest of their faithfulness. And now, it is our turn.

In a world that often asks, "What do I get" or "What is the church doing for me?" Jesus gently invites us to ask a different question: What am I planting? Every act of generosity. Every hour spent serving. Every child encouraged. Every meal shared. Every invitation extended. Every prayer whispered. Every conversation rooted in grace becomes another seed entrusted to God's care. Will we see every harvest? Probably not. But neither did those who came before us. That is the beautiful mystery of God's Kingdom. We are both recipients and planters. We receive with gratitude what others have faithfully sown, and we joyfully plant seeds whose full harvest may belong to generations yet to come.

Thanks be to God, who continues to bring new life from seeds planted in faith.



The Kingdom of heaven is like...

MEN'S MINISTRY

August 4

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. here at Calvary in the library. This is an opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation. We hope to see you there!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

August 10 @ 6 p.m. | Blue Moose

Our Reading Religiously Book Club is the perfect place to dive into engaging stories, share ideas, and connect with fellow book lovers, whether you're a lifelong reader or just getting started. The club meets at the Blue Moose in East Grand Forks once a month for a meal or snack before they dive into a discussion. Pick up a copy of *Whistler* by Ann Patchett at your favorite bookstore or one of the libraries and meet us on Monday, August 10, at 6 p.m.

CALVARY CLASSICS PICNIC & POTLUCK

August 26 @ 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Good food, great conversation, and wonderful fellowship, what better way to spend time together? The Classics invite you to join them for a picnic and potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share, and enjoy an afternoon of delicious food, laughter, and community.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

August 25 | Fellowship Hall

We would like to encourage you to join us on the last Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 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.

CARE & CONCERN MINISTRY

If you are admitted to a hospital, transitional care facility, or residential living facility and would like a visit, please contact the church office at 701-772-4897.

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

August 6 & 20

Meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the library. This is open to anyone who wants to bring their "handiwork" for an afternoon of fellowship and crafting.

CALVARY WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

August 19 @ 9:00 a.m. in Holy Grounds

All are welcome. We will be using the *Gather* magazine Bible study. Or, you can pick up copies of the Bible study from the church office.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

August 20 @ 4:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Our All-Ages Book Club is a welcoming space for readers of every generation to share stories, spark conversation, and build community. Each month we explore a new title that's fun, thought-provoking, and perfect for discussion followed by a hands-on activity inspired by the book's theme. All are welcome! Come connect through books. **This month we will be reading *The Willoughbys* by Lois Lowry.**

*Note the group could not meet in July, so they are meeting in August with the same book.

*Books can be found in the front office.

FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX

It is August which means the University of North Dakota is back in session! This also means that Calvary will be serving lunch at Christus Rex Lutheran Center one time a month. Usually we serve the first Friday of each month, but we have been asked to serve their first meal of the semester on Friday, August 28, rather than the first Friday of September. Would you like to help us prepare on Thursday prior to the day we serve or help serve on Friday? If you are interested or would like more information, call Julie or Nichole in the church office.

Highlights of June 2026 Church Council

Worship & Congregational Life

Fall planning is underway with the theme, Imagine More (which connects to the same theme for the 2027 Youth Gathering). Fall stewardship focus begins Sept. 27-Oct.18. Calvary will also gather for a picnic in the park on August 19 at Lincoln Park, including a Backpack Blessing that will also be offered during worship on August 23. The Polka Band was not available this year, so the picnic in the park will be offered instead.

Faith Formation & Youth

Vacation Bible School was a wonderful week made possible by many dedicated volunteers and families. Calvary Kids and adult leaders attended day camp at Park River Bible Camp, and youth departed on their summer road trip.

Stewardship & Financial Oversight

Calvary continues to experience strong financial stability, with May giving exceeding last year's (one extra Sunday in that month than last year), and year-to-date income remains above the five-year average while expenses remain below average. Council celebrated the joyful milestone of paying off the church mortgage. In worship this fall, there will be a moment of gratitude and prayer shared so everyone can celebrate the retirement of this debt. A new streaming camera and pulpit microphone were updated in the Sanctuary. Advance Business Methods is still evaluating our storage needs, likely moving us to a cloud-based server versus the physical server. The staff have appreciated the partnership with ABM and can see the benefits of the email protections and the ease of getting help from customer service for computer needs.

Facilities

The Fellowship Hall refrigerator is no longer functioning, and after reviewing repair costs, Council approved replacing it rather than repairing the existing unit. A new refrigerator has been ordered. Repairs are also underway on one of the kitchen's heating and cooling units. Planning continues for updates to the sanctuary, including replacing the current halogen lights with energy-efficient LED lighting. By securing replacement lighting cards, Calvary will be able to retrofit the existing system over the coming year, avoiding the significant expense of installing an entirely new lighting system. Council also reviewed plans for the new LED wall. Preparations for its installation, including raising the cross and removing the existing projection screens, are being made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

Mission & Community Engagement

Planning continues with Lewis and Clark Elementary backpacking, which is set to resume Sept 15 at 6 p.m. Noisy Offering will support Red Willow and Park River Bible camps in July and August, except on July 26 for Christmas in July when that offering will go to the Angel Tree. Council reviewed being the host church for Feed My Starving Children and had some concerns as the start fund was the lowest it's been in some time. As the host church, if the fundraising is not met for the event, then the host church would cover the difference. There were more questions, and the pastor was going to visit with the FMSC core planning team.

Organizational Leadership & Planning

Pastor Rachael updated the Council on the progress of the Associate Pastor Call Committee as the call process continues. The Inclusivity Committee is also taking time to reflect on and reevaluate its goals and ministry partnerships. Pastor Rachael and Mel represented Calvary at the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly, where Bishop Tessa was re-elected. Shelley, Council Vice President, will lead the review and revision of the employee handbook with the goal of completing updates by the end of the year. Following the resignation of Calvary's Choir Director, Pastor Rachael will host conversations with choir members to help identify priorities and shape the search for the next director.

Next Council Meeting: Aug. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.
(Full council minutes upon request.)

2026 Mission Plan

2026 Proposed Mission Plan	1,014,205.00
Offering through 7/20/26	480,051.42
Expenses through 7/20/26	502,161.71

Noisy Offering Update

Thank you for your generous support of our June Noisy Offering! This special collection partnered with our VBS Snowball Mountain Challenge to help provide winter gear for students at Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

Families brought their noisy offerings each night of VBS, and together with our Sunday morning collections, **\$410.13** was raised. Every coin and dollar will help students with some warm clothing when winter arrives. Thank you for making a joyful noise and sharing Christ's love in such a practical way!

Memorials

ANGEL TREE

In memory of Susan Vivatson by Roberta Zick

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Kathy Norstebon by Lynne Larson, Jeffrey and Carrie Haug, family and friends

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

In memory of John Knudson by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of Ken Schultz by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM

In memory of Duane Johnson by Phil and Michelle Amundson

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR

In honor of Al Rebsch by National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 0517

LEWIS & CLARK BOOK FAIR

In memory of Kathy Norstebon by Deborah Nelson

In memory of Ken Schultz by Steven and Sue Ellen Olson, Daniel and Sanna Raedeke, Kathryn Westrum, John and Deborah Motly

Stewardship Corner

Hello, I'm Lucas Rengstorf, and I've been a member of Calvary for 15 years. Calvary has been a staple in my understanding of and growth as a Christian and has been part of many important life milestones, including my marriage and the baptisms of my children.

Recently, I've had the opportunity to take a more active role within our church by representing stewardship on the church council. Over the years, I've witnessed the generosity of our church and the positive impact it has on our community and the greater good, reflecting the teachings of Jesus. This is what motivated me to become involved in the stewardship role.

Since joining the church council, I've been curious about a lot of things, but one thing has become very clear: our church members are constantly sharing their time, talents, and resources to make a positive impact on both our church and our community.

In my short time in this role, I feel lucky to have witnessed remarkable examples of stewardship. Calvary continues to impress me. Let's stay the course, continue bringing positive change, and live our best lives while serving others.

Thanks,
Lucas Rengstorf





2026
TEARS
 Talk & Walk
 FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

**Create Hope. Build Strength.
 End Suicide.**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
 12:30PM
 RALPH ENGELSTAD ARENA**

12:30pm
 Check-In
 Hands on Activities

1:30pm
 Welcome
 Colors of Connection Ceremony
 Guest Speaker

2:00-3pm
 1 mile Walk
 Walk Prize Winners
 Closing Dedication

Join Pastor Rachael for the TEARS Walk

You are invited to join Pastor Rachael and others from our community for the TEARS Walk.

This annual walk brings people together in support, remembrance, and hope. We walk to honor loved ones who have died by suicide, to stand alongside those who grieve, and to help build hope and connection within our community.

For more information about the walk and the work of TEARS, visit their website www.tearsgnd.org or speak with Pastor Rachael.

Those walking with Calvary are invited to meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Ralph Engelstad Arena before the walk begins. We hope you'll consider joining us as we walk together in remembrance, support, and hope.

Prayers & Sympathies

Jayson Menke & Jana Corbett's father,
Ralph Menke, died 6-9-26.

Stuart Johnson died 6-11-26. His wife is Sharon.
His daughter is Shoni Shjerve and his son is
Shaun Johnson.

Claudia Hogfoss' brother,
Richard Legacie, Jr., died 6-14-26.

Jon Raymond's mother,
Claudia Raymond, died 6-20-26.

Jim Holter's sister, Judy Erickson, died 6-27-26.

Jason Bakke's uncle, Dana Bakke, died 7-5-26.

Ron & Marilyn Nyberg's brother-in-law,
John Czapiewski, died 7-7-26.

Jennifer Gareau's sister,
Ashley Fredrickson, died 7-12-26.

Corinne Satrom's brother,
Daniel Luney, died 7-20-26.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

CALVARY CHOIR MEMBERS, YOU'RE INVITED!

TUESDAY, AUG. 13TH, 6:30-7:30 PM
 (CLASSROOMS 1&2)



OR, SUNDAY, AUG. 16TH,
 11:00 AM-NOON

(CLASSROOMS 1&2)*FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join Pastor Rachael for coffee and conversation as we reflect on the choir's ministry and look ahead to calling a new Choir Director.

Your voice, ideas, and hopes are important as we discern the next chapter together.

Not a coffee drinker? No worries!
 Come for the conversation.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee gathered and has begun the next step in the process of calling an Associate Pastor. They are currently reviewing and updating our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a document that shares the story of Calvary, our ministries, and the gifts and qualities we are seeking in an Associate Pastor.

The committee will meet again in August as they work toward completing the MSP. Once finalized and submitted to the synod, Calvary will officially enter the candidate phase of the call process. At that point, our MSP will be available for potential candidates to review and prayerfully consider.

We invite you to keep the Call Committee in your prayers, asking the Holy Spirit to guide their conversations with wisdom and discernment. We also pray for those whom God is calling into ministry, that their hearts may be stirred to consider serving alongside us at Calvary.

Throughout this journey, we will provide regular updates in our weekly emails and monthly newsletters as meaningful developments arise. Because the call process is one of prayerful discernment and partnership between a congregation, the synod, and potential candidates, there is no set timeline for how it unfolds.

Sanctuary Technology Update

The end of August marks the arrival of our new Sanctuary LED wall. While it replaces our aging projection system, this project is about much more than new technology. It is an investment in worship, creating new opportunities to share God's story in ways that are clear, engaging, and welcoming for all who gather.

Whether singing hymns, praying together, following Scripture, or sharing images and stories of ministry, this new display will help support our worship for years to come. While the technology will be new, our purpose remains the same: to gather around God's Word, share in the sacraments, lift our voices in song, and be sent into the world to serve. We look forward with anticipation to the ways this new tool will support that mission for years to come.

To prepare for the installation, worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 30, at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to returning to the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. as we gather for worship and begin discovering the many ways this new technology will support our ministry together.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Calvary Lutheran Church was established in 1953 after the announcement of the establishment was made by Reverend L.E. Tallakson of Fargo, president of the North Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Location

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Contact

701-772-4897
place4u@calvarygf.org

Summer Worship Schedule Sundays

May, 24 Through Labor Day
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary,
Blended Worship

Wednesdays

Resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 16

Services are streamed online on
Facebook and our website.

calvarygf.org

WAYS

TO

GIVE

QR Code



In worship

Drop a gift in the offering plate

Mail checks or money order

Calvary Lutheran Church
1405 South 9th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

**Looking to donate your
time?**

Call 701-772-4897 or
Email place4u@calvarygf.org



A Lewis & Clark Partnership

The 2026-2027 school year is starting this month and Calvary's "It Takes a Village" partnership with Lewis and Clark is ready for another year of supporting the backpack program. We are called to have compassion and be in service to others. One of the ways we answer this call is by meeting the nutritional needs of children in our partner school. This program provides meals for the weekend for eligible food insecure students at Lewis and Clark.

It costs around \$100 to feed one child for the school year. We would love for you to consider sponsoring one or more children for the 2026-2027 school year. All donations help to make this program work. Donations can be brought to the church office or can be made through our website. Food donation shelves are also placed outside of each worship space. Please consider picking up an item or two when you are out shopping to help fill this need and leaving them on these shelves or in the church office. An Amazon wish list is also available where you can have food items sent directly to Calvary using the QR code on this page. The school has asked that items be nut free.

Volunteers are needed to assist in filling bags on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church narthex. This is a great family activity to do together! We usually take around an hour to fill the bags for the month. **The next packing event will be held on September 15, 2026.**



Items For Backpacks

Ramen noodles - chicken flavor

Soup or noodle cups

Mac and cheese cups

Cans of chicken noodle soup

Instant oatmeal packets

Fruit cups/applesauce

Individually packed snack items
not containing nuts

Juice boxes (100% juice)



Donate on Easytithe

Scan the qr code

Click on one time gift tab

Click first drop down box and
click on Lewis & Clark

Click on second drop down
box and click "sponsor a child"

Or go to our website:
calvarygf.org/it-takes-a-village

Scroll down until you see
Sponsor a Child button

Click and follow steps above

Kids & Family



Calvary Kids... summer so far!

It's been a full and joyful summer for Calvary Kids! We climbed to the summit of our Snowball Mountain VBS. Families came together for an intentional time of learning, growing, and having fun. Led by our trusty guide, "Ollie," we danced, sang, and played games, made crafts—all while exploring the theme, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!"

The fun didn't stop there. On July 1, a group of Calvary kids headed to Park River for a day filled with camp fun. We enjoyed a day of fellowship, fun, and getting a taste of camp life. We sang songs, played in the water, roasted s'mores, and even made a stop at the canteen for a special treat!

Our Bible study reminded us that we are the light of the world, and that God calls us to shine God's light wherever we go. We are thankful for a day filled with laughter, friendships strengthened, the opportunity to grow in faith together, and many memories made.

What a gift it is to grow together in community during these summer months—we're so grateful for every moment!



Backpack Blessing

As a new school year begins, we invite you to join us for two opportunities to bless our students, teachers, and school staff. Bring your backpack to our Calvary Picnic at Lincoln Park (Shelter 2) at 6:00 p.m. for a Backpack Blessing. Calvary will provide the sandwiches, and everyone is invited to bring a side dish to share.

OR, join us again on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for our Backpack Blessing Worship Service, where we'll pray for all learners and educators as they begin a new school year. Whether you're starting preschool, heading off to college, teaching in a classroom, or supporting students in another role, you're invited to bring your backpack and receive God's blessing. Come as you are, backpacks and totes in hand!



It's Time to Register for Fall!

We're excited to announce that registration is now open for Sunday School and Wednesday School for the 2026–2027 school year! Simply scan the QR code to register today. Thank you for registering each year! Keeping your family's information up to date helps us maintain accurate records and plan for classrooms, volunteers, and supplies so we're ready to welcome everyone this fall.





Youth and CONFIRMATION

Summer Youth Service Learning: Road Trip!

Some of our Calvary youth spent a week on a road trip with other youth from our area, led by our Lutheran campus ministries! Along the way, we had the opportunity to make classic road trip stops like the Spam Museum and the St. Louis Arch. We've spent time connecting, strengthening friendships on the open road, visiting Dollywood, exploring the newly opened Obama Presidential Center, and worshipping with the amazing community at The Dwelling.

We are so thankful for this experience and for the opportunity to step out of our comfort zones to be present in the world around us and in each other's company. When we take moments like these to slow down and be present, we are reminded of what the word neighbor truly means.



9th Grade Students & Parents

As the final step in the confirmation journey, all 9th grade students are invited to participate in Mentor Year. Each student will choose a trusted adult with whom they feel comfortable talking about faith. This could be a teacher, coach, family friend, or another caring adult. While parents are an important part of a student's faith journey, we encourage students to choose someone outside of their immediate family for this experience.

Throughout the year, mentors and students will grow in faith together through a variety of gatherings, conversation guides, and service opportunities. We are excited for this meaningful year of learning, encouragement, and faith-filled conversations.

Please scan the QR code to register. We also ask that both students and parents attend the Mentor Year Information Meeting on Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m.



It's time to register for fall.

We're excited to announce confirmation registration (gr. 6-9) is now open for the 2026-2027 school year! Simply scan the QR code to register today. Thank you for registering each year! Keeping your family's information up to date helps us maintain accurate records and plan for class, volunteers, and supplies so we're ready to welcome everyone this fall.

Register Today!
**20 FALL
26 PROGRAMS**

PROGRAMS BEGIN
September 16

CALVARY
Confirmation

Scan or visit calvarygf.org to register

EaND Synod Youth Retreat- Castaway Weekend!

6-10 graders: you are invited to join us for the Eastern North Dakota Synod Fall Youth Retreat, September 25-27, 2026! We can't wait! Together we will IMAGINE MORE, and we'll begin leaning into this bigger story of faith, possibility, and God's call in our lives as we ask: What might God be inviting us to imagine beyond what we can see right now?

This retreat is designed for youth and leaders to:

- Build community
- Deepen faith through worship, learning, and conversation
- Experience fun, rest, and connection
- Explore how God calls us to imagine more for our lives, our churches, and our world

Scan the QR code to sign up today! More information will be shared at the fall student and parent confirmation meetings.



Confirmation
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

save the dates

Fall Student/Parent Confirmation Meeting * 6 th through 8 th Grade @ 7 PM	September 9
Rite of Confirmation Meeting/Stole Making * 10 th Grade and Up @ 8 PM	September 9
Student/Parent Mentor Info Meeting * 9 th Grade @ 7 PM	September 16
Rite of Confirmation Worship	October 25 & 28

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 16 Castaway Retreat Registration Deadline

Sept. 23 5:30 p.m. God's Work Our Hands Event
Town Square

**Confirmation Youth are invited to participate in this event; no regular class held at church this night.

Sept. 25-27 Castaway Retreat 6-10 Graders

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

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CALVARY STAFF

Pastor: Rachael Puttbrese
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Youth & Ed. Assistant: Allie Penny
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen
Facilities Manager: Danny Navarro
Care & Concern Minister: Mary Ann Devig



PICNIC POTLUCK IN THE PARK

Wednesday, August 19

6-7:30 pm

Check front
page for info



**CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Serving & Igniting People for Christ



Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



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