



CALVARY CALLING

Serving & Igniting People for Christ



JUNE 2020



Our Baccalaureate Worship for graduating seniors and their families looked a little different this year. Families worshipped from their cars in the parking lot.

Vacation Bible School became STAY-cation Bible School with train cars of crafts and Bible fun delivered right to kids' doors. A live stream of skits and music kicked off the fun each day for 63 kids and their families!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR KIRK

Because we've found ourselves in the midst of a world-wide pandemic that looks to be more long-term than we would have hoped, I want to make three bold-letter announcements:

1. **SAFETY** Calvary will err on the side of caution. There is no way we're going to open our doors if there is a decent chance that COVID19 could be picked up by someone who enters these doors.
2. **TRANSPARENCY** I will regularly communicate/update when our building will be ready for worship services, weddings, funerals, Bible studies and any group that has normally uses Calvary's facility. I will do this in coordination with our synod office, our church council and all the appropriate government agencies (local, state and federal) such as HHS, CDC and the NIH. No one gets to tell Calvary when we have to re-open - just as no one can force you to be in the building if you and your family don't feel safe.
3. **DIFFERENT** When the time finally arrives, there is no way we aren't celebrating ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT!!! But please know this – when that day comes, precautionary methods will still be fully employed at first. Physical distancing, hand sanitizers all over the place, masks, no fellowship, coffee, cookies or handshaking. Receiving communion will only be done if we find a way to do it safely and no singing for some time.

On a more hopeful note, I've been asked about what a "slow opening" would look like. Here are some realistic examples:

- Parking lot bingo, lots of bingo
- Sharing a Bible study with anyone over the age of ten in the church yard while sitting at least 6 feet apart
- Parking lot worship while in our vehicles via radio transmitter
- Conducting an inurnment at our Columbarium while practicing physical distance Participating in socially distanced mission event outside the walls of Calvary (again, while practicing the safety measures we have all had to learn)

Calvary Updates

This is a forum to find out what's happening at Calvary. Our church is a living, breathing place even in the time of COVID. Take some time to read about the body that is Calvary so we can tell each other and the community our story, who we are, what we care about and what we believe

Visit calvarygf.org for more!





IT'S A MARATHON NOT A SPRINT

PASTOR KIRK MESECK
PASTOR ARTICLE, JUNE 2020

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There's been talk about gradually allowing a certain percentage of our maximum capacity. For example: our Sanctuary holds 400 max so in this scenario the maximum would be 30% (or 120 worshippers) at first and 50% (or 200 worshippers) a couple of months later, but I don't think this would work at Calvary very well. After all, who gets to decide? Or would we schedule everyone in alphabetical order to attend not one service in the sanctuary and two in the Fellowship Hall but three in

the Sanctuary and four in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday? I'm a bit nervous about that one...

Here's what I know for sure: whatever we decide is wise (safe) today is going to be up for re-negotiation a month from now, three months from now as well as in September and beyond. I take great solace knowing God is always with us, the church is not a building, that our livestreaming video worship services are doing well, that Zooming is a real asset and our staff as well as our members are

wonderfully committed to Calvary not just surviving this pandemic but to growing deeply through it.

If and when you have questions about the inevitable changes coming up, please pay attention to our website and Calvary's Facebook page. I promise to stay ahead of the information as best I can, so if you hear something helpful (or confusing) please call me or the church office.

God Bless.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

PASTOR KIRK MESECK

Calvary will begin outdoor worship services on Sunday, June 14, at 9:00 a.m. on the west side of the building. The challenge is how to begin in as safe a way as possible during a worldwide pandemic. To give due diligence to everything safety wise, there will only be twenty, physically distanced worshippers allowed. If we are able to do this well, we will increase the number of worshippers in the near future. Masks will be required for everyone, so either bring your own or we will supply you with one. Of course there will be no physical sharing of Christ's peace, no passing of the offering plate or Holy Communion. In fact, we're trying hard to have everyone enter from one direction and exit in another with as little contact as possible.

I understand the sterile nature

of this worship service and hope we can slowly, methodically, add more elements of great Lutheran worship, but as you've heard so often these days, we're in a marathon not a sprint.

So here's the weekly drill for this service: call the church office and you'll be told if you're one of the first twenty. My expectation isn't to have the same twenty people every Sunday. Can the first twenty hold off for a week or so in order to allow others to experience this onsite worship? I hope so. Another outdoor worship experience we will begin to offer starting Wednesday, June 10 is parking lot worship in your vehicles with your car radios. Services will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the south parking lot. We will continue to look for safe ways that we can

gather in the name of Jesus. Who would have thought we would be in this position as a church four months ago?

(Not me.) We continue to make the online services better by investing in the technology that makes it possible so thank you for your feedback and patience! I hope you understand how deeply the staff at Calvary not only miss you but are doing our level best to reach out to you in the name of Jesus via our online services.



Campaign Update

BY PASTOR KIRK MESECK

Before COVID-19 changed so much around us, Calvary signed contracts to complete our southeast parking lot project. The project initially began as a part of the Forward in Faith campaign that began last fall.

If you have any questions or want to know any of the finer details of our plan, please don't hesitate to ask.

Give me a call through the church office or send me a message at

kirk.meseck@calvarygf.org.

Last month we said everything would be a go after the snow melted and we weren't kidding. Snow cleared and construction began. We have enough money from our campaign for this project, so the process will keep rolling until it is complete.

In case you are new to our Calvary community, this parking lot space started a few years ago with the purchase of two houses which were cleared off the church property last year.





ONLINE ACTIVITIES

As everything right now, Children's and Family Ministry at Calvary is looking a little different. We still can't meet safely in the places and group sizes that we are used to, we have uploaded some music videos of a few of our favorite Sunday and Wednesday school songs! You can sing and dance along with us right from your own home!

STAY-CATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School has gotten a makeover this year thanks to COVID-19. Families experienced VBS right from their homes. Students got a train car full of activities, Bible stories, snacks and service ideas for them complete throughout the week. There was a live gathering time each day filled with music and the daily theme! You find the videos on the website at calvarygf.org/vbs.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Youth Grades 3-5 (just completed)

Tuesdays (June 16, 23, 30, and July 7) at 1:00 pm

Join us each week via Zoom as we discuss, create and relate our faith to the pages! This summer's book choice is HARRY POTTER! Cost is free!

By signing up you will receive a paperback copy of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and a book club t-shirt.

Email nichole.bye@calvarygf.org to sign up!

FAITH AT HOME



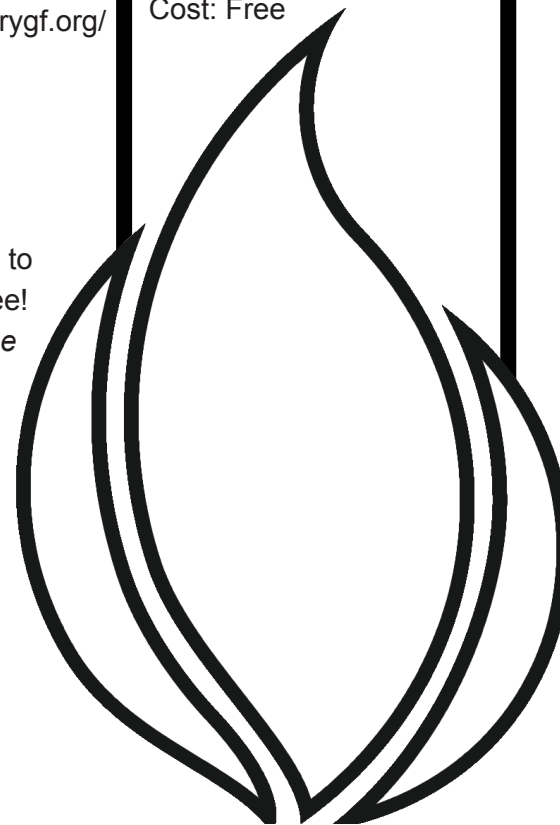
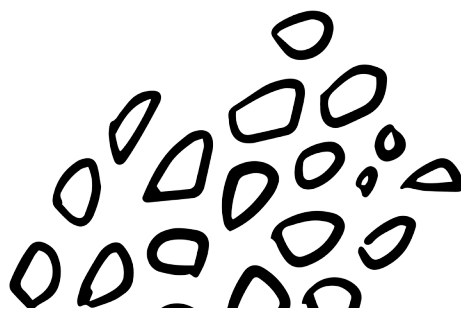
BIBLE FOR KIDS:

Through interactive adventures and beautiful animation, kids explore the big stories of the Bible. Platform iOS: iPhone, and iPad, and Android. Cost: Free



BY KIDS FOR KIDS BIBLE STORIES

Bible stories for children, brought to life with a rich tapestry of sound, performed by kids, for kids! Found on ApplePodcasts or online Android. Cost: Free



Confirmation

CALVARY CONFIRMATION

Registration is now open. Go to calvarygf.org/confirmation for more information.

SUMMER CONFIRMATION PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Core Class:** Seven Habits of Effective Christian Families (Offered via zoom)
 - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. | June 17-July 15
- **Elective Classes:** Reading Religiously | When Stars are Scattered
 - June 22 7:00 p.m.
- Enrichment Experiences:** Contact Morgan for some ideas about enrichment experiences that you can take part in at home!

SUMMER ACTIVITY UPDATES

MISSION TRIPS

Calvary's decisions regarding how to do ministry, including mission trips, are in accordance with CDC guidelines, Synod recommendations, and of course, informed by the comfort level of participants. We made the difficult decision to cancel both the Middle School Mission trip to Milwaukee, WI and the High School Mission trip to Logan, WV. While this certainly was not unexpected or surprising, the teams are feeling the hurt of yet

another consequence of COVID-19. Please keep these young people in your prayers. It is our hope that we can take part in another mission experience in the near future.

SUMMER CAMPS

Calvary has a history of partnering with Bible Camps and helping to sponsor campers throughout the summer. Due to the COVID-19, camps have had to make significant adjustments to their schedules. Here is what we know right now:

- Red Willow Bible Camp: All Summer and Day Camp Programs are suspended.

- Park River Bible Camp: All Summer and Day Camps are suspended

- Camp Metigoshe: Implementing additional health and safety protocols. An updated summer schedule-beginning to welcome campers the week of June 28. New camp schedule and additional information is available at metigosheministries.com

If you are a camper, or you know a camper, that is attending a Bible Camp this summer and you'd like to receive a campership, please reach out to morgan.olson@calvarygf.org.



May Council Update

FINANCE UPDATE:

Income and expenses are about even from this time last year. Calvary has received the proceeds from the PPP loan. \$8000 has been used for payroll. The parking lot project should begin a week from today. The HVAC upgrade is on hold for now.

The new confirmation program was “rolled out” in April with confirmation families receiving information on the program. Three sessions of Zoom were held to help answer questions from families as they learn about the program. While the building has been quiet of activities, it has been busy receiving a refresh of spaces that while funded just had not been able to be completed with the constant use of Calvary’s building. New carpet was installed in March and April throughout the building, offices were painted, and the youth room received a makeover.

Calvary members and friends are amazing! They continue to support Calvary and the community in the ways they feel called

whether it is making masks for others, delivering school lunches, or calling and checking in on Calvary member and friends.

COUNCIL UPDATE:

The new carpet is installed and painting is complete. The technology upgrade is on its way to being complete. There was a break-in at the church where a crowbar was used to pry the door open. A staff laptop, wireless microphone and other miscellaneous items were stolen. We discussed the pros and cons of investing in an alarm system and security cameras to secure the building. We decided to install a deadbolt and install a latch guard over the lock to make the door more secure and keep the outer door by the office locked.

Reopening the church building is a process. We have and will continue to receive guidance from the Synod office but the final decision is up to the council. We will continue to assess day by day as the situation unfolds. Keeping a safe environment is the number 1 concern for our congregation.

We put out an online survey to quickly identify where and how to address the needs and desires of the congregation at this time. We also know that there are many opinions across the board and we are doing our best to give space and discussion to all constructive responses. It takes every voice!

Pastor Ivy is continuing her women in the Bible series. Pastor Kirk spoke about the EaND Synod zoom meeting on May 17 where the only item on the agenda will be voting so we can narrow down the candidates for synod assembly. Erin Navarro, Diane Stoley, Lori Kehrwald, Mike Mclean, Jana Hanson, and Matt Vanderpan would represent the council and Phylis Johnson is our delegate.

We continue to pray for our church, our community and the world.

OUR RECORD OF PARTICIPATION

OFFERINGS

3/22/20	18,574.08
3/29/20	16,078.00
4/5/20	13,864.40
4/12/20	20,745.07

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

Offering received through 4/15/20 -- \$258,312

Expenses through 4/15/20 -- \$286,817

BALANCE OF BUILDING EXPANSION LOAN

\$959,373.23

Our Prayers & Christian Sympathy To:

Moine Gates whose brother, Charles, died February 15.
Ellen Hoiberg whose brother, Gene Johnson, died March 22.

Pauline Kvamme whose husband, Odin, died March 23.

Mary Freije whose husband, Howard, died in March.

Debra Gilbertson whose mother, Karen Peterson, died April 5.

Jim Campbell whose wife, Marge, died April 7.

The family of Lloyd Forness, who died April 5.

The family of Kenneth C. Schultz who died April 12.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Julie Keegan by Joanne Davison

FELLOWSHIP HALL TABLES

In memory of Basil Tweten by Terry and Judith Paukert

FINE ARTS FUND

In memory of Gary Zick by Fay McPhail

FURNANCE FUND

In memory of Sherry Selstedt by Lowell and Arlette Stanlake

In memory of Charles Gates by Larry and Ellen Hoiberg

In memory of Betty Hillesland by Kathy McCue

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Betty Hillesland by Lee and June Murdock

In memory of Gary Zick by Michael and Paulette Schaefer,
Brad and Yvonne Westrum, Jon and Laura Raymond

In memory of Julie Keegan by Art and Kay Culver and
Kathleen Ramsay

In memory of Robert and Evelyn Warner by Jim and Ellie
Olson

In memory of Jeanette Dalen by Allen and Debra LaFave

GOOD SAM

In memory of Gary Zick by Dale and Nancy Andrews

In memory of Herb Wogsland by Calvary Lutheran Church
Women

In memory of Jan Gierman by Joonhwa Lee and SooJung
Kim, Douglas Munski

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Richard Beringer by Kathy McCue

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of Betty Hillesland by Jon and Laura Raymond
In memory of Raymond Fischer by Robby Zick, Robert and

Nancy Zimney, John and Sharon Marshall, Tom
Rutherford, Gerald and Annette Smyser

In memory of Ray Millard by Raymond and Joyce Jarombek

In memory of Joanne Selkurt-Martin by Andrew and
Elizabeth Bjerke

AUTOMATED GIVING

Due to COVID-19 we are not able to make our gifts to the church in the pews. Have you ever thought about automated giving? You can set up a bank withdrawal through the church office using your checking account OR you set up an automated gift fully controlled by you when you make an account on our online giving platform. You can adjust the amount, set which day to make your gift and start and stop it at anytime. For more information go to calvarygf.org or call the church office.

FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

May 12 at 4:00 pm.

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 May 12, at 4:00 pm in the church office. Application forms, information and tax information about giving to the Foundation can be found at calvarygf.org.

FUNDS AS OF APRIL 2020

Youth	80,354.73
Honduras Mission	9,221.82
Foundation	674,141.75
Good Sam	2,977.49
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	884.97
Music	4,522.87
Library	2,421.26
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	220.33
Contemporary Worship	717.4
Education	10,433.32
Fine Arts	1,901.28
Missions	44,235.82
Memory Café	4,637.16
Unforgettables Choir	4,634.38
Prayer Chain	12,540.5
LaGrave on First	6,078.91
Hymnal & Bible Fund	2,468.07
Coffee Shop	1,742.17
Columbarium	23,053.65
Stephen Ministry	933.75
Operation Technology	1,858.59
Organ/Piano	1,000.13
General Maintenance	3,757.96
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	516.91
Hearing Aid Loop	2,037
Furnace	58,193.56
Building Expansion	300,404.61

SYNOD UPDATES & MORE

Dear Calvary, I am writing to you today to let you in on something that has been happening in the synod that has the potential to affect myself and the congregation. Many of you may know that Bishop Terry Brandt resigned as bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of which we are a part of. In the meantime, Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe has been called to span the time between Bishop Brandt's term and the election and installation of a new bishop. We, as a synod, are currently in the process of discernment in calling the new bishop and it has been narrowed down to the following 7 candidates:

Rev. Jessica Daum
Rev. Michael Jacobson
Rev. Tessa Moon-Leiseth
Rev. Lynn Ronsberg
Rev. Ivy Schulz
Rev. Matt Valan
Rev. Kristi Weber

At synod assembly in August one of the above individuals will be called to a new role and my name is one of them. There are a few things I would like you to know. First of all, I am not seeking to leave Calvary. My name was lifted up and I am stepping out in faith to see where the Holy Spirit leads.

I covet your prayers for myself, the other candidates, and the church as we discern who will be leading us into what God has in store for us. I cling to my favorite verse of scripture while trusting in God to lead us as a synod to the next chapter: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

Brothers and sisters, God is working among us. Let's pray to welcome what will come.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ivy Schulz

EVENTS

Radio Wednesday Worship begins (and Bingo!) | **June 10**
Outdoor Worship Begins | **June 14**
Men's Lunchtime Bible Study | **June 11**
Confirmation Seven Habits Class | **June 17**
Youth Book Club | **June 18**
Confirmation Reading Religiously | **June 22**

