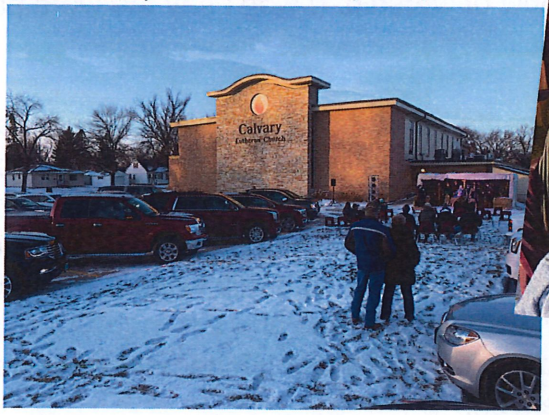
CALVARY CALLING

Called by God | Centered in Grace | Calvary Serves and Ignites People for Christ

www.calvarygf.org January 2021 Last month at Calvary...

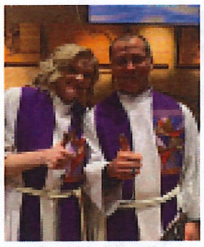
CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY

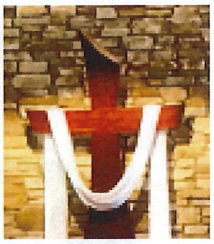
Christmas of 2020 will be one we remember! When we started planning Christmas in October (like we do most years) we didn't have any clue how COVID would look in our area. We made plans to worship as many different ways as we could safely. We had two different styles of online worship and four different outdoor live nativity worship services that you could participate in from your car or outside. Although it was below zero, the gospel was shared and we welcomed our savior in a simple and meaningful way. Thanks for trying something new with us!



FORWARD IN FAITH
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2020-2022

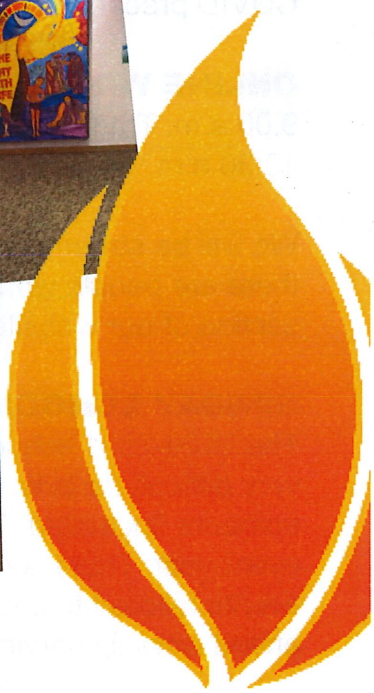
CAMPAIGN PROGRESS UPDATE





SNEAK PEEK

We are excited to welcome people back to in-person worship this month AND to see the changes that have happened in the building! This strange time has allowed us the time and space to complete many projects that we apart of the Forward in Faith campaign last year. Most recently the new funraces for the Sanctuary have been installed which was the largest part of the furnace project. Coats in worship won't be a necessity anymore!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KIRK

The bright light of Epiphany calls the church to pay rapt attention to the needs of those whose lives have become defined by darkness. And some of that darkness has really increased (or deepened) because of these last ten months of pandemic. Into this dark moment, Calvary is slowly transitioning back from being physically distanced from other members to worshipping, learning and simply being back together. As I've said before, our experience of worship will be a bit frustrating for a while as the appropriate protocols prevent much of what we know of worship. (I won't say the word patience at this point...)

It is this context that I really wanted to describe the way Calvary has responded to the challenge of COVID 19. Listen, the mission, defined by our budget, that we placed before our congregation during last January's annual meeting, looked like nothing but bad news in April, let alone October. But God is good! We received an incredible outpouring of generosity in the month of December; an amount we've never even been close to achieving. And this without a single person worshipping in the building! What a committed crew we have become and it is indeed a surprising light at a particularly dark time. What else is God up to? "Let your light so shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Pastor Kirk

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall
*We will be adding additional services as needed and as able. In-person worship will continue with COVID precautions of mask wearing and social distancing in the worship spaces.

ONLINE WORSHIP
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

We will be streaming our worship services going forward. Things might look a bit different now that there are people worshipping in the space but the service will be there for you on the oniline worship section of our website or on Facebook.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE
The 2020-2021 school year the board of Christian Education came to the conclusion that it would be very difficult for kids, families and volunteers to have to shift gears in another area of life as COVID numbers fluctuated. This year is entirely an online Sunday School and in-person milestone ministry event year. That way we can have smaller grade groups meet throughout the year to have learning events tailored to each age. If you feel comfortable, we absolutely encourage families to come and attend worship services together.

Calvary CONNECTS

UPDATES & MORE

SEWING CLUB
January 21 @ 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 sewing.

QUILTING DAY
January 26 @ 9:30 a.m.
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Quilting Day on the last Tuesday of the month. Come for an hour or two or the day!

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP
February 20 @ 10:00 a.m.
- Patterns available
- Learn about prayer shawl ministry
- Come and work on your own projects
- Learners always welcome--supplies and patient teachers available!

LAGRAVE MEAL MINISTRY
Calvary serves a weekly meal at LaGrave on First. This ministry is in need of an organizer to make sure a meal is being made or bought for about 25 people each week. There are several teams in place already so this person would act as a go between. If you are interested in volunteering your organizational (or cooking) skills call the church office.

ANNUAL MEETING
January 31
Join us at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall, online or via phone for Calvary's Annual Meeting. We will hear updates from the pastors and staff as well as the church council and committees. We will also vote on next year's budget and vote on the new members of the church council. Come and hear about all the amazing things happening at Calvary!

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY
February 7
The first Sunday of each month Calvary hosts a food drive. Consider picking up a few extra items at the grocery store and bring them to church with you! There are shopping carts available on both ends of the building, or you can bring food to the office.
Ideas include:
- nonperishable canned fruits and vegetables
- peanut butter and granola bars
- soup, macaroni, spaghettios, rice, pasta

This has been such a great ministry to watch during this pandemic time. Thank you for caring for your neighbors in our community experiencing food insecurity during this time.

DIALOGUES ON RACE
Class update
If you are apart of Pastor Ivy's Dialogues on Race book study on Mondays, we are now able to move to in person discussion. Join us at Calvary on Mondays at noon. The Wednesday night group will remain on zoom. Questions? Contact Pastor Ivy through the church office.

COVID VACCINE UPDATE FOR THOSE 75+
Altru and public health have announced the first Tier of Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan has begun. Community members who are 75 and older can contact the COVID Hotline at 701-780-6358 to be included on a vaccine waitlist. Due to the amount of vaccine allocated to the State of North Dakota the time needed to vaccinate the 75 and older population may take several weeks. Those who fit in future tiers of phase 1B and future phases should refrain from calling until we communicate that we are moving into the next tier.

Calvary YOUTH

CONFIRMATION

We have made the switch back to in-person confirmation classes. Be sure to watch for the weekly e-mails to see which door to enter through and which space you will meet in. There are still some entirely online options watch for those classes if you are interested in that format. Don't forget a mask for in-person class! Registration continues to be open for classes and we will continue to add classes. We encourage students and families to register for classes that fit in your schedule! If there are classes that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out to Morgan via email! Your feedback is very helpful in the scheduling process!

As always, if you have any questions, or if there are any classes that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out.

JANUARY MENTOR EVENT

Pick a date in January to get together with your mentor. The topic this month is *Living our Faith in the World.* To keep group sizes as small as possible, we are asking that mentors and students get together independently for the month of January. An activity sheet with instructions will be emailed to those enrolled in the mentor year. Contact Morgan at the church with questions.

CALVARY kids

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to all of the fifth graders and their families for helping with the virtual Christmas Program. Wow! You did an amazing job telling the story of Jesus' birth. I am so proud of you and honored to be a part of this unique Christmas program.

FAMILY DATE NIGHT IN A BOX

Friday, February 12

Pick up your date in a box, all the material you and your family will need to enjoy some quality time together, just in time for Valentines day! Watch for the sign up sheet on our website and facebook page.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & MILESTONE EVENTS

It is never too late to join in on the fun and faith formation at Calvary. This year looks different, but we are working hard to find an opportunity that will fit with your family. To sign up please visit our website calvarygf.org/kids or email nichole.bye@calvarygf.org Sunday/Wednesday School Online weekly episodes that will be posted to our Facebook and Website at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Milestone events are our answer to not being able to meet weekly in-person for Sunday school this year. Each grade level has three events throughout the year. Events are tailored to learning levels and provide a space for parents and students to engage in their faith. As long as the numbers allow, these events will be held in the building with masks and social distancing measures in place. If you do not feel comfortable attending in-person, take home bags with materials and instructions are available.

AFFIRMATION JAR

Materials : Paper, scissors, pencils, pen, and/or crayons, stickers (optional)

This week's Scripture reminds us God sees us, knows us, and loves us. Just like God teaches us to love others, we must show love and compassion to ourselves. Here's something you can make to help you with that:

1. Cut paper into ten or more strips that are a few inches long.
2. Think about some attributes you like about yourself. Maybe you're funny or calm. Maybe you're skilled at puzzles, excellent at drawing, or give amazing hugs. Maybe you really like your eyes, hair, or freckles. Write or draw these attributes on a few strips of paper.
3. What are some words people use to describe you that make you feel loved and celebrated? Maybe it's when you hear, "you're great," "you're so talented," or "you're made in the image of God!" Use a few strips of paper to write these phrases or draw pictures reminding you of them.
4. Use the rest of your strips of paper to write or draw things reminding you of God's love. When you reflect on God's love, maybe you think of a rainbow or a heart or even a picture of you. It can be anything you like!

Fold the strips of paper containing your affirmations and place them in your jar. Put the lid on (if your jar has one), decorate the jar with stickers if you want, and place your jar in a visible space. Whenever you need a little help showing love and compassion to yourself, open your jar and pull out one of the strips you made. As you look at what you wrote or drew, you can say your own prayer or pray this: "I love God and God loves me. Thank you, God, for this reminder."

When you're done, re-fold your strips, put them back in the jar, and return to it whenever you need to feel affirmed.

PRAYER

Wonderful God, you know everything about us and see everything we do. You love us exactly as we are and we love you, too. Help us love ourselves because we are your beloved creations.
Amen.

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OUR RECORD OF PARTICIPATION

11/15/20	23,220.07
11/22/20	3,539.40
11/29/20	29,299.50
12/6/20	28,820.41
12/31/20	19,275.07

2020 Budget -- $1,089,087

Offering received through 12/15/20 -- $766,973

Expenses through 12/15/20 -- $847,391

BALANCE OF BUILDING EXPANSION LOAN

937,683.46

Baptisms:

Boone Christian Spicer 12-21-20
Parents: Tanner & Kora Spicer

Our Prayers & Christian Sympathy To:

Dale Schulz whose father, Everett, died December 16.
Deb Meseck whose mother, Catherine Klegstad, died December 20.
Pam Laffen whose husband, Lonnie, died December 23.
The family of Cleone Strinden, who died December 27.
Tonya Butler whose dad died December 26.
The family of Tom Anderson who died December 27.
Phyllis Norgard whose sister, Marilyn Salwei, died December 23.
Trish Paulson whose husband, Mark, died on January 2.
Kathleen Borgen whose husband Steve died on January 1.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of John Dahlgren by John E. Knudson, Paul and Diane Mathiason
In memory of James Olson by Lawrence and Jeanette Brokke
In memory of Glenn Peterson by Raymond and Joyce Jarombek; Ruth Larson
In memory of Dale Andrews by Donald and Nancy Krogstad

CAMPERSHIP FUND

In memory of Joel Anderson by Bernice Goodman, Richard and Barb Lunde, Carol Tweten, James and Melody Nord, Don and Ellen Anderson, Rod and Arlene Wilson, Richard and Jan Olson, Ross and Kristin Thorson, Roberta Zick, Gary and Debbie Lloyd, Dave and Kristy Landenburger, Doug and Susan Lee, Jerry and Kay Flom, Jan Jelliff, Jamie Hillesland

FINE ARTS FUND

In memory of Marge Campbell by Faye McPhail
In memory of Brenda Decker by Bruce and Susan Nord
In memory of Pat Healey by Faye McPhail

FOUNDATION FUND

In memory of John Dahlgren by Larry and Ellen Hoiberg

FURNANCE FUND

In memory of Joel Anderson by Bob and Sharon St. Germain

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Dale Andrews by Bruce and Susan Nord, Terrance Severson, Chad and Anna Larson, Howard and Debbie Swanson, Nancy Andrews, Larry and Katherine Houser, Charles and Colleen Zick, Gloria Foss, Marilyn Lundberg, Steve and Robin Turner, Candace Vigen Galstad, Bob and Peggy Alderson, Richard and Barbara Lunde, Larry and Janet Eickman, Steve and Jeanene Swartz, Carol Svendson, Wally and Sara Bloom, Gary and Cindy Purpur, Ronald and Lila Nelson, Roberta Zick

FUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 2020

Youth	83,034.70
Honduras Mission	8,531.82
Foundation	673,267.65
Good Sam	2,275.38
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	884.97
Music	5,447.87
Library	2,666.26
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	214.98
Contemporary Worship	89.00
Education	5,563.49
Fine Arts	2,201.28
Missions	32,553.98
Memory Café	5,798.47
Unforgettables Choir	4,809.38
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	392.90
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,475.72
Coffee Shop	1,762.17
Columbarium	26,090.33
Stephen Ministry	933.75
Operation Technology	14,867.97
Organ/Piano	954.45
General Maintenance	5,673.70
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	521.91
Hearing Aid Loop	2,037
Furnace	60,493.56
Building Expansion	305,691.45

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

December 2020

Treasurer's Report - Overview

Income in November was 27% lower than the prior year. While November income was higher than the prior two months, it was much lower when comparing to the prior year.

Calvary's November level of activities was lower when compared with prior Novembers. Worship continues to be live-streamed each Sunday and "Six Feet into the Word" is posted each Wednesday on Facebook. Confirmation classes and weekly Bible studies continue to be held on Zoom. The Angel Tree requests were released in November and many of the gifts have already been returned to share with those in need.

Year-to-date income through November was $84,500 (10.8%) lower than the prior year and $55,000 (7.3%) lower than the five-year average. Year-to-date expenses through November were $39,600 (4.6%) lower than the prior year and $23,700 (2.9%) lower than the five-year average. As we all are tired of waiting for our lives to go back to "normal," we are reminded we are in the season of Advent which is a time of waiting and preparation of Jesus' birth.

December's income was amazing! When comparing current year income to prior year, the current is 30% higher. The Calvary building in December was quite busy even without in-house worship. Confirmation and 4th grade students delivered poinsettias to Calvary members, four- and five-year-olds were invited to a milestone event, and an Advent Festival was held. A couple of maintenance items completed in December were replacement of the furnace that heats the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary pew cushions had a much-needed cleaning. Christmas Eve worship had some old and some new aspects. A traditional worship service and a contemporary worship service were posted online for those who preferred to worship indoors. A live nativity worship service and a hymn sing service were offered for those who chose to worship outdoors.

Yearly income through December was $32,000 (3.4%) lower than the prior year and $35,000 (3.5%) lower than the five-year average. Yearly expenses through December were $35,000 (3.7%) lower than the prior year and $41,600 (4.5%) lower than the five-year average. Financially, Calvary ended the year in a way we could not have predicted based on the ups and downs our world has seen in 2020. God is good!

Council Business

The Annual meeting will be held on January 31. The Nominating Team has secured just about every position for our 2021 Council.Those names will be given out in the annual report that goes out prior to the annual meeting.The Sanctuary furnace is fully operational and a few other smaller furnaces in the building are now back up and running too. In-person worship begins on January 17 and both ends of the building are ready to go technology wise for in-person and livestreamed worship.

Officers and Ministry Teams

Christmas Eve will be online and outside in-person. people have the ability to stay in their cars or come out on the grass area. The online services will be posted in the morning on December 24 so people can worship wherever it fits in their day. The last six weeks of 2020 were pretty busy with financial and giving focused communications to the congregation going out in multiple ways about stewardship We ended the year in the positive and were able to make all of our current and long standing commitments as well as benevolences. Confirmation classes and worship will begin in-person and small groups will again be able to meet sooin per the color chart made in 2020.

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

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CALVARY STAFF
Pastors: Kirk Meseck, Ivy Schulz, Aaron Bye
Education: Nichole Bye
Youth: Morgan Olson
Reception: Cathy Bubb
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Communications: Meghan Olson
Custodian: Scott Hayden

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving & Igniting People for Christ

CONNECT WITH CALVARY ONLINE

Calvary Lutheran Church - Grand Forks
@calvarygf
@calvarygrandforks

Calvary's ANNUAL MEETING HOW TO

Calvary will host the summary and voting part of the constitution meeting as well as the annual meeting on January 31 at 1:00 p.m. There are several ways to join and a few items to note about each way of attending.

1. IN-PERSON
If you decide to join us in-person you will come the the Fellowship Hall at Calvary and your voting will take place on a paper ballot. Remember to wear your mask!

2. ONLINE
If you will join us on your cell phone or computer via Zoom we are going to have you vote by e-mail. Voters must be entered into the system in advance to ensure that it is an anonymous vote. To register, please go to the Calvary church website and under the "***EVENTS***" tab and in the dropdown select ***JANUARY EVENTS***. Register by clicking the button below the infromation about the annual meeting. Each voter must enter their OWN e-mail address. If you only have one e-mail address for your hosuehold, one voter will use the calling method described below. The calling method will take time to do and time to count so we don't want too many people extra people using that way.

3. PHONE
If you will join us by a phone call you may vote via phone also or you may vote via e-mail.
To vote by phone you will hang up from the meeting when it is time to vote. You will call the church office at 701-772-4897. This might take some time so there will be at least a 15 minute break from the meeting to cast votes and count. We have four lines open at a time so if you do not make it through on the first try, hang up and try again in a minute. You will not share your name on the call but you will say. **"Hello, my vote is _____ (yes, no abstain)"** If you are comfortable using email register with the instructions in #2.

HOW TO JOIN

If you attended the meeting on January 3, you can join the meeting in a similar way. There will be a postcard mailed out and an email sent with the meeting number, phone number to call and the meeting link to join via zoom through the website like the one on the right that was mailed last time.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting or on the day joining the meeting please do not hesitate to call the church office.