



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Reopening Process at Calvary

The Calvary council and staff are monitoring closely what the health and state officials are advising for reopening the church. Our goal is to publish a document for the congregation to see once we can start phasing back in to some ministry opportunities. When we informally polled the congregation about an outdoor worship opportunity some are interested in being together sooner than later but almost everyone expressed some concern about safety and about how to establish appropriate boundaries with others. It is hard to be Minnesota nice and ask people to keep their distance. Much of what we do in worship (singing, speaking responsively, sitting in rows, and being around a diverse and large amount of people for up to one hour) is a lot of what puts us at a higher risk. So, we need to have a plan in place to make people feel safe and also able to worship God. Thank you for your patience and your prayers as we navigate this important situation.

Thursday Worship: Calvary Live!

We sure do miss our mid-week worship on Wednesdays! Actually we miss the entire Calvary Alive Wednesday vibe. So, this summer, we decided to offer what we are calling Calvary Live! This will be a short devotion Thursdays at noon, song and prayer opportunity with a Calvary staff or lay person. Each week, we will come to you live for some time together with God. If you can't make the noon live time, know that this will still be posted on our Calvary Facebook page for you to enjoy when it works for you. Each week tune in and enjoy a mid week inspirational moment together. Like us on Facebook, invite your friends and be the church, wherever you are this summer.



Keep on keeping on, church! God is leading!

Finding HOPE

Love God. Love others. With all these changes comes great opportunities. I was thinking the other day - what sets us apart as Christians? Like what does faith, hope and a relationship with Jesus actually look like? What difference does it make? If I just live my life and have those things on the side when it's convenient and I need it, is my faith really real? Essentially, what I have been asking myself is, "Does Jesus really change anything in my daily life?" If not, I need to question myself and my faith. Is it biblical?

You see, going to a building has never made anyone a Christian. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, does that transformative work. Even though so many people, when asked, believe that going to church (a building) is the initial sign of a Christian. But church in the New Testament is never referred to as a building, but only to a people following Jesus – who is known as the Way! Our testimony is found within our lives. Our witness is in our relationship to God and each other, not in some physical structure. And so yes, one day we look with great joy in gathering together in-person again. But for now we know that God's church is really, truly being a church – a people of God being set apart from the ways of this world to follow the Way!

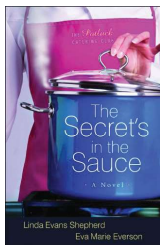
This is hope. This is life. This is now.

Bible Study & Book Club with Vr. Daphne

CALVARY BOOK CLUB

Calvary book club June meeting date and time was decided at our May 28 meeting. If you'd like to read ahead, we'll be reading book #4 in The Potluck Club series, which is:

The Secrets in the Sauce
Linda Evans Shepherd, Eva Marie Everson



GATHER BIBLE STUDY

Gather Bible Study will continue to meet online in June. The discussion will be: In the family - What's love go to do with it? By Christa Compton and Gladys Moore. We'll meet on Thursdays June 4 & 25 from 11:00-12:30 pm. Please email Vicar Daphne for the zoom link to join: vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org All are welcome, please come!

A Letter to Our Congregational Family

Needing some help getting groceries or running other errands while we all "stay at home?" Your Calvary family is here to help! We have a team of volunteers willing to assist those who are vulnerable or homebound during this time. Email Pr. Jeremiah if you'd like some assistance, RevHolst@calvarybemidji.org.

RebelGive #SummerGoals

The Calvary council has challenged the pastors to a summer Rebel Give Challenge. To help with our summer budget needs, the council has challenged your pastors to find 5 households each to try Rebel Give this summer. If you are contacted, all you need to do is be willing to try Rebel Give (a free service if you use a checking account) to give a donation each month this summer. The amount or the frequency doesn't matter, it is exposing more people to this automated giving platform that matters. If you agree to give it a try, Garret Fultz, our administrative assistant, is our Calvary guru who will help you set up an account and walk you through the entire process. Want to make it easier for our pastors? Volunteer to try it by contacting one of your pastors or directly to Garrett and be a part of this summer challenge. Let's do this!



Generosity is what God wants for us and not what God wants from us.

#SUMMERGOALS



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*0/5



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If you are currently using offering envelopes to mail in your offerings, we kinda ask you to switch to RebelGive. This will save Calvary money in mailing and production costs, and you wont have to spend money on sending us checks anymore!

Small Groups with Vicar Daphne

Hello! As a pastor intern I have to have an internship project, and so this summer I need all of you to help me with it! I'm going to start Calvary Clubs - small group ministry!

Have you been involved in Calvary small groups in the past? Bible studies? Quilting or crafting? Home communion? Book club? Decade clubs? Kid clubs?

Starting June 1, we will be jumpstarting the current Calvary Clubs online. In July, we'll add some new Calvary clubs. And in August we'll add some more groups! I request the clubs to begin online, but then they can move to in person if those in the club are on board. September 1 my project will end. But if the clubs want to continue meeting, they can!

Who is interested in joining a club about parenting teenagers? Who is interested in an outdoor club? Who is interested in learning about theology with no experts? Who is interested in a prayer practices group? What about gardening? Or cooking for those in need? A prayer hiking group? These are just some ideas. I need your help! Please contact me with ideas on small groups that you'd be interested in joining, or leading.

I have parameters for the basis of each club group and we're going to keep them at 10 people max. So if 30 people are interested in a hiking group, we'll make 3 hiking groups with 10 people each in them.

My internship project will run June 1-September 1. I hope you are as excited as I am about this new way to fellowship together at Calvary! Contact me to help with this new project & for the password to access the recording linked below: vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org

Please watch the this video for more information:
<https://tinyurl.com/yd9rrrdc>

Now Accepting Food Donations!

Bemidji Community Food Shelf will once again accept food donations starting Monday, June 1.

We will accept canned or boxed shelf-stable food, garden produce, and personal care items. Garden produce must be cleaned and bagged. We are especially in need of personal care items.

You may drop off your donations in the red shopping cart located by the delivery door on the south side of the building under the overhang near the delivery door.

Drop off times: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

If you would like a receipt for your gift, please call ahead to set up a time for a staff member to assist you at 218-444-6580.

Thank you for your generosity! The Bemidji community is strong and supportive, and together, we will get through this!



2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - BUILDING REPAIR PART 3 - REBUILD THE WALL!

WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS...RIGHT DOWN THE INSIDE OF THE SIDING OF OUR BUILDING.

Once we started the work on repairing the wall, we discovered more damage underneath the windows as the pictures show. This prompted us to reach out again to the architect, and to insurance to have more eyes look at the damage. Much of the wood structure beneath the windows will need to be repaired or strengthened. This water damage has clearly been going on a long time. This month, we will ask for one more donation to help us complete these repairs to the building. Getting this work done quickly will help us have the building in top shape when it is safe to gather again. We are expecting that this will add another \$12,000 to the overall project. Any and all donations will make a difference and will be greatly appreciated!

Worship at the Fairgrounds

For those of you craving something other than online worship, Calvary will be joining other Lutheran churches in offering a drive-in joint worship service! Each Sunday at 10:00am, the fairgrounds will host a gathering of Lutherans including Calvary, New Salem, Aardahl, First Lutheran, & Lutheran Campus Ministry to worship from our cars. Using First Lutheran's short-range radio transmitter, you'll be able to tune in on your car radio to hear the pastors as they lead liturgy from a raised platform in the front. Bulletins are provided on the First Lutheran website, which can be downloaded ahead of time to be printed at home or accessed from smart devices during worship. Come to the fairgrounds to honk your horns and participate in worship led by a variety of Lutheran pastors from our area!

- Please be aware that the bathrooms at the Fairgrounds are NOT open!
- Please stay in your car; we will not be serving communion and we will NOT be gathering for coffee and treats following the service – however, you may bring your own coffee and raise your cup in salute to your fellow worshippers – through the car window, of course!
- Offerings will be received car to car with our handy dandy offering pouches on a stick; **please be sure to clearly mark your church on your offering envelope as we will have multiple congregations worshipping together this summer.**
- If you plan to roll down your windows, you might consider bringing your mask(s).
- Tune your radio to 91.1 FM to listen to the service when you park your car.



Summer Baptism at Calvary

Are you are interested in having your child(ren) baptized this summer? Baptisms will look and feel a little different for a while, but we can definitely still have them. If you are interested in summer baptism please contact Kim Warren (kwarren@calvarybemidji.org) to schedule. Baptisms will be video recorded with one of our pastors and a small group of people (including parents and sponsors), then the video will be added to the online worship service for your scheduled Sunday.

Home Communion

During this time of separation, being able to participate in Holy Communion is something that many of us are missing quite a bit. While we're not able to celebrate this meal in person, we invite any who are interested to join a gigantic expansion of Calvary's Home Communion ministry team! For years, volunteers have been bringing Communion into the homes of those who cannot come to the church building. Beginning in June, we're offering online training so that you can join this team, and celebrate home Communion with your own family until we can come back together as a full church family. There will be a link on the church website to a short training video with pastor Jeremiah and written materials you can make use of. We are the church, wherever we are! View our Home Communion Training video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-8pqGQaw5c.

Calvary's Summer Child Care

Calvary is once again offering summer child care for kids 3 years old (potty-trained) through 11 years old or entering 6th grade. Hours are 7:30 am-5:30 pm. Cost is \$27.00/day with a cold lunch from home. Snacks are provided. It will run from June



1-August 28 (closed July 3 & 6). Please download the form from calvarybemidjipreschool.org/summer_programs. If your child HAS NOT started school, you will fill out the preschool age form. If they have finished Kindergarten and up, please fill out the school age form. The forms can be downloaded, completed and scanned back to Joan (email address below) or mailed to the church, attn: Joan. If you need more information, please contact Joan at joan@calvarybemidji.org or 751-1893 ext. 106 and leave a message.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April	Income	Expenses
General Fund	..... \$110,965	..... \$36,602
Y-T-D	..... \$328,582	..... \$238,850
Preschool	... \$12,114	..... \$11,295
Y-T-D	..... \$242,684	..... \$262,338

Gen. Fund is Jan.-Dec.; Preschool is July-June

Cash & Receivables	..... \$239,049
Payroll Protection Plan Grant	..... \$159,200
NWF Childcare Grant	..... \$3,000

April Ministry Partner:

Calvary's Building Repair: \$8,948

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$40,664

Getting to Know Council-at-Large Member, Greg Snyder



Hello, my name is Greg Snyder, Member-at Large on Calvary Church Council. I've been a member at Calvary since 2010. I grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA and have lived in Michigan and Tennessee before moving to Minnesota in 2000. I'm a forester by training and have worked for Beltrami County and the State of MN DNR as a public forestland manager. My spouse Rebecca works as a school social worker at Trek North School and we're the parents of Jonah (23) and Mattie, who just graduated from Bemidji High School last month.

I've been involved with the community of believers at Calvary for almost 10 year and think there are some distinctive things about our church. The most important one is that the Good News of our salvation in Christ is preached, and that remains a central focus of our Ministers. The spirit of our age seems to be, "make sure you get on the winning team, with the proper credentials and viewpoints". This preoccupation can sometimes take over in the church and get in the way of the core reality that God has in Christ reconciled us to himself. I often get in a big hurry to "do the right stuff", "say the right things", "make sure I'm getting it right" and it's pretty aggravating to have to confess every week that I failed, yet again... 😊. If the church was a "perfect yourself" club, I'd have dropped out by now from depression and exhaustion.

We have a Savior though, thank God. And I love it that the Calvary community faithfully proclaims that truth and reminds us who we are... God's beloved children. God's not finished with us yet, and is at work making us into new creations!

I'm hopeful that our church family will continue to grow in our common identity in Christ, and will continue to develop relationships as we worship and play and serve together. We've got a challenge with the pandemic issue and how it's disrupting our routines and bringing us into places of anxiety and pain. And yet, I can see God at work in the shared worship time our Ministers have been preparing and ask God to help us build stronger relationships as we seek to live out our new lives in Christ.

A financial update - To make a long story short, we are taking in about \$40,000 a month (Thank you!) and our expenses are about \$70,000 a month. Whoa! Yes, as a council we are considering what to do about this, including looking at what staff we employ and at what rates during this COVID-19 era when some of our other income streams are drying up (church facility rental and others). If you have opinions, thoughts, let us know as a council and keep praying for guidance. Thank you!

June Worship

Our June worship schedule begins on Sunday, June 7 with a special service from presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton. Tune in to hear (on our FB page or website) the Bishop share God's Good News regarding the Holy Trinity.

The remaining Sundays in June will focus on our "Be Thou My Vision" theme, as each preacher expands on a "vision" scripture in the Bible.

We are taking a break from our 'typical' Wednesday night worship services, but we will be sharing a Calvary Live! option on Thursdays at noon. Keep watching our Facebook page and our website for these new faith building/sustaining opportunities.

Thanks to all who took the poll on whether you would attend an outdoor service in the back parking lot. Calvary's staff longs to hold worship in or outside of our building, but we are following the guidelines of a few authoritative sources (see additional info in this newsletter) to plan our in person worship gatherings now and in the future.

CALVARY LUTHERAN EMERGENCY PAGER: 218-308-6654

24 HOUR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: 1-800-422-0045

CHURCHES UNITED OF BEMIDJI: 218-444-1380

BACM Recitals

Bemidji Area Church Musicians WILL be offering a recital series ONLINE ONLY this summer, beginning June 3. Please tune in to the BACM Facebook page or the BACM Youtube channel on Wednesdays at noon. Donations will hopefully be able to be made online to continue to support our great programs (college scholarships, organ scholarship, and college fellowships). Watch for more information and direct links in the weekly enews throughout the summer. We are looking forward to providing some light and love through quality recorded music for your enjoyment!

Follow this link for the BACM recitals starting Wednesday, June 3:

www.facebook.com/BACMusicians/

Or, follow this link for an introductory video:

<https://youtu.be/9A7dZCwL7ZM>

Calvary Care Cards

Calling all people who like to write letters, notes, or cards! Care Cards is a new ministry at Calvary aimed at providing another way for us to connect with our Calvary family during this time of separation. To join this important new ministry, follow these simple steps:

- 1.) Contact Vicar Daphne Urban through email at vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org to join the writing team and get a list of folks to write to.
- 2.) Use stationary or cards that you have at home to write each person on your list a heartfelt card and mail it to them!

Visit our website at calvarybemidji.org to join us for our online worship!