



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

January 2023



As the year ends we take a look back and see all that we have done in December. The Sunday school kids sang their lungs out and the Unforgettables put on a performance that will not be forgotten. Cookies were exchanged and people continued to volunteer for Lewis & Clark backpack packing. Thank you to Calvary members for helping make this year's Angel Tree a huge success. Thanks to your generosity, 538 gifts were given to members of our community this year. Much appreciation also goes out to our volunteers who helped with additional shopping, organizing, and preparing our gifts this year. Laughter and chatter remained constant throughout the cold winter days as we look toward to 2023.



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS



Calvary's clear invitation is seen or heard in many places (such as on our website): "There's a place for you at Calvary." We also have a mission statement but our unofficial invitation is one we repeat more readily.

As we enter 2023, the long-running invite we repeat got me thinking about coming up with more adages that we could describe our congregation.

Here's what I came up with (you are invited to add your own of course).

God welcomes you, and all of you!

We believe differences make for good conversation!

Your story matters, have a seat?

Resurrection? You want resurrection? OK then...

Guests, we need you more than we even know.

Children and their parents are adored, in and out of worship.

God surprises us with generosity here; it just looks like chaos.

We make mistakes, God uses them too.

My point here, is that God's presence defines Calvary and how God's Spirit dwells in our congregational life becomes a beautiful gift to the larger community. My hunch is that 2023 and beyond will be pockmarked with post pandemic challenges like loneliness, anxiety, apathy and lack of meaning about anything and everything. I hope we see how God is calling and empowering Calvary to be a vital, life-giving community of faith.

Also, since I'm writing this in mid-December, I don't know if our 2022 mission (partially displayed in our budget) was fully funded. So whether or not my prayers for unity, generosity and vitality translated into mission support, God promises to honor the gifts we did offer. God bless you.



I'm not sure about you, but things feel a little like a let-down right about now. An emotional slump after the intense waiting of Advent, the joyous wonder of Christmas, and even a celebration of the beginning of a new calendar year. This let-down is understandable given the adrenalin-pumping pace of the holidays. It can feel like all that we looked forward to is now behind us and the only thing that lies ahead is more cold weather.

However, the rhythm of the church year continues to move on as we now celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and the transition to Ordinary Time. And while that might feel like a great description of life in North Dakota in January, the season reminds us that God does indeed show up in unexpected places, among ordinary people in ordinary settings. This time is known as Ordinary Time because we are not celebrating any particular mystery of our faith but rather the mystery of Christ with us in all aspects of our lives. The Incarnation – God with us in the flesh – transforms every aspect of our human experience into a pace of encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Joan Chittister writes, "The time known as Ordinary Time [is] time to rest in the contemplation of those centers of the faith that are the lodestones of our souls... in this period that is between the two poles of the life of Jesus, we get to pause awhile. To take it all in. To make the connection between that life, that reality, and our own. Ordinary time gives us time to contemplate the intersection between the life of Jesus and our own. In the liturgical year we live the life of Jesus day after day." So let us take this time to bask in the ordinary, and reflect on the extraordinary of the Holy Spirit and seek God in the ordinary aspects of our own lives as well. In our waking, getting ready, eating, commuting, working with others, difficulties and challenges of work, moments of pleasure and pain, consolation and desolation, decision-making, interacting with the news of the world, evenings spent with friends or family, we can ask God, "Show me where you were present, making the ordinary extraordinary. Reveal yourself to me."

In my experience, when I slow down and heighten my awareness of God's presence in the ordinary moments of my life, when I incorporate this simple practice into my daily routine, Ordinary Time becomes anything but ordinary!

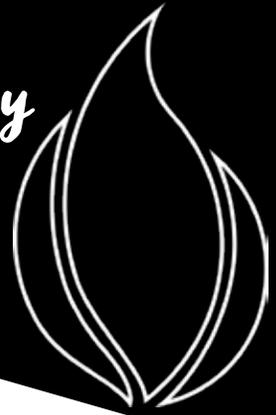


GET INVOLVED

Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



ALL AGES BOOK CLUB

January 22 @ 3 pm

Our book club is open to people of all ages. We come together to discuss one book per month. The newest book that we are reading, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is located in the office for \$10.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, from 1:00 - 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program will begin at 1:30 pm with Kimberly Forness Wilson presenting "How Art Benefits People Living with Dementia." Everyone will be participating in an art project of their choosing, so come dressed accordingly! Call Mary Ann at 701-772-4897 for more information.

HONDURAS RUMMAGE SALE

The Honduras Rummage Sale will be on January 21. The first day items for the sale are accepted is on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 1-6 pm. Items will be accepted on Monday, Jan. 16, to Wednesday, Jan. 18, from 9 am-7pm. Thursday, Jan. 17, is the last day for items accepted and that will be from 9 am-noon.

FAMILY SLEDDING DAY

Join us on Monday, January 16, at 4:00 pm on the Lincoln sledding hill for some winter fun! Then come back to Calvary to warm up with hot chocolate!

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

Holy Grounds is open and we need your help! Be a part of this hospitality ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church to provide a welcoming place for fellowship before and/or after worship times at Calvary. Sign up for as few or many time slots as you would like. Have fun serving coffee and getting to know the people at Calvary. Our espresso machine 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 am to 10:00 am and 10:00 to 11:30 am.

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 *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finney Boylan. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR

The Unforgettables Choir will start the Winter/Spring Semester on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday from 9:30 - 10:15 am for Coffee and Conversation and from 10:15 - 11:30 am for rehearsal. The choir is for people living with dementia and a care partner. We are in need of community partners for the winter semester. Please call Mary Ann for more information at 701-772-4897.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Our recent session was very successful although the cold/bad weather created a challenge. We filled 450 bags in over an hour thanks to the volunteers that were able to help out. We are sending 90 bags to Lewis and Clark Elementary each week to students identified as food insecure. We still need your help though. Outside the doors of each worship space is a list of items you can take with you. Consider grabbing a couple items when you are at the store and bring it in on Sundays. You can also donate a monetary gift for the backpack program. It takes about \$100 to feed one child for the whole school year. That's \$11 per month. It also costs \$250 per week to provide for all qualifying students. Give what you can. No amount is too small.

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE

Income in November was \$37,000 higher than the prior year which equates to a 58% increase. There were three annual gifts which accounted for 23% of the monthly income which is always helpful. We are thankful for the increased income in November as we look to year-end.

Noisy offering In November was collected for UND Mortar Board for their Thanksgiving turkey baskets in the amount of \$676. The November event calendar continued with regularly scheduled worship, education classes, book studies and youth events. There were a couple of special events in November. Calvary hosted the Global Friends Slice of Thanksgiving event the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The annual Advent Festival marked the beginning of the Advent season and closed out November.

Year-to-date income through November was \$5,500 lower than the five-year average and expenses were \$112,600 higher for the same time period. Calvary has returned to the level of programming we saw three years ago, but our level of engagement has not yet reached that same level. 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Staff performance reviews were completed in November. We are blessed to have a staff who share their talents and vision with Calvary. Staff communication is a key area that will be focused on over the next year. Many ideas were shared.

COMMITTEE

Angie Gietzen: Advent Festival and the Christmas program have been some fun opportunities for kids to get involved in this month at Calvary. We haven't met as a board for several months, so I'm hoping to meet after the holidays to talk about plans for spring.

I will be stepping down as the Education chair on Council and am so thankful for my time to connect with other members and help to plan and educate our youth at Calvary. I am looking forward to still serving on the Education board and helping with activities for the kids in our congregation.

STEWARDSHIP

In November a Stewardship temple talk was done in each service on Sunday, Nov. 13th and Wednesday Nov. 16th, focusing on ways to give, how your gifts support the works at Calvary, and a request to prayerfully consider increasing gifts through year-end, as well as in budgets for next year. Stewardship committee met on Dec. 5, and we discussed a push for end-of-year gifts with a hopeful match. Pastor Kirk was going to reach out to the potential match donor. Marcus is working on social media posts for that last week of December to keep it in the forefront. As part of that content, we are hoping to get testimonials (video, written, etc.) from members of the congregation that we can include. We also asked Nichole to see if she'd be able to get some "sound bites" from the Calvary Kids to include as they answer the question "What's one word that describes Calvary?" Would members of the committee or their families be willing to provide a testimonial? If so, we can send you the question leads.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Diane enjoys visiting with Marcus. He really wants to do new things and come up with ideas and has a white board with goals. He's figured out the week-to-week items and feels like he's in a good rhythm. He likes ideas from others, not afraid to take something on.

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

PROPERTY UPDATE

Solo Donation of \$25,000 toward the roof repair.

Next Council Meeting: January 10 at 7:00 pm

#701.772.4897

place4u@calvarygf.org

CALVARYGF.ORG

OFFERINGS

Offerings through 10/6/22:
\$785,889

BUDGET/LOAN

2022 Budget 1,174,369
Expenses through 12/15/22 \$1,000,995

Balance of Building Expansion Loan
as of Dec 31, 2022 \$659,334.82

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

- Darlene Hill, mother of Steve Hill, died 11-20-22
- Judy Wenlund, sister of Ron Nyberg, died 11-22-22
- Steve Field died 11-30-22
- Bob Rowan, father of Joani Kilber & grandfather of Meghan Olson died 12-5-22
- Marilyn Gunderson died 12-14-22
- Garvin Stevens, father of Brad Stevens, died 12-14-22
- Glen Bergerson, brother of Delores Peterson, died 12-19-22

MEMORIALS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Robert Rowan** by Randy and Rachael Puttbrese

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Steve Field** by Calvary Church Women
In memory of **Cheryl Gilbertson** by Calvary Church Women

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK FUND

In memory of **Myrnie Tweter** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM

In memory of **Robert Rowan** by Randi and Carma Hanson

SANCTUARY ROOF

In memory of **Ron Lunde** by Charles and Colleen Zick
In memory of **Gene Martin** by Charles and Colleen Zick

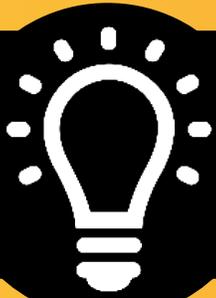
FOUNDATION GRANTS

Foundation Grant Approved December 15, 2022

Amt	Individual/Group	Purpose
\$2,500	Feed My Starving Children	MobilePack Event March 24-25,2023

FUND BALANCES

Youth	86,140.55
Honduras Mission	19,510.07
Foundation	815,628.82
Good Sam	(566.66)
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	1,411.96
Music	2,182.36
Library	2,933.41
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	480.98
Contemporary Worship	10.14
Education	2,759.55
Fine Arts	2,201.28
Missions	29,967.23
Quilting	2,816.35
Memory Café	6,016.26
Unforgettables Choir	5,833.77
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	0.00
Lewis & Clark General	1,629.78
Lewis & Clark Backpack	8,555.09
Hymnal & Bible Fund	817.14
Coffee Shop	(552.31)
Columbarium	26,820.98
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	9,597.68
Organ/Piano	82.29
General Maintenance	4,697.33
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	279.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Furnace	0.00
Roof Repairs	19,237.00
Building Expansion	250,511.52
Seminary	1,703.95



Youth and CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes This Month Wednesdays

January 4-25
6:00-6:45 pm
- #relationshipgoals

7:00-8:00 pm
- Seven Habits
- Creeds & Commandments
- Sacraments & Lord's Prayer
- Bible Basics

7:00-8:00 pm
- SPARK

GIFT SUNDAYS

On GIFT Sundays (Typically the last Sunday of the month) the youth will be selling DONUTS! This serves as a fundraiser for their service learning experience in the summer of 2023. Our next gift Sunday is January 29.



CALVARY NURSERY UPDATE

Our new nursery has a lot of people saying good things about it! Our nursery now is equipped with a bathroom & changing table to make the nursery more accessible to volunteers and families! Staffing the nursery is important to us, and we need YOUR HELP to make that happen! Contact Tori Meseck @ 701-552-0262 or scan the QR code if you would like to volunteer.



RISE & SHINE

9-12 graders are invited to join us for Rise & Shine every Friday morning at 6:30 am, in Holy Grounds





DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

We ended the year with many festive events including the Christmas program, Advent Festival, Christmas cheer, and 4- and 5-year-old Nativity Milestone event. Still my favorite thing in December is listening to the kids sing, "Go Tell It On The Mountain" with the most joy in their hearts.

FAMILY SLEDDING DAY

Join us on Monday, January 16, at 4:00 pm on the Lincoln sledding hill for some winter fun! Then come back to Calvary to warm up with hot chocolate!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

January 4

Classes resume for Wednesday School

January 8

Classes resume for Sunday School

January 29

GIFT Sunday & Doughnuts

February 10

Family Dance



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALVARY STAFF

Pastors: Kirk Meseck, 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

CURIOUS OUTSIDER

podcast

Listen on spotify
or search on the
calvary website.

EPISODES OUT NOW

- 1. Getting to Know the Outsider**
- 2. Chatting with Pastor Ivy**
- 3. Patriarchy & Last Names with Pastor Kirk**
- 4. Talking Pastor Things with Pastor Aaron**
- 5. Talking Finance with Heather**

New Episodes coming soon!



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



Calvary Lutheran Church -
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