



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

December 2022



Christmas Week Worship Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 21 @ 5:30 pm - Quiet Christmas

**Saturday, Dec. 24 - 3 & 5 pm Contemporary, FH
4, 6, & 10 Traditional, Sanctuary**

Sunday, Dec. 25 @ 10:30 am in Sanctuary



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS



Sacred Time. Calvary Lutheran, as a member of the whole priesthood of believers, will now be participating in the season of Advent. This liturgical beginning of the church's life expresses God's deep desire to embrace the whole world. And even though, tragically, the world has not been terribly impressed by such an embrace, we raise our voices in praise of the One who enters all dark nights by way of a cattle stall.

We will approach this time of God's choosing, God's incarnation, like every other time of our lives - humbly acknowledging the odd, often disturbing, relationship God has engendered with sinners like us. In Jesus' conception, all life now comes into play; the boundlessness of God's beloved generosity runs absolutely rampant!

God will accomplish God's mission by inspiring his body, the church, to acts of worship that provoke us to love our neighbors. No, really, I'm not making this up! The church is called together in worship to receive God's Spirit, a living presence who connects our worship with acts of mercy for those we wouldn't, on our own, care about. We are those shepherds racing toward the manger because the angels proclaimed God's promise was to be discovered there!

Calvary Lutheran Church, as a gathering of (often smelly) shepherds, becomes the people of God because the Spirit continues to show up and announce redemption to a world that is both beautiful and one that is forever pushing folks like poor, pregnant young Mary into oblivion. Since 1953, we have struggled to recognize the largess of God's mercy for all. Like all places and people of faith, Calvary not only celebrates what God has done through us but is also called to honestly recognize when God's mission was defined by a certain smallness of heart; sometimes shepherds' love fences more than the sheep.

Hear the good news! God surely can mend fences, but come on, don't get all wrapped up in barbed wire! There's a party, and everyone has been invited! Even death is invited (but there's a surprise for "him" too!) THAT'S Sacred Time!



Imagine that you're driving down the highway. You miss your exit. With a little tug in the pit of your stomach, you realize that you're now heading somewhere new. Imagine that you're at a concert. A piece of music keeps surprising you with fresh chords and new sounds. The composer leads you somewhere you didn't expect, and you can't help but follow, curious to discover what comes next.

Change is at hand. Something unexpected is happening, and we're in the midst of it. Out of the blue, something new is arriving like lightning: hope, peace, joy, love. God's time is now. It's here to reorient our expectations and to sweep us into a future of hope and promise, even if we didn't expect it, even if it wasn't part of our plans.

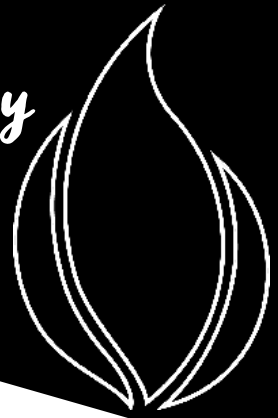
This Advent, Calvary invites you to join the flow of a season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar in our lives, God will meet us there too!

It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?

GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



ALL AGES BOOK CLUB December 11 @ 3 pm

Our book club is open to people of all ages. We come together to discuss one book per month. The newest book that we are reading, *The Worst Christmas Pageant Ever*, is located in the office for \$10.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, from 1:00-3:30 pm, at Calvary Lutheran Church. The program will begin at 1:30 pm with Kimberly Forness Wilson presenting Art and Dementia. All are welcome to join us for this fun and interactive afternoon. Refreshments will be served following the program.

THURSDAY MUSIC CLUB 97TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSICALE

Sunday, December 4 @ 4:00 pm

All are welcome to join us for our musicale. There will be local performers and performers from Calvary. There will be a freewill offering for music scholarships.

ANGEL TREE

Calvary is again helping individuals served by local social agencies and qualifying children from Lewis & Clark Elementary have a Merry Christmas. A tree with tags with gift ideas will be placed in the Narthex and by the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov 27. Watch our Facebook page and emails for links to SignUpGenius and Target, that is if you would like to shop online and have gifts sent directly to Calvary. Gifts should be placed in a gift bag with no tissue paper and tag with family number (i.e., A1 or B3). The deadline is Monday, December 12. Call Julie Pederson with any questions you may have.

SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

We at Calvary know that the impact of addiction on families can leave them feeling isolated and alone, especially for parents of those who struggle with the illness of substance use disorders. A few individuals have reached out in leading a support group at Calvary and are in the process of developing a format to gather together and are open to ideas about what will best meet this need. If you are interested or know someone who would benefit from a group like this, please contact one of the pastors for more information.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

December 12 @ 6:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join our group that meets monthly to read and discuss a contemporary book. This month we are reading *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Unforgettables Choir will present a Christmas Concert for the community on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Lunch will be served following the concert for a freewill donation. The concert is free. All are invited to attend.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Our recent session was very successful as evidenced by the filling of 504 bags in an hour thanks to the 30 volunteers that helped out. We are sending 90 bags to Lewis and Clark Elementary each week to students identified as food insecure. We still need your help though. Outside the doors of each worship space is a list of items you can take with you. Consider grabbing a couple items when you are at the store and bring it in on Sundays. You can also donate a monetary gift for the backpack program. It takes about \$100 to feed one child for the whole school year. That's \$11 per month. It also costs \$250 per week to provide for all qualifying students. Give what you can. No amount is too small.

HOLY GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

Holy Grounds is open and we need your help! 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 many time slots as you would like. Have fun serving coffee and getting to know the people at Calvary. Our espresso machine is very user friendly and training is provided. 2 shifts are scheduled each Sunday for 2 people per shift. Families are also welcome to volunteer together. Shifts run from 8:30 am to 10:00 am and 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE

Income in October was significantly higher than we saw in the prior year which feels hopeful as we look toward year-end. There were four quarterly/yearly gifts which helped make a difference in monthly income.

Calvary's events calendar was packed through the month of October. A flu and COVID shot clinic was held at the beginning of October for all those interested. New members were welcomed on October 9 and 12. There was a Memory Café service fair along with a speaker on October 11. Third grade students were invited to a time of teaching and then received their Bible at worship the following week. Calvary held a semi-annual meeting to share the state of the church on a ministry, mission, and financial level. October rounded out the month with Affirmation of Baptism of 23 students and Trunk or Treat for the community. Noisy offering in October was collected for the Lewis and Clark emergency fund in the amount of \$1,542.

Year-to-date income through October was \$26,000 lower than the five-year average and expenses were \$115,900 higher than the five-year average. As the finance team begins the budget process for 2023 there are many variables that will be considered. A large variable will be how the church financially finishes the current year. We are thankful for our community of faith and how we work together in our ministry at Calvary.

STEWARDSHIP

Good morning! My name is Erica Sundby, and I would like to share a quick message from the Stewardship Committee. As some of you may have already heard, especially if you attended our semi-annual congregational meeting a few weeks ago, we are in a place that Calvary has never been, financially. It's important for us to talk about the state of the church's financial affairs. We're not yet at the point of panic, but certainly at the point where we need to discuss this vulnerability openly and honestly with one another. If you would like any of the data shared at the semi-annual meeting, please just ask and it can be shared with you.

Calvary is such a wonderful place that my family has found a part of, and I hope that's the case for everyone here today. We, in this room, are Calvary Lutheran Church. Without us, and without the gifts God has placed in our hands, this wonderful place just wouldn't exist, let alone grow. But rather than simply asking for money from you today, let's reshape that way of thinking and ask what God is doing through us with the help of your gifts. There is no amount, too big or too small, every little bit creates an impact in the lives of so many.


Did you know that just \$1/week supports a Sunday School student for the entire year? Less than \$5 each week can provide a backpack for a child in the backpack program at Lewis & Clark Elementary. A gift of \$20 can buy a Bible for our 3-year-olds or third graders. It takes \$125 each day to keep the lights on and the building heated/cooled at Calvary! So we need your gifts, big and small, to continue making Calvary the faith home for others.

Offering is an act that we exercise during worship, and there are some changes coming to perhaps make this act a bit more lively and exciting (as it should be!). In this day and age of technology, many of us (myself included) don't have cash or our checkbooks at the ready, and don't know how to give or can feel left out of the fun.

There are several ways you can pledge your gifts to the church outside of the offering plate. There are a few options up on the screen, if you would like more information on any of these, or would like help setting them up, please don't hesitate to ask.

As Kirk mentioned in the semi-annual meeting, our goal is to try and make November look like December in terms of giving. So we ask you to prayerfully consider what you can give to close out these last months of the year. And as you plan your budgets for next year, keep Calvary in mind. There will be commitment cards at the end of service today, and we ask that you bring them back with you to service next Sunday. Lastly, I am new to stewardship here at Calvary, and am desperately seeking a team to learn and walk this journey with me.

I invite anyone who is interested to please join us at our next meeting on December 5 at 5:30 pm here at Holy Grounds. No experience necessary! I've put my contact information up there as well, so please feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas.

 **MAIN OFFICE**
1405 S. 9th St.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Mon - Thurs | 8:00am - 4:30pm

#701.772.4897
place4u@calvarygf.org
CALVARYGF.ORG

Next Council Meeting: December 13th at 7 pm

OFFERINGS

Offerings through 10/6/22:
\$680,680

BUDGET/LOAN

2022 Budget 1,174,369

Expenses through 10/16/22 \$922,347

Balance of Building Expansion Loan

as of Nov 30, 2022 \$663,013.10

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

Larry Storo, brother of Sharon St. Germain, died 10-30-22

Cheyrl Gilbertson, wife of Ronald Gilbertson, died 11-11-22

IDEAS & DEADLINES

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 Thursday, December 8.

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for supporting Calvary through your financial gifts! Any gifts you would like included on your 2022 contribution statement should be in the church office by noon on Friday, December 30. When giving gifts by mail, please allow at least seven business days for your gift to arrive at Calvary.

FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

Calvary's Foundation provides perpetual financial support to further Calvary's mission of serving and igniting people for Christ both locally and worldwide. Foundation grant requests are being accepted through December 7 at 4:00 pm in the church office. Application forms, information and tax information about giving to the Foundation can be found on the www.calvarygf.org website.

MEMORIALS

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Larry Storo** by Melbourne & Kathleen Hertel
In memory of **Earl Strinden** by Ruth Larson

GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Gene Martin** by Faye McPhail & Kaye Martin

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Betty Anderson** by Calvary Church Women
In memory of **Juel Hilde** by Ruth Barnes
In memory of **Gene Martin** by Calvary Church Women

LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACK PROGRAM

In memory of **Curtis Knudsvig** by Everett and Karen Knudsvig
In memory of **Gene Martin** by Jean Middleton

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of **Gloria Briese** by Mary Hanson

MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Betty Anderson** by Richard and Kathleen McWaters

ROOF REPAIR

In memory of **Earl Strinden** by Marilyn Lundberg

FUND BALANCES

Youth	73,981.04
Honduras Mission	16,105.07
Foundation	810,316.00
Good Sam	(578.41)
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	1,361.96
Music	2,783.18
Library	3,018.57
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	230.98
Contemporary Worship	10.14
Education	2,759.55
Fine Arts	2,201.28
Missions	30,336.65
Memory Café	5,668.26
Unforgettables Choir	4,711.72
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	0.00
Lewis & Clark Partnership	9,183.82
Hymnal & Bible Fund	810.39
Coffee Shop	(1,248.31)
Columbarium	26,820.98
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	9,705.48
Organ/Piano	82.29
General Maintenance	5,187.33
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	279.91
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Furnace	0.00
Roof Repairs	15,212.00
Building Expansion	244,305.37
Seminary	1,703.95



Youth and CONFIRMATION

New Confirmation Classes Added

December 7-14
Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 pm
- *unconditionALLY*

December 10
Saturday 11:00 am
- *Christmas Cheer*
- *Mentor Event*

Sundays During Worship
- *Nursery Assistant*

GIFT SUNDAYS

On GIFT Sundays (Typically the last Sunday of the month) the youth will be selling DONUTS! This serves as a fundraiser for their service learning experience in the summer of 2023.



CALVARY NURSERY UPDATE

Calvary is excited to announce that our new nursery is OPEN! Our nursery now is equipped with a bathroom & changing table to make the nursery more accessible to volunteers and families! Staffing the nursery is important to us, and we need YOUR HELP to make that happen! Contact Tori Meseck @ 701-552-0262 or scan the QR code if you would like to volunteer.



RISE & SHINE

9-12 graders are invited to join us for Rise & Shine every Thursday morning at 6:30 am.

2023 HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE LEARNING TRIP
July 10-18 2023

CHARLOTTE
NORTH CAROLINA

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Register Today!





ADVENT FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | 2:00-4:00 PM

Join us for crafts, food and fun as we prepare for the season of Advent.

ADVENT SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

During the Advent season we are encouraging kids and families to give an offering of supplies for our Lewis and Clark Backpack Program. You can bring the items up with you during kids time!

NOVEMBER 27: MAIN MEAL ITEM (MAC AND CHEESE, RAMEN, SOUP)

DECEMBER 4: BREAKFAST ITEM (OATMEAL, GRANOLA BARS)

DECEMBER 11: JUICE BOXES

DECEMBER 18: FRUIT CUPS



FOURTH GRADE MILESTONE EVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 11:00 AM

This event is designed for kids to attend with their grown-ups. We invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall as we spread some Christmas cheer to our Calvary members

4- & 5-YEAR-OLD MILESTONE EVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 2:00 PM

This event is designed for kids to attend with their grownups. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall as we hear about the Christmas story and make a nativity craft.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, December 7: Program Practice for 3-year-olds through first grade

9:15 am Sunday School @ 5:30 pm | 10:45 am Sunday School @ 6:15 pm

Thursday, December 8: Program Practice for 2 - 5 grade

9:15 am Sunday School @ 5:30 pm | 10:45 am Sunday School @ 6:15 pm

Sunday, December 11: Student-Lead Christmas Worship 3-year-olds through fifth grade @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Tuesday, December 13: Program Practice for 3-year-olds through fifth grade grade Wednesday School students @ 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14: Student-Lead Christmas Worship @ 5:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 GIFT SUNDAY



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

Pastors: Kirk Meseck, Aaron Bye
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Devig
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Youth: Morgan Olson
Director of Faith In Action: Julie Pedersen
Building & Ground: Danny Navarro



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-  @calvarygf
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