

February 2026

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun. Feb. 1 - Annual Meeting
10:00 a.m. - One Combined Service

Wed. Feb. 4
5:30 p.m. Worship*

Sun. Feb. 8
Regular Worship Schedule*

Wed. Feb. 11
5:30 p.m. Worship*

Sun. Feb. 15
Regular Worship Schedule*

Wed. Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday
12:00 p.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal
6:00 p.m. Worship

Sun. Feb. 22
Regular Worship Schedule*

Wed. Feb 26
5:00 p.m. Lenten Meal
6:00 p.m. Worship*

* Sunday & Wednesday School

Annual Meeting & One Worship Service

Sunday, February 1, 10:00–11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Our Annual Meeting is a vital moment in the life of Calvary. It is a time when we gather to celebrate our shared life in Christ and to participate in decisions that shape our future together. Your presence and voice matter as we give thanks for another year of ministry, approve our Mission Plan (budget), and vote on new Council members. More about the annual meeting under the council highlights page.

Lent

This Lent, our midweek worship will blend our theme, “Tell Me Something Good,” with beloved selections from Holden Evening Prayer.

Together, these services will ground us in the heart of the gospel. Listening again for the good news Jesus lived and taught: love of neighbor, radical welcome, care for the vulnerable, and hope that takes root even in a weary world. Through familiar music and reflective prayer, we gather each week to be nourished by what is truly good. Lenten Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Worship.



A MESSAGE FROM LEAD PASTOR RACHAEL PUTTBRESE

This month, at the Annual Meeting, we will gather to give thanks and praise to God for another year of life together. We look back with gratitude for the ministry shared, the challenges met, and the grace that has sustained us. We also look ahead, trusting God who has been faithful will continue to guide us into the year to come.

February also carries us into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a journey that invites us to slow down and walk the way of the cross with honesty and hope. This year, our Lenten theme, *Tell Me Something Good*, invites us to listen closely for the good news God continues to speak even in a weary and complicated world.

In early January, we gathered at our baptismal fonts to hear the story of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan once again. The Spirit descended, and God's voice spoke clearly: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

In baptism, we are named and claimed as beloved children of God. This is not a name we earn or achieve. It is a gift we receive. Before any title, role, opinion, or accomplishment, God speaks a deeper truth over us: You belong to me.

Our baptismal identity shapes how we live as followers of Jesus. It grounds us when the world feels uncertain. It reminds us that our deepest allegiance is not to fear, division, or scarcity, but to the love of God revealed in Christ, especially when news leaves us anxious, overwhelmed, or unsure how to respond.

In baptism, we are not only named and claimed by God; we are joined to one another. We belong to Christ, and we belong to each other. In the family of God, there are no outsiders or foreigners. God's love in Christ is for the whole world, and our shared baptismal life in God's global family shapes how we show up for one another and for a hurting world.

In the season of Lent, we are invited to tend our faith with intention. Admitting our own mortality, that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, confronting the ways of sin that draw us from God. Leaning more fully into the life of the Crucified One. Lent is not a season of perfection, but of practice: remembering who we are and learning again how to live as people shaped by grace.

So perhaps the invitation of this new year is not to resolve to do more or be better, but to trust more deeply. To live into the promise God places before us each day. To step into those empty squares with courage, hope, and love, trusting that Christ will be already present there.

This Lent, I invite you to join me in a six-week reading practice and book study on *The Cost of Discipleship*, meeting Wednesdays from 7:15–8:00 p.m., beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through the last Wednesday in March. Together, we will reflect on what it means to follow Jesus faithfully and honestly in our own time. Come as you are, whether you read every page or simply come ready to listen and reflect. A few copies of the book will be available in the church office, or you are welcome to bring your own.

May God who names you beloved walk with you in days of uncertainty, bind us together in grace, and send us out to live Christ's love in a world longing for good news.

Grace and peace,

Pr. Rachael



MEN'S MINISTRY

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

SUPERBOWL PARTY

February 8 @ 4:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join us for a Super Bowl watch party filled with fun, fellowship, and a little friendly competition! We'll be playing Commercial Bingo with prizes throughout the game, so keep your eyes on the screen. Please bring your favorite dish or appetizer to share, and come enjoy the game together—whether you're here for the football, the commercials, or the snacks!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

February 9 @ 6 p.m. | Blue Moose

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. We have changed our meeting date. We will meet on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Moose in East Grand Forks. Grab a copy of *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan and meet us at the Blue Moose.

CIRCLE GROUPS

Will meet on the third Wednesdays of the each month. The Next meetings are on February 18. Priscilla-Sarah Circle is at 10 a.m., Holy Grounds Ruth Circle is at 4 p.m., meeting in the Library.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

February 24 in the Fellowship Hall

We would like to encourage you to join us on the last Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to help assemble the quilts. We also have a potluck lunch at noon. You can come for an hour or two or the whole day, that is up to you. We hope you can join us.

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

February 5 & 19 @ 1:30 p.m.

Meets the third Thursday of this month in the Library. This is open to all women who want to bring their "handiwork" for an afternoon of fellowship and crafting.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held in the fellowship hall at Calvary on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 from 1:00-3:30 pm. The program begins at 1:30 pm and will feature the conclusion of a video by Teepa Snow that we started during our January meeting titled "I Want to Go Home." The event is free and all are invited to attend. For more information you may contact Mary Ann through the church office at 701-772-4897.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

February 15 @ 3 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

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 *The Mystery of the Locked Rooms*.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

February 22 @ 11:45 a.m. | Holy Grounds

Thinking about making Calvary your church home?

Come for a casual New Member Orientation with time to ask questions, meet others, and learn more about life at Calvary.

Can't attend? Please reach out to Julie Pedersen or Pastor Rachael either one would be glad to connect with you.

Highlights of Church Council

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

Year to Date

Calvary Lutheran concluded 2025 with a financial surplus, attributed primarily to envelope contributions received in December. Several annual gifts contributed during this period resulted in revenues surpassing expenses at year-end. December envelope contributions were \$90,000 higher than the average monthly envelope giving from January through November 2025. When compared to 2024, envelope contributions were \$19,000 less than 2025.

In Summary

Although envelope contributions decreased, Calvary experienced reduced expenses in 2025 resulting from vacant staff positions. These savings were offset by strategic investments in technology and equipment, alongside the management of increased insurance and utility costs during the year. This resulted in \$62,000 of excess income over expenses in 2025. Continued support from the congregation has enabled Calvary to maintain a stable financial position.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS

Building & Grounds

Brad Thoreson is assisting in Danny's absence and has done a really great job. Danny is expected to be back February 9 or 16.

Stewardship

Stewardship Drive is complete and we collected a total of 251 commitment cards equalling \$554,000 in pledges.

Youth

Nicole and Allie Penny have been filling in the gaps. A decision has been made to not have youth groups on Wednesday nights until the youth ministry position is filled.

Managed IT

Shari, Mark (Congregational member with IT background), Heather, Marcus and Tammy met with potential vendors (Network Center and ABM) for managed care. Moving ahead, we are waiting for quotes for Server vs Cloud system and for managed care. Will discuss at next council meeting the comparisons and recommendations for each.

Next Council Meeting: Feb. 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting Continued

We will gather for one combined worship service and Annual Meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding by 11:30 a.m., followed by brunch. A freewill offering will support the Youth Ministry Fund.

Last year taught us a lot about how meaningful it can be to hold worship and our Annual Meeting together, and also where we needed to be more mindful of timing and staff reports. Taking those learnings seriously, thoughtful adjustments have been made to better balance worship and business while honoring the 10:00–11:30 a.m. time frame.

Your presence is a gift, and your participation helps us faithfully discern where God is leading us and fulfill our constitutional quorum.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 12/31/25	957,021.51
Expenses through 12/31/25	895,348.87
Balance of Building Expansion Loan as of 1/31/26	368,809.75
2026 Proposed Budget	1,014,205.00

Memorials

GENERAL FUND

- In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
- In memory of Esther Brokke by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
- In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
- In memory of Lori Askjem Johnson by Joel Johnson
- In memory of Nita Muir by Ellen Dickson
- In memory of Jan Noblin by Gregory and Rebecca Horner
- In honor of Bodie Wall's baptism by Brandon and Tess Wall

MEMORY CAFÉ

- In memory of Beverly Bale by Harold Bale

MUSIC FUND

- In memory of Bill Trader, Sr., by Kathleen and Richard McWaters

ORGAN FUND

- In memory of Lyn Lundberg Webb by Marilyn Lundberg

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

- In memory of Beverly Bale by Harold Bale
- In memory of Gordon Sather by Richard and Sharon Jurgens

FUND BALANCES

Youth	61,763.80
Honduras Mission	17,963.67
Foundation	870,476.48
Good Samaritan	4,623.08
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,957.37
Music	655.31
Library	1,027.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	176.20
Contemporary Worship	3,074.39
Education	1,731.84
Fine Arts	934.31
Missions	37,367.93
Quilting	2,292.91
Memory Café	15,220.08
Unforgettables Choir	12,787.73
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	988.16
Lewis & Clark General	4,027.83
Lewis & Clark Backpack	32,555.53
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,829.15
Coffee Shop	2,986.51
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	(273.18)
Organ/Piano	(617.33)
General Maintenance	4,429.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	1.61
Hearing Aid Loop	1,107.00
Roof Repairs	6,962.33
Building Expansion	265,392.91
Seminary	503.95

All-Inclusive Team Movie Night

ALL INCLUSIVE TEAM INVITES YOU

MOVIE Night

Ruby Bridges (1998)

Based on the true story of the first Black child to integrate a New Orleans public school. A powerful film exploring courage, faith, and change.

Feb 22nd, 2026 | 4:00 PM

CALVARY FELLOWSHIP HALL



This is an intergenerational gathering with recommended ages 8+. Themes related to segregation and the treatment of Ruby as the first integrated black child.

Snacks and child care will be provided.

CALVARY CLASSICS

2026

~~January 20, 4:00 PM
Game Night~~

~~Bring your favorite
hors d'oeuvre to share~~



**Potluck
Dinner**



**February 24, 4:00 PM
Potluck -**

with Sharon Lutheran
Golden Age Club

March 24, 4:00 PM

Nancy Yoshida

Join us for dessert as Nancy
presents her travels to Africa



AFRICA

April 28, 1:30 PM

Ralph Englestad tour - \$6.00

Meet at the Ralph at 1:15 PM
Park on the North side.



CALVARY CLASSICS



It's potluck
time!



Tuesday, February 24

4:00 PM

Fellowship Hall



Share a dish and savor it all.
Celebrate with good food
and great company!



Prayers & Sympathies

Charlie Bridgeford's brother,
Wayne Bridgeford, died 11-23-25.

Deb Anderson's mother,
Juanita Muir, died 12-22-25.

Bobbie Shields' brother,
Richard Hamkens, died 12-22-25.

Jim Rood's brother,
Randy Rood, died 12-24-25.

Derril Bring's brother,
Lowell bring, died 12-31-25.

Louis Zola died 12-31-25.
Jeff Zola and David Zola are his nephews.

Marilyn Lundberg's sister-in-law,
Lyn Lundberg Webb, died 1-3-26.

Richard Skavlem's mother,
Jean Skavlem, died 1-8-26.

Bethany Rentz's grandmother,
Rosalie Schumacher, died 1-18-26.

LENT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

18

Ash Wednesday

Ashes Along the Way – 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Noon Worship in the Sanctuary w/ communion & distribution of ashes

Meal in the Fellowship Hall @ 5 p.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m. w/ communion & distribution of ashes

Sundays, Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22

9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

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

Wednesdays, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

5 p.m. Lenten Meal in the Fellowship Hall

6 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

MARCH

29

Palm/Passion Sunday

9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

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

APRIL

2

Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Fifth Grade Communion in the Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

3

Good Friday

Noon Worship in the Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

5

Easter Sunday

7 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall



A Lewis & Clark Partnership

Calvary's It Takes a Village partnership with our neighboring school, Lewis and Clark, continues to thrive in its fourth year of supporting the backpack meal program. This ministry allows us to live out our call to compassion by helping meet the nutritional needs of food-insecure children in our partner school. Each week, students receive weekend meals who might otherwise go hungry.

It costs approximately \$100 to support one child for an entire school year, and we invite you to consider sponsoring one or more students for the 2025–2026 school year. Every contribution—large or small—makes a meaningful difference. For those who prefer to donate food items, collection tables are located outside each worship space, and an Amazon Wish List is available for items shipped directly to Calvary.

Together, we truly can create a village of care around the children at Lewis and Clark. In January alone, we packed 756 meals.



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)

Backpack Packing

Volunteers are needed to assist in filling bags on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church narthex. Our next meeting date to pack is **February 17**.

Sponsoring a Child

It costs roughly \$100 to sponsor one child for the entire school year. We ask that you consider sponsoring one or more so we can meet our goal of providing for all students. Your sponsorship provides food and support for a child in need. It's a simple way to make a lasting impact—one student, one life, one future changed.

Thanks to your generosity, 31 students are sponsored for the school year! Let's keep going and see how many more we can support.

Two ways to sponsor a child:
Give \$100 or \$100 check designated to Sponsoring a Child to our Finance Director, Heather.

or

Donate online by scanning the qr code then click over to one-time gift, press the drop down and click Lewis & Clark, press second drop down and click Sponsor a Child.





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

Calvary's All-Inclusive Team

The All Inclusive Team at Calvary reminds us that February is Black History Month. We remember and give thanks for the lives and witness of those who shaped and led the struggle for civil rights, whose work was rooted in a deep faith in a God who calls all people toward justice, mercy, and beloved community.

For the church, this season is more than remembrance; it is a call to prayer and reflection. We pray for a world still longing for justice, for repentance where systems and hearts fall short, and for the Spirit's guidance as we seek to live out Christ's command to love our neighbors fully and faithfully.



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

Youth Ministry Update

Pastor Rachael, Nichole, and the Youth Ministry Vision Team are working towards their first meeting to begin in February with the goal of reviewing our Confirmation program and helping shape the future of Youth Ministry at Calvary.

This group will work to identify current strengths, growth edges, and the ways Youth and Education ministries partner together. Ensuring we remain rooted in Lutheran faith formation while strengthening opportunities for relationship-building, service learning, Bible camp and other youth group connections.

We will continue to keep you updated on the process along the way.

WEDNESDAYS
5:00-6:00 PM

Lent Dinners
AT CALVARY

Come and support the youth as they serve the Lent meal on Ash Wednesday.

FEBRUARY 18 | LASAGNA

Proceeds go to Calvary's youth fund

Confirmation in February

Wed., Feb. 4, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Electives Begin wk 1

Wed., Feb. 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Electives wk 2

Wed., Feb. 18, 5:00-6:00 p.m. serve lenten meal

Looking for Credits?

Nursery Volunteer sign up

Holy Ground Volunteer

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summer Youth Service Learning Roadtrip

Info meeting February 15 @ 12 PM

Trip details

- ✦ July 7-14
- ✦ Grades 8-12
- ✦ Faith, Fellowship, Fun
- ✦ Fundraising available

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Kids & Family



Picturing God - Second & Fourth Grade Milestone



we
Picturing
GOD

**Second & Fourth Grade
Milestone Event
2-4 pm | March 1**

Calvary Fellowship Hall
This event is designed for grown-
ups and kids to attend together.
siblings welcome!

Calling all second and fourth graders.

We will meet Sunday, March 1, from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our milestone event PICTURING GOD.

When we listen to stories about God, we hear lots of metaphors describing what God is like. God is the light, living water, a rock, the wind, the Good Shepherd and more.

Join us as we dive into where we see God in the world and as we invite Deacon Michelle Walka to lead us in an art experience.

the good news is...

You can take LENT activities to go!

Take home activities for families. Available each week during the season of Lent.

Be on the lookout for take home Lent activities for Calvary Kids!

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 1- No Sun. School (Annual Meeting)
Feb. 15 - All-Ages Book Club 3 p.m. in Fel. Hall
Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday, No Wed. School
Mar. 1 - Second & Fourth Grade Milestone Event

CALLING ALL ELBA READERS

FEBRUARY 15 | 3 PM

Join us for All Ages Book Club.

Books available in the church office for \$10

Have you been doing ELBA reading at school? Join us on February 15 for some book club fun! Snacks and activities for all ages.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALVARY STAFF

Pastor: Rachael Puttbrese
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen
Facilities Manager: Danny Navarro

WEDNESDAY LENT SCHEDULE AND MEAL

FEBRUARY

18 **Lasagna, Salad and Bread Sticks**
Meal made by Calvary Youth @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

25 **Lemon Chicken & Rice**
Meal made by Lael & Nancy Schmidt @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.



MARCH




4 **Sliders & Sides**
Meal made by the Council @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

11 **Meatballs & Gravy over Egg Noodles**
Meal made by the All-Inclusive Group @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

18 **Taco-in-a-bag**
Meal made by Calvary Choir @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

25 **Pulled Pork Sandwiches & Mac & Cheese**
Meal made by Calvary Choir @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.



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