



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Being the Church

Hello, Calvary!

As we ride this crazy year into September, we wanted to bring you all up to speed on the “state of the Church.” 2020 has been a real exercise in flexibility, hard work, creativity, and collaboration! We began this spring by welcoming back our team of Calvary missionaries to Jamaica, where they taught at Immanuel Prep and built a classroom that is now going to allow the school to reopen because they have the space to social distance. When the COVID-19 pandemic started affecting us at home, we were already grappling with an unrelated financial crisis, so we were quickly faced with a one-two punch. On top of that, a month or two later had us dealing with a leaking roof, and a needed rebuild on a good portion of the church’s southern wall. We also bid a fond farewell to our Church Administrator Polly and Custodian Jack, and shuffled around some responsibilities to cover all our bases. Uffda!

The church, however, is not the building – it is you, brothers and sisters in Christ! Even though we have not been able to worship in our building, you stepped up to support the Calvary community, meeting each challenge as it appeared. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support thus far! Both your council and staff are so grateful and proud to be able to continue the work of the Kingdom that your support makes possible. And that work is indeed continuing! Despite not having had the use of our building for gathering, God’s Kingdom is not stopped. Throughout the summer, we’ve been worshiping online, wrestling with the hard questions that we are #askingforafriend, sharing devotional time through Calvary Live on Thursdays, joining with other Lutherans in Sunday worship at the fairgrounds, praying for each other, ministering to each other, and sharing the bread and wine that makes us family – either through communion at home or our new experiment with “drive in communion.” We have also supported vital ministry partners such as Northwoods Caregivers, Meals-on-wheels, and People’s Church through our 2nd offerings. God is good, Amen!

With all that said, we miss seeing you each Sunday! We know this has been a difficult period of not having in-person worship, and both your staff and the church council have been hard at work planning how we can keep our community safe, trying to figure out when and how we can regather safely. On the basis of that work and current State and CDC safety guidelines, we are going to need to be patient a while longer. When we gather again in our building, we want it to be a worshipful experience, and we want to be good stewards of the health of our neighbor. We are aching for a joyful reunion, but as Noah must have said to his family a time or two during their ordeal on the ark, “it’s not yet time.”

Because of that, our usual fall plan will look a bit different this year. We will not be able to host our usual large group gatherings, and things like Confirmation instruction will be mostly (if not entirely) virtual. Yet the work of God continues! Our shared Fairgrounds worship service will continue into the fall, as will our bi-weekly drive-in communion service. AND.... Rally Sunday is coming!!! On September 13, we will be celebrating all sorts of milestones. During our online worship, we will be celebrating recent baptisms, first communion, and 3rd grade Bibles! That afternoon, we will also be having an opportunity for drive-in prayers and blessings with your pastors. Please join us as we show COVID that isolation does not stop the Holy Spirit!

As always, stay tuned to Sunday worship announcements and the enews for the most up-to-date information, and your pastors are always a phone call away. We love you, Calvary – Go in peace, love and serve the Lord!

Please take a moment to fill out a very important survey that will guide our re-opening decisions.

What Makes Calvary - Calvary?

PART TWO: WORSHIP

What goes into a worship service? For each one hour worship service, there are many behind the scenes tasks and preparations that are completed before a worshiper even enters the building. The components of a worship service are different for in-person versus online, but both take time if done well. Your Calvary staff and council thought that we should share what goes into each worship opportunity. So, here goes!

Preparations for in-person worship services (prior to Covid):

- Planning: Regular meetings with worship team to plan: scripture, songs, liturgy, additions to worship, preaching schedule, faith milestones (3rd grade Bibles, Confirmation, 1st communion, etc.)
- Rehearsal & Volunteer Recruitment: Praise team rehearsals, Choir rehearsals, Kidz Choir rehearsals, planning choral schedule/songs for the season, Pastoral prep of sermons (8 hours +/-), Practice of organ/piano during the week, preparing presentation for screens, recruit and rehearse special music, connect with altar guild, schedule lectors, communion assistants, and all other worship servants, fill open volunteer spots the week of worship, connect with 2nd offering ministry partners, cleaning the sanctuary and common spaces, maintenance of worship equipment and technology (piano, computers – updates, managing storage, backups, projectors, sound system, etc.), preparation for Sunday School teaching, preparation for teaching faith milestones, preparation for baptisms ~ meet with a pastor, certificates, banner.
- Game Day, Time of Worship: Lights, sound, room temperatures, recording software, set up for choir and/or praise team, practice the organ, checking to see if elements are ready (altar prepped, scripture reading on podium, correct paraments/banners up, prep choir room, open the building, manage volunteers, prepare for Sunday School,

Preparations for online services during Covid: Planning (same as above).

- Recording & Editing: Get together in person to record one or two times per week. Video editing, rendering, uploading, scheduling (takes many hours). Pastoral prep of sermons (8 hours +/-). Video recording for team – editing together to include in worship. Other recording of songs. maintenance of worship equipment and technology (piano, computers – updates, managing storage, backups, projectors, sound system, etc.), preparation for Sunday School teaching, preparation for teaching faith milestones, preparation for baptisms ~ meet with a pastor, certificates, banner

Preparations for a hybrid model post-Covid: Planning with worship team (same as above).

- Learn the new camera and software to livestream; decide how to do two services (one in person and one online) Hire a technology person? Add back in many of the in person duties above.

At Calvary, we all take on 'other duties as assigned' when needed. We are all church together, serving our Lord as faithfully as we can. Let's worship together!

See Calvary's September Birthdays Here!

[View this newsletter on the web and follow this link to see who to wish a happy birthday this month!](#)

All Calvary Confirmation

For Confirmation instruction this year, Calvary is trying something new! This year is our "Lutheran Catechism study" year in the curriculum, and our large group instruction period is going to be done in an online format. While the main reason for this is because of the pandemic, this also affords us an opportunity to make this study available to the wider Calvary community!

As we return to Confirmation studies this fall, we'd like to invite any and all to enter into an "All-Calvary Confirmation year." As our young members study Luther's Catechism, you can learn along with them by participating in the confirmation curriculum and small group or virtual conversation.

Each Wednesday night, our online worship service will include a teaching segment focused on that week's confirmation lesson. Pastoral staff will be available on Zoom following the service to continue the conversation and discuss insights and questions. In order to take part in the after-service conversation, please fill out the online registration form so that you can get the zoom link to attend. Written study guides will be available to guide your lessons, and the catechism app can be downloaded for free or you can purchase one for \$1 in the Calvary office.

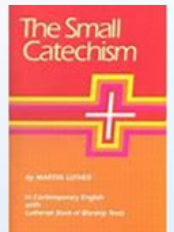
Home study and common Christian understanding was a major focus of Luther's work, and his catechism was written for exactly that purpose. Join us as we follow that Lutheran legacy and study the pillars of our faith together!

Schedule for Wednesdays, starting September 30:

- 6:30 Online worship and Praise
- 6:50 Small catechism teaching/sermon
- 7:15 Post-worship Zoom conversation (please register on the church website for this option for zoom link information)

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Written by Martin Luther and published in 1529 for the training of children in their homes with their families. Luther's Small Catechism reviews the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys and Confession and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is included in the Book of Concord as an authoritative statement of what Lutherans believe.



A free app is available for Luther's Small Catechism and can be found on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

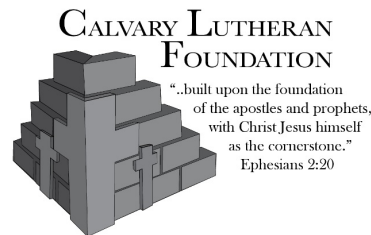
Visit www.augsburgfortress.org and search catechism app for more information and direct links.

Calvary's Virtual Choir

To all singers! Let's Witness to God's amazing grace by singing an anthem 'together' for Rally Sunday. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/calvarychoir-witness> to open a file with a page of directions, a soft copy of the music, and a recording of 'your part' (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) played on the piano. Once you have learned your part, you can do the remaining steps in the directions. I'll put it all together for a 'virtual choir hymn' for Rally Sunday, September 13! Email Shar at spaquette@calvarybemidji.org with any questions. Sing to the Lord a new song!

2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - THE CALVARY LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

This month, we will be raising both awareness and funds for The Calvary Lutheran Foundation. The foundation is an extension of Calvary Lutheran Church. The purpose is to secure and receive gifts and bequests so that we may support mission and ministry for future generations. Gifts are welcome in any amount and in many forms (real estate, wills, trusts, stock, life insurance and also cash). You may wish to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend by giving a gift to the Calvary Foundation. These gifts keep on giving for generations to come. Calvary Foundation plans to help support seminary intern college scholarships & mission trips through the interest that accumulates. Gifts received this month will help build up the Calvary Foundation so that we may distribute the fruits! May God be glorified in all that we do!



CALVARY'S 2ND OFFERING TREASURE CHEST

Calvary's 2nd offering treasure chest has moved to the hallway near our back door #6. We are still looking for hand sanitizer, Kleenex, masks (that can be given away), and Lysol wipes. These items are needed for us to as we continue to make steps to reopen. All donations are welcome!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR RESOURCES?

Check the welcome desk located near the treasure chest for Christ in our Home and other devotional resources!

Calvary Lutheran Foundation 2020 Scholarship Recipients.

Below is a list of recipients that were awarded a \$300 scholarship to their respective schools, with three colleges matching those funds. Go forth to better yourselves and learn all you can! Congratulations!

Laura Bieberdorf – Concordia College (matching)
Lindsey Hildenbrand – Concordia College (matching)
Ryan Bieberdorf – Minnesota State University Moorhead
Trevor Loewe – Wartburg College (matching)
Elizabeth Wadena – University of Minnesota Morris
Britney Bennett – St. Cloud State University
Margaret Snyder – Luther College (matching)
Tanner Hatfield – Bemidji State University

3rd Grade Bible Milestone

On September 13, Calvary will be gifting our 3rd graders (and older children who have not received a bible) a Spark Bible as they continue to grow in their faith! If you have a 3rd grader, or have an older child who has not received a bible, and have not received an email from Calvary, please let us know (kwarren@calvarybemidji.org).

God's Word is powerful! We pray that these bibles will be a life-transforming gift to children and their families, as we grow in knowledge, fear and love of the LORD!

Calvary Clubs

These are clubs that continue to meet, all are welcome to join! Please contact Vicar Daphne for more information.

***Theology Book Club** continues to meet once a week to discuss portions of the book, "The Captivation of the Will".

***Calvary Book Club** continues to meet once a month. This group is currently meeting in person to discuss the final book of the Potluck Club series.

***Gather Bible Study** continues to meet every other Thursday from 11-12:30 pm on zoom. Contact Vicar Daphne for the zoom link and for a copy of the Bible Study!

Congratulations to Calvary's New Church Administrator, Garrett Fultz!

Garrett has been a big part of administrative tasks at Calvary since he began working here. With the Administrator position becoming vacant this summer, he took on a larger workload to absorb the duties of the Administrator in this time of transition. With the support of our office staff, Calvary's council, and a few key members of our congregation, Garrett has done a fantastic job handling everything that has come his way in this time of change. Coming to the end of August, Calvary decided to offer an opportunity to Garrett to step into the role of Church Administrator. Graciously, he accepted, and is very excited to be a part of our Calvary family in a larger capacity. He wants everyone to know that he won't let his new position go to his head, so please still come chat with and tease him whenever you get the opportunity!



Be sure to congratulate him and wish him luck in his new role at Calvary!

FINANCIAL REPORT

July Y-T-D	Income	Expenses
General Fund	\$552,704.24	\$489,435.25
(Includes EIDL Grant		\$10,000)
Preschool	\$91,735.50	\$182,370.16
Cash & Receivables		\$248,865.64
July Ministry Partners:		
LSS Meals on Wheels		\$654.50
Northwoods Care Givers		\$654.50
Calvary Foundation Balance:\$41,787

GIVING STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN EMAILED!

Your midyear financial giving statements have been emailed. If you didn't receive one or there is an error, please contact Garrett at gfultz@calvarybemidji.org.

Getting to Know Council-at-Large Member, Garrett Tisdell

Hello, my name is Garrett Tisdell. I have been attending Calvary for the past 10 years. I have just become a registered member two years ago and I joined the council one and a half years ago. I enjoy being apart of the church and the inner workings that come along with being on the council. I am married to my wonderful wife Alison and we have three children: Kaiden, Jackson, and Brooklynn. We love being a part of the church. I enjoy spreading the word of God and trying to make a difference in people's lives. When I am not at work I love spending time with my family out in nature, "Gods wonderful creation" doing a variety of different activities like hunting, fishing, and ATV riding. I feel very blessed and thankful to live in the area and be a part of the church.



This year on council I have spent extra time being a part of a financial subgroup working through new efficiencies and procedures to help make us financially solvent. I also was the council liaison for the building repairs which ended much better than I initially thought. Last month, we did receive a payout from the Enbridge Pipeline to leave the unused line by our property. Enbridge is still in charge of the maintenance of the unused pipeline. [The payment was for our agreement to leave it instead of them digging it up and disposing of it, disrupting our land and access to the parking lot.]

Calvary's Fall Programming Start-up!

Calvary Preschool will begin it's school year on Tuesday, September 8! We have made some changes to maintain a safe learning environment for our staff and students. The major change is reflected in our use of the facility. All preschool classrooms, staff offices, and resource areas are now located in the back part of Calvary (beyond the fire doors). Please join us as we pray for a great year for Calvary preschool staff, students, and families.

Fall Worship Opporuntites: We will be offering a varitey of opporunities to learn, grow, and worship together as a Calvary community this fall.

*Online Sunday Worship: services are posted weekly and premiere Sunday mornings on Calvary's website. Thank you everyone for continuing to join us for worship. If you haven't attended an online worship yet, try it out!

*Drive-in communion service - Wednesday, September 9 and 23 at 6:15 pm, Calvary will have a short drive-in communion service in the back parking lot. If you're interested in participating, please reserve your spot on our website. We plan to offer this service bi-weekly until the weather changes, so watch for information.

*Calvary's Mid-week worship: Thursday, September 3 will be our last Calvary Live! We are very excited to once again offer Wednesday evening worship starting Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm on our website, Facebook, and Youtube. This will be our "All Calvary Confirmation" teaching service with praise & worship, prayers, and a teaching sermon.

*Weekly drive-in worship at the fairgrounds - Each Sunday at 10:00am at the Beltrami County fairgrounds, a gathering of Lutherans including Calvary, First Lutheran, and Lutheran Campus Ministry worship from our cars. Print or download the bulletin to your smart device from First Lutheran's website (<http://www.flcbemidji.org/>) and tune your car radio to 91.1 once you arrive. This service will continue to meet until the snow flies.

Fall Program Opportunities:

*All Calvary Confirmation - Starting Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm. *See article on page 2 for full information.*

*Kids Ministry - For families with children Pre-K to 5th grade. We will have a Kid's Ministry page on our website and each week we will upload videos, activitiy sheets, games, and much more for you to learn and grow in God's word as a family!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we navigate this difficult start to our programming. We pray that we can learn and grow in God's love this school year!

CALVARY LUTHERAN EMERGENCY PAGER: 218-308-6654

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

CHURCHES UNITED OF BEMIDJI: 218-444-1380

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