

# CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

May 2025



Blessed Easter! We have arrived on the other side of Lent and Holy Week. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Thank you to all those Calvary members and friends who joined us for worship during Holy Week. There was so much joy in the faces of the Sunday School children on Palm Sunday. We had meaningful Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. **Calvary had nearly 1600 people in worship at the five Easter Sunday morning services, this is 200 more people than last year!** While numbers only tell part of the story of what's happening here at Calvary, the joy of being together in community is evident. In May we turn our attention to Mother's Day, **the Sr. Recognition Sunday on May 18**, and the ending of another school year. Don't forget to stop by Calvary before school on **May 29 for Drive-Thru Donuts!** And in June, we anticipate VBS June 9-12.

Lastly, a reminder that on **Sunday, May 25 we will begin our combined summer worship at 10 a.m.** This year, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall.





## **“GOD WHO IS LIKE A MOTHER” – LANGUAGE FOR ADDRESSING GOD PASTOR JARED CARSON**

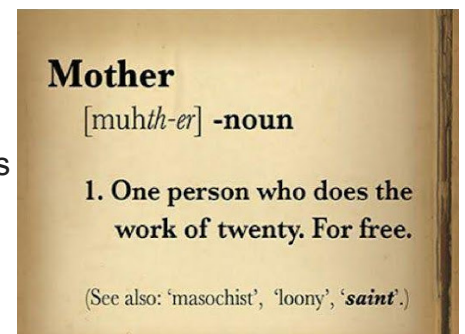


Language matters. Language has power to shape our thinking. Language both reflects and forms our attitudes and actions. In 2013, the ELCA revised a worship FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document called, “How is language used in worship?” This document helps pastors, worship leaders, and others think about how we use language. Copies of this resource are available online. The document says, “As language shapes and influences human perceptions, the language we use for God shapes and influences our perceptions of God.” It’s important that we take time to consider the language we use to describe God and the language we use to address (or call out to) God. It is commonly agreed upon in Christian theology that God is beyond physical gender. And it is true that God has often been described using masculine language. Because language is created and used by humans, it reflects the imperfections and limitations of our humanness. Therefore, no use of language can ever totally describe or represent the fullness of God. This is not an excuse, nor does it give us permission to be careless with our words. Instead, we should be more aware of the language we use.

As we approach Mother’s Day, we can use the simile, “God who is like a mother” to contemplate the ways God nurtures and tends to each of us and all creation. And when we use feminine imagery for God, it is more suggestive of the loving and trusting relationship between a parent and a child. Think about the text of Psalm 91:1-4, which likens God’s protection to that of the wing of a mothering bird or hen. Perhaps it is this Psalm that Jesus has in mind when he expresses his desire to gather up the broken and bruised people of Jerusalem “like a mothering hen” in Luke 13:34. The Hebrew word for Spirit used in the Old Testament is a feminine noun and uses a feminine definite article.

Mother’s Day can be a challenging day for some people. We recognize that because of human sin, not everyone has good experiences with parents that are all together positive, even mothers. We grieve that some people experience pain on this day. And I invite us to contemplate the good maternal relationships that we have/had with our mothers or others who have been a mothering presence in our lives. We give thanks to God for them! These positive references give us glimpses and experiences that we can use as attributes for God’s parental presence in our lives.

I believe this quote from the Jodie Picoult book *My Sister’s Keeper*, sums up my experience with moms and our mothering God every well. “(24/7) once you sign on to be a mother, that’s the only shift they offer.” Many of us may recognize the laborious and exhausting task of mothers. We can see this image of maternal love in the faces of our own parents, friends, co-workers, others in our congregation, and even when we look in the mirror. This 24/7/365 labor of love is God’s maternal expression for creation and everything in it. God is just this motherly toward us. God who made humanity, both male and female, in God’s own likeness. Scripture shows us a motherly God who invites us to be just as ardent in our own walk of faith, as we tend and nurture the faith of others.



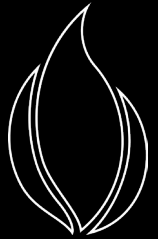
[www.UShumor.com](http://www.UShumor.com)

So, this Mother’s Day, we give thanks to mothers and those who have been like mothers in our lives. For they have been formed in God’s likeness, and they have the ability to reveal for us a glimpse of the God we meet in scripture. Blessed Mother’s Day, thanks be to God for you!

Faithfully yours,

Pr. Jared Carson





### **MEN'S MINISTRY**

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. here at Calvary. This is an opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation. We hope to see you there!

### **KNIT & CROCHET**

**May 17 @ 10:00 a.m. in the Library**

The knit and crochet group will meet one last Saturday morning to work on prayer shawls or their own projects. After this month the Knit & Crochet group have decided to join up with the Sewing Club and meet during their scheduled times, the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the library.

### **ALL-AGES BOOK CLUB**

Join us in the month of June as we read *The Ghostkeeper*. We will meet on Wednesday, June 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK**

**May 27**

We would like to encourage you to join us the last Tuesday of each 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.

### **FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX**

During the school year, join us on the first Friday of each month at Christus Rex, the Lutheran campus church at UND, as we come together to prepare and serve lunch for our campus community! Whether you enjoy cooking, setting up, or simply helping serve, your time and hands are needed. It's a great opportunity to connect with others, make a difference, and share a meal with friends and students. We'd love to have you be a part of this fun and meaningful way to serve our community—if you are interested, contact Nichole Bye or Julie Pedersen.

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

**May 5**

Midco will be working on updating our equipment and services from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on this day. All internet and phone services will be down, so the office will be closed.

### **SEWING CLUB**

**May 1 & 15 @ 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.

### **READING RELIGIOUSLY**

Our next Reading Religiously will be Thursday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Blue Moose. The reservation is in the name of Calvary Lutheran Church, and we will be discussing the book *The Book of Essie* by Meghan Maclean Weir.

### **CALVARY CLASSICS**

Calvary Classics will be gathering for a potluck on May 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions reach out to Julie Pedersen at the front office.

### **THE UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR**

The Unforgettables Choir will present their Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. A light lunch will be served following the concert for a freewill donation to support the choir.

The Unforgettables Choir is a 50-voice community chorus for people living with early to middle stage dementia and a care partner. They meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, on a semestertype schedule, from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for Coffee and Conversation followed by rehearsal from 10:15-11:30 a.m. We sing music that is familiar to most singers and also try a few songs that are new to many. No choral experience is necessary and all are welcome to join us. You may call Mary Ann in the church office at 701-772-4897 for questions or more information.

### **MEMORY CAFE**

The Memory Cafe will not be held in May. Instead, you are invited to attend the Unforgettables Concert the following day on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary. The Empowered Caregiver - Exploring Care and Support Services will be presented when the Memory Cafe resumes this fall on September 9, 2025.

# Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT**

Income in March continued the trend of the first two months of the year with lower-than-expected monthly gifts. Easter did occur in March of 2024 which made the difference on the monthly level, but a number of factors could contribute to the lower monthly gifts. Timing of events in the church year, timing of large gifts or an overall lower giving pattern could all contribute to the monthly gift level.

March events included burning of the palms for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lenten meals and worship, Calvary Classics potluck and a Family Glow Dance. The last two years the Lenten meals have been served by a different Calvary group each week. It is always fun to see new faces each week sharing their culinary gifts with the congregation. This year our Family Glow Dance was hosted in collaboration with Sharon and United Lutheran Churches. Noisy offering was collected for Feed My Starving Children in the amount of \$1,098.30.

Year-to-date income through March was 9% lower than the five-year average while expenses were 6% lower for the same time period. Calvary has so many opportunities to “be the church” each week. We pray our members and friends take those weekly opportunities and invest their time, talents, and treasures in their church home.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Call Committee**

The Call Committee continues to meet and is preparing interview questions. They gave an update on Palm Sunday at all three services. Please continue to pray for them.

### **Worship**

Extra service added for Easter Sunday in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. helped a lot. There were five total worship options this year.

Summer worship schedule will begin on May 25 with a combined 10 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall. A Wednesday option will be offered with the time to be determined. It is still being planned out by the staff.

### **Safety Grant**

A letter was written to Walter and Barbara E. Reishus-Pedersen Lutheran Foundation.

Purpose of the letter to address the unspent security fund grant from Oct 2020.

Waiting to hear back from the Foundation regarding the approval to redirect the remaining \$4.2k of funds to use for updated technology.

### **New Computers**

Working on an inventory of all equipment to determine a purchase rotation of equipment.

**Next Council Meeting: May 13 @ 6:30 p.m.**



We had 20 people participate in our first Great Conversation on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Participants enjoyed the format, the civil dialogue and sharing. Calvary will host another Great Conversation on family values. We invite anyone interested in participating in the civil dialogue process to join us Sunday, June 1 at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us and engage in a Great Conversation!



## 2025 BUDGET

<b>2025 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>1,041,258.00</b>
Offering through 4/15/25	225,072.27
Expenses through 4/15/25	269,408.46

<b>Balance of Building Expansion Loan</b>	
as of 4/30/25	577,817.60

## Foundation Grant

**Grants approved on April 17, 2025**  
**Amount, Individual/Group, Purpose**

\$2,500, Nichole Bye, Day Bible Camp  
 \$3,798, Cathy Bubb, Paper Folding Machine  
 \$5,000, Jessica Gulseth, Red Willow Bible  
 Camp Door Repair

Calvary's Foundation is thankful or the  
 continued support from members and friends to  
 grow the Foundation.

## Noisy Offerings Collected Lewis & Clark Float into Summer Book Drive \$2017.17



## BAPTISM

**4-6-25** Anna Reece Larson &  
 Alexandra Lynn Larson  
 Children of Melanie & Sean Larson  
**4-18-25** Charlotte Helene Bratcher  
 Child of Hannah & Jaxen Bratcher

## FUND BALANCES

Youth	51,228.62
Honduras Mission	33,256.86
Foundation	803,375.73
Good Samaritan	3,831.93
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,548.10
Music	1,573.27
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	11,703.97
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,124.39
Education	723.23
Fine Arts	1,153.54
Missions	36,209.32
Quilting	2,596.79
Memory Café	14,208.35
Unforgettables Choir	14,072.57
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	3,211.20
Lewis & Clark Backpack	9,207.70
Hymnal & Bible Fund	2,059.63
Coffee Shop	3,126.99
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	6,935.84
Organ/Piano	0.00
General Maintenance	4,435.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	6,026.03
Building Expansion	378,729.04
Seminary	503.95



## MEMORIALS



### FOUNDATION

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Sharon Gates

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Charles and Colleen Zick, Wallace and Sara Bloom, Ronald Apanian, Richard and Kathleen McWaters, Judi Ritterman

In memory of **Megan Ramsey** by Gretchen Ramsey

In memory of **Mandi Skavlem** by Bruce and Mary Hanson

### GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

In memory of **Joyce Jarombek** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

### MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of **Lyle Beiswenger** by Joy Bostrom

### UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Gordon Hill** by friends and family

## Prayers & Sympathies

Please reach out to the front office if you have any prayer requests @ 701-772-4897.

Thain Bouvette and Sarah Lundeby's mother, Marsha Bouvette, died 3-4-2025.

Steve Hill's father, Gordon Hill, died 3-7-25.

Rosie Engen's sister, Orphie Vraa, died 3-24-25.

Tanner Altendorf's father, Duane Altendorf, died 3-30-25.

Doris Lambie died 4-6-25.

Kathy Ramsay's brother, Chester Yon, died 4-12-25.

Laurie Spanier's brother, Mike Spanier, died 4-12-25.

Dolores Olson died 4-26-25. Janelle Holth is her daughter.

Bernie Hougum's granddaughter, Mickey Hapka, died 4-26-25.

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.





## Mary Ann Devig, RN recognized for her work with the Unforgettables Choir and Memory Cafe

Calvary's Parish Nurse, Mary Ann Devig, was honored with a Public Health Champion Award during the Grand Forks City Council's meeting on April 7 as part of National Public Health Week.

Mary Ann, who created the Memory Cafe in 2015 and the Unforgettables Choir in 2018, was awarded for her work with people living with dementia and their caregivers.

"I wasn't recognized for this award in a bubble," Mary Ann said. "I have been blessed with an incredible team of volunteers who have carried me and the programs over the years. Diane Stoley, Rhonda Poellot, Jan Haas, Paula Danielson, Karen Knudsvig and Deb Canton show up every week to provide love, support, compassion, acceptance (and food) for our choir members and Memory Cafe participants. Calvary's support for these programs has been invaluable in enabling us to provide a warm, welcoming place for community members affected by dementia. I am so grateful for the love and support Calvary has shown for these programs."



## Calvary Choir Hosts "The Midwestern Mom" for Their Yearly Jello Competition



Every year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, the choir holds a Jello competition as part of a retreat.

This year's winners, voted by the Midwestern Mom are:

Ric Mott - 1st place

Elaine Einarson - 2nd place

Whitney Berry - honorary mention





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

We are excited to send students home with a selection of books to keep their love of reading alive throughout the summer! To make this possible, we need your help in filling baskets of books that students can choose from during their final days of school.

We have added a week for our deadline. You can now donate one or more books anytime between now and Sunday, May 10. All books should be new or in like-new condition and suitable for children ages 5-12. Please avoid board books, books with sounds or moving parts, and any books with writing or marks inside. Thank you for supporting our young readers!

## BOOK SERIES & IDEAS

**Pizza & Taco**  
**Elephant & Piggie**  
**Peanut, Butter, & Crackers**  
**Narwahl & Jelly**  
**Pete the Cat**  
**Investigators**  
**Wings of Fire**  
**Amulet**  
**Dog Man**  
**Cat Kid**  
**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**  
**I Survived (Graphic Novels)**



*Scan here for*



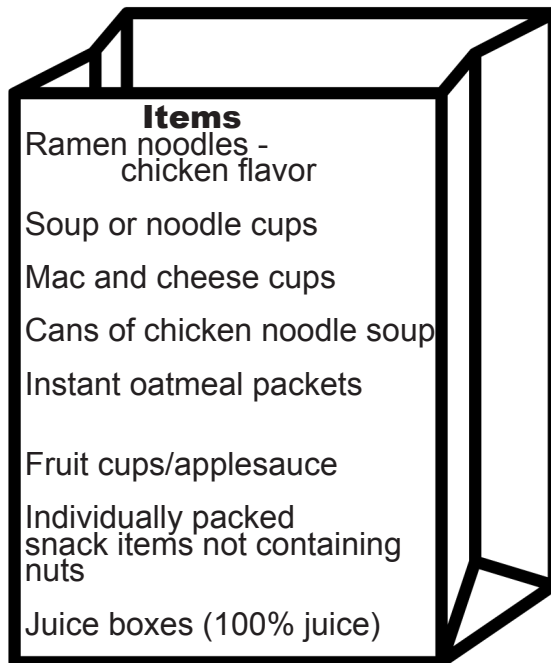
*registry details*





## It Takes a Village

Calvary's "It Takes a Village" partnership with Lewis and Clark is ready for another year of supporting the back-pack program. We are called to have compassion and be in service for others. One of the ways we answer this call is by meeting the nutritional needs of children in need in our partner school. This program provides meals for the weekend for food-insecure students at Lewis and Clark.



This school year we have provided a little over 6200 meals for food-insecure students at Lewis and Clark. Thanks to everyone who helped us have another successful year of providing meals for our neighborhood school. April was our last packing date for the school year, and we will filled a total of 1188 bags for both the month of May and the month of September.

Thank you for all the help you have provided!

## 4 WAYS TO Give

### TEXT



TEXT ANY \$  
701-922-9020

### ONLINE



GIVE ONLINE AT  
[CALVARYGF.ORG](http://CALVARYGF.ORG)

### IN WORSHIP



DROP A GIFT IN  
THE OFFERING PLATE

### MAIL



MAIL A GIFT TO  
CALVARY



# Youth and **CONFIRMATION**

## High School Youth Group



THURSDAYS  
7PM-8:30

**STARTING MAY 8TH  
7 PM**

MEETING IN HOLY GROUNDS!



**CALVARY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

### **Senior Recognition**

Graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend our 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on May 18. As your time as seniors draws to a close, we want to celebrate this significant milestone with you and honor your achievements in a meaningful way. Join us for a service dedicated to recognizing and celebrating your hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.

### **High School Youth Group**

We are very excited to offer another opportunity for the youth of Calvary to get together and build community through their shared faith! High school students (9th-12th grades) are invited to join Chelsea for snacks, games, and fun! We will meet on Thursday nights, starting on Thursday, May 8, in Holy grounds. All are welcome, come as you are!

As we are wrapping up our last session of confirmation, please keep an eye out for email alerts, starting in Mid-May with information about upcoming summer adventures! As replacement for the big trip, we will be taking multiple smaller trips throughout the summer. From day trips to weekend adventures, we will have something for everyone!

Do not hesitate to reach out to Chelsea if you have any questions or concerns! Chelsea can be reached by email: [chelsea@calvarygf.org](mailto:chelsea@calvarygf.org) or phone at the church: (701) 772-4897 ext. 207

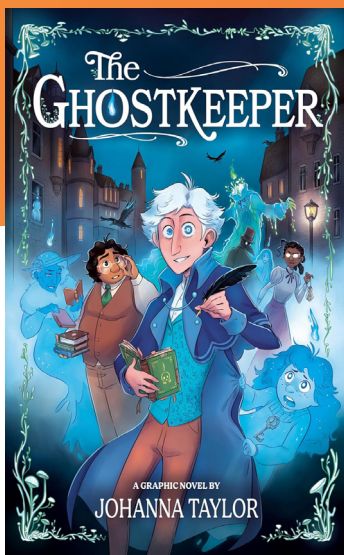
### **SPARK Middle School Youth Group**

SPARK Middle School Youth Group - Wednesday, May 7, at 8-9 p.m.

After confirmation, middle school youth are invited to stay for SPARK Middle School Youth Group. Youth will meet in the basement. Chelsea Helland will be the lead staff person.

Parent and adult volunteers are needed to help make SPARK a success!





### All-Ages Book Club

Join us on June 18 at 4:30 p.m. as we read *The Ghostkeeper*. This book club is open to all generations and we come together to read and have a group activity.



### Donut Day: May 29

You did it! You made it through another year of growing and learning! Let us help you celebrate the last day of school with donuts and iced coffee! Drive through our parking lot from 7:00-9:00 a.m. for a yummy treat! Everyone is invited!



### Save the Date for VBS!

We are so excited to be “on the go with God” this summer at Vacation Bible school! June 9-12 we will be celebrating the amazing fact that God is with us wherever we go through stories, songs, crafts, games and of course snacks! Gas up your tank and join us for a week of fun and faith. Look for registration soon on our website and facebook!

### Upcoming Important Dates

#### May 7

Last day of Wednesday school  
Ice cream social

#### May 11

Last day of Sunday school  
Ice cream social

#### May 29

Donut Day!!

#### June 9-12

Vacation Bible School

#### June 26

Splash into Faith- Day camp at Riverside Park

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1405 South 9th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

(701) 772-4897

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### CALVARY STAFF

Interim Pastor: Jared Carson  
Finance: Heather Vandervort  
Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Devig, RN  
Communications and Tech: Marcus Mandt  
Education: Nichole Bye  
Receptionist: Cathy Bubb  
Director of Faith in Action: Julie Pedersen  
Building & Grounds: Danny Navarro  
Youth: Chelsea Helland



### CAN YOU HELP?

#### DONATE NEW OR VERY GENTLY USED BOOKS

To buy a book on the registry, scan the code with your phone. Monetary donations may be made in the church office or online.



Calvary Lutheran Church -  
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



@calvarygrandforks