

September 2025

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



FALL KICK-OFF **HARVEST OF JOY** A SEASON OF GRATITUDE, ABUNDANCE, AND GRACE

Sunday 09.07.25

9:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
and Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. - Worship in the
Fellowship Hall

3- & 4-year olds receive bible
FOAM Party in the parking lot

Wednesday 09.10.25

5:30 p.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
3- & 4-year olds receive Bible
Pizza Party in the narthex

In case you missed the exciting news, on August 10, Calvary voted to extend a call to Pastor Rachael Puttbrese who will serve as the new Lead Pastor. And Pastor Rachel has accepted! We give thanks to the Call Committee for their prayerful discernment, diligence, and dedication. Pastor Rachael's first day is October 15. Our summer Blended Worship service had strong attendance and people voiced their appreciation for being together. We capped off the summer with an enjoyable polka worship and picnic, with 175 people in attendance.

As we turn our attention to our fall program schedule, we look forward to the return of our regular worship schedule with two services at 9 a.m. (traditional worship in the Sanctuary or contemporary worship in the Fellowship Hall) and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School, Wednesday School, and Confirmation resume in September. See you at Calvary, there is A Place for You Here!

FAREWELL FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places," (NRSV, Ephesians 1:3).

Friends at Calvary,

St. Paul writes these words in the opening greeting of his letter to the Christian community living in Ephesus. This remarkable phrase encapsulates a very important idea of Christian worship. We who are created by God and endowed with gifts and blessings are to do as Paul does and bless God. What a perfect act of complete and total worship/devotion?! As creatures of the creator, blessed to be a blessing. The verse depicts a circle of blessing: God blessing us (and all others) and in turn we use our spiritual blessing to bless God and one another.

For some, the act of blessing conjures up images of laying on of hands as in an anointing, showing personal or divine favor. For others, blessing is more intimate, like the kiss of Isaac as he blesses his son Jacob. After Esau learns of his brother's treachery, he talks about the blessing as something tangible that can be physically taken (cf. Genesis 27).

Yet, it is right to think of blessing in terms of favor and wrong to think of blessing solely as something tangible which could be taken away. And although a blessing is often intangible, it has power. Power to change us and the way we perceive the world.

Pastors use these words of blessing in worship.

Particularly in the Sunday worship during the Invocation and Benediction. The Invocation is used to invoke the name of God, who gathers us, "We gather in the name and under the care and protection of the God we know in the face of Jesus: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." The Benediction is literally the "Good Words," which is the blessing at the conclusion of worship. We are sent forth by a blessing to be a blessing. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace."

As I conclude my ministry among you, I would enjoy having people stop by the church in the next few weeks to share your affirmations and reflections on my ministry among you. If we can't meet in person, phone calls and emails work too. My last Sunday will be September 28, 2025, and my last day in the office will be Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

People of Calvary Lutheran Church, you have been a blessing to me! You have shared with me the love and grace of God. Now, I bless you and Pastor Rachael Puttbrease as you step into God's future:

I bless you, O God, for the people of Calvary Lutheran Church and for Pastor Rachael. May the God of grace who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, plant in you the seeds of love and peace that you would grow to be a well-watered garden. That your lives and ministry together would produce a bountiful harvest that would nourish yourselves, your families, and the Grand Forks community. In the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Faithfully yours,
Pr. Jared Carson

The power of prayer is effective! Calvary members benefit from making and sharing prayer requests. We invite you to share prayer requests for yourself, family, and one another with us. You can request that information be shared only with pastors, only with pastors and staff, or allow the request to be shared through the Calvary Prayer Chain. Prayer may not change the outcome of a healthcare situation or a life circumstance, but it will certainly allow others to surround us with care. Remember, even though "the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express," our companions in Christ at Calvary can't unless we share our needs. Please call or email Cathy Bubb in the Church Office to share prayer requests.

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8-10-25 Beau Edward Bergee
Child of Rebecca & Andrew Bergee



8-10-25 Brewer Paul Hanson
Child of Payton & Braedan Hanson



MEN'S MINISTRY

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. here at Calvary. This is an opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation. We hope to see you there!

FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX

Join us on September 5 at Christus Rex, the Lutheran campus church at UND, as we come together to prepare and serve lunch for our campus community! Whether you enjoy cooking, setting up, or simply helping serve, your time and hands are needed. It's a great opportunity to connect with others, make a difference, and share a meal with friends and students. We'd love to have you be a part of this fun and meaningful way to serve our community—if you are interested, contact Nichole Bye or Julie Pedersen.

PRIDE IN THE PARK

Calvary Lutheran Church is again having a table at the annual Pride in the Park event. Please come visit us on September 13 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Kittson Avenue. Pride in the Park this year will have 40 resources and vendors present at the event, and we are so excited to be a part of it again this year.

CIRCLE GROUPS

Circles are back after the summer break and will resume on the third Wednesdays of the month beginning September 17. Priscilla-Sarah Circle is at 10 a.m., Holy Grounds. Ruth Circle is at 4 p.m., meeting in homes.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

September 30

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.

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

September 4 & 18 @ 1:30 p.m.

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 crafting.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Love to read? Looking for great conversation and new perspectives? 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, all are welcome. Grab a copy of *nineteen minutes* by Jodi Picoult and meet us at the Blue Moose on September 11 at 6 p.m.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

September 14 @ 3 p.m.

Discover the joy of reading together! 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. Come connect through books—you bring the curiosity, we'll bring the stories! This month we will be reading *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga.

CALVARY CLASSICS

On September 18 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall the Classics are hosting a potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun. Whether it's a family recipe or something simple, your contribution will make the table complete. Come hungry and leave with new friends!

CLASSROOM READING AT LEWIS AND CLARK

Do you love kids and books? Do you have an extra 15 minutes in your week? We are looking for volunteers to read in classrooms at Lewis and Clark. You can pick the book or the teacher will have one ready for you. Contact Julie in the church office if you are interested.

Highlights of Church Council

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

Month of July

Giving: Calvary's July congregational giving was \$16K higher than last year. This can be attributed to 2 large gifts and 4 annual gifts in July 2025. July 2025 giving compared to budget was \$18K lower than planned. Weekly giving in July was 76% of budget.

Expenses: July expenses compared to last year were \$13.1k lower primarily due to staffing costs (lower headcount) and timing of fees received for Sunday School and Confirmation. July expenses compared to budget were \$20k favorable primarily due to lower headcount resulting in less spending.

Income (Loss): July income of \$2.4K is favorable \$28.9K to last year and \$2.4K favorable to budget.

Year to Date

Giving: YTD July giving is \$20K lower than prior year. This can be attributed to timing of one-time gifts and lower weekly giving than prior year. YTD July giving is under budget \$144K at 76% of budget.

Expenses: YTD July expenses are \$42K lower than prior year due to \$50K lower staff ministry costs, \$6K lower office costs and \$7K lower youth ministry costs offset by \$3.0K increased utility costs, \$16K maintenance costs (primarily due to \$11K of equipment purchases) and timing of insurance payment \$3K.

Income (Loss): YTD Net Loss of \$54.9K is \$22K higher than last year which is the result of the reduction in income of \$20K offset by \$42K in favorable spending compared to last year.

Forecast

Giving: Based on current trends and an analysis of historical giving patterns, we are forecasting a year-end shortfall in contributions. This gap is projected to be approximately \$149K, representing a 14% deviation from the budgeted amount for the year.

Expenses: Expenses are projected to continue trending at the current YTD average of \$77K per month, ending the year at \$916K and \$125K under budget.

Income (Loss): The anticipated deficit between income and expenses is estimated to be approximately \$24.4K.

NEW BUSINESS

Transition Process

Pastor Rachael Puttbrese has accepted the call and will begin October 15.

Pastor Jared's last Sunday preaching is Sept. 28 and last day in the office is Sept. 30.

Worship

Wed., Aug 21, Polka Worship and Picnic generated good attendance and promoted in the GF Herald. Regular worship schedule begins September 7.

Staffing

Hospitality Coordinator position posted and deadline was August 24. No prospects at this point. Pastor Rachael to provide input on the position.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Survey

All-Inclusive Committee plans to share an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Survey to evaluate the congregation's awareness of intentional welcome efforts

Next Council Meeting: Sept. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 8/14/25	532,760.58
Expenses through 8/14/25	548,525.91

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 8/31/25	400,788.92

Noisy Offerings Collected
Valley Senior Living
Chaplaincy
~\$600

Memorials

CAMPERSHIP FUND

In memory of Tom Strinden by Ruth Larson

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Tom Strinden by Marilyn Lundberg

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

In memory of Esther Brokke by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

In memory of Marilyn Johnson by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM

In memory of Pam Zelewski by Cornel and Joani Kilber

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Dorothy Schoen by Brian and Patricia Qvammen

FUND BALANCES

Youth	57,577.21
Honduras Mission	26,538.06
Foundation	803,375.73
Good Samaritan	2,774.05
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,737.37
Music	1,433.27
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,474.39
Education	4,759.14
Fine Arts	1,153.54
Missions	37,878.30
Quilting	2,444.85
Memory Café	14,864.75
Unforgettables Choir	14,278.46
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	988.16
Lewis & Clark General	3,749.30
Lewis & Clark Backpack	8,169.95
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,660.25
Coffee Shop	2,989.87
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,066.24
Organ/Piano	645.00
General Maintenance	4,139.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	887.00
Roof Repairs	6,712.33
Building Expansion	235,191.61
Seminary	503.95

Holy Grounds

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, lovingly named Franke, is very user friendly and training is provided.

Two shifts are scheduled each Sunday for two people per shift. Families/friends are also welcome to volunteer together. Shifts run from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m and 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.



Traditional Choir

The Calvary Choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. Traditional service and rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the choir room. New members are always welcome - no audition necessary! Rehearsals begin the first Wednesday after Labor Day and the choir season goes from September until mid-May. To join, contact Whitney Berry, choir director at 701-740-8253 or Whitney.berry@und.edu or show up at a Wednesday night rehearsal.



Prayers & Sympathies

Meaghan Nordstog's mother, Lori Miller, died 7-26-25.

Peter & Chris McDonald's father, Jim McDonald, died 8-2-25.

Esther Brokke died 8-10-25.

Kiersten (Eric) Brutger's mother, Lavetta Syverson, died 8-20-25.

We grieve with those who have lost loved ones.

We remember those who have left us to be with our creator.

We know that they are gone but never forgotten.

God's Polka Party

Calvary hosted a Polka Worship and Picnic, on Wednesday, Aug. 20, to cap off the summer Wednesday worship events. The Kringen Accordion Band, from the Sons of Norway Lodge in Fargo, did a great job leading our worship songs and their musical set.



A spirit of joy filled the event with music, dancing, and time spent together. The staff was not sure how many people might show up for this event and planned for 75-80. We had about 175 people in attendance, and even had to run to the store for more food to feed hungry guests. While Calvary members were certainly in attendance, we also had guests from other congregations and the wider community.

Memory Cafe & Unforgettables Choir

The Memory Cafe will meet on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program will begin at 1:30 pm with Julie Praska-Moser presenting "The Empowered Caregiver-Exploring Care and Support Services." This is the program we postponed in May, the last of our series of five Empowered Caregiver presentations that we began last winter/spring.

The Memory Cafe is an educational program for people living in the community who are affected by Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. All are welcome to attend. The Memory Cafe is free, and we serve refreshments after the program.

The Unforgettables Choir - Registration

The Unforgettables will be hosting Coffee, Conversation and Registration on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. We will fill out forms, eat, visit, get acquainted with new singers and prepare for our first performance on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. More information will be available at registration. If you are not able to come for registration you are welcome to come the following week, September 17, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. when we start our regular rehearsal schedule or any week following.

The Unforgettables Choir is a community chorus for people living with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia and their care partner. We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. with Coffee and Conversation from 9:30-10:15 a.m. then singing from 10:15-11:30 a.m. The choir is directed by Mary Ann Devig who can be reached through the church office at 701-772-4897.

The Unforgettables Choir - Rehearsals Begin

The Unforgettables Choir will begin singing again on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Our morning begins at 9:30 a.m. with time for coffee and conversation, then we sing from 10:15-11:30 a.m. We sing old, familiar and some new songs. No choral singing experience is necessary and for anyone who says "I can't sing," know that almost everyone in the choir has said the same thing and they sound wonderful with all the voices combined! We also have an excellent team of volunteers to help! The choir is directed by Mary Ann Devig who can be reached through the church office at 701-772-4897.

The Unforgettables Choir - Singing at Music Monday at the Senior Center

The Unforgettables have been invited to sing at the Senior Center for Music Mondays on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The Senior Center has completed renovations of their kitchen and are excited to welcome everyone so come have lunch and enjoy a fun afternoon. The address is 640 4th Ave. S. and the cost of the meal is \$4.25 for people over 60 and \$11.75 for people under 60 years old.





A Lewis & Clark Partnership

Calvary's It Takes a Village partnership with our neighbor school, Lewis and Clark, is ready for year four of supporting the backpack program. We are called to have compassion and be in service for others. One of the ways we answer this call is by meeting the nutritional needs of food-insecure children in our partner school. This program provides meals for the weekend for hungry 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 2025-2026 school year but all donations help to make this program work. Food donation tables are also placed outside 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 tables. An Amazon wish list is also available where you can have food items sent directly to Calvary.



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)

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed to assist in filling bags on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church narthex. Please consider taking an hour on these days to help. The next packing event will be held on September 16.

In addition to filling the bags, we are looking for volunteers with trucks to pick up the pallet of food and deliver it to Calvary on packing day. Please contact Julie in the office to volunteer or for more information.

We have just learned that the Northlands Rescue Mission will no longer be administering the Backpack Program. Lewis and Clark is in a good position, however, since Calvary has committed to filling the need each week. What we will need to do now is deliver the bins of backpack food to Lewis and Clark weekly. If you would like to help with this or would like more information, contact Julie in the office.

School Supply Drive

We thank all who participated in the school supply drive for the Lewis and Clark students. Thanks to you, students will have the essential tools for learning. Calvary has a congregation of kind and caring people who generously met this need. Thank you for your support and making a difference to the students and staff at Lewis and Clark.

We cannot put into words how grateful we are for our community of selfless and caring people - so thank you for continuing to support the children we serve each year with your kindness.



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

Our Worship Services

Sunday*

9 a.m. - Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday*

5:30 p.m. - Sanctuary
*Holiday and summer services may have different times.

All services are streamed online.

calvarygf.org

From the All-Inclusive Team

As part of our process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) designated church, we are seeking your input. The Reconciling in Christ designation affirms our public commitment to welcome, include, and celebrate all of God's beloved.

This step is an important part of listening to our community's voices and understanding how we can live more fully into God's call to welcome all here at Calvary Lutheran Church. We invite you to complete our RIC survey by October 1, 2025. Your responses will guide our All-Inclusive team in shaping a public welcome statement and in planning educational opportunities, conversations, and next steps.

If you would prefer to fill out a paper copy of the survey, they will be available outside each worship space. Fill out your survey and seal it in the envelope provided. These can be placed in the manila envelope on each table or dropped off in the office.



Thank you for sharing your opinions to help Calvary work towards sharing God's welcome.

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Text

701-922-9020

2. Online

at calvarygf.org

3. In Worship

Drop a gift in the offering plate

4. 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



Youth and CONFIRMATION



High School Youth Group

Moving into September and for the remainder of the school year High School Youth Group will be meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Confirmation Orientation will be on Wednesday, September 10. We will be doing a large group class the following week on September 17, talking about the importance of service to get us ready for the God's Work, Our Hands event on September 24.

SPARK Middle School Youth Group

SPARK will be moving back to 8- 9 p.m. after confirmation classes on Wednesdays!



Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking for something to do on a Wednesday night during the school year, we are currently looking for Confirmation class teachers! We would love to have you join that team, lesson plans and materials are provided. You just need to bring a happy attitude and willingness to teach. Reach out to Chelsea if you are interested or have more questions!

Save the Dates

Sept. 10: Confirmation Kick-Off and Orientation
Sept. 24: God's Work, Our Hands

Do not hesitate to reach out to Chelsea if you have any questions or concerns!

Chelsea can be reached by email:
chelsea@calvarygf.org

or phone at the church: (701)772-4897 ext. 207

Register Today!
**20 FALL
25 PROGRAMS**



PROGRAMS BEGIN

September 7



Kids & Family



Welcome to our sensory room!

During our Vacation Bible school this summer, we set up an area for kids where they could step away from the noisy, busy activities of the week and take a little break. With the emotional well-being of our students in mind, we are happy to announce this space will now be available all year long. While we already have wonderful spaces for kids to learn and play, this room offers something a little different: a calm, welcoming environment where students can go if they're feeling overwhelmed or need a moment to reset.

Equipped with thoughtfully chosen tools and activities, our sensory room is designed to help children regulate their emotions in a safe, supportive setting. Whether a child is having a tricky morning or just needs a break, this space is here to meet them where they are and help them return to their day feeling more centered. Due to the nature of the room, we ask that all students be accompanied by a parent, teacher or grownup. We're so grateful to offer this resource and look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on our kids and families.

3- & 4-year-old Milestone

Join us Thursday, Sept. 4 @ 5:30 p.m. for dinner, introduction to Bibles & activity.

This event is designed for grownups & kids to participate together. Siblings are welcome!

Presentation of 3- & 4-year-old Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 7 or Wednesday, September 10.

Art Camp 2025 has a new date!

Friday, October 17. We will gather with Deacon Michelle Walka to explore our creativity. This is a non-school day for our Grand Forks and East Grand Forks students to register, visit the Calvary website under the ministries tab or use the QR code.



Join us for a fun-filled evening under the stars on Friday, Sept. 19 in Calvary parking lot.

We'll provide the movie and concessions — you just bring a blanket or lawn chairs and your favorite people!

Movie starts at dusk — come early to grab snacks and a good spot!

September 7 20 Kick-Off 25 Celebration

9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:30 AM FOAM PARTY
Bring a swimsuit!



Upcoming Dates

	Sept 4	Sept 7
	3- & 4-year old Milestone	Sunday School Starts
Sept 10	Sept 14	Sept 19
Wednesday School Starts	All-Ages Bookclub	Outdoor Movie

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
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CALVARY STAFF

Interim Pastor: Jared Carson
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen
Building & Grounds: Danny Navarro
Youth: Chelsea Helland



God's work. Our hands.
Combatting Hunger Together

Wednesday | September 24 | GRAND FORKS TOWN SQUARE

5:30-6:15 PM | Free Meal + Service Opportunities

6:15-7:00 PM | Music + Fellowship + Holy Communion



ELCA



Free Community Meal – Everyone is welcome to share a meal together.



Food Packing Stations – Help prepare food kits for neighbors in need.



Advocacy Opportunities – Learn how to support systemic change for food justice.



Live Music & Fellowship – Enjoy uplifting entertainment and community connection.



Holy Communion – All are invited to share in God's table of grace.



Fill The Truck - Bring a non-perishable food item or 2 to donate to local pantries if you can!



CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving & Igniting People for Christ



**Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks**



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