

CALVARY CALLING

Called by God | Centered in Grace | Calvary Serves and Ignites People for Christ

www.calvarygf.org

January 2021

Last month at Calvary...

CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY

Christmas of 2020 will be one we remember! When we started planning Christmas in October (like we do most years) we didn't have any clue how COVID would look in our area. We made plans to worship as many different ways as we could safely. We had two different styles of online worship and four different outdoor live nativity worship services that you could participate in from your car or outside. Although it was below zero, the gospel was shared and we welcomed our savior in a simple and meaningful way. Thanks for trying something new with us!



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS UPDATE



SNEAK PEEK

We are excited to welcome people back to in-person worship this month AND to see the changes that have happened in the building! This strange time has allowed us the time and space to complete many projects that we apart of the Forward in Faith campaign last year. Most recently the new furnaces for the Sanctuary have been installed which was the largest part of the furnace project. Coats in worship won't be a necessity anymore!



A NOTE FROM PASTOR KIRK



The bright light of Epiphany calls the church to pay rapt attention to the needs of those whose lives have become defined by darkness. And some of that darkness has really increased (or deepened) because of these last ten months of pandemic. Into this dark moment, Calvary is slowly transitioning back from being physically distanced from other members to worshipping, learning and simply being back together. As I've said before, our experience of worship will be a bit frustrating for a while as the appropriate protocols prevent much of what we know of worship. (I won't say the word patience at this point...)

It is this context that I really wanted to describe the way Calvary has responded to the challenge of COVID 19. Listen, the mission, defined by our budget, that we placed before our congregation during last January's annual meeting, looked like nothing but bad news in April, let alone October. But God is good! We received an incredible outpouring of generosity in the month of December; an amount we've never even been close to achieving. And this without a single person worshipping in the building! What a committed crew we have become and it is indeed a surprising light at a particularly dark time. What else is God up to? "Let your light so shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Pastor Kirk

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

*We will be adding additional services as needed and as able. In-person worship will continue with COVID precautions of mask wearing and social distancing in the worship spaces.

ONLINE WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall

We will be streaming our worship services going forward. Things might look a bit different now that there are people worshipping in the space but the service will be there for you on the online worship section of our website or on Facebook.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The 2020-2021 school year the board of Christian Education came to the conclusion that it would be very difficult for kids, families and volunteers to have to shift gears in another area of life as COVID numbers fluctuated. This year is entirely an online Sunday School and in-person milestone ministry event year. That way we can have smaller grade groups meet throughout the year to have learning events tailored to each age. If you feel comfortable, we absolutely encourage families to come and attend worship services together.

Calvary CONNECTS

UPDATES & MORE



SEWING CLUB

January 21 @ 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.

QUILTING DAY

January 26 @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for Quilting Day on the last Tuesday of the month. Come for an hour or two or the day!

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP

February 20 @ 10:00 a.m.

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

LAGRAVE MEAL MINISTRY

Calvary serves a weekly meal at LaGrave on First. This ministry is in need of an organizer to make sure a meal is being made or bought for about 25 people each week. There are several teams in place already so this person would act as a go between. If you are interested in volunteering your organizational (or cooking) skills call the church office.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 31

Join us at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall, online or via phone for Calvary's Annual Meeting. We will hear updates from the pastors and staff as well as the church council and committees. We will also vote on next year's budget and vote on the new members of the church council. Come and hear about all the amazing things happening at Calvary!

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

February 7

The first Sunday of each month Calvary hosts a food drive. Consider picking up a few extra items at the grocery store and bring them to church with you! There are shopping carts available on both ends of the building, or you can bring food to the office.

Ideas include:

- nonperishable canned fruits and vegetables
- peanut butter and granola bars
- soup, macaroni, spaghettios, rice, pasta

This has been such a great ministry to watch during this pandemic time. Thank you for caring for your neighbors in our community experiencing food insecurity during this time.

DIALOGUES ON RACE

Class update

If you are apart of Pastor Ivy's Dialogues on Race book study on Mondays, we are now able to move to in person discussion. Join us at Calvary on Mondays at noon. The Wednesday night group will remain on zoom. Questions? Contact Pastor Ivy through the church office.

COVID VACCINE UPDATE FOR THOSE 75+

Altru and public health have announced the first Tier of Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccination plan has begun. Community members who are 75 and older can contact the COVID Hotline at 701-780-6358 to be included on a vaccine waitlist. Due to the amount of vaccine allocated to the State of North Dakota the time needed to vaccinate the 75 and older population may take several weeks. Those who fit in future tiers of phase 1B and future phases should refrain from calling until we communicate that we are moving into the next tier.

3 WAYS to give

We will continue to provide worship online and we hope you join us in this community of faith if you are able. We will keep working on ways to BE THE CHURCH together (at a distance!) Consider making regular gifts to Calvary to keep mission and ministry happening in this time of uncertainty.



CALAVRYGF.ORG

Make a secure gift to Calvary online. Make a quick one time gift or create an account and set up scheduled reoccurring gift!



TEXT A GIFT

Text any dollar amount to **701-922-9020** to make a gift. There will be a one time set up. Save the number as a contact for easy giving in the future.



MAIL

Mail your gift to Calvary at 1405 South 9th Street Grand Forks, ND 58201

PSALM 118: 1-2, 19-29

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
2 Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

GOD PAUSE

PSALM 118: 1-2, 19-29

REFLECTION

We near the end of our Lenten journey, and the readings place us in the shadow of the cross. As Jesus triumphantly enters the city he loves, we who know the story anticipate that the crowd in praise will soon be a crowd in protest. The open gate gives entrance to the enemy. Those whom God loves will again respond with rejection. Yet, the psalmist challenges us to pause and give thanks.

Linger in this day to glimpse the presence of God. When we do not worry about tomorrow, we can marvel at the wondrous things God is doing today. The rejected remnant will become the cherished legacy. God is turning the stumbling blocks in our lives into stepping stones toward our future. Whatever struggles this season of fasting has revealed, remember: God's love is steadfast and endures.

PRAYER

God whose steadfast love endures, allow me to accept the victories of today without worrying about the battles of tomorrow. Amen.

*Joy J. Moore
Associate Professor of Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary
GodPause Devotion: A Ministry of Luther Seminary*



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Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

December 2020



Treasurer's Report - Overview

Income in November was 27% lower than the prior year. While November income was higher than the prior two months, it was much lower when comparing to the prior year.

Calvary's November level of activities was lower when compared with prior Novembers. Worship continues to be live-streamed each Sunday and "Six Feet into the Word" is posted each Wednesday on Facebook. Confirmation classes and weekly Bible studies continue to be held on Zoom. The Angel Tree requests were released in November and many of the gifts have already been returned to share with those in need.

Year-to-date income through November was \$84,500 (10.8%) lower than the prior year and \$55,000 (7.3%) lower than the five-year average. Year-to-date expenses through November were \$39,600 (4.6%) lower than the prior year and \$23,700 (2.9%) lower than the five-year average. As we all are tired of waiting for our lives to go back to "normal," we are reminded we are in the season of Advent which is a time of waiting and preparation of Jesus' birth.

December's income was amazing! When comparing current year income to prior year, the current is 30% higher. The Calvary building in December was quite busy even without in-house worship. Confirmation and 4th grade students delivered poinsettias to Calvary members, four- and five-year-olds were invited to a milestone event, and an Advent Festival was held. A couple of maintenance items completed in December were replacement of the furnace that heats the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary pew cushions had a much-needed cleaning. Christmas Eve worship had some old and some new aspects. A traditional worship service and a contemporary worship service were posted online for those who preferred to worship indoors. A live nativity worship service and a hymn sing service were offered for those who chose to worship outdoors.

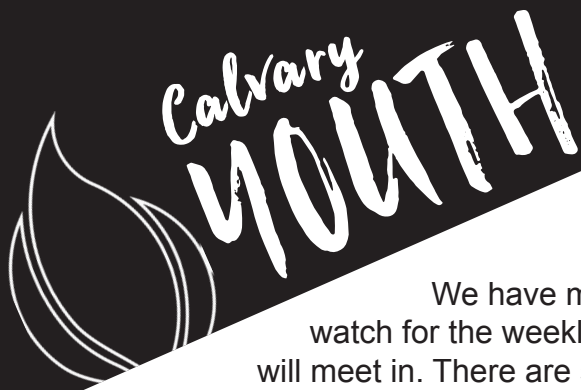
Yearly income through December was \$32,000 (3.4%) lower than the prior year and \$35,000 (3.5%) lower than the five-year average. Yearly expenses through December were \$35,000 (3.7%) lower than the prior year and \$41,600 (4.5%) lower than the five-year average. Financially, Calvary ended the year in a way we could not have predicted based on the ups and downs our world has seen in 2020. God is good!

Council Business

The Annual meeting will be held on January 31. The Nominating Team has secured just about every position for our 2021 Council. Those names will be given out in the annual report that goes out prior to the annual meeting. The Sanctuary furnace is fully operational and a few other smaller furnaces in the building are now back up and running too. In-person worship begins on January 17 and both ends of the building are ready to go technology wise for in-person and livestreamed worship.

Officers and Ministry Teams

Christmas Eve will be online and outside in-person. People have the ability to stay in their cars or come out on the grass area. The online services will be posted in the morning on December 24 so people can worship wherever it fits in their day. The last six weeks of 2020 were pretty busy with financial and giving focused communications to the congregation going out in multiple ways about stewardship. We ended the year in the positive and were able to make all of our current and long standing commitments as well as benevolences. Confirmation classes and worship will begin in-person and small groups will again be able to meet soon per the color chart made in 2020.



CONFIRMATION

We have made the switch back to in-person confirmation classes. Be sure to watch for the weekly e-mails to see which door to enter through and which space you will meet in. There are still some entirely online options watch for those classes if you are interested in that format. Don't forget a mask for in-person class! Registration continues to be open for classes and we will continue to add classes. We encourage students and families to register for classes that fit in your schedule! If there are classes that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out to Morgan via email! Your feedback is very helpful in the scheduling process!

As always, if you have any questions, or if there are any classes that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out.

JANUARY MENTOR EVENT

Pick a date in January to get together with your mentor. The topic this month is *Living our Faith in the World*. To keep group sizes as small as possible, we are asking that mentors and students get together independently for the month of January. An activity sheet with instructions will be emailed to those enrolled in the mentor year. Contact Morgan at the church with questions.



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to all of the fifth graders and their families for helping with the virtual Christmas Program. Wow! You did an amazing job telling the story of Jesus' birth. I am so proud of you and honored to be a part of this unique Christmas program.

FAMILY DATE NIGHT IN A BOX

Friday, February 12

Pick up your date in a box, all the material you and your family will need to enjoy some quality time together, just in time for Valentines day! Watch for the sign up sheet on our website and facebook page.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & MILESTONE EVENTS

It is never too late to join in on the fun and faith formation at Calvary. This year looks different, but we are working hard to find an opportunity that will fit with your family. To sign up please visit our website calvarygf.org/kids or email nichole.bye@calvarygf.org Sunday/Wednesday School Online weekly episodes that will be posted to our Facebook and Website at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Milestone events are our answer to not being able to meet weekly in-person for Sunday school this year. Each grade level has three events throughout the year. Events are tailored to learning levels and provide a space for parents and students to engage in their faith. As long as the numbers allow, these events will be held in the building with masks and social distancing measures in place. If you do not feel comfortable attending in-person, take home bags with materials and instructions are available.



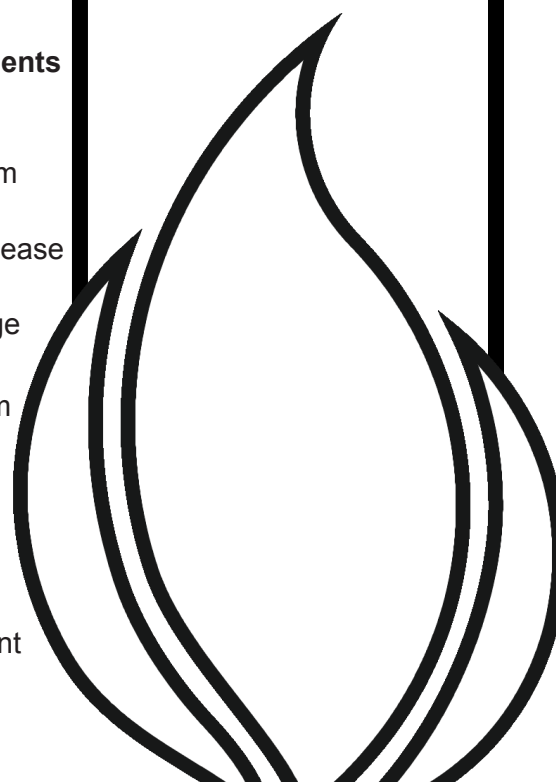
THANKS & STAY TUNED

Thank you for your giving! We have been collecting an offering during Sunday School and your generous giving has really made a difference in the Grand Forks community. We have been able to purchase a new pair of shoes for a student and also lots of snacks and lunches for those experiencing food insecurity while school is out of session. We appreciate your offerings and look forward to being able to purchase more items in the future!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 1-4 - We hope! All Aboard! Rocky Railway: Jesus Power Pulls Us Through
We are looking forward to VBS being a fun celebration and an amazing experience for all! More details to come.



UPDATES

SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

During this time of COVID 19 worries, I hope you are able to take time to stay healthy and take care of yourselves and your families. I wanted to quick send you an update on where we are standing as of now with Sunday and Wednesday school at Calvary. We talked at length with our whole staff and feel that in light of the CDC guidelines of no large gatherings for the foreseeable future, that we are done with Sunday and Wednesday School for the year. This is a very hard decision, and not one that we take lightly. We keep everyone's safety and health in the forefront of our hearts and feel that it's the best decision for now.

FIFTH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & CELEBRATION

At this time we are postponing Fifth Grade First Communion Class and Celebration to be in the Fall of 2020.

We are looking for ways to be the church in this new era for our students and families! Here's what's new:

- We have uploaded some music videos of a few of our favorite Sunday/ Wednesday school songs! You can sing and dance along with us right from your own home!
- You can find "Take Home" kids activity bags in the entryway of door 1. Please stop and grab a bag with ready to go activities for all ages.
- We will be uploading weekly Sunday School videos to our Facebook page for kiddos to watch and engage with.
- Worship looks different for a while. We invite you to watch our livestream worship via our facebook page and website. Sundays at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Visit calvarygf.org to find ways to engage kids while you watch the service.

Links for home activities

You are likely spending more time at home than usual these days. We want to support you during this change. Visit our website calvarygf.org for clickable links for at home faith formation and fun activities!

OUR RECORD OF PARTICIPATION

OFFERINGS

3/1/20	18,173.23
3/8/20	10,884.59
3/15/20	10,810.67

Proposed 2020 Budget -- \$1,089,087

Offering received through 2/24/20 -- \$186,495

Expenses through 2/24/20 -- \$213,251

BALANCE OF BUILDING EXPANSION LOAN

\$961,994.81

Baptisms:

February 19 - Graham Marvin Trontvedt child of Brandon and Toby Trontvedt

March 1 - Rory Ryan Wald child of Casey and Taylor Wald

March 15 - Oliver James Bye child of Aaron and Nichole Bye

March 15 - Madelyn June Scholler child of Bryan and Kelsey Scholler

March 24 - Max Michael Liden child of Adam and Ellen Liden

March 28 - Carson Lawrence Mohagen child of Marc and Lori Mohagen

Our Prayers & Christian Sympathy To:

Jody Strande whose mother, Marilyn Barry, died February 28.

Jack Reese whose wife, Judy Reese, died March 25.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

ALTAR GUILD FUND

In memory of Gary Zick by Jerry and Kay Flom

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Gary Zick by Cole Papers, Claire Moen, Paul and Julie Saurdiff, Gary and Debbie Lloyd, Michael and Danielle Zick, Jamie and Jill Hauser, Greg and Sandra Zick, Milan and Patricia Elton, Charles and Marian Gates, Carolyn Fischer, Elenore Schnell, Dan and Debra Goodman, Harlan and Sharon Apengren, Haley Wamstad, Charles and Lynette Kehler, Paul and Debra Amason, Susan Hunter, John Knudson, James and Terryl Rood, Mark and Julie Hall, Mark and Gloria Sanford, Sandra Eaton, Robert and Nancy Zimney, Dann and Cris Johnson, Moine and Sharon Gates, J. and R. Sanderson, Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel, Robert and Myrna Bower, James and Renee Lies, James and Susan Fristad, Bruce and Cheryl Nyhlen, Irene Goebel, Jeffrey and Tiffany Ouradnik, Peter and Cindy Blue, Jeff and Ruth Ann Johnson, Barbara Spicer, Brad and Amy Bail, Susan Groth, Richard and Kathleen McWaters, Beverly Witt, Lyle and Diane Long, David and Janet Weisgram, Mary Freije, Michael and Linda St. Onge, Ralph and Nanette Campbell, Donna Helgerson, D. and Barbara Decker, Wesley Lund, Danny and Mary Kay Roy, Susan Kuhn, Marilyn Lundberg, Dennis and Joan Johnson, Marland and Noreen Lee, James and Jayne Flynn, James Critelli & Carole Roach, Carol Tweten, Diane Olson, Eugene and Mary Balek, Richard and Sharon Jurgens, John and Kathleen Gasparini, Tony and Tracy Telken, Lee and June Murdock, Ronald Apanian, Gary and Cindy Purpur, Richard and Barbara Wessling, Robert and Annika Perkins, Elizabeth Staveteig, Diane Ness, Arden and Irene Shores,

Gregory and Rebecca Homer, Lawrence and Janet Eickman, Willis and Karen Botnen, Cynthia Flom-Meland, Riley Rogers, Kent and Nancy Anderson, David and Brenda Staveteig, Harry and Jewell Miskavige, Harlan and Sharon Aspengren, Charles and Colleen Zick, Don and Nancy Krogstad, Raymond and Joyce Jarombek, Stephen and Brenda Johnson, Larry McLaren, Cleone Strinden, Rodney and Arlene Wilson, Gerald and Annette Smyser

In memory of Rosie Black by Robby Zick

In memory of Julie Keegan by Ruth Larson, Marlys Thoreson

In memory of Herb Wogsland by John Knudson, Ronald Apanian, Moine and Sharon Gates, Cleone Strinden

In memory of Leo Ketterman by Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

In memory of Basil Tweten by Larry McLaren

In memory of Charles Gates by Robby Zick, Moine and Sharon Gates, Cliff and Cora Rein, Larry and Sharon Thompson

In memory of Aaron Guderjahn by Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

In memory of Robert Warner by Brian Baglien

CAMPERSHIP FUND

In memory of Luella McLaren by Joel and Carolyn Tangen

Look for more memorials in APRIL

FUNDS AS OF MARCH 2019

Youth	75,054.15
Honduras Mission	15,613.45
Foundation	674,121.75
Good Sam	2,785.40
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	884.97
Music	2,803.87
Library	2,421.26
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	220.33
Contemporary Worship	717.40
Education	10,562.11
Fine Arts	1,901.28
Missions	45,404.62
Memory Cafe	4,563.96
Unforgettables Choir	5,136.57
Prayer Chain	12,540.50
LaGrave on First	6,558.80
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,880.67
Coffee Shop	1,770.65
Columbarium	23,267.08
Stephen Ministry	933.75
Operation Technology	(502.67)
Organ/Plano	1,015.09
General Maintenance	3,757.96
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	516.91
Hearing Aid Loop	2,037.00
Furnace	58,143.56
Carpet	0.00
Building Expansion	296,962.73
Seminary	2,115.95

OUR
LOVING
GOD
WHO IS IN HEAVEN
Hallowed
BE YOUR NAME

your KINGDOM COME
your WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

GIVE us this DAY
OUR DAILY BREAD

& *Forgive*

US OUR DEBTS
AS WE FORGIVE

OUR DEBTORS

AND LEAD US
NOT INTO
TEMPTATION

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

FOR
YOURS
IS THE
KINGDOM
AND THE
POWER
AND THE

glory
forever
Amen

Our Loving God, who is in Heaven. Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.