NOVEMBER 2026

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 1 (All Saints)
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 4 (All Saints)
5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Sunday, November 8
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 11
5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Sunday, November 15
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 18
5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Sunday, November 22
9:00 a.m. in Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 25
Thanksgiving, No Worship

Sunday, November 29
9:00 a.m. Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 2
5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Advent: Love's Pure Light

Sunday, November 29, begins the season of Advent with our Advent theme of "Love's Pure Light." Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "to come." It is often named as the season of hope as we look forward with sure hope of God's coming into the world once again in the form of the Christ child.

Each week in worship will include special music, lighting of the Advent candles, and a litany of hope: Hope for God's Presence, Hope for God's Peace, Hope for God's Joy, and Hope for God's Love. Join us for this season of preparation and hope!



A Message from Pastor Rachael

Gratitude for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

This fall marked my first anniversary as Calvary's Lead Pastor. Anniversaries invite us to reflect on where we've been and wonder about what lies ahead. Looking back, one word rises to the surface: **gratitude.**

Gratitude for a vibrant faith community, for the ways people share their gifts and resources, and for a congregation that continues to adapt and serve faithfully. This year has brought challenges, including navigating ministry with fewer pastors than Calvary has historically known. It has also invited us to imagine new possibilities together.

And look at what God continues to do among us! I am continually amazed by what becomes possible when we bring together what God has entrusted to us. Books reach children's hands. Food is shared with neighbors. Pennies and dimes from noisy offerings become thousands of dollars which support people in our community and around the world. Each gift becomes part of something greater than any of us could accomplish alone.
I am grateful for our staff and volunteers, and for Deacon Erin's welcomed partnership in ministry. Their faithful service is a gift to this congregation.

I am mindful too of the weariness so many carry. In conversations and visits, I hear stories of aging bodies and minds, raising children, caring for loved ones, grief, financial pressures, and worries about tomorrow. These are not small things.

We also share the weight of a world marked by division, violence, and suffering. As an election approaches, Jesus' call to love our neighbor invites us to approach civic responsibilities, including voting, with compassion and concern for others.

Some days, it feels as though darkness is winning.

But darkness does not get the final word.

We follow the risen Christ who overcame death and the grave. As Advent approaches, we remember that God's light shines even in dark places. Our hope is not found in the absence of hardship, but in the promise that God is already present in its midst, bringing life, love, and possibility.

Gratitude doesn't ask us to pretend everything is fine. It invites us to notice God's grace already at work. This November, join me in naming two things each day: one gift in your personal life and one through your connection to Calvary. I encourage you to write them down or share them with someone.

Whatever this season holds joy or sorrow, gratitude or weariness...may you know God is with you. May you find grace in unexpected places, strength for the days ahead, and hope in Christ, whose light shines in the darkness and cannot be overcome.

God's peace,
Pastor Rachael

Calvary Connects

Get Involved
Connect with Others

Men's Ministry

November 3, 7:00 p.m. | Library

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join them for conversation and camaraderie.

Life After Dementia

November 4, 1:00 p.m. | Library

This support group for spouses after caregiving meets the first Wednesday of the month for community and support.

Stitch & Chat

November 5 & 19, 1:30 p.m. | Library

This group meets the first and third Thursday of each month. Anyone is welcome to bring their handiwork for an afternoon of fellowship and crafting.

Free Lunch Friday

Friday, November 6

Help provide the meal for Free Lunch Friday one Friday each month for Christus Rex at UND. Volunteers are needed to help prep the meal Thursday or serve Friday. Contact Julie or Nichole to join in this ministry.

Reading Religiously

November 9, 6:00 p.m. | Blue Moose

The Reading Religiously Book Club is always open to new bookies! November's book is ***The Calamity Club*** **by Kathryn Stockett.**

Memory Cafe

November 10, 1:00 p.m. |Fellowship Hall

The Memory Cafe is an educational event held on the second Tuesday of the month for people living with Dementia, Alzheimer's disease, related types of Dementia and their family, friends, care partners.



Women's Bible Study

(with Priscilla-Sarah Circle)

November 18, 9:00 a.m. | Holy Grounds

The Women's Bible Study meets on the third Wednesday of the month and follows the *Gather Magazine* study. Stop by the church office if you need a copy of the study. November's study will be using Session #3.

All-Ages Book Club

November 22, 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

All-Ages Book Club is for readers of every generation to share stories and build community around a shared read! Each month includes a book discussion followed by a hands-on activity. November's book is ***Dream*** **by Barbara O'Conner**

Quilt Assembly & Potluck

November 24, 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

The quilting group meets on the last Tuesday of the month to assemble quilts and share a meal. New quilters are always welcome!

October Church Council Highlights

Worship & Congregational Life

Council reviewed the upcoming Christmas and New Year worship schedules. Work continues to fine-tune the new Sanctuary LED wall, including brightness and slide design adjustments. Sanctuary hanging microphones have been replaced.

Children, Youth, and Faith (CYF)

Sunday and Wednesday Church School and Confirmation are underway. Fall Art Camp was a success, and third graders received their Bibles in October. Calvary welcomes Reagan and Katie to the CYF Ministry Team! Planning is also beginning for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, June 28–July 2, in Minneapolis.

Mission & Community Engagement

Backpack Ministry continues its partnership with Lewis & Clark Elementary School. The All-Inclusive Committee continues meeting and discerning its goals, with Deacon Erin offering guidance and support.

Organizational Leadership & Planning

Deacon Erin is currently helping coordinate congregational communications, while Kai, a UND student is helping coordinate Sunday and Wednesday worship technology. Council continues evaluating long-term communication and staffing needs. All staffing and personnel discussions, updates, and decisions are collaborative between Council and Pastor Rachael. In keeping with confidentiality guidelines, personnel matters are not disclosed in Council minutes.

Planning is also underway for Calvary's Annual Meeting on January 31, 2027.
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026

Pastoral Care & Leadership

Pastor Rachael continues to emphasize care, communication, consistency, and clarity throughout congregational life. Deacon Erin has agreed to continue serving in her ministry-assisting role into 2027, until an Associate Pastor has been called. The Associate Pastor Call Committee continues its work on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), with Council reviewing the proposed document and providing feedback. The goal remains to complete the MSP and post the position by year-end. The committee is seeking another youth/young adult representative to fill the spot previously held by a youth/young adult.

Stewardship & Financial Oversight

September finances broke even, with a year-to-date deficit of approximately $47,000, consistent with budget projections. October typically brings higher expenses than income. Council approved continuing the current staff health insurance plan despite an 18% premium increase. Stewardship's ***Imagine More*** emphasis continues, with intention cards mailed to the congregation. Council also clarified that nonrecurring purchases over $500 must be communicated to the Lead Pastor and appropriate Council representative.

Facilities & Technology Planning

The snow removal contract has been renewed with the current provider at a cost similar to last year. Repairs to Door 4 are underway, and updated property insurance quotes are being gathered. Council also began discussing future renovations to the bathrooms near the church office, including replacing pipes, asbestos removal, and considering possible changes to the bathroom layouts.

(Full Council minutes available upon request.)

Stewardship Corner

Imagine More: Our Intentions Matter

Thank you, Calvary! As of the writing of this article, 70 households have shared their stewardship intentions as part of our Imagine More stewardship focus. We celebrate these thoughtful responses and the many ways our congregation continues to live out faith through generosity, connection, and service.

Over the past four weeks, we've been invited to *Imagine More…*more connection, more generosity, and more possibilities for the mission and ministry we share.



Perhaps you've wondered: *Does filling out an Intention Card really matter?*

We believe it does.
Because our intentions matter.

Taking a moment to prayerfully consider our connection to this faith community is itself an act of stewardship. It invites us to pause, reflect, and consider how God is calling us to participate in the life we share together.

This year, we intentionally redesigned our cards to reflect something important: stewardship is about more than a dollar amount. We recognize that financial circumstances change, and that generosity takes many forms. Our hope is to encourage each household to consider not only what we give, but how we connect, participate, and grow in faith together. *(continued on next page)*

2026 Mission Plan

2026 Mission Plan	$1,014,205
Offerings through 10/19/26	$641,802
Expenses through 10/19/26	$685,046

Noisy Offering Update

The September Noisy Offering was collected for **Lewis and Clark Backpack Program and $1,014.22 was shared!** Thank you for your generosity. As of October 22, 99 students have been sponsored for weekend food.

Memorials

General Fund
- In memory of Jacquelyn Hegstad by Nancy and Don Krogstad

Good Samaritan
- In memory of Dennis Engen by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

Lewis & Clark Backpack Program
- In memory of Jacquelyn Hegstad by Cornel and Joani Kilber
- In memory of Cora Rein by Sharon Gates

Unforgettables
- In memory of Jan Hilde by Lois Gillespie
- In memory of Jamie Sagstuen by Allan and Connie Rebsch

Memorials are a beautiful way to honor our loved ones at the time of their death. We are grateful for the ways their memory continues to bless others through these gifts. Each month, we will continue to recognize memorial gifts and the funds to which they are designated. A complete list of memorial funds and their balances is available upon request through the church office.

Foundation Grant Deadline

November 4, 4:00 p.m.

Calvary's Foundation provides perpetual financial support to further Calvary's mission of serving and igniting people for Christ both locally and worldwide. Application forms, information and tax information about giving to the Foundation can be found at www.calvarygf.org.

In Our Prayers

Sharon Gates: Sister, Cora Rein, died 10-2-26

Dennis Engen: died 10-2-26 (**Rosie Engen, spouse**)

Erin Navarro: Aunt, Carmen Klein, died 10-18-26

Brad Storbakken: Mother, Helen Storbakken, died, 10-18-26

Stewardship Corner *Cont'd.*

And the invitation remains open! Our hope is to hear from as many of Calvary's households as possible, because every voice and every intention matters.

If you haven't shared your Intention Card, we warmly invite you to do so. Extra cards are available in the church office, or you can complete yours by following the QR code here. If the suggested intentions don't speak to you, write your own!

Together, let's continue to Imagine More of what God is doing among us.

Staffing Updates

Welcome Deacon Erin!

Welcome Deacon Erin Power, who will support our shared ministry at Calvary for coming months. Deacon Erin will provide much-needed assistance to Pastor Rachael and Calvary's ministries throughout the week, including pastoral care, community ministry, and communications. Her presence will provide additional support during this season as the Call Committee continues the important work and steps involved in preparing for the eventual call of an Associate Pastor. Deacon Erin's primary days at Calvary are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



Communications Update

Deacon Erin will be the primary staff person stewarding communications at Calvary during the communications staffing transition. All questions or communication about event and ministry publicity can be shared with Deacon Erin: deaconerinpower@gmail.com. Staff and council will be using this time of transition to determine how to structure future communication staffing.

Worship

All Saint's Worship



Remembering those who have died this year:

Janet Noblin
Scott Schiller
Louvain Boettner
John Knudson
Paul Saurdiff
Randy Eken
Marvin Kiel
Clifford Thompson
Ken Schultz
Kathleen Norstebon
Stuart Johnson
Ida Morris
Shirley Cordts
Jan Hilde
Janice Heyd
David Walsvik
Jackie Hegstad
Paulino Bernal, Sr.
John Quirk, Sr.
James Frovarp
Dennis Engen
David Brokke

Advent, Christmas, and New Year's0989878756





We know Christmas Day worship holds deep meaning for many, and we feel that with you. With only one pastor, and after consultation between Pastor Rachael and the Council, we will not be able to offer a Christmas Day service this year. Thank you for your understanding as we prioritize the well-being of our pastor and staff.

Caring & Hospitality Ministries

Lewis & Clark Backpacks

Calvary's "It Takes a Village" partnership with Lewis & Clark Elementary School is off to a great start! In October, we filled 432 bags of weekend food for students.

How you can help:

- Make a financial contribution online or through the church office. It costs $100 to feed one child for the year.
- Donate food on the shelves outside each worship space or purchase through our wish list.
- Help us pack food! Bags are filled on the third Tuesday of the month. The next packing day is Tuesday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the narthex.

Online Giving *Amazon Wishlist*

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Calvary Quilters

Each month, quilters gather to assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief, which are collected locally twice a year. The LWF truck was back in Grand Forks October 22 & 23 and Calvary's contribution was **19 quilts and 24 baby care kits!** Let us continue to hold these quilts and baby care kits in our prayers as they head off to touch the lives of people around the world. This month, a quilt was also donated to Valley Senior Living.

Join us November 24 from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. for our next quilting day. A potluck is served at noon and new folks are always welcome!



Funeral Hospitality

One of the ways we care for our congregation and community is offering hospitality and care when a funeral takes place at Calvary. Additional helping hands are needed to help host, serve, and clean up for a funeral luncheon. Contact Mary Ann for more information and to join this hospitality team.



Helping Hands Needed

Faith in Action

Calvary Angel Tree

Help make Christmas merry for a community member in need through Calvary's 2026 Angel Tree! We're partnering with several community agencies to provide gifts for Lewis and Clark families, as well as other families, people with disabilities, older adults, and veterans who might otherwise go without Christmas gifts this year.

Beginning Sunday, November 15, choose a tag with gift ideas and instructions from a tree outside each worship space. Or select a gift through our Target and Amazon registries. The trees and shopping links will be available just in time to shop on Black Friday!

Volunteers will be needed also. Once gifts are returned to Calvary, we'll need volunteers to shop for any unpurchased gifts, sort donations, and wrap gifts. Thank you for sharing God's love with our community! Please contact Julie in the church office with questions or to volunteer.



Thanksgiving Together



Mashed Potatoes Needed!
Calvary has a special opportunity to help provide an American Thanksgiving meal for our newest neighbors through Global Friends on Monday evening, November 16. Area churches are contributing a part of the meal. Calvary's contribution is potatoes, along with hosting this event.

How you can help:

- Sign up to bring a batch of mashed potatoes (20 needed)
- Volunteer to help set-up, serve, or clean up; talk to Julie or Nichole for more information.

Kids & Family

Save the Date

Calendar Highlights

- **Nov 8** Sunday School PJ day
- **Nov 11** Jump 4 Joy event @ Northern Air
- **Nov 11** No Wednesday School
- **Nov 15** 1st Grade Milestone Event
- **Nov 22** All Ages Book Club
- **Nov 25** No Wednesday School
- **Nov 29** Advent Festival Open House

Jump 4 Joy!

Wednesday, November 11
1:00-3:00 p.m. | $15
Calling all Calvary Kids....It's a jump party! Join us for a time of jumping for joy at Northern Air Action Park. Your admission fee gets you a pair of jumping socks, unlimited jumping, laser tag and VR from 1-3 p.m. This event is designed for kids in kindergarten-5th grade. Grownups are welcome, but not required to stay. Please make sure you fill out emergency contact information. If you have any questions, contact Nichole.



First Grade Milestone Event

Sunday, November 15, 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
What is baptism? Is it just a fancy bath? Is it just for babies? Why is baptism worth celebrating? Let's wonder together! There will be a light pizza lunch, learning time around the theme of baptism and craft time. This event is designed for grownups & kids to participate together. Siblings welcome!



Youth & Confirmation

6-8th Graders

We will round out our semester of Large Group Confirmation classes this month. Class dates are November 4 & 18. There will be no classes on November 11 or 25. You can also mark your calendars for our Confirmation Christmas Cheer night on December 9!

9th Grade Mentor Event

Sunday, November 15
7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

We invite our 9th grade Mentor students to a service learning event on Sunday, November 15 at 7 PM. Our group will be helping set up and decorate for our Thanksgiving Together event: helping to create a welcoming and festive space in our Fellowship Hall, including table settings and a fall photo booth. Thanksgiving Together offers a traditional Thanksgiving meal with other area churches, Global Friends and recent refugees.

November Youth Events





2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering is coming! Held only once every three years, the Gathering brings together high school youth from across the ELCA for faith, worship, service, community, and an unforgettable experience.

Calvary is excited to be heading to the Gathering June 28–July 2, and current 9th–12th graders are invited to learn more! Fundraising and scholarships are available. Out of pocket cost is $850.

Contact Nichole Bye or scan the QR code to sign up!



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