



# 2014

## Annual Report of Ministry

Prepared for the January 18, 2015 annual meeting



### **Calvary Lutheran Church**

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Bemidji, MN 56601

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### Mission Statement

Gathered to worship,  
transformed by Christ,  
sent out to serve.

### Vision Statement

Jesus calls us to *grow* as disciples, to *give* generously, and to *serve* others every day.

### Core Values

#### Worship

Through the gift of our connection to God and in community with each other, we commit to hearing God’s word, praising God, and praying faithfully, all with a joyful and welcoming spirit. *“Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing.” (Psalm 100:2)*

#### Meaningful Relationships

We commit to providing ways for people of Calvary to make authentic connections with others through opportunities for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)*

#### Service to Others

Inspired by God, we commit to serving all people by putting our faith into action in our homes, congregation and communities. *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18b)*

#### Youth

We commit to nurturing the spiritual growth of our youth and families as together we become faithful servants of Jesus. *“But Jesus called for them and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.’” (Luke 18:6)*

#### Generosity

As stewards of God’s love, we commit to sharing our gifts with God’s people. *“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)*

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## Why Calvary?

Dear fellow members of Calvary Lutheran Church,

That was a question asked at a recent leadership retreat. For me it was an easy answer. I had sat in worship that morning and as I sang during communion, I observed and reflected. God's message for us had been read and taught, the means of grace were given freely with joy, words and hands were used to grant healing, God was present.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Council president this past year. I am humbled to serve with my fellow Council members and the dedicated staff at Calvary. We have spent the year looking at where we are, and more importantly, where God is pointing us. Continuing the work begun with the Kairos survey and the Shared Vision team, we seek to define our Holy Purpose.

We will continue to promote ministry to families with an emphasis on intergenerational Opportunities, as we all have gifts to share. Promoting opportunities to develop meaningful relationships was a need expressed by our members during the congregational survey. We will continue to be a church dedicated to service.

We have made some important strides financially as our last member loan was paid off this fall and our mortgage is now under the \$2 million mark. This is an area we must continue to address. Our facility has allowed us to do many things: expanding our tremendous preschool, hosting service groups from other congregations, providing a dedicated space for our youth ministry, serving our neighbors through programs like Servants of Shelter, and much more. We still have some work to do. Our sanctuary needs attention and we must reduce our debt. For the first time we have a full staff to help manage our facility and provide support for the many ministries here. We must be bold in addressing these challenges so our work of service locally and globally can grow. To meet these needs the Council has decided to move forward with a capital campaign in 2015. Pastor Genelle will lead this appeal and has assembled a team of volunteers to assist her. You will hear much about this soon and I hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can participate.

Finally I am pleased to report that the Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation is active and on the move! You will begin to see the fruits of the Foundation soon.

So, why Calvary? That answer will be different for each of us, but it is my prayer that you are filled with God's Spirit here and are inspired to serve Him with joy.

Jim Molde  
Congregation Council President



January 2015

People of Calvary, grace and peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

End-of-year and beginning-of-year reflections like this often bring to mind what is new: what has changed in the past year, what fresh possibilities the coming months hold. There's a place for this, of course, but we also do well to remember what is unchanging: God's steadfast love for us, for you and me and the whole creation. If you only take away one thing from this annual report, may it be this: *"It is God who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever; who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever"* (Psalm 136:23-25). Praise God for this constant goodness and life!

Brought to life by this unchanging God, we live in a world of change. This past year has been no exception. In 2014, we sinner-saints of Calvary have received, experienced, and labored much. Our "Heart of Worship" theme got us deep into the rhythms of prayer, song, and Scripture, as we took part in a worship seminar with Tom Kraeuter; welcomed diverse worship guests; heard children's time messages about how we worship; and learned about the elements of worship through intentional explanations in worship and newsletter articles. In the past year, we've also shared in vital work, facilitated by Kairos and Associates, to discern God's mission and vision for Calvary in this time and place; a distillation of this work will be presented at our annual meeting. The following pages in this annual report will highlight more about the past year, from mission trips (Puerto Rico!) to money (we paid off the last of our member loans!).

There's a Yiddish proverb that says, "We plan; God laughs." This insight helps us have a light touch and sense of humor as we move into the next year, for which, yes, we do have some plans! The theme for 2015 is "Be transformed," drawing from Paul's words to the church in Rome: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God"* (Romans 12:2). How is God changing us – even you! – in our relationships, work, homes, neighborhoods, hearts, minds, and bodies? That's what we'll notice and tend to this year. We'll partner with Vibrant Faith Ministries to mature in faith, deepen intergenerational relationships, and build up our homes as places of faith formation (**mark January 24 on your calendars**). We'll have evangelism training; in-house marriage enrichment retreats; outside spiritual retreat weekends; opportunities for end-of-life planning; and the kick-off of a capital campaign. And on top of all of this, you can count on God transforming us in ways that we can't even anticipate!

Being the church isn't boring! This is life-changing, life-giving stuff: God is with us; God dies for us; God rises for us - and we get to participate in all of it and share it through the gift of faith. We're grateful for the privilege of serving and growing with you. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13).

Pr. Genelle

Pr. Andrew

Pr. Nate



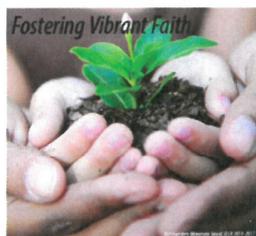
## 2014 Bishop's Report to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

### *For Annual Meetings of the Congregations*

*From Bishop Lawrence R. Wohlrahe (pictured with grand-daughter Olivia)*

The past year afforded our synod rich opportunities to live deeper into the Next Generation Vision that has been guiding our synod's 92,000+ disciples and 230+ congregations in **calling forth, raising up, forming in faith and spiritual leadership, and sending the next generations of disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Nearly 500 voting members and friends gathered at Concordia College in May for **the 26<sup>th</sup> annual assembly of our synod**, under the theme *Faith at Home...At Home in Faith*. Our keynoter, the Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson of Vibrant Faith Ministries spoke on the timely topic, "Shepherd of Souls: Faith Formed Through Mentoring Relationships." We also welcomed home our own Mikka McCracken as ELCA Churchwide Representative, who works for ELCA Hunger in Chicago.



**A crucial resolution passed at the synod assembly** committed our synod to forming a multi-year partnership with Vibrant Faith Ministries to provide training, coaching and resources for helping congregations focus on faith formation by caring adults in homes and households. At year's end **forty congregations** (26 parishes) had already stepped forward to participate in our Fostering Vibrant Faith Project. The first two training events brought about 150 participants to Roseau in September and Thief River Falls in November—with the next training event slated for January 24, 2015 at Calvary of Bemidji. Learn more about how Fostering Vibrant Faith can help your congregation

embrace in fresh ways our Lord's invitation to make passing on the faith central in our lives by going to <http://nwmnsynod.org/resources/fostering-vibrant-faith/>

Although the Vibrant Faith project focuses on the youngest among us, we care deeply about **faith formation for all ages. All our congregations** nurture the faith implanted in us by the Holy Spirit. In 2014, our synod also nourished faith by

- Sponsoring four EEEvents (*Engaging, Enlightening, Energizing*) for church council and other parish leaders, featuring the Rev. Stephen Bouman and themes from his book *The Mission Table*;
- Providing monthly bishop's columns for use by councils and others, also on *The Mission Table*;
- Lifting up lay theological education courses on the Old Testament (in Thief River Falls) and "Psychological First Aid" (in Moorhead);
- Hosting Middle School and Senior High Youth Gatherings for over 1000 young people;
- Partnering with other ELCA organizations to welcome to our territory exciting leaders like activist Shane Claiborne, Nobel Laureate Leemah Gbowee and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton;
- Hosting spring stewardship events with the Rev. Charles "Chick" Lane and mission interpreter training in September for about 50 synod leaders who visited congregation councils this fall.

Faith formation among the baptized hinges on our capacity to offer **vigorous support to the rostered leaders and synodical authorized ministers (SAMs)** who serve our churches. During 2014, our synod helped prepare 23 folks from synod congregations prepare for rostered service in the ELCA; ordained 7 seminary graduates to serve in pastoral ministry; installed 20 rostered leaders and SAMs to serve in our congregations; helped birth 4 new multi-point parishes; brought well-known author and professor Dr. Andrew Root to the annual Theology for Ministry Conference; asked the Rev. Dr. Robert Sorensen to coordinate First Call Theological in the Eastern ND and NW MN Synods; and offered special training



around topics like “Re-Rooting in God’s Mission,” “Experiencing Coaching,” “Churches Planting Churches,” and “Healthy Boundaries in Ministry.”

**Planting new faith communities and renewing current ministries** are other ways that our synod passes on faith in Jesus Christ. During 2014, the synod offered support to ministries under development including Living Grace Lutheran Church of Hawley; Peoples Church of Bemidji and Cass Lake; Waters of Grace Worshipping Community of Frazee; The Project FM of Fargo/Moorhead; and the Headwaters Conference’s “Invitation to Joy” evangelism project. We are also participating in new developments like “Calvary at the Lake” (co-sponsored by Calvary Lutheran Church and Luther Crest Bible Camp, both of Alexandria); “Recovery Worship” and the “Wandering Vine” outreach ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church of Crookston.

Faith in Jesus Christ embraces the totality of our lives, so **we respond in both witness and service to our neighbors**. During 2014, the NW MN Synod was one of the top ten (of 65) ELCA synods in its support for the ELCA Malaria Campaign—with total contributions from the synod now topping \$300,000 and still climbing. At our synod assembly, sixth grader Ava Aigner of Faith Lutheran Church, Wolverton, was recognized for her efforts at championing the Campaign. LSS of MN’s Servant of Christ award honored the outstanding social ministry efforts at Calvary Lutheran Church of Bemidji. Little Norway Lutheran Church, Fertile, was given the “Holy Cow Award” for highest per-capita giving to ELCA Hunger, and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Felton, was honored with the “Holy Mackerel Award” for creativity in addressing issues of food insecurity. The week before synod assembly *The Hunger Ride*, brought bicycling “Hunger Ambassadors” into a dozen communities across the synod, drawing attention to the issue of hunger and how ELCA congregations are responding. The NW MN Synod Disaster Support fund gave grants to assist low income folks during last winter’s heating fuel shortage, and to the Wadena area flood recovery committee.

**During 2014 the synod observed several milestones**, such as

- Celebrating three straight years of mission support giving from congregations exceeding the previous year’s mission support contributions;
- Welcoming Pr. *Hope Deutscher* and Pr. *Kristina Waters* as new mission developers for Living Grace, Hawley, and the Project FM, Fargo/Moorhead; and *Amy Bigot* as ELCA Foundation gift planner for our synod;
- Bidding farewell to synod communications and events coordinator Matthew Bishop and welcoming his successor, Courtney Williams;
- Initiating a Facebook page for the synod that has already garnered over 550 “likes” and followers;
- Recognizing Synod Women’s Organization President Lois Bylund (of Trinity, Moorhead) upon her election to the churchwide Women of the ELCA executive board;
- Marking the conclusion of criminal court proceedings against former synod bookkeeper Robert D. Larson who was sentenced to 48 months in prison and an order of restitution of nearly \$787,000 to the synod and the synod’s insurance company.



**Looking ahead**, I invite all congregations of the synod to keep growing in their giving to ELCA/synod mission support and ELCA designated ministries like ELCA Hunger and the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Pray that God will raise up a faithful, visionary steering committee to guide our synod’s efforts in raising at least \$4.75 million for the Campaign for the ELCA (which concludes 1/31/2019). Challenge one another to learn more about our synod’s Fostering Vibrant Faith project. Implore the Holy Spirit to assist all congregations and ministry agencies who are calling new leaders—including our synod’s two Lutheran campus ministries in Bemidji and Moorhead as well as Pathways Bible Camps.

*Thank you so much for your constant prayers, generous financial giving and faithful partnership!*

# 2014 Congregational Statistics



## In Memoriam

During the past year Calvary Lutheran Church has laid to rest the following members:

Date	Name	Date	Name
01/31/2014	Della Marquette	09/01/2014	Pamela Nelson
03/08/2014	Albert Olson	09/24/2014	Carole "Terry" Wynkoop
07/03/2014	Donald Norum	12/12/2014	Adele Peterson
07/26/2014	Bernadette Olson		

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3*

## Holy Baptism

01/12/14	Isaac Thomas Lahn	07/13/14	Camden Jaymz Carlson
01/12/14	Jace Leon Kemp	07/27/14	Autumn Sage Schmid
02/09/14	Beau Brooks Weidner	08/10/14	Hailey Katherine Premo
02/16/14	Simone Wynn Cirks	08/31/14	Kora Lee Olson
02/16/14	Carter Gerald Dyrdaahl	08/31/14	Elliot Alan Peterson
03/02/14	Aubrey Ann Supalla	08/31/14	Beckett Derick Fontes Welk
03/02/14	Marshall Wallace Fjosne	08/31/14	Mara Leah Zutz
03/30/14	Emma Jean Hughes	08/31/14	Devon Eve Anderson
04/20/14	Kaylee Ray Rognstad	09/03/14	Solvera Lynn Duran
04/20/14	Peyton Duane Rognstad	09/28/14	Luc Daniel Berard
04/20/14	Brooklyn Nicole Rognstad	09/28/14	Elliot Ian Anderson-Cameron
04/20/14	Owen Anthony Rognstad	09/28/14	Clara Anderson-Cameron
04/20/14	Jereko Neal Senenfelder	10/26/14	Savannah Paige Evje
05/25/14	Daniel Gordon Wilson	10/26/14	Coralee Beth Clemenson
05/25/14	James Henry Trepanier	10/26/14	Reid Owen Weidner
05/25/14	Trevor Luke Trepanier	10/26/14	Adam Wesley Blakeslee
05/25/14	Miles Theodore Erickson	10/26/14	Haley Lynn Ament
05/25/14	Caliyah Mariah Staten	10/26/14	Addison Jo Cassady
05/25/14	Ceyonna Josephine Staten	10/26/14	Rachel Lee Cassady
05/25/14	Celisha Raechelle Staten	10/26/14	Aizlynn Rae Goodwin
06/08/14	Bryce Lee Sherwood	11/30/14	Jackson Lee Tisdell
06/08/14	Madelyn Mae Bjorgaard	12/24/14	Theodore George Andersen
07/13/14	Zander Alan Levin	12/24/14	Amelia AnnMarie McClellan

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# 2014 Congregational Statistics



## Confirmation September 28, 2014

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*  
Hebrews 11:1

Gunner Aas	Anna Falldorf	Nicholas Mannasau
Elliot Anderson-Cameron	Matthew Gish	James Palmer
Nick Baumann	Sam Goins	Laura Palmer
Britney Bennett	Bailey Harris	Nicholas Palmer
Luc Berard	Tanner Hatfield	Dalton Schlichting
Erin Blake	Samuel Hodgson	Oriana Thompson
Drew Boen	Andi Ickler	Abbigail Timms
Mattea Carlson	Regann Jensen	Samuel Trego
Addie Colligan	Noah Leinen	

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## New Members

Kevin Barsch	Colleen Mayer	Harold and Claire Wick
Darla Borgen	Nate Moran	Scott and Cassi Wilson (Daniel)
Steve Caron	Rod Nelson	
Grant and Amber Coauette	Sylvia Olney	
Paul and Linda Drees	Wayne and Leonore Potter	
Mitch and Adrienne Eickman Maren and Gavin	Dale and Natalie Rader (Hattie)	
Justin and Alicia Erickson (Miles)	Jaron and Amanda Skjonsby	(joined through baptism)
Lee and Jane Furuseth	Kyle Sorenson	
Henry “Chip” Holt	Mark and Kris Sorenson Shari	
Loren and Edith Hoyum	Vern and Ann Voss	

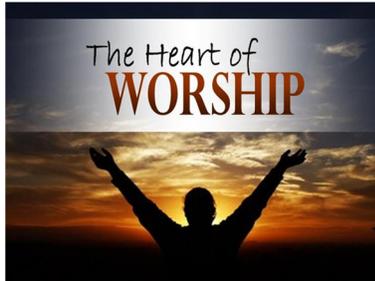
# Spiritual Life Ministry



The focus of the spiritual life ministry is to keep the presence of God at the center of everything that we do. Worship continues to be the most obvious way that we gather together and focus on God, but we have discovered that worship is not the only way. Through devotions, deepening relationships, song (even rap!), and attending a seminar, many learned new ways to keep God at the center of their lives.

## The Heart of Worship

This was our theme for 2014 and we had a blast celebrating the first part of our mission statement. We welcomed a variety of guests to help expose us to new ways of worshipping. Dr. Beverly Everett led worship masterfully from the organ. Rachel Kurtz sang her way into our hearts and homes leading Wednesday night worship. Dave Scherer, aka AGAPE, got the church



singing and dancing as he reminded us of who we are as beloved children of God. All the way from Branson, the Haining family shared their faith, music, and even yodeling as we worshipped God together. The variety was exceptional, and God was definitely at the heart of it all.

## On a High Note

Calvary took another bold move in 2014 and hired our first ever full-time worship and music minister. Shar



Paquette started at Calvary in August. Shar will not only be leading worship, she will also be taking care of all the behind-the-scenes details that go into making a worship service happen. She comes with many gifts and talents, and with her creativity, organizational skills, friendly personality, and that one-of-a-kind laugh, she will be a gift to Calvary for many years to come. Calvary has been so blessed in the past with gifted and flexible musicians who don't just play music but can lead worship. Thank you to Joan Meulebroeck, Cindy Sorenson, Mary Thoreson, Almina Beyer, Amanda Willis, Ann Cease, and others who made sure that Spirit-filled worship was experienced at each worship service. Don't worry; you will still get to experience these musicians from time to time as we all work together to keep God at the heart of worship.

## Weekly E-Devotion

We all need some inspiration from time to time and this year, John Eggers was able to help fill that need at Calvary. As a gifted writer, John told the Biblical story week after week for all of us to enter into. The devotions are uplifting, challenging and just what we needed to be reminded that God's story is our story. Make sure you check your e-news and get your fill each week. Thanks John!

# Spiritual Life Ministry



## Alternative Worship Opportunities

Calvary continues to host some special worship opportunities each year. You are invited to join us for:

- Taizé – a style of worship centered in repetitive songs, prayer, and silence.
- Healing worship – this is a time for individual, community, and world prayers. Usually Holy Communion and anointing are a part of these gatherings.
- Wednesday Noon Prayer – is open to all people. The focus on the prayer time is praying over our staff and programming at Calvary.
- Noon Lenten worship service – is a time to worship, commune, and have a light lunch together.
- Centering Prayer - these seasonal opportunities gather us in both Scripture and silent prayer.
- Family Worship – on Rally Sunday we explored a shorter family-focused worship that involved the children in almost every aspect of a regular worship service.
- Preschool Christmas & Easter programs – are times that the children tell the Biblical stories in their own words.
- For the Healing of the Nations – is a special prayer service that we have embedded into our regular worship.

All are welcome to the special opportunities to come and worship our God!

## Worship Seminar, February 22, 2014

*Shar Paquette and Michelle Luby*

In February 2014, Calvary had the privilege of hosting Mr. Tom Kraeuter, founder of Training Resources, as he presented his Worship Seminar. Approximately 80 people attended this seminar, and not just from our local area churches, as many drove hours to get here. Even though the weather tried to thwart this event (from flights being changed/cancelled, to luggage being soaked, to poor driving conditions), Tom showed much grace and depth of knowledge about Biblically-based worship, and what God wants from each one of us relationally as we worship Him.

Here are some comments from Michelle Luby:

Before I attended Mr. Kraeuter's worship seminar, I often agonized about my "performances" in the music ministry at Calvary. I was very "me" centered, worrying about how I sounded, what I was singing, and what others would think about my singing and songs. Initially, I felt that attending this seminar would help me become a better performer in church.

Listening to Mr. Kraeuter, hearing his stories, and reading his writings helped me to see that I wasn't "performing" in church, I

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# Spiritual Life Ministry



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was worshiping, and the only one I needed to sing for is God. I began to understand that I needed to make my music centered on God and not on me. I have the opportunity to enrich the congregation's worship experience, not just to entertain them with beautiful, well-performed music.

Since attending this seminar, I have tried to prayerfully worship God through my music, and seek humility in offering my music as an opportunity to help our congregation to grow in its relationship to our Savior.

May we worship and glorify our God in all that we do!



## **AGAPE**

*Mikerra Matthews, confirmation student*

On September 10th the youth of Calvary were sprinkling sunshine on each other with the help of AGAPE.

Everyone was learning new dance moves and lyrics to upbeat motivational songs. We were rejoicing and praising because of the day that God has made! AGAPE taught us that practicing our faith doesn't have to be boring and can actually be really fun! I can't wait until AGAPE comes back and I'm glad I had the opportunity to watch and interact with AGAPE.

**be transformed** Romans 12:2

## **Vision for 2015**

Watch for Spiritual Transformation Challenges to pop up in worship, in our communications, and in our fellowship gatherings. Calvary members will be encouraged to attend a men's or women's Via De Cristo (The Way of the Cross) retreat weekend or a men's weekend retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. You will be invited to share an act of service in worship on the offering tree. And you will not want to miss the Lenten dramas written by our own Calvary members this winter and our Pastors who will be transformed on Rally Sunday.

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# Life and Mission Ministry



The Life and Mission Ministry Team works with the question of how we model our faith and share it with others. In the past year, we've shared in Life and Mission as we've sent youth missionaries to Puerto Rico and Duluth; worked together on a community service day though our second annual Faith in Action Sunday in June; and practiced everyday faith in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

## Stories and Reports: Life and Mission through Word and Service

Life and Mission is a big ministry team, and it includes many expressions of our faith: feeding the hungry, providing shelter, partnering with our synod, and supporting churches with limited financial resources. Life and Mission happens through stories, so keep on reading to hear about experiences of God empowering us to serve.

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### Invitation to Joy

*Mark and Lane Paulson*

Quite often we like to give our opinions, offer advice and/or just talk, talk, talk. However, the Invitation to Joy ministry teaches us that what is more important is listening to others.

Although this program is in its infancy, it has begun energetically with clergy and lay people from Lutheran churches in Bemidji, Guthrie, Blackduck, Kelliher, and Park Rapids.

Through role playing and exercises in listening, we have learned more about listening and "meeting people where they are at." We have now been given "assignments" to visit with:

- new members,
- members who have recently had a child baptized,
- people who have filled out our welcome cards and indicated they are

"first time guests" and/or "looking for a church home" and/or "new in Bemidji",

- an acquaintance or neighbor that we have been meaning to get in touch with.

If it "fits" during our conversation/listening visits, we all hope to share that we will pray and/or will be praying for concerns, guidance, etc. and perhaps invite them to church. God is indeed present and active in our world and in our lives.



# Life and Mission Ministry



## High School Mission Trip

*JoAnn Hovet, Kevin Cease, Corey Boen, Nicholle Bieberdorf, Shelly Ward*

Swept up in God's Mission – "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:35).

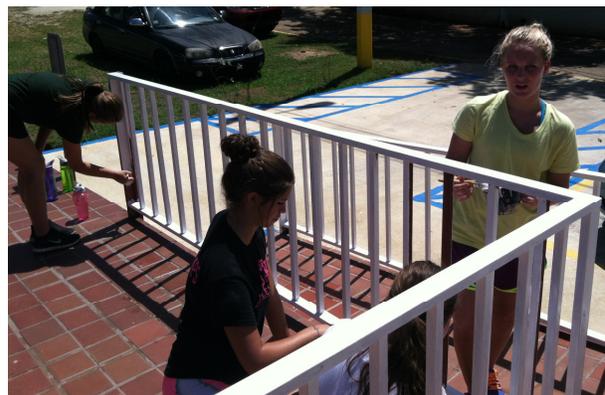
To the Congregation - As we begin, let us thank you for the amazing opportunity to have served as adult leaders for the High School mission trip. The congregation's support both financially and spiritually made this trip a tremendous experience from the word go! It made it very easy for us to be swept up in God's mission. The theme for our message is "Faith" and we saw this demonstrated in the faith you had in our pastors, especially Pastor Nate as he planned this trip, but the faith that you had in us as you sent your children with us on this amazing adventure.

Our group of 44 people – 38 kids, 6 adults, left early Saturday morning, July 5th, bound for Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and spent the rest of our day in travel, arriving late Saturday night to San Juan. We weren't scheduled to arrive in Arecibo until Sunday evening so our Sunday morning was spent in devotion and a group bonding activity – zip-lining! Surprisingly, the tone of servanthood was set

for the week as we experienced the zip-line staff giving us a tremendous experience in the extreme heat followed by serving us lunch and cleaning up after us. There was a commitment by the staff and especially Pastor Nate that every person be able to participate in this adventure fully, regardless of physical ability. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:35). Yes, God!

With our large group, we were divided into five different mission sites: Boys & Girls Club, Nuevo Amanecer (emergency foster care), Reto Juvenil (boys juvenile center), Sicomoro (VBS/Summer Day Camp), and Teen Challenge (adult male chemical dependency rehab for ages 18-65). Each day we went to our sites and spent time with the people there, playing games, sharing a meal, sharing God's love, and being the hands and feet of Christ – whatever that meant for each of these sites. We went with the feeling that we were going over to Arecibo to "do" something, to "build" something . . . and what we experienced was that the "do"-ing was being with the people, and the "build"-ing was building relationships with each other and with the people with whom we came in contact. To say that to witness this occurrence was amazing would be an understatement – it was truly life-changing for all of us.

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# Life and Mission Ministry



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Throughout the week we were blown away by the demonstration of compassion and service that our youth showed to each other, regardless of the obstacles we faced: physical challenges, dietary challenges, emotional challenges, language challenges; supported by the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit, our youth met these challenges and continued to serve each other as the hands and feet of Christ. “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:35). Yes, God!

For all of us as adult leaders, this experience strengthened our faith as well. There was a vulnerability we experienced that we were only able to weather by trusting God as our strength. As leaders we each have memories of a time, or times, during the trip when we cried out to God, “I need you,” and he was there. As we shared each of these experiences within our leader group, we felt our faith strengthening. Stop any one of us and invite us to share one of these memories with you. It was life changing!

To Pastor Nate – thank you for this amazing experience! The detail that you put into this trip must have been many hours in the making. What a blessing you are to all of us! Your servant heart is a beautiful witness of God’s love – to God be the glory!

To the youth we traveled with – it was such an honor to serve with you. You truly demonstrated to us how big your hearts are for each other, for us, for the people of Arcibo, and importantly for God. We are so proud to serve with you as fellow brothers and sisters of Christ. “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:35). Yes, God! Kids, continue to be a “demo” for God.

## Middle School Mission Trip

*Jennifer Sanford*

I had the opportunity to be a chaperone on the middle school mission trip to Duluth. It was quite an adventure full of emotions and activities. My group spent 2 days serving at a soup kitchen, 2 mornings visiting with residents in an Alzheimer’s ward, and 2 afternoons at a Boys and Girls Club playing with kids. I was privileged to meet a lot of great people along the way; from Harriet, an Alzheimer’s patient who thought we had met years ago and that my name was Geneva, to an 18-year-old employee at the Boys and Girls Club who was a single mother of a 2 year old. I met Shelly, who had been homeless for 12 years but now was helping to supervise volunteers at the Soup Kitchen, and Karen, who eats lunch at the Soup Kitchen every day and repays the meal by staying to fold napkins and silverware for the next day’s meals.

*continued*



# Life and Mission Ministry



*continued from p. 14*

The person who had the greatest impact on me was Maisa, an older, homeless woman whom I met when our whole group went back to the Soup Kitchen for Tuesday night dinner. There were so many things that affected me about our conversation, but one comment by Maisa has really stuck with me. We talked about how bad of a winter this past year was, even for us lifelong Minnesotans, and I asked her how she was able to survive this past winter. Her answer brought tears to my eyes. Without hesitating, she responded, “God kept my heart warm.”



I’ve wondered on occasion how strong my faith would remain if I were in tough situations—would I really be able to turn to God and have complete faith in Him to see me through? Does that kind of complete and utter devotion to God really exist? After meeting Maisa, I now know for sure that it does. God is here, and there, and everywhere we let Him be.



## **Second Offering Ministry Partners**

Did you know that Calvary has given away over \$70,000 in the past year? It's true! Instead of hoarding every penny we get, we intentionally practice generosity by sharing with all kinds of wonderful partners in our town, state, country, and world. Every month, we learn about a ministry partner, and we gather a special offering to further their work. And we give away more than just what we gather through these second offerings, as we budget for additional gifts to various ministries. Of course, our partnerships are not just about money, so we support these partners through volunteer hours, in-kind donations, and prayer. These relationships with ministry partners have been affirmed by many of you through our visioning process, so they will be part of our ongoing life together. In 2014, our second offering ministry partners included Churches United (financial assistance for neighbors in need), Lutheran Campus Ministry at Bemidji State University, the Bemidji Community Food Shelf, Gideons International (Bible distribution and evangelism), Pathways Bible Camp, Northwoods Caregivers (services to local elders), Lutheran Social Services' Meals on Wheels Program (meal delivery to seniors), Peoples Church (a local, multi-cultural Lutheran congregation serving with those experiencing poverty), ELCA Global Mission (missionary work through our national church body, with specific support for our missionary in India), Village of Hope (a local family shelter), plus others.

*continued*

# Life and Mission Ministry



*continued from p. 15*

We've also been called to participate in a vital global effort to end deaths from malaria. Today, a child dies from malaria every 60 seconds. God knows - and so do we - that this unacceptable. In response, our national church body, the ELCA, has set of goal of raising \$15 million by 2015 for education, prevention, and treatment, and we've already reached the \$13 million mark. Our synod (the northwestern region of the state) has raised over \$300,000, and our congregation has shared over \$1,000 this year alone. God is the Lord of life, and we trust that God will use our gifts to bring an end to this preventable disease.



## Vision for 2015

“Be Transformed” is our congregational theme in 2015, and this focus will bear on our work in this ministry team. We start off January with two important events related to Life and Ministry. One is an evangelism training day on January 10 at First Lutheran in Bemidji. This is part of our ongoing, shared evangelism and outreach initiative through Invitation to Joy. Another big investment in 2015 is our partnership with Vibrant Faith Ministries, an organization that is supporting our synod as we seek to grow in mature faith, pass on faith to younger generations, and practice faith at home. We hope everyone will participate in our Jan. 24 event at Calvary! Of course, in the coming months, we'll also walk with our second offering ministry partners, host neighbors through Servants of Shelter, and be active volunteers in a host of community non-profits. May God give us strength, wisdom, and faithfulness as we seek to be disciples of Jesus in 2015.

# Resource Ministry



Resource Ministry covers many of the support services that help the church function—from finance to building operations, from payroll to membership data maintenance, from library to cemetery. This year we accomplished a new pictorial directory, updated the staff handbook and rolled out new benefits for the staff beginning January 2015, paid off the last member loan, moved Foundation money to interest-bearing funds, updated the maps for the cemetery, and managed memorial gifts.

## The Visioning Process

*Betty Christ*

**Background** - Last January, Kairos and Associates conducted an



assessment survey of our congregation to identify our core values, our energy, and our willingness to embrace change.

In May, the Shared Visioning Team (Nicolle Bieberdorf, Betty Christ, Mike Hoffmann, Polly Merhar, Sarah Molde, Jeb Monge, Jennifer Sanford, Doug Williams) was formed to study whether our current mission statement is still reflective of who we are, and to develop a guiding document for future vision planning. I am a fairly new member at Calvary, but I just 'knew' I wanted to be involved in this process. What an opportunity to learn - - and to deepen my relationship with my church!

### **Phase One - Studying the Survey and our Mission/Vision Statements.**

Led by Nicholle Bieberdorf, our visioning team met regularly from the end of May until the beginning of August when we submitted our document to the council. I was highly impacted by Nicholle's gentle, Spirit-filled way of skillfully guiding us through a complex process. And I so appreciated getting to know my other team

members. It was a talented and fun group! It was also a special opportunity to get to know Council members and to get a sense of how they work together. We are a lucky congregation!

### **Phase Two - Holding Cottage Meetings and Synthesizing Results.**

Nicholle decided to step back from leading this part, and Polly Merhar took over the task of organizing and setting up cottage meetings. Afterward, all of the information and ideas needed to be deciphered and synthesized. At this point our team narrowed to three: Polly, Jeb, and Betty. Polly's terrific energy and strong background in organizational leadership kept both Jeb and me focused, committed, and still enjoying the process as we three worked to create the final document, which we submitted to the council at the beginning of November.

**Phase Three – Mission/Vision Leadership retreat.** On Sunday afternoon, November 16, the Council, pastors, vision team, and some of the participants/leaders of cottage meetings met to create vision and core value statements, and to identify three strategic priorities for the next 2-4 years. During the retreat, I got a chance to see another side of Pastor Genelle. I am used to hearing her preach and to observing her loving and infectious warmth. During our retreat I got to observe her strong, organized, and highly competent leadership. She got our large group to accomplish a huge amount of work in a short time. She was masterful!

*continued*

# Resource Ministry



*continued from p. 17*

Finally, I am highly impressed that Pastor Genelle made it clear from the beginning that the ownership of this visioning process belonged to the congregation. Until the retreat, she and Pastor Andrew and Pastor Nate stepped back from the entire process to ensure that when all was said and done the vision belongs to the people of Calvary.

## **Summary.**

I feel so blessed to have been involved in this six-month process. And I feel blessed to be a member of Calvary. It took a long time for me to find a church that 'felt right.' But I now know I have a true church home, and it feels very, very good!

## **LORD, USE US**

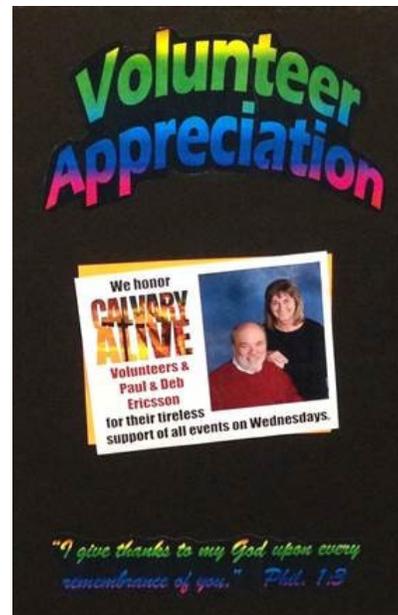
*Bill Beyer,  
President of the BCFS*

I am so grateful for the opportunity to tell you how much it meant to the Bemidji Community Food Shelf to have Calvary Lutheran Church open their church facility so that we could secure a team of young adults from Ameri-Corps. In 2013 they slept in tents at the Beltrami County Fair Grounds. This hospitality enabled these nine young adults from eight states to do a "ton" of work at the food shelf and the Headquarters Science Center. The team said Calvary was one of the best places they stayed at. A good place to eat, sleep and meet allowed them to accomplish more and struggle less to meet their basic needs.



Without the generous hospitality of the church the work they did would not have happened in our community. They were able to put up the fence around our garden space, fill the raised beds, do most of the planting, and accomplish countless other jobs inside the food shelf. They spent half their time at the food shelf and half at the science center. They are coming back this spring and we are excited that Calvary will house them again. It is a great community partnership you should be proud of.

THANKS AGAIN!



## **Memorial Report**

This year just over \$5,000 in memorials were received in honor of: Mable Andersen, Albert Olson, Benny Nielson, Naomi Colsen, Bernie Olson, Don Norum, and Darlene Stagg.

# Resource Ministry



## Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation 2014 Annual Report

The Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation Board (Norton Berg, Doug Oman, Rebecca Snyder, Al Zutz, Bruce Hemstad, Jim Molde & Pastor Genelle Netland as ex-officio) had a busy year. The Board met several times and made progress insuring that the Foundation is operational.

We transferred the principal account to the ELCA Mission Endowment Fund with an operation account also to be maintained in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The Foundation thus will function entirely separate from the Church General Fund and will be able to receive and disburse funds earned from the principal.

This Foundation is an extension of Calvary Lutheran Church, and its mission is to encourage personal wills and estate plans that reflect love of family, neighbor, and God's work through the Church to enhance the mission outreach of the congregation beyond that expected and supported through regular giving.

The Board will be offering informational meetings in the future and welcomes suggestions and inquiries as we work to grow this mission through our Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation.



## Report of Financial Review Committee to the Congregation December 3, 2014

Financial Review Committee members: Tom Riewer, Martha Nelson, Paul Iverson

Each Quarter one member of the Financial Review Committee reviews the following items:

1. Check Register: The Church Administrator prints the check register for the previous quarter. We review the check register for missing check numbers and verify the reason for any checks missing from the numerical sequence. We randomly select 10 checks from the register and verify that there is sufficient documentation to support the check.
2. Review previous quarter's bank statements: We verify that bank reconciliations for each month have been completed; scan the debit column of each statement for any unusual looking items and verify the origin if necessary; review the check copies attached to each bank statement and verify that they match the check register.
3. Quarterly payroll tax filings: We verify that the previous quarter Federal 941 and

# Resource Ministry



State payroll withholding filings have been completed and filed.

4. Deposits: We review three deposits and compare them to the spread sheet that is done when the deposit is calculated; also look at two deposits put together by the money counters.

Four reviews were done in 2014. No issues were identified. No additional council requests were received.



## Vision for 2015

In 2015, we look forward to being an integral part of the capital campaign and sanctuary planning team. We pledge to continue to keep the building full of joyous events and programs, and to maintain the facility you've built to meet the mission, values, and goals of Calvary!



# Christian Education Ministry



How do we grow in our faith from the cradle to the grave? That's the question that our Christian Education Ministry Team cares about passionately. The point in Christian education isn't so much information as it is formation, so our shared work in this area is not focused on Bible trivia per se, but on helping to shape mature Godly, Word-centered people. All of this takes place in an "intergenerational" way, with people of different ages getting to know each other, teaching other, and learning from each other. This is mutual reciprocal work, with the "older people" growing as much as the "younger people." What a gift to know and experience that God isn't finished with any of us yet!

In addition to the ministry areas described in the narratives below, our Christian Education ministry also includes

- Baptismal festivals
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Milestone Ministry (including 3rd grade Bibles and 5th grade 1st communion)

## Calvary Lutheran Christian Preschool

*Our Mission Statement*—Calvary Lutheran Christian Preschool is an outreach ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church. Our mission is to provide preschool age children with quality school readiness opportunities in a safe and nurturing Christian setting.

*Our Vision Statement*—To be a premier preschool recognized for empowering our students to be academic leaders and faithful disciples.

The preschool has grown since its beginnings in 1986 with half-day programming to its current full-day programming with child care options serving 84 students by a devoted staff of 12.



# Christian Education Ministry



## Middle School

*Bev Hodgson*

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Calvary confirmation kids gathered at Buena Vista for a fun night of tubing. A few times a year, the confirmation group embarks on less traditional Wednesday nights. These evenings of fellowship are a great way to show the kids that growing in faith is beyond the four walls of the church; that we can spend time with our church family doing different activities and rejoicing in Him and the beauty of His creation. This is my third year of teaching confirmation and I've had the privilege of following the same group of kids since 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We have grown together in our relationships with each other and in our personal relationships with God. There have been moments that I have stood in awe of our young people. We have had opportunities to share in each other's successes as well as share in our sorrow or burdens, showing us that God is present and active in our lives. Confirmation is more than the lessons that we cover every week. It is many different opportunities of coming together, including a fun night of tubing, to rejoice and praise our God and reaffirm our own baptism.

## High School 2014

*Kiah Ward, high school graduate*

It seems not that long ago that I was in preschool. My family moved here when I was three and a half and I was excited to attend. That's when my faith journey started here at Calvary Lutheran church—in preschool. Marlene and Enid were my teachers. The fun crafts we did in the church environment were only the start. Next came Sunday school! I loved hanging out with friends on a weekend. Learning about God was even more fun with your friends. Soon after that came confirmation. I had Val Port as my confirmation teacher and I would say that's how my faith really took off. The girls I had in my group, combined with Val as my teacher, made confirmation the most fun I have ever had at church. I really looked forward to Wednesday nights. I decided I wanted to be more involved so I went on my first mission trip to Minneapolis. That experience was absolutely mind-blowing for me. It was the first time I ever realized how lucky I was for the life I live and the things I have, because I was forced to look at people who had close to nothing. The crazy thing was that many of them seemed happier than me. It wasn't long after that I realized why they were so happy; it's because they had so much faith in God. Something clicked in me after that mission trip, I wanted to be more devoted to God. I also started helping Val in the kitchen with Vacation Bible School and helped the past four summers which has been a blast. Last year I got picked to be one of the two students to be on the call committee that hired Pastor Nate. It was a huge honor for me. Calvary Church, with its pastors and members, has let me grow with my faith in so many ways.

When I wrote my statement of faith in 8th

*continued*

# Christian Education Ministry



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grade, it was about how God speaks to me in different ways. This has followed with me; I continue listening to God. Last November my faith was tested. My sister and I were on our way home from my grandparent's house in Shevlin. The roads were especially slippery that night. As we were driving past Wilton, the car started spinning out of control and ended up hitting a small fence just covering a tiny portion of the huge overpass we were about to go over. We had a few concerned people stop and ask us if we were ok, then inspect the car. Each one, along with law enforcement, was equally surprised at the position of the car and told us how lucky we were. The small fence and chunk of concrete that had kept us from rolling the car down into the overpass, had come through the window of the seat behind me and was in the backseat just inches from me. Needless to say, my sister and I were very lucky to walk away from that crash, let alone without any serious injuries. After the crash I couldn't stop thinking about God. I had a feeling he was trying to tell me that it wasn't my time to go, that there was more for me to accomplish in life. I really felt God's presence with us that night.

I look forward in continuing my faith through opportunities like the mission trip to Puerto Rico this past summer. Thank you so much to our pastors and all the members of Calvary that support us every step of the way, from being Sunday school and confirmation teachers, to supporting us in all our fundraising. Calvary has given me an awesome foundation as I head out into the world. I would like to close with a verse that I think really speaks to us in transitions. Jeremiah 29:11—"For I know the plans I have for you, 'declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## **Adult Education**

*Linda Lemmer*

In Feb 2014, a group of six members of Calvary and two members from St. Bart's traveled to St. John's Abbey for a day of prayer. Our day began with worship and prayer in the church and then we joined three other persons for Lectio Divina led by Father Simone.

Lectio Divina is repetitive reading of scripture with a minute or two of silence for contemplation of what one sees and hears in the first reading and then a sharing of that insight. The second reading of the same scripture is read by a different person. There is again time for meditating on what one has seen and heard and again a time of sharing. A third person reads the same scripture again and a time of about 6 minutes is given for putting into prayer how one can use what one has seen and heard in the reading. We then went to

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# Christian Education Ministry

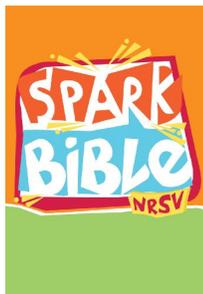


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find a quiet place for contemplation and prayer for about two hours.

I had participated in a similar trip to the abbey about two years ago. On that trip I found that with the distractions of being in a new place with things to see and nooks and crannies to locate, I was not able to sit and focus on prayer. This time, I felt more of the wonder of the method of slow repetitive reading and contemplation. I could feel the quiet and the peace. On the first trip my thoughts were on the others. Where were they? What were they doing? This time, sitting in sunny solitude, I was thinking of my race through the Bible, just to be able to get it read again, and what was the purpose. Father Simone said scripture, the Word of God, should be read with dignity and respect. If I was reading the Bible without listening to what God had to say, why bother? The Word of God needs slow repetitive reading to see and hear what God is telling the reader. Although each reader may hear something different in the scripture that touches them, sharing may help others see and hear the same concept. Additional reading may help develop a greater understanding of the sections shared.

My gift from God on that day of prayer was in gaining the knowledge that in repetition, contemplation, and prayerful consideration one can incorporate the Word of God into one's actions and words. My prayer is that I put the knowledge into use.



## **The Kids**

*Tom Sand*

*Wednesday Night Gym Supervisor*

I don't know all their names, but I do know all their smiles. And it is pretty cool when they come into the gym and make eye contact with me and smile, wave, or say Hi!

One night last year one of the kids asked me, "do you get paid to do this?" I told him no, and I think that puzzled him, as I think his next question was going to be, "how much?" I've thought about this a little and decided that I actually do get paid, I just don't get money. The following interactions with the kids are some of the payments that stuck in my mind from last year.

One night a little girl came over to me and stuck out her foot and modeled her brand new purple snow boots. The next week another little girl walked up to me and twirled around showing me her new yellow dress completely covered with gold sequins.

I have a young man that is in the gym most Wednesdays that gets more than his share of whistle blows. He just likes to push the boundaries more than other kids and we have to have discussions about keeping the dodge ball game in the gym and not in the hallways. One night he came up to me and asked me if I

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# Christian Education Ministry



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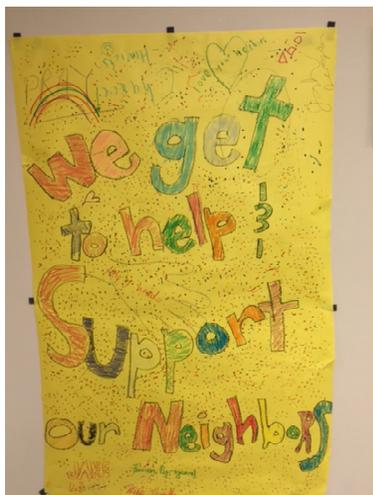
like Tic-Tacs. I said yes, so he poured me a handful, saying “orange ones, ‘cause they’re the best!”

One night there were over 50 kids in the gym, which makes it hard to keep track of everything that is going on. I was watching things on one end of the gym and all of a sudden several little kids ran over and got my attention. They all pointed to the other end of the gym, and I looked up just in time to see a bean bag go straight up toward one of the large fans with the protective cage around the blades. I quickly blew the whistle and put a stop to that activity, but it was a little too late, as there already were a couple bean bags lodged in the cage around the fan. I must have had a concerned look on my face, but I soon learned not to worry about the situation. Little Felix said, “It’s OK. Russ will get them.” (Sorry, Russ!)

I learned something from one of the little kids one night. The young boy came up to me and pointed straight up and said, “God lives upstairs!” I’ve heard lots of sermons from various preachers on how God is everywhere, but I kind of like Kaden’s story that, “God lives upstairs, in the gym, at Calvary!”



# Christian Education Ministry



## Vision for 2015

What'll the next year hold? In February and March, we'll have a new Sunday evening series called Basic Christianity. This is for all people, but especially for those who don't have an extensive background in learning the foundations of faith. New members, people who haven't gone through experience, and lifelong learners are all welcome! Our confirmation youth will again take part in intentional mentoring relationships with church adults during the Lenten season. Calvary will host a "Strengthening Families" series for families of 5<sup>th</sup> graders; this training is put on by our local friends at Peacemaker Resources. The congregation as a whole will be invited to be part of our partnership with Vibrant Faith Ministries, beginning with our training event on January 24 at Calvary. And we'll have chances for spiritual retreats: a men's retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria; men's and women's Via de Cristo weekends in West Fargo in May; and a St. John's Abbey prayer retreat in the spring or fall.

# Care Ministry



Care shows itself in such a variety of ways that sometimes it goes overlooked. The Care Ministry here at Calvary focuses on healing the broken, deepening relationships, and providing opportunities to be in God's creation.

## Summer Bible Camp

Camp Emmaus is becoming a favorite place for Calvary kids to gather. Whether it was on a mother-daughter weekend, family resort weekend, scrapbooking, or just getting away from home to experience a week at camp, the same experience was shared by all – Camp rocks! Some highlights from participants in 2014 included: the zip-line, tie dye shirts, campfires, canteen, canoeing, skits, meeting new friends, and more. Camp is a great way to experience God, worship, and God's creation in a new way. Thank you, Calvary, for encouraging and supporting Bible camp ministry!



## Calvary's "Emergency Room" up and running!

*Chip Holt*

I am pleased to report GriefShare and DivorceCare are fully operational! We have achieved our goal of providing and "emergency room" for hurting people and it can be found in Room 1 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

GriefShare, a support group for grieving people, has experienced steady participation since we committed to offering the program on a continuous basis. We experience between four and six participants (the ideal size) at each of the 13 week cycles. This fall, we partnered with Oak Hills Christian College to offer GriefShare to their student body. The Oak Hills staff facilitates their group and we provide additional facilitator support along with speaking to the student body on grief issues. Our cycles run in parallel so as to offer two meeting locations for participants. The last 13-week cycle concluded with 10 individuals in the Bemidji community receiving care through this ministry.



GriefShare is experiencing referrals from other groups in town. We have had participants come to us from Hospice, individual counselors, and local funeral homes. We are currently on a short "break" and will resume GriefShare again on January 20. The date is selected to coincide with returning students at Oak Hills Christian College.

DivorceCare is underway with another 13-week cycle. This program is not as "seasoned" as GriefShare in our church, but we are experiencing a steady participation rate of 3 people during each 13-week cycle. We expect this number to increase as word spreads throughout our community of its existence. Like GriefShare, Di-



*continued*

# Care Ministry



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DivorceCare deals with topics unique to separation/divorce. Due to the excellent structure of the program, the participants receive much-needed support and help as they navigate the process. DivorceCare compares divorce to a tornado ripping through a community and guides people into seeing how their lives, like the tornado-damaged neighborhood, can be rebuilt and look beautiful once again.

The team is always looking for facilitators. Our long-range goal is to have two teams, with two members on each team, for both DivorceCare and GriefShare. Training is simple and the rewards are great. Imagine having a front-row seat watching what God does to heal people from their deepest hurts. If you have experienced divorce and/or the loss of a loved one, and sense you have healed from your experience, let Pr. Genelle or me know.

One final “advertising” thought. If you, the reader, know of anyone who has experienced separation/divorce or the loss of a loved one, please let them know about these programs. We are finding some people may be YEARS away from their loss or divorce and are still struggling in a reduced lifestyle. Please reach out to them and watch how God raises them above their circumstance to bring joy back into their lives.



# Care Ministry



## Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Award at Synod Assembly

*Calvary presented with the  
Servant of Christ Award*

Calvary Lutheran was recognized both at the Northwestern Minnesota Synod gathering in May and again on November 2 in worship. Pastor Mary Brown shared, "Thank you so much for providing me the opportunity to deliver the LSS Servant of Christ award to you personally at Calvary. The vibrancy of your congregation touched my heart. We were so honored to be with you in your beautiful sanctuary and will not forget your warm hospitality. We want to personally thank you for your strong and enduring partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Your generosity is a beautiful example of what God is able to do when people of faith come together on behalf of our neighbors in need. Thank you again for your great ministry! Many blessings on all God is calling you to do and be."

Terry Palmer has agreed to be an LSS ambassador which will help us find ways to partner with our local LSS branch as well as explore new ways of working together to meet the needs of God's people in this community.



## Vision for 2015

Change is hard, but when it comes to care of self, family, neighbor, and creation, we usually welcome a little change. Next year we will take some time to consider how we can grow in our emotional well-being through will and estate planning seminars, funeral planning, and just getting together to have some fun.



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**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2015 9:45 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

Call to Order	Jim Molde
Meeting Procedures	Jim Molde
Opening Prayer	Pastor Andrew

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meeting  
Approval of Financial Reports

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Vision Core Values and 2-4 year strategic plan	
Nominations Report	
Constitution & Bylaws Changes	Gordy Lindgren
Approval of 2015 Ministry Budget	
Vibrant Faith Ministry	
Closing Prayer	Pastor Genelle
Adjournment	

***Gathered to Worship – Transformed by Christ – Sent out to Serve!***

Jesus calls us to *grow* as disciples, to *give* generously,  
and to *serve* others every day.



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calvary@calvarybemidji.org • [www.calvarybemidji.org](http://www.calvarybemidji.org)  
*Gathered to worship, transformed by Christ, sent out to serve*

**Title:** 2014 Annual meeting  
**Purpose:** Annual Business Meeting  
**Date:** 1-26-2014      **Time:** 9:49 a.m.  
N Bieberdorf:      Call to Order  
Bruce Hemstad – Parliamentarian  
Council Introductions

**Officiating:** Nicholle Bieberdorf  
**Parliamentarian:** Bruce Hemstad  
**Location:** Sanctuary

Pr. Nate:      Opening Prayer

#### OLD BUSINESS

N Bieberdorf:      **Approval of the minutes from the 2013 annual meeting.** Ann Cease made a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual and Congregational Meetings in 2013. Second by Linda Lemmer. Motion carried.

N Bieberdorf:      **Financial Report-review of 2013:** highlighted on the screens, and on buff-colored sheet, was a financial snap shot through 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Congregational discussion touched on budget, second offering, attendance and membership and pledging. Motion to approve the report by Linda Lemmer. Second by Barb Kurth. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

N Bieberdorf:      **Nominating committee report.** Nominating committee made up of Dick Sauer, Sue Supalla, Jim Molde, ex officio: Pr Genelle and Nicholle Bieberdorf

-**New council nominees** came up and introduced themselves, all serve a two year term:

- Ron Tuck, at-large (additional term)
- Tony Hommes, at-large (additional term)
- Wendy Brown, at-large (new)
- Gordy Lindgren, at-large (new)
- Jim Molde, president, (2-year term)

No nominations from the floor. Gordy and Wendy spoke about what they look forward to as new council members.

-**Remaining council members**, one year term remaining

- Joyce Way
- Rod Gunderson, will be serving as vice-president
- Andrea Brodina



Sue Supalla, Treasurer

**-Nominations of Financial Review Committee** announced and are willing to serve again in 2014:

Tom Riewer  
Martha Nelson  
Paul Iverson

**-Nominations for the Calvary Foundation:**

Doug Oman, 2-yr term  
Bruce Hemstad, 2-year term (nomination from the floor)  
Allen Zutz, 1-yr remaining  
Norton Berg, 1-yr remaining

Mark Paulson moved to close the nominations for Doug and Bruce and vote for the slate of nominees. Second by Jonah Snyder. Motion carried.

Mark Paulson moved to close nominations for the council and to vote for the slate of nominees for council. Second by Kathy Eggers. Motion carried.

**-Nominations from the floor for Synod Assembly delegates:**

Nominations from the floor:

Mark Paulson  
Jonah Snyder, youth

Linda Lemmer moved to approve the nominees for the Financial Review ministry team and nominations from the Synod Assembly that came from the floor and that the council will fill the rest of the places for the synod delegates. Second by Linda Arnold. Motion carried.

Nicholle Bieberdorf handed over the gavel of the council president to Jim Molde, the new president for 2014-2015. Jim presented Nicholle with a Green Bay Packer blanket as a gift from the congregation in appreciation of her good work as council president and council member.

Jim Molde:

**Presented the 2014 general fund budget**

Jim covered highlights of the 2014 budget. 70% of facility use income will be moved to the property improvement fund to cover unbudgeted property repair and improvement expenses. Worship and Music Coordinator is a new position budgeted; this position has been on the to-do list since 2007 and was renewed in the 2011 staffing task force survey. The 2014 budget has this position budgeted beginning August 2014. This will be Bill and Almina Beyers last year as our visitation pastor team. We vote for a budget on faith, prayerfully, and ask for a motion to approve the 2014 proposed budget. Moved by Jeb Monge. Second by Dennis Depew. Motion carried.

Pr Andrew :

Closing prayer

Jim Molde:

Asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Linda Lemmer to adjourn. Second by Mike Arnold. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Polly Merhar, Church Administrator



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## 2014 Nominating Committee Report

### **Nominating committee members:**

Ex officio: Genelle Netland, Jim Molde, Andrea Brodina, Sue Supalla, and Tom Riewer

### **Calvary Lutheran Church Council (all 2-year terms)**

#### **9 Elected Members total (up to 3 consecutive terms)**

Rod Gunderson (2nd term) – Vice President

Paul Iverson - Treasurer

Leonore Potter – at large

Bruce Hemstad – at large

### **Financial Review Committee (1- yr term)**

#### **3 Elected Members total – cannot serve on council**

Tom Riewer

Chris Holter

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### **Foundation (2-yr terms)**

#### **5 Elected Members total**

Rebecca Snyder (2nd term)

Vernon Erickson

Nicholle Bieberdorf

### **Synod Assembly Delegates (Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17, 2015)**

**Female:** Sylvia Olney \_\_\_\_\_ ALT: Joan Meulebroeck

**Male:** Rod Gunderson \_\_\_\_\_ ALT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth:** Luc Berard



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## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND GOALS

**Mission Statement:** Gathered to Worship; Transformed by Christ; Sent out to Serve

**Vision Statement:**

Jesus calls us to *grow* as disciples, to *give* generously, and to *serve* others every day.

**Core Values:**

- *Worship*  
Through the gift of our connection to God and in community with each other, we commit to hearing God's word, praising God, and praying faithfully, all with a joyful & welcoming spirit. *"Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2)*
- *Meaningful Relationships*  
We commit to providing ways for people of Calvary to make authentic connections with others through opportunities for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually member of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27)*
- *Service to Others*  
Inspired by God, we commit to serving all people by putting our faith into action in our homes, congregation and communities. *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18b)*
- *Youth*  
We commit to nurturing the spiritual growth of our youth and families as together we become faithful servants of Jesus. *"But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" (Luke 18:16)*
- *Generosity*  
As stewards of God's love, we commit to sharing our gifts with God's people. *"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)*

**Applying our vision and values**

These questions will be used to shape future ministry opportunities at Calvary:

- ◇ Does this deepen our relationship with Jesus? (vision)
- ◇ Does this teach or practice generosity? (vision)
- ◇ Does this put our faith into action? (vision)
- ◇ Does this reflect our core values? (values)



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**Strategic Priorities over the next 2—4 years:**

*#1: Vibrant Faith Formation*

- \* Partner with Vibrant Faith Ministries to bring about life-transforming faith in Jesus Christ.
- \* Develop intergenerational and at-home faith formation resources.
- \* Add new milestone ministry markers to the life of the congregation.

*#2: Generosity*

- \* Teach generosity through the capital appeal, generosity team, and time and talent opportunities.
- \* Practice generosity through yearly spiritual financial giving and monthly highlighting stories of people living generous lives.
- \* Sustain generosity through promotion and gifting the Calvary Foundation.

*#3: Faith in Action - Small Group Ministry (meaningful relationships)*

- \* Reframe faith in action not to be just one day but to include everyday life and ministry, as well as special opportunities.
- \* Create a series of courses that help deepen faith & build relationships.
- \* Develop opportunities for fellowship in both age-specific and intergenerational groups.
- \* Improve tracking of Calvary groups, especially including connected people. (Staff goal)



# CALVARY LUTHERAN

# Mission Budget

# 2015



Calvary Lutheran seeks to make an impact on the lives of all who gather here and for all God's creation. We give faithfully to God because God first gave to us. Through the faithful stewardship of our financial gifts, we support the love of Christ being unleashed for the life of the world.

Gathered to Worship

Transformed by Christ

Sent out to Serve

Total needed to support  
Mission and ministry in 2015 is  
**\$825,500.**

Everyone has something to offer!

## Spiritual Life

Our passion in this area is worship! Keeping the presence of God at the center of our life together is one of the greatest gifts of this church. Through preaching, music, prayers of the people, celebrating the sacraments regularly, and growing deeper in God's Word, we are all renewed by God's grace.



## Care

Our passion in this area is deepening relationships! At Calvary, we strive to be a gathering place for people who are hurting, specifically from divorce, separation, or grief. Every day God empowers us to care for one another, our community, and God's creation.





## Life and Mission

Our passion in this area is service to others. We put our faith into action. Whether it is feeding the hungry, providing shelter, doing yard work, or learning how to be better neighbors, Calvary is making an impact in the lives of our brothers and sisters. Mission trips are one of the ways God sends us out to serve neighbors near and far.

## Christian Education

Our passion in this area is our ministry to youth and families! Calvary is bursting at the seams with kids. So, we are committed to partnering with parents to help make faithful disciples. From our preschool to adult faith formation, learning more about Christ is at the center of what we do.



*We baptize about 40 people a year. Calvary Lutheran Preschool enrolls 84 students. Our confirmation program has over 100 students, and over 50 youth attend summer mission trips! Lives are being transformed for Christ!*

# WE ARE THE CHURCH



## Resources

The gifts in this area are both our building and our staff! What vital resources for God's glory. From the gym to the showers, from the many classrooms to our beautiful sanctuary, Calvary has been a gathering place for many groups. Our staff continues to be Christ-focused and mission-minded, serving the neighbor with God's love. This year, generosity will be one of our main focuses. Both the capital appeal and the foundation offerings will help us pursue future mission and ministry at Calvary and beyond.

In 2015, there will be some changes to our annual budget. We will eliminate member loans and add items to support a seminary intern, the Vibrant Faith Initiative, and transformation goals. Pastor Andrew applied for and was granted a Lilly Foundation Grant to fund his three-month sabbatical in 2015.

In 2015, we hope, along with the entire ELCA, to meet our goal in the ongoing fight against malaria. Our children's offering will continue to support this worthwhile cause. In 2014, \$1,345 were collected. We will continue partnering

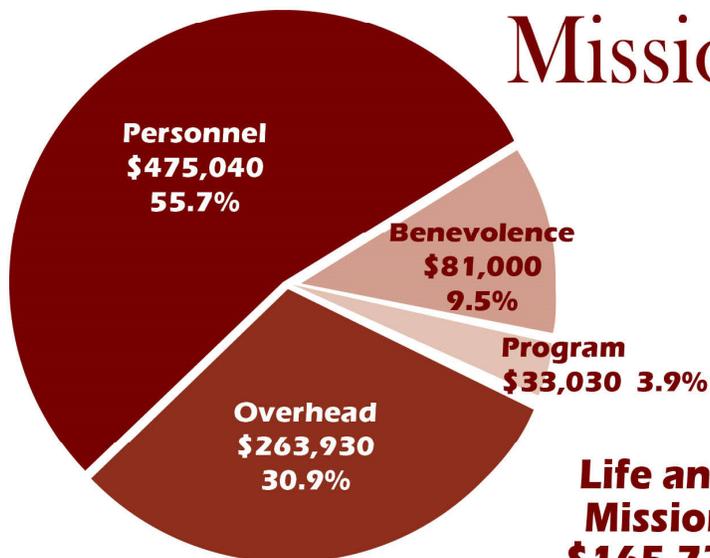
with local, national, and international partners to make a difference as the body of Christ. The Calvary Lutheran Foundation will be growing the funds that have been set aside to supplement our mission and ministry beyond our church budget.

In 2015, we will begin a capital appeal to help pay down our building debt and to put aside money for property improvements. The first goal is to renovate the sanctuary, which, after 32 years of weekly use, is ready for some upgrades.

# CALVARY LUTHERAN



## Mission Budget 2015



### Calvary Preschool \$243,300

(Calvary Lutheran Preschool's budget is separate from the rest of the church budget.)

Budget year  
July 1, 2014

-  
June 30, 2015  
for our  
self-supporting  
preschool  
of 84 students,  
with 13 staff.

### Spiritual Life \$143,123

Staff  
-Sr. Pastor

Supplies  
-Communion  
-Sound  
Equipment

Worship  
Guests

### Care \$6,530

Visitation Pastor  
Food  
Fellowship

### Life and Mission \$165,720

Staff  
-Assoc. Pastor  
Partners  
in  
Ministry  
-NWMN Synod  
-Foodshelf  
-Many others

Equipping  
Disciples  
-Invitation to Joy  
-Mission Trip  
Chaperones

### Christian Education \$113,916

Staff  
-Assoc. Pastor of  
Youth & Family  
Faith  
Formation  
-Sunday School  
-Confirmation  
Activities  
-Vacation Bible  
School

### RESOURCES \$423,711

Supports all Ministry and Mission

Staff	Property	Office	Maintenance
Church Admin.	Mortgage	Supplies Equipment	

“The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.” *Samuel J. Stone 1839-1900*



## Calvary Staff Ministry Team Members

Rev. Genelle Netland, Senior Pastor

Rev. Andrew Ronnevik, Associate Pastor

Rev. Nate Bendorf, Associate Pastor of Youth & Families

Rev. Bill Beyer & Almina Beyer, A.I.M., Visitation Ministers

Joan Meulebroeck, Children's Ministry Director

Angela Paulson, Kingdom Kids Coordinator

Shar Paquette, Worship and Music Minister

Polly Merhar, Church Administrator

Kim Carver Smith, Administrative Assistant

Nancy Schram, Communication Specialist

Russ Sletten, Gene Bright, and Kevin Barsch, Custodians

Wanda Roff, Lead Preschool Teacher

Diana Stokes, Preschool Teacher

Sarah Scofield, Preschool Teacher

Amanda Renbarger, Child Care Teacher

Tonia Eglinton, Preschool Assistant Teacher

Tina Garrison, Preschool Assistant Teacher

Jacky Sampson, Preschool Assistant Teacher

Marlene Sletten, Preschool Aide

Barb Gray, Preschool Aide

Jessica Gunning, Preschool Aide

Peggy Reznicek, Interim Preschool Aide

Jennifer Berg, Preschool Support



## Church Council Members 2014

Jim Molde, President	2015
Rod Gunderson, Vice President	2014
Sue Supalla, Treasurer	2014
Andrea Brodina	2014
Joyce Way	2014
Tony Hommes	2015
Ron Tuck	2015
Gordy Lindgren	2015
Wendy Brown	2015
Pastor Genelle	
Pastor Andrew	
Pastor Nate	
Polly Merhar	

*\*Year listed indicates term expiration.*