



Calvary  
Lutheran Church ELCA  
2508 Washington Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## ***REFLECT WELL – BE WELL – EXPLORE WELL***

Calvary Lutheran has a sabbatical leave policy which states: "The purpose of sabbatical leave is to give the rostered staff person the opportunity to secure additional education, training, or experience which will make them better prepared for carrying out their responsibilities for Calvary Lutheran and will support the professional development of the staff person, the development needs of their department or area, and the planned priorities of Calvary Lutheran Church. The sabbatical leave is also the time for the rostered staff person to engage in physical and spiritual rest and renewal away from the normal day to day duties of their position." The policy lays out other guidelines including that the time frame is a maximum of 3 months (12 weeks), that grant funding needs to be applied for to financially support the sabbatical, and that the staff person will commit to serving for at least one year after returning from a sabbatical.

The Calvary council is excited to announce that Pastor Genelle was awarded a Lilly Grant to help fund a 12-week sabbatical in 2021. The proposed timeframe will be from late April through late July. Pastor Genelle's sabbatical theme is titled "Leading Well as a Long-Term Pastorate," which includes three benchmarks that both she and the congregation will engage in: REFLECT WELL, BE WELL, EXPLORE WELL. Each month, we will highlight a part of this sabbatical journey. Watch for ways for you to be an active participant as we lean into 2021 with some renewed hope and spirit!

## ***Worship Opportunities***

As we head into the new year, worship at Calvary is taking many forms! Our flagship worship service on Sunday is available on the website, as is our Wednesday night worship and confirmation teaching. For those seeking something a bit more "in person," drive-in joint worship is continuing each Sunday at 1:00 pm, alternating every 2 weeks between the parking lots at Calvary and First Lutheran, (check announcements and website for which church we're at!) For those who drive in to join us, tune your radios to 91.1 to hook into the short-range FM transmitter and download the bulletin from either our website or First Lutheran's website. Home Communion training is available on the Calvary website, and Communion is also offered the last Sunday of each month at the drive-in worship service.

***Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

*Philippians 4:6-7*

## Annual Meeting

On January 31, we will meet for our first Annual Meeting of 2021. Another Annual Meeting will be set for some time in June in order to change our fiscal year to a programmatic year instead of a calendar year. We will celebrate the craziness of 2020 and look forward to many great opportunities in 2021. We will approve a new 7-month budget, elect new leaders, and plan for a new congregation strategic planning process for the fall. We will also discuss adding a columbarium at the Calvary Cemetery and so much more! Check the Calvary website for information and videos to prepare us for our meeting immediately following the 1:00 pm Drive In parking lot worship at Calvary.

## Virtual Faith Formation

Calvary continues working hard to provide our families with resources for Faith formation in the home. Please visit [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org) and use the list below to find resources for your family!

- If you have kids in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, check out the KidMin page. Here you will find videos, resources, and curriculum following our weekly worship.
- Grades 9-12<sup>th</sup> visit our High School webpage for details about upcoming CLUB on Zoom.
- Families of 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders should visit the 2020-21 Confirmation Lesson Resources page for confirmation videos and worksheets. We are excited to try something new and different for Lent this year. Stay tuned for more information on what confirmation will look like this Lent.

## Baptism at Calvary

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

## Calvary Clubs

**Theology Club:** Thursday, January, 14 and 28, at 7:00 pm on zoom. We are discussing a new book titled *Paul* by N.T. Wright. Please order the book and join us in the discussions! The more the merrier!

**Calvary Book Club:** Currently on hiatus. For this club to resume, we need at least three more people to contact Daphne saying they'll join in reading and discussing a new book! Below are four books that have been highly recommended. Please email Daphne if you're interested and let her know your book choice. *Running Wild: More than Scars* by Katherine Friese, *Living by Faith* by Oswald Bayer, *Having Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver, or *In Snowball Arkansas* by Sandra D. Bricker.

**Gather Bible Study:** Every other Thursday, 11:00-12:30 pm on zoom, utilizing the WELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study.

**Care Cards Club:** This club continues to write cards of hope, encouragement, memorial, prayers, birthdays, and inspiration to Calvary members. Please contact me if you'd like to join this ministry!

Contact Vicar Daphne for more information on these clubs, to get the zoom links, or just to say hello: [vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org)

## Lenten Podcast

EPHESIANS 4:1-7

Unity will be our theme for Lent this year. Our Wednesday night worship service will center around this theme. We invite you as a congregation to read Richard Rohr's book *The Universal Christ* and join us for regular podcasts discussing his writings and how it applies to our unity as God's family. (Cost on Kindle - \$14.00, Hardback cover - \$20.00). Lent mentoring will not happen due to the Covid restrictions but we hope that this new format will engage you and your friends this Lenten season.

## Service Group Letters

2020 had us rethink and revamp our service group letters. Originally, each household was assigned to a month to help us with mission and ministry goals and are prayed for in our weekly enews. You could serve as a substitute greeter, purchase food for Sunday coffee or upcoming funerals, or fund Bibles to be shared with those who need one. When we had less need for in person help due to COVID, we reached out with other ways you can be the church. We will continue with our new process in 2021 until we are back to safely gathering in our building.

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

Thank you for your gifts to celebrate what God is doing in our lives everyday! May God be glorified in our work, worship, and fellowship together! Not using the envelopes enclosed in your newsletter? No problem! Please drop them off at the church and we will reuse them for future mailings! Thanks for being good stewards of these resources!



## 2021 Summer Mission Trips

We have 15 high school and 8 middle school students registered for summer mission trips to Benton Harbor, Michigan and Duluth, respectively. Our youth are excited to travel, serve God's people, and have fun! With a vaccine in distribution, we are confident that we will be able to go this year. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, we have limited fundraising opportunities for these students. You can help defray the cost of these trips by sponsoring a youth directly or making a donation to our scholarship fund.

## January New Member Welcome

Being a member of Calvary is a good way to stay up to date on everything that's happening around the church, as well as provide opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation. We're always looking to expand our church community! If you or someone you know is interested in membership at Calvary, please contact Kim.

**Virtual New Member Orientation** - If you are interested in membership, join us Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. You'll see other folks joining Calvary, learn more about Calvary and how to get involved, and more!

**New Member Welcome** - Tune into online worship Sunday, January 17 or Wednesday, January 20 to meet our new members!

Please contact Kim or Pastor Jeremiah for more information at [kwarren@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:kwarren@calvarybemidji.org) & [revholst@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - CHURCHES UNITED



Calvary's Second Offering partner for January is Churches United! All of us have both spiritual and physical needs, and Churches United is one place where God is working to provide especially for the physical needs of our neighbors. Located in the old Lincoln School on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Nymore, Churches United is a place where people can go to receive material and financial assistance in the name of Jesus. Around twenty area churches work together through this ministry to provide gas and food vouchers, bus and laundry tokens, and other gifts for community members in need. This is vital work, especially during COVID! To support Churches United (or any of our other Second Offering partners), you can donate online through RebelGive choosing "second offering partner," or by mailing a check to Calvary with "Churches United" in the memo line. In order to facilitate record keeping, we ask that ALL checks be made out to Calvary Lutheran.

### CALVARY'S 2<sup>nd</sup> OFFERING TREASURE CHEST

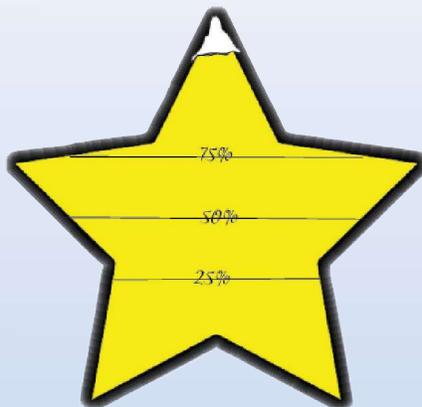
Calvary's 2<sup>nd</sup> offering treasure chest has moved to the hallway near our back door #6. For God's Treasure Chest in January, we are looking for socks, t-shirts, and travel size lotions to be given to Bemidji's emergency shelters. All donations are welcome!

## Christmas Under the Stars

We had hoped to have a beautiful picture of folks by the fire with their candles lit singing "Silent Night", and an article wrapping up six wonderful services. Unfortunately, due to the extreme cold temperature and windchill, it was unsafe to gather outdoors. This was a very difficult decision made by the pastors and staff of all participating churches. Our Bemidji area Lutheran congregations have been working together for years, but this year with the pandemic our partnerships have grown. We are exploring the idea of a joint Lutheran Easter outside vigil (with a bonfire, candlelight, and communion!) So, stay tuned for more opportunities to worship together!

## Thank You for Shining Your Light!

On December 21, 2020 we got to experience a once in a lifetime event - seeing the Bethlehem star! This was a great comfort that God is still very present in our dark times. The light of Christ comes through the birth of a Savior, the light of the world, our bright and morning star. You also shined your light in the darkness by contributing to the Shine Your Light appeal replenishing our reserve fund to \$100,000. We are approximately \$600 away from meeting our \$15,000 goal! Thanks for Shining Your Light!



## Thank You for Sharing Christmas Joy!

In times like this, when it is most needed, you spread the love of Jesus this Christmas season. Calvary staff and leadership thank you for participating in this year's Christmas giving opportunities. A special thank you for your donations supporting Village of Hope! Virtual Angel Tree donations helped over 70 kids in our community to receive Christmas gifts. The Salvation Army Bell ringers at Lueken's South brought cheer to shoppers while collecting much needed funds. Our local hospital, clinic, and nursing home workers were showered with cards of appreciation from you. Your Christmas cards and goodies sure did lift Calvary staff's spirits too! Jesus IS the reason for the season. Thanks for being a blessing!

## Organ Update

Organ update - Calvary's organ is currently not working due to what we think is a malfunctioning power supply. The ordering and installation of this part will likely approach \$4,000. We are trying to discern our next steps, whether to repair the 20 year old organ, or to utilize some sort of keyboard that would sound like an organ. Please contact Shar at [spaquette@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:spaquette@calvarybemidji.org) with any questions, concerns, or input around this decision.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

November Y-T-D	Income	Expenses
<b>General Fund</b>	\$986,394.14	\$759,171.85
<small>(Includes EIDL Grant \$10,000)</small>		
<b>Preschool</b>	\$214,545.50	\$283,661.34
<b>*General Fund New Fiscal Year (Aug - Dec)</b>		
	\$419,780.07	\$231,130.57
<b>Preschool Fund New Fiscal Year (Aug - Dec)</b>		
	\$95,881.25	\$98,291.38
<b>Cash &amp; Receivables</b>	\$318,808.71	
<b>November Ministry Partner: Lutheran Campus Ministry - \$925</b>		
<b>Calvary Foundation Balance: \$44,691.96</b>		

*\*Needed each week to support the revised budget is \$15,000.*

## See Calvary's January Birthdays Here!

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

# *“Yea, God” for Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021*

## *2020 Celebrations - Be Thou My Vision*

### **HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR TOGETHER:**

- We began 2020 by decorating eyeglasses sharing our hopes, dreams and visions for how we want to see Jesus more clearly this year. Then Covid came and disrupted all of life and keeping our eyes focused on Jesus was a much larger challenge than anyone could have expected.
- We had a major building repair both on the south facing wall of our new addition and our roof. We were able to complete and pay for both renovations through your faithful offerings.
- We said goodbye to some wonderful staff in 2020. Polly Merhar, Amanda Renbarger, Pastor Nate, and Jack McNamara. Due to Covid, we weren't able to keep our LSS custodial worker, our Calvary alive meal coordinator, or our BSU interns. The staff situation has changed but the remaining staff is grateful to be employed by such a mission minded church.
- We pivoted (almost overnight) to online worship and faith formation as we have kept the building closed due to the governor's orders. Our online worship blessed a number of families who had moved recently and had not found a church home in their new towns. We also heard that many families worshipped more over the summer than they ever had because weekends were spent on the lake! As much as we would have loved to be in person, we consider some of these learnings a gift that continued to keep the mission of letting people know of God's love alive!
- We tried a number of different parking lot, drive in, and faith milestones events and learned a lot from each new experience. When the whole world went on lock down – the whole world was trying to order video cameras, zoom accounts, portable communion, and FM transmitters. Calvary was on a long wait list to receive any of these items but by summer we reassessed our needs and were able to offer more opportunities than we could early on in the pandemic. Thanks for your patience and grace as we leaned into that transition.
- Tele-Care Team was formed that essentially served as congregational calling tree so that we could stay in touch with our congregational family. These phone calls were informational and inspirational and we hope were received as a blessing to those who felt disconnected or isolated due to Covid.
- The intergenerational mission trip to Jamaica was the only mission trip that allowed us to send people out of Bemidji in 2020. Building an addition on to the school was a huge accomplishment led by our missionaries!
- Calvary Lutheran Christian Preschool continued serve throughout the pandemic. The school was considered essential for our communities so children would have safe places to be while their parents worked. Many new safety precautions were put into place for both our staff and families as we do what we can to make faithful disciples and academic leaders.

### **2021 THEME – REFLECT WELL, BE WELL, EXPLORE WELL = LEAD WELL IT IS WELL, WITH MY SOUL**

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

- Celebrate and Commission Pastor Genelle's sabbatical, which will include a fall strategic planning process that will help us regroup and embrace the future post Covid surge.
- Two Mission Trips: High school mission trip to Michigan and middle school to Duluth.
- The 2021 Annual project is to enhance, upgrade, and expand our technology for worship and faith formation.
- We will change our fiscal year to a programmatic year and our leadership terms will change to reflect that too.
- Possible columbarium to be added to the Calvary Cemetery.

**YEA, GOD!**

**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](http://calvarybemidji.org) to join us for our online worship!*

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BEMIDJI | JANUARY 2021**