



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

August 2025



Congregational Meeting & Vote

The call committee has made a recommendation to extend a call for Calvary Lutheran's next Senior Pastor. Please mark your calendars and join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 10, at 11:00 a.m., immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service in the fellowship hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote to extend a call for a Senior Pastor. A two-thirds majority vote (after verifying a quorum of 75 voters) by Calvary Lutheran members is needed to approve the call. Hope to see you there!

FALL KICK-OFF

Sunday 09.07.25 Wednesday 09.10.25

HARVEST OF JOY

**A SEASON OF GRATITUDE,
ABUNDANCE, AND GRACE**

The summer is coming to an end and we look back at it to say "where did you go?" It feels like we just blinked and now fall programming is upon us. I guess the saying is true "time flies when you are having fun." If that is the case then I sure hope time does not slow down when fall programming starts. There is so much excitement for this program year. We could potentially have a new Senior Pastor, some of the communications were updated, and most importantly...we all get to come back together and share the stories of our summer with one another.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JARED CARSON

A Round Tuit

My Grandpa Fred was a very handy guy. He loved working in his garage and in the yard. Like some of us, he liked working on the projects that were a priority to him, and he avoided projects that were placed on him by others. My grandmother would ask him to fix something, and Fred would respond, "I'll do it, when I get around to it." At a young age, I learned that this was my grandfather's delaying tactic. It was about that time when my grandmother took a trip to see her sister and brother-in-law in Oregon. She returned with stories about her visit, a toy for me, and with a wooden token... "A Round Tuit." The next time grandpa said, "I'll do it, when I get around to it," Grandma promptly walked over to his is recliner and forced that wooden token in his hand. After which they both had a good laugh. I'm not sure that he was any speedier about fulfilling repair requests after getting his Round Tuit, but this story has caused me to reflect on whether, I've been waiting for someone to give me a Round Tuit when it comes to my life of faith.



God in Christ has already given us everything that we need. We don't need a Round Tuit to take action, but we might need a nudge to get us up and moving. God calls us to care for our neighbor, the stranger in our midst, the widow, the orphan, and the poor. As the Grand Forks area heads back to school this August, we are keenly aware of the needs of others. Acts 20:35, where Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receives," reminds us that we are called to be generous with our time, not only our financial resources. We derive happiness and fulfillment by helping others. It is a spiritual blessing of generosity and selfless service. Or consider, Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others."

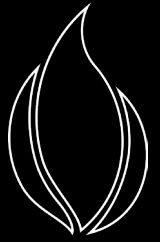
Organizations all over the county are working to help school children and families get what they need. As servants of God, we hear this calling too!

- Calvary is collecting school supplies for children at Lewis and Clark.
- We are seeking financial support for the Lewis and Clark Backpack program, a partnership with the Northland Resue Mission. Last year, 98 children received backpacks from Calvary each month.
- Each month we collect nonperishable food items for St. Joe's Food Pantry.
- Pack food in February for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).
- Volunteer with Global Friends Coalition, which welcomes new Americans to the Grand Forks area and helps meet their basic needs.
- Participate in the Honduras Rummage Sale or even, go on the trip in 2026.
- There are lots of ways to get involved in the ministries of Calvary: Sunday/Wednesday School teacher, greeters, ushers, scripture readers, assisting minister, musicians, tech crew, altar guild, coffee hour volunteers, etc.

"It Takes A Village" to make the ministries of any congregation a success. We don't need Round Tuits to be servants of Christ, we GET to do that every day because of the surpassing joy of knowing God through Christ. Though, we might need a little reminder to help make us aware of the needs of those around us. So, people of Calvary, this article is your - Round Tuit!

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jared Carson".



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 *River is Waiting* by Wally Lamb and meet us at the Blue Moose on August 21 at 6 p.m.

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!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

August 26

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.

SEWING CLUB

August 7 & 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.

CALVARY CALLING

If there is anything you want in the September edition please send an email to our communications coordinator at marcus@calvarygf.org or stop by his office by August 18.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

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 Library of Curiosities* by Jenny Lundquist.

POLKA BAND WORSHIP

Join us at on Wednesday, August 20, for a special worship service featuring the polka band from the Fargo Sons of Norway. Worship will start at 5:30 pm in the south parking lot and the picnic will begin after worship.

CALVARY CLASSICS

In August we will join the Calvary community for the special polka music worship featuring the polka band from the Fargo Sons of Norway.

CIRCLE GROUPS

Circles are done for the summer 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.

HOLY GROUNDS

The coffee shop will be closed all summer long. Stop back in and check out the flavor of the month in September.



BAPTISM

6-8-25 Riley Ray Hansen
Child of Taylor & Richard Hansen

6-18-25 Leyton Charles Theisen
Aliza Rose Theisen
Mikko Steven Theisen
Children of Jana & Austin Theisen

6-22-25 Isla Mae Howell
Child of Jamie Thompson & Dillon Howell

7-13-25 Gigi Rae Gregoire
Child of Skylar & Timothy Gregoire

7-13-25 Raglan Porter Hayes
Child of Jennifer & Zachary Hayes

7-20-25 Rorie Jean Bartuska
Child of Alyssa Hammen & Nathan Bartuska

7-27-25 Wyatt Steven Kosel
Child of Brianna & Brett Kosel

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

A financial forecast was prepared by the Financial Manager for the remainder of 2025. The forecast is projecting expenses to exceed giving by approximately \$45,000. The council is and will continue to monitor Calvary's financial projections, keeping the congregation informed. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation that supports Calvary and its mission. As the 2026 budget is developed, the council is committed to ensuring financial goals that will continue to serve our congregational mission and outreach.

NEW BUSINESS - June Meeting / No Meeting Happened in July

Call Committee

Continuing to progress on the selection process. One interview has been conducted with a candidate with a second interview being scheduled. A second candidate will be scheduled for an interview soon.

Worship

- The combined worship service is seeing higher attendance than in the past two years.
- June Wednesday summer worship service will be held on June 18.
- All-Inclusive Committee will host an informational table each week in June with name tags available for congregational members to wear during the service

Staffing

Tuesday June 24, identified as a calendar planning meeting day for Sept 2025 - May 2026.

Job description for Hospitality Coordinator drafted and completed.

Hospitality Coordinator application publicized on website, email, and weekly announcements.

Policy & Procedure Manual Development

Policy presented to the Council for review and discussion was Benefits Provided to Congregation Programs/Ministries.

Next Council Meeting: August 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Prayers & Sympathies

Susan Zelewski's mother,
Pam Zelewski, died 5-17-25.

Donna Ellertson's sister,
Laurie Christiansen, died 5-21-25.

David Miner died 5-26-25.

Rhonda Kraft's mother-in-law,
Geraldine Kraft, died 5-29-25.

Valerie Krokum died 7-8-25.

Marilyn Johnson died 7-9-25.
Her daughter is Angie Rubash.

Karen Knudsvig's brother-in-law,
Hilman Knudsvig, died 7-12-25.



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.

Almighty God, source of all
mercy and giver of comfort,
graciously tend those who
mourn, that casting all their
sorrow on you, they may
know the consolation of your
love; through your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 7/16/25	434,533.51
Expenses through 7/16/25	488,696.01

Balance of Building Expansion Loan
as of 7/31/25 553,300.95

Memorials

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Lane Leedahl by Mark and Gloria Sanford

In memory of Barbara Norby by James and Sharon Holter

In memory of Dolores Olson by Mark and Gloria Sanford

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Doris Lambie by Thomas and Joanne Durkin,
Sandra Kerr, Mary Jane Halverson, Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of Patricia Larsen by Joel and Carolyn Tangen,
Marlan and Beverly Helgeson, Duane and Arlene Loven

In memory of Ivan Radi by Marjorie Radi

In memory of Megan Ramsey by Brian and Kathryn Englerth

In memory of Douglas Tegtmeier by Marjorie Radi

In memory of Dorothy and Bart Wangenstein by Marjorie Radi

In memory of Robert Wangenstein by Marjorie Radi

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of Patricia Larsen by Calvary Lutheran Church
Women

In memory of Dolores Olson by Calvary Lutheran Church
Women

HEARING AID LOOP

In memory of Robin Hadlich by Carol Hadlich

HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM

In memory of Pam Zelewski by Randi and Carma Hanson

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK

In memory of Doris Lambie by Sandra Lunde

In memory of Austin Stroth by Brian and Laurie Harris

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of Doris Lambie by Karen Strinden Grindberg

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of LaVerne Pribula by Peggy Pribula

FUND BALANCES

Youth	60,053.54
Honduras Mission	27,023.06
Foundation	803,375.73
Good Samaritan	3,354.62
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,687.37
Music	1,393.27
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,424.39
Education	5,402.12
Fine Arts	1,153.54
Missions	37,337.81
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	3,169.30
Lewis & Clark Backpack	7,619.95
Hymnal & Bible Fund	2,091.23
Coffee Shop	2,998.91
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,131.24
Organ/Piano	645.00
General Maintenance	4,029.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	6,662.33
Building Expansion	374,147.63
Seminary	503.95

Synod Assembly Recap

On June 7-8, 2025, members of Calvary Lutheran Church attended the Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA, Synod Assembly. We gathered under the theme “Grace upon Grace,” a reference of what we each receive as a result of Christ’s Incarnation (cf. John 1:16). There were a total of 263 people in attendance (177 lay voting members; 70 rostered minister voting members; 16 visitors). The business items included hearing reports from officers, adopting the Synod Mission Plan (budget), elections for Synod Secretary, Synod Treasurer, Synod Council and Synod Committees, and adopting the 2026 Compensation and Benefit Guidelines. Participants also heard a State of the Synod report from Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and State of the ELCA report from our churchwide representative, Rev. Tim Brown. Two keynote presentations were shared by Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA Director of Congregational Stewardship. There were nine workshops offered for participants on a variety of topics. Rostered Ministers and congregations celebrating significant anniversaries were acknowledged.

Rev. Brown’s keynote addresses focused on how sharing and telling stories about what our congregations are doing is vital to the mission of the gospel in and through our congregations.

Dave Tack, said about the assembly, “I really appreciated my second experience at the Synod Assembly and was reminded how excellent our group of representative congregations are. I really appreciated the opportunity to learn from all who were there, and I especially enjoyed and learned much from the featured speaker, Pastor Tim Brown.”

Another voting member, Alyson White, commented, “Stewardship is discipleship which is very biblical. My biggest takeaway from the Synod Assembly is we must encourage each other to tell our stories. Stories influence us, especially in our generosity (financial and otherwise) and how we invite new members.”

Several of the voting members from Calvary attended a workshop on Narrative Budgeting, this is a way of telling the stories of how the money shared with the congregation will be used. “Sure, we can present the budget as a table filled with numbers, but it is the stories that are compelling,” said Pastor Jared. “Calvary has so many stories to tell! We did some of this storytelling in Calvary’s combined worship/annual meeting in January,” added Pastor Jared.

Calvary should be very proud. We were among the few congregations that brought a bright and thoughtful youth voting member! Gabby Tack, a high schooler, said of the Synod Assembly, “I thought the Synod Assembly was very spiritually awakening, and brought me closer to my faith on a local level. It was really cool to see what goes on inside the church, and to be a part of the process.”

“What a wonderful, spiritually uplifting weekend! I just keep learning more and more at these events”, said Alyson White.

If you would like to find more information about the Synod Assembly, watch any of the videos of the reports or key notes addresses they are available on the Synod website, <https://www.eandsynod.org/events/synod-assembly>.

Hospitality Coordinator Position

Calvary Lutheran Church is pleased to announce the creation of a new Hospitality Coordinator position. This role was crafted in response to the evolving needs of the congregation following the retirement of longtime staff member Mary Ann Devig. Julie Pederson will take on more worship planning responsibilities and her coffee house/sunday hospitality responsibilities are now part of the Hospitality Coordinator position. The Hospitality Coordinator will carry forward Calvary's commitment of intentional welcome and inclusion while expanding efforts to connect members, engage visitors, and strengthen volunteer teams. The Hospitality Coordinator is a part-time position that will focus on building relationships across generations, equipping volunteers with clear expectations and training, and supporting Calvary's commitment to radical hospitality and encouraging our vibrant congregation life. As we look to the future with hope and excitement, this role represents a key step in nurturing Calvary's mission to be a church where all know that there is: A Place For You Here.

The job description is posted on the Calvary website.

The application deadline is August 24.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and a resume that includes references to place4u@calvarygf.org.



Communication Station

Telling the Story of Calvary

Back during the annual meeting our Communication Coordinator, Marcus, had stated that he wanted to focus on storytelling. He said that he would like to learn about peoples' journeys to Calvary and how they chose Calvary as their church. He is starting to work on that process now. He would love to sit down and chat with people and help tell their stories. Yes, this will be a promotional piece that will go on all our socials and our website, but that is the point of all this. Telling your story is telling the story of Calvary. If you are one of those people who jumped out of your chair and said "YES! I want to do this" or are just someone who is interested please reach out to Marcus at marcus@calvarygf.org. If Marcus does not get any volunteers at first he will start to ask people in person.

Are You Looking at All Our Communications? 🧐🧐

Another thing during the annual meeting Marcus asked is that if you are signed up to our email to please open that weekly so you can be updated on what is happening. When he asked, the open rate (meaning out of all the people who receives the email, how many of them open it) was at 46%. His goal was to have it go up to 50% for the year. He can say, it is exactly at a 50% open rate and he wants to thank everyone for doing their part on staying updated and increasing the open rate by 4%.

Communication Updates in September

One of the things Marcus has worked on this summer is coming up with ways to update and modernize some of our communications. Some of the updates that will happen in September will be:

- **Calvary Calling** - a simple redesign that looks more modern and helps the flow of reading
- **Website** - the hope is that the website will be updated regularly and be more user friendly. The website will look clunky for a little while because all the updates wont happen in one day as it takes some time.
- **Sermon Videos** - we have the whole service available to be re-watched but these videos will only be the sermon from the prior Sunday/Wednesday. With this happening we will be uploading these sermon videos to a YouTube account so keep an eye out for how to follow our page on YouTube.
- **Branding (new font pairing)** - the fonts have been upated to a pairing that is more modern and traditional, which Marcus believes represents the whole church.

Lewis



& Clark

Backpack

Program

We are in our fourth year of collecting food for the backpack program, and this year we are putting a little more focus on sponsoring a student or students. Last year, 33 out of 90 students were sponsored.

Let's change that!

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.



**\$100 will feed
one student for
every weekend in
the school year.**





It Takes a Village Lewis & Clark School Supply Drive

We at Calvary care for the teachers and students at Lewis and Clark and want to support them to have the supplies they need. Donating school supplies and other items that set students up for success can be a meaningful way to make a difference. Some parents struggle to purchase essential school supplies for their children. As a result, children may begin the school year without enough school supplies, which often leaves teachers to fill in the gap. When you donate school supplies, you help set the students up for success by helping them to obtain the tools they need to learn throughout the school year.

Please consider grabbing a list and helping out our Lewis and Clark kids needing school supplies this year.

School supplies needed at Lewis and Clark this year:

- Reusable water bottle
- Tennis shoes
- Backpack
- School box (not pencil bag)
- Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- White glue bottle
- Package glue sticks
- 24-ct Crayola crayons
- Box facial tissue
- Crayola washable markers, thick/broad tip, & colored pencils
- Pocket folder (two pocket) red, blue, yellow for all grades, older grades also need green, purple and black
- Scissors – youth and adult sizes
- Bath towel
- Nut-free snacks
- Expo dry erase markers – thick
- Expo dry erase markers - thin
- Headphones (over the ear)
- Hand sanitizer
- Play-doh standard/regular size cans
- Sidewalk chalk
- Composition notebook – wide-ruled – yellow and black
- Sharpie permanent markers/black/thin
- Sharpie black chisel tip
- Crayola water color paint
- Highlighters yellow/thin
- Highlighters blue/green/yellow/orange/pink/purple
- Ziplock bags - quart and gallon
- Ruler – 12 inch
- Calculator
- Chromebook cover – 9 ¾" X 6 ½" – 1 inch thick
- Erasers, pentel polymer brand – white
- Package looseleaf filler paper wide ruled

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



Youth and **CONFIRMATION**



High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group has made the switch to meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m. meeting in the youth room. All high school students are welcome to join this time of fellowship!

SPARK Middle School Youth Group

SPARK will continue on Wednesday nights through August from 7-8:30 p.m. Keep an eye out for communication later this month with a time change moving into the school year!



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

We have the high school movie night on August 1. Keep an eye out in your emails for game night or movie night opportunities throughout August.

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



It's been a full and joyful summer for Calvary Kids!

We hit the road with God during an exciting week of Vacation Bible School, where families came together for intentional time of learning, growing, and having fun. Led by our trusty guide "Scout," we danced, sang, played games, and made creative crafts—all while deepening our faith. Everyone agreed: a road trip with God is both meaningful and unforgettable!

The fun didn't stop there. The very next week, we made a splash at Riverside Park, joining other local churches for a day of laughter and connection with Park River Bible Camp. We were especially blessed to have some of our middle and high school students join in to help and play.



What a gift it is to grow together in community during these summer months — we're so grateful for every moment!



Sunday & Wednesday School Registration is Open.

Use the qr code or go to our website calvarygf.org and select kids under the ministries tab.

FAMILY POOL PARTY

August 6
6-7:30 PM

ELK'S POOL
1002
13TH
AVE S



Backpack Blessing Aug 24 @ 10 a.m.

As a new school year begins, we invite anyone headed back to school to bring their backpacks to worship for a special Backpack Blessing. Together, we'll lift up our learners and educators in prayer for a safe and joyful start to a new year of learning. All are welcome - come as you are, backpacks in hand!

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.



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

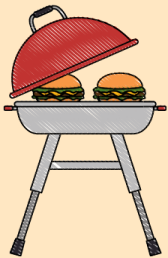
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US POSTAGE PAID
Grand Forks, ND
Permit NO 342

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

Polka Worship and Picnic



Date
Wednesday, August 20



Time
Worship - 5:30 pm
Picnic - to follow



Location
South Parking Lot
1405 S 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Join us at Calvary Lutheran Church on this evening for a special worship service featuring the Polka Band from the Fargo Sons of Norway.

 **CALVARY** LUTHERAN CHURCH



CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving & Igniting People for Christ



Calvary Lutheran Church - Grand Forks



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