

# Calvary News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BEMIDJI | MAY 2018

2508 Washington Ave SE | Bemidji, MN | 218-751-1893 | [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org)

## Calvary Happenings

Mark Twain once said, "The only person who likes change is a wet baby." Our Calvary staff is experiencing some changes! Tina Garrison, a preschool assistant teacher has just welcomed a new baby, and Kim Warren, our administrative assistant for programs, is expecting a new baby in July; Interns Scott Pierson from Oak Hills and Kaerstin Quinlan from BSU have completed their respective internships among our staff; Pastor Andrew and Meredith announced their resignation effective June 3; and Pastor Nate has chosen to delay his sabbatical until the summer of 2019.

Change is often hard - unless you are that baby who needs a diaper change! Change brings about a mix of emotion, opportunities and challenges. Change can make us uncomfortable because we can't always see what the future holds. Thankfully we believe in a faithful God who knows something about change and promises to be with us and to lead us. As we process these changes, may we trust in God!

### *Some Excerpts from Pr. Andrew's Resignation Letter, Dated April 22, 2018*

Dear Calvary brothers and sisters,

With both gratitude and sadness, I am writing to announce my resignation from my role as one of your associate pastors, effective June 3, 2018.... I have felt led to accept an opportunity to pursue a Ph.D. in Theological Studies through the Department of Religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. This is a full-time doctoral program in which graduate students spend a minimum of five years on campus for course work, teaching, and writing. The academic work will allow me potentially to become a professor in a college or seminary, which is a vocation that has long been of interest to me. My studies at Baylor will begin on July 5. I will not be actively serving as a pastor during these years of study, but I hope and believe that God will provide ways for me to minister through the church in the future.

~Pr. Andrew & Meredith (To read the full letter, visit [www.calvarybemidji.org](http://www.calvarybemidji.org).)

#### FROM PR. GENELLE:

We will be celebrating as a faith community on Wednesday, May 30 after our 6:30 pm worship in the fellowship hall and again on Sunday, June 3 after our 9:30 am worship service with a brunch and program. During our June 3 worship, we will be collecting money as a congregational gift for Andrew and Meredith. Please keep our dear friend Andrew and his wife Meredith in your prayers as well as our congregation. We have much to give thanks for and to celebrate and also it will be a significant loss for our faith community. God will see us all through this change.



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**June newsletter deadline:**  
**8 am, May 19, 2018**

Please e-mail submissions to  
[communications@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:communications@calvarybemidji.org)  
May be edited as space requires.

**Visit our website at [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org) to see what else is happening!**

# Grow • Give • Serve

## Cemetery Work Day

On Saturday, May 12, you are invited to help spruce up our beloved Calvary Cemetery (Roosevelt Road) to prepare for Memorial Day weekend. We will gather around 9:00 am for a variety of projects to be done. Please bring water, work gloves and work boots along! (Saturday, May 19 is our backup work day if the weather doesn't cooperate!) Put your faith into action and come to serve!



## Calvary Choir Field Trip

The Calvary Choir is going out on mission on Saturday, May 5! Please share the following info with any that may be interested! It would be great to have some "Calvary Bemidji groupies" come to see the concert.

Please join the Calvary Lutheran Choir of Bemidji, the Messiah Festival Choir of Fargo, the Calvary Lutheran Choir from Grand Forks, and the Pinetones a cappella quartet for an afternoon of choral music and hymn singing at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo. Featured guests include Jenn Ellis on the harp and Dean Jilek, Director of Choirs at UND. The concert begins at 2:00 pm and a free will offering will be taken and matched by Border States Electric and donated to the food shelves of Bemidji, Grand Forks and Fargo. This event is also supported with a Thrivent Action grant. Come hear some amazing music and support hunger in our area!



## Jubilee Discernment & Discussion

The church and the world are changing, and Calvary is paying attention! **On Wednesday, May 9 from 5:30-6:30 pm or Sunday, May 20 from 9:30-10:30 am, come to a discussion time from in Room 7.** The conversation will relate to the five books that Calvary members are invited to read - you do not need to read any of the books to participate!

## Happy Birthday to Dave Christensen!

All are welcome in celebrating Dave Christensen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday during our coffee fellowship on Sunday, May 6. His family invites you to be a part of this incredible milestone with him between services while sipping coffee and enjoying cake.

If you can't be there but would like to send him a greeting, you may send it to his current temporary address: 704B Simplicity Drive, Ellendale, MN 56026.



## Who is That Woman?

Have you wanted to get to know other women in the church or in the community? Does sipping a hot cup of coffee/tea and having a conversation appeal to you? Join us for our first "come as you are" date on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> between 6:15 and 7:30 am in the Lounge. Bring yourself and a mug!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

# 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-May Amanda Bensen, Mathea Schmidt, Logan Strowbridge
- 02-May Betty Christ, Tanya Hasbargen, Brooke Miller, Siri Bardwell-Ross, Everett Anderson, Paxton Whiting
- 03-May Donna Dremmel, Grady Workman
- 04-May Vivian Kent, John Wheeler, Evan Martens, Millie Olsen
- 05-May Darla Jackson, Baret Williams-Furfaro, Chelsea Caron, Nolan Naegeli
- 06-May Dick Olson, Janet Reiersen, Jarrod Thorson, Brooklyn Fenner
- 07-May Linda Knotts, Amanda Fischer, Meghan Frenzel, Kendall LePier
- 08-May Don Braaten, Ann Bardwell-Ross, Evan Wild
- 09-May Dave Christensen, Orlee Porter, Bob Wahl
- 10-May Jennifer Folkert
- 11-May Beth Fleahman, Beth Warrick, Danielle Olson, Heather Anderson, Emily Meyer
- 12-May Tammy Hamilton, Carson Maish, Harley Ament
- 13-May Leslie Frosaker, Grant Nelson, Noah Klinke, Henry Quinn
- 14-May Cindy Filipi, Genelle Netland, Jamie Sander, Darci Large, Josie Klinke, Soren Reiersen
- 15-May Tammi Henrickson, Janna Carlson, Asher Kingery, Brock Beaulieu, Kenner Gudmundson, Karlie Voss, Stella Andersen
- 16-May Kim Williams, Doug Biggin, Ashley Jackson, James Palmer, Laura Palmer, Nicholas Palmer, Kinsley Olson
- 17-May Jim Wahl
- 18-May Jessica Hall, Brandon Supalla, Alex Swanson, Greta Palmiscno, Sloane Palmiscno
- 19-May Arianna Hall, Ridge Flatness
- 20-May Marlene Clemens, Jo Ann Strand, Brock Nelson, Cael Knutson, Clara Sherwood, Charlie Bensen
- 21-May Kelli Lish, Heidi Seitz, Zachary Sandberg, Madelyn Tews, Lily Krona, Joel Roberts
- 22-May Noah Leinen, Abigail Bokovoy
- 23-May Mary Olson, Kyle Henum, Lindsey Webb, Emery Meyer, Colton Olsen, William Westover, Landon Ingle
- 24-May Miriam Bock, Rena Muller Hanks
- 25-May Barbara Pierce, Joyce Way, Sue Engel, Todd Larson, Emma Blakeslee, Jaxson Markert, Elena Kasper
- 26-May Robert Lintelmann, Danielle Gavlovsky, Zachary Wheatley, Bo Brue
- 27-May Jerry Davis, Mary Froiland, Kathy Selisker, Barb Bergquist, Piper Fering
- 28-May Elaine Peterson, Peggy Boyer, Ryan Prestegard, Landon Plantz, Brayden Anderson
- 29-May Joshua Bitz, Ryan Hallik, Andrew Settle, Isabelle Settle, Nicolas Settle, Charles Sherwood
- 30-May Doug Oman, Krista Young, Kevin Turk, Regann Jensen, Madison Rebischke, Rachel Lewis, Truen Budrow
- 31-May Mike Lish, Sara Moran



## DID YOU KNOW?

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

### MAY CALVARY ALIVE MEALS:

2<sup>nd</sup> – Au Gratin Potatoes with Ham  
9<sup>th</sup> – Celebration - Pizza Night!

No Calvary Alive Wednesday Meals:  
May 16 - September 5

We eat together 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. each month, 1:30 pm

**HOPE CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY** at Calvary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. each month, 9:30 am

**MARIGOLD CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. At Giovanni's Pizza, Noon 4<sup>th</sup> 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/>



## 2<sup>ND</sup> OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - PEOPLES CHURCH

What does the church look like? Well, it looks like a lot of things: it looks like Calvary and it looks like our neighbor Lutheran congregation, Peoples Church, whom we support in May. Peoples Church is made up of folks from diverse ethnic backgrounds, some well-acquainted with poverty and some marginalized in our community. Calvary needs Peoples Church so that we can break out of our bubble and be better connected to people in all kinds of life circumstances. We give thanks for this fellow Lutheran congregation, with whom we have partnered for several years.



Partnership is more than money! This month, we invite you to eat and worship together with our neighbors at Peoples Church. Their building is located at 824 America Ave. NW, and they gather at noon each Sunday for a feast, followed by worship and prayer at 1:00 pm. You're welcome to bring a dish to share, but this is not a requirement.

*While we will take a second offering one Wednesday and one Sunday per month (May 6 & 9), 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.*

### GriefShare Completes its Fifth Year Hosted by Calvary

GriefShare and its companion program, GriefShare Surviving the Holidays, recently completed 5 years of being hosted by Calvary Lutheran. GriefShare is a Bible based, Christ centered program designed to help people grieving the loss of a loved one. To date, we have helped nearly 200 participants experience the friendship and support of others who have walked the journey of grief. Calvary has hosted this program nearly continuously since January 2013.

It is hard to describe the healing that occurs over the 13 week program. Some participants can barely address the sadness of their grief and it is rewarding for all to watch the power of the Holy Spirit provide comfort and release from their sadness. We have been blessed to watch participants proceed from "mourning to joy"

GriefShare is taking a short break from the rigors of a continuous program. We will resume another 13 week session beginning June 12. For more information, call Chip Holt, (651-353-0029) or contact the church office.

If you know someone experiencing the loss of a loved one, please let us know. We can provide assistance to help you direct them to GriefShare.

### The Empowerment of Thoughtless Giving - Vanco

Most of us believe we are natural born givers. We are motivated by dreams of a world where everyone has enough to eat and a warm, safe, comfy place to sleep. But is that what really motivates us to give?

We dutifully give to our churches, charities, non-profits, children's schools, neighbors in need, and family we love. The opportunities to give are literally endless. We give, give, give, and give again. For most of us, thinking about: "Where to give? Whom should we give to? How should we fairly distribute the money we give? Do we have enough to give?" and "Whom can we trust with the money we give?" can be overwhelming. Sometimes the mental stress is enough to make anyone want to stop giving; and the statistics are proving that more and more are succumbing to the pressure. People are overwhelmed with uncertainty and find themselves making the decision to resist their natural inclination to help in favor of personal survival and success. They are retreating from the constant reminder that they must give to their church to help their community survive and thrive.

In truth, most of us are not natural born givers – we are more motivated by how we feel than how others feel. It is that selfish biological and psychological element that motivates us the most - and that is a great thing! When church leaders and attendees acknowledge this truth, all can relax and be empowered by thinking less and doing more. Because in truth, we are more empowered by thoughtless giving, than thoughtful thinking.

To read the full article, visit our website to view our newsletter online (click on "Calvary News" under our "Resources" tab,) then click on [this link!](#)

### Baccalaureate Celebration

On May 9 at our 6:30 pm worship service, we will be celebrating the milestone of our senior high youth graduating! We will hear from some seniors during the worship service, pray over them and their families and gift them with a handcrafted prayer shawl from our Calvary Quilters. Ice cream will be served after the worship service.

We give thanks to God for the achievements of our graduates and we pray for God's direction in their future undertakings.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>March Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
<b>General Fund</b> .... \$74,340	..... \$90,458
<b>Y-T-D</b> .....\$187,247	.....\$209,622
<b>Preschool</b> ... \$24,364	.....\$41,756
<b>Y-T-D</b> .....\$250,601	.....\$256,947
<i>Gen. Fund is Jan.-Dec.; Preschool is July-June</i>	
<b>Cash &amp; Receivables</b> .....	\$115,059
<b>March Ministry Partner:</b>	
Bemidji Community Food Shelf: .....	\$4,594
<b>Calvary Foundation Balance:</b> .....	\$39,938
<b>Capital Appeal: THE BRIDGE</b>	
Received in March.....	\$12,048
Received to the pledge so far.....	\$806,829
Pledged to date .....	\$834,115
Households pledged to date.....	222
Participation to date.....	310



## *Summer Worship*

From May 27 – September 2, we will have two Sunday morning worship services, at 8:15 and 9:30 am. There will be no 10:45 service.

The two services will be identical every week and from week to week will rotate between traditional and contemporary worship styles.

Wednesday evening worship continues through the summer and will remain at 6:30 pm.

For most of these summer Wednesdays, we'll get to hear statements of faith from our confirmation students who are entering 9th grade.

## *Thank You!*

We definitely had another successful and fulfilling year of educational ministries. From all of us here at Calvary, we would like to thank our wonderful Sunday school teachers, as well as our many dedicated confirmation guides and mentors. Your devotion to Calvary's youth and these ministries allow everyone involved to grow together in faith. Thank you for another fantastic year!

## *Miracle Sunday Thank You*

Thank you to all who helped make Miracle Sunday 2.0 a great day of worship and celebration to end our capital appeal. We definitely trusted in God as we walked over the BRIDGE of debt into a new reality for our church community. See our website for stories and pictures of our day at Bemidji State University!



## *Americorps Team at Calvary*



We are once again hosting an Americorps team here at Calvary. This year, the team will be working at the Bemidji Food Shelf & Science Center.

They will be here for just under 2 months. The team will arrive to help our Bemidji community on May 7 and will remain here through June 28.

## *Confirmation Bowling on May 16*

It's been another great year of confirmation, with 100 middle schoolers, 30 adult small group guides, and lots of adult mentors growing together in faith. We'll celebrate the end of the year with a bowling party at Bemidji Bowl on Wednesday, May 16, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Drop-off and pick-up are at the bowling alley and a \$5/bowler suggested donation covers shoes and bowling for two hours. Folks are welcome to come even if they don't bowl – there is no charge for non-bowlers! Family members and friends who aren't in confirmation are invited to come, too. There will be no Calvary Alive supper, worship, or activities at the Calvary building that evening.

## *Preschool Corner*

The preschool will graduate 42 kids on May 24. These kids will be moving on to Kindergarten next year. We will miss them and ask you to keep them in your prayers. We are excited about welcoming kids next fall—some returning students and also new students, some of them being siblings of past students! We thank the staff and congregation for their continued support as we empower our students to be faithful disciples and academic leaders.



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