



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

## *Lent Unbound: Listening to God, Listening to Each Other.*

*"In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our loved one and we commit their body to its resting place earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." (from the ELW committal service)*

*Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.* These are the words, tender, final, spoken over the bodies, the ashes, the remains of our loved ones. They are spoken in the midst of grief, in sweltering heat, pouring rain, or frigid cold. The mourners are gathered, some standing, some sitting, weeping, stoic, in the presence of a carefully shoveled hole in the earth, ready to receive our beloved. I am handed a small vial of sand or grab some of the earth and slowly speak these words, *"In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."*

On March 2, across the globe, thousands, maybe millions, will be marked, anointed with ash. It is how we enter the season of Lent, the month of March, our brow burdened once again with "Child of God, remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." My heart breaks for those I know will not see another year; for the young ones who have no idea what this means. As we age, our brows become heavily laden don't they? First with the drops of life-giving water, "Child of God you have been marked with the cross of Christ FOREVER." This is the very first mark, the promise of a life that knows no end. Then it is the soothing of oil, the oil of healing and anointing and each year, these palm branches of last year's Holy Week procession, now burned, rest on our brow. They mark us, reminding us of our fragility, our mortality, our connection with all the saints, those living and those whose breath has now ended.

As I write this, the country of Ukraine has just been invaded. Lord have mercy. Fear and terror confront the citizens of that country and the rest of the world. Churches in Northeast Minneapolis, planted by Ukrainian immigrants, are gathering. They know of the ashes and dust of invasive powers; they know humanity's brokenness. Psalm 51 will be our collective Ash Wednesday call to worship, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness." Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.

It is fitting that we begin our pilgrimage together here at Calvary under the theme "Lent Unbound: Listening to God, Listening to Each Other." Through the lens of dust and ash we will proceed to listen, listen intently to God and to one another. Daily devotions and a weekly podcast, gatherings for worship, all part of this walk, together. Visit our [website \(calvarybemidji.org\)](http://calvarybemidji.org) and click on the "Lenten Daily Devos" button on the home page to sign up to receive a daily invite to listen to God. Watch or listen to your pastoral team reflect on the texts appointed for the week with the Calvary Connection Podcast. Worship at noon or 6:30 pm on Wednesdays, on-line or in person. Participate in text studies focused on listening to the voice of God and God's people.

And we will pray, pray for peace for our sisters and brothers, our siblings in Christ in Ukraine and for wisdom for world leaders, especially Presidents Biden and Putin. Our brows are so heavily laden with the oil and ash and life-giving water. We walk, marked with salvation, empowered by the crucified and Risen One to speak and act with the voice of mercy and justice and peace in solidarity with others around the world.

What a month it will be! Look for details in this newsletter, on [Facebook](#), on our [website](#). Take out your calendar and make plans for Lent Unbound: Listening to God, Listening to Each Other. What a joy it is for me to share the journey with you!

In peace and with hope,  
Pastor Susan Tjornehoj, Interim Senior Pastor

## *In Person Coffee Fellowship Returns!*

All are welcome to join us between worship services for coffee fellowship! Beginning Sunday, March 6 we will again offer coffee fellowship. It's been a long two years without fellowship and we know that many of you have missed it (we have too)! For those worshipping online we will continue to offer Zoom coffee fellowship (see article on back page for details). We look forward to fellowshipping with you all!

## *Ready, Set, Go! Calvary's Explore Team*

The Explore Team is excited to be starting interviews with leaders in our local community. We are learning about the issues that leaders in our area are responding to and managing. We are seeing the many changes that have occurred in the past two years. We are noticing the changes in how we gather, communicate and work. Pastor Susan has challenged us to open our eyes and ears to what we are seeing around us.

This is the first stage of our process: listening to our neighbors. We have an ambitious timeline and hope to complete this part of our process before Ash Wednesday.

During Lent we will be taking time to listen to God and to one another. Of course we always want to be listening to God; this time is to be focused and intentional about our listening. How has our church changed in the past few years? How is God teaching us and calling us in 2022? How can we support and encourage one another?

Finally, as we celebrate Jesus defeating death and giving us new life at Easter, the Explore Team will be wrapping up the work we have been doing and presenting what we have learned to the congregation, knowing that God has blessed us with all that we need to move into the mission before us.

We encourage you to share your observations with the team by emailing at [rebeccabsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccabsnyder@gmail.com) or texting me at 218-308-0815.

## *Youth Silent Auction*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16-SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

Calvary's mission trip youth are working hard to provide the folks of Calvary's community with wonderful items on which to bid during the Youth Silent Auction. This year's Youth Auction will begin on Wednesday, March 16 and run through Sunday, April 3. Come see what they come up with and bid on some amazing items to help raise funds for Calvary mission trips! If you would like to donate an auction item, please bring it to the Calvary office to be registered by March 16. All proceeds go to support the missions of Calvary's youth!

## *Calvary Connection Podcast Returns!*

During Lent, listen in as your Calvary pastoral staff dives deep into conversation around the Lenten scripture texts. The podcast will be released each Tuesday, discussing the scripture set for the next day's Wednesday evening worship. Tune in to the podcast on Tuesday and come hear the text preached on Wednesday! Podcast episodes will be posted on our [website](#), [YouTube](#) channel, included in our weekly e-news, or wherever you get your podcasts.

## *Lenten Worship Series*

I am very excited to announce that I will be sharing a preaching series on Wednesdays throughout the season of Lent with the theme being Lent Unbound: Listening to God, Listening to Each Other. Throughout the season, we will tackle five different passages from both the Old and New Testament that focus on different aspects of intentional listening, which I believe will be quite relevant to the transition process Calvary is currently going through. As we look ahead to what kind of congregation we hope to be, as we prepare to call a new Senior Pastor, and as we cautiously re-emerge from two years of learning how to be church through a pandemic, it is listening to God's gentle, nudging voice and the needs of our neighbors that will help us grow and be the church that God has called us to be. I greatly anticipate encountering you at either the noon or 6:30 pm services, Wednesdays during Lent, and engaging in this listening practice with you all!

Vicar Jami

**March 9** - Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 61 - How Jesus models listening

**March 16** - 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Psalm 34 - Listening with each other for God's calling

**March 23** - Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 5 - God empowers us to listen to the marginalized

**March 30** - Luke 10:38-41; Psalm 81 - Listening to God over distractions

**April 6** - Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 95 - Listening through the impossible

Come join the journey to the cross with us. Sunday worship texts will continue to follow the narrative lectionary.

**Ash Wednesday** - worship with us at noon and/or 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2 (also available online) ~ imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

**March 6** - John 11:1-44 ~ Holy Communion & Anointing

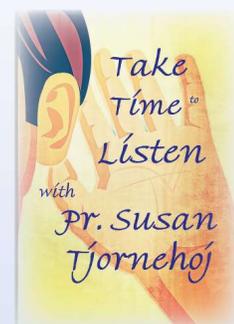
**March 13** - John 13:1-17 ~ Holy Communion & Anointing

**March 20** - John 18:12-27 ~ Holy Communion & Anointing

**March 27** - John 18:28-40 ~ Holy Communion & Anointing

## *Take Time to Listen*

Pastor Susan will be sharing a daily devotional throughout the Lenten season digging deeper into our Wednesday worship/mentoring themes of "Listening to God, Listening to others." Visit our [website \(calvarybemidji.org\)](http://www.calvarybemidji.org) and click on the "Lenten Daily Devos" button on the home page to sign up to receive these daily devotional emails right to your inbox. Journey together with us through Lent!



## *Confirmation Lent Mentoring*

We are still looking for adults (especially men) to be in a mentoring relationship with our confirmation students on Wednesday nights for the season of Lent. Over the years mentoring has been a positive and uplifting experience for our confirmation youth and their mentors. Unfortunately we have been unable to offer mentoring for two years, so we are ready to begin again! Starting on Wednesday, March 2 through April 13, we will gather for worship at 6:30 pm, followed by about 15-20 minutes of one-on-one time discussing themes from worship, (discussion questions are provided). If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Kim Warren ([kwarren@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:kwarren@calvarybemidji.org)) in the church office.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> 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.

Let's join together as followers of Christ in heeding his command to "Feed my sheep." Donations can be made through RebelGive by selecting "second offering," or by checks made out to Calvary Lutheran with "MN food share" in the memo line.



### CALVARY'S 2ND OFFERING TREASURE CHEST

For God's Treasure Chest in March, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Bemidji Community Food Shelf.

## Food Shelf Volunteers Needed!

Calvary provides volunteers for the food shelf on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from approx. 8:45 am-12:15 pm. Seven volunteers are needed for each shift. The food shelf is also always looking for on-call volunteers to fill in throughout the month on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you're interested in volunteering either as a regular Calvary volunteer or an on-call volunteer, you can sign up on the kiosk in the narthex, contact Pr. Jeremiah (revholst@calvarybemidji.org), or speak with Jim and Diane Wahl.

## Souper Study with Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan will be leading a Bible study on the scriptures that we are focusing us on Wednesdays during Lent. There will be two offerings: one after the noon Wednesday service and one before the 6:30 pm worship service starting at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. A light meal (soup, salad, bread) will be shared for those participating in the study.

## Calvary Seniors' Group

Our former "Decades" group has started meeting again with a new name! Now called Calvary Seniors' Group they meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 12:00 noon at Giovanni's for lunch and socializing. The next meeting is Friday, March 18. Please join us if you can. If you have questions or would like to join, please contact Mary Froiland (froiland@paulbunyan.net).

## GriefShare

If you or someone you know is dealing with grief, GriefShare may be helpful for you! Erin Kossivi leads a GriefShare group at Calvary Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm in Room 1. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Erin at 813-417-7678. No preregistration is necessary, all are welcome to join in the conversation as we journey together. The current session will end Thursday, March 24 and a new session will begin this summer, date and time TBD.

## Calvary Happenings

A new and much requested section of our newsletter is here! This article featuring New Members, Deaths, and Baptisms will be updated monthly as another way we can stay informed of what is happening in our congregation.

- **New Members:** Brent & Tabi Steinmetz with children Mackenzie (16) and Alexis (8). Rev. Susan Tjornehoj & Dave Wangaard. Tom & Jet Sabol with child Gemma (9 months). Curt & Faye Anderson with children Curtis (10) and Rory (5).
- **Baptisms:** Gemma Marlynn Sabol on Sunday, January 9. Quinny LaVerne Paasch on Sunday, February 13.
- **Deaths:** Nancy Gladen, January 18, 2022 and Gunter Brakner, January 31, 2022.

## Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead for Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 am!

## Theology Book Club

Calvary's Theology book club continues reading and discussing *Where God Meets Man* by Gerhard Forde. We gather on Zoom the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. All are welcome, let's explore our faith together! Contact Becky Bergquist for more information at bergquistbecky@gmail.com.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### 12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022

#### General Fund – January

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$73,330	\$102,288	\$625,304
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$76,636	\$103,359	\$490,933

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$133,397)

**Cash, Receivables, & Savings** \$374,036

**January Ministry Partner:** Churches United \$1,778

**Calvary Foundation Balance:** \$53,807

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

## 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!](#)

## Getting to Know Council Vice President Kim Williams

Greetings! My name is Kim Williams and I am your Calvary Council vice-president. My husband Doug and I have been members at Calvary since 1983. In the midst of this cold and snowy winter, with COVID still a concern, I find myself reflecting on things I am anticipating. I am looking forward to more daylight hours, planning and planting a garden, putting away snow shovels and clothing that contains down or wool. I anticipate the day I can engage in routine and spontaneous activities without thinking about masks, COVID tests, social distancing and the vaccination status of those I might encounter. And so I wait, and I wait.....



*Romans 8:35, 38-39:*

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

And scripture reminds me I can wait a bit longer, because nothing can separate us from the love of God. The season of Lent is upon us—the upcoming Lenten series entitled Lent Unbound: Listening to God; Listening to Each Other has been developed by our pastoral staff. Lent Unbound is something all those worshipping with Calvary can anticipate and I invite you to participate in this series beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2, either in person or online. Thanks be to God!

## Vicar's Viewpoint

Hey everybody, Vicar Jami here! It's sure been a cold February, I'm finding it harder and harder to get out of the house these days, especially on days I don't come to Calvary – I welcome any and all Bemidji winter survival tips as I'm sure March won't be much better! But March does bring about a new season in the church year that I am very excited to experience here, that being Lent. I'm looking forward to the new ways we will be able to worship and opportunities to engage with you all in new ways, through my upcoming Wednesday preaching series, a new podcast with Pastor Jeremiah and Pastor Sue, and, of course, the incredible experiential worship that comes throughout Holy Week. I already cannot wait for Easter – the joyous celebration of resurrection (and the warmth that will hopefully come alongside it)! But I also relish the ponderings and slowing down that comes alongside Lent, and the listening that will accompany this particular season, as we explore the theme Lent Unbound: Listening to God, Listening to Each Other.

As I look back on the past few weeks, I greatly enjoyed being able to supply preach in Clearbrook and Leonard. Though I missed being at Calvary for those two weeks, being able to enter into new contexts and practice leading worship by myself were invaluable experiences. Pastor Jeremiah and I were able to do several home visits, a valuable part of my internship experience that COVID has made difficult to plan. I hope in the coming months there will be many more opportunities for me to get to know you all more, through conversations at the church, in your homes, or wherever God brings us together. Continuing to lead Club has been such a joy as well, as we celebrate another successful fundraiser and look ahead to our mission trip to Philadelphia! Sign-ups have completed, plane tickets have been purchased, and I cannot wait to see what adventures that trip will bring.

Looking ahead, I greatly anticipate sharing my Lent preaching series with you all as we explore together what it means to listen to God and one another. I also anticipate submitting my six-month evaluation to Luther Seminary and making the most of the remaining months I have with you all. As I said in church this past Sunday, Calvary feels like home to me and I cannot thank you all enough for creating that environment for me.

Until next time, peace and blessings!  
Vicar Jami

## Zoom Coffee Fellowship

Come and connect through Zoom after our 8:30 am Sunday worship service! Lay leaders will facilitate conversation to help you feel and stay connected to others far and wide! Please call the church office during the week if you need help to join this meeting! Don't be shy! This is a great way to visit with known and not-yet-known members of our congregation.

**Join Zoom Meeting ID: 881 5183 2779 Passcode: CLC**

Another easy way to do it is to go to our website, [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org), and click on the 'Coffee Zoom Fellowship' button. Fill out the registration and submit. You will see a thank you page with the link to the zoom meeting, click on it, and you will get there!

If you are worshipping livestream with us and you would like to receive the Zoom information by email or text, let us know in the chat or by texting (218)308-9919.

*Visit our website at [calvarybemidji.org](http://calvarybemidji.org) for online worship, events/calendar, information and more...*