



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

April 2025



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

April 13 Palm/Passion Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship in the Fellowship Hall

April 17 Maundy Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. - Fifth Grade Communion in the Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary with Foot/Hand Washing

April 18 Good Friday

- 12:00 p.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. - Family-Friendly/Interactive Worship in the Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. - Way of the Cross Worship in the Sanctuary

April 20 Easter Sunday

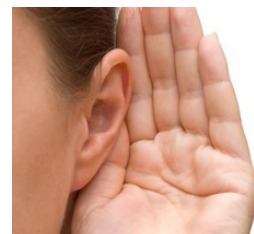
- 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

April brings us to the conclusion of our Lenten journey with Holy Week. During this week, we walk day by day through the last week of Jesus' life beginning with his entry into Jerusalem, a shared meal in the upper room and the washings of feet, the betrayal and arrest in the garden, the denial of devoted followers, the abuse and mock trial at the hands of his accusers, Jesus' death on the cross, and the silence of the tomb of Holy Saturday. All of Jesus' love is met by the ferocity and backlash of political and religious leaders who opposed the living Christ. And it is against the backdrop and darkness of Holy Saturday that Easter morning comes - the risen Christ proclaims a brilliant "Yes!" in the face of the world's, "no." Yes to sinners, yes to forgiveness, yes to welcoming the stranger, yes to women, yes to God's ways of justice and mercy, yes to care for the hungry, oppressed, orphaned, widowed and vulnerable. And yes to using our unjust mammon to serve the world and all whom God has made. In response to God's YES, say "yes" to joining us in worship during Holy Week at Calvary Lutheran Church.

LET'S HAVE A "GREAT CONVERSATION"

PASTOR JARED CARSON

Talking with others can be challenging. My grandmother used to remind me, "God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason...so that we could listen more and talk less." Maybe you had a grandparent with the same wisdom. I fear that my vocation makes it hard at times to put the wisdom of my grandmother into practice. Pastors are expected to speak publicly, preach. Through seminary Pastoral Care classes, I learned to ask more open-ended questions, which allow a conversation partner to share freely. And beyond asking open-ended questions, I have had to practice active listening and attentiveness. I do hope in some way, that as your Interim Pastor, I have been able to make space and model this at Calvary Lutheran Church and in my pastoral conversations.



The wisdom of my grandmother is reflected in the scriptures too. From the book of James (1:19), "Know this, my beloved brothers and sisters, let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." Or from the wisdom writings of Proverbs (18:2), "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his (or her) opinion." We don't need to look too hard to identify some of the chief culprits in our society. Yet, it seems easier to hear the "siren's call" of verbose speaking or sound-bite politics, rather than rooting ourselves in the faith and humility of Jesus Christ. For early Christians, Jesus is the personification of Wisdom from the Hebrew Bible.



Wednesday, April 16

at 7 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall

***Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion***

To help us all practice listening, I would like to invite members of Calvary and the community to participate in a "Great Conversation" on *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*, Wednesday, April 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. This "Great Conversation" will be an opportunity to engage with others in civil public discourse. Engaging in conversation will give each of us time for thoughtful listening and reflection. Together, we will listen to the joys and concerns of other participants. We may agree or disagree with others' views, but as people of faith we are rooted in the conviction that all people are made in the image of God and therefore endowed with dignity and divine worth. This kind of conversation invites us to see others as beloved children of God. Sure, we may not solve all the world's problems, but if we can't even engage in civil discourse together, why would we suspect that we would do it on our own.

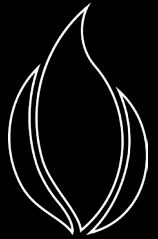
For those participants from Calvary or other faith communities engaging in these conversations is gospel-centered ministry in Jesus' name. In doing this we cultivate and nurture a sense of belonging among participants. We belong to Christ, in whom we are baptized, and we belong to each other...warts and all! God in the power of the Holy Spirit brings us together through our shared conviction that we are linked to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for you the members and friends of Calvary Lutheran Church. You are the children of God, the salt of the earth, the light on a hill, yeast in the dough, which is enlivening the Grand Forks community and this corner of North Dakota.

Faithfully Yours,

Pr. Jared Carson





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!

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the fourth presentation of our "The Empowered Caregiver" series. Julie Praska-Moser, Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association will speak about "Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors." The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

KNIT & CROCHET

April 19 @ 10:00 a.m. 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.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

Join us in the month of April as we read *Maizy Chen's Last Chance*. Books are available in the church office for \$10. Then join us on Sunday, April 27, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK **April 29**

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.

THE UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR

The Unforgettables are off to a rousing start of our winter/spring semester with 58 singers. The Unforgettables is a community choir for people living with memory loss, Alzheimer's or any other type of dementia and their care partner.

Looking ahead: The Unforgettables Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary.

SEWING CLUB

April 3 & 17 @ 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.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Our next Reading Religiously will be Thursday, April 10, 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 God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

CALVARY CLASSICS

Calvary Classics will have the opportunity to enjoy a tour of the Rydell toy shop in April followed by dessert and coffee back at Calvary. We are still confirming the reservation and date so stay tuned to all the places you find out information about Calvary, and we will let you know when this is happening.

BE A BARISTA IN HOLY GROUNDS

Be a part of this hospitality ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church to provide a welcoming place for fellowship before and/or after worship times at Calvary. Sign up for as few or as many time slots as you would like. Have fun serving coffee and getting to know the people at Calvary. Our espresso machine, lovingly named Franke, is very user-friendly and training is provided. Two shifts are scheduled each Sunday for two people per shift. Shifts run from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Reach out to Julie Pedersen for sign-ups.

FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX

Join us on the first Friday of each month 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.

Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

Calvary's February income was received at a much lower level than expected when comparing to the prior year. The timing of Lent is a factor when comparing giving on a monthly level. In 2024, Ash Wednesday occurred on February 14, whereas in the current year, Ash Wednesday was three weeks later on March 5.

February events included welcoming new members and education opportunities for 1st and 2nd graders. Calvary welcomed 21 new members in February. First graders were invited to remember their baptism and second graders discussed how they picture God and created artwork to share with the congregation. Noisy offering February was collected for the four agencies (CVIC, Ernie's Place, Global Friends, Journey Home Animal Rescue) recognized at the ELCA Youth Night in the amount of \$780.68

Year-to-date income through February was 11% lower than the five-year average while expenses were 4% lower for the same time period. As we finished 2024 with an excess of gifts, there is a bit of a let-down as the first two months of the year are at a lower level than we expected. One avenue we as leaders of Calvary can take is to continue to share the amazing things happening at Calvary, and how none of these things are possible without the generosity of our congregation members.

NEW BUSINESS

Call Committee

We have shared this, but want to remind you that Elizabeth Wild has resigned from the Call Committee for personal reasons. She was the chairperson. Lael Schmidt has been selected by the committee to take up the chairperson position. The Call Committee does not feel a need to replace the seat vacated by Elizabeth Wild. The Congregation was asked to provide names of possible pastors who should be invited to serve at Calvary. Calvary had a strong response with 15 envelopes of names submitted. Those were given to the Office of the Bishop for follow-up conversation with Bishop Tessa. The Call Committee is preparing to begin initial interviews.

Worship

We have moved into Lent with the Burning of the Palms and Ash Wednesday. Just remember that attendance is only one marker of health and vitality of a congregation. Calvary continues to have youth helping with Lenten midweek worship services.

2025 - 58 (Noon) and 272 (6pm), **Total 330**

2024 - 57 (Noon) and 320 (6pm), **Total 377**

2023 - 58 (Noon) and 209 (6pm), **Total 267**

2022 - 245 (5:30pm) and 119 (7pm), **Total 364**

Staffing

We have made a positive hiring decision to bring Chelsea Helland onto staff in the role of Youth Ministry Coordinator. She will begin April 1. She will lead the youth ministry for middle school and high school youth and guide confirmation.

Next Council Meeting: April 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 3/14/25	150,769.24
Expenses through 3/14/25	200,729.10

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 3/31/25	580,248.44

DEADLINES

FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

April 9 @ 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 April 9 at 4:00 p.m. Applications can be emailed to heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org or brought to the church office.

Noisy Offerings Collected
Feed My Starving Children
~\$1140

Blessed to be a Blessing Special Appeal Campaign Update

Dollars Committed	\$98,341.00
Dollars Received through 3/15/25	\$72,583.46

FUND BALANCES

Youth	49,195.45
Honduras Mission	38,048.43
Foundation	803,350.73
Good Samaritan	3,894.23
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	3,958.09
Music	1,002.66
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,074.39
Education	623.23
Fine Arts	1,900.72
Missions	37,384.03
Quilting	2,596.79
Memory Café	14,412.12
Unforgettables Choir	14,104.87
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,926.00
Lewis & Clark Backpack	10,762.06
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,921.93
Coffee Shop	2,933.71
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	6,413.54
Organ/Piano	15,579.41
General Maintenance	4,435.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	5,976.03
Building Expansion	362,125.51
Seminary	503.95



MEMORIALS



BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by John and Jacquelyn Knudson, Arlette Stanlake

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Kathleen Hertel

In memory of **Peter Yon** by Robert and Myrna Bower

FOUNDATION

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Gloria Foss, Robby Zick, Lawrence and Kay Roch, Edith Soli

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Ramona Gravdahl** by Yvonne Ekdahl

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Don and Ellen Anderson, Joseph Bryan and Rebecca Knudson-Bryan, Donnabella Weston, John and Jennifer Knudson, Elizabeth Staveteig, Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Marilyn Bakke

LIBRARY

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Cec Kvande, Jon and Carol Englund

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of **Beverly Bale** by Harold Bale

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Jim and Marge Woodrow

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Charles and Colleen Zick

MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Kathy McCue

ORGAN FUND

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Delores Peterson

SENIOR CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Diana Iverson

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Beverly Bale** by Harold Bale

In memory of **Jan Hoffman** by Mary Ann McKenna

Prayers & Sympathies

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

Kim Amundson's father, Erwin Lucke, Jr., died 2-22-25.



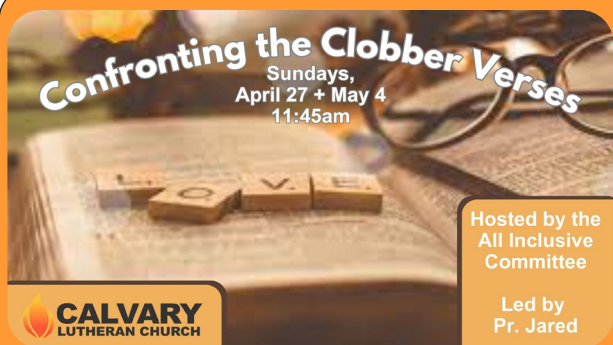
Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



A Message from the Call Committee

Greetings friends and fellow members of Calvary! I would like to provide a quick update on our mission to call a qualified lead pastor for Calvary Lutheran Church who will lead our congregation in faith, worship and service. Our Calvary Call Committee consists of eight members who were commissioned earlier this year. We have met once with Bishop Tessa (for organizational purposes) and have held four subsequent meetings on our own. Our initial efforts have focused on prayerfully learning call protocol, studying our Ministry Site Profile and planning next steps. One of our initial steps has been to ask for suggestions of pastoral

candidates by our congregation. We were excited by the response of our Calvary family! Quite a number of names were uplifted by our congregation which have been forwarded to the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These names are currently being processed by the Bishop's office. Our Bishop will reach out to those who are qualified and good matches for our congregation to discern their interest. Once interested parties are identified, those names will be forwarded to us for further review. We are looking to provide a further update to you during church services on Palm Sunday. See you then!



Confronting the Clobber Verses Sundays, April 27 and May 4, at 11:45 a.m. in Holy Grounds

There are 6 verses of scripture which have historically been used as proof-texts to marginalize the LGBTQ+ community. These verses have been called the "Clobber Verses" because of the way the scriptures are used to beat up or clobber a particular group of people. It is helpful to understand these verses in their literary and historical context, to confront the way they have been mis-used to exclude people from God's love or faith communities. Join Pr. Jared and the All Inclusive Committee as we confront the clobber verses.



BAPTISM

3-16-25 Ella Michelle Stenberg
Child of Kristen & Alex Stenberg

3-23-25 Jackson Todd Sovak
Child of Kayla & Christian Sovak



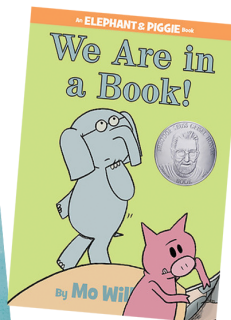
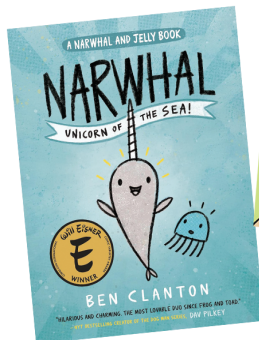
Calvary's It Takes A Village Ministry is helping Lewis & Clark Elementary students **FLOAT INTO SUMMER!**
Can you help?

We are excited to send students home with a selection of books to keep their love of reading alive throughout the summer! To make this possible, we need your help in filling baskets of books that students can choose from during their final days of school.

You can donate one or more books anytime between now and Sunday, May 4. All books should be new or in like-new condition and suitable for children ages 5-12. Please avoid board books, books with sounds or moving parts, and any books with writing or marks inside. Thank you for supporting our young readers!

BOOK SERIES & IDEAS

Pizza & Taco
Elephant & Piggie
Animal Rescue
Narwahl & Jelly
Pete the Cat
Investigators
Wings of Fire
Amulet
Dog Man
Cat Kid
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
I Survived (Graphic Novels)



Scan here for

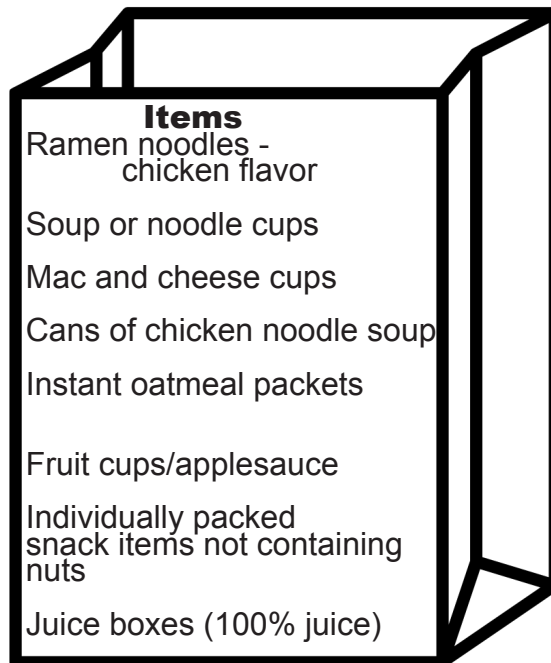


registry details



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.



So far this school year we have provided a little over 5000 meals for food-insecure students at Lewis and Clark. Thanks to everyone who helped us have another successful year of providing meals for our neighborhood school. April will be our last packing date for the school year, and we will fill bags for both the month of May and the month of September.

Join us for this last event of the school year on Tuesday, April 15, at 6 p.m. in the Narthex.

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**



Welcome Chelsea Helland!

Join us for worship on Wednesday, April 2, and Sunday, April 6, at all worship services as we welcome and install Chelsea Helland as our New Youth Ministry Coordinator.

From Chelsea:

I grew up in Virginia, Minnesota, a small town about 4.5 hours east of Grand Forks. I have two fur babies! A dog named Kahlua (pictured), and an orange and white cat named Tigger! I am a VERY big fan of Outdoor Ministry! I grew up going to Camp Vermilion, and after graduating High School went on to work three summers at camps in Minnesota and Montana. Please feel free to reach out and start conversations as you start seeing me around! Looking forward to meeting everyone!



Refugee

Join us for a 3-week book study as we read, think about, and discuss the book *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Together, we'll explore the stories of three young refugees across different time periods and countries, each facing unimaginable challenges. As we read, we'll wonder how the themes of the book connect with our faith. How might God be calling us to love our neighbors more deeply, especially in today's world? Books are available at Calvary.

Soul Script

This class is all about exploring your faith in a fun and creative way through journaling. We'll be your guides as we discover how to use words, doodles, and even stickers to connect with your beliefs and understand what's important to you. Each session includes activities and prompts that make faith exploration feel like an awesome adventure. Whether you're looking to understand more about your faith, figure out what you believe in, or just want a space to express yourself, this class is for you!



In Context

This class is all about exploring the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy and learning about its context. Learning about the context helps a book become more meaningful and relevant to readers. Pr. Jared Carson and Chelsea Helland will be your guides for this journey - in context. We will learn to ask the questions, "To whom or for whom was this book written? When was it written? What concerns or issues is the author trying to address?" Each session will include video presentations, prayer, scripture reading, and discussion as we seek deeper understanding and grow in faith.

SPARK Middle School Youth Group

SPARK Middle School Youth Group - Wednesdays 4/23, 4/30, 5/7 at 8 p.m.-9 p.m.

After confirmation middle school youth are invited to stay for SPARK Middle School Youth Group.

Youth will meet in the basement. Chelsea Helland will be the lead staff person.

Parent and adult volunteers are needed to help make SPARK a success!



Palm Sunday
APRIL 13

Sunday schoolers will sing a special song in worship. We have been practicing during music time.

9AM Sunday School students should arrive by 8:45
10:30AM Sunday School students should arrive by 10:15

Please bring your child directly to the Choir Room.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



CALVARY
kids

Palm Sunday Children's Choir
PreK-fifth graders will sing in worship on Sunday, April 13. Please have your child to the choir room 15 minutes before the service begins!

Walking Through Holy Week

We invite all of our kindergarteners and their families to join us for their Milestone event on Sunday, April 13, at noon in the fellowship hall. We will start with a light lunch and then walk through the stories of Holy Week together.



JOURNEY THROUGH
Holy Week

KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE EVENT

📅 Sunday, April 13
🕒 12:00 PM
📍 Fellowship Hall

This event is designed for kids and grown-ups to attend together. Siblings welcome!

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Grade
COMMUNION CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, APRIL 17
5:30 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU AT GOD'S TABLE!
You are invited to join us as we celebrate the gift of communion with a short learning event and worship service. This event is designed for your whole family and will lead into a short worship service centered around communion.

To help us prepare for numbers, please rsvp to nichole.bye@calvarygf.org

Fifth Grade Communion Celebration

We invite all of our fifth graders and their families to join us for a milestone and worship service at 5:30 p.m. on April 17. We will learn all about the sacrament of Holy Communion and how it connects us to each other. Siblings, parents, grandparents and sponsors are welcome and encouraged to join.

Please RSVP to nichole.bye@calvarygf.org

Upcoming Important Dates

April 13

Children's choir in worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Kindergarten Milestone event 12 p.m.

April 16

No Wednesday School

April 17

Fifth grade Communion Milestone 5:30 p.m.

April 20

Easter Sunday, no Sunday school classes



GENERATIONS in faith TOGETHER
CAMP SUNDAY
4.27.2024 | 9AM | 10:30AM

COME AND HEAR ABOUT CAMP!
All are invited to an intergenerational worship service led by our friends at Metigoshe Ministries. Park River and Metigoshe will be available on site for information and sign ups!

SUNDAY DONUTS FUNDRAISER
\$2 each

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Last GIFT Sunday Sunday, April 27

Come and learn all about summer camp in North Dakota!

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
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen
Building & Grounds: Danny Navarro
Youth: Chelsea Helland



\$25 - 25 EGGS
\$50 - 50 EGGS
\$75 - 75 EGGS
\$100 - 100 EGGS



Support Calvary Lutheran Church High School Youth as they raise
funds for their trip to Kansas City this summer!



CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving & Igniting People for Christ



**Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks**



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@calvarygrandforks