

## Thank You from Pr. Jeremiah

Dear Calvary,

Thank you for the wonderful welcome and celebration at my installation services! Shaking hands and meeting so many smiling faces afterwards was such a joy. You made all three of us – Katherine, Bjorn, and myself – feel so much at home. I can tell you, too, that your gifts have been quite well received; Bjorn in particular has been enjoying the Pack 'n Play in my office. The first day he spent time in it, he entertained himself for over 30 minutes (now he just needs to be able to do that at home, too)!

This is the first page of the first chapter of our partnership serving God together; I can't wait to see what the Spirit has in store for the next few pages!

-Pr. Jeremiah





## Hakuna Matata Choir Visit

Thank you to all the great volunteers that helped host and feed our visitors from Kenya! The kids and adults all had a great time sharing their message of hope! Calvary's gracious host families included: Brandon & Brianna Supalla; Shawn & Lindsey Whiting; John & Kathy Selisker; John & Mary Olson; Jeff & Amy Loewe; Tom & Heidi Hatfield; Heidi & Marty Fladeboe; Mitch and Adrienne Eickman. Lunches at Calvary were provided by: Miriam Bock; Shelly Ward; Teresa Kuleta; Debbie Tuck. Thanks is also due to Schoolcraft Learning Community and St. Philip's Schools for welcoming this group to share their message. We appreciate everyone at Calvary for welcoming this group into our weekly schedules, and are grateful to all who contributed to their cause monetarily or by sponsoring children. God's Blessings Abound!



#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Angel Tree	. 2
Lutefisk Dinner & Bake Sale	. 2
Called to Collaborate	. 2
Birthdays	. 3
Calvary Choir Needs Basses.	. 3
This Little Light of Mine	. 3
Happenings	. 3
Calendar	. 4
Second Offering Partner	. 5
Sustainability Ministry Team	. 5
Nominate a Leader	. 5
RebelGive Transition	. 5
Amazon Smile	. 5
Calvary Alive Meals	. 5
Financial Report	. 5
Thrivent Appreciation	. 6
Thanksgiving Meal	. 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Concert	. 6
Church Decorating	

December newsletter deadline: 8 am, November 20, 2019

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!



## Angel Tree

It's that time of year again when we are planning our Christmas lists! Unfortunately, there are many people in our community that are struggling to survive. We are in the process of collecting the names of families, children, and adults that are in need of our help. We are looking for cash donations, food items, personal care needs, and toys. If you are in need of help, please contact Pr. Genelle in the church office.

The Angel Tree will be up the week of Thanksgiving. There will be Angel Tags listing whether the recipient is male or female, as well as the age of the recipient. Please, feel free to take an Angel Tag! Once you find

a gift you'd like to give, place it in a gift bag and attach your Angel Tag to the bag. You can then return it to Calvary. Please have the gifts returned to the church by Wednesday, December 18th. After all the gifts are gathered, we will sort them and deliver the gifts.

As you prepare your gifts, also please pray for those you are gifting. For any questions or information, call Bonnie Jevning at 766-9264.



## Calvary's Lutefisk Dinner & Youth Bake Sale

It's lutefisk and meatball time again! Mark your calendars for December 5, 2019. We will be serving our lutefisk dinner from 4:00-7:00 pm alongside a bake sale supporting our youth, (we have lefse!) Entertainment will be provided in the sanctuary. Cost for the supper is \$16.00, with children's tickets available for \$7.00 (age 10 and under). Tickets are available in the Calvary Church office. There are also opportunities to donate food items, pans of bars, and your skillful services! Volunteers are needed in many areas! You can find signup sheets for donations and volunteering opportunities in our front office.

Come see us in Calvary's office to purchase your tickets or signup to help out today! Ve hope ta see ya der!!



#### Called to Collaborate

#### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GENELLE

Since September 1, Pastor Genelle has been doing contract work for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod as a minister for community and leader engagement for the Bemidji and Detroit Lakes churches. Some have asked, "What does this exactly mean?" To this question, Pastor Genelle responds: "I am the relator to these congregations on behalf of the synod. I serve as the first line of contact if the church needs resourcing." A call can come in many forms. A call could sound something like, "Pastor Genelle, our congregation needs a fundraising policy. Can you share some examples with us so that we can compose our own?" A call could also sound similar to, "Pastor Genelle, our council meeting last night ended in a blow up. The pastor walked out, people are in tears, and we need some help and care!"

In situations such as these, if you are talking to Pastor Genelle, you are essentially speaking to Bishop Tesch through her. She reports all of the interactions with congregations and people to Bishop Tesch and he quickly helps discern what steps to take next. Sometimes she does more; sometimes all she does is report and allow other synod staff to take it from there. Pastor Genelle will be specifically trained to do certain parts of synod work (exit interviews, call process, listening posts for conflicted or pre-health situations) in addition to the relational work that is already in place with both congregations and rostered leaders.

What most excites her is a new model of collaboration of being the church together. She plans to serve Calvary in her full time capacity and complete the work of the synod in addition to her call here. Pastor Genelle prays that her gifts can be used to further God's kingdom, both here at Calvary, as well as in these conferences, so all may know of God's great love.

In gratitude, Pastor Genelle

## 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-Nov Eli Hoffmann, Alicia Senenfelder, Evelyn Skoog

02-Nov John Chattin, Casey Donat, Allie Lish, Janel Olson, Sara Sant, Michele Schaefer

03-Nov Gene Bakke, Samuel Carlson, Randy Hovet, Missy Hoyum

04-Nov Warren Schulze, Alyssa Stenson

05-Nov Bryan Anderson, Addisyn Carlson, Colten Jensen, Erin Petrowske, Collin Schaefer, Paisley Workman

06-Nov Jacob Broom, Elliot Leinen, Amber Solheim, Mike Stevens, Pat Terrill, Daniel Wilson

07-Nov Katie Evje, Mark Frosaker, Mike Luebben, Tristan Strowbridge

08-Nov Lori Hildenbrand, Dawson Hoyum, Susan Supalla, Judy Westerman

09-Nov Gwen Bailey, Brielle Fischer, Cynthia Schulze

10-Nov Daniel Alto, Sandy Hennum, Rachael Holm

11-Nov Matthew Gish, Stephanie Hanks, AJ Olson, Jeremy Olson, Stacy Rohde, Sarah Starkey, Harper Wilson

12-Nov Ryan Binstock, Gavin Brown, Chase Caron, Weston Holte, Tom Lillo, Tamara Mason, Lanah Schulke

13-Nov Lorene Blank

14-Nov Candi Boen, Teegan Dykstra, Patty Hendricks, J.D. Kondos, Alex Schaefer, Mattie Snyder, Bethany Wesley

15-Nov Diane Bachmann, Ethan Biggin, Carolyn Bratlien, Gunnar Folkert, Melissa Meyer, Jim Moen

16-Nov Tony Hommes, Tove Paulson, Audrey Smith, Gregory Ward

17-Nov John Carlson, Craig Henrickson

18-Nov Terri Bentler, Jeffrey Kemp, Dustin Russ

19-Nov Dalton Gjovik

20-Nov Kari Cooper

21-Nov Chris Fettig, Ashley Johansson, Casey Reierson, Oliver Welle

22-Nov Cadence Lavalla, Gary Sorenson

23-Nov Jennifer Erickson

24-Nov Diane Breen Ohl, Julie Larson, Mitch Rautio, William Underbakke, Kelly Zellmann

25-Nov Adrienne Eickman, Hannah Nelson, Penny Riewer

26-Nov Samantha Hansen, Jennifer Jacobson, Samuel Kircher,

Thomas Luebben

27-Nov Randy Cadwell, Anna Fullerton, Amanda Skjonsby, Eryka Strong

28-Nov Rick Olson, Matthew Rautio

29-Nov Jess Moen, Carol Wynne

30-Nov Laura Bieberdorf, Levi Heath, Sydney Hinrichs, Jamie Muller

# Calvary Choir in Search of Basses!

Calling all basses! The Calvary Choir could use one or two more basses to sing in the Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:15 pm, and the presentation of the Cantata will be Sunday, December 22.

Join this great ministry and show the church just how great your voice is!

## This Little Light of Mine

We're almost there!! We have about \$6,500 left to collect to achieve our goal before we can call our LED retrofit a complete success! Let's all pitch in and finish this year's annual project together!

#### **HAPPENINGS**

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

#### **GATHER BIBLE STUDY**

Every other Thurs. at 6:30 am - Room 1 Contact Vicar Daphne (751-1893) Materials will be provided to you!

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

JOHN EGGERS' BIBLE STUDY Weekly on our website or via Enews.

**ZUMBA CLASS** at Calvary, 11:00 am most Sundays. <u>sarahbendorf.zumba.com</u> Find her on Facebook w/ <u>Sarah B Zumba</u>

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

**CRAFTERS** at Calvary, 7:00 pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month. Contact Cheryl with any questions - 368-3098

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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.

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In November we partner with Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR "is a non-profit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering" (from www.lwr.org). Each year, they serve millions of people through many different projects in 32 different countries. It is difficult for us to personally travel to a disaster site to help, but LWR can do this for us



countries! It is difficult for us to personally travel to a disaster site to help, but LWR can do this for us. For this, Calvary is grateful to partner with them this month.

Partnership is more than money! Our Calvary quilters make quilts on Thursday mornings from 9-12:00 noon, many of which are distributed through LWR. Come and join them! Another group of Calvary folks puts together hygiene and other care kits, which are also shared through LWR.

For God's Treasure Chest this month, we are looking for ivory or bath soaps, hand towels, baby jackets & socks, etc. to be given to Bemidji's emergency shelters, (see the sheets near God's Treasure Chest for a complete list of this month's needs). While we will take a second offering each month (November 10 & 13), 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.

## Sustainability Ministry Team OFFERS TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE: NOVEMBER 10 & 17

As a kickoff, Calvary will hold two educational sessions from 9:30~10:15 am on two Sundays in November. The first will be on November 10, and will feature Polly Merhar presenting the many ways climate change is affecting us locally and throughout the world, with a focus on solutions and ways for everyone to become engaged. If "climate crisis" is just a buzz word for you and you want to learn more, this session is for you!

The second will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 9:30 am. Join Pastor Krehl Stringer as we learn more about humanity's original vocation of "earthkeeping," the difference Christ makes to the situation, and why creation care is an important part of all facets of congregational ministry. Most folks are coming to understand how human induced climate disruption is an ecological crisis demanding a concerted and coordinated societal response. Even so, it can be a struggle for people of faith to give a biblical/theological rationale for the crisis we are in, and how God is calling us to respond at this auspicious time in world history.

Calvary wants to make a positive impact on caring for creation through sustainability efforts at Calvary and beyond. Soon, a document will be made available showing all the things that have been accomplished so far. If you are interested in joining a sustainability ministry team, please contact Polly in the office at 751-1893 or by email at pmerhar@calvarybemidji.org.

#### Nominate a Leader

We are looking for council members, Calvary Foundation members, Financial review members and people to attend the Synod Assembly June 12 & 13, 2020 in Moorhead. If you are interested in serving in one of these areas, please contact President Bethany Wesley at bwesley@calvarybemidji.org. Nominations will be accepted through the end of the year and the vote will happen at our Congregational Annual meeting in January 2020.

## An Update on Our Transition to RebelGive

We're almost there! There are only a few people still using Calvary's old online giving system. If you are one of the few, contact Polly or Garrett in the office and they will help get you moved over, (they have to turn off your giving on the old system.) We will begin calling again this month to get the last folks moved over to Calvary's new giving platform, RebelGive. The new system has already saved Calvary Church and Preschool over \$200 in fees in September alone!

### **Amazon Smile**

Calvary Lutheran Church has been issued a \$58.64 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program between July 1 and September 30, 2019. To date, Calvary has recieved \$818.56 from AmazonSmile users. Wow!!

If you shop online, please consider shopping at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Calvary Lutheran Church! Apply this to all of your holiday shopping and your eligible purchases will benefit Calvary! To do this more easily, bookmark the following link: smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0872489.

## November Calvary Alive Meals:

6th - Au Gratin Potatoes

13th - Hot Dogs

20th - Hamburger Hotdish

27th - No Meal, Happy Thanksgiving!

If you would like to volunteer for this great ministry, or even help cook, please contact Karin Harrison! You can obtain more information or sign up to help in the office, or by emailing kharrison@calvarybemidji.org.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

September	Income	<b>Expenses</b>		
General Fund	\$77,131	\$70,761		
Y-T-D	\$599,173	\$597,182		
Preschool .	\$29,356	\$26,813		
Y-T-D	\$105,661	\$66,461		
Gen. Fund is JanDec.; Preschool is July-June				
Cash & Receiva	ıbles	\$114,603		
September Ministry Partner: Calvary Foundation:\$2,177				

Calvary Foundation Balance: ......\$37,505



# Thrivent Financial Appreciation and Education Fellowship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 9-11:00 AM

Thrivent Financial is a unique company that isn't in business just to make money but also teaches about being wise with money. In Bemidji, there are five representatives and they will all be here on Sunday, November 24 to show their appreciation to the Thrivent members who are also members of Calvary and to share some educational topics.

Thrivent will sponsor fellowship hour and provide a yogurt parfait bar plus other great options and of course, coffee! At the same time there will be a Thrivent table staffed with representatives to help you understand how you can support Calvary just by being a Thrivent member. They will have information about Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Teams. These two programs support Calvary with over \$10,000 each year – this amount can only grow if more members understand these two great member programs. There will also be some giveaways (swag!) and a drawing. Calvary groups will highlight how you can use a Thrivent Action Team project to support their activities: quilters, youth, crafters, LWR kits and more!

At 9:30 am, we will offer two educational opportunities. One for the youth with a teaser program about kids and money in the youth room, and one about helping us understand Donor Advised Funds and 70% Required Minimum Distribution IRA requirements and how using those for donations can be a tax advantage in room 9.

Watch for signs and balloons to mark this special Thrivent Appreciation and Education fellowship.

## Bemidji's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal

Join us for this year's community Thanksgiving dinner! This year the dinner will be held at Evangelical Free Lutheran Church of Bemidji (115 Carr Lake Rd SW) on Thursday, November 28 from 12 noon-1:30 pm. As always, we offer a full turkey dinner, free of charge for all guests! No reservations required!

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this event. If you would like to help with this great ministry, please contact Kathy Luepke at 218-556-3364.



Come and hear some amazing music from a wide variety of local talents ~ from the Tell Sisters, to Cory Renbarger; from Lance Benson to the Ecumenical Bells! Suggested ticket donation is \$10, which will go to support Calvary's sustainability project! We transitioned all our lightbulbs to LEDs this year! WhooHoo!

Calvary is a well-used space in its entirety by our community. Being more sustainable helps us all in our outreach opportunities! And it's a bonus to hear some great Christmas music kicking off our Advent season while we support a great cause!

## Church Decorating & Mi Deh Yah!

As the weather gets colder, we start thinking about preparing for Christ. The season of waiting is called Advent, which begins on December 1 this year. Part of the season of Advent and Christmas is decorating our church spaces. Many of our decorations have special meanings and symbolism. We encourage any who would like to participate in decorating our church to come and participate on November 24, at 2:30 pm.

Following our decorating activities, we will hold a meet and greet potluck with Pr. Jeremiah and his family at 5:00 pm, accompanied by a short worship/praise/prayer service at 6:00 pm. Come and be present as we prepare to welcome Christ!