



# CALVARY CALLING

News that serves and ignites people for Christ

June & July 2025



We have wrapped up the program year with Sr. Recognition Sunday, the end of Sunday and Wednesday School, the Float into Summer Book Drive, and Drive-Thru Donuts. Take some time to see the images in this newsletter and on Facebook. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words! There is so much to celebrate here at Calvary.

As we move into our summer programming, there is still so much happening at Calvary Lutheran Church! In this newsletter you will find information about events and activities for the months of June & July. Our summer combined worship is at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our summer schedule would not be complete without VBS, which will be held June 9-12 from 5:30-7:15 p.m. The Spark Middle School Youth Group and High School Youth Group have weekly gatherings and monthly trips. There is a Summer Lawn Chair Book Study (outside), featuring the book *How Not to Suck as a Christian* by Rev. Jeremy Steele, who was with Calvary in March. Our Calvary Classics have a Bingo Night and a trip to the performance of "Fame". There is *A Place for You Here!*

Congregations like Calvary thrive because of dedicated volunteers who share their time to make lasting memories of a caring Christian faith community. Thank you for the ways you share your whole self at Calvary Lutheran Church!

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JARED CARSON

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As the warmth of summer settles in and the days grow longer, we are invited into a holy rhythm of life—a time to recreate, rest, and renew. Whether you find renewal in a walk along the river, a family camping trip, or quiet mornings in your garden, summer offers many the gift of Sabbath—a space to breathe, reflect, and reconnect with God and one another.

Jesus himself modeled the importance of rest, often stepping away from the crowds to pray and be restored. He invites us with these comforting words:

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”  
– Matthew 11:28*

Even the psalmist reminds us that rest is found in God alone:

*“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.” – Psalm 62:1*

As we slow down this season, it's also a perfect time to nurture our life together as a community of faith. Whether worshipping in person or joining us while traveling, staying connected strengthens the body of Christ. The Author of Hebrews reminds us to stay connected to remain active in our worship life.

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...” – Hebrews 10:24–25*

St. Paul writes in the Corinthian letters comparing the community of faith to a body. This is an important reminder, whether you worship at Calvary, online, or in another congregation. The body of Christ needs YOU - for we are made to live in community.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”  
– 1 Corinthians 12:27*

While many enjoy a change of pace during the summer months, the ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church continues year-round. Your generous financial gifts make our mission possible—from Sunday worship to summer outreach like VBS or the Splash Into Faith. The staff of Calvary are preparing for a new program year beginning in September. Your continued financial support ensures we can faithfully serve our community and share Christ's love in all we do.

Please continue to pray for Calvary's mission and ministry—especially for our congregation, our Call Committee, and for the future Lead Pastor that God is preparing for Calvary.

In Christ's peace,  
Rev. Jared Carson  
Interim Lead Pastor



*As sure as the  
morning comes,  
We can rest in the  
promise of  
daily renewal.*



### B A P T I S M

**5-4-25** Harper Gladys Lindahl  
Child of Morgan & Dustin Lindahl

**5-18-25** Otis Erhart Petersen-Shiu  
Child of Megan Petersen & Jeffrey Shiu

**5-25-25** William James Lee  
Child of Breanna & Ryan Lee







### THE GREAT CONVERSATION

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!

### 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!

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT ASSEMBLING AND POTLUCK July 1 & 29

We would like to encourage you to join us these Tuesdays 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.

### 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.

### CIRCLE GROUPS

Circles are done for the summer and will resume on the third Wednesdays of the month beginning September 17.

Priscilla-Sarah Circle is at 10 a.m., HG.  
Ruth Circle is at 4 p.m., meeting in homes.

### JUNE 8 WORSHIP SERVICE

VBS decorations will be up and ready to go on Sunday, June 8, so we have decided to move this worship service over to the Sanctuary. All Sunday services after will be back in the Fellowship Hall.

### SEWING CLUB

June 5 & 19 @ 1:30 p.m.  
July 3 & 17 @ 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, June 19, 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 Mighty Red* by Louis Endrich.

### CALVARY CLASSICS

Join us on June 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to play BINGO! Don't forget to bring your favorite appetizer as well.

On July 22 at 7:00 p.m. we will go watch *FAME* at the Empire Theatre here in Grand Forks. The sign-up sheet is in the church office. Tickets are limited so sign up by July 1.

### LAWN CHAIR BOOK STUDY

The All-Inclusive Committee would like to welcome the congregation to the "Lawn Chair Book Study" (weather permitting) of the book *How To Not Suck as a Christian*. The author is Jeremy Steele who was also the visiting pastor March 23. If you are interested, books will be available for sale in the office. Dates are June 18 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. We will be meeting at the east parking lot. Be sure to bring that comfy lawn chair!

### HOLY GROUNDS

The coffee shop will be closed all summer long. Stop back in and check out the flavor of the month in September.

### CALVARY CALLING

This newsletter is a two-month edition. We will have our next one in August. If there is anything you want in the August edition please send an email to our communications coordinator at [marcus@calvarygf.org](mailto:marcus@calvarygf.org) or stop by his office.

# Highlights of the **CHURCH COUNCIL**

## **FINANCE - 2025 FINANCE REPORT**

Income in April began an upward trend as we hoped. There were a few annual gifts received in April that moved monthly gifts higher than the prior year as well as help from Holy Week and Easter gifts.

The April events calendar was filled from the beginning to the end. April began with installation of Chelsea Helland as Calvary's youth director, Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event was held April 11-12, Calvary Foundation grants were awarded, Holy Week began with Palm Sunday and ended with Easter Sunday, many eggs were delivered during the Easter-Egged Fundraiser, Camp Metigoshe led worship and the Calvary Classics toured the Rydell Toy Shop. Noisy Offering in April raised \$2,367.17 for the Lewis and Clark Float into Summer Book Drive.

Year-to-date income through April was 3.8% lower than the five-year average while expenses were 4% lower for the same time period. Calvary's current income direction feels promising and hopeful as we approach the summer months. We pray our members and friends continue to be "filled up" at Calvary, and remember, we are all in this ministry together. Everyone is needed to continue our amazing work at Calvary.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Call Committee**

The Call Committee continues to make progress. They received a name for a lead pastor. The Call Committee is now preparing interview questions.

### **Worship**

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.

Pride month will be recognized in June.

\$1,000 to advertise for an outdoor polka service during the summer with a BBQ in August.

Motion to approve the expense by Cheryl and seconded by Leah. The motion passed.

### **Staffing**

Summer Goals

- Review ministry goals/plans for 2025 and create plans for 2026, including
- Pre-budgeting planning
- Staff annual reviews/evaluations

Continue work with the synod staff to find an Interim Associate Pastor

### **New Computers**

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

**Next Council Meeting: June 10 @ 6:30 p.m.**

## **Prayers & Sympathies**

Patricia Larsen died 5-10-25.  
Her husband is Donald  
Larsen. Her daughter is Sandra  
Butkowski. Her son is Jon Larsen.



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.

## 2025 BUDGET

<b>2025 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>1,041,258.00</b>
Offering through 5/15/25	299,836.89
Expenses through 5/15/25	349,276.79

<b>Balance of Building Expansion Loan</b>	
as of 5/31/25	575,324.91

**Noisy Offerings Collected**  
**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Flood and Fire Recovery**  
**\$848.96**

## Memorials

### EDUCATION FUND

In memory of **Doris Lambie** by Mark and Nancy Reinhiller

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of **Doris Lambie** by Roberta Zick

In memory of **Chester Yon** by Dale and Margaret Koppelman, Bernie Carney

### GOOD SAMARITAN

In memory of **Doris Lambie** by Calvary Lutheran Church Women

### MEMORY CAFÉ

In memory of **Doris Lambie** by Marilyn Lundberg

### UNFORGETTABLES CHOIR FUND

In memory of **Orphie Vraa** by Robert and Jeanine Peabody

## FUND BALANCES

Youth	55,521.20
Honduras Mission	31,813.06
Foundation	803,375.73
Good Samaritan	3,498.73
Refugee	6,918.52
Campership	4,572.37
Music	1,393.27
Library	1,017.46
Unrestricted Reserve	17,000.00
Landscaping	637.20
Contemporary Worship	2,324.39
Education	3,373.23
Fine Arts	1,153.54
Missions	40,024.45
Quilting	2,444.85
Memory Café	14,308.60
Unforgettables Choir	12,789.32
Prayer Chain	12,618.50
LaGrave on First	988.16
Lewis & Clark General	4,807.52
Lewis & Clark Backpack	7,414.95
Hymnal & Bible Fund	2,045.33
Coffee Shop	3,511.96
Columbarium	31,412.10
Stephen Ministry	1,033.75
Operation Technology	8,823.94
Organ/Piano	620.00
General Maintenance	4,009.60
Sanctuary Projector/Screen	137.65
Hearing Aid Loop	687.00
Roof Repairs	6,562.33
Building Expansion	366,219.93
Seminary	503.95

# SPLASH INTO FAITH

WITH PARK RIVER BIBLE CAMP

Thursday, June 26th + 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Riverside Park in Grand Forks

Kindergarten through 5th gr. youth welcome! \$5/youth

- ✓ Camp Worship!
- ✓ GAMES, CRAFTS, LEARNING
- ✓ LUNCH & THE ICE CREAM TRUCK!
- ✓ SWIMMING AT RIVERSIDE POOL!

REGISTER TODAY!



This event is hosted in collaboration  
with Grand Forks Area ELCA churches



## SPLASH into Summer with Park River Bible Camp

Calvary Kids is partnering with United and Sharon Lutheran along with Park River Bible Camp to plan a day of fun at Riverside Park. If you are looking to dip your toes into camp life this summer, join us Thursday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for outdoor worship, games, crafts, swimming and MORE. Look for sign-up on Facebook and our website! Designed for kids who have completed grades K-5.

## The Classics Check Out Rydell Toy Shop

The April outing for the Calvary Classics was to tour the Rydell Toy Shop. Almost 40 people enjoyed their time looking at several dozen classic cars and hearing from Wes and Brian Rydell and others who manage the Toy Shop and work in the shop to restore these beautiful cars. In addition to viewing and learning about cars, lots of reminiscing about our cars over the years was heard. After the car tour, we gathered back at Calvary for coffee and delicious desserts and conversation. It was agreed this was one of our favorite activities and look forward to doing it again in the future.





## Mary Ann Devig, RN Resigns from Her Position as Parish Nurse

On Tuesday, May 13, Mary Ann handed in her resignation letter to the council and announced the news after the Unforgettables concert on May 14, to all those who attended. While Mary Ann will not be a part of the staff, she will continue to be part of the congregation and will continue guiding the Memory Cafe and Unforgettable Choir ministries as a volunteer leader. We give thanks to Mary Ann for the 19 years of caring and dedicated work she has provided to this congregation.



## Lutheran World Relief - Quilts & Baby Kits

The Lutheran World Relief truck was in Grand Forks, May 22 & 23. Calvary volunteers' contribution this spring was: **44 quilts** and **49 baby care kits**. These volunteers need your help in gathering more supplies so that they can continue making Lutheran World Relief baby care kits. Check out the needed items listed below. All items should be new or gently used and clean (no stains or tears).

### Needed Items:

- 6-month to 24-month T-shirts or short sleeve onsies
- receiving blankets (up to 52" square)
- jacket, sweaters, or sweatshirt (with or without a hood)
- baby caps and socks
- dark color hand towels
- diaper pins or large safety pins
- used T-shirts for diapers (adult size large or bigger)

Any of these items can be brought to the church office!



## All-Inclusive Committee

The All-Inclusive Committee would like to recognize that June is LGBTQ+ pride month. In support of this, we will have a table outside the entrance to the Fellowship Hall with information for "The Trevor Project" that gives help and support to any younger person struggling with issues such as LGBTQ issues, depression, or might even be having suicidal thoughts. You also can find out more information about or joining the All-Inclusive group or to just be an ally. (All information given will be strictly confidential.) In addition, the Noisy Offering in June will go to support the "Trevor Project."

Calvary along with the All-Inclusive Committee would like to recognize that June 19 is officially Juneteenth celebrating the ending of slavery, enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation at the end of the Civil War.



# Float into SUMMER

BOOK FAIR & FLOATS

On May 19, 2025, the third annual Float into Summer Book Fair was held at Lewis and Clark School. Thanks to the generosity of the Calvary community, around 1500 books were available this year allowing each Lewis and Clark student to pick four books to enjoy over the summer. A total of 740 books were given away at this year's fair. Each teacher was able to pick four books for their classrooms as well!



The students were excited to pick their books and share with each other what they had chosen and their enthusiasm was contagious. They then got a summer treat of a root beer float before heading back to their classrooms.



A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who donated books, resources to buy books, time, effort, wisdom, muscle and prayers. This event was successful because it had the faithful Calvary community behind it. Special thanks goes out to Joani Kilber who again this year spent many hours identifying books that the kids like, building our egistries, and sorting books for our fair.







## It Takes a Village Lewis & Clark Partnership

**THANK YOU!** Those words don't seem adequate as we look at what our relationship with Lewis and Clark meant to us.

The end of the school year wraps up our fourth year partnering with the Lewis and Clark Lion Pride. We go out with our Float into Summer book fair.

Jesus has called us to love our neighbor and the Calvary community has answered this call and embraced the Lewis and Clark students and staff. We are so thankful for all of our faithful volunteers who have made this partnership work. We are also thankful for the Lewis and Clark faculty, staff and students who so graciously welcome us into their school.

We thank the generosity of the Calvary community for the donations that occur throughout the year. Thanks for the Noisy Offerings, angel tree gifts, back pack food and sponsorships, and school supplies.

Many thanks to the Lewis and Clark teachers: Carsen, Hagadorn, Fick, Muus and Eriksmoen who welcomed Calvary volunteers into their rooms each week to read to their students. It is one of the many ways Lewis and Clark has blessed the Calvary community.

And, of course, we can't forget the backpack program. We thank each and every volunteer and donor who helped make this another successful year. Food-insecure students received 3,240 bags (6480 meals) this school year.

Calvary is ready for this partnership to continue in the 2025-2026 school year. We have accomplished so much this year and as we go forward we remember the blessing we are to each other as neighbors.



## 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**



## **High School Youth Group**

High School Youth Group will continue throughout the summer, we meet on Thursday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Holy Grounds. All 9-12 graders are invited and welcome!

## **SPARK Middle School Youth Group**

We are very excited to let you know that starting on Wednesday, June 18, SPARK will be in session throughout the rest of summer. On Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm all 6-8 graders are invited and welcome! We will be meeting downstairs in the youth room.



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

This summer is full of all kinds of fun activities for everyone to participate in! We are looking for some of our middle school and high school youth who would like to participate in VBS decorating (June 2-6) or help out during our VBS (June 9-12). We are also offering a "Splash into Faith" day camp with Park River Bible Camp on Thursday, June 26 and would love to see you all there! Please reach out to Chelsea or Nicole if you are interested in volunteering this summer!

## **Save the Dates**

Please take a look at upcoming youth events for the summer! Starting off strong with two lock-ins where we will focus on community building as well as giving back to our church through a few service projects!

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

## **SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS!**

June 20th-21<sup>st</sup>  
High School  
Lock-in at  
Calvary!

July 11th-13<sup>th</sup>  
High School  
Service trip!  
More info to  
come

August 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>  
High School  
service trip!

June 27th-28th  
Middle School  
Lock-in at  
Calvary!

July 18th-20<sup>th</sup>  
Middle school  
service trip!  
More info to  
come!

August 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>  
Middle school  
service trip!





#### Schedule of Events

#### **Monday-Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. dinner served in the Fellowship Hall  
6:00-7:30 p.m. programming begins.

#### **Thursday**

5:30 p.m. car show and community picnic at Calvary parking lot with music, food, kids activities and cars.

### **Vacation Bible School at Calvary**

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!



### **Calvary Goes to Camp**

If you are attending camp this summer, Calvary provides camperships! Calvary is happy to help coordinate transportation to Camp Metigoshe. Contact Nichole Bye via the office for any questions.

### **Art Camp at Calvary**

Calling all artists. We are excited to welcome back artist Michelle Walka for a day of art, faith and fun. Look for sign-ups on Facebook and our website.



## **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  
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



Calvary Lutheran Church -  
Grand Forks



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