



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Farewell Pastor Genelle

On Wednesday, October 20, the Council received a resignation letter from Pastor Genelle (please see full letter on the back page). With a mixture of sadness for ourselves and excitement for her new opportunity, the Council accepted her letter, which will be effective November 30. We have been beyond blessed to have Pastor Genelle's ministry at Calvary for the past twenty years. We trust in God's presence and guidance for Pastor Genelle, her family, and our faith community as she takes her leave and we continue on. Anyone wishing to donate to one unified Farewell gift can leave money at the Church Office or through Rebel Give with the memo "Farewell gift". Donations for the congregational gift must be received by November 21. The Council met with and extended a call to Pastor Sue Tjornehoj (pronounced "churn-ahoy") to serve as Interim Senior Pastor and along with Pastor Jeremiah, who will continue to lead us forward in faith and ministry. God Bless the ministry of Pastor Genelle.

November Worship

We gather to worship our God on Sundays at 8:30 am (in-person & livestream) and 10:00 am (in-person), and again on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (in-person & livestream).

On Sundays we will continue our journey through the narrative lectionary. On November 7, which is All Saints Sunday, we hear God speak in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:1-18); On November 14, we hear God speak through his prophet Amos about justice and righteousness (Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24); November 21, we hear from God's prophet Isaiah, foretelling the coming of Christ as our light in the darkness (Isaiah 9:1-7); Finally, on November 28, which is the first Sunday in Advent and a Baptismal Festival, we hear God through his prophet Jeremiah as he speaks promise to the exiles (Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14).

On Wednesdays, we will be preaching on the New Testament text that will be covered in confirmation. In recognition of Thanksgiving, we will not be worshiping at Calvary on Wednesday, November 24. However, all are welcome to attend Thanksgiving Eve worship at First Lutheran Church, Bemidji at 6:00 pm. We pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

We continue to strongly encourage masking in our worship services to protect our neighbors worshiping alongside us. God's blessings to each and every one of us as we continue to navigate this unprecedented time in our community. Come, and worship!

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

Getting to Know Calvary Council

MEMBER AT-LARGE - JIM MOLDE

Dear Friends, My name is Jim Molde and I am currently serving as an At-Large member of your Church Council. I have been a member of this church for thirty years. Along with many of you, the Church Council has been reading a book called *Becoming a Hybrid Church*. How does this translate to our ministry at Calvary?



Social media is a significant voice in today's world. During the public health crisis Calvary had to develop new ways to provide word and sacrament ministry. This involved not only an investment in technology but a determination of how best to use that technology so that all viewing could benefit. I say "new", but Sharon, my wife, reminded me that this is merely a return to our roots when 12 disciples were given the Great Commission to "go and make disciples". That's the original "mobile ministry" and the example we are called to follow.

As the disciples travelled, they engaged with those they met and told them of the story of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. As we use the gift of technology it is vital that we not merely provide a viewing experience, but an opportunity for engagement in the service as well as encouraging all who are viewing to do as we are commanded; feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless and heal the sick. James 2:26 says "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

How do we do this? Vicar Jami called it, "Multimedia Ministry". It's time to reimagine ways to spread the Gospel. Is employing a person of faith to interact with our online worshippers in real time of value? In what ways can social media content help spread the message of God's love through Jesus and inspire us to action? Are podcasts or other ways to share our stories inspirational? Endless possibilities. As your Council discerns these questions, we would value your input.

Social media is not going to diminish in influence in the future. As Christians we are given this opportunity to reach beyond our sanctuary with the Good News of God's love for all creation. Let's use this opportunity for God's glory!

Advent/Christmas Church Decorating

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wow! It's already Advent/Christmas Season! Historically, Calvary has had some amazing volunteers come in to decorate our church spaces to celebrate and anticipate Christ's birth, so we need you, amazing volunteers! We are planning to decorate on Sunday, November 21, right after the 10:00 am service (although there will



likely be some earlier projects in the mix by first service goes). We will work on having some Covid-friendly food options by hopefully getting a Thrivent Action grant to help cover the costs. We should be done between 1-2:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to be the church together, to have some fellowship and fun, and get in the mood for the celebratory season of Advent/Christmas!

Grief Share

If you or someone you know is dealing with grief this season, please consider joining Grief Share. Beginning November 4, Erin Kossivi will be leading a group at Calvary in Room 1 each Thursday at 6:30 pm. You can join at any time, so please come even if you can't make the first day. Contact the church office for more information.

Calvary Gives!



During Pr. Genelle's sabbatical and in honor of her 20 year celebration in September we raised \$5,000! We split these funds in half and blessed The United Way and The Boys & Girls Club. These are both great organizations doing wonderful things in our community.

Virtual 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. You can help families in our community by participating in our virtual Angel Tree gift program. Watch Calvary's Enews, [website](#), and [Facebook](#) for a link to the virtual Angel Tree sign up, which will go live on Sunday, November 21. Once active, you will be able to select someone to give a gift to from a list of kids and adults. Select one or more people to gift from the list and go shopping. All gifts must be put in gift bag, unwrapped, clearly labeled with the assigned number code, and turned into the church office by December 19.

Calvary Connections Podcast

As we continue to explore being a hybrid church together, here's how that reality has reflected in one Calvary member's experience:

"I've listened to your podcast (only the intro and chapter 1 so far) but I plan to catch up. Since COVID, I've been attending church regularly and consistently online (and every now and then, I attend in person). I am closer to God than I have ever been.

"I love the hybrid approach to church. I love having opportunities to connect with humans and God via in-person and via technology. I like the hybrid approach and I'm closer to God because of these tools given.

"My husband is not a member at Calvary. Prior to COVID, he would attend with me a few times a year. Since COVID, he has actually sat down and listened to the worship services with me more times than he has been to the actual church building! Last week, I was listening to church online and he was in the other room and he said you can turn it up if you want! WOW!!!"

Amen! What has your experience of "hybrid church" been like? We want to hear from you! Join us for the Calvary Connection podcast conversation on Wednesday nights (available through the website), or email us at podcast@calvarybemidji.org. God is leading the way!

Thanksgiving Holiday

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, Calvary will not have Wednesday worship or programming on November 24. The office and building will be closed Thursday and Friday November 25 & 26.

2ND 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. 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, 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. You are encouraged to give throughout the month to our ministry partners. Donate online using RebelGive or by check made out to Calvary Lutheran with "2nd Offering" in the memo line.

GOD'S TREASURE CHEST

We are bringing back the treasure chest! For our 2nd offering you will have the opportunity to donate physical items in addition to funds to support our Ministry Partners. For November we will be collecting items to make LWR kits including pens and pencils, rulers, erasers, crayons (boxes of 24), blunt-edge scissors, notebooks (70 page, college ruled), tooth brushes, hand soap and hand towels.

Calvary's Foundation Thanks You

On behalf of the Calvary Lutheran Foundation Board, I'd like to sincerely thank you for your generosity during the month of September as part of the second offering, and also to those who are continuous givers. If you remember, we had a couple pose a challenge to our congregation to match their \$500 donation. Well, that challenge was matched by two other donations! In total, through your faithful giving, we collected \$2,528 toward our goal! Yay God! Our focus of the Foundation has been supporting our Seminary Interns, Mission Trips, Bible Camp Scholarships, and College Scholarships. These fit right in line with our purpose which is "for religious, charitable or education purposes". If you are led to serve on the Foundation, please reach out to me or the church office and we'll get connected. You may also reach out to any of our current members for more information about the Foundation. They are: John Eggers, Nicole McKinnon, Heidi Fladeboe, Nicholle Bieberdorf, and me. Thanks again for your support! - Vickie Meyer

Theology Book Club

Calvary's Theology book club will be starting a new book this month! Join us in reading and discussing *Where God Meets Man* by Gerhard Forde. We gather on Zoom the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. We'll be jumping into this new Forde book starting Tuesday, November 9. All are welcome, let's explore our faith together! Contact Becky Berquist for more information at bergquistbecky@gmail.com.

Calvary Preschool Needs Staff!

We have open staff positions that need to be filled soon for the current school year. We are looking for a [Preschool Teacher](#), two [Assistant Teachers](#), and an [Aide](#). If you or someone you know is interested in joining our great preschool staff please click on the linked positions for job descriptions and application.

Thanksgiving Community Meal

Bemidji Community Meals is going to deliver Thanksgiving meals this year for home bound people. We will not be serving a meal in person. If you would like a meal delivered please call 218-553-0801 by November 19 to allow sufficient time to order the food we will need. We also need volunteers for a couple hours on Wednesday before Thanksgiving, volunteers on Thanksgiving morning to help in the kitchen and of course drivers to deliver the meals to peoples homes. If you are willing to help in any of those areas please call 218-553-0801. We all hope that next year we will be back to normal with both home deliveries and in person dining.

Mission Trip Wreath Fundraiser

CLUB is excited to announce that we have begun our first fundraiser for the 2022 high school mission trip to Philadelphia, PA! We are partnering with Jen's Wreaths to sell wreaths and begin spreading some holiday cheer. Wreaths will be arriving in two deliveries – the first on November 19 and the second on December 10. In order to make these delivery dates, order forms will be due on November 12 for the first order and November 30 for the second. If you are interested in placing an order, find one of Calvary's high schoolers or contact the church directly at 218-751-1893 before those dates. You can also email Vicar Jami at jgoetz@calvarybemidji.org. If you are interested in selling wreaths, Jami will have order forms available at Wednesday night CLUB. You can also email him for a PDF to download. Thank you for supporting our high schoolers and stay tuned for more fundraising opportunities in the coming months!

FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022

September	Income	YTD	Expense	YTD
General Fund	\$91,860	\$166,890	\$78,252	\$139,354

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$8,500)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$403,798

September Ministry Partner: Calvary Foundation \$2,528

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$51,024

Offering needed each week to support the budget is \$15,000.

See Calvary's November Birthdays Here!

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

Calvary Lutheran, You Are God's Perfect Gift!

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. James 1:17

October 20, 2021

Dear friends of Calvary Lutheran,

After over a month-long battle with shingles (Dr. Will said one of the worst cases he's ever seen) and a few Covid exposures, I thought I had been tested enough. But that's not how God works in my life. During that time, I was offered a job that I didn't apply for or interview for. I learned that Pastor Karla Mickelson, Assistant to the Bishop, was retiring at the end of October and Bishop Tesch offered the job to me. After reviewing the job description, praying without ceasing, and holding deep conversations with family and friends, I have decided that it is time to resign as the Senior Pastor of Calvary as of November 30 and begin a new job as Assistant to the Bishop in the Northwest Minnesota Synod.

Thankfully the good people at The Lilly Foundation have allowed us the grace to not have to pay back the Lilly grant for the sabbatical. They understood that this call wasn't to another congregation (I don't think I could serve another congregation after serving Calvary) and realize the work in the synod is a niche position that often is more of an appointment than an interview.

I resign with complete gratitude in my heart and deep love for all of you who are part of Calvary Lutheran Church because you are the community who have shaped me into the person and pastor that I am today. Reflecting on the last 20 years of ministry with you, I continue to come to the same conclusion, absolute amazement of how good God is! Yea God! Thank you for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. And thank you for the amazing opportunity to be your shepherd, your leader, and your friend. God loves you and so do I!

In gratitude,

Rev. Genelle Netland



Visit our website at calvarybemidji.org for online worship, events/calendar, information and more...