

Jamaica: An Opportunity for Altruism & Growth

One week ago our family "concluded" a journey that began well over a year ago. When Pastor Nate announced the 2nd intergenerational mission trip to Jamaica, I immediately signed our family up. I wanted my sons to experience life outside of the US in a third world country and, to be honest, who wouldn't want to go to Jamaica in March?!

Now that we are home people ask us "Did you have fun and what did you do?" Well of course we had fun... it's Jamaica! The easy answer to "what did you do": we served at a small school working in classrooms and outside pouring new sidewalks. We visited an infirmary, a children's home, speaking and playing with the residents and attending church services.

However a better question to ask would be "What did you experience in Jamaica?" We saw the joy of the Lord on the faces of all we met, be it a student at the school, an elder at the infirmary, or an orphaned child. We saw God's love, mercy, and acceptance through our guides and the dedicated staff at each facility that we visited. We experienced God's grace and forgiveness as we learned how to mix soupy concrete. I watched in awe as not only my boys, but other young members of our group showed God's compassion, wisdom, and understanding belying their young ages. I felt uplifted and renewed by the enthusiasm and welcoming spirit of our Jamaican brothers and sisters, revealing that church is truly alive and working in the world.

We went to serve the people of Jamaica and we did provide for them, but that pales in comparison to what we received and the impact on our own lives. We are still processing the trip and I'm already seeing changes in how my family relates to each other and those around us. I see my family taking more pride in what we have and being more grateful for it. We are putting down our phones, turning

off the tv, and spending more time with each other. We want to take away some of the busyness and be more intentional in each of our lives. Ultimately, there is no "conclusion" to this trip as we continue to identify and apply what we experienced in one amazing week. If it ever seems like this trip has concluded, we need to go again. Not only to give, but to receive and be renewed.

TIONAL

- Amy Loewe



INVITATIONAL INFORMATION ON PAGE 6!

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April newsletter deadline:
8 am, April 19, 2018
Please e-mail submissions to
communications@calvarybemidji.org
May be edited as space requires.

Visit our website at calvarybemidji.org to see what else is happening!



Thank You!

First, we'd like to thank our Servants of Shelter volunteers. From March 11-18, our Calvary building and community were part of our area homeless shelter ministry. We welcomed fifteen neighbors experiencing homelessness, and we were able to provide them with shelter and food. Dozens of Calvary and other area-church volunteers were involved in this effort. Thanks to all of our Servants of Shelter volunteers!

Another ministry that was a huge success was our pie auction. This would not have been possible without our many gracious and wonderfully talented bakers. Similarly, this event would be unsuccessful if we did not have so many generous people at Calvary to bid in this fun-raiser for the Bridge. We raised over \$2,000! Thank you all!

We would also like to thank everyone that helped support our mission trip to Jamaica. Your support allowed our missionaries to experience life in another country while creating memories that will last a lifetime. Thanks are due to the missionaries as well. We hope that this trip had as positive an effect on your lives as it did for those you helped along the way.

Finally, we would also like to thank those who have donated their time and resources to help make our Youth Easter Sunday breakfast a success! Your generosity is appreciated and evident in all of the smiling faces that benefit from your benevolence.

Thank you all for living out our mission and vision. Thank you for your selfless acts of kindness!

New Member Orientation & New Member Sunday in April

Calvary's community continues to be enriched by new people! Church membership through Calvary is a simple process: 1) come to a new member orientation (or have a meeting with a pastor); and 2) participate in a new member welcome during a worship service. This month, those who are interested in becoming members are invited to come to a new member orientation session on Wednesday evening, April 11, from 5:15-6:30 pm in room 1. At this gathering, we'll share conversation and a meal, get to know other new Calvary folks, and learn about some Calvary basics. On April 29 at our 9 am Miracle Sunday 2.0 service at BSU, new members will formally join the congregation. Please contact Pr. Andrew or Kim Warren (kwarren@calvarybemidji.org) if you are interested in the orientation and this new member Sunday!

Jubilee Discernment & Discussion

The church and the world are changing, and Calvary is paying attention! On April 22 and May 20, come to a Sunday morning discussion time from 9:30-10:30 am in Room 7. The conversation will relate to five books that Calvary members are invited to read - you do not need to read any of the books to participate!

READING SELECTIONS - AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE, OR THROUGH BOOK VENDORS:

The Great Emergence - Phyllis Tickle
Emergence Christianity - Phyllis Tickle
They Like Jesus but Not the Church - Dan Kimball
A Generous Orthodoxy - Brian McLaren
The Irresistible Revolution - Shane Claiborne

Bemidji Community Food Shelf Volunteer Open House - Tuesday, April 3

Bemidji Community Food Shelf will be hosting an open house for anyone interested in volunteer opportunities from 7-8:00 pm Tuesday, April 3 at the food shelf at 1260 Exchange Ave SE.

This is intended for anyone curious about volunteering at the food shelf. The food shelf has several distinct needs including seasonal farm work, rescuing food from area stores, interviewing customers, sample cooking and serving, warehouse work, and assisting customers in the store.

Those planning to attend should RSVP by 4:00 pm Monday, April 2 by calling 218-444-6580 and asking for Emily or by emailing emily.bemidjifoodshelf@gmail.com. The event will start in the food shelf conference room and attendees should enter through the west (employee) door. The food shelf is

located in the Industrial
Park, one long block
east of the Eagles Club.
Light snacks will be
provided.



Birthdays This Month

Please pray in celebration for these people on their birthday. If your birthday is not listed, or is not correct, please call the church office to update our records.

01-Apr Ron Gladen, Chris Anderson, Max Harris

02-Apr Jon Bergquist, Melanie Crunden, Kade Davidson, Mataya Davidson, Greta Nettestad

03-Apr Paul Iverson

04-Apr Judy Hommerding, Jeff Ewert, Tonia Karbowski, Nathan Peterson, Eli Klinke, Elizabeth Leindecker, Olivia Wangberg, Beau Weidner

05-Apr Bill Sanford, Brooke Quello, Nichol Treichel, Anna Falldorf, Kate Halden, Kaylee Gudmundson

06-Apr Peter Tentinger, Rolf Lund, Hannah Trefz, Callan Sant, Mila Johnson

07-Apr Nancy Brovold, Amelia McClellan

08-Apr Matt Bahl, Lindsey Wangberg, Pailey Clemenson09-Apr Diane Wahl, Payten Hendricks, Autumn Schmid

10-Apr Jim Fillipi, Matthew Boyer, Ryan Westhoff, Benjamin Frauenholtz

11-Apr Roine Cunningham, Cody Kasper, Michael Tews

12-Apr Ashley Olsen, Grace Naig, Addie Colligan, Maggie Brown, Chandler Seitz, Layne Brekken

13-Apr Erin Larson, Kinsey Younggren, Grayson Dunn

14-Apr Sara Oster, Thomas Oster, Tate Hammitt

15-Apr Jonah Snyder, Madelyn Bjorgaard

16-Apr Roger Gunsalus, Diane Davis, Brian Vraa, Marlana Larson

17-Apr Cheryl Colford, Dave Tews, Matthew Larson, Maxwell Bahr

18-Apr Emilie Peterson, Darlene Gunderson, Cindy Large

19-Apr Ellen Jackelen, Rhonda Hendricks, Tyler Truax

20-Apr Cole Pouliot, Marie Peterson

21-Apr Sue Moen, Zacary Fouquerel-Skoe, Sydnee Kuzel, Mya Huseby, Mia Russ

22-Apr Garry Lange, Elizabeth Wadena, Mia Hoffmann

23-Apr Edith Hoyum, Robin Gullickson, Avery Carlson, Kendra Strodtman

24-Apr Robin Harris, Freddie Petrowske

25-Apr Bruce Hemstad, Joy Buchholtz, Paul Clemens, Jenna Palmiscno, Ben Wangberg, Lindsey Hildenbrand, Kevin Ward, Izabella Truax

26-Apr Dennis Bartz, Dana Kvalevog, Amy Loewe, Keely Dremmel, Hannah Quinn

27-Apr Ellis LaVoy, Jessie Erickson, Sam Starkey, Orin Kerr

28-Apr Fred Pick, Cindy Lewer, Mark Boyer, Joey Larson, Coy Skerik

29-Apr Vivian Anderson, Gordy Lindgren, Donna Ward, Kate Hildenbrand, Chloe Workman

30-Apr Joan Stevens, Carmen Garrigan, Randy Lish, Alexandria Sand, Tanner Hatfield,

Chance Hinrichs



DID YOU KNOW?

Most Wednesdays we offer a healthy, hot meal from 5:30-6:15 pm.

APRIL CALVARY ALIVE MEALS:

4th - Tater Tot Hotdish

11th – Chef's Choice

18st - Spaghetti

25th - Chicken Sandwiches

We feed our families so we have the energy to bring Calvary to life! This is an important mission for us and brings us together.

A donation of \$4/person or \$15/family is suggested in order this keep this important ministry thriving.



HAPPENINGS

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY Southside Restaurant, Weds., 6:30 am

MARTHA CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY at Calvary, 3rd Tues. each month, 1:30 pm

HOPE CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY at Calvary, 3rd Tues. each month, 9:30 am

MARIGOLD CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY 1st Mon. each month, 10:00 am. Contact Linda Arnold (759-9702)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES 10:00 am in Calvary's Lounge.

JOHN EGGERS' BIBLE STUDY

Weekly on our website or via Enews.

GRIEF SHARE at Calvary, Tuesdays 5:45-7:45 pm - Chip Holt (651-353-0029)

ZUMBA CLASS at Calvary, 12:15 pm most Sundays. sarahbendorf.zumba.com

MARTIAL ARTS at Calvary, 7:00 pm most Sundays; Northwinds Martial Arts (218-333-3806)

QUILTERS at Calvary, 9:00 am - Room 4, in the quilting room Thursdays weekly

CRAFTERS at Calvary, 7:00 pm the 2nd Monday of every month. At Lueken's Fireside, Noon 4th Monday, of every month; Cheryl - 368-3098

RIPPED CLASS W/ LEAH at Calvary, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm & Saturdays at 9:15 am

KANGAROO JUMPS W/ LEAH at Calvary, Saturdays at 8:00 am http://www.bemidjibounce.com/

				APRII 2018			
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	thip e attend 9:30am vorship	members Kix	3 3.4 AM - 1000 AM Preschool Chapel 43.0 PM -6.00 PM Gill Scout Troop #862 43.0 PM -9.00 PM Just for KK 5.45 PM 7.45 PM Grief Share 7.50 PM Narcolcs Aronymous	4. 6:30 AM Men's Breadfast & Bible Study 9:45 AM - 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 10:00 AM Vednesday Bible Study 9:40 PM - 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Kingdom Kids 9:89:89:80 PM Kingdom Kids 5:30 PM Kingdom Kids 6:30 PM Calvary Alive Meal 6:30 PM Calvary Alive Contempor any 7:15 PM Acut Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Acut Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Calvary Alive Contempor any 7:15 PM Moult Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Calvary Alive Contempor any 7:15 PM Moult Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Moult Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Calvary Alive Contempor any 7:15 PM Moult Choir Rehearsal	5.00 AM Preschool Easter Programs: 7.700 AM Preschool Easter Programs: 7.700 AM Preschool Easter Programs: 7.700 AM -1.200 AM -1.200 AM -1.200 AM -1.200 AM -1.200 AM -1.200 AM Preschool Open House 6:00 PM -7.30 PM Preschool Open House	6 7.00 AM Preschool Easter Programs: 10am, 24m, 245pm 8:00 PM AA - Pine Tree Mg	7 TOO AM Kangoo DancePower Class with Benridi Bource 9:15 AM RIPPED Exercise Class with Leah
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PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR: If you are aware of an event that should go in the Calvary calendar, please contact Polly at pmerhar@calvarybemidji.org by the newsletter deadline.

2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - GIDEONS

Gideons International is well-known for distributing Bibles and New Testaments around the world. 1 Corinthians 3:6 says that "God [gives] the growth," but we are empowered to share in the important work of planting the seed of the word – and we can do this by putting the Bible in people's hands, wherever they are. The Bemidji community has a dedicated group of Gideons leaders, and this month we'll hear about their important work.



Partnership is more than money! All of us are entrusted with the joyful opportunity and responsibility to share the good news of Jesus. This month, try sharing a Bible with someone who doesn't have one, or find another way to use your voice to give away the love of God in Jesus.

While we will take a second offering one Wednesday and one Sunday per month (April 8 & 11), you are encouraged to give throughout the month to our ministry partners. We ask that ALL checks be made out to Calvary Lutheran. In the memo line, write our mission partner for the month. This will help with better record keeping.

Pack the Pews!

Come and Worship with us ~ Celebrating our Risen Lord! in our 3rd "Pack the Pews" service, **Wednesday**, **April 4**, **2018**.

We will be celebrating with lots of upbeat music and the gospel message of the Risen Christ. Nicknamed "Lights Down, Volume Up," this service has been well received by many in the past – come and experience this amazing way to worship!

Join Our '50s Decade Group!

Members of Calvary, if you are 60+ years of age, join our 50's Decade Group today! All of those who are around age 60 or older are welcome!

Men & Women Single or Married Thin or Fluffy
Tall or Short

Get together to socialize and have lunch on the 3rd Friday of every month at Giovanni's Pizza (can be flexible on location.)

CONTACTS:

Shirley Olson: Betty Port: Mary Froiland: 444-6676 751-2424 444-5364

Office Closed April 2

Calvary's office will be closed on Monday, April 2 in recognition of Easter. Be sure to enjoy this beautiful holiday and celebration of new life with your family and loved ones.



Happy Easter!

Preschool Open House

Part of Calvary's Vision Statement is to grow disciples. This is a part of Calvary Preschool's Vision Statement as well: To be a premier preschool recognized for empowering our students to be academic leaders and faithful disciples. On Thursday, April 5, at 6:00 pm we are inviting families to see what Calvary's preschool has to offer their child. There will be



a short information session and a time to tour our facility and meet the preschool staff. If you or someone you know is interested but needs more information, please don't hesitate to contact Joan at 751-1893.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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<u>February</u>	Income	Expenses		
General Fund	\$54,938	\$65,046		
Y-T-D	\$114,106	\$119,163		
Preschool	\$27,109	\$28,354		
Y-T-D	\$227,237	\$215,191		
Gen. Fund is Ja	anDec.; Presch	ool is July-June		
Cash & Receiv	ables	\$132,954		
February Minis Praying Pelicar	stry Partner: ns - Jamaica Trip:	:\$3,000		
Calvary Found	lation Balance:	\$39,938		
Capital Appea	I: THE BRIDGE			
	bruary	\$19,125		
Received to the	e pledge so far	\$797,498		
Pledged to date	e	\$834,115		
Households ple	edged to date	222		
Participation to	date	299		



The Bridge Capital Appeal - Let's Finish Strong!

At the end of February we reached 95% of our pledge goal for The Bridge capital appeal. We are so very close to exceeding our pledges! Participation has also been inching up and we expect to meet our goal of 85% by Miracle Sunday 2.0, April 29.

To that end we are doing some special things to make it easy and fun to participate. First, you can sponsor a table at Miracle Sunday 2.0. Your \$50 sponsorship gives you naming rights for the table and covers the cost for five kids. You can also participate in our faith quilt sealed bid event with the proceeds to go to The Bridge. You can even get your meal tickets early! Tickets are \$10 each for adults over age 18 and free for those under 18, but we do need everyone, including kids, to have a ticket. Because food is involved and there is limited, reserved seating, we need you to get your ticket by Sunday, April 22.

We are also having a special second offering on Miracle Sunday. The goal is to raise one more mortgage payment (\$9,811) just to seal the deal and end with a slam dunk! And, of course, you can continue to give to your pledge or to the Bridge all through April.

Jesus says, "I am the Way." Let us boldly follow him!

Miracle Sunday Table Sponsors



Color the balloons! Sponsor a Table for Miracle Sunday! \$50 to sponsor a table.

For your sponsorship you get to name your table (family name, book of the Bible, etc.) and you provide a meal for five kids! Put Table Sponsor and your table name in the memo of your check.



Breakfast Buffet: 10:00 am

Tickets are required for brunch. \$10 per adult and \$0 for ages 0-18. Please get your tickets in the church office by Sunday, April 22.

Table Crosses for Centerpieces Needed

Crafty Creative Folks - create a cross centerpiece for the Miracle Sunday tables!

We have over 80 tables for our Miracle Sunday meal and are looking for 80 cross centerpieces to be donated. The crosses will be given away at the end of our morning together with our message of the day, "Blessed to be a Blessing. Crosses can be brought to the Calvary office throughout the month of April and before April 26.



Sealed Bid Auction - Ouilt

Tonie Peterson has donated a beautiful, embroidered "Faith" quilt to use as a capstone fundraiser for The Bridge capital appeal. We will

offer this through "sealed bid". Put your best bid in a sealed envelope with your name, phone number, and bid in the bidding box near the quilt. Each week we will open the bids and announce the new bid to beat. The winning bid will be announced at Miracle Sunday 2.0 on April 29.



PLEASE SEE CALVARYBEMIDJI.ORG, HAPPENINGS (PG. 3), OR THE CALENDAR (PG. 4) FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES