



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

March 2025



News from the Call Committee

The Church Council and Call Committee would like to thank Elizabeth Wild for her participation on the Call Committee. Elizabeth was elected chairperson by the committee. Elizabeth made the difficult decision to resign from the Call Committee this month for a variety of personal reasons. We give thanks for her time in this role. The Call Committee subsequently met and elected Lael Schmidt to be the chairperson for the Call Committee. The Call Committee has requested Pastoral Nominations from congregation members. These forms will be shared with the Office of the Bishop staff to make further inquiries about these pastors' interest in moving forward in an interview process with Calvary. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as they continue their work.

So many people identify themselves as Christian, but we may not agree with each other about what it means to be a Christian. It is important that we understand our specific Lutheran contribution to the discussion of Christian identity. During Lent we will give some consideration to thinking about what we really believe. What are the foundational beliefs and how are they living and moving with us as we grow and change?

Faith is passed down from generation to generation - it's an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus. During our Lenten worship and preaching series, *Unbroken*, we will hear how the powers of the world wanted to break Jesus, and yet this faith on which we rest is strong enough that it could not be broken. Christ was victorious over powers and principalities, and over sin, death, and all evil. We are a part of this great tradition that is *Unbroken*. Join us for worship as pastors draw on the work of *A Living Catechism*, as we explore our Lutheran Christian identity as a both/and people in an either/or world!

WHAT IS AT THE HEART PASTOR JARED CARSON



The word Lent, means “lengthen”. By all measureable account the days are getting longer. Darkness is giving way to more light. And we can physically see the words of Jesus, “I am the Light of the world”. In the life of the Church, particularly for Christians who value and observe the liturgical seasons, Easter is the center of the liturgical year. All the other liturgical seasons and celebrations, including Christmas flow from the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Accordingly, Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) of preparation that leads us to the celebration of the resurrection.

The journey of the 40 days calls us to a time of reflection on the historical events and the eternal significance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. His earthly ministry is for us, for all humanity, and for the whole of creation itself. The scriptures selected in the season of Lent try to push Christians to reflect on the questions of “Why, Jesus? Why the cross and resurrection? Why and how is this for us?” These are good questions for us to reflect upon as individuals and as communities of faith.

Lent has been a time of reflection and preparation since the 4th century, following the decision of Constantine to embrace the Christian faith. Lent was used as a time for mass orientation of non-Christians into the Christian way and life, culminating with baptism on the Great Vigil of Easter and a full participation in the paschal mystery of the eucharist. Lent is not only for those new to the Christian faith, but also for all who ardently seek to serve in Jesus’ name as we prepare, form, and reform our lives.

Lent is still a time of preparation at Calvary Lutheran Church. We still invite people to take seriously the ideal of preparation through personal commitment and renewal. The Christian church has traditionally invited people to the disciplines of Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, and acts of Charity (loving service). These disciplines of Lent are specifically named in Matthew 6:1-18 I encourage you to try these disciplines or others strive. Be honest in yourself-reflection on these disciplines of preparation as you strive to keep your commitment. Jesus’ commitment to God takes him to the cross and prepares a place for us to see God at work even in the darkness.



The Body of Christ throughout history, THE CHURCH, has often answered the “Why” of Jesus’ death and resurrection as overcoming some deficiency, due to sin, corruption of the created order, or brokenness in relationship. To some degree or another there is both a personal and corporate accountability for this deficiency. And we do need to talk openly about our need for repentance, and not repentance only, but also the forgiveness and new life that are assured in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Repentance is the physical action of turning around, or reorienting our lives as we come face to face with God’s presence and promises. It is the ability to reorientate our lives back to God, which is a gift for all people. This is our evangelical witness to the world and our great heritage as theological descendants of the Lutheran Reformation. By Law and Gospel, we are to drive out despair and bring hope and life.

So let us walk with confidence through the 40-day journey of Lent that leads to Holy Week. The 40 days invite us to reflection, preparation, repentance, and trust. And during Holy Week we slow down to walk the story of Jesus day by day: Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter which brings all people and creation itself to abundant life with God, forever. Amen and thanks be to God!

Faithfully Yours,
Pr. Jared Carson





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

March 25

We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to help assemble the quilts. We also have a potluck lunch at noon. You can come for an hour or two or the whole day, that is up to you. We hope you can join us.

KNIT & CROCHET

March 15 @ 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.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Mary Ann Devig speaking on *Communicating Effectively*, this is the third in a five part series on The Empowered Caregiver. All are welcome to attend.

BOOK STUDY

The All Inclusive committee at Calvary invites you to join us for a book study led by Kate Dusenbury and Julie Pedersen. We will be reading Jacqueline Bussie's *Love Without Limits*, Jesus's radical vision for love with NO exceptions.

Bussie challenges us all to understand more fully what it means to love all of our neighbors. During this divisive time it is important to be grounded in our faith as we explore what it means to answer God's call to love one another.

Join us for this two-part study on March 19 and 26 at 7:15 p.m. in Holy Grounds. Books are available for \$12.00 in the church office.

SEWING CLUB

March 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 sewing.

MEN'S MINISTRY

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. here at Calvary. This is an opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation. We hope to see you there!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Our next Reading Religiously will be Thursday, March 13, 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 Last Exchange* by Charles Martin.

THE UNFORGETTABLE 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. We get together weekly on Wednesday from 9:30-10:15 am with coffee and conversation followed by singing from 10:15-11:30 a.m. We welcome new singers any time during the semester. Contact Mary Ann through the church office at 701-772-4897 for more information or to join the choir.

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

Income in January started off our year on a bit lower level when comparing with the prior year. January is often a colder month and sometimes weather plays into attendance and further into income.

January events included the Honduras rummage sale and Calvary's annual meeting. The Honduras team raised over \$21,000 through the rummage sale to be used to support the lunch program and medical care in El Triunfo, Honduras. Calvary's annual meeting was held at the end of January. This year the format was changed and the meeting was part of our Sunday worship and was a new experience for all of us. Noisy Offering collected \$653 for Christus Rex Campus Ministry.

Year-to-date income through January was 13% lower than the five-year average, while expenses were also higher at 4.5%. Each year the goal for financials is to stay consistent or improve over the prior year. Our prayers as a team are for the congregation to continue to support Calvary through their time, talents, and gifts.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff vacancy with Morgan Olson Youth Ministry Coordinator

Currently, the major programs aligned to the Youth Ministry Coordinator position continue to be staffed to assure ongoing continuity for Calvary. There are a few events put on hold due to capacity gaps. There are listening sessions being held to determine the vision of youth ministry. Pastor Jared is putting out feelers for applicants. There is a promising candidate who has been interviewed.

Update on the Associate Pastor vacancy

Pastor Jared continues to reach out to the Synod for possible applicants. The pool of applicants is smaller than in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

Call Committee

Email has been sent with a form for Calvary members to submit pastoral names for consideration.

Stewardship

Good 2025 commitment response from congregational members.
Stewardship storytelling from members.

Staffing

Associate Pastor position - Pastor Jared continues to be in contact with the Eastern ND Synod.
Youth Ministry Coordinator -Task Force in place to move forward with development of a final job description with input from youth and parent listening sessions.

Calvary received 21 new members on Sunday, February 9.
Welcome note will be sent to new members and signed by Calvary Council.

Feedback from Annual Meeting

Positive feedback with the integration of the worship service and meeting.
Improvement recommendation would be to shorten from two hours.

Discussed an opportunity in the sanctuary to evaluate the playground placement.
Accessibility for wheelchairs and walkers may be impacted.

Next Council Meeting: March 11 @ 7 p.m.

2025 BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 2/15/25	98,125.99
Expenses through 2/15/25	123,828.17

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 2/28/25	599,798.73

DEADLINES

FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

April 9 @ 4:00 pm

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 May 8 at 4:00 pm. Applications can be emailed to heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org or brought to the church office.



MEMORIALS



GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Lane Leedahl** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of **Allen Stanlake** by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

In memory of **Mandy Skavlem** by Bruce & Mary Hanson

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of **Jan Hoffmann** by Gerald and Gail Bass

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Brian and Pamela Hill

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Jan Hoffmann** by Gerald and Gail Bass, Einar and Elaine Einarson, Michael and Rhonda-Lee Poellot

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Brian and Pamela Hill

FUND BALANCES

Youth	48,226.31
Honduras Mission	38,008.71
Foundation	803,265.73
Good Samaritan	3,849.03
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	3,908.09
Music	967.66
Library	977.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,024.39
Education	523.23
Fine Arts	1,900.72
Missions	38,186.32
Quilting	2,596.79
Memory Café	14,335.59
Unforgettables Choir	13,976.71
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,926.00
Lewis & Clark Backpack	12,072.24
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,686.73
Coffee Shop	2,943.15
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	5,436.24
Organ/Piano	15,569.41
General Maintenance	4,425.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	5,926.03
Building Expansion	377,506.75
Seminary	503.95

LENT SCHEDULE

MARCH

UNBROKEN

4 **Burning of the Palms @ 5:30 p.m.**

5 **Ash Wednesday**
Drive-through Ashes – 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Noon Worship in the Sanctuary
Meal in the Fellowship Hall @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

5 p.m. Lenten Meal in the Fellowship Hall
6 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

APRIL

13 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall

17 **Maundy Thursday**
5:30 p.m. Fifth Grade Communion in the Fellowship Hall
7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

18 **Good Friday**
Noon Worship in the Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall
7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

20 **Easter Sunday**
7 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

A Note from our Parish Nurse

Flu season is here and we've been seeing a high level of activity this year, with the highest rates expected to hit during the next few weeks. Flu, also called influenza, is a respiratory infection caused by a virus. Influenza viruses are different from the "stomach flu" viruses that cause diarrhea and vomiting.

Symptoms of the flu such as a sore throat and a runny or stuffy nose are common. You may also get these symptoms with other illnesses such as a cold. But colds tend to start slowly, and the flu tends to come on quickly, within two or three days after you come in contact with the virus. And while a cold can be miserable, you usually feel much worse with the flu. Other common flu symptoms include: fever, cough, headache, muscle aches, feeling very tired, sweating and chills. In children, these symptoms may show up more generally as being fussy or irritable. Children are more likely than adults to have ear pain, feel sick to the stomach, vomit or have diarrhea with the flu.

Most people with the flu get better on their own. But sometimes, influenza and its complications can be deadly. To help protect against seasonal flu, you can get an annual flu shot. Although the vaccine isn't 100% effective, it lowers the chances of having severe complications from the flu. This is especially true for people who are at high risk of flu complications. Aside from the vaccine, you can take other steps to help prevent infection with the flu.

If you're sick, stay home until you feel better and have had no fever for a full 24 hours, and you haven't taken medicine for fever during that time. If your fever returns or you start to feel worse, stay apart from others until your symptoms improve and you are fever-free without medicine for 24 hours. Doing so will lower your chance of infecting others.

Most people who get the flu can manage it at home and often don't need to see a healthcare professional but if you have flu

symptoms and are at risk of complications, see your healthcare professional right away. Starting antiviral medicine within two days after your symptoms show up may shorten the length of your illness and help prevent more serious problems. If you have emergency symptoms of the flu, get medical care right away. For adults, emergency symptoms can include: trouble breathing or shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, ongoing dizziness, hard to wake up or confusion, dehydration, seizures, worsening of existing medical conditions, severe weakness or muscle pain.

Emergency symptoms in children include all the symptoms seen in adults, as well as: fast breathing or ribs that pull in with each breath, gray or blue lips or nail beds, no tears when crying and a dry mouth, along with not needing to urinate, and symptoms, such as fever or cough, that get better but then come back or get worse. Information taken from [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org).

Wash your hands. Wash your hands well and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your face.

Cover your coughs and sneezes. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Then wash your hands.

Clean surfaces. Regularly clean often-touched surfaces to prevent spread of infection from touching a surface with the virus on it and then your face.

Avoid crowds. The flu spreads easily wherever people gather — in child care centers, schools, office buildings and auditoriums and on public transportation. By avoiding crowds during peak flu season, you lower your chances of infection.

Avoid anyone who is sick

Prayers & Sympathies

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

Joyce Jarombek died 2-3-25. Her husband is Ray Jarombek.

Ross Thorson's stepfather, Duane Hanson, died 2-19-25.

Lyle Beiswenger died 2-22-25. His wife is Judy Beiswenger.



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.

BAPTISM

2-2-25 Juniper Kate Tweten
Child of Brittney & Andrew Tweten

2-23-25 Anders Gordon Ellefson
Child of Megan & Jacob Ellefson



A Place For Everyone at Calvary Lutheran Church

At Calvary Lutheran Church, we believe that Christ's love is for all, and we are committed to making our worship and community spaces welcoming and accessible to everyone. Our All Inclusive Committee works to ensure that all individuals and families feel at home here, regardless of their needs.

For those with hearing challenges, we offer a **hearing loop/T-coil system** in the Sanctuary. **Sign language interpretation** is available upon request. Our church is **wheelchair accessible**, with designated seating areas in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. **Wheelchairs and walkers** are available to borrow, and **automatic handicap-accessible doors** make entry easier for all.

Families with young children can use our **Mother's Room**, which also serves as a low-sensory space, and we offer **sound-dampening headphones** for both adults and youth. Our **volunteer-staffed nursery** features an **en suite bathroom** complete with **child-size toilet** for little ones.

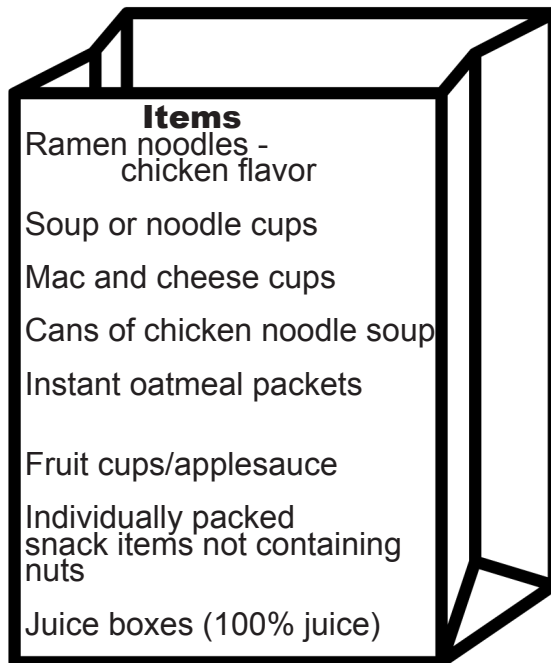
If you have other accommodation needs, please contact the Church Office.

At Calvary, **THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!**



It Takes a Village

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



This program is in need of individuals willing to pick up pre-ordered items at Sam's Club for the backpacks on a monthly basis. It can either be a pallet of food or boxes so a pickup truck is usually needed. Thank you to Ethan McGaughey who has faithfully done this task for us and no longer can. If you are interested or want more information, call Julie at the church at 701-772-4897 or email julie.pedersen@calarygf.org.

Our next packing is Tuesday, March 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

It has been a busy month for the Youth Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church! We said farewell to Morgan Olson, Youth Ministry Coordinator. We are thrilled to share that we have maintained many of the ministries with youth that make Calvary so special. Here are some recaps, upcoming opportunities, and a bit of exciting news!

A Joyful Gathering: ELCA Youth Night

Our recent ELCA Youth Night was a huge success! Calvary had more than 60 youth participate, joining with youth from across Grand Forks county for an evening of storytelling from Bubba Schwegart, music by Camp Metigoshe, and conversation about, "What does it mean to live out your faith everyday?" There was plenty of laughter and joy. These gatherings can remind our youth of the power of Christian community and the ways in which God works through our relationships. A big thank you to Nichole Bye and the whole planning team who made the event possible!



Confirmation Ministry: Deepening Our Faith

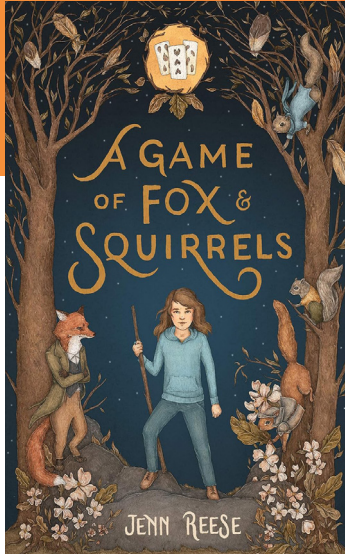
Our confirmation students continue to explore their faith through scripture, service, and discussion. During Lent, confirmation students can earn a credit for volunteering to help usher and serve communion at Wednesday night worship. After Easter we will offer several elective courses. Confirmation ministry helps our young people discover the richness of our Lutheran identity and what it means to follow Christ. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey toward affirming their baptism!

Looking Ahead: Hiring a Youth Ministry Coordinator

We are in the process of hiring a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to help guide and support the vibrant youth ministry at Calvary. The Youth Ministry Task Force has held two listening sessions to get input from youth and parents. We have interviewed a candidate of interest and will have more information in the month ahead! We appreciate your prayers during this process and look forward to introducing our new Youth Ministry Coordinator soon!

Thank you for your continued support of the Youth Ministry at Calvary. Whether through prayers, volunteering, or encouragement, your investment in our young people makes a lasting impact!

- Pr. Jared Carson



All-Ages Book Club

Join us in the month of February as we read *A Game of Fox & Squirrels*. Books are available in the church office for \$10. Then join us on Sunday, March 23, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Family Dance

Be on the lookout for details about an upcoming Family Dance. This dance will be sponsored by our area Grand Forks ELCA churches!



Lent-to-Go

Busy schedule? Looking to connect at home as a family?

Calvary Kids will have take-home Lent kits available each Monday from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. We will explore the theme of Unbroken and how we are all connected through a living faith. Kits will include a Bible story, craft or activity suggestions and a family prayer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 3

LENT TAKE-HOME KITS
AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES
EACH MONDAY THROUGH-
OUT THE SEASON

MARCH 5

ASH WEDNESDAY
LENT MEAL, WORSHIP,
SPECIAL KIDS TIME,
WEDNESDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

MARCH 16

GIFT SUNDAY &
DOUGHNUTS
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASSES

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

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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:

WEDNESDAY LENT SCHEDULE AND MEAL

MARCH

4 **Burning of the Palms @ 5:30 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday

5 Drive-through Ashes - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Noon Worship in the Sanctuary
Meal made by YOUTH in the Fellowship Hall @ 5 p.m.
-> Baked Potato Bar
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

12 **Lemon Chicken**
Meal made by Nancy & Lael Schmidt @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

19 **Taco-in-a-Bag**
Meal made by the Choir @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

26 **Chili Cook-Off**
Meal made by Men's Group w/ Pastor @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

APRIL

2 **Black Cherry Chipotle Pulled Pork on a Bun**
Meal made by the Council @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

9 **Poppy Seed Chicken**
Meal made by the All-Inclusive Group & Calvary Classics @ 5 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary @ 6 p.m.

\$10 ADULTS
\$5 5TH GRADE AND YOUNGER



CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving & Igniting People for Christ



Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks



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