

April 2026

CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 8

5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. Wednesday School

Sunday, April 12

9:00 a.m. - Traditional
9:00 a.m. - Contemporary
10:30 a.m. - Contemporary
9:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

Wednesday, April 15

5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. Wednesday School

Sunday, April 19

9:00 a.m. - Traditional
9:00 a.m. - Contemporary
10:30 a.m. - Contemporary
9:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

Wednesday, April 22

5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. Wednesday School

Sunday, April 26

9:00 a.m. - Traditional
9:00 a.m. - GIFT Contemporary
10:30 a.m. - GIFT Contemporary
No Sunday School

Wednesday, April 29

5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. Wednesday School

HOLY WEEK



MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 p.m.

5th Grade Communion Service
in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Traditional
Worship in the Sanctuary



GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. Traditional
Worship in the Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Family Friendly
Worship in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Traditional
Worship in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

TRADITIONAL

7:00 a.m

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

A MESSAGE FROM LEAD PASTOR RACHAEL PUTTBRESE

As we move through Lent and draw nearer to the joy of Easter, we do so in a time when many hearts feel both hopeful and heavy. We carry personal longings and quiet griefs while also recognizing the wider context in which we live, being shaped by fear, mistrust, and harsh rhetoric.

In such moments, the Church is invited to remember who we are. We are resurrection people. To confess Christ crucified and risen is not only to recall a past event or anticipate a future promise. It is to allow the cruciform life of Jesus to shape how we live, speak, and relate to one another now.

In our time, we are seeing the language of faith used to justify seeking control, to excuse harm, or to deepen suspicion of neighbors who seem different from us. When this happens, the witness of the Gospel is distorted, and people can struggle to recognize God's healing work among us. The cross calls us to another way.

At the cross, Jesus refuses the patterns of power that seek to crush or control. The cross rejects power that diminishes others and fuels retaliation. Jesus does not answer violence with violence or condemnation with condemnation. Instead, he bears the weight of human sin and suffering, speaking mercy even as he is wounded.

In this, Jesus reveals that God's deepest power is not coercion but self-giving love. The empty tomb proclaims that this love is not weak but life-giving, bringing new life to the whole of creation. Resurrection hope does not deny evil or harm. Rather, it calls us to turn from what leads toward death in our actions, words, and assumptions, and to walk more fully in the way of the resurrected Christ.

This turning is not about shame but transformation. Again and again, God meets us with forgiveness that restores and grace that sends us into the world as bearers of compassion, truth, and courage.

Each Easter, we joyfully proclaim, Christ is risen! Yet the deeper invitation of this proclamation is to live that promise each day. Resisting despair, choosing mercy over suspicion, speaking hope into weary spaces, and trusting that new life is unfolding even where the future feels uncertain.

As we journey through Holy Week into the Easter season together, may the cross steady our hearts and the promise of resurrection renew our vision. May the Spirit shape us into a community whose life reflects the love of the One who gave himself for the healing of the world.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Pastor Rachael



Calvary Connects

GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church

STITCH & CHAT GROUP

April 2 & 16 @ 1:30 p.m.

Meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the Library. This is open to all women who want to bring their "handiwork" for an afternoon of fellowship and crafting.

MEN'S MINISTRY

This group meets on the **first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** here at Calvary in the library. This is an opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation. We hope to see you there!

ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB

April 12 @ 3 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Discover the joy of reading together!

Our All-Ages Book Club is a welcoming space for readers of every generation to share stories, spark conversation, and build community. Each month we explore a new title that's fun, thought-provoking, and perfect for discussion. Come connect through books—you bring the curiosity, we'll bring the stories! **This month we will be reading *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.**

MEMORY CAFE

April 14, 2026 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. | FH

The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The program begins at 1:30 p.m. with Mary Ann Devig, RN presenting *Surviving Alzheimer's for Caregivers, Medical Considerations*. The Memory Cafe is a monthly educational event for people living with Alzheimer's or any other type of dementia and their family, friends and caregivers. All are welcome to attend. The event is free.

CALVARY CLASSICS

April 30 @ 1:30 p.m. | Engelstad Arena

We will meet and enter through the east main doors. Parking is available in the north, south, or southeast lots. Following the tour, we'll head to the Northside Café for pie and coffee, feel free to join us!

Cost: \$6 for the tour (pie and coffee are on your own).

Hope you can make it! Please reach out to Nancy Andrews with any questions.



Our youth are serving up something sweet this Easter Sunday! Join us before and during each service for our "Glaze-y the Lord" donut fundraiser.

Fresh, delicious donuts will be available for a freewill offering, with all proceeds supporting our upcoming summer youth road trip.

It's a simple (and tasty!) way to encourage our students as they prepare for a meaningful summer of faith, fellowship, and growth. Grab a donut and help us Glaze-y the Lord this Easter!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

April 13 @ 6 p.m. | Blue Moose

Love to read? Looking for great conversation and new perspectives? Our Reading Religiously Book Club is the perfect place to dive into engaging stories, share ideas, and connect with fellow book lovers. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just getting started, all are welcome.

We will meet on the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Moose in East Grand Forks. Grab a copy of *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy and meet us at the Blue Moose.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

April 28 in the Fellowship Hall

We would like to encourage you to join us on the last Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 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.

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR CONCERT

The Unforgettables Choir will present their annual **Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. Lunch will be served following the program for a freewill donation to support the choir. We are looking for people to help serve lunch that day. Please talk to Mary Ann Devig or Diane Stoley if you are willing to help! You may also call the church office at 701-772-4897.

Highlights of Church Council

Faith Formation & Youth

Education and youth ministries continue to nurture growing faith through milestone events, worship participation, service opportunities, and intentional planning for the future of confirmation programming, staffing needs, and summer learning experiences.

Worship & Congregational Life

Holy Week preparations, Lenten worship leadership by confirmation students, and review of the summer worship schedule (beginning Sunday, May 24, with one weekly 10:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary through Labor Day weekend), there is no Wednesday worship in the summer. Ten weddings planned for 2026 and upcoming congregational events reflect a vibrant and active shared life in worship and fellowship.

Pastoral Care & Leadership

Council is assembling a call committee for an Associate Pastor. Council also supports Pr. Rachael's ongoing efforts to strengthen lay leadership and to explore additional ways of providing pastoral support in worship, visitation ministries, and other areas of care while awaiting the call of an Associate Pastor.

Stewardship & Financial Oversight

Financial contributions and expenses remain generally aligned with the approved budget. Early-year expenses were higher due to the annual property insurance payment. As the year progresses, additional income is expected to balance this variance. Council continues careful financial monitoring and expresses deep gratitude for the congregation's faithful generosity.

Facilities & Technology Planning

Council is exploring long-term solutions for sanctuary projection technology and pursuing grant opportunities for worship space improvements and organ updates. Current discussion includes the possibility of installing a single LED wall to replace existing projectors and screens, offering improved visual clarity and longer life expectancy. The LED wall proposals and installation will be reviewed at the April council meeting.

Mission & Community Engagement

Opportunities for service and outreach continue through backpack programs, book drives, Feed My Starving Children participation, Mental Health Sunday with a special guest speaker, and enriching community partnerships that extend Calvary's presence and care beyond our walls.

Organizational Leadership & Planning

Pastor Rachael continues work on staffing structure, updating job descriptions, and assessing staffing needs. The transition to Advanced Business Methods IT services is underway and will provide much-needed 24/7 support, technology improvements, and overall care for the diverse IT needs of a congregation and staff of our size. Council is also seeking Synod Assembly delegates to represent Calvary June 5-7, continuing review of long-range planning and stewardship to support healthy and sustainable ministry and growth.

Next Council Meeting: April 14 @ 6:30 p.m.
(Full council minutes upon request.)

2026 Mission Plan

2026 Proposed Mission Plan	1,014,205.00
Offering through 3/16/26	187,084.62
Expenses through 3/16/26	206,952.30

Balance of Building Expansion Loan as of 3/31/26	122,445.25
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Memorials

BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of John Knudson by Ruth Larson,
Delores Peterson

In memory of Gloria Towers by Ruth Larson

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of John Knudson by Joanne Davison

GENERAL FUND

In memory of John Knudson by Terry and
Judith Paukert, Lawrence and Kay Roch,
Laurie Christianson, Mary Dawn Coulter,
David and Rita Parker & family

In memory of Joseph LaBelle, Sr., and Muriel LaBelle
by Joseph LaBelle, Jr., and Mavis Labelle

In memory of Mandi Skavlem by Bruce and
Mary Hanson

Foundation Grant Deadline

Due: Wednesday April 8 @ 4 p.m.

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). Foundation grant applications are being accepted through Wednesday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. Applications can be emailed to heather.vandervort@calvarygf.org or brought to the church office.

Stewardship Corner



Stewardship is about far more than dollars and cents. It is a way of life shaped by gratitude, trust, and love. As people of faith, we respond to God's abundance by sharing who we are and what we have for the sake of God's mission in the world.

This month, we remember:

Stewardship is everything we do after we say, "I believe."

Our congregation's **Mission Plan** reflects how we live out God's call together in worship, learning, care, service, and outreach.

Generosity is not measured by amount, but by **faithfulness of heart**.

Scripture reminds us that *God loves a cheerful giver* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

We are stewards of our **time, talents, relationships, creation, and resources**.

Every gift becomes part of the **shared story of ministry** we live together.

Faithful generosity grows as stewardship becomes a regular practice of faith.

Watch for this Stewardship Corner each month as we grow together in faithful generosity and our shared calling as stewards of God's abundant gifts.

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members



Phillip, Bailey & Harvey Oswald



Rachael & Randy Puttbrese



Mark & Diane Lien



Tanika Norquay,
Michaela Grubb,
and family:
Shaylen Beston
Keirsten Norquay
Andreas Norquay



Cheri Neuroth



Sharon Martens



Baden, Emily & Nolan Ripplinger

New Members Not Pictured

Dan & Lauren Christy
Children: Carrollyn & Ava

Shannon Pochant

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Embrace differences and spread understanding



The Calvary All-Inclusive Team invites you to grow in awareness and care for others through the special recognitions highlighted each month. In April, we lift up World Autism Month, a time to promote acceptance, inclusion, understanding, and support for autistic individuals and their families. We also recognize National Arab American Heritage Month, honoring the rich history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans in our communities and nation.

As people of faith, we are called to deepen our compassion and care for all of God's beloved children. Throughout this month, we invite you to hold in prayer and loving awareness autistic individuals and their families, as well as our Arab American neighbors and communities, seeking ways to grow in understanding, respect, and faithful care.

Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, You create each person with unique gifts and beloved dignity. Open our hearts to deeper understanding and patient care. Bless autistic individuals and their families with encouragement and joy. We give thanks for the heritage and contributions of Arab American neighbors. Help us to listen well, welcome fully, and love generously, so that all your children may flourish in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mental Health Sunday, April 19

On **Sunday, April 19**, Calvary will observe Mental Health Sunday, a day set aside to help remove stigma, encourage honest conversation, and affirm the importance of caring for our mental and emotional well-being. As people of faith, we believe that naming our struggles is not a sign of weakness but a step toward healing. Whether our challenges are seasonal, situational, or long-term, we are invited to bring our whole and authentic selves before God — trusting that we are welcomed, heard, and lovingly cared for.

Mental health is not something we navigate alone. Faith and community are vital support systems that help us accompany one another with compassion, patience, and hope. This Sunday will offer space for reflection, encouragement, and renewed commitment to caring for ourselves and our neighbors.

We are grateful to welcome guest speaker David Myles, who will share a brief portion of his story during all three morning worship services. David has deep connections to the Grand Forks community and to Calvary. His life journey includes overcoming significant personal challenges related to identity, self-esteem, health struggles, and mental health. Through resilience, faith, and the support of others, he has transformed those experiences into a calling to encourage and uplift people around the world. Today, David serves as an international speaker, pastor, educator, and leader who inspires others to live with courage and hope.

David will also be present for coffee and conversation between services, offering an opportunity for informal connection and continued dialogue.

Calvary Lutheran Church

Calvary Lutheran Church was established in 1953 after the announcement of the establishment was made by Reverend L.E. Tallakson of Fargo, president of the North Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Location

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Contact

701-772-4897
place4u@calvarygf.org

Our Worship Services Sunday*

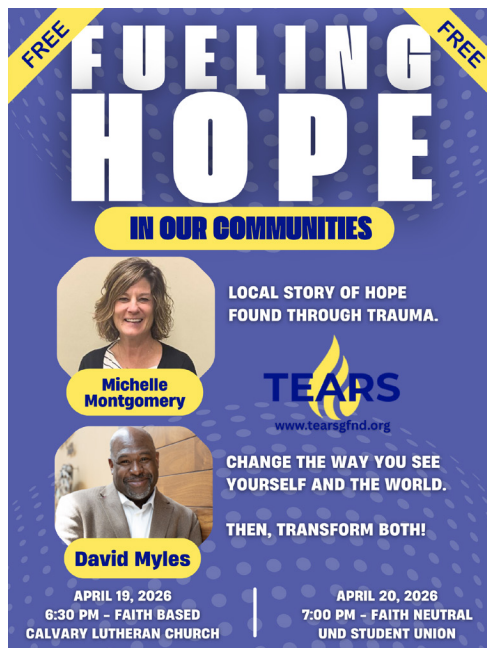
9 a.m. - Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday*

5:30 p.m. - Sanctuary
*Holiday and summer services may have different times.

All services are streamed online.

calvarygf.org



FREE FUELING HOPE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Michelle Montgomery
LOCAL STORY OF HOPE FOUND THROUGH TRAUMA.

TEARS
www.tearsgfnd.org

David Myles
CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE YOURSELF AND THE WORLD. THEN, TRANSFORM BOTH!

APRIL 19, 2026
6:30 PM - FAITH BASED
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 20, 2026
7:00 PM - FAITH NEUTRAL
UND STUDENT UNION

In partnership with the TEARS organization, David will speak again at a free community event on Sunday evening in Calvary's Fellowship Hall, with additional programming taking place Monday, April 20, at the UND Memorial Union. We give thanks for TEARS' partnership and shared commitment to increasing awareness, providing resources, and strengthening community support around mental health.

These events are open to all and offered free of charge. We encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, and family members, and to make plans to join us for this meaningful and hope-filled Sunday as we continue to grow together in compassion, understanding, and care.

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1. Text**
701-922-9020
- 2. Online**
at calvarygf.org
- 3. In worship**
Drop a gift in the offering plate
- 4. Mail checks or money order**
Calvary Lutheran Church
1405 South 9th St
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Looking to donate your time?

Call 701-772-4897 or
Email place4u@calvarygf.org



A Lewis & Clark Partnership

Calvary's It Takes a Village partnership with our neighboring school, Lewis and Clark, continues to thrive in its fourth year of supporting the backpack meal program. This ministry allows us to live out our call to compassion by helping meet the nutritional needs of food-insecure children in our partner school. Each week, students receive weekend meals who might otherwise go hungry.

It costs approximately \$100 to support one child for an entire school year, and we invite you to consider sponsoring one or more students for the 2025–2026 school year. Every contribution, large or small, makes a meaningful difference.

For those who prefer to donate food items, collection tables are located outside each worship space, and an Amazon wish list is available for items shipped directly to Calvary.

Together, we truly can create a village of care around the children at Lewis and Clark.
In March we packed 648 meals.



Items For Backpacks

Ramen noodles - chicken flavor
Soup or noodle cups
Mac and cheese cups
Cans of chicken noodle soup
Instant oatmeal packets
Fruit cups/applesauce
Individually packed snack items not containing nuts
Juice boxes (100% juice)

Backpack Packing

Volunteers are needed to assist in filling bags on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the church narthex.

Our next meeting date to pack is April 21.

Sponsoring a Child

It costs roughly \$100 to sponsor one child for the entire school year. We ask that you consider sponsoring one or more so we can meet our goal of providing for all students. Your sponsorship provides food and support for a child in need. It's a simple way to make a lasting impact one student, one life, one future changed.

Thanks to your generosity, approximately 31 students are currently sponsored for the school year! Let's keep going and see how many more we can support.

Give \$100 cash or \$100 check designated to Sponsoring a Child to our Finance Director, Heather, or donate online by scanning the QR code then click over to one-time gift, press the drop down and click Lewis & Clark, press second drop down and click Sponsor a Child.





Calvary's It Takes A Village Ministry is helping Lewis & Clark Elementary students **FLOAT INTO SUMMER!**
Can you help?

The Fourth Annual Float into Summer Book Fair will take place on May 18, 2026. We are excited to once again send students home with books they love to help keep reading alive throughout the summer.

To make this possible, we need your help! We are collecting book donations or monetary contributions to purchase books that students can choose from during their final days of school.

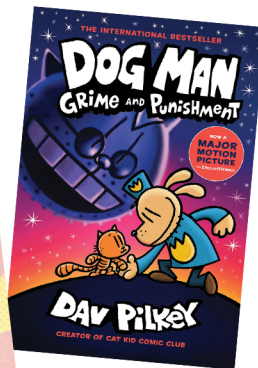
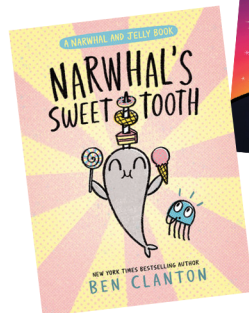
You may donate one or more books anytime between now and Sunday, May 10. All books should be new or in like-new condition and appropriate for children ages 5–12. Please avoid board books, books with sounds or moving parts, and any books that contain writing or marks inside.

You may also use the QR codes provided to purchase books online and have them shipped directly to Calvary. Donation baskets will be available at the worship entrances, or books can be dropped off at the church office.

Thank you for helping put great books into the hands of our young readers! If you have any questions, please contact Julie in the church office.

BOOK SERIES & IDEAS

Pizza & Taco
Elephant & Piggie
Animal Rescue
Pete the Cat
Investigators
Wings of Fire
Amulet
Cat Kid



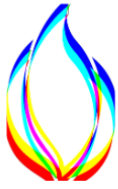
Scan to see our registries!



Target



Amazon



CALVARY
Confirmation

Youth and CONFIRMATION



Last Call for signups! The Calvary Youth are getting ready to HIT THE ROAD this summer with our Summer Youth Service Learning Roadtrip! We are setting the GPS to adventure as we explore the areas of Chicago, Pigeon Forge, TN, and North Carolina. Along the way, we aim to find fun, ways to learn from and love our neighbors, and what God is calling us to in the open road of life. The itinerary is set, sacks are being packed, all we need is YOU! The signup deadline is approaching fast, contact Nichole with any questions!

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Confirmation

UPCOMING CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES



CORE CLASSES

Bible Basics | 7 Habits | Creeds & Commandments | Sacraments & the Lord's Prayer
Wednesdays | April 8, 15, 22, 29 | 7-8PM

To sign up **VISIT CALVARYGF.ORG/CONFIRMATION**

- Registration Deadline, Wed. April 1
- These conclude our 2025/2026 school year classes



NURSERY & COFFEE SHOP

Contact Nichole or Allie to sign up

Our last confirmation for the 2025/2026 school year classes will be April 8-29.



Senior RECOGNITION

Sunday | May 17 | 9 & 10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mark your calendars for our Senior Recognition Sunday happening on **May 17**. Join us to celebrate and pray for our seniors as they prepare to graduate.

Middle School

YOUTH EVENT

with **METIGOSHE MINISTRIES**



- ✓ GRADES 6-8
- ✓ CAMP GAMES
- ✓ PIZZA
- ✓ FUN

April 26 12 PM



Kids & Family



March GIFT Worship Recap

Our March GIFT worship invited us to explore different ways to pray together. After worship, Calvary families spent time moving through a variety of prayer stations—lighting candles for our neighbors, blowing our worries away with bubbles, writing Easter egg prayers, and creating prayer bead bracelets. It was a joyful and meaningful time for families to pause, reflect, and spend time talking with God as we continue our journey through Lent.



April GIFT Sunday

We have one GIFT worship gathering left this year, and we hope you will join us on April 26 for Camp Sunday. We look forward to welcoming our friends from Metigoshe Ministries and sharing in a morning of worship and connection. We are grateful to keep creating opportunities for families to gather, worship, and grow in faith together.

GENERATIONS *in faith* TOGETHER

CAMP SUNDAY

4.26.2024 | 9AM | 10:30AM

COME AND HEAR ABOUT CAMP!

All are invited to an intergenerational worship service led by our friends at Metigoshe Ministries.




CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DRIVE THRU DONUTS & COFFEE!

May 28

7:00-9:00 AM

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Donut Day - Mark Your Calendars!

Let us help you celebrate the last day of school with drive-thru donuts and coffee in our parking lot.

Calvary VBS

Save the dates of June 8- 11 for Vacation Bible School fun! We will dive into "Snowball Mountain Challenge" where we will find our strength in God. Ollie the arctic seal will guide us through an exciting winter sports event full of new challenges, friends and ways to learn that with God's help we can do more than we ever thought possible.



Upcoming Dates

- April 2- Fifth Grade Communion Celebration
- April 4- Easter-Egged fundraiser
- April 5- No Sunday School
- April 26- GIFT Camp Sunday

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Grand Forks, ND
Permit NO 342

CALVARY STAFF

Pastor: Rachael Puttbrese
Finance: Heather Vandervort
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt
Education: Nichole Bye
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen
Facilities Manager: Danny Navarro

A Decorated Table Event
& Online Quilt Auction

**11th ANNUAL
AROUND
OUR TABLE**

**Saturday, April 18 at
Calvary Lutheran
Church Fellowship Hall**
1405 S. 9th St., Grand Forks, ND

- Donate a Quilt or Quilted Item
- Host a Decorated Table
- Purchase a Seat for Brunch

Contact for more info:
Kayla Gust | 701.787.7989
kgust@valleyseniorliving.org

Purchase Tickets
Scan the QR code
or visit our website:
valleyseniorliving.org



- Calvary Lutheran Church - Grand Forks
- @calvarygf
- @calvarygrandforks