



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Rescheduled Annual Meeting

Our apologies for the confusion in February's newsletter that gave a premature recap of the annual meeting that hadn't happened yet. We have never had an annual meeting that late in the month and have always shared a recap in our February newsletter. Again, sorry for the confusion and yet we are excited to offer a new platform to try to 'gather' for this important meeting.

Council passed a continuing resolution at the February 10 council retreat. It reads:
Resolution Permitting Remote Meetings - Church Councils and Congregations

Although the pandemic is keeping us physically apart, we are connected by spirit and continue to do God's important work. Consistent with our calling to love and care for one another and for the health of our congregation, it is necessary to hold meetings of the Church Council and its members by remote communication. Therefore, the Church Council of Calvary Lutheran Bemidji hereby resolves:

- 1. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.*
- 2. The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the Church Council of Calvary Lutheran on this day.*

Your Next Steps:

- You may pre-register for this zoom annual meeting by visiting calvarybemidji.org and clicking on the "Register for Annual Meeting" button on the homepage, or by calling the church office at 218-751-1893. You will need a valid email to participate in this zoom call, but the meeting can be attended through zoom (with video and audio), or by phone (audio only). Pre-registration IS NOT attendance for the meeting, but will allow us to send you a reminder email with the zoom link the day before the meeting, hopefully ensuring that we have a quorum.
- Make sure you have Zoom. If you are not familiar with zoom, it would be beneficial to set the program up prior to the day of the meeting. Please call the church office if you need assistance with getting Zoom installed and ready. We want everyone to be able to participate!
- On Sunday, March 7, login to the zoom link between 9:15 AM and 9:45 AM to allow us to record attendance of active voting members, confirmation aged and older (we need a quorum of 75 to hold the meeting). The meeting itself will begin at 10:00 AM, provided we have a quorum.
 - Bethany Wesley will call the meeting to order and lead us through the Old Business of the agenda. We will break into small groups in order to have discussion and vote by voice. The zoom host will put you into small groups and will return you to the large group.
 - Bethany Wesley will then lead us through the New Business items, we will again break into small groups of discussion and a voice vote.
 - Council members, who will be in the small groups, will record both the questions and the votes in the chat function so that the congregation can see/read all the comments/questions and results of the vote.
- If you cannot access the website videos and documents, please stop by the church office before Friday, March 5 and staff will give you the needed information for you to review.

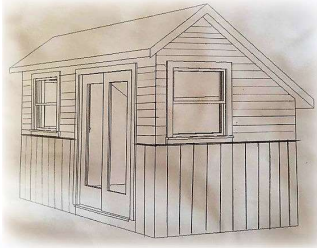
Holy Week Worship

Save these dates to join us for Holy Week worship!

- March 28 ~ Palm Sunday ~ 9:00 in person worship; online worship
- March 31 ~ Holy Week Experience ~ online worship
- April 1 ~ Maundy Thursday ~ online worship
- April 2 ~ Good Friday ~ online worship
- April 3 ~ Holy Saturday evening ~ Easter Vigil bonfire service in Calvary's back parking lot ~ with Holy Communion
- April 4 ~ Easter Sunday ~ 9:00 in person worship; online worship

S.H.E.D. Fundraiser (Sharing Hope Every Day)

Spring is coming! And with spring, comes the need to create our outdoor spaces! Does Calvary have a great opportunity for you! Calvary is planning to raffle off a BEAUTIFUL 9X12 SHED/SHE-SHED/PLAYHOUSE/WORKSPACE to one lucky person on May 1! I mean, this building will be beautiful ~ 3 windows, 1 French door, insulated, electric, and interior finished! Tickets are \$100 each, with a maximum number of 300 tickets sold! So, you could win a BEAUTIFUL shed for \$100 (per ticket if you purchase more than one). This fundraiser will be open to the Bemidji community, so you will want to get your tickets quickly! We should have the building on display around April 1. The proceeds from this fun-raiser will be dedicated to Calvary's 'annual project' this budget period, which is technology needed to better serve our worship community, both inside the church, and in our online presence. I can't wait to see the finished project!



6 Years of John Eggers Devotions!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Calvary member, John Eggers, for providing weekly devotions to put in our enews for 6 years! These devotions have certainly helped us to learn the Bible and grow in our faith together!

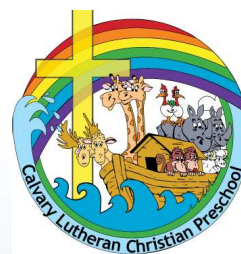
I just completed my 360th lesson spanning over six years. I don't think I missed more than two or three times during those years. We started out in Genesis and now we are in the Book of James. I am not sure how many, if anyone, reads it but I sure have learned a lot. For example: The Bible is much like a good book, it is more understandable if you start at the beginning and read it like a novel. When you know something about who wrote a particular book, you can understand that book much better. My favorite book is the Book of Esther. Ironically, it is the only book that does not mention God. I like it because it reminds us that each of us has a special purpose in life and once we know what the purpose is, we can appreciate more why God created us. The characters of the Bible are just like us. They have their good qualities and, at times, they fail. Some are rich, some have powerful roles, some are kings and some are paupers. For God, it really doesn't matter. He loves all of us the same. It's hard to imagine the extent of God's love. If you read the Bible as a history book and a scriptural book, it is a bit more interesting. When you read it from start to finish, there is a flow to it, things make more sense, pieces of the puzzle fall into place. The characters of the Bible all have their own stories to tell and when we know more about the character, we can better understand their relationship to God. AMAZING!! - John Eggers

REFLECT WELL – BE WELL – EXPLORE WELL

The theme of Pastor Genelle's sabbatical is Leading Well as a Long-Term pastor. She writes, "I have had so many positive experiences as a pastor at Calvary that it's hard to put them all into words. Serving as an associate pastor, leading programs and ministry was something I loved to do! After serving in that role for 8 years, the opportunity to become the senior pastor prompted a very intense discernment process. But the congregation saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. I am a leader who is willing to take risks for the sake of the Gospel but I wasn't sure I could lead a large, complex congregation. I trusted the process and have been a senior pastor for the last 11 years. I often say this congregation raised me to be the pastor that I am today. There is a lot to reflect on and give thanks for."

Please REFLECT on the ministry goals we have accomplished for God's kingdom in and around Bemidji. REFLECT on the many partnerships that Pastor Genelle has helped form in our community and with other churches. REFLECT on the many ways that Pastor Genelle served the larger church both through the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and the ELCA. REFLECT by sending your stories, memories and thanksgiving to sabbatical@calvarybemidji.org.

Virtual Preschool Open House!



On Thursday, April 8, at 6:00 pm the virtual preschool open house will go live! There will be a video with information about the preschool and our program and a virtual tour of our facilities. Preregistration forms will be available during this time on the preschool website. If you or someone you know is interested in preschool at Calvary please visit the preschool website for more information.

Prayer Chain

Did you know that Calvary has a prayer chain? Being an active part of the prayer team is a great way to support our community, and participate in a faith practice with other brothers and sisters! When Calvary receives a prayer request, an email is sent out to the prayer team for us to pray over together. Example prayers are also often included, so if you don't feel confident in praying on your own, don't let that hold you back from participating! If you'd like to join the prayer team, email Pastor Jeremiah at revholst@calvarybemidji.org.

If you have a prayer request you'd like the prayer team to pray over, you can use the "contact us" section of the Calvary website, or email Pastor Jeremiah at the above email address.

Baptism at Calvary

Are you 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) or visit our new baptism webpage 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.

2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - BEMIDJI COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF AS PART OF MINNESOTA FOODSHARE'S MARCH CAMPAIGN

Our Second Offering ministry partner for March is Minnesota food share! God cares about physical hunger as well as spiritual hunger. For that reason, Calvary continues to partner faithfully with the Bemidji Community Food Shelf. This month, we join food shelves, faith communities, businesses, and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity. Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. Supporting government programs like SNAP ("food stamps") and creating a more just and equitable food system are integral parts of meeting the needs of food insecure households and working toward ending hunger in our communities.



Especially during this time of pandemic, reaching out to help our neighbors who are most at risk is a critical task. Volunteers are needed to help in various ways at the food shelf. Please contact the food shelf directly to volunteer by calling (218)444-6580. What a great way to serve our community! Let's join together as followers of Christ in heeding his command to "Feed my sheep." We hope to raise \$5,000 as a congregation this year! Donations can be made through RebelGive by selecting "second offering," or by checks made out to Calvary Lutheran with "MN food share" or "Food Shelf" in the memo line.



Virtual Youth Silent Auction SUNDAY, MARCH 22-29 ON FACEBOOK

Join our silent auction Facebook group today! How does the auction work? Once you join the auction group you will get notifications and updates about the upcoming auction. We will post pictures with descriptions of all the great items. On March 22 we will open bidding. To bid, you will comment on the picture of the item you would like to bid on with the bid amount. Check on your bids regularly and bid on as many items as you want! The bidding will close on the 29th, and we will notify the winners. All proceeds will go to our youth mission trips!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a qualifying Thrivent member, don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars before the end of March! Calvary would be blessed to receive those investment dollars to help us fulfill our charitable and financial obligations. Contact your Thrivent representative, call 1-800-847-4836, or visit the Thrivent website and log in to check eligibility and direct your Choice Dollars today!

Calvary Clubs

Theology Club is meeting on Thursday, March 11 and 25, at 7:00 pm on zoom. We are discussing our discussion of the book titled, "Paul, A Biography" by NT Wright. Please order the book and join us in the discussions!! We'll be reading Chapters 10-13 this month.

Gather Bible Study is meeting on Thursday, March 11 and 25, 11:00-12:30 pm on zoom, utilizing the WELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. Our theme this month is "Journey with Angels, Part 3."

Care Cards 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 letter writing team!

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

See Calvary's March Birthdays Here!

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

Organ Update

Back in our January newsletter we highlighted a power issue with our organ. Shar is planning to try an inexpensive repair option to see, if by chance, it will work. If it doesn't fix the issue of not powering on, we will pay for a technician to come and actually diagnose the issue, estimate the cost to fix it, as well as evaluate the overall 'life expectancy' left in our organ, to help us determine if it would be worth the money to fix it. Thanks for your patience!



First Communion Milestone

We would traditionally have our First Communion Milestone during Holy Week. We have decided this year to push back this event to the fall in hopes that we can gather in-person with more people. Parents of 3rd and 4th graders will get information this summer with dates and details for this important faith milestone!

PPP Loan Forgiven!

Calvary has received a HUGE blessing! Our PPP Loan was completely forgiven. Last March when COVID hit, Calvary was in the midst of a financial crisis. The PPP loan allowed us to pay our staff without dipping further into our reserves.

FINANCIAL REPORT 7 MONTH FISCAL YEAR - JANUARY TO JULY

	Actual Income	Budgeted Y-T-D	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Y-T-D
January				
General Fund	\$57,557	\$96,798	\$49,970	\$93,505
Preschool	\$27,766	\$33,780	\$25,590	\$39,550

Cash & Receivables: \$307,843.82

January Ministry Partner: Churches United \$1,535

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$44,762.38

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

In-Person Worship Starting Mid-March

First of all, let me say a heartfelt THANK YOU! The members of Calvary Lutheran Church have been extremely patient, respectful and conscientious when dealing with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our life together. Now, one full year into this pandemic, we are not free from its impact, but we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. However, vigilance is still necessary until our world can be free from its threat. With that said, the staff and council has a plan to open our building in a responsible and sustainable manner. Beginning on March 15th, Calvary Lutheran will initiate a measured re-entry phase, allowing us to safely gather indoors for worship and small groups.

As stated earlier, it is imperative that our reentry be cognizant of the fact that the pandemic is still ongoing, and the risk of contracting COVID-19 is a real threat to members of our community. This first phase is to allow those who are fully vaccinated or at low risk of severe disease to begin gathering, still physically distanced and taking every necessary precaution to protect one another, including being masked when interacting with one another. Small groups of 25 or less will be allowed to gather for meetings and other non-worship programming, utilizing our largest rooms allowing for the needed six feet of physical distancing and proper air exchange. Activities such as Bible Study, Crafters, Quilters, Book Studies, Confirmation and Christian Education may begin if deemed appropriate by the staff, a majority of the group, and their leaders following the CDC's guidance for safe gatherings. As well, starting March 21st, Sunday in-person worship will begin with a maximum attendance of 75 people. If need be, the fellowship hall will be used for worship overflow to seat additional people. You must pre-register to attend in-person worship! Registration will be available on our website. Online worship and Drive-In worship will still be offered for those who remain in high-risk categories or prefer to take advantage of these alternative ways to worship together. Online worship will remain the only option for Wednesday Lenten Worship as well as our usual Wednesday worship schedule until the end of May 2021.

Precautions necessary to allow us to safely gather for worship:

- † Continue to use one of the alternative worship options if you fall into one of the high- risk categories as described by the CDC, 65+ years old or have an underlying medical condition and have not been fully vaccinated.
- † No gathering/mingling before or after worship, this includes extended conversations in the gathering area. Enter and take your seats immediately and exit the building after you are released from your seat.
- † Do not hang up your coats, instead take them to your pew. This will limit congestion/mingling at the coat racks.
- † Masks are mandatory.
- † Follow the recommended physical distancing for family units of at least 6 ft.
- † Every other pew will be blocked off, helping to maintain the 6 ft guidance.
- † Worship Leaders will be unmasked, so will need 12 ft distance from first open pew.
- † No singing by congregation members.
- † Offering will not be collected by passing the plate. Baskets will be stationed by the doors to the sanctuary for offering collection.
- † Water fountains remain turned off.
- † No Coffee hour before or after worship.
- † A Hospitality Host will let people out after worship, to limit lines from forming. If you are fully vaccinated, and are interested in being a Hospitality Host, please contact Kim or Shar.
- † No hand shaking, pastors will not be greeting people in the narthex after worship.
- † Remember, if you, or anyone in your household are not feeling well, please stay home.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the church office. As always when dealing with the unpredictable nature of this pandemic, our plans may need to change if things begin to trend in a different direction. The worship plan described above will also pertain to weddings or funerals in the sanctuary.

God's Peace, Pastor Genelle

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!