

November 2025

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for help in these areas:

- Setting up the Fellowship Hall for worship or other events
- Funeral Lunch Leaders
- Setting out cookies and making coffee Sunday mornings
- Taking photos during events, before & after worship
- Working in Holy Grounds on Sunday morning

Please reach out to any staff member or the front office if you are interested.

Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Generosity

November at Calvary is a month filled with gratitude, generosity, and connection. As we enter this new season, we're invited to pause and practice gratitude, naming the people, places, and moments that remind us that every good gift comes from above.

This year, our gratitude is deepened by awareness of those whose basic needs are not being met. As the church, we are called to show up in the world as the hands and feet of Christ in all the ways we already do, and with care for those we may not yet see. In response to the ongoing government furlough and the loss of SNAP benefits, Calvary is launching **"Fill the Cart"** as our November mission focus. You'll find more details inside about how you can help.

Our stewardship theme, **"What Can We Do Together?"**, invites us to take faith into action...blessed to be a blessing. On **Sunday, November 16**, we'll celebrate both Pastor Rachael's installation with Bishop Tessa as our special guest and the dedication of pledge cards for the coming year.

Take time to wade into this month's newsletter and discover the many opportunities to grow in faith, serve others, and connect in community. There is most certainly a place for you here.

A MESSAGE FROM LEAD PASTOR RACHAEL PUTTBRESE

Dear Siblings in Christ,
As I write this, it's only my third day in the office. Fall feels like a great season to begin this new chapter together. This month is often marked by gratitude and thanksgiving, and I already have much to be thankful for.

I am deeply grateful for the staff and volunteers who have kept Calvary's ministries and programs going through this season of transition. In just a few days, I've received warm welcomes, thoughtful gifts, and heard so many stories of faith that began here—baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and lifelong connections, some stretching back 30, 40, even 50 years. What a beautiful witness to God's faithfulness across generations! I imagine the many changes and different pastors you've welcomed and sent over the years. My heart swells with gratitude to be counted among them.

I like being helpful and answering questions. However, as the new kid on the block, I'm the one doing all the question-asking! It's been humbling, fun and a great realization of how much I have yet to learn about. But honestly, that's what excites me: discovering this beloved place called Calvary Lutheran Church and the people who call it home.

Earlier today, I was greeted in the hallway with a hug and they whispered, "Welcome home," in my ear. Those words caught me off guard, yet they spoke something holy. Isn't that what we all long for...to belong?

Belonging, to me, isn't about conformity or sameness. It's about being received as our full, authentic selves, including the messy parts, the learning parts, the doubting and fearful parts... all of it.

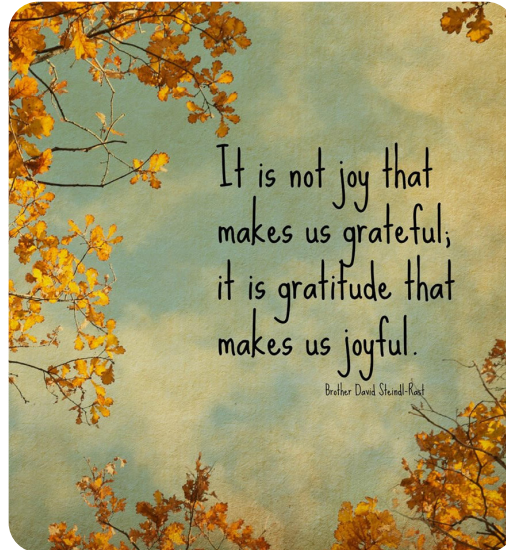
That's the vision of God's kingdom come near in Christ. Each time we pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we're reminded that God's love, grace, and forgiveness aren't just for the life to come, but gifts meant to be lived and shared here and now.

As the body of Christ, we get to practice that good news together, to live as witnesses of heaven's presence here on earth. Oh, sure the newness may wear off a bit, there will be to-do lists and certainly challenges along the way. But through it all, I root myself in the promises we receive in our baptism: that God is faithful and unchanging, and that just as Jesus was called from the waters as beloved, so are we. Before we get it right, or before we fail ourselves or one another, we are born from and belong through our belovedness as children of God and siblings in Christ.

So, dear beloveds, let us root ourselves in hope and thanksgiving for the One whose love carries us forward, in the life and ministry of being Calvary Lutheran serving and igniting people for Christ. Which does not rest on one pastor or one council, but on the shared life of this Spirit-led community, where I hope each of you receives the whisper of belonging, "Welcome home."

May gratitude and grace lead us into each new day.

With joy,
Pastor Rachael



MEN'S MINISTRY

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 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!

FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX

Join us on November 7 at Christus Rex, the Lutheran campus church at UND, as we come together to prepare and serve lunch for our campus community! Whether you enjoy cooking, setting up, or simply helping serve, your time and hands are needed. It's a great opportunity to connect with others, make a difference, and share a meal with friends and students. We'd love to have you be a part of this fun and meaningful way to serve our community—if you are interested, contact Nichole Bye or Julie Pedersen.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

November 16 @ 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 *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

THE UNFORGETTABLES

The Unforgettables Choir is back into our regular rehearsal schedule, meeting every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Our morning begins with time for coffee and conversation from 9:30-10:15 a.m. followed by singing from 10:15-11:30 a.m. We still have room for more! You may register by calling the church office at 701-772-4897 and they will put you in touch with Mary Ann Devig, our director. Or, you may just show up on Wednesday morning, and we will be happy to welcome you!

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

November 6 & 20 @ 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 crafting.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. featuring a panel of caregivers telling their stories and answering questions. Refreshments are served following the program. All are welcome. The event is free.

COMBINED WORSHIP

On November 16, we will have a combined worship at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary for Pastor Rachael's installation with Bishop Tessa. We will have the same service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

LIFT EVERY VOICE CHOIR FESTIVAL

On Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 p.m., Calvary will host the second annual "Lift Every Voice Choir Festival," a concert featuring choirs from Calvary Lutheran, United Lutheran, Sharon Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran and Zion Methodist churches. Each choir will sing two anthems and lead a congregational hymn. The concert will conclude with an arrangement of "This Is My Father's World" performed by the combined choirs and accompanied by Calvary collaborative pianist Sydney Crockett and Dr. Ling Lo from UND. A freewill offering will be taken at the concert with proceeds going to support St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Mark your calendar and come enjoy an afternoon of glorious music!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

November 25

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.

Highlights of Church Council

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

Month of September

Giving: Calvary's September congregational giving was \$10K higher than last year. This can be attributed to the receipt of a couple annual gifts. September 2025 giving compared to budget was \$17K lower than planned. Weekly giving in October was 78% of budget.

Expenses: September expenses were comparable to last year at \$64k. September expenses compared to budget were \$22k favorable primarily due to lower headcount and fees collected for Sunday School.

Income (Loss): September income of \$5.5K is favorable \$11K to last year and \$5.5K favorable to budget.

Year to Date

Giving: YTD September giving is \$4K higher than prior year. This can be attributed to timing of one-time gifts and a slightly higher weekly giving than prior year. YTD September giving is under budget \$171K at 78% of budget.

Expenses: YTD September expenses are \$45K lower than prior year due to \$63K lower staff ministry costs and \$3K lower Office costs offset by \$7K increased utility costs, \$4k insurance costs and \$10K Maintenance Costs.

Income (Loss): YTD Net Loss of \$22.7K is \$49K lower than last year which is the result of the increase in income of \$4K and \$45K in favorable spending compared to last year.

Forecast

Giving: Based on current trends and an analysis of historical giving patterns, we are forecasting a year-end shortfall in contributions. This gap is projected to be approximately \$137K, representing a 13% deviation from the budgeted amount for the year.

Expenses: Expenses are projected to continue trending at the current YTD average of \$77K per month, ending the year at \$900K and \$140K under budget.

Income (Loss): The anticipated excess between income and expenses is estimated to be approximately \$4K.

NEW BUSINESS

Building & Grounds

Danny Navarro, our Building Manager, will be going on medical leave Nov 23, 2025, through Feb. 15, 2026. During this time, we are asking for volunteers to help set up throughout the week and for Sunday worship services.

New Office Computers

All employee computers needed to be upgraded to Microsoft 365. Heather and Marcus found that some computers were not compatible with the upgrade. Both Heather and Marcus came up with the plan of using the points earned from the church credit card to buy these computers during Black Friday, Cyber Monday or other days that have deals. A motion was set up by Shari and seconded by Cheryl. Motion was carried.

Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children have requested to be part of the Noisy Offerings. We are working with staff to get a month set up. In December there will be a fundraising event selling chocolate chip cookies.

Confirmation

There are weekly needs for confirmation leaders as there is one lead per class.

Opportunity for planning and execution to have team leaders to assure each week a leader is available for class.

Next Council Meeting: Nov. 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget **1,041,258.00**

Offering through 10/20/25 651,781.82

Expenses through 10/20/25 690,202.57

Balance of Building Expansion Loan

as of 10/31/25 395,092.87

Foundation Grant Deadline Due November 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church'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 on Calvary's website (www.calvarygf.org). Foundation grant applications are being accepted through Wednesday, November 5, at 4:00 pm. Applications can be emailed to heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org or brought to the church office.

STOCK DONATIONS

Did you know you can donate stock as a gift to Calvary? Have you wondered how to accomplish donating this gift? You may ask your broker to assist with the transfer to Calvary's Edward Jones account or you may contact Heather Vandervort at the church (701-772-4897) with any questions. Please designate to which church fund you would like to give your gift. If you are considering this type of gift, please complete your gift through your broker by Tuesday, December 9.

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for supporting Calvary through your financial gifts! Any gifts you would like included on your 2025 contribution statement should be in the church office by noon on Wednesday, December 31.

When giving gifts by mail, please allow at least seven business days for your gift to arrive at Calvary.

FUND BALANCES

Youth	59,349.21
Honduras Mission	21,834.67
Foundation	809,335.73
Good Samaritan	4,382.15
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,827.37
Music	1,031.06
Library	1,027.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	76.20
Contemporary Worship	2,574.39
Education	3,365.96
Fine Arts	934.31
Missions	37,294.03
Quilting	2,292.91
Memory Café	15,205.75
Unforgettables Choir	14,519.82
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	988.16
Lewis & Clark General	4,048.18
Lewis & Clark Backpack	13,768.55
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,722.35
Coffee Shop	2,943.21
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,115.44
Organ/Piano	(922.33)
General Maintenance	4,149.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	957.00
Roof Repairs	6,812.33
Building Expansion	245,795.09
Seminary	503.95

Calvary Circle Groups

Each month, a faithful group of women gathers for Circle-a Bible study rooted in Scripture, sisterhood, and spiritual growth. More than just a meeting, Circle is a space where hearts are opened, prayers are shared and God's Word is explored.

Calvary has two separate Circle groups - Priscilla-Sarah and Ruth.

Whether we're diving into a new devotional, reflecting on life's joys and challenges, or simply catching up over coffee, Circle offers a rhythm of connection that nourishes both soul and spirit.

All are welcome - whether you've been attending for years or are simply curious to see what it is all about. Come as you are, and leave encouraged.

Please call the church office for more information.



Prayers & Sympathies

Erin Navarro's grandmother,
Darlene Olson, died 9-26-25.

Connie Rebsch's mother,
Irene Wagner, died 9-27-25.

Vicki Kroetsch died 10-5-25.
Carl Kroetsh is her husband.
Phil Kroetsh is her son.

Mary Ann Devig's father,
Gordy Sather, died 10-8-25.

Justin Berry's father,
Wayne Berry, Died 10-9-25.

Bob Alderson's sister,
Jane Alderson, died 10-13-25.

Edith Soli's brother,
Sigvart Silnes, died 10-16-25.

Allen LaFave's mother,
Alva LaFave, died 10-24-25.

Calvary Quilting

Our November quilting day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to help assemble our quilts. A potluck lunch is served at noon. We hope you can join us.

The Lutheran World Relief truck was back in Grand Forks on October 23 & 24. Our contribution this fall to Lutheran World Relief was:

19 Quilts

33 Baby Care Kits

This collection is held once in the fall and once in the spring. We also gave a quilt to Red Willow Bible Camp for a fundraiser they held. We give thanks to all who helped with this mission.

Let us continue to hold these quilts and Baby Care Kits in our prayers as they head off to touch the lives of so many around the world.

Memorials

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Larry McLaren, Delores Peterson, Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel, Einar and Elaine Einarson, Marilyn Linnell, Dann and Cris Johnson

In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Larry McLaren, Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

In memory of James McDonald by Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Linda Redfern, Loretta Prather, Lloyd and Vonnie Fosse, Jean and William Schoenfelder, Kevin and Joyce Austin, Russell and Sherry Rarick, Ruby Fronk, Gary Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Terrence and Marjorie Opp, Elizabeth Staveteig, Richard and Nancy Linback, Marilyn Messner, Regina Langseth, Scott and Julie Sherwood, Debra Dubuque, Rod and Doris Waddell, Seth and Emily Dallman, Barbara Nord, Sandra Mason, Mark and Stephanie Nelson, John and Carol Miller, Donnabelle Weston, Richard and Judith Bristol

In memory of P. Erickson by Marilyn Lundberg

In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Marilyn Lundberg, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Yoshida, Heart River Lutheran Church members, Sandy Dittus, Richard and Kathleen McWaters, Ernest and Sarah Anderson, Elizabeth McWilliam, Craig and Julie Sandstrom, Roberta Zick, Virgil Foss, Elaine Rudd, Catherine Manske, Rodney and Joyce Medalen, Edith Soli, Barbara Spicer, Friends and Family

In memory of Tony Landry by Marilyn Lundberg

In memory of Devera Warcup by Marilyn Lundberg

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

HEARING LOOP

In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Carole Hadlich

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK

In memory of Marilyn Hagerty by Darrel and Beth Randklev, Ric and Jan Mott, Willis and Karen Botnen, Michael and Ann Porter

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Marian Gates

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Charles and Colleen Zick

In memory of Dennis Rindy by Les and Barb Puppe

MUSIC FUND

In memory of Donna Martinson by James and Sharon Holter

SENIOR CHOIR FUND

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by Kathleen McCue

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of Marilyn Bakke by James and Marjean Woodrow

In memory of Gordon Sather by Howard and Debbie Swanson, Richard and Kathleen McWaters



A Lewis & Clark Partnership

Calvary's It Takes a Village partnership with our neighbor school, Lewis and Clark, is ready for year four of supporting the backpack 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 food-insecure children in our partner school. This program provides meals for the weekend for hungry 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 2025-2026 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.



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)

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed to assist in filling bags on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church narthex. Please consider taking an hour on these days to help. The next packing event will be held on November 18.

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. So far have a total of 18 students sponsored.

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.



Backpack Program

The first backpacking event of the new school year was held on October 21. An enthusiastic group of volunteers of all ages came into our narthex and filled bags totaling 1208 meals.



Calvary Angel Tree

Create a Merry Christmas for a community member in need this year with our 2025 Angel Tree. Calvary will again be partnering with several community agencies to enjoy the spirit of giving. We are partnering to provide gifts for Lewis and Clark and other families, elderly, and veterans who would go without Christmas gifts.

Trees will be up by November 16 so you will be able to shop till you drop on Black Friday! Pick a tag with gift ideas and instructions from the trees located outside each worship space beginning Sunday, November 16 or choose from our sign-up Genius, Target, or Amazon registries. Those links will go live on the November 16 as well.

Once gifts come back to Calvary, we will need volunteers to shop for gifts on remaining tags, sort gifts, wrap gifts or fill gift bags.

Thank you for sharing God's love with the people around us. Please contact Julie in the church office with any questions or let her know you'd like to help.

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

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

High School Youth Group

High school youth group will continue meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation & SPARK

Our next session of confirmation classes will be held November 5-19. We will be offering elective classes: In Context, Meditation station, Bad Girls of the Bible, and Animated Faith! SPARK continues to meet every week from 8:00-9:00 p.m. after confirmation classes on Wednesdays!

Volunteer Opportunities

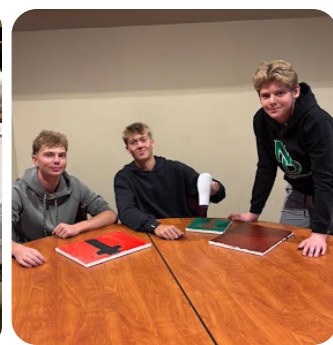
If you are looking for something to do on a Wednesday night during the school year, we are currently looking for confirmation class teachers! We would love to have you join that team-lesson plans and materials are provided. You just need to bring a happy attitude and willingness to teach.

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



Kids & Family



You're Invited!

Join us for our Advent Festival on Sunday, November 30, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the Calvary Fellowship Hall!

Come celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with crafting activities, festive snacks, family friendly service projects, and plenty of holiday fun. It's a special time to gather in community as we prepare our hearts for the season.

All are welcome—bring your friends and family!



Jump Party at Northern Air

Calvary goes to the trampoline park! Join us Tuesday, November 11, from 10 a.m. to noon! Stay tuned for more details to come.



Join us Sunday, November 2 @ 12 p.m. Let's Splash into Baptism together. Learning + activity + snacks! This event is designed for grownups & kids to participate together. Siblings welcome!

Important Dates

Nov. 9
Start learning Christmas songs in Sunday School.

Nov. 26
No Wednesday School



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
Youth: Chelsea Helland

Be a Worship Reader...One of my favorite parts of worship is hearing Scripture read in many different voices. Would you consider being a reader at one of our worship services?

Pastor Rachael is beginning to curate a list of people who would be willing to read about once every 5-6 weeks. Please prayerfully consider this role and the joy of sharing God's Word with our congregation. If you're interested, please let Pastor Rachael know so she can add you to the list.



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Serving & Igniting People for Christ



Calvary Lutheran Church -
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