



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

"Ball World"...When the Word Moves in.

A REFLECTION ON MOVING, BY PASTOR SUSAN TJORNEHOJ

"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1 from The Message)

"Do not be afraid; to you is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2, adapted)

Dear community of God's loved ones,

The box was tall, a packing box, a moving box, non-descript. It looked just like the hundreds of other boxes the movers were lugging into our new home in St. Paul. The marking read "ball world." After 8 months our memories had faded. We scanned each box to read the writing for a clue, Kitchen? Bedroom? (but which one?) Bathroom? (upstairs or downstairs?) What was in that room again? But this tall nondescript box read "ball world." Ball world? Ball world! What could that mean? Ball world. Suddenly my daughter exclaimed, "Mom, it's the globe, you know the globe. The one Grammy Marty had and then we inherited. I love that globe." From *ball world* to a box containing a family heirloom. Such is the process of moving in. Confusion, disruption, recognition, opening up boxes and boxes where all the gifts are familiar.

August is frequently a time of *moving in*, students are heading to college and apartments, a dorm, a house. Older ones of us may be downsizing. A job change means moving in to a new space, a new community of colleagues. A UCC pastor just wrote an article entitled "Moving is Hell." She counsels, "Just stay where you are. It's not worth it." But as followers of Jesus, as ordinary people, aren't we always packing and unpacking? And this pesky Holy Spirit just keeps pushing and prodding and pulling in every direction. I will always remember that box marked "*ball world*."

It is the nature of our life together here at Calvary, moving in and moving out. It is nearly impossible to 'stay where we are.' It means that pieces of our mission will always be both disorienting and delightful. In the coming months vicars and pastors will come and go. A new Senior Pastor and Director of Faith Formation will move in. They will bring with them boxes full of wisdom and excitement and passion and vision and probably a little grief as well. Things won't quite fit and Calvary will feel a lot of excitement and a little grief too. What is a globe to one is a *ball world* to another.

August is a month of transition here at Calvary too. We will begin moving out of our summer schedule and moving into our fall schedule. Worship times will be at 8:30 and 10:45 am with space for education in between. Wednesdays will revive Calvary Alive at 5:30 pm with supper and worship at 6:15 before Confirmation and High School CLUB. Disorienting and reorienting and exhilarating all at once.

And you know? The good news is that our lives are patterned after Jesus Christ, Savior and Messiah. This Savior "moved in" unnoticed, slipped into the world in the womb of a young woman named Mary. And the sign? A babe wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. It is as ordinary as a box marked kitchen, this babe, a Savior, yet so amazing. And the Word made flesh moved in too. "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." And the world has never been the same since.

Moving in, it is what God's grace does, it moves in to your life and mine, into your neighborhood and mine, disrupting and interrupting and making a home among us, as compassion and mercy, justice and hope.

The pastor who wrote the article ends with this prayer "If I should move, move me. If I should stay put, settle me. Where I have landed, ground me. Unpack me, dear God, unpack me. Amen."

With gratitude and hope,
Susan Tjornehoj, Interim Senior Pastor

Calvary's Annual Meeting

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

Calling all Calvary Members! Calvary's annual meeting is coming right up on Sunday, August 28. We will meet following our 9:00 am service at 10:15 in the fellowship hall. We will be discussing and voting on a new budget, council members, and MORE!!! We are still working out the details, but we will offer a Zoom option for those who can't attend in person. Check our weekly enews, and the website for updated information!

We're Hiring!

Do you know someone who would love to work on Calvary's amazing staff as our Director of Faith Formation? Now's your chance! Calvary is seeking someone to lead our "first third of life" programming. Our hiring team has been formed and we're about to begin interviewing candidates. You can see the full job description and apply by visiting our [website](#) and clicking on the button on the homepage.

Calvary Preschool

With the start of the school year right around the corner, we are busy getting ready to welcome a new bunch of students! If you are interested in your child attending preschool at Calvary we currently have openings in our blue and purple groups. We are also seeking two Assistant Teachers to join our staff. For more information about registration or employment, please contact Preschool Director [Tony Kerr](#).



Farewell Vicar Jami

WOW! As chair of the Internship Committee, I cannot believe that Vicar Jami's time with us is coming to an end. It has been a true joy to be part of his support team. I recently discussed with Jami his last year, and although it seems quick to me, it was indeed a full year for him. Full of change, full of opportunities, full of demands, full of growth and filled with so many wonderful people. As a congregation we have been so fortunate and blessed to have had Vicar Jami intern at Calvary, and although the idea of an internship is to provide learning opportunities for the student, which in no doubt we have, we too have been gifted through Jami with so many opportunities to learn and grow. We have been blessed with his gifts of preaching and teaching, with his passion and talent with music, with his patience and sincerity, and of course with his grace and love. There is no doubt he will be missed.

Sunday, August 21 will be Vicar Jami's last Sunday with us before he goes back to Luther to finish Seminary. I am hoping in the next few weeks everyone will have a chance to say in their own way THANK YOU... You can call, write, text, email, or snap- whatever it is you can do to just say THANKS. Thanks, Jami, for your year of service, of care, of dedication and commitment to Calvary Lutheran Church.

As a congregation we will be having a **THANK YOU Reception for Jami on August 21 at 10:15 am**, following worship, please plan on attending to send him off with all the love, joy, and gratitude we can muster, that with cake and other treats too! Hope to see you there.

Larry Kent, Internship Committee

Rally Sunday!

SAVE THE DATE ~ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Mark your calendars for Rally Day, Sunday, September 11! We will gather for worship with NEW service times at 8:30 and 10:45 am. Between services we will have a Ministry Fair featuring opportunities to learn, grow, and serve at Calvary and beyond! If you would like a spot for your ministry or organization in the Ministry Fair, please contact [Kim Warren](#) in the church office. With fall right around the corner we are excited for all the BIG things happening at Calvary! This fall we are thrilled to bring back Calvary Alive! Wednesdays will consist of a meal at 5:30 pm, contemporary worship at 6:15, and Confirmation and High School activities at 7:15 pm.

August Call Committee Update

We continue to make progress in calling our new senior pastor. We have started to receive rostered minister profiles (RMP) of potential candidates. We will continue to move forward in the process as we have plans to start Zoom meet and greets the first week in August. Thank you for bringing names forward as we have sent them forward to Bishop Tesh and we will continue to do so if more come in. Please do not contact potential candidates directly but through the call committee for confidentiality purposes. If you have interview questions that you would like to be considered for the call committee to ask, please talk to us or contact us at callcommittee@calvarybemidji.org. Thank you for your support through this process and please continue to keep us in your prayers as we are guided by the holy spirit.

Mission Trip Sunday

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Come and hear about the great work of our middle school and high school missionaries as they lead worship at both the 9:00 am and the 6:30 pm services. The theme for the week was "For Real: Love Authentically" based on Romans 12:9a which reads "Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them." (TLB).

Expect great stories of how God moved in, around, and through our youth and leaders as they reached out to the communities of Lake Traverse, SD, and Philadelphia, PA. Expect to hear how our youth and leaders were deeply impacted by what they saw, heard, and experienced during their week. Expect to hear the music that moved them to action during their week of service. Expect to hear gratitude for your support and prayers before, during and after their trips. Expect to be moved to continue supporting Calvary's mission trip experiences, and maybe, just maybe, even pursuing participating yourself.

BACM Summer Recital Series

RECITAL AT CALVARY, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17!

Be sure to join us at Calvary on Wednesday, August 17 for a recital featuring our own Jennifer (Paquette) Ellis on Piano and Folk Harp. This summer marks the 35th season of recitals! From 12:00-12:30 each Wednesday, a Bemidji area church hosts a recital for the public to enjoy. Lunch will follow each recital with a freewill offering. Check Calvary's Enews weekly for the featured musician and venue location of each recital or [click here](#) for a full schedule. BACM is once again partnering with LPTV to broadcast recitals. Beginning July 2, recitals will premier on Saturdays at 1:30 pm and repeat on Sundays at 10:00 am.

MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ NORTHWOODS CAREGIVERS AND LSS

Our congregation and community include people of all ages. This month, our ministry partners are organizations that connect with and serve elders in our community. Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to people in their homes; it's one of many programs through Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota. Northwoods Caregivers provides respite care, shopping help, transportation, and many other services for neighbors who can use this assistance. Calvary is a long-time supporter of both of these vital ministries. Remember: partnership is more than money! We're particularly in need of volunteers to assist with Meals on Wheels. You can contact Cindy Filipi to help deliver meals (218) 201-0174. To help with Northwoods Caregivers, please visit their website (northwoodscaregivers.org) to find out how you can lend a hand.



Calvary Happenings

While July was busy with lots of things like mission trip, worship, faith statements, and more. We didn't have any deaths, new members, or baptisms.

Tracing the Footsteps of Martin Luther



Footsteps of Luther

Save the Date for a trip to Germany in the fall of 2023! For more information or to add your name to an "I am interested list", please email luthertour2023@gmail.com. Someone from the coordinating committee (Becky Bergquist - Calvary Lutheran, or Lisa and Martin Graefe - First Lutheran) will get back to you. [Click here](#) to read the full trip flyer!

Synod Road Trip!

Bishop Bill Tesch and some of his staff are hitting the road this summer, visiting congregations throughout northeastern Minnesota! Calvary will be hosting them on Tuesday, August 30, at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to come, chat, and enjoy a light dinner with Bishop Bill at the grill!

Summer Softball League

Come cheer us on in the playoffs! Starting Thursday, August 4 at 6:30 pm. Calvary plays Thursday evenings at the Bemidji City Park, located on 23rd St. NW near the Armory and Curling club. Check the enews for game dates and times.

GriefShare

If you or someone you know is dealing with grief, GriefShare may be helpful for you! GriefShare is held at Calvary on Thursday evenings at 5:00 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.

July's Ministry Partner ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

Thank you for donating to the ELCA Fund for Leaders, our July monthly ministry partner. With your donations, we raised over \$930 to help the future leaders of our church to attend seminary.

Columbarium Update

This time last year, we announced that we were finally making Calvary's columbarium a reality. After lots of planning, complications, and delays, we are finally getting ready to place our first columbarium unit!



If you were to drive by Calvary's cemetery now, you would see obvious signs of a plan taking shape; Machine tracks, concrete slabs, leveled sand, and a big pile of dirt. Within the month, we will have our first unit placed, with three more spaces waiting for the eventual delivery of additional columbarium units. While the first unit will be accessible as soon as it is placed, the final touches of landscaping, foliage, lighting, etc. will take place through at least spring 2023.



We are very excited to be so close to having this project come to fruition. If you are interested in reserving your spot in our very first unit, now is a great time! Visit Garrett in the office to get your questions answered or purchase a niche.

FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST 2021-JULY 2022

General Fund – June

Income	Budgeted	YTD
\$63,989	\$102,863	\$1,012,069
Expenses	Budgeted	YTD
\$76,244	\$102,396	\$935,603

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$146,611)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$315,743

June Ministry Partner: Peoples Church \$1,703

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$55,382

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

See Calvary's August Birthdays Here!

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

An Update on Calvary Listens from Larry Kent, Church Council

Hello Church, I thought it would be good to provide an update from our Church listening sessions and what has been done with all that information that was put together? Since the approval of the Calvary Listens report by Church Council a lot has been going on to respond to what we heard, here is an update:

(Strong youth programming, more faith formation opportunities, dedicated staff for faith formation)- These thoughts and words were echoed through the listening sessions. Immediately following the report being approved by council, a committee was established to look at the need of a staff position to support faith formation in youth. From that committee, the position of director of faith formation was researched, a position description was created and shared with council and currently the church is seeking applicants to fill this position. It is our hope to attract a dynamic leader that can strengthen and grow our youth programs and opportunities.

(Recruiting a strong senior pastor)- This was a reoccurring priority in our listening sessions. The next action taken by council was the creation and development of a call committee. The call committee has been meeting regularly and has put together the Ministry Site Profile which is now posted with the ELCA, beginning the recruitment process to hire a new senior pastor to Calvary. This group of dedicated, diverse, and talented volunteers will continue to meet weekly through this process, please continue to pray for the committee and the entire call process.

(Worship times to accommodate more faith formation opportunities)- It was clear in the listening session the need to have more programs and opportunities for youth and adults. Coming this fall, you will see just that! More opportunities and worship times to accommodate these new faith formation programs. So, keep a watch for great new things coming soon!

(Care for our community, for our buildings & grounds, for our Church)- Throughout the listening session there were themes of how best to utilize the gifts and assets of our Church. From our congregational members personal and professional talents and gifts and how we can fully utilize and engage members, to the land we own and what we can do with it, and finally how we serve our community and our community partners. I am excited to report that the council has begun to put in place a committee that will develop a plan to steward our members' gifts, our church's assets in building and land, and our focus and work to better serve our community. This committee will really take on a vision of "what can Jesus do with 5 loaves and 2 fish?" What can Jesus do with us? What can Jesus do with Calvary? So more to come as this committee forms, this work is in direct response to our listening sessions and will touch so many areas heard from our congregation, this is truly an exciting step. Please pray for the formation of this committee and for others to be moved to join and engage in this work.

If you have further questions or want to learn more about what has been happening since the Calvary Listens session, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sue or a Church Council Member. You can find a list of council members on the [Calvary website](#).

Thank you for your continued support and prayer,
Larry Kent

Vicar's Viewpoint

Hey everybody, Vicar Jami here. Somehow, I've arrived at my final month of internship at Calvary Lutheran Church and, if I'm being honest, this hasn't really felt like an internship. The opportunities you all have given me for my development, the relationships I have formed, and all that you have entrusted me with since I arrived have made me feel like I am fully part of the pastoral team here and fully a part of the Calvary family. Which makes it that much harder to have to say goodbye in a few weeks. My time at Calvary has given me some of the hardest challenges I have endured – continued navigation of Covid, separation from friends and family, pastoral transition, and organizing and leading a mission trip to name a few. But through them all, I have felt abundant care and support from Calvary's staff and members, and honestly the Bemidji community as a whole. I have grown in my confidence and calling, I have discovered new passions (namely, one for high school ministry), and I have rediscovered on a near daily basis why God has called me to this work and how God continues to equip me even when I doubt myself.

I'm writing this article days after returning from Philadelphia, where myself and four other adult leaders took twenty high schoolers to serve the community. We had opportunities to garden, work with disadvantaged youths, serve at food shelves, and give back to the church that hosted us. This week provided some beautiful moments of God's grace shining through, as the high schoolers worked so hard, heard some incredible stories, fostered some beautiful friendships, and stayed optimistic even through challenges. We endured stressful commutes, lack of sleep, a relentless schedule, a nearly missed flight home, and an outbreak of Covid among our group. But even as we were navigating these interruptions, God showed up, journeyed with us, and brought us all home safely with stories and experiences that will surely impact us all for the rest of our lives.

A year ago, I would have never imagined doing the things I have done since arriving at Calvary, especially with the mission trip! But I know now that I can return to my last year of seminary and my first calling with a widely expanded toolkit, experiences to draw on, and a support system in Bemidji that I know will be here for me if I ever feel lost or confused. There are so many words I want to say to you all, and I'm sure I'll have opportunities to say them more eloquently before or on my final Sunday (August 21). But for now, I just want to say thank you all for welcoming me, thank you all for believing in me, thank you all for investing in me, and thank you all for giving me a home this past year. I'll treasure my time in Bemidji for the rest of my life. I know God is doing incredible things here and will continue to do them after I leave. God be with you until we meet again.

Peace and blessings!
Vicar Jami