



CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

February 2025



Well, January has come and gone so quickly! The winter weather has hit temperate highs and bitter lows. Yes, as individuals we know how to adapt to the changing weather. The same can be said about Calvary's ability to adapt. We celebrated the mission and ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church by holding the congregation's Annual Meeting within the context of a worship service. Pastor Jared and the staff hope that this was a meaningful way to share about many ministries that are happening here at Calvary. We also said farewell and godspeed to Morgan Olson who has been a faithful Youth Ministry Coordinator for the past six years. We wish her well as she embarks on an exciting new journey.

Calvary is resilient and adaptive as this congregation responds to challenges and circumstances. Calvary has not been afraid to try new things. On February 2, the Calvary Classics are joining our young families in a Valentine's Milestone Event, a first of its kind event! We are also hosting a family-friendly Super Bowl Watch Party, Sunday, February 9. Come! Enjoy the fellowship of others at Calvary as we watch the big game. Whether you prefer the commercials or the game itself, we recognize that it is about being together and enjoying one another's company. Additionally, the Call Committee is beginning their work of interviewing possible candidates to be the Lead Pastor. Yes, things are changing or in transition, but Calvary is skilled at navigating these conditions. The more we look, the more we see that everything is changing. As individuals and a congregation, we can learn to become more comfortable in liminal moments. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we express our love for Calvary's adaptability as we respond with Christ's love to a changing world. Amen and thanks be to God.

WHAT IS AT THE HEART PASTOR JARED CARSON



I enjoy chocolate hearts, meaningful cards, beautiful flowers, delicious dinner dates, and soft plush animals as much as anyone, but the heart of Valentine's Day is not about the things that we buy for those we love. The stories and legends of St. Valentine abound, but at the core of these stories we know that he was a witness and martyr to the faith of God in Christ Jesus. Love is all about being in relationship. The Gary Chapman's 1995 book, *The Five Love Languages*, he reminds us that love is shared and received in many ways. Knowing and understanding the love language that most resonates with you and those with whom we share our love and affections is what makes love powerful. The five "love languages" are: gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service (devotion), and physical touch (intimacy). The challenge for some of us is that we have learned how to use and express only some of these love languages, and we are not very good at those. Or we employ the shadow side of love, which is the manipulative way we display love in order to trigger a response that we desire.

Here is where Chapman and the Christian faith in God through Jesus have confluence. As we sit on this side of Glory's veil, some of us might wonder if we are loved by God. Is God like us with our half-hearted and manipulative attempts to love? After all, we hear people quote scripture saying, "We were made in God's image". Can God completely love without being manipulative? Yes, this is where the stories of faith found in the Bible point to God's complete and total love for the whole creation in the person and life of Jesus Christ.

"And all these things are from God (being able to see the world and all people as new creations in Christ) who reconciled us to [God's own self] through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, in Christ, God was reconciling the [whole universe] to [God's own self], not counting people's trespasses against them, and [Christ] has given us the message of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making [God's own] plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "[Live] reconciled to God!" (Pr. Jared's translation of 2 Cor. 5:18-20, adapted from NET)

Without manipulation, God gives the gift of God's own self in the incarnation of Jesus which is intended to restore us. God gives gifts of daily bread that are meant to sustain the world and all people. God provides family and friends who are to be caring and compassionate. God in Jesus breaks into human history and walks with us, offering us examples of quality time in relationship, acts of service and healing touch. By God's Spirit, we are empowered to be Christ's ambassadors bringing service and touching the lives of others. God in Christ offers us spoken assurance and displays affirmations of God's love and intent, even from the cross. Scripture bears witnesses to how God's action uses Chapman's five love languages to demonstrate to the world the power of divine love.

We recall also in the scriptures that "Perfect love casts out fear [or hatred]" (1 John 4:18). At the beginning of this new year, remember that we are a new creation in Christ Jesus and called to be ambassadors of Christ. By our baptism into Christ, "we are called to welcome all, following the example of Christ," as our baptismal liturgy says. Because of what God has done for us, our mission is to go into the whole world to share God's love through gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, and physical touch. While God utilizes every pathway to express love, the power of God's love to transform lives is effective when we employ it to reach the needs of others. Love has come to us this Valentine's Day and this year we get to share it from the source! Amen.

Peace in Christ,

Pr. Jared Carson



GET INVOLVED
Connect with People at Church



Calvary CONNECTS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK

February 25

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.

KNIT & CROCHET

February 15 @ 10:00 am in the Library

The knit and crochet group meets one Saturday morning per month to work on prayer shawls or their own projects, get patterns, ask questions or give ideas. Beginners welcome! Patient teacher and supplies available for knitting or crocheting. All are welcome.

VALENTINE'S PARTY

February 2 @ 2 p.m.

You are invited to a Calvary Kids and Calvary Classics collaborative event. We will be making valentines for Valley Senior Living, eating yummy snacks and playing candy bingo! See you there! This event will serve as the first grade milestone, but all grades are invited to join in the fun!

BE A BARISTA IN HOLY GROUNDS

Be a part of this hospitality ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church to provide a welcoming place for fellowship before and/or after worship times at Calvary. Sign up for as few or as many time slots as you would like. Have fun serving coffee and getting to know the people at Calvary. Our espresso machine, lovingly named Franke, is very user-friendly and training is provided.

Two shifts are scheduled each Sunday for two people per shift.

Shifts run from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Reach out to Julie Pedersen for sign-ups.

SEWING CLUB

February 6 & 20 @ 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.

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!

READING RELIGIOUSLY

Our next Reading Religiously will be Thursday, February 13, 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 *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.

SUPER BOWL WATCH PARTY & TAILGATE POTLUCK

February 9 in the Fellowship Hall

Come and hang out with us to watch the biggest football game of the season. Tailgate Potluck is the theme, so bring your best tailgate food or snacks! The game starts at 5:30 p.m. and doors will be open at 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions reach out to Marcus through the front office.

MEMORY CAFE

The Memory Cafe is presenting a series of five programs called "The Empowered Caregiver," which started in January and will go through May, on the second Tuesday of each month. The Memory Cafe will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, from 1:00-3:30 p.m. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Julie Prasaka-Moser, Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association, presenting "The Empowered Caregiver: Supporting Independence." Refreshments will be served following the program. Please pass this information on to anyone you think may benefit from the Memory Cafe!

FREE LUNCH FRIDAY AT THE REX

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.

Highlights of the CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT

Income in December was slightly lower than the prior year, but very comparable. There were a number of larger gifts received in December which helped finish the year better than we have seen in years past.

The December calendar was filled with activities for all. Some of the special annual events held in December were the Advent Festival, Thursday Music Club Christmas Musicales, Unforgettables choir concert, Christmas Cheer, Sunday and Wednesday School children telling the Christmas story, Christmas Cookie Exchange and a Quiet Christmas worship service. Noisy offering for the last seven weeks of the year was collected for the Angel Tree gifts in the amount of \$4,342.79.

Income ended the year 4% higher than our five-year average while expenses ended 2% higher for the same time period. Calvary's income exceeded our expenses considerably, and we were able to share gifts with local and global missions at higher level than in past years. We are thankful for our members and friends who give generously so Calvary can share generously in our community and world.

OLD BUSINESS

Ministry Site Profile

Transition Team – Lori, Rachel, and Tony shared the draft of the team with council members. The document was discussed.

Call Committee

Pastor Jared stated the call committee will be formed as the Ministry Site Profile is finalized. Congregation members have shown interest, and Shari is willing to be the council designee.

Interim or Term-Call Search

Pastor Jared is working with the synod staff for a possible interim. The option of a Term Call Interim was also discussed. Diane posed a question to Pastor Jared regarding his scheduled days in Grand Forks and congregational needs on non-scheduled on-site pastoral service. Pastor Jared will continue his current schedule and will assess each circumstance and travel when needed for funerals, etc.

Nominating Committee report

The committee met today before the Finance meeting. Members brainstormed lists of potential members for leadership roles. They will work for a full slate of officers for the council, foundation, and nominating committee. Pastor Jared suggested consideration to add a youth member to Calvary's council with a one-year term. Discussion ensued and no action was taken.

RIC/All-Inclusive Team discussion

A recent event for congregation members yielded a meaningful gathering and helpful feedback. Communications received were thoughtfully discussed. The RIC committee is getting more feedback and the need for more information on the questions: Are we welcoming? What does it mean to be RIC designated?

NEW BUSINESS

Report from nominations for the Annual Meeting. Diane reported on the candidates for the 2025 ballot. A candidate for the office of president of the Council is needed. Share ideas with Diane.

Approval of Call Committee - Nancy Andrews, Bruce Hornby, Joani Kilber, Priscilla Marto, Lael Schmidt, Shari Storbakken (council), Elizabeth Wild, and Nancy Yoshida. The council is seeking one more person for this committee. Kevin moved to approve the current list and have an email vote by council for a final member. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting: February 11 @ 7 p.m.

2024 BUDGET

2024 Proposed Budget	1,019,663.00
Offering through 12/31/24	980,378.94
Expenses through 12/31/24	979,567.12

Balance of Building Expansion Loan	
as of 12/31/24	602,149.50

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

2025 Proposed Budget	1,041,258.00
Offering through 1/15/25	37,591.27
Expenses through 1/15/25	17,276.56

Noisy Offerings Collected
UND Campus Ministry
\$593

BAPTISM

1-12-25 Lincoln Jay Loeffler
 Child of Elizabeth & Christopher Loeffler

FUND BALANCES

Youth	48,451.72
Honduras Mission	17,993.11
Foundation	803,265.73
Good Samaritan	4,043.93
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	3,868.09
Music	1,087.66
Library	987.17
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	1,974.39
Education	423.23
Fine Arts	1,900.72
Missions	35,998.97
Quilting	2,446.79
Memory Café	14,242.59
Unforgettables Choir	13,667.19
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	1,199.54
Lewis & Clark General	2,926.00
Lewis & Clark Backpack	13,144.34
Hymnal & Bible Fund	1,476.28
Coffee Shop	2,910.02
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	4,574.44
Organ/Piano	4,926.59
General Maintenance	4,415.90
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	415.41
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	5,926.03
Building Expansion	367,131.07
Seminary	503.95





MEMORIALS



BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

In memory of **Warren Endersbe** by Marilyn Lundberg
In memory of **Robert Leach** by Ruth Larson
In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Marilyn Lundberg

FOUNDATION

In memory of **Robert Leach** by Mark and Julie Hall
In memory of **Gary Zick** by Mark and Julie Hall

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Steph's Confirmation and Christmas by Judy Kay Sylte

HONDURAS LUNCH PROGRAM

In memory of **Delphine Hutson** by Phil and Shelly Amundson

MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by James and Marjean Woodrow, Sharon St. Germain, Andrew Swanson

MUSIC FUND

In memory of **Lane Leedahl** by Elinor Olson

ORGAN FUND

In memory of **Paul Gillespie** by Marilyn Lundberg
In memory of **Margaret Sather** by Delores Peterson, Cindy Purpur, Jon and Laura Raymond

SENIOR CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Lane Leedahl** by Joan Johnson

UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Margaret Sather** by James and Marjean Woodrow, Terry and Charleen Farder, Mary Ann McKenna, James and Sharon Holter, Jacquelyn Blais, Linda Kay Rosselot, Roberta Zick, Karen Knudsvig, Peggy Pribula, Richard and Sharon Jurgens, Nona Wennersten, Steven and Deborah Hill, Jan Haas, Michael and Rhonda-Lee Poellot, Mary Vein, Kenneth and Colleen Carlson, Marilyn Bakke, Robert and Peggy Alderson, Rocky and Dixie Miller

In memory of **Sharon Steinke** by Richard and Kathleen McWaters

YOUTH FUND

In memory of **Lane Leedahl** by Richard and Kathleen McWaters

Prayers & Sympathies

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

Pat Moe's sister, LaVon Gets, died 12-24-24.

CJ Johnson's sister, Lana Weisgram, died 1-3-25.

Meridee Danks' mother-in-law, Kathleen Danks, died 1-4-25.

Glenna Leedahl's sister-in-law, Linda Babinski, died 1-6-25.

Wally Bloom's brother, Milan Bloom, died 1-13-25.



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.

Honduras Rummage Sale



Thank you all for all the support you have put forth with this ministry. The sale has raised **\$22,023** and that could not have happened without any of your help.

Bathroom Renovations

The hall bathrooms near the church office are getting a makeover thanks to the generosity of Community Contractors! The bathrooms are getting an upgraded floor covering, wall color/texture, new porcelain and fixtures. These updates look great and enhance the hospitality to those visiting the church office.



Men's Bathroom



Women's Bathroom

Council Members New & Returning

Tony Schroeder



President

Shelley Bakke



Vice President

Shaina Hess



Education

Tammy Zola



Secretary

Leah Halverson



Community Relations

Returning Council Members

Kevin Ritterman - Treasurer

Brad Tweten - Property

Cheryl Hest - Evangelism

Shari Storbakken - Stewardship

Alica Houle - Youth



Vote for the team you want to win the Big Game by bringing non-perishable food items to Calvary between Wed., Feb. 5 and Sun., Feb. 9th.

Help Grand Forks Tackle Hunger!!

 www.calvarygf.org

SOUPer Bowl of Caring 2025

What is SOUPer Bowl of Caring?

Each year, Tackle Hunger rallies participants by using the excitement of the Big Game with the Souper Bowl of Caring! Empowering communities to host their own donation drives to benefit a local food charity and inspiring a nationwide movement to make a difference!

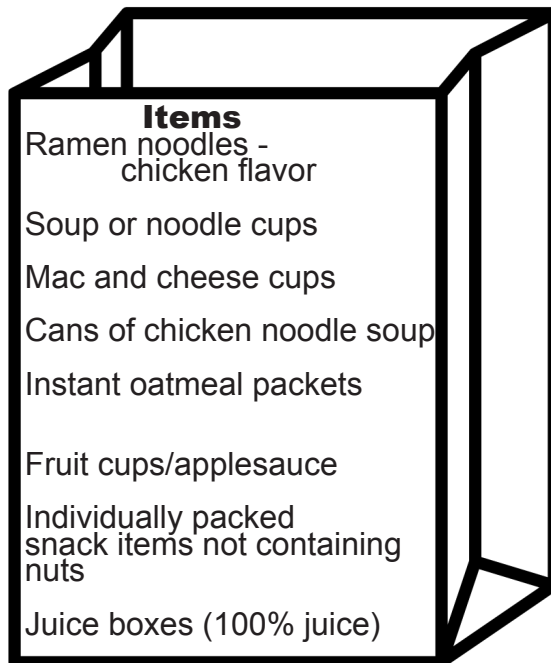
What is Calvary doing to participate?

Calvary will be participating in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring, and all donations will be shared with the local food pantry. On Super Bowl Sunday, bring nonperishable food items or monetary donations to worship. You will be able to “vote” for the team that you would like to win the Super Bowl by placing your donations on that side of the table display. We’ll see who Calvary wants to win this year’s big game! Together we can tackle hunger in Grand Forks!



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.



It costs around **\$100 to feed one child for the school year**. We would love for you to consider sponsoring one or more children for the 2024-2025 school year, but all donations help to make this program work. Food donation tables are also placed outside each worship space. Please consider picking up an item or two when you are out shopping to help fill this need and leaving them on these tables. An Amazon wish list is also available where you can have food items sent directly to Calvary.

Our next packing is Tuesday, February 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

4 WAYS TO Give

TEXT



TEXT ANY \$
701-922-9020

ONLINE



GIVE ONLINE AT
CALVARYGF.ORG

IN WORSHIP



DROP A GIFT IN
THE OFFERING PLATE

MAIL



MAIL A GIFT TO
CALVARY



Youth and **CONFIRMATION**

An Update from Morgan

I am writing to share with you, after much reflection and prayer, I have accepted a new position as the Communications and Events Coordinator for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. While I'm excited for this next chapter, it also means my time at Calvary is coming to a close.

Accompanying so many of you in this season of your faith journeys has been an incredible privilege. I've cherished every moment—whether we were diving into tough questions, sharing laughs at events, or growing together in worship and service. You have inspired me with your curiosity, kindness, and faith, and I will always treasure these memories.

As this chapter closes and another opens, please know that I will continue cheering you on and praying for you all from afar. I have no doubt that God is doing great things in and through each of you, and I am so excited for all that lies ahead for your journeys and for Calvary's ministry.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives and the joy you've brought to mine. Grace and peace,

Morgan Olson

Upcoming Confirmation Events

GRAND FORKS AREA

ELCA YOUTH NIGHT

FAITH OUT LOUD

Featuring

BUBBA SCHWEIGART

Join us for an evening of storytelling, music by Camp Metigoshe, and conversation around what it means to live out our faith everyday. This event is hosted by Grand Forks ELCA churches and is geared towards middle & high school students and their leaders. Also... you don't have to be Lutheran to join us! All are welcome.

Wednesday, February 19th
7:15pm - 8:30pm
Red River High School Performance Hall
Enter Door #22



YOUTH AND PARENT LISTENING SESSIONS

Attention Youth and Parents!!! The Youth Ministry Task Force would like to invite you to attend one of the Listening Sessions. The Task Force would like to hear from you about what you have appreciated about Youth Ministry at Calvary, what might need to change, and share information about the search for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator. Two meetings have been scheduled to allow more flexibility for youth and families to participate. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sunday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, or
Wednesday, February 12 at 8pm in the Fellowship Hall



All-Ages Book Club

Join us in the month of February as we read *The Strangers*. Books are available in the church office for \$10. Then join us on Sunday, February 23, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Valentine's Party

Sunday, February 2 @ 2:00 p.m.

You are invited to a Calvary Kids and Calvary Classics collaborative event. We will be making valentines for Valley Senior Living, eating yummy snacks and playing candy bingo! See you there! This event will serve as the first grade milestone, but all grades are invited to join in the fun!



Second Grade Milestone Event
12:00 pm | February 23

Calvary Fellowship Hall
This event is designed for grown-ups and kids to attend together.
siblings welcome!

"Picturing God" a Second Grade Milestone Event

Scripture is full of imagery that paints a picture of who God is. These words help us to use our imagination to wonder and picture who God is to each of us! We will spend some time creating a piece of art around these images of God. Please wear clothes that you can paint in. Milestone events are designed for kids and grown-ups to participate together. Siblings are welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY 2

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
1ST GRADE MILESTONE

FEBRUARY 23

2ND GRADE MILESTONE

MARCH 16

GIFT SUNDAY &
DOUGHNUTS

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

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:

You're Invited!



Super Bowl Watch Party & Tailgate Potluck

February 9, doors open @ 4:30 pm, game starts at 5:30 pm in
the Fellowship Hall



CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving & Igniting People for Christ



Calvary Lutheran Church -
Grand Forks



@calvarygf



@calvarygrandforks