

CALVARY CALLING

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

www.calvarygf.org

November 2020

Last month at Calvary

Calvary Updates

This is a forum to find out what's happening at Calvary. Our church is a living, breathing place. 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.

In These Pages...

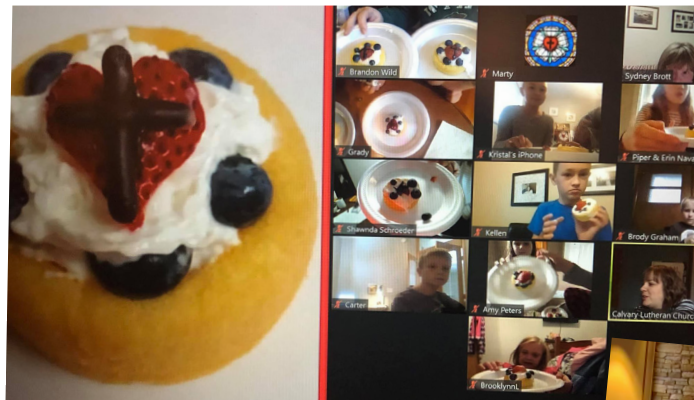
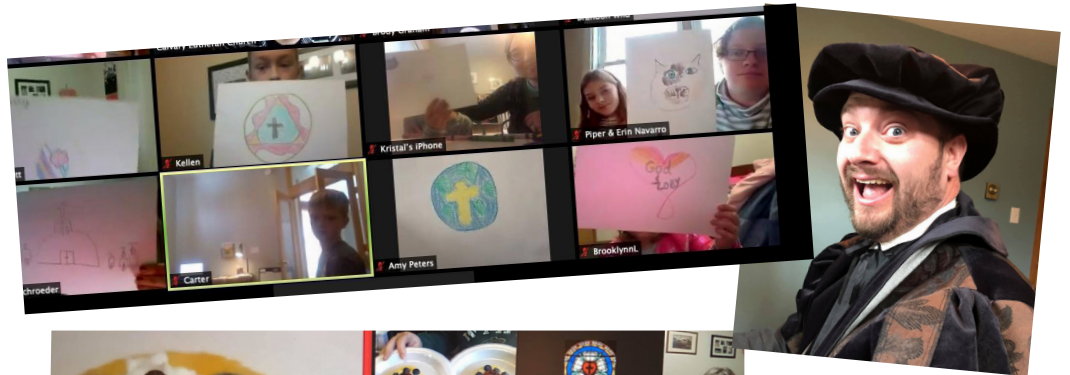
Calvary is a big church with a lot going on! That means many ways to connect with your church family- worship events, education opportunities for all ages, classes, groups, and activities.

There is something for everyone...take a look!



MILESTONE MINISTRY

The Milestone Ministry year is still happening! This month we shifted to online while county public health has us in the color red. Fourth graders met for their Reformation learning event on Reformation Sunday. They learned about the life of Martin Luther, learned about the parts of the Lutheran rose and even got a special visit from Martin himself! If you have not signed up and want to participate, contact Nichole through the church office.



3RD GRADE BIBLES

October is a special time for third graders at Calvary because they get their Bibles. We were able to invite third graders and a family member to gather and learn together about the books of the Bible, how to find chapters and verses and what is included in the Bible.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A NOTE FROM INTERN PASTOR AARON



I recently had a Zoom meeting with the students and advisors for our MDivX Cohort at Luther Seminary. We hadn't had a chance to see one another in person since last February and just needed a chance to reconnect that wasn't during a class period. While checking in, we all shared a wide range of highs and lows. People shared that they were struggling with all kinds of heavy burdens in their lives, such as sickness, challenges in their jobs, loss of family members, fighting with their spouses, infertility, loneliness, wildfires threatening their towns, snow already falling and just fear and uncertainty. With those realities - they were also lifting up the joys of birthdays, promotions, more time with their families, anniversaries, a new puppy, having the chance to vote, taking road trips, getting a new bathroom tub, to snow already falling. While we all took turns sharing, one thing became clear, we are all in this together. I think that the Apostle Paul said it best; "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15). We are joined together in the community of Christ. Our burdens and our joys are to be shared with us all. Maybe some of these highs or lows are similar for you. Maybe you can relate as it feels like a lot right now for us all. At the end of the day, we are in it together, and God is ever present with us. And God doesn't expect us to do it all by ourselves, or do everything on our own. Author John Roedel put it this way...

Me: Hey God.

God: Hello....

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

God: No – you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back.

You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax.

Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you.

Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you – YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOU ARE BECOMING!

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change-Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So...I'm not broken?

God: Of course Not! – but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!! Become!!

Calvary CONNECTS



GET INVOLVED

Connect with People at Church

Please note: Small groups will not meet in person at the church while the county is in RED. For updates on county colors please visit the Grand Forks Public Health website or find it through our church website.

UNFORGETTABLES

Wednesdays @ 10:00 a.m.

We are off and running with The Unforgettables Choir held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom! You are welcome to join us by calling Mary Ann (701-772-4897) or by email (maryann.devig@calvarygf.org) to get the link.

PUZZLE EXCHANGE

Our puzzle exchange is overflowing inside door 1 at Calvary! With winter weather coming try picking up a puzzle and/or leaving a puzzle you have already completed.

LAGRAVE MEAL MINISTRY

Calvary has continued to be involved with our community through LaGrave on First. We have various teams preparing and delivering meals for the residents at LaGrave each Tuesday evening. If you or someone you know enjoy cooking, we would love to have you get involved! Contact Michaela in the office at 772-4897 or by email at michaela.hepper@calvarygf.org.

FAITH IN FILM

November 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

We will have our next faith in film on Friday November 20 at 7:00 p.m.. This will be over Zoom, so email aaron.bye@calvarygf.org for the link to join or for questions about the movie.

THANKFUL 30

Family Thankful 30 booklets will be available in the church office. A daily activity booklet to do with your family throughout the month of November. Pray, talk, listen and do TOGETHER!

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY

November 1

The first Sunday of each month Calvary hosts a food drive. Even if we are not worshipping together in the building at that time we can still come together to help out the community. 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. If we do not have in person worship that Sunday we will have a shopping cart in the entryway at door 1.

Ideas include:

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

MEMORY CAFE

November 10 @ 1:00 p.m.

On October 13 we learned that Zoom was a good format for being able to hold the Memory Cafe! Our November 10 topic will be "Maintaining Mobility."

This will be a great topic for everyone so even if you don't have Dementia you are welcome to attend. Call (701-772-4897) or email Mary Ann (maryann.devig@calvarygf.org) to get the link that will enable you to attend the presentation.

VIRTUAL MITTEN TREE

This year we are working with the social workers in the Grand Forks school district to fill specific needs for warm weather gear for the kiddos in our community! You can find the link to donate on our website and Facebook page starting mid-November.

CALVARY CONFIRMATION

We have officially made the switch to VIRTUAL confirmation classes. While we miss seeing one another in person, we are happy that we can still meet online. Registration is open and we will continue to add classes to the schedule. 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.

Here are some upcoming classes:

Core Classes

- Creeds & Commandments | Begins November 1

Elective Classes

- Women in the Bible | Begins November 16
- Watching God | November 15
- Can I Ask That? | December 2
- Watching God | December 6
- Faith in Music | December 2

Enrichment Experiences

Mentor Event: November 1 (dress warmly!)

For a complete list of classes go to calvarygf.org



ADVENT FESTIVAL

December 6 | 2:00 p.m.

The season of Advent is sure to look different this year. This year's Advent festival will focus on helping your family prepare to celebrate Christmas together and hold hope in light of Christ.

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 a.m. on Sunday mornings. You can watch whenever works best for you and your family throughout the week.

Milestone Events: This is our answer to not being able to meet weekly in person for Sunday School this year. Each grade level will have three events throughout the year. They will be tailored to their learning level 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, a take home bag with materials and instructions will be provided for you to pick up at the church office.



MAIN OFFICE
1405 S. 9th St.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Mon - Th | 8:30am - 4:00pm
Fri | 8:30am - 12:00pm

#701.772.4897
place4u@calvarygf.org
CALVARYGF.ORG

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL October 2020



Treasurer's Report - Overview

September Overview:

The expected lower monthly income we have been anticipating since April due to Coronavirus and no "in-the-building" worship, arrived in September. Income for September was 36% lower than the prior year. The inability to host worship in the building is one of many causes for the lower September income.

While the church was not as busy as past Septembers have been, there were still many activities happening around the building. There were four opportunities for drive-thru communion through September. A drive-in movie was held at the end of September that welcomed twenty-five carloads of excited movie goers. Confirmation classes continued throughout September with a different class format than we have offered in the past. Lastly, Calvary continues serving a meal at LaGrave on First every Tuesday and every other Saturday.

Year-to-date income through September was \$38,800 (6.3%) lower than the prior year and \$31,200 (5.2%) lower than the five-year average. Expenses year-to-date through September were \$22,600 (3.2%) lower than the prior year and \$28,700 (4%) lower than the five-year average. In the last quarter of the year, Calvary members and friends often accept the challenge to help Calvary finish the year financially strong. Let's work together to close the rather yucky year of 2020 on a positive note.

Council Business

The constitution, bylaw and continuing resolution updates are complete. They've been submitted to the Synod for approval and will be reviewed tonight with Council. The reopening plan is complete and will be implemented as needed. Our parish nurse, MaryAnn Devig, joined the executive team meetings to help produce a high quality, well-thought-out plan.

Officers and Ministry Teams

Sunday School is online with weekly lessons available on the website and Facebook page. They consist of a Bible story, music and activity. There are also "Grab-and-Go" bags available. There are three milestone events scheduled for each grade in Calvary's Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

Currently the church is doing Undies Sunday through United Way. There is a box in the entrance at door 1. Undergarments, socks, diapers, etc. for youth are what they're mostly looking for.

Blessing Bags are also in the entryway for door 1. People are able to grab a bag or two if they'd like. Fill it with \$5-\$10 worth of items for someone in need. There are further instructions in the bag.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIRK

What color are we in anyway?

These are difficult days. There, I said it. This pandemic has caused us to continuously revamp our getting-back-together plans. We watched as the county slowly built up to the Red Zone and now we are bouncing between the Red and Orange Zones, the only thing written in stone is God's presence among us. Obviously worship will continue to happen, but as unfortunate as it is for all of us, this sacred time to thank and praise God together will only be done virtually until this COVID-19 is much less prevalent. (Which means a successful vaccine has been developed and distributed to a wide swath of our community.) When we move back to a lower community risk, we will work to adjust the plan at Calvary. We are blessed with the size to do some amazing things in the name of Jesus, but with that size comes challenges as well. Changing the course of a small boat is easier than a large ship, so please know if the COVID-19 numbers are consistently trending down and we make it back to orange, yellow or green - we get to change directions. For now, please keep your fellow siblings in Christ who are struggling mightily (including the staff) in your prayers. The history of the church is filled with long periods of suffering and displacement, so we join the ranks of amazing, courageous folks that's for sure.

Finally, just because our worship spaces are currently without worshippers, it doesn't mean ministry isn't taking place. Anyone who has called Calvary over the last seven or eight months can tell you we will do whatever it takes to respond to your concerns. I believe the Holy Spirit is breathing deeply among us these days.

Peace,
Pastor Kirk

END-OF-YEAR INFO

Year-end preparations

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 transfer your stock gift to Calvary's Edward Jones account. Please designate to which church fund you would like to give your gift. If you are considering this type of gift, December 3 is the last day this type of gift can be received. Please contact Heather Vandervort, Calvary's finance manager with any questions.

FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

December 3 | 4:00 p.m.

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 3 at 4:00 p.m. in the church office. Application forms, information and tax information about giving to the Foundation can be found on the www.calvarygf.org website.

HEADED SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

Don't forget to change your address with the Calvary office! You can keep up to date on all things Calvary while you are away! We are able to send most of our communications as "bulk mail" which is a great money saver but means your mail does not get forwarded to you while you are temporarily away. Contact the church office today to update your address.

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for supporting Calvary through your financial gifts! Any gifts you would like included on your 2020 contribution statement should be in the church office by noon on Thursday, December 31. When giving gifts by mail, please allow at least seven business days for your gift to arrive at Calvary.

OUR RECORD OF PARTICIPATION

9/27/20 8,238.60
10/4/20 18,446.40
10/11/20 15,943.07

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

Offering received through 10/15/20 -- \$ 612,646

Expenses through 10/15/20 -- \$ 703,496

BALANCE OF BUILDING EXPANSION LOAN

943,158.65

Baptisms:

CiCi Ann Silewski 10/3
Parents: Adam and Greta
Mildred Margaret Silewski 10/3
Parents: Adam and Greta
Anna Fay Silewski 10/3
Parents: Adam and Greta
Greta Ray Podell 10/4
Parents: Jade and Morgan
Haley Grace Nelson 10/11
Parents: Travis and Kristen

Our Prayers & Christian Sympathy To:

The family of Rachel Thompson who died October 2.
Ruby Grove whose husband, Doug Grove, died October 9.
Betty Gregoire whose mother, Iona Anderson, died October 5.
Sandy Peterson whose husband, Robert Peterson, died October 15.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

ALTAR GUILD FUND

In memory of Beulah Staveteig by Bev and Kelly Tompers

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of Dorothy Westlund by ACME Tools employees
In memory of Wayne Westlund by Jeannine Galbreath, ACME Tools employees, James and Sharon Holter
In memory of Beulah Staveteig by Joel and Carolyn Tangen
In memory of Margaret Bollingberg by Robert and Myrna Bower
In memory of Pat Healy by Mark and Gloria Sanford

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP FUND

In memory of Ava Johnson by Richard and Sharon Jurgens, James and Terryl Rood, Family and Friends

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Ava Johnson by Emily Palmer, Mark and Nancy Reinhiller, James and Terryl Rood

FOUNDATION FUND

In memory of Wayne Westlund by Andrew and Gail Swanson, Larry and Ellen Hoiberg
In memory of Dorothy Westlund and Beulah Staveteig by Larry and Ellen Hoiberg
In memory of Stanley Hoistad by Cec Kvande
In memory of Charles Gates by Maurice and Janet Sorlien

FURNANCE FUND

In memory of Charles Gates by Dann and Cris Johnson, Melbourne and Kathleen Hertel

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Dorothy Westlund by Wallace and Sara Bloom, Bernice Goodman, Edith Myron, Glenn and Nancy Roe, Mark and Carol Prosser, Terry and Cheryl Palmer
In memory of Wayne Westlund by Wallace and Sara Bloom; Lawrence and Janet Eickman; Richard and Nancy Linback; Karl and Twila Bollingberg; Barbara Spicer; Dwight and Ruth Thompson; Brian and Kari Perreault; Devera Warcup; Cathy Foy; Sharon Langehaug, George and Nancy Myron, Paul and Julie Saurdiff, Bernice Goodman, Edith Myron, Glenn and Nancy Roe, Mark and Diane Langemo, Mark and Carol Prosser

FUNDS AS OF OCTOBER 2020

Youth	80,654.7
Honduras Mission	8,361.82
Foundation	681,883.5
Good Sam	2,725.85
Refugee	5,994.87
Campership	884.97
Music	5,372.87
Library	2,666.26
Undesignated Memorials	42,633.44
Landscaping	214.98
Contemporary Worship	320
Education	5,735.55
Fine Arts	1,951.28
Missions	28,358.14
Memory Café	5,798.47
Unforgettables Choir	4,809.38
Prayer Chain	12,597.5
LaGrave on First	2,138.54
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,386.17
Coffee Shop	1,762.17
Columbarium	26,374.55
Stephen Ministry	933.75
Operation Technology	956.67
Organ/Piano	904.45
General Maintenance	2,777.96
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	521.91
Hearing Aid Loop	2,037
Furnace	60,493.56
Building Expansion	305,691.45