



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

January 2025



Honduras Rummage Sale

Jan 19 Rummage sale donations are accepted after 12:00 p.m. and we begin to set up.

If you would like to volunteer please reach out to Lael at 701-330-8331 or Susan at 701-330-0416.

Jan 25	Day of Sale
7 - 8 a.m.	\$3 early bird entry
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Regular Sale
1 - 4 p.m.	Half-price Sale
2 - 4 p.m.	Clothing Bag Sale

We might be in the throes of Winter, but there are many signs of life and vitality at Calvary! In December, we held the Sunday/Wednesday School Christmas Programs which were delightful and funny! The staff did a great job leading the children in retelling the Christmas story. Confirmation youth and adults delivered poinsettias, an offering of Christmas cheer! The Unforgettables offered a heartfelt Christmas Concert. The joy of the choir is contagious. Angel Tree was a huge success thanks to staff and volunteers. The Cookie Exchange continues to be a meaningful event of fellowship. Advent/Christmas worship services helped to center people in the love of God in Christ - the baby born for us! As we look to January and a new year, the Call Committee is set to begin its work of interviewing candidates to be the next Lead Pastor of Calvary. Staff and elected leaders are preparing for the Annual Meeting of the congregation, where we will hear the successes of the past year and the goals for the year ahead, we will approve a giving and spending plan, and elect new leaders. In this winter and in this season of transition, there are signs of life at Calvary! We give thanks to God for the ways so many people give of themselves - so that everyone who comes to Calvary knows that; There Is A Place For You Here!

A NEW YEAR FULL OF HOPE PASTOR JARED CARSON



Happy New Year! As we move into this new year, may the joy and hope of the Incarnate One, whose birth we have just celebrated, continue to be born in your heart each day.



There is something special about a new year that gives us a clean slate or a blank canvas. Part of this cultural reset is the practice of making resolutions. Many of us will make resolutions (some that we may even keep). But as people of the Christian faith, it might be helpful to shift the focus from our resolutions and look instead focus on the resolve of our God. As we celebrate the festival days of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus in the beginning of 2025, God's resolve and resolute promise is on display for us and the world. God has come into a broken and hurting world with healing, forgiveness, and love in the person of Jesus. Some of the first people to recognize God at work in the world are outsiders from a foreign land (cf. Matt 2:1-12). In his baptism, Jesus is commissioned in the waters to serve others, be the embodied Good News, and proclaim God's nearness (Luke 3:21-22). By our own baptism, we too are joined to Jesus and share in this commission. This is really a special time of year for us in the Church because it reorients our lives as disciples of Jesus in order to proclaim God's resolute intent FOR us and for the world (not against us or others). We are disciples of Jesus Christ, not by our choosing (although some might think this is so), but we are gathered in the tether of the Holy Spirit, just like fish in a net. Because of God's resolute action for us, we pass on the stories of the faith. We share the stories of how we believe God is working in our lives. Our witness as disciples is most evident in the world, when we love and serve our neighbors, without reserve, trusting in the resolution of our God that is unbreakable.

It is hard to believe that I have been with Calvary for over a year now. I have been proud of your witness to God's unbreakable resolution. Your generosity and service testify to your trust. You are living out God's commission in Grand Forks! Calvary is making a difference in the lives of others. As we pass on the faith to our children and then invite them to echo back God's love in the Christmas Program. When we share gifts through our Angel Tree partners for individuals and families in need. When volunteers provide service at a funeral lunch or Unforgettables Concert. Or when we volunteer to lead confirmation classes or help usher/serve communion in worship. We live the story of God's resolute action in our daily tasks. It may not always seem as miraculous as say - a virgin birth. Yet, this is just a short list of some of the ways that this congregation is loving and serving each other and your neighbors. Thank you for your presence and all the ways you have contributed at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Trusting in God's resolve, we recommit ourselves to our baptismal calling: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the world. Emmanuel, God IS with us! Amen.

Peace in Christ,

Pr. Jared Carson



Prayers & Sympathies

Please reach out to the front office if you have any prayer requests @ 701-772-4897.

Jim Rood's other Marilyn Rood, died 11-20-24.

Diane Stoley's brother, David Puffer, died 11-23-24.

Chad Larson's grandfather, Ray Larson, died 11-30-24.

Mary Ann Devig's mother, Margaret Sather, died 12-6-24. Vienna Devig is her granddaughter.

GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

January 28

We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of each 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.

KNIT & CROCHET

January 18 @ 10:00 am in the Library

The knit and crochet group meets one Saturday morning per month to work on prayer shawls or their own projects, get patterns, ask questions or give ideas. Beginners welcome! Patient teacher and supplies available for knitting or crocheting. All are welcome.

PARENTS OF LOSS

**Second Tuesday of each month @ 7 p.m.
@ St. Mark's Church**

This group is for parents who are grappling with the profound sorrow of losing a child. They provide compassion and support during the most challenging times and warmly welcome parents who are grieving the loss of a child.

CALVARY CLASSICS

Calvary Classics are back in action in January! Join us on Tuesday, January 21, at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have a speaker from Home Therapy Solutions joining us to speak about "Tips and Habits for Healthy Living." We will also have time for fellowship and as a special treat, a few Classics members have volunteered to make cookies and coffee for us.

See you on the 21st!

SEWING CLUB

January 2 & 16 @ 1:30 pm

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.

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!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Our next Reading Religiously will be Thursday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Moose. The reservation is in the name of Calvary Lutheran Church, and we will be discussing the book *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE & ANNUAL MEETING

January 26 @ 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

On this Sunday, we will have one worship service that will be combined with our yearly annual meeting. During the service we will hear from our staff members as they share what their ministry is, highlight what happened this year, and share what to look forward to in 2025. We will also vote to approve Nominations and Installations and enjoy a breakfast after service made by Youth.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. with the speaker to be announced. The event is free and open to the public.

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR

The Unforgettables Choir will start the winter/spring semester on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The Unforgettables Choir is a community chorus for people living with memory loss, Alzheimer's or other types of dementia and a care partner. For more information or questions contact Mary Ann through the church office at 701-772-4897.

Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

FINANCE - 2024 FINANCE REPORT

Income in November was 25% higher than the prior year. We received a number of annual and quarterly gifts in November that boosted our monthly income.

November activities were numerous and began with wishing well to Pastor Aaron as he moved to his new call at Christus Rex Campus Ministry. Some of the events we were a part of in November were All Saints Day and remembering our loved ones, Thanksgiving Together at United Lutheran Church, a combined choir concert with three other church choirs, and a combined Thanksgiving worship service with Sharon and United Lutheran Churches. Noisy offering in November was collected for UND Mortar Board for their Thanksgiving turkey baskets in the amount of \$585.24.

Year-to-date income through November was 8% higher than our five-year average while expenses were 1.5% lower for the same time period. While Calvary's financials look more promising than one year ago, giving in December will be a factor as we determine what ministry looks like for the coming year. As Calvary finishes the financial year, please pray for our congregation to continue to support all the good things Calvary is able to share within our walls as well as in our community.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Stewardship Appeal is completed, speakers spoke at services, and we planned for a Leaders Social.

NEW BUSINESS

Ministry Site Profile

Transition Team – Lori, Rachel, and Tony shared the draft of the team with council members. The document was discussed.

Call Committee

Pastor Jared stated the call committee will be formed as the Ministry Site Profile is finalized. Congregation members have shown interest, and Shari is willing to be the council designee.

Pastoral Coverage

Pastor Jared reported that he has secured pulpit supply through December of 2024.

Interim or Term-Call Search

Pastor Jared is working with the synod staff for a possible interim. The option of a Term Call Interim was also discussed. Diane posed a question to Pastor Jared regarding his scheduled days in Grand Forks and congregational needs on non-scheduled on-site pastoral service. Pastor Jared will continue his current schedule and will assess each circumstance and travel when needed for funerals, etc.

Nominating Committee report

The committee met today before the Finance meeting. Members brainstormed lists of potential members for leadership roles. They will work for a full slate of officers for the council, foundation, and nominating committee. Pastor Jared suggested consideration to add a youth member to Calvary's council with a one-year term. Discussion ensued and no action was taken.

RIC/All-Inclusive Team discussion

A recent event for congregation members yielded a meaningful gathering and helpful feedback. Communications received were thoughtfully discussed. The RIC committee is getting more feedback and the need for more information. Are we welcoming? What does it mean to be RIC designated?

Next Council Meeting: January 14 @ 7 p.m.

2024 BUDGET

2024 Proposed Budget	1,019,663.00
Offering through 12/16/24	877,026.75
Expenses through 12/16/24	886,483.27

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 12/31/24	604,493.56

Blessed to Be a Blessing Appeal Campaign Update

Each year many families make a financial commitment to Calvary for the coming year while others choose to give as they are able throughout the year. For 2025, 267 families made commitments either by turning in a commitment card or by giving electronically. Some families find electronic giving provides a meaningful way for them to give throughout the year to Calvary. Our total commitments for 2025 are \$602,893. Calvary also has givers who give consistently throughout the year but do not make a commitment. Our best estimate for how they will give in 2025, based on previous years generosity, is \$287,845. This brings our total anticipated giving to \$890,737. Compared with 2024 commitments this an increase and should be celebrated!

Blessed to Be a Blessing also included a special appeal for music ministry enhancements and mortgage reduction. Our first goal with this appeal was to pay off the repairs on the organ and replace an outdated keyboard in the Fellowship Hall. All additional funds from this appeal would be allocated to pay down the building mortgage. The dollars committed towards this special appeal are \$96,769 and total received towards this special appeal to date are \$21,725. This is great progress to address needs in our congregation and make progress towards paying off the mortgage.

Foundation Grants approved Dec. 18

\$1,000 Julie Pedersen Adult Education-Winnipeg Trip
\$2,000 Diane Stoley Calvary Classics Start Up
\$2,500 Lisa Piche Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event

FUND BALANCES

Youth	47,539.58
Honduras Mission	16,283.11
Foundation	760,367.63
Good Samaritan	4,050.53
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	3,828.09
Music	1,006.76
Library	1,218.49
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	(552.10)
Education	323.23
Fine Arts	1,892.58
Missions	35,056.70
Quilting	2,446.79
Memory Café	14,092.79
Unforgettables Choir	14,355.54
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,926.00
Lewis & Clark Backpack	12,944.34
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,392.88
Coffee Shop	3,066.36
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,422.44
Organ/Piano	(9,341.59)
General Maintenance	4,355.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	415.41
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	5,926.03
Building Expansion	342,525.76
Seminary	503.95



MEMORIALS



BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Ruth Larson, Dann and Cris Johnson
In memory of **Keith Johnson** by Ruth Larson
In memory of **Robert Leach** by John Knudson
In memory of **Judy Sondrol** by Jean Middleton
In memory of **Ray Steffen** by Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Marilyn Rood** by Dann and Cris Johnson, Mark and Kathy Holm, Jane Gunther

FOUNDATION

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Sharon Gates
In memory of **Keith Johnson** by Bob and Myrna Bower
In memory of **Robert Leach** by Bob and Myrna Bower

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Jerome Bakke** by Marilyn Bakke
In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Brian and Pamela Hill
In memory of **John Hovey** by Marilyn Lundberg
In memory of **Keith Johnson** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
In memory of **Dan Kuhlman** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
In memory of **Robert Leach** by Gregg and Susie Schaefer, Joel and Carolyn Tangen, Brian Pamela Hill
In memory of **Ralph Messelt** by Tim and Betty Jo Schroeder
In memory of **Scott Molstad** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
In memory of **Rick Ouradnik** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
In memory of **Judy Sondrol** by Keith and Amy Collins

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK

In memory of **Robert Leach** by Gary and Debbie Lloyd

MEMORY CAFE

In memory of **Bruce Fagerholt** by Susan Fagerholt

MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Robert Leach** by Charles and Colleen Zick
In memory of **Judy Sondrol** by Marian Hanson

ORGAN FUND

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Ronald Apanian
In memory of **Robert Leach** by James and Renee Lies, Gary and Debbie Lloyd, Delores Peterson, Kathleen Ramsay, Timothy and Stacey Skarperud, Todd and Jacqueline Schaefer
In memory of **Lane Leedahl** by James and Renee Lies, Lois Gillespie
In memory of **Marilyn Rood** by James and Renee Lies

QUILTING

In memory of **Judy Sondrol** by Jean Middleton

SENIOR CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Katheleen McCue

UNFORGETTABLE CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by James and Marjean Woodrow
In memory of **Robert Leach** by James and Marjean Woodrow
In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Deborah Swanson

Pastoral Transition Update

The Transition Team has completed their work! Calvary is moving forward toward calling its next Lead Pastor. Please help me thank the Transition Team (Tony Schroeder, Lori Kehrwald, Priscilla Marto, and Rachel Honl) for their work! They have offered an online survey and several listening sessions in the last 6 months and they have drafted and finalized the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP can be thought of as an introduction to Calvary Lutheran for candidates who might be the next Lead Pastor. An MSP can never say everything about a congregation, but it gives a solid introduction and overview of the congregation.

The Congregation Council has approved the MSP which was prepared by the Transition Team and the council has appointed a Call Committee. The MSP has now been shared with the Eastern North Dakota Synod Office who will match Calvary with candidates to be the next Lead Pastor. If you care to read the MSP, it is a public document and can be found on the website or print copies can be obtained from the church office. The Call Committee members are: Nancy Andrews, Bruce Hornby, Joani Kilber, Anna Larson, Priscilla Marto, Lael Schmidt, Shari Storbakken, Elizabeth Wild, and Nancy Yoshida.

The Call Committee will work with the synod staff to have an orientation to the call process and will set to the task of interviewing prospective Lead Pastors. The Call Committee's work is not secret, but it is confidential. For this reason, you should not be surprised if you do not hear about candidates or the process. I encourage you to trust that the Call Committee is doing their work: reading Roster Minister Profiles (RMP), conducting phone/Zoom interviews, and holding face-to-face interviews with candidates as they work to determine which candidate they would like to recommend to the Congregation Council. It is difficult to determine how long this process might take, so we wait patiently, trusting that God is preparing the right person. This process is real discernment of the Holy Spirit through human beings, and we pray for the Call Committee, all candidates, and the whole congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church.

When a primary candidate for Lead Pastor has been identified and recommended to the Congregation Council then a special congregation meeting will be organized for the purpose of calling a pastor. At a special congregation meeting we will hear about the process that was undertaken and about the candidate being recommended. The congregation will then vote whether to extend a call to the recommended candidate.

Know that after a call vote has been taken, the candidate must also do their discernment work and decide whether to accept the call of the congregation. Then a candidate who has accepted the call would need to notify their current congregation, give them adequate notice of their departure, and arrange for a household relocation. From the time of an affirmative call vote by a congregation, it could take 2-3 months before that candidate is ready to begin their ministry.

I suspect that a new Lead Minister could reasonably be in place by June or July 2025 - could be sooner, could be later. While this might not be a definitive timeline, Pr. Jared's contract for Interim Ministry at Calvary will remain in effect until a new lead pastor is ready to begin.

If you would like to talk with Pr. Jared more about this process, he can be reached at jared@calvarygf.org, or (701) 772-4897.

Calvary Angels, we thank you for your gift of giving this Christmas season.



Thank you people of Calvary for sharing your light and love with people of our community through this year's Angel Tree. The agencies we shared with this year included:

Northeast Human Service Center
Red River Valley Community Action
Tufte Manor
Lewis and Clark Elementary School

Your care and generosity helped families and individuals in need experience the joy of Christmas through the approximately 700 gifts given this year. Your love is shared in seen and unseen ways. Yes, gifts at Christmastime are appreciated but the expression of love and care shared by people they have never met is also a precious gift.

Thanks also goes out to our volunteers who gave the gift of time to sort, shop for and wrap gifts. An extra special thanks goes out to Allie Penny who helps coordinate our Angel Tree each year. She puts in countless hours making our registries, keeping us organized and everything else needed to make our Angel Tree a success.



BAPTISM

12-1-24 Mae Marigold Meagher
Child of Gretchen & Dustin Meagher

12-8-24 Harper Marilyn Anderson
Child of Taylor & Joshua Anderson

12-8-24 Lainey Paige Leclerc
Child of Paige & James Leclerc

12-8-24 Demi Marilyn House
Child of Michael House,
Taylor House & Blake Holien

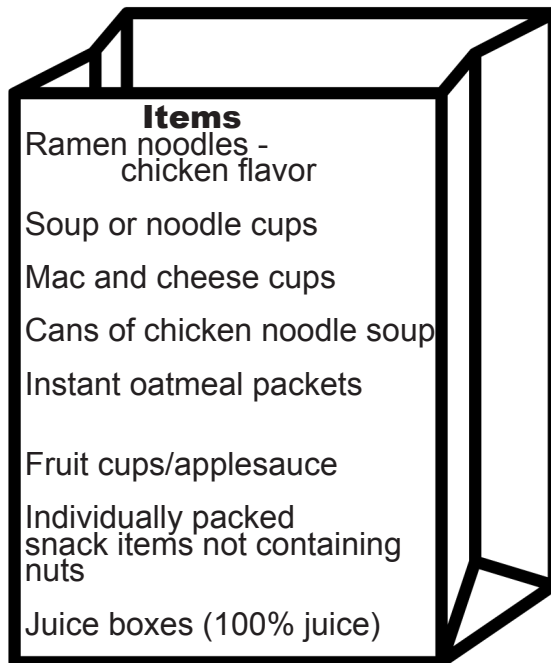
12-8-24 Blake Allen Holien





It Takes a Village

Calvary's "It Takes a Village" partnership with Lewis and Clark is ready for another year of supporting the back-pack 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 children in need in our partner school. This program provides meals for the weekend for food-insecure 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 2024-2025 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.

Our next packing is Tuesday, January 28. See you then!!

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**

Confirmation Offerings

Wednesdays | January 8-29 (no class Jan. 22) | 7-8PM

**SEVEN
HABITS**

**CREED &
COMMANDMENTS**

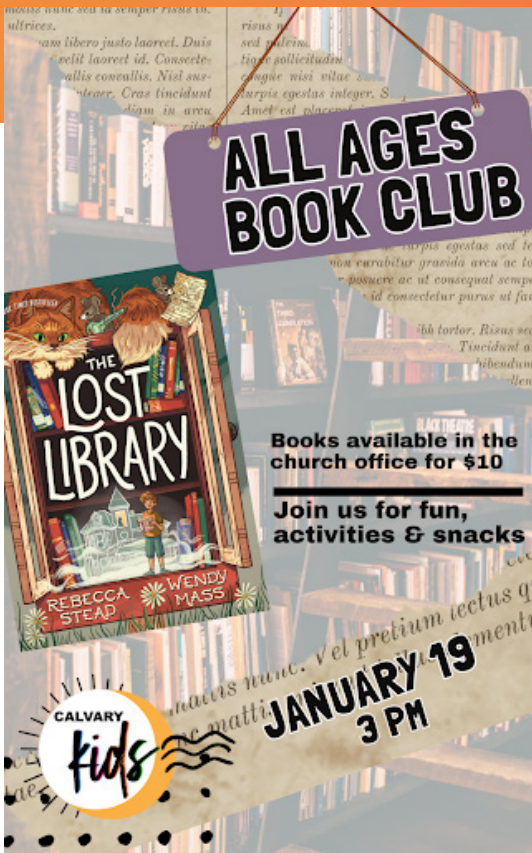
**SACRAMENTS &
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BIBLE
BASICS**

**CHRISTMAS
CHEER**



Join us for a week of service, community, and connection as we travel to Kansas City! We'll be partnering with local organizations, learning about social issues, and experiencing what it means to serve others with grace and purpose.



All Ages Book Club

Join us in the month of January as we read *The Lost Library*. Books are available in the church office for \$10. Then join us on Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 pm for a mini book club.



December at a Glance

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

Family Sledding Day

Join us on the Lincoln sledding hill for some winter fun! Then come back to Calvary to warm up with hot chocolate! Date TBA



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 5
CLASSES
RESUME FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL

JANUARY 8
CLASSES
RESUME FOR
WEDNESDAY SCHOOL

JANUARY 26
GIFT SUNDAY
&
DOUGHNUTS

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
Permit NO 342

CALVARY STAFF

Interim Pastor: Jared Carson
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Devig, RN
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Youth: Morgan Olson
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith In Action: Julie Pedersen
Building & Grounds: Danny Navarro



Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



@calvarygrandforks