



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

August 2022



July can often be considered a slow month in churches in this area. It wasn't true this year at Calvary. We had weekly men's breakfasts, coffee and conversation, committee meetings, a summer book club for kids, and Lego League, to name a few things. Students returned from Bible Camp, and the high schoolers departed on their service-learning trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The building has been alive with groups and activities of all kinds. One group is called Bio Girls. This group meets for twelve weeks with girls from second grade to sixth grade. Each week they focus on a new mantra. Last week, they focused on being kind. Being kind to self (we are our own worst critics), being kind to our peers, AND spreading kindness within our community. An act of kindness can have a profound impact on someone's life, including our own, and the simplest form of kindness is the words we speak. In today's session, we learned that we must "build" each other up by saying kind things! They brainstormed words to lift others up and challenged each other to intentionally build others up outside of these walls. Kindness will always win. We are excited to see what the next month at Calvary will bring as we gear up for the fall!

A FAREWELL FROM PASTOR IVY



Dear Calvary,

I write this final newsletter article for you with joy filling my heart. I'm filled with joy not because I am leaving but because I was called here. The last four years have been filled with challenges, growth, exploration, adaptation, tears, laughter, and fun. There are things I wanted to do that were successful and there are even more things that I hoped for that were sidelined by the pandemic. I think we have all learned how to adapt in the last few years.

As people of faith, we give credit to God for the strength and ability to adapt because of the ways the Holy Spirit leads us. It is helpful to remember stories of people being sustained in the bible during times of necessary adaptation and navigating new territory. For example, Exodus 13 tells of the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night that led the Israelites on their way as they left the bondage of slavery in Egypt. Along with cloud and fire were Moses and Aaron. Jesus led the disciples through many adventures. Paul encouraged the new church to remain faithful to the cause for the sake of the world. All of the adapting in the bible was led by someone or something sent by God.

So, where is God leading us now? The cloud and the pillar are on the move for both of us - you as you head into the future in this time and place; me as I head to Frelsburg and New Ulm, Texas. We do not know what we are being led to or through, but we do know that God goes before us, with us, and behind us as we follow. Calvary has leaders that will lead the way into what God is writing for the next chapter of its life. Calvary continues to adapt as things change. I would even go so far as to say that one of Calvary's spiritual gifts is adaptation and this is something that will keep this place strong. God is up to something here. Always has been and always will.

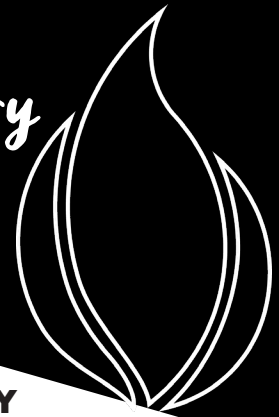
I am so glad that God brought us together for these four years. I am so glad that I can leave here with joy in my heart knowing that we did great (and fun) things together. The joy overflows when I think about times that we have laughed together, cried together, been frustrated together. Joy comes from that word 'together'. These four years would have been nothing without you, the faithful wanderers of Calvary who are on their way to wherever God is taking them. While we may be taking different paths, with JOY I can say that our paths will bring us to the place where we will all be together with the communion of saints.

"For I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." -Philippians 1:6

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ivy

Calvary CONNECTS



GET INVOLVED

Connect with People at Church



QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK

August 30 @ 9:30 am

Join us on the last Tuesday of the month for Calvary's Quilting Day. A potluck lunch is served at 12:00 noon. Come for an hour or two or the day.

SEWING CLUB

August 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.

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP

Join us August 20 @ 10:00 am

- Patterns available
- Learn about prayer shawl ministry
- Come and work on your own projects
- Learners always welcome--supplies and patient teachers available!

IVY'S FAREWELL BBQ

August 16 @ 6:00 pm

The Calvary Council invites you to join us for a BBQ honoring Pastor Ivy and her ministry at Calvary. Let's celebrate and say goodbye as she closes one chapter and begins another! Let's all catch up, dance, and feast together in Ivy's favorite kind of way...outside in the heat!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

August 8 @ 6:00 pm

This group reads a contemporary story and together unpacks religious themes and where God is present among the characters and stories. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Pastor Ivy or Julie in the church office for details.

HOSPITAL/VISITATION

Due to HIPPA regulations, Altru Health System is no longer able to provide Pastors with a "Lutheran List" of inpatients. Please let us know if you or a loved one is admitted so we can support you! Contact the pastors or our Parish Nurse, Mary Ann if you have questions!

INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, August 17 | 6:00 pm

Calling readers young and old! We invite you to join us for Calvary's Summer Book Club! Our book for this session is titled "Cookies and Milk" and we will be combining with Calvary's Reading Religiously group for a fun intergenerational event. If you haven't been apart of either reading group...this would be a great time to try it! Books are available in the office.

A note of thanks from the **COMMUNICATIONS DESK**

My name is Meghan Olson, and I have had the rich privilege of serving on the Calvary staff as the Communications Coordinator for the last seven years (and a member of this church all my life!) I grew up here, and this place helped raise me. With equal parts sadness and excitement, I am announcing that I will begin serving the ELCA churchwide office this August as the Youth Gathering Event Logistics and Administration Coordinator. While I am sad to leave a job and a place I love, I am excited about the future and this new call. I have always wanted to serve the church and will continue to do so in a new way. Sometimes things in life find you when you weren't even looking.

To the people of Calvary, I wanted to say a big THANK YOU. Thank you for teaching, guiding, and being willing to think creatively together. Calvary, you have an amazingly caring, qualified, thoughtful, and prayerful staff. This church is lucky to have every one of them. I am thrilled that my family and I can remain in Grand Forks, and we will continue to call Calvary our church home.

Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

FINANCE

June's income was received at a lower level than we saw in the prior year. The timing of larger gifts in the prior year did have an effect on monthly giving when comparing the two years. Even though the summer months are often a time people slow down, Calvary's June calendar was full of fun happenings. The month of June was kicked off as Calvary served root beer floats at Lewis and Clark Elementary. A drive thru donut, coffee and juice event was hosted on June 2 to celebrate the last day for many area schools. The second week of June, over 125 children attended Vacation Bible School for three nights and celebrated with our neighborhood food truck party on the fourth night. Calvary was gifted a new grand piano for the sanctuary space and we were able to pass along our previous grand piano to a local church. The youth who are traveling to New Mexico at the end of July, held a "Parent's Night Out" fundraising event and entertained 30 children for an evening. Noisy offering in June was collected for the Lewis and Clark Backpack program in the amount of \$443.

Income through June was 5% (\$20,600) lower than the five-year average and expenses were 17% (\$98,000) higher than the five-year average. Expenses at Calvary are a bit higher than we have seen in the past, but also comparable to similar increases in many other parts of our lives. Calvary continues to be excited about the future and mission and ministry we all get to be a part of as members and friends of Calvary!

CALL TO ORDER

DEVOTION

OLD BUSINESS

We are in process of selecting a bid for the roof repair on the Sanctuary. We will need to replace it sooner than later. Brain Harris is working to update us as news comes in. The Calvary app is available for download information about how to download and access it will be rolled out in August. There was an update from Pastor Kirk about Global Friends and their needs. Someone from the organization will hopefully attend our September meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met on July 7th to review the Synod's proposed Pastoral exiting procedures as well as "what's next" for Calvary as it relates to our third pastor. Consensus that a third Pastor in the pulpit, specifically a female presence in the pulpit is desired but finances are to be closely considered.

COMMITTEE

The stewardship committee is exploring fundraising options for the roof. It was discussed that a Totally Tables event to "raise the roof" will be held this Fall, along with a few other miscellaneous ideas for smaller fundraisers. The fall theme is 'Count Me In', so we are working on including that into stewardship and fundraising efforts. In addition to the usual communication that takes place, work is being done to create and add to groups so staff and committees can easily access a list of people for different things like volunteering to pack backpacks, a visitation list for pastors, and making the boards and groups for leadership.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Ivy's farewell BBQ will be held on August 16. Her last day in worship is August 7.



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

#701.772.4897
place4u@calvarygf.org
CALVARYGF.ORG

Next Council Meeting: August 9 at 7:00 pm

Pastor Reflection

PASTOR KIRK

About a month ago, a friend and I met at a retirement party for a teacher who had committed over forty years to her students/school. After a few minutes, another person who knew my friend joined us at a table. When I was introduced as the pastor at Calvary, the woman mentioned that she no longer attended her congregation because every time she came to a worship service, the pastor begged for money. Of course, I've had many of these conversations over the years. I usually get the vibe that "mixing" worship with a financial plea is somehow awkward, out of place, or just plain wrong. ***Have you also been in these conversations over the years?***

So what end of that conversation have you represented? Just thinking about it, I believe why we see "the numbers" in our weekly bulletin is fine, but mentioning, or even a simple announcement about the financial standing or needs of the church is a whole different animal. The out loud part becomes somewhat, well, unfaithful to many. What do you think that's about? How do you understand the relationship between worshipping God and being asked to respond to the church's mission through your financial support? When would be a more appropriate time in the life of the church?

Since the pandemic, we have been searching for a positive, life-giving way of connecting the various parts of the worship service (confession, hymns, prayers, sermon, Bible stories, etc.) with the offering. We will include a preface to the offering part of worship. I hope this part of worship is not received as "Calvary is always begging for money," of course.

To be quite obvious, unlike ten or twenty years ago, most of us don't carry cash (or even a checkbook, for that matter). So when the offering plate comes around, it quickly becomes the worship service's most forgettable or awkward moment. But instead of simply doing away with the passing of the plate, we will use that moment to remind everyone of how God's generosity is extended to others through Calvary.

Just like preaching the Gospel in worship, I hope that this worship moment isn't understood as just information sharing but rather an invitation to be encouraged by God, who invites all of us to give ourselves away for Jesus' sake. **I would love to hear your thoughts on this.**

Peace,

Pastor Kirk



OFFERINGS



6/19/22	12,719.40
6/26/22	13,855.50
7/3/22	8,039.40
7/10/22	13,829.57

BUDGET/LOAN



2022 Budget	1,174,369
Offerings through 7/14/22	402,937
Expenses through 7/14/22	607,674
Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of July, 2022	675,940.83

MEMORIALS

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Delphine Draxton by Lowell and Arlette Stanlake
In memory of Jean Mandt by Elizabeth Staveteig

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Suzanne Kime by Jan Haas
In memory of Geoff Swanson by Terry and Judith Paukert

GOOD SAM

In memory of Lois Anderson by Richard and Barbara Wessling
In memory of Geoff Swanson by Calvary Lutheran Church
Women

YOUTH FUND

In memory of Geoff Swanson by Howard and Debbie Swanson

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

Randy Siverson whose mother, Ruth Siverson, died on April 30.

John Butler whose mother, Eileen Bertleson, died on May 18.

The family of Geoff Swanson who died on June 7.

Mark Decker whose brother-in-law, Mark Mondry, died on May 18.

Bruce Vaaler and Julie Vaaler-Cinelli whose mother, Nan Vaaler died on June 10.

Gary Anderson whose mother, Lois Anderson, died on June 25.

Nick Hageman whose father, Roy Hageman, died on June 25.

Kathleen Hertel whose sister, Myrnie Tveter, died on July 2.

FUND BALANCES

Youth	80,462.24
Honduras Mission	22,536.55
Foundation	810,166.46
Good Sam	(245.57)
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	2,259.13
Music	5,205.18
Library	2,998.57
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	393.98
Contemporary Worship	10.14
Education	4,671.08
Fine Arts	2,201.28
Missions	28,860.56
Memory Café	5,843.45
Unforgettables Choir	3,984.70
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	939.73
Lewis & Clark Partnership	6,036.05
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,226.25
Coffee Shop	(627.43)
Columbarium	26,820.98
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	9,795.61
Organ/Piano	82.29
General Maintenance	2,320.86
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	579.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Furnace	0.00
Carpet	0.00
Building Expansion	314,811.69
Seminary	1,703.95



Noisy Offering
Sounds of Community Support

July's noisy offering supported:
ST. JOSEPH'S FOOD PANTRY

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

Pastors: Kirk Meseck, Ivy Schulz, Aaron Bye
Reception: Cathy Bubb
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Devig
Communications: Meghan Olson
Education: Nichole Bye
Youth: Morgan Olson
Congregational Life: Julie Pedersen
Tech Coordinator: Marcus Vivier
Building: Danny Navarro



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



Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



@calvarygrandforks



Youth and CONFIRMATION

YOUTH RETREAT

CASTAWAY

We are so excited to return to Castaway Club this fall! Students in grades 6-10 from all over the Eastern North Dakota synod are invited to join us for the weekend. Kids get to experience worship, music, programming, and activities all centered around them!

Visit to calvarygf.org/confirmation to sign up.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RISE & SHINE HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST RESUMES

August 26

SPARK RESUMES

September 28

PARK RIVER BIBLE DAYCAMP

August 4

Kids entering Kindergarten through 3rd grade are invited to spend the day at Park River Bible Camp! We will leave Calvary at 9am for a fun filled day of Bible studies: games, crafts, singing, water games, sliding down the Super Slide, and more!. Bring a swimming suit and towel. Register online or contact Morgan or Nichole through the church office to sign up!

Scan here with your phone to register now.



CONFIRMATION

Visit calvarygf.org/confirmation

Confirmation at Calvary is geared for students 6th grade and up. When registering, you will select where you are at in your Confirmation faith journey:

- Just Beginning (fewer than 10 credits)
- On the Trail (between 10-35 credits)
- Next Steps (greater than 35 credits)

For students Confirmation Orientation for the 2022-2023 school year will take place on Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 PM. Join us to learn more about the program and get help and suggestions when signing up for classes!

If you have any questions about selecting classes or the Confirmation Program at Calvary, please reach out to a member of the Confirmation Ministry Team!

Morgan Olson-Youth Ministry Coordinator
Kirk Meseck & Aaron Bye - Pastoral Team

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM GROUP SERVICES

Students planning on being confirmed this fall:

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will serve as a time learn about upcoming events and make your Confirmation stole. Students may affirm their baptisms at any time, but many want to participate with their classmates. The large group Rite of Confirmation services are scheduled for October 26 and October 30 so mark your calendars and join us on September 14.





INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, August 17 | 6:00 pm

Calling readers young and old! We invite you to join us for Calvary's Summer Book Club! Our book for this session is titled "Cookies and Milk" and we will be combining with Calvary's Reading Religiously group for a fun intergenerational event. If you haven't been apart of either reading group...this would be a great time to try it! Books are available in the office.

ART CAMP FOR KIDS

Thursday, August 18 | 6:00 pm

Calling all artists! Calvary is hosting an Art Camp. We are excited to welcome artist Sister Michelle Walka Director of Beloved Art and Practice to lead us as we explore different art mediums and let our creativity shine! Sessions are divided by age group. Don't forget to wear clothes that can get messy. Sign up is FREE and a snack will be provided.

4-6 years old- 9:00- 11:30 am

7-11 years old- 2:00- 4:30 pm

Artists will hold a special Art Show after 10:30 worship on Sunday, August 21.

BACKPACK BLESSING

We want you to get off to a great start to the school year, and as you prepare we want you to know that your church loves you and is praying for you.

You are invited to bring your backpacks, lunch boxes or computer bags to worship on Sunday, August 21 at 9:00 or 10:30 am as we will say a special blessing for students, teachers, custodians and all who will be headed back to school.



NEW MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: GIFT SUNDAYS

We are excited to be introducing GIFT Sundays this year. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our young people to participate, learn, grow, and be strengthened in their faith in God. To help foster and support families and kids' participation in worship, we have dedicated the following dates as Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) Sunday. These days, faith learning will bring us out of the classroom setting and into an interactive worship experience for all ages. Families are encouraged to experience worship together through GIFT on the last Sunday of each month.

Fall Registration Open!

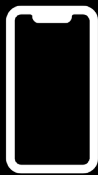
We are so excited to begin a fun year of learning and faith exploration together! Sign ups for Sunday and Wednesday school can be found on our website under Calvary Kids. Join us each week for a full hour of music, Bible stories, crafts and wondering how our faith fits into the world around us.

**9:15-10:15 am Sunday
10:45-11:45 am Sunday
5:45-6:45 pm Wednesday**



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

10-10-80: Why? How? Why Give? Why Save? How to Spend?



"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35)

In the 1980s, an exciting activity occurred in the lives of Lutheran youth. Each youth received \$50.00 they could use in any way they wished. They were simply to keep track of how they used it and share with each other what they did with the money. The inter-synod idea was developed by three synods in the ELCA, all in Wisconsin. The church gave them the money through each of the three synod stewardship directors. The purpose of the exercise was to experience how Christians decide and perhaps struggle with how to use money God gives them. The youth could spend their \$50.00 however they wished. Most of them had never considered the question. They wrestled with all kinds of ways to use this money, and they documented their experience. If you had been one of those youth, how do you think you would have used the \$50.00? The youth shared what they experienced with each other. They said that God transformed their hearts through this exercise. The results were published in a DVD called "10-10-80," which stand for "Give 10%, Save 10%, and Spend the remaining 80%." The DVD is still used by youth and adults to grow in discipleship financial management.

Over the next few months we invite you to explore this study with us. We will start by asking, **Why Give?**

Actually, giving begins with receiving. Psalm 24:1 helps us recognize and acknowledge that we receive everything from God. We respond to God because we are grateful; this is worship. (Deuteronomy 26:11) We respond because we trust God; it is about faith, and that is why we first give our best to God's work and to all that glorifies God. "It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

STEWARDSHIP OUTSIDE THE OFFERING PLATE

These past couple of months, I have been talking about stewardship outside of the offering plate; taking care of our home and our bodies, being good stewards of the natural gifts God has given us. But I would

be remiss if I left finances out of this discussion altogether! So let's talk about ways to give financially outside of the offering plate.

Calvary has so many great options to receive your gifts outside of the traditional offering plate:

OPTIONS

Take a look at the options to the left for some ways to give outside of the offering plate. You can set up one-time or recurring gifts with a credit card or If you love the ease of automatic payments, you can fill out a form to set up automatic payments directly from your bank account. There are options for monthly, semi-monthly,

STEWARDSHIP

And as always, if you are interested in joining the stewardship committee, please join us! You can reach me by email at erica.sundby@gmail.com, or by phone/text at (701) 740-9164. You can also talk with Pastor Kirk or Pastor Aaron.



CALVARY/LEWIS & CLARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Backpack Program

Support Timeline

DECEMBER 2021

Calvary helps some students and families through the Angel Tree.

JANUARY 2022

Lewis & Clark receives Calvary's Mitten Tree donations.

FEBRUARY 2022

Intentional partnership with Lewis & Clark is established and named "IT TAKES A VILLAGE."

MARCH/APRIL 2022

Six week clothing drive for students and siblings.

JUNE 2022

Calvary begins backpack program to support students that are food insecure. Noisy offering is collected.

JULY 2022

Food collection begins and volunteers to pack sign up!

AUGUST 15, 2022

First packing event - sign up at calvarygf.org or in the office.

HOW IT WORKS

Calvary will get food items and pack the items on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Backpacks will be brought to the school and during the school year, eligible students will receive food for the weekends.

IN BACKPACKS

2 BREAKFAST ITEMS

2 LUNCH ITEMS

2 FRUIT ITEMS

2 SNACK ITEMS

2 JUICE BOXES

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you are interested in helping this cause, consider picking up a few items like those listed below and bring them to the church or check out our Amazon wish list and have items sent right to the church!

EXAMPLES

Ramen noodles - chicken

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 like:

•fruit snacks, gold fish, granola bars, oreo packs, etc.

Juice boxes (100% juice)



VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

Since the "It Takes a Village" partnership was established during the past months, it has been a blessing to the students and staff at Lewis and Clark as well as to the members of Calvary who have given their time, talents, and resources.

Moving forward, there are countless ideas and opportunities to strengthen our supportive relationship and further assist the Lewis and Clark community. A committee is being formed to strategize, plan and implement current and future activities. Would you like to be a leader in this important ministry at Calvary? Contact Julie in the church office to volunteer or for more information.



It takes \$100 to supply weekend backpacks for one student in need for an entire school year.

AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		8:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 2:00 pm Maple View Worship 5:30 pm Bio Girls	8:30 am PeeWee Day Camp PRBC 1:30 pm Sewing Club	Office Closed	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Food Drive Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	6:00 pm Reading Religiously	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Council	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Bio Girls		Office Closed	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 5:30 pm LaGrave Meal	6:00 pm Backpack Packing	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins 6:00 pm Pastor Ivy's Farewell BBQ	9:30 am Priscilla/Sarah Circle 10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Bio Girls 6:00 pm Book Club	9:00 am Art Camp 1:30 pm Sewing Club 2:00 pm Art Camp	Office Closed	10:00 am Knit/Crochet
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Backpack Blessing Sunday Art Camp Art Show 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	1:00 pm Lego League 7:30 pm Youth Board	8:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins	9:30 am Priscilla/Sarah Circle 10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 1:00 pm Lego League 5:30 pm Bio Girls	1:30 pm Edgewood Worship	Office Closed	
28	29	30	31			
9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:30 am Contemporary Worship		8:00 am Men's Breakfast Perkins 9:30 pm Quilting & Potluck	10:00 am Coffee & Conversation 5:30 pm Bio Girls			