

October 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.

In October, we will hear more about “What We Can Do?” as we kickoff the 2025 Fall Stewardship Appeal. When we speak the Lord’s Prayer and say, “Give us this day, our daily bread,” this is not an individual request for food for today. It is a communal, collective, appeal for what we need. Remembering our Small Catechism, Martin Luther in his explanation of this petition writes, “Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.” Reading this list we might think that we provide those things, but it is God who gives us the skills, gifts, abilities, intellect, and acumen to earn a wage or offer our time to provide “Daily Bread” for us, our families, our neighbors, and our community. So, “what can we do,” in response to God’s lavish generosity? God’s gifts come to particular people, in particular places, in particular times. Because we are made in God’s image, we, too, uniquely embody God’s steadfast abundance, love, and mercy. We are equipped to be generous where we are. Drawn more deeply into the body of Christ, we are reminded of our belovedness, and we can respond with generosity, love, and service on behalf of our neighbors. This is stewardship and stewardship is another way to frame discipleship.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT TONY SCHROEDER

My brothers and sisters in Christ, greetings from the Calvary Church Council!

I am not sure about you, but one of the things that I love about living in the upper Midwest is the fact that we experience four seasons throughout the year. I especially love fall: the changing of the leaves, the harvest time for the things planted months earlier and returning to a usual routine after the summer months. Fall is also an exciting time in the church because it brings us back to a new season at Calvary with our return to Sunday School and multiple worship services.

With the changing of seasons outside of Calvary, I have also been thinking about the changing of the seasons inside of Calvary. The life of the church, like the turning of the seasons, carries us through times of planting and times of harvest, times of waiting or transition, to times of new beginnings. In October, Calvary will turn the page from a season of waiting to a season of new beginnings. We turn the page from our time with Pastor Jared, who has been our interim pastor at Calvary for well over a year. We thank Pastor Jared for his leadership and guidance during our season of waiting and transition. We now turn the page to the season of new beginnings at Calvary with the start of our newly called Pastor Rachael Puttbrese.

Pastoral transitions can always stir mixed emotions: joy and hope for what God has in store for us, but at the same time, leave us with some nervousness about the change and unknown.

I believe that both feelings are natural, and both can live together in the same heart. What steadies whatever our emotions we are feeling is the promise that God's timing is always good. The God that walked with this congregation with the passing of Pastor Kirk, through the season of transition, is the same God who will walk with us into this new beginning. I am reminded of the well-known words from the book of Ecclesiastes 3: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." This verse reminds us God has divine plans for every event in our lives, and this new beginning for Calvary is not by accident. It is a season appointed for us, and God is already working in it.

As we enter this new season together, may we do so with open hands and open hearts. Pastor Rachael's first Sunday preaching will be October 19. To help introduce Pastor Rachael to everyone a brief biography is provided. Please be sure to welcome her when she arrives and let us give thanks for the new season that God is providing for Calvary.

In Christ's love and hope,

Tony Schroeder

Calvary Council President

The power of prayer is effective! Calvary members benefit from making and sharing prayer requests. We invite you to share prayer requests for yourself, family, and one another with us. You can request that information be shared only with pastors, only with pastors and staff, or allow the request to be shared through the Calvary Prayer Chain. Prayer may not change the outcome of a healthcare situation or a life circumstance, but it will certainly allow others to surround us with care. Remember, even though "the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express," our companions in Christ at Calvary can't unless we share our needs. Please call or email Cathy Bubb in the church office to share prayer requests.

B **9-14-25** Owen Jeffrey Farder
Child of Andrea & Austin Farder 
A
P **9-21-25** Ada Michelle Muus
Child of Alyssa & Eric Muus
T
I **9-21-25** Paisley Jo Clemetson 
Child of Lauren & Connor Clemetson
S
M **9-28-25** Crew Scott Lund
Child of Cheyenne Bercier &
Jacob Lund

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 October 3 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.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be hosting our annual service fair on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The service fair will be open from 12:00-1:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a panel presentation of dementia care providers who will talk about the services they provide and answer questions from the audience.

The service fair will re-open following the panel where dementia care providers will be available to visit. Refreshments will be provided following the panel. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

October 19 @ 3 p.m.

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 *Trouble at the Tangerine* by Gillian McDunn.

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

October 2 & 16 @ 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.

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

Our annual Flu Vaccine Clinic will be held on Sunday, October 5, and Sunday, October 12, from 8:30-11:45 a.m. in the Library. Please bring your insurance card.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Love to read? Looking for great conversation and new perspectives? Our Reading Religiously Book Club is the perfect place to dive into engaging stories, share ideas, and connect with fellow book lovers. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just getting started, all are welcome. Grab a copy of *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods and meet us at the Blue Moose on October 9 at 6 p.m.

THE UNFORGETTABLES

The Unforgettables Choir is back into our regular rehearsal schedule, meeting every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Our morning begins with time for coffee and conversation from 9:30-10:15 am followed by singing from 10:15-11:30 am. 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!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

October 28

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 August

Giving: Calvary's August congregational giving was \$15K higher than last year. This can be attributed to one large annual gift and two smaller gifts in August 2025. August 2025 giving compared to budget was \$7K lower than planned. Weekly giving in August was 78% of budget.

Expenses: August expenses compared to last year were \$3k lower primarily due to staffing costs (lower headcount), the reclassification of a scissor lift purchase of \$6.1k to a capital asset and timing of fees received for Sunday School and Confirmation. August expenses compared to budget were \$34k favorable primarily due to lower headcount, fees collected for Sunday School and Confirmation and reclassification of a capital asset from expenses.

Income (Loss): August income of \$26.7K is favorable \$17K to last year and \$26.7K favorable to budget.

Year to Date

Giving: YTD August giving is \$6K lower than prior year. This can be attributed to timing of one-time gifts and lower weekly giving than prior year. YTD August giving is under budget \$151K at 78% of budget.

Expenses: YTD August expenses are \$45K lower than prior year due to \$57K lower staff ministry costs and \$5K lower office costs offset by \$3K increased utility costs and \$15K maintenance costs.

Income (Loss): YTD Net Loss of \$28.2K is \$39K lower than last year which is the result of the reduction in income of \$6K offset by \$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 \$132K, 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 \$911K and \$130K under budget.

Income (Loss): The anticipated deficit between income and expenses is estimated to be approximately \$3K.

NEW BUSINESS

Transition Process

Pastor Rachael Puttbrese has accepted the call and will begin October 15 and her first day of preaching is October 19.

Staffing

Hospitality Coordinator position posted and deadline was August 24. No prospects at this point. Pastor Rachael to provide input on the position.

Staff reviews and evaluations were completed by Pastor Jared before he left. This was beneficial because Pastor Rachael can meet with the staff to set goals for 2026.

Finance and Budgeting

Council Reps plan to meet with their staff person to listen to ministry plans and assist in aligning budget request to these plans.

Next Council Meeting: Oct. 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 9/15/25	585,801.32
Expenses through 9/15/25	604,047.48

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 9/30/25	398,268.61

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.

Memorials

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Mary Schumacher by Bob & Myrna Bower

GENERAL FUND

In memory of James McDonald by Marilyn Lundberg

In memory of Tom Strinden by Marilyn Lundberg

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK

In honor of Ainsley Fiedler by Kathy Fiedler

In honor of Paul Fiedler by Kathy Fiedler

In memory of our favorite teacher, Pat Healey by Cynthia Healey, Danny, Kelly, Ched, Ava, & Izzy

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of Vetta Syverson by Ryland Syverson & Glenna Leedah

FUND BALANCES

Youth	57,768.03
Honduras Mission	26,899.07
Foundation	809,215.73
Good Samaritan	2,797.90
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,777.37
Music	1,283.88
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	76.20
Contemporary Worship	2,524.39
Education	4,896.64
Fine Arts	1,153.54
Missions	36,120.09
Quilting	2,444.85
Memory Café	15,088.75
Unforgettables Choir	14,478.46
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	988.16
Lewis & Clark General	3,878.18
Lewis & Clark Backpack	12,301.81
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,684.10
Coffee Shop	2,778.58
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,057.24
Organ/Piano	670.00
General Maintenance	4,149.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	937.00
Roof Repairs	6,762.33
Building Expansion	240,793.65
Seminary	503.95

God's Work, Our Hands

On Wednesday September 25, the second annual God's Work, Our Hands event was held in Town Square. The Grand Forks Conference ELCA Lutheran churches answered the call to serve, to love and to be the hands and feet of Christ in a world in need.

The Grand Forks community was invited to gather to combat hunger here in Grand Forks and to advocate for the needs outside of our community as well. A community meal was served to over 450 people. Food and monetary donations were collected for the Northlands Rescue Mission and St. Joseph's. Service opportunities were also available. Volunteers were able to label canned goods for the food shelf and write letters to North Dakota's congressional delegation for food support in the state.

We thank all our Calvary members who volunteered and attended to help combat hunger and made this event a success.



Prayers & Sympathies

Art Culver's father, Art Culver, died in April, and his brother, Bobby Culver, died in June.

Heather Vanervort's mother, Penny Schumacher, died 9-1-25.

Marilyn Bakke died 9-10-25.

Marilyn Hagerty died 9-16-25.

Noel Moen's son, Randy Moen, died 9-22-25.

We grieve with those who have lost loved ones.

We remember those who have left us to be with our creator.

We know that they are gone but never forgotten.

Calvary Classics



The Calvary Classics met for a wonderful evening filled with good food, great company. Entertainment was provided by Kevin Hagan who sang a selection of his favorite songs and was enjoyed by all.



Biography for Pastor Rachael Puttbrese

I join the Calvary community with a deep love for God's people, a passion for sharing the faith with children, youth, and families, a heart called to pastoral care through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and 26 years of experience in congregational ministry. I bring a lighthearted approach shaped by many years of life within different congregational contexts, each filled with its joys and complexities. Over the years, I have been shaped and enriched by time spent with church elders, whose lifelong faith and experiences bring depth and wisdom to the church's shared story. I also shared friendship and collegiality with Pastor Kirk and feel deeply honored to be called to Calvary in this season, holding with sensitivity and gratitude the grief and shared life of his time among you.

My husband, Randy, and I have been married for 16 years. He is a retired Air Force veteran and now works as the Operations Deputy Fight Chief in the Civil Engineering Squadron at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. We share our home with our dog, Zuke, a Shiba Inu and American Eskimo mix, and enjoy quiet evenings, traveling, and time with family. We are proud parents to sons Shane, who lives in Mankato with his wife, Indigo, and Tyler, who lives in Brooklyn, NY, with his long-term partner, Hannah. Being "Auntie" is one of my greatest joys and a role I treasure deeply. Being Auntie RaRa is a top-tier gift in life. My sister, Lauren, and her husband, Dan, along with their daughters, Carollyn (8th grade) and Ava (3rd grade), are also excited to be part of the Calvary community.

I was raised in California and moved to North Dakota in 1994, where I began working in medical coding. In 1998, I stepped into youth and family ministry at University Lutheran. I later spent 13 years serving at Sharon Lutheran in Grand Forks, focusing on children, youth, and family ministries. In 2015, I entered seminary through the TEEM program at Wartburg while serving at Central Valley Parish, where I developed a deep love for rural ministry. Over the years, I've also served in various leadership roles with the synod, the ELCA Youth Gathering teams, and as Mayville Conference Dean.



I am humbled and excited to join the Calvary community as your Lead Pastor. I look forward to walking alongside you in this new season, sharing God's good news of love, hope, and grace in meaningful and vibrant ways. You will almost always find me with a cup of coffee in hand... morning coffee, second coffee, afternoon coffee, and even evening decaf. I'm also an avid reader, both for professional development and for fun, often juggling multiple books across different categories at once. While I enjoy travel and activities, I also love the quiet joy of being a homebody. And whenever possible, I seek time near water, especially the Pacific Ocean, where my California heart always feels at home.



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 October 21.

In addition to filling the bags, we are looking for volunteers with trucks to pick up the pallet of food and deliver it to Calvary on packing day. Please contact Julie in the office to volunteer or for more information.

We have just learned that the Northlands Rescue Mission will no longer be administering the Backpack Program. Lewis and Clark is in a good position, however, since Calvary has committed to filling the need each week. What we will need to do now is deliver the bins of backpack food to Lewis and Clark weekly. If you would like to help with this or would like more information, contact Julie in the office.

Backpack Program

The first backpacking event of the new school year was held on September 16. An enthusiastic group of volunteers of all ages came into our narthex and filled bags totaling 518 meals in less than an hour.



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

This year we have a change in the administration of the program. The Northlands Rescue Mission is no longer running the program that includes our Lewis and Clark school. Julie met with the director of United Way, and they graciously took us into their fold. Due to their willingness to include us, Lewis and Clark had no interruption of this program. We give our thanks to United Way and their director Heather Novak! United Way has many other volunteer opportunities as well. Stay tuned and those will be listed in the near future.





Youth and CONFIRMATION

High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group will continue meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will kick off starting October 1 with our first session of Core Classes! Please make sure you are checking in to earn credit. Classes are 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.



SPARK Middle School Youth Group

SPARK will be moving back to 8- 9 p.m. after confirmation classes on Wednesdays!

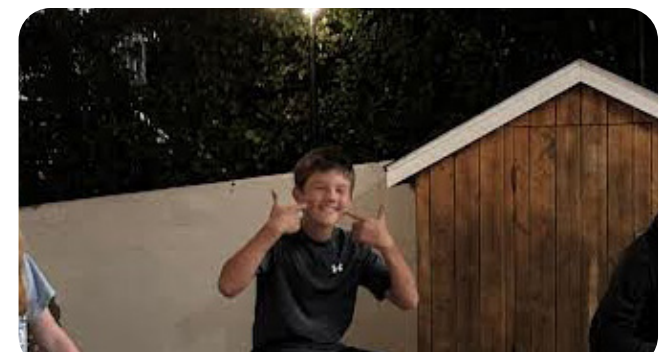
Volunteer Opportunities

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. Reach out to Chelsea if you are interested or have more questions!



EaND Synod Retreat - Camp Castaway

We had the pleasure of attending the EaND Synod Fall Youth Retreat September 26-28 at Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes! While there we played games, sang songs, and grew in relationships with faith and each other while enjoying God's Great North Woods! Learning how to Do Good Better.



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



Calvary Visits the Pumpkin Patch

Fall fun at Nelson's Pumpkin Patch! Join us for an afternoon of autumn fun and fellowship at Nelson's Pumpkin Patch (2448 20th Ave NE, Emerado) on Sunday, October 5, from 1:30–3:30 p.m. Families are invited to enjoy all the seasonal activities the pumpkin patch has to offer—corn mazes, hayrides, and more! We'll also gather around the campfire for a special fellowship time with our area ELCA churches, complete with free s'mores for everyone. Cost: \$15 per person (children 3 and under are free).



Third Grade Milestone

Join us Thursday, October 2 @ 5:30 pm for dinner, introduction to Bibles & activities.

This event is designed for grownups & kids to participate together. Siblings are welcome!

Presentation of third grade Bibles in worship on Sunday, October 19 or Wednesday, October, 22.

Friday, October 17.
We will gather with Deacon Michelle Walka to explore our creativity. This is a non-school day for our Grand Forks and East Grand Forks students to register, visit the Calvary website under the ministries tab or use the QR code.



Join us for a fun, safe, and familyfriendly Trunk-or-Treat event on Sunday, October 26, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Calvary parking lot!

We're gearing up for Trunk-or-Treat, and we need your help to make it a fun and welcoming outreach event for our community! What we are looking for:

Decorated trunks – Bring your creativity and decorate a trunk! We have fun theme ideas you can choose from, and you're welcome to use church supplies to help with decorations.

Candy donations – Bags of candy are always welcome to keep the fun going all evening!

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

A Halloween-themed graphic for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. The background is orange with a purple bottom section featuring spider webs. On the left, a cartoon ghost and a green dinosaur in a striped shirt are walking. The text 'Trunk or Treat' is in large, stylized purple letters. To the right, the date 'October 26' is written in a cursive font. Below it, the location 'Calvary Parking Lot' and time '3:00-5:00 pm' are listed. Further down, the activities 'Photo Booth. Candy. Music. Costumes & Fun!' are mentioned. The Calvary Lutheran Church logo is at the bottom center.

Trunk or Treat

October 26

**Calvary Parking Lot
3:00-5:00 pm**

**Photo Booth. Candy.
Music. Costumes & Fun!**

 **CALVARY** LUTHERAN CHURCH

