



# CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

May 2024



“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4)!

Last month included numerous occasions to rejoice and give thanks, both for the people of Calvary Lutheran Church and for the ways God has called each of us.

We celebrated three weddings, seven baptisms, and filled 722 backpacks for Lewis & Clark students. We held confirmation classes, a “Totally Tables” youth fundraising event, and gave thanks for our amazing volunteers! On top of all of that were our book clubs, circle groups, Unforgettables choir, Memory Cafe, funerals, a recital, a concert and more!

Calvary is a place full of life and ministry and we celebrate all of the ways we see joy, for with God there is an abundance of reasons to rejoice!

## Summer Worship

### Summer Worship Service

Sundays @ 10 am in the Sanctuary

### Coffeehouse Worship

Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm in Holy Grounds

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR AARON



“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:19).

I haven't ever had the best of luck in gardening. I wasn't blessed with a green thumb. On paper, I know how to do all of the things, but in practice, well, each summer our garden box would start out looking hopeful, but by harvest time, we were lucky if we got any produce. Pastor Kirk would often come by our house and try to work some magic, but he didn't put a lot of trust in our ability to care for the plants.

However, this has never deterred our son Oliver. Each year he gets so excited about the idea of having a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, pumpkins, peppers, carrots and more. This year is no different, and so to help get some better results, I started some of the seeds in an indoor greenhouse already. Each morning, Oliver gets up and runs to check on the seeds, wondering when they will start to grow! The excitement bursting from him is so contagious, and I can't wait to see what we will have growing this year.

The month of May finds ourselves at the midpoint of the spring season and still reflecting on the resurrection, hope, and renewal of Easter. The seeds of renewal have been planted, and we look excitedly to what might start blooming in the days and weeks to come. It's a time to reflect on where we've been, where we're going, and how God is continually at work in our lives.

In our daily lives, this might look like offering a listening ear to a friend in need, extending a helpful hand to a neighbor, or speaking words of encouragement to someone who is struggling.

But perhaps even more importantly, it means recognizing our own need for grace and extending that same grace to ourselves. Too often, we hold ourselves to impossible standards, allowing guilt and shame to weigh us down. Yet God's love is unconditional and more than sufficient to cover our failings and shortcomings.

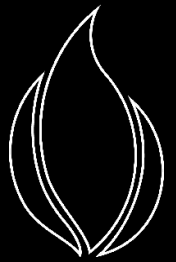
In the midst of our busy lives, it can be easy to lose sight of God's presence and action in our lives. We so often become overwhelmed by the demands of work, family and other responsibilities that we can feel as if we have to navigate life with no real roadmap. But take heart, dear friends, for God is with us always, guiding us and making a way where there seems to be none.

As we journey through this season of spring renewal, may we open our hearts to God's unconditional love and grace, allowing it to enter all that our lives have to offer. Let us encourage one another with the same enthusiasm and excitement as a young child checking their seedlings each morning. And let us remember that God is continually at work in our lives, bringing about renewal and transformation in ways both seen and unseen.

**GET INVOLVED**  
Connect with People at Church



# Calvary CONNECTS



## **ALL AGES BOOK CLUB**

**May 19 @ 3:00 pm | Fellowship Hall**

We come together to discuss one book per month in Holy Grounds. The book that we are reading, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin, is located in the office. \$10 per book.

## **MEMORY CAFE**

The Memory Cafe, a monthly educational event for people living with Alzheimer's or other type of dementia, their care partners, family and friends, will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, from 1:00-3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program begins at 1:30 pm. Refreshments follow the program. The event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

## **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

The Alzheimer's Association will be holding a support group for caregivers at Calvary following the Memory Cafe on May 14. The support group will meet in the coffeehouse from 3:30-4:30 pm. For more information contact Lori at [loriswinney@hotmail.com](mailto:loriswinney@hotmail.com)

## **LEWIS & CLARK BACKPACKING**

Calvary has packed over 4000 bags to provide food for food insecure students at Lewis and Clark this school year, and we thank all our donors and volunteers for the success of the second year of this program. This program was also very important to Pastor Kirk, and the memorials in his memory contributed greatly to making this program a success this year.

We have one more date scheduled to pack this spring. On Tuesday, May 21, at 6:00 pm we will have our last packing event of the spring. These bags will be ready for the students when they get back this fall. See you there!

## **SEWING CLUB**

**May 2 & 16 @ 1:30 pm**

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.

## **LAGRAVE**

LaGrave on First is a housing building for the chronically homeless. Individuals and organizations in the community volunteer to serve the evening meal to the individuals who live there on weekend evenings. Calvary has committed to serve the second Sunday of each month. Our next evening to cook and serve is **Sunday, June 9**. We arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 pm and start serving at 6 pm. Currently we are cooking a meal for around 35 people and need help for a main dish, a side, a fruit or vegetable, and a dessert. Would you be willing to help with this important ministry in our community? Volunteer to make a favorite family dish or contact Julie for ideas and/or recipes. If you love to cook but the cost of cooking for 35 is a barrier, contact Julie and we can help.

## **QUILTING DAY & POTLUCK**

**May 28 from 9:30 am-2:30 pm**

We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm 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.

## **CALVARY CHURCH WOMEN**

Calvary Lutheran Church Women will meet Wednesday, May 1 11:15 am in room 1. There is a pastor-led Bible study from the *Gather* magazine. We welcome new members to our Bible study groups. Contact the church office for further information.

## **KNIT & CROCHET**

**May 18 @ 10:00 am 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.

## **UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CONCERT**

The Unforgettables Choir will present their Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Lunch will be served following the concert for a freewill donation to support the choir. The Unforgettables Choir is a community choir for people living with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia and their care partners. We rehearse weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 am, and present a concert for the community at the end of the semester.

## **READING RELIGIOUSLY**

**Thursday, May 9 @ 6:00 pm | Blue Moose**

Everyone is welcome to join our group that meets monthly to read and discuss a contemporary book. This month we are reading *The Summer Guest* by Justin Cronin. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

# Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

## FINANCE - 2024 FINANCE REPORT

Income in March was 7% higher than the prior year. Easter fell one week earlier than last year and the extra services during Holy Week often affect giving for the month.

March was a month full of activities at Calvary. The UND Concert Choir held a concert to begin the month. Individuals interested in joining Calvary's visitation team were invited to learn more about this important ministry. Palm Sunday kicked off Holy Week and the many opportunities for worship. Fifth grade students were invited to a time of teaching on Maundy Thursday that concluded with a worship service where some took communion for the first time. High school youth hosted a ready-made Easter egg hunt fundraiser and hid over 3,500 eggs the night before Easter in the Grand Forks area. Noisy Offering in March was collected for Feed My Starving Children in the amount of \$2,080.50.

Year-to-date income through March was 14% higher than our five-year average while our expenses were only slightly higher for the same time period. Calvary has so many opportunities to "be the church" each week. We pray our members and friends take advantage of those weekly opportunities and invest their time, talents, and treasures in their church home.

## OLD BUSINESS

Visitation ministry progress. The first of a two-part visitation training has occurred led by Pastor Jared. Pastor Aaron, staff member, Mary Ann Devig, and seven congregation members are enrolled. A wide range of ages is represented with more members interested in a potential future class.

Employee Handbook update is still being worked on. A revised handbook will be presented to the council at a future meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

Talked about parental leave for Marcus Mandt.

Synod Assembly dates - June 1 & 2 in Fargo.

Looked to see if there was an interest in a "Mission Blitz."

**Next Council Meeting: May 14 @ 7 pm**

## A Dedication of Love

American memorialist and Poet, Maya Angelou is credited with saying, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Many people have shared how Pr. Kirk visited them and how that made them feel. It is evident in the stories that have been shared with me. Pr. Kirk cared deeply for people. I've also heard about his love for gardening. He spent time each year tending the raised garden boxes on the south end of the Fellowship Hall near the playground. In this garden, the dedication that Pr. Kirk had both for people and for gardening come together. The produce from these garden boxes was given away to members, neighbors, or shared with those in need of healthy food (when not pilfered by a bunny). At the April congregation council meeting, leaders approved naming the garden boxes "The Pr. Kirk Meseck Memorial Garden" and to invite congregation members to help plant and tend the raised garden boxes. Just as Jesus cared for the needs of others, Pr. Kirk modeled this love in visits and in his gardening. Now Calvary will bear witness to his love by tending to this garden plot and sharing its abundance. If you would like to participate in tending these garden boxes, please contact Pr. Jared Carson, Jared@calvarygf.org, or 701-772-4897 (office).



## 2024 BUDGET

<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>1,019,663.00</b>
Offering through 4/15/24	267,653.25
Expenses through 3/15/24	286,618.16

<b>Balance of Building Expansion Loan</b>	
as of 2/29/24	623,225.47

## Prayers & Sympathies

Dave Gunther died 3-16-24.  
His wife is Jane Gunther

Gerald Lucke's brother, James Lucke,  
died 3-22-24.

Kay Flom died 4-17-24.  
Cindy Flom-Meland is her daughter.

Steven Oakland died 4-22-24. His mother is  
Doris Lien, and his sister is Deb Hill.

## DEADLINES

### FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

**May 8 @ 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](http://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](mailto:heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org) or brought to the church office.

## FUND BALANCES

Youth	71,602.07
Honduras Mission	20,558.11
Foundation	752,611.16
Good Sam	4,169.98
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	2,979.82
Music	1,520.75
Library	1,546.02
Undesignated Memorials	0.00
Landscaping	714.09
Contemporary Worship	900.14
Education	853.39
Fine Arts	2,071.62
Missions	27,822.01
Quilting	2,522.59
Memory Café	14,347.31
Unforgettables Choir	12,946.04
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,912.14
Lewis & Clark Backpack	12,038.15
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,769.52
Coffee Shop	3,141.69
Columbarium	31,132.15
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	11,168.94
Organ/Piano	765.77
General Maintenance	9,887.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	183.41
Hearing Aid Loop	837.00
Roof Repairs	24,010.64
Building Expansion	290,587.21
Seminary	1,103.95

# YOU ARE MORE THAN...

*your diagnosis your past your fears*

May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States. We all have mental health in the same way we all have physical health. Mental health is an extremely important topic that all people need to be familiar with today. One in five people will experience mental health difficulties each year that affects them and their families. Some of these people may be members and visitors of Calvary Lutheran Church.

As a Lutheran congregation, we believe that each individual is made in God's image and that each person is fearfully and wonderfully made. Our congregation can offer hope, break down stigma surrounding mental health, and build a community where all people are accepted. It is important that we speak up so those who struggle know that they are valued, welcome and safe in the Calvary community. There is hope and healing to be found. Calvary provides welcome and support to people living with mental health challenges.

Join us on **Sunday, May 5**, as we celebrate Mental Health Sunday and rejoice that our congregation is a place of welcome, inclusion and support.

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## CALLED TO SERVE

by Nancy Andrews



I sensed the call to serve as a caregiver after seeing the invitation in the church announcements to be part of the Calvary Caregiving Team. I knew that I could put my 32 years of experience working in long-term care to use in ways that would serve others. It just felt right for me to be a part of this Calvary Caregiving Team.

After taking the Caregiver training, I was really looking forward to making my first visits. I visited with Rosa, who warmly welcomed me into her space. She was excited to have a visit from someone representing Calvary.

We talked about many things. At one point she directed my attention to a picture on the wall. She had painted it herself. With great pride, Rosa told me it was her home church in Mountain, ND, which is still open. She replicated the painting on canvas from a photo that she had been given.

I was amazed at the precision of her artwork. Her pride of this church was clearly portrayed on the canvas.

### Caregivers Training Event

Are you willing to visit 1-3 people a month to share the love of Jesus and help people feel valued and connected to Calvary Lutheran Church? If so, then this is the ministry for you! There is more interest in the Caregiving Training of Calvary Lutheran Church and we want to invite eager servants of God to participate. The training has two parts and will be held Sundays, **May 5 & May 19** from 1pm-3pm in Holy Grounds. Please contact Pr. Jared Carson if you have any questions.

After we read scripture and prayed, I bid her farewell and promised her I would be back next month. She thanked me for coming and said she will be looking forward to my next visit. As I left her apartment and walked down the long hallway, I realized that I benefited more from our visit than Rosa ever would.

I truly felt blessed that I was called to participate in this ministry of Calvary, and therefore, to a rewarding opportunity to visit and learn about some very special people. I am looking forward to visiting Rosa again as well as several others. I have been pondering this question, "Who of us will benefit most from God's calling?"

I find comfort in these words of scripture, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Thank you for letting me share my story! I hope you will also find your calling in Christ to serve, perhaps through one of Calvary's ministries or, inspired by God's love through this congregation, out in the community.

# MEMORIALS



## **BUILDING EXPANSION FUND**

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Mark and Gloria Sanford, Ruth Larson

## **EDUCATION FUND**

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Larry McLaren

## **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of **Jerome Bakke** by Marilyn Bakke

In memory of **Marilyn Skavlem** by Bruce and Mary Hanson

## **LEWIS AND CLARK FUND**

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Marilyn Lundberg, Sandra Lunde

## **MUSIC FUND**

In memory of **Jerome Bakke** by Marilyn Bakke

In memory of **Darlene Langseth** by Marilyn Bakke

## **UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND**

In memory of **Everett Knudsvig** by Mary McKenna

In memory of **Terry McKenna** by Dick Blackmore



## Baptisms

**4-14-24** Florence Lucille Hassett  
Child of Jacqueline & Roberta Hassett

**4-14-24** Fredrik Anthony Hassett  
Child of Jacqueline & Roberta Hassett

**4-14-24** Bennett Ted Krohne  
Child of Leah & Nate Krohne

**4-14-24** Brynleigh Rae Honl  
Child of Rachel & Ryan Honl

**4-21-24** Josette Jean Isler  
Child of Morgan & Gordon Isler

**4-28-24** Grayson Scott Loscheider  
Child of Kendra & Gavin Loscheider



# Clothing Drive For Lewis and Clark

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the Closet Essentials Clothing Drive for the Lewis and Clark students. A need was expressed and Calvary members showed up to fill it. In total, 744 items were donated and delivered to Lewis and Clark students. Lewis and Clark's principal sent the following response upon delivery of these items.

Hello Calvary Partners,

On behalf of our Lewis and Clark's Lion Pride, I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations and unwavering support towards our students, families, staff, and community. Your contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of our students and the overall well-being of our school community.

Your commitment to our lion cubs is truly commendable. The resources and assistance provided by Calvary Lutheran Church have enabled us to enhance student access to quality learning experiences by helping meet their needs within school and outside of school.

Whether it was through financial contributions, volunteer work, donations of clothing, prayers, or other forms of support, your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Your kindness and generosity have helped us create a nurturing and enriching environment where our students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our lion cubs and empower them to reach their full potential.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support.

Warm regards,

Mr. Loren Hoheisel  
Principal, Lewis & Clark Elementary School



**Thank  
You  
For  
All  
That  
You  
Do!**







# It Takes a Village

**May 20, 2024, Calvary's It Takes A Village Ministry is helping Lewis & Clark Elementary students to **FLOAT INTO SUMMER** with our second annual book fair! Can you help?**

Thank you to all who have already delivered books or ordered through the registries to get our 2024 Float into Summer off to a great start! We are so excited to offer the students at Lewis and Clark books to read over the summer.

Our biggest need continues to be graphic novels for all ages (novels that have a comic strip format).

**Some titles include:**

- Pizza & Taco*
- Animal Rescue*
- Narwahl & Jelly*
- Pete the Cat*
- Investigators*
- Wings of Fire*
- Babysitter Club*
- I Survived*
- Last Kids on Earth*
- Cat Kid*
- Amulet*



Scan the code to find the book registries to help a child in our community end the school year with some books of their own! Monetary donations are also welcome to help us take advantage of scholastic discounts and sales to purchase books.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Calvary is looking for volunteers to assist at Lewis and Clark on **May 20**. Got an hour or two or three or four or all day? We will be at Lewis and Clark from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Jobs available are setting up books, assisting students to choose books and put them in bags, handing out root beer floats, and bringing enthusiasm and cheerfulness to the students, faculty, and staff at Lewis and Clark.

If you are interested in helping with this year's Float into Summer Book Fair, contact Julie in the church office.



# 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**



## **Confirmation Class**

**Wednesday | May 1 from 7-8 pm**

We were created to be in relationship with one another! During this class, we will hear from educators at the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) about different characteristics of both healthy and unhealthy relationships.

## **Love Feast**

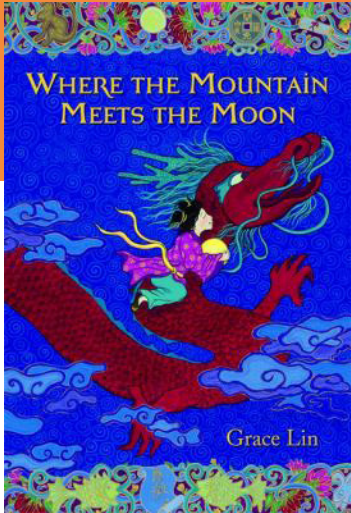
We are excited for Calvary to have the opportunity to serve a meal at the Love Feast at Zion UMC. Students are encouraged to sign up for a 1.5-hour time slot to set up, serve, and clean up the meal on May 28.



Graduating seniors (high school, college, etc.) and their families are invited to attend our 10:30 am contemporary service. As your time as seniors draws to a close, we want to celebrate this significant milestone with you and honor your achievements in a meaningful way. Join us for a service dedicated to recognizing and celebrating your hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.

## **Camperships**

Calvary Lutheran Church cares deeply about offering camp experiences to kids and works hard throughout the year to raise money to support our campership program and ensure that cost does not prevent any student from participating. While we cannot guarantee scholarships, we do our best to ensure that no one will be turned away due to financial reasons. Calvary automatically applies a \$100 campership to students attending an ELCA Bible camp. If you are in need of additional financial assistance, please fill out the campership form at <https://calvarygf.org/calvary-youth>



### All Ages Book Club

Join us in Holy Grounds on Sunday, May 19, for our All Ages Book Club. We will be having discussions and activities around the book, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin. Books available for purchase in the church office.

### Ice Cream Sunday

We invite you to celebrate the last day of classes in our Sunday school year with an ice cream social at 10:00 am and 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you everyone for a year of fun, learning and growing in our faith.

### Ice Cream Wednesday

We invite you to celebrate the last day of classes in our Wednesday school year with an ice cream social after worship in the Narthex. Thank you everyone for a year of fun, learning and growing in our faith.



### Drive-through Donut Day

As we celebrate the last week of class in the Grand Forks schools, we invite everyone to a drive-through donut and coffee event. Let us kick off your last week of class with a yummy treat. Doughnuts and iced coffee will be available from 7:00-9:00 am in our parking lot. There will also be a treat available for our four-legged friends! Let us sprinkle your day with fun!

### Upcoming Dates in May

- 12- Last day of Sunday School
- 15- Last day of Wednesday School
- 28- Drive-through Donut Day
- June 10-13 Vacation Bible School "Camp Firelight"

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1405 South 9th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

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**CALVARY STAFF**

Interim Pastor: Jared Carson  
Pastor: 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 & Grounds: Danny Navarro



**Camp Firelight**  
A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD  
Psalm 56:3

**GET READY FOR AN ADVENTURE**

**June 10-13**  
**\$50/family**

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Serving & Igniting People for Christ*



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