



2508 Washington Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## ***Rally Sunday***

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

Come join us on our NEW AND IMPROVED worship schedule as we kick off our new program year! This day will be very celebratory in nature - 8:30 and 10:45 am services, the same blended service to kick off our fall programming. Subsequent weeks will have a traditional worship at 8:30 am, and a contemporary worship at 10:45, with our all-age education hour between. Can't you just feel the great energy? We'll be commissioning our Sunday School teachers, blessing backpacks for school (so bring yours along!), and in between services the fellowship hall will host a Ministry Fair with many opportunities to learn about and engage with various groups and ministries Calvary supports! We'll even have a sneak peak of the deliciousness of Calvary Alive Wednesdays! Let the Holy Spirit flow as we dive into Calvary's next chapter!

## ***Time & Talent***

Calvary needs YOU! As we move to three services per week, and continue to offer the sacrament of Holy Communion at each of these services, please consider signing up to be a communion assistant or usher/host. It takes over 25 volunteers each week to make Sunday worship services run smoothly. Throughout September we will be handing out Time and Talent sheets indicating all kinds of volunteering opportunities. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can serve at Calvary and beyond! Fill out the Time and Talent form today! Forms available in worship or [online here!](#) THANK YOU to those currently serving and who have been serving for years.

## ***Blessing of the Animals***

Bring your animal friends and family to receive a blessing from the Lord of all creation! At 6:15 pm on September 7, Calvary will be hosting a blessing of the animals for our Bemidji community. For animal friends that are difficult to transport or don't always play well with others, feel free to bring a picture of your animal to receive the blessing.

## ***Sunday School***

Are you ready for Sunday School? WE ARE! Please join us as we kick off the year on Rally Sunday, September 11. Following the 8:30 church service, come to the lounge for cookies and lemonade! Each student will also receive a small gift bag.

Classes will begin Sunday, September 18 for youth of all ages! Following the early service on Sunday mornings, children ages Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will start with music in the sanctuary. They will then move to their assigned station of the week. Sunday School for Pre-K will involve interactive lessons and crafts that follow the lectionary year. K-5 Sunday school will have 3 rotation stations to kick off the year with an interactive study of The Lord's Prayer - cooking, games, and crafts. Children will be divided up in groups by grade (K-1, 2-3, 4-5) then rotate to a different station each week. Grades 6-8 will meet for fellowship and group study in the youth room, with high school girls meeting in room 1 and high school boys in room 13.

We are SO excited to offer these amazing Christian education opportunities for all children (adults too - see adult education article on pg. 2) in the congregation! If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact [Pr. Jeremiah](#) or Renee Dralle at 641-220-1424.

## ***3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Milestone***

On Sunday, September 18, Calvary will be gifting our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (and older children who have not received a Bible) a Spark Bible as they continue to grow in their faith! If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, or have an older child who has not received a bible, and have not received an email from Calvary, please let us know ([kwarren@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:kwarren@calvarybemidji.org)). God's Word is powerful! We pray that these Bibles will be a life transforming gift to children and their families, as we grow in knowledge, fear and love of the LORD!

## Calvary Alive Wednesdays

Beginning September 14, Calvary is the place to be on Wednesday evenings! Programming begins with Kingdom Kids (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades) right after school, with Calvary Alive meal being served in the fellowship hall at 5:30. This leads into worship in the Sanctuary at 6:15, with confirmation and high school CLUB capping off the evening after worship. Let's be the people of God together!

### CONFIRMATION

6-8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation begins September 14 at 7:15 pm with orientation and registration. This year, we're rolling back to the beginning and diving deep into the Old Testament! We'll be offering two tracks again - our suggested track, in-person on Wednesday nights, or the alternative track, self-study using online resources. If you have questions, feel free to contact [Pr. Jeremiah](#) or [Kim Warren](#), otherwise we look forward to seeing you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

### CALVARY ALIVE MEALS

Welcome back to our Calvary Alive programming for the 2022-23 year! Our first meal will be served on Wednesday, September 14. If you would like to volunteer or help cook or be part of a clean-up team for this program, please contact [Garrett Fultz](#) for more information!

## Like to Sing?

Calling all singers, high school and older (yes, that means you). Come and join the Calvary Choir! We will be rehearsing on Thursdays at 5:00 pm! We spread out in the sanctuary and definitely enjoy making a joyful noise! Invite a friend! Bring your spouse! All are welcome!

## Adult Education

Adult education for the fall season begins September 18! We begin with a four-part series on the context of Martin Luther; the theology, history, geography, and music that surrounded him. This series is a joint effort between members of Calvary Lutheran and First Lutheran who are planning a trip for the fall of 2023 to Germany to walk "In the footsteps of Martin Luther."

## Columbarium Update

Our first columbarium unit is finally in place! A big THANK YOU is due to everyone that was involved in the planning and financing through this entire process. We will be holding a dedication service at the cemetery on Sunday, September 4 at 10:30 am, as well as conducting our very first inurnment into the unit. All are welcome to be a part of this significant moment in Calvary's history!



## The Refuge

### A GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We have had a great two sessions with Griefshare at Calvary this year but will be transitioning over to a new grief support model for those who have experienced a death related loss. This will be a continuous support group called The Refuge beginning September 22, from 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursdays in Room 1 at Calvary. It will include time to share stories and memories, form a community with other grievers, participate in activities to help process, and teaching and discussion about topics surrounding grief and loss. No need to pre-register. Free will donations accepted toward cost of materials. Contact Erin at (813) 417-7678 with questions!

## September Call Committee Update

The Holy Spirit is out in full force as it continues to guide us through the process of calling our next senior pastor. We are excited to report we plan to invite a candidate in September after our zoom meet and greet. We are continuing to seek possible nominations from the congregation as those names of candidates will be brought forward to the bishop with moving forward in the process. Thank you to those of you who have lifted up names as we have brought those names forward. We appreciate and welcome questions as we continue to serve the congregation. Feel free to talk to any of us on the committee or send us an email at: [callcommittee@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:callcommittee@calvarybemidji.org). Please continue to keep the call committee in your prayers as we continue to be guided through this process.

## Council Update

Sunday, August 28 was our annual meeting with 98 voting members in person and online. Pr. Sue shared highlights and celebrations that have been stirring here since last August. Her full report is found on the back page of this newsletter. Updates from the Call Committee and the hiring committee for the Director of Faith Formation were exciting as we heard that both groups have candidates and are working through the hiring process.

Nominations to fill open board positions were approved as follows: Church Council: Sonia Wadena (at-large) and Bryan Westerman (Treasurer); Foundation Board: Ashley Johnson (at-large); Synod Assembly: Sonia Wadena and Lizzy Wadena, with openings for two more delegates that remained unfilled at this time. Current Council members: Nicholle Bieberdorf, Mitch Eickman, Jim Molde, Len Ochowicz, Ashley Brue, Sara Moran, and Larry Kent. Thank you to outgoing Council members Kim Williams, Paul Iverson, and Garrett Tisdell for your service!

Budget 2022-23. The Council brought forward a deficit budget in response to things that we all said were important to us during the listening sessions by the Explore Team. It includes Sunday School for ALL ages and a Director of Faith Formation. The budget is aggressive, but attainable. Council presented a chart that showed that if each giving unit increases their giving to our general fund by \$4 a week, we can easily meet this budget. The budget was approved by the members.

On the day after the annual meeting, I received this email:

*Calvary Council,*

*My family is pleased to support the budget as presented; this morning, I edited my RebelGive scheduled giving to reflect your ask of an additional \$4 per unit per week. While this will certainly stretch our budget a bit, my family unanimously decided last night to forgo certain luxuries to instead support the church and Calvary's increased dedication to our youth and family faith formation. The kids themselves recognized that their lives are so positively impacted by opportunities such as Sunday School, Kingdom Kids, and Mission Trips that they, too, were wholeheartedly in favor of skipping the convenience of eating out on occasion in exchange for preserving and building on activities offered through our church. I appreciate that the Council is truly listening and responding to the opinions shared by our congregation. The excitement is truly palpable as we step toward a re-energized fall programming. THANK YOU for your leadership and your work. It is truly appreciated.*

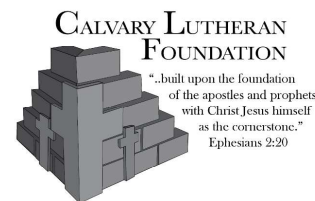
Please join your prayers, money, and participation in the work that we share being the hands and feet of Christ at Calvary and in our communities.

To God be the glory,  
Nicholle Bieberdorf, Council President

## MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ CALVARY LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

This month, we will be raising both awareness and funds for The Calvary Lutheran Foundation. The Foundation is an extension of Calvary Lutheran Church. The purpose is to secure and receive gifts and bequests so that we may support mission and ministry for future generations. Gifts are welcome in any amount and in many forms (real estate, wills, trusts, stock, life insurance and also cash). You may wish to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend by giving a gift to the Calvary Foundation.

In order to continue blessing others, the Foundation has a goal of raising \$3,500 this month, and you can help us reach that goal. These gifts keep on giving for generations to come. Over this past year, the Foundation had the opportunity to bless others in the amount of \$5,250. The Foundation contributed the YouthWorks deposit fee for the middle school and high school mission trips, and plans to do that again this fall. This benefits all God-called participants. College scholarships and Bible camp scholarships were also awarded. Gifts received this month will help build up the Calvary Foundation so that we may continue to distribute the fruits! May God be glorified in all that we do!



### Calvary Lutheran Foundation Scholarships

Below is the list of 2022 Calvary Lutheran Foundation scholarship recipients! Ten students were each awarded a \$300 scholarship to their respective schools, with three colleges matching those funds. Congratulations!

Aaron Bieberdorf - Central Lakes College  
Kate Hildenbrand - Bethel University (matching)  
Allison Hatfield - University of MN, Twin Cities  
Jody Pemberton - North Dakota State University  
Ryan Rautio - Michigan Technological University  
Lindsey Hildenbrand - Concordia College, Moorhead (matching)  
Mattie Snyder - Luther College (matching)  
Lizzy Wadena - Bemidji State University  
Trevor Loewe - University of MN, Twin Cities  
Ryan Bieberdorf - Moorhead State University

Remember to designate your donations to the Calvary Foundation. The Foundation uses funds for yearly college scholarships, as well as scholarships for Bible camp and mission trips.

### Calvary Happenings

This article featuring New Members, Deaths, and Baptisms is updated monthly as a way to stay informed of what is happening in our congregation.

- **Baptisms:** Delilah Joan Leeport, Harvey James Powell, and Otto Thomas Persons on August 7. Dreyden John Lauderbaugh and Breyleigh Lauderbaugh on August 21.
- **Deaths:** Robert Sauer on August 26

### Theology Book Club(s)

Calvary's Theology Book Club is gearing up for the fall. We are working out the final details of a study of Luther's original works, starting with his 95 Theses, and continuing through his writings on the sacraments of baptism and communion, and his treatise on good works, via evening Zoom meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month beginning September 8 at 7:00 pm to maximize accessibility. In the meantime, there is also an opportunity available to discuss Richard Rohr's *"Things Hidden-Scripture as Spirituality"*, at 10:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month, starting on September 10. For additional information about either study, contact either Becky Peck at [bucky\\_rjp@yahoo.com](mailto:bucky_rjp@yahoo.com) or Rick Olson at [rkarlo37@gmail.com](mailto:rkarlo37@gmail.com).

### See Calvary's September Birthdays Here!

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

### August's Ministry Partner

Thank you for donating to Northwoods Caregivers and LSS Meals on Wheels, our August monthly ministry partner. With your donations, we raised \$1,461 to help two great organizations in our community that work with senior care.

### Stewarding All of Our Gifts

In a direct response to our listening sessions during Lent, the Church Council is responding to the voices of the community and congregational needs by creating a Stewardship Committee.

Stewardship is truly about caring and leveraging the resources we have in a responsible way toward accomplishing our mission as a Church. As a congregation we are blessed to have so many resources, resources of buildings and land, of community partnerships, and of our Church members giving, all to execute God's mission and support our work to spread the love of Christ to all.

In the next two months you will be hearing more about stewardship as this committee will be focusing on what we as Calvary can do to sustain and grow our mission and impact as a congregation as we respond to the needs heard in our listening sessions. There will be planned educational events between services, a time to share your own stories of the impact of Calvary on your life, and a celebration event to lift up all of our gifts. Stay tuned and keep watch, opportunities and activities from our team will begin on September 11 at Rally Sunday between services!

Here are some questions to think about to stir up in your family the spirit and conversation of giving and stewardship.

How did you learn about giving? Who modeled the way for you?  
How are you modeling the way for others?

### FINANCIAL REPORT

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

##### General Fund – July

Income	Budgeted	YTD
\$72,307	\$102,286	\$1,084,226
Expenses	Budgeted	YTD
\$119,746	\$102,396	\$1,055,363

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$153,211)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$269,005

July Ministry Partner: ELCA Fund for Leaders \$1,031

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$53,894

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



# *Of Whirlwinds and Fire: A Year in the Life of Calvary Lutheran Church*

## ANNUAL PASTOR'S REPORT

*"A lightning strike and fire alarms, all in one month. What does that say about Calvary?!"* This was a comment made by a member of the Council at a recent meeting. It is a metaphor which describes the past year in the life of this congregation, a year of lightning bolts of change, the fire of resiliency and living in the midst of burning bushes and tongues of fire, a community in which the Spirit continues to move and speak and act and shape and reshape our life together.

For every congregation, for every household, this has been a year of emergence from the tomb of Covid. It has been an entry into the blinding reality of a "new normal." With it there is uncertainty and anxiety, Covid continues its presence and in places our muscle memory has faded. Is it safe to serve a funeral lunch? And then, how did we do this again? To mask or not to mask, that is the question. Now that we are back in worship, how did we do communion again? Basic, basic questions. The community of Calvary for a while was estranged and then came back rearranged. It will continue to be a community present and on-line, now providing worship and care to strangers and neighbors in Florida and Arizona, Texas and Iowa and literally "to the ends of the earth!" Whirlwinds and fire, excitement and anticipation.

- A year of *hellos and goodbyes*. Lightning bolts of farewell to beloved Senior Pastor Genelle Netland and Preschool Director Joan Meulebroeck. There was the excitement of hellos to a new vicar, Jami Goetz, the arrival of Aaron Bieberdorf, Lizzy Wadena as Kingdom Kids and Sunday School coordinator and the capable skills of Amanda Willis-Martin, together with the gifts of Rayne Heck. The farewells led to hellos to Tony Kerr as the new Preschool Director, new pre-school teachers and a stranger from the East, Pastor Susan Tjornehoj who would attempt to lead as Interim Senior Pastor in the absence of so-loved Pastor Genelle. And more farewells to Vicar Jami and Aaron and Amanda. This is the whirlwind part of the title.
- But God's mission, the energy and resiliency of Calvary simply has no bounds. 28 young people were confirmed, 40 received the life-giving water of baptism, 26 publicly declared Calvary to be their church home. We mourned the loss of 11 loved ones who now rest in the arms of Jesus. The Explore Team provided the opportunity to listen to the community, to each other and to God from Epiphany to Lent. Conversations with over 30 community leaders, a Lenten theme of listening to God through daily devotions and Bible study and soup and bread and podcasts gave pause and the thrill of thousands of post-it notes containing the dreams and visions of over 200 members of Calvary, well the Spirit is clearly in this place. A sacred whirlwind of love for Calvary and a fearlessness about its future.
- Not one but two mission trips and the daily blessing of children's voices at the preschool, the about-to-be confirmed statements of faith, the rhythm of confirmation and Team and choir practice, quilters quilting and crafters crafting, men and women studying scripture and the prayer chain praying, all of these things are the rich soil of the people of Calvary being the people of God. Some ran for God and others zoomed to do some theology. The altar guild prepared the meal each week and readied the font, tending to the center of our life together with great grace and gentleness. Each month the community stretches beyond its walls to tend to the vulnerable in the community and the world. Many from Calvary live out their faith by delivering meals, tending to the food shelf and volunteering where the need is greatest. GriefShare blessed many this past year. Outdoor worship returned and the weather was our ally and the musicians generous.

### **2022-2023 A whirlwind of Spirit, of energy, of challenge**

- Rally Sunday, September 11, will continue the process of *leaning into* the vision shared through the listening process. Sunday morning worship times (8:30 and 10:45 am) will create a space for education of all ages! Pre-K to 95. Sunday School, Adult Education, coffee, something for everyone. Thank you for all of those who are already volunteering to make this happen. Wednesday nights will see the return of Calvary Alive!
- The sacred and holy spaces will open at the columbarium at the Calvary Cemetery. Visions realized!
- A generous gift will enable Calvary to share the Light of Christ or "*Love at 55*" as new signage along the highway. Calvary really is the welcome center, the front porch, the entry into Bemidji and places north. What an opportunity to share the good news of Christ!
- In the coming year Calvary will welcome a new Senior Pastor and Director of Faith Formation. Thank you to the Call Committee and the interview team who have invested so much on behalf of Calvary and its mission. We pray that the Spirit continue to do its work.
- The Budget reflects the bold vision of the listening process. It is a mission plan that stretches our current giving patterns, but God's got this and so do we! A newly formed Stewardship of Giving team (soon to be joined by Stewardship of Land and Community teams!) will educate, encourage and challenge each of us in the spiritual discipline of giving and help to shape a culture of generosity and help us discover the simple joy of giving.

Thank you to a dedicated Staff who remain stalwart and committed to the mission of Jesus Christ here at Calvary. They have said many goodbyes and welcomed strangers while simply doing their daily tasks. And in the coming year, this rhythm will continue. They are Rock Stars. And to the Council who has led and led and led as Calvary awakens to the challenge and energy of the next years. Their courageous and faithful work has moved us into an even wider welcome, with a Welcome Statement in the works and the clarity that the Call Committee be open to the very best candidates, period. Their consistent leadership, coupled with devotion to God, to Calvary and this community is inspiring and will serve this congregation in the coming years. And thank you members and friends of Calvary. You continue to inspire me with your dedication and devotion, your tenacity and ability to feel the grace at the center of the whirlwind and to recognize the Spirit at work.

All of this is to say, Calvary has been blessed to be a blessing. You have such capacity to continue and expand the work of Jesus Christ. Do not hide your light; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Thank you for your wide welcome, for your fire and your passion for the Gospel,  
Pastor Susan Tjornehoj, Interim Senior Pastor