



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

November 2022



October can be a very stressful month. The weather starts to get colder and the sun seems like it does not shine as bright. The seasonal change can very much effect our moods, especially towards our loved ones and coworkers. However, when you look deep within yourself and remember all the teachings you were given throughout life, you remember that even in times like this, your loved ones and your coworkers are dealing with the same issues, and you are all not alone. We all felt this way, but we know we have each other here at Calvary. In this month's newsletter, you will see most of the events that happened in October, and even through the stressful months, helped us lean on our congregational family to get us through the low times and look ahead into November.



GET INVOLVED

Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK CLUB Nov 20 @ 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, *Any Small Goodness*, is located in the office for \$10.

MEMORY CAFE

This event is a free educational and social event where families with dementia come together and learn from experts. In honor of National Family Caregivers Month, we will feature a Panel of Caregivers: *Sharing our Stories*. Refreshments will be served following the program. All are welcome. The event is free.

KNITTING & CROCHETING GROUP

Join us November 12 @ 10:00 am

- Patterns available
- Learn about prayer shawl ministry
- Come and work on your own projects
- Learners always welcome--supplies and patient teachers available!

READING TO STUDENTS

Got 15 minutes to share with the children at Lewis and Clark? Calvary members are again asked to go into classrooms and read a book to the class. We had lots of fun doing it last spring and have recently started this program again this fall. We have three classrooms participating. Two are at 9:30 am and one at 12:15 pm. It can be any day of the week that works in your schedule! Contact Julie in the church office to sign up or for more information.

READING RELIGIOUSLY

November 14 @ 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 Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. Join us at the Blue Moose. Contact Julie Pedersen in the church office for details.

QUILTING POTLUCK

The Lutheran World Relief truck was in Grand Forks on October 13 & 14. Our Calvary quilters participated in their collection of 36 quilts and 15 baby care kits. We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of the month (November 29) from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm to help assemble quilts and also join us for a potluck lunch at 12:00. You can come for an hour or two or the whole day, that is up to you! Hope to see you there!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Our first 3 sessions were very successful as evidenced by the filling of over 486 bags in less than an hour each time! 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 1 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.

A MESSAGE FROM MARCUS ABOUT THE PODCAST

Hi, I hope you all have enjoyed the episodes that were pushed out. At first, I wanted to do a twice-a-month episode, and I have not done that so far. I have realized now that I have a new role since the time I have been hired and started the podcast, that this is unachievable. I still plan on creating new content and pushing out episodes, but I do not have a time schedule for that. Taking over as the Communications Coordinator gave me a lot more responsibilities, and I am trying to find a pace that works best for me. This is my first year being a Communications

Coordinator for Advent, Christmas, and Lent. My focus is on that right now, but I promise I will continue with the podcast once I find the right time.

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE

Calvary's September income was considerably lower than the prior year. Sometimes lower worship attendance equals lower income. Although in September, attendance was only slightly lower than the prior year which often does not translate to the large monthly income difference between the two years.

September kicked off the fall with a return to a full worship schedule and Sunday and Wednesday School each week. There seemed to be an activity for every age in September. Several of the activities included a high school Rise & Shine breakfast, John Bible Study at noon and 8 pm, middle school Castaway weekend, three-year-old Bible event, packing backpacks for Lewis & Clark, Memory Café, Unforgettables Choir, and an outdoor movie. Noisy offering in September was collected for campus ministries in the amount of \$916.

Income through September remains 6% lower (\$38,000) lower and expenses were 16% (\$130,000) higher than the five-year average. When the finance team set the budget for 2022, they knew the budget would be a challenge, but also knew the congregation was up to the challenge. If we as a congregation work together, our year-end goal of equal income and expenses is a possibility.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

President Erin Navarro called our meeting to order and Pastor Aaron opened with a prayer. After the approval of last month's minutes, Pastor Kirk shared a devotion about being called to be a healthy congregation.

Under old business, Pastor Kirk gave an update on the arrival of up to 70 refugees to the Grand Forks area via the Global Friends Coalition/Church World Service organization. We then moved on to discuss the Sanctuary roof repair. Brian Harris told us we will hold off all repairs until spring (after we conduct a fund-raising effort to cover the costs). President Erin Navarro reminded us of our mid-year congregational meeting on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. This meeting's agenda is to tell our members about our current budgetary shortfall and to remind them of how God has given Calvary a tremendous mission since it was incorporated in 1953. Vice President Shari Elgin told us staff reviews will be conducted with her and Pastor Kirk in the next two weeks. Treasurer Ethan Hodnefield reported all our Sept. income and expenses. He talked about perhaps having a "Consecration Sunday" in order to make our level of commitment more formal/public. Pastor Kirk's report included our Honduras group returning to Honduras in February (up to ten participants), Confirmation is going very well, the GIFT Sundays are just beginning and the possibility of taking a mission clean-up crew to west Florida, starting a conversation about becoming an Reconciled In Christ congregation that intentionally welcomes LGBTQI+ people. This includes acting on behalf of people of different ethnicities, ages, abilities, marital status, etc.

President Erin proposed a continuing resolution that would remove the following committees from our Bylaws: Social Justice, Parish Fellowship and Service Ministries, due to inactivity and relevance. And at the same time, adding a Faith in Action Team to support our New American initiative, our Lewis and Clark Elementary School backpack program, LaGrave on First, etc. Other highlights of which we were made aware: 310 Sunday and Wednesday school students now, the work needed to make our GIFT Sundays succeed and our Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 3-5 pm. We also wanted to make sure the following items were included in our Nov. newsletter (Calvary Calling): our Advent theme, "Out of the Blue," all our upcoming stewardship activities and a summary of our "State of Calvary" meeting.

Our Oct. 25 midyear meeting was held in the Sanctuary with approximately 150-175 members who attended. Council President Erin presented our current financial standings. Compared to previous years, our income is well behind our expenses (\$250,000). Even though December normally rallies us, this is a deficit that needs our attention now and for the remainder of the year. Pastor Kirk and Pastor Aaron reminded us of all that Calvary has to offer inside and outside our building. Pastor Kirk said we need to pray about God's mission here at Calvary and be reminded of our historic generosity.

ROOF UPDATE: Will be getting repaired spring 2023 so we have time to do some fundraising.

Next Council Meeting: November 8th at 7 PM



Pastor Reflection

PASTOR

Aaron

“Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” – 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

November brings along a bunch of annual traditions. Football season is in full swing, fall colors and piles of leaves are on the boulevard, Thanksgiving meals celebrated with family, and church stewardship Sunday.

For many of us, when we hear “stewardship Sunday” we quickly get annoyed and think, “This is what my church does to get some of my money out of my pocket and into the offering plate.” And for a lot of people it is code for “the things we have to do to get enough money to pay the bills.” But both of these responses are actually missing what stewardship means.

Centuries ago, one’s wealth was based largely on the amount of land and livestock they owned. The livestock was managed by a group of servants known as “wards”. They held the responsibility to care for some aspect of the operation. Often the most valuable possession was the herd of pigs, and consequently, the most trusted ward was the ward who watched over the sty where the pigs lived. He was the “sty ward.”

As a steward today, we hold the most important and prestigious role in God’s great creation. It all belongs to God, and God thinks so highly of us that we have been chosen to entrust some of what God owns into our own care, management and stewardship. Stewardship is so much more than the amount of money we give to the church or other organizations, but instead an understanding of how we use all that God has first given to us. It is about living out Jesus’ call to love one another as Jesus has first loved us. When we use what we have been given, our income, abilities, and time to care for the world around us, we find that it becomes a benefit for ourselves as well as those who need it.

Apostle Paul tells us to “Rejoice always, pray consistently, and give thanks for everything.” So this month at Calvary we are going to celebrate “Thanks-giving” by sharing our thanks for the people, ministries and opportunities at Calvary. From worship and Bible study, to Sunday and Wednesday school, youth events, Memory Café, backpack packing and all of the other countless ways you participate in the active life of Calvary we give thanks! But we are also going to give thanks for all of the ways we give. Through our financial resources in weekly offering, automated giving, text to give, or any of the many ways you can share your financial assets with this community.

We are thankful for all of the ways that you give to the active ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church. Without your financial gifts, many of the amazing opportunities and missions would not be possible. However, stewardship isn’t just about paying the bills, but instead working together with others to partner in God’s mission for the world. For that, let us give thanks!

OFFERINGS



Offerings through 10/6/22:

\$568,576

BUDGET/LOAN



2022 Budget 1,174,369

Expenses through 10/16/22 827,774

Balance of Building Expansion Loan

as of Oct 31, 2022 665,152

MEMORIALS

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Juel Hilde** by Paul and Lois Gillespie

In memory of **Stacy Hoffman Casalenda** by Marjorie Radi

In memory of **Gene Martin** by James and Sharon Holter

CAMPERSHIP FUND

In memory of **Kelly Brey** by Donovan and Cheryl Wadholm

GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Dale Andrews** by Nancy Andrews

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.

PRAYERS & SYMPATHY

Gene Martin, husband of Kaye Martin died 9-22-22

George Tuma, father of Duane Tuma-Cook died 9-22-22

Arne Askjem, father of Lori Johnson died 9-29-22

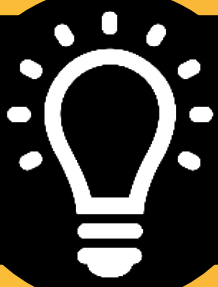
Nancy Larson, mother of Angela Lockwood died 10-5-22

Betty Anderson, mother of Dan Anderson died 10-13-22

Patrick Ross, father of Samantha Dahl died 10-17-22

FUND BALANCES

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Youth | 75,773.41 |
| Honduras Mission | 16,065.07 |
| Foundation | 810,256.46 |
| Good Samaritan | (615.51) |
| Refugee | 5,994.87 |
| Campership | 1,311.96 |
| Music | 3,684.21 |
| Library | 2,998.57 |
| Undesignated Memorials | 42,633.44 |
| Landscaping | 230.98 |
| Contemporary Worship | 10.14 |
| Education | 2,759.55 |
| Fine Arts | 2,201.28 |
| Missions | 29,094.02 |
| Memory Café | 5,987.26 |
| Unforgettables Choir | 4,809.70 |
| Prayer Chain | 12,618.50 |
| LaGrave on First | 0.00 |
| Lewis & Clark Partnership | 8,593.00 |
| Hymnal & Bible Fund | 808.29 |
| Coffee Shop | (1,459.09) |
| Columbarium | 26,820.98 |
| Stephen Ministry | 1,033.75 |
| Operation Technology | 9,377.71 |
| Organ/Piano | 82.29 |
| General Maintenance | 5,745.17 |
| Sanctuary Projector/Screen | 279.91 |
| Hearing Aid Loop | 837.00 |
| Furnace | 0.00 |
| Roof Repairs | 10,510.00 |
| Building Expansion | 235,762.46 |
| Seminary | 1,703.95 |



Youth and CONFIRMATION

New Confirmation Classes Added

November 2-16

Wednesdays: 6-6:45 PM

- Meditation Station

Wednesdays: 7-8 PM

- Bad Girls of the Bible

- Animated Faith

- Faith & Science

- dEVIL

Wednesday: 8-9 PM

- Spark

November 13-27

Sunday 10:45-11:30 AM

- Creeds & Commandments

November 13

Sunday 5:00 PM

- Watching God

(A Monster Calls PG-13)

November 14-21

Mondays 6:00-7:00 PM

- Youtube & Tacos

December 7-14

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 PM

- unconditionALLY

December 10

Saturday 11:00 AM

- Christmas Cheer

- Mentor Event

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 so thrilled that a group of members have taken on making our nursery more functional and safer for our littlest members. This project includes adding a bathroom so that nursery workers and volunteers are able to help kids without leaving the rest of the group! Construction is expected to begin this month! Until construction is finished, the nursery will temporarily be located in **Room 18**. Construction of the nursery started September 29 and is expected to be completed by early November.

This project is being funded completely in-kind, from materials to labor. Way to go Calvary!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

23 students were confirmed on October 26 and October 30. We are thrilled that these students have chosen to affirm their baptismal promises. We will continue to pray and support them in the journey ahead.

Some photos of Confirmands on Wednesday Oct 26



RISE & SHINE

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





GIFT SUNDAYS

We are excited to be introducing GIFT Sundays this year. It is our goal to provide opportunities for our young people to participate, learn, grow and be strengthened in their faith in God. To help foster and support families and kids' participation in worship we have dedicated the following dates as a **Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) Sundays**. On these days, faith learning will bring us out of the classroom setting and into an interactive worship experience for all ages. Families are invited to experience worship together through GIFT in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 or 10:30 am, on the last Sunday of each month in place of regular classroom Sunday School.

GIFT dates: November 27, December 18, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30. We can't wait to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6 - Kids begin learning Christmas music for program
November 23 - No Wednesday School
November 27 - GIFT Sunday

FIRST GRADE MILESTONE EVENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, @ 2:00 PM

This event is designed for kids to attend with their grown-ups. We invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall as we talk about baptism and what it means to walk wet in God's love.

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.



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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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