

Welcome God's Future For Us

Members and Friends of Calvary,

My first words are, "Thank You" for the privilege of walking with you in these next few months of this interim period here at Calvary. During my brief time here, I wish to meet and come to know as many of you as possible, to work with your church staff and key volunteers, and to share my insights and experience with your church council and other leadership groups. Our goal is to do our best to prepare Calvary for the future and thus to ready the ground for the eventual arrival of your next Lead Pastor and any other staff members who will come to join the ministry here.

Specific aspects of our joint efforts to meet this over-riding goal are that we will continue to: a) maintain the viability of Calvary, that is, to continue the essential programs underway and to help them develop and grow; b) attend to feelings of grief ... recognizing that the loss of any staff member, or program, or expectation is followed by grief, and that grief is a normal, healthy, and acceptable response to loss; c) continue to encourage and support participation and development of lay leadership here at Calvary; d) clarify and embrace the vision for the mission which has a church that is called to function as God's agent for ministry in our families, in the church, and in the world; e) embrace issues related to the special needs of Calvary... such as staffing needs, educational challenges, leadership development, etc.; f) emphasize fellowship and foster reconciliation where differences may have brought separation or division; g) maintain and strengthen Calvary's partnership with both the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and the ELCA as a whole, and to increase the potential for a good beginning and a successful ministry by the next installed Lead Pastor.

Three words are important to remember as we walk and talk together in this wilderness time. They are: change, transition, and transformation. Change refers to those inevitable realities of daily living where endings occur, often times without our input, our involvement or our desire for them to come. The death of our Lord on the cross was not to be stopped by the desires of those who wished to avoid it. Change results in loss. It is our response to loss that we define as transition.

We are not helpless in how we respond to change. The disciples reacted emotionally and thus scattered and hid out in fear. We can do the same if we so choose. Or, we can respond rationally and embrace the reality of the change and choose to lean into God's evolving future with and for us. Transition offers us choices and choosing is hard work. If the change can be equated to what occurred on Good Friday, then the needed transition work can be compared to what Holy Saturday was all about. A time of acceptance, re-thinking, staying in contact with one another, maintaining community and daring to hope and to believe that there would come 'a new day'. We at Calvary are in the midst of transition.

Then came Easter..... and as Easter people, living on this side of the Resurrection, we can rightfully anticipate the promise of transformation, new life, and growth that the Resurrection of Jesus has already made to be a reality for us, for our lives, for our congregation. Let's claim both the Call and the Promise together.

Hear the heart of Wendell Berry, husband, father, author, Kentucky farmer, naturalist and child of God: "So friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it. Ask the questions that have no answers. Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. Practice resurrection."

Practicing with you, Pr. Paul



Come and Vote!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The Calvary Lutheran Church Council is calling a special congregational meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 9:40 am for the purpose of voting to call a lead pastor. Information about the candidate must remain confidential but will be shared at the meeting. A quorum of 75 voting members is required, but we would like as many as possible so we can share the excitement for the gifts this candidate will bring to Calvary. See you there!

A zoom option will be available. Sign up for the zoom link at calvarybemidji.org

Lent Mentoring - We Need You!

Lent is coming soon! Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, falls on February 22 this year. Pr. Jeremiah is looking for anyone who might be interested in being a Lent mentor for a confirmation student. The commitment is for the 7 Wednesday nights between Ash Wednesday and Easter (Feb. 22 - Apr. 9), and involves worship and time for conversation afterward. If you're interested in being involved with this critical ministry in our church, contact Pr. Jeremiah (revholst@calvarybemidji.org).

Adult Education Opportunities!

Adult Education topics are discussed and decided by a small working committee of lay persons (thank you for your work!), along with Pastor Jeremiah. Adult Education happens each Sunday at 9:40 in room 5 (right off the Fellowship Hall), so bring a cup of coffee and join us for some great learning and conversation!

- February 5 "Acting our Size" with Pr. Paul
- February 12 - Come to our Special Congregational Meeting to vote to call a new lead pastor!
- February 19/26 "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor" with Pr. Jeremiah and Lisa Lund

Online Church Directory!

Calvary's church directory is online, and it's not complete without YOU! Check it out at members.instantchurchdirectory.com and create a login using the email address the church office has on file for you (if you don't know what that is or need to update it, contact the church office). The contact information we have on file for you is pre-loaded, which you can edit and add a family picture! [Click HERE](#) or scan the QR code to check out the blockbuster tutorial video featuring Pr. Jeremiah for step-by-step instructions.

This directory is available through any web browser, or the app (search for Instant Church Directory). Have your church family with you everywhere you go on your phone or other mobile device!



February Worship schedule

All are welcome to come and worship! Our Sunday morning traditional worship is at 8:30 am, and our contemporary service is at 10:45 am. We will continue worshipping in a contemporary style on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

Lenten worship begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will offer both a noon and 6:15 evening service to remember that "we are dust and to dust we shall return". Both imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be available.

Our Wednesday services during Lent may contain a 'readers' theatre' component. Please contact Shar (spaquette@calvarybemidji.org) if you would be interested in helping with one or many of our services. Materials will be provided in advance to prepare.

We will be offering a 30-40 minute noon service each Wednesday through Lent, as an additional Lenten discipline for those interested. Readers will also be needed for these noon services. Please contact Shar if you can help.

Our Gospel texts for the month are:

February 5 ~ Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 ~ Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 ~ Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 ~ Matthew 4:1-11

See Calvary's February Birthdays Here!

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

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: Mack Jay Johnson; Griffin Daniel Balmer**
- **Say Hello to these New Members:**

Audrey Haskell



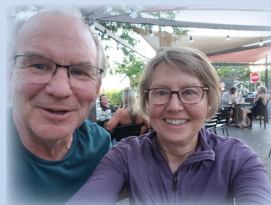
Lauren, Tyler
and Mack Johnson



Kyle, Ashlea, Aliya,
Mya, and Isaac McMartin



Lee and Jane Furuseth



Robert Chance, Kathleen McKinstra,
and Carol (CC) Chance



MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ STUDENT NEEDS FUND

Calvary's monthly ministry partner for February is the Student Needs Fund at Trek North School. Every year, there are many students attending Trek North who have difficulty meeting their basic needs. Without those needs being met, learning becomes all the more difficult, and students are less likely to experience success. To help meet some of that need, Trek North raises money to provide things like clothing (winter and otherwise), gas cards for transportation, and funds for activities for students who would otherwise have limited access to these things. As a community of faith, part of Calvary's call to our local community is to support our children, especially those in extraordinary need. This month we do so by supporting this important work.



To support the Student Needs Fund (or any of our other monthly ministry partners), you can donate online through RebelGive choosing "second offering monthly partner," or by providing a check to Calvary with "Ministry Partner" in the memo line.

Help Wanted:

Head Usher/Host for 8:30 and 10:45 Sunday services: This role would be the connecting person between the worship staff and the worship hosts for the particular service. Visit with Pr. Jeremiah (revholst@calvarybemidji.org) or Shar (spaquette@calvarybemidji.org) to find out more!

Hosts for 10:45 Sunday service: Come and help be a welcoming and organizing presence during worship. This is a relatively easy, yet vital role, in our worship services. We try to keep commitments to once per month. Contact Rayne (rheck@calvarybemidji.org) to get on the list!

Calvary Alive Cooks and Clean Up Crew: If you would like to volunteer to help cook or clean up after meals, please contact Garrett! You can get more information or sign up to help in the office, or by emailing gfultz@calvarybemidji.org. This is a great way to support our Calvary community!

Four more Sunday School Teachers: Sunday School Kids have been rotating through cooking, games, and art since we started in the fall. It's a great way to hear God's stories about people like Jonah and the Big Fish he had to deal with. Thanks to the great group of committed leaders and some others who just step up to join the fun, each week is meaningful and exciting for the kids and the leaders. If you are interested in being a part of the group making this all happen, please call, text, email, or talk to Brett to let him know you can help out. 218.210.2622 or bcarter@calvarybemidji.org.

Mission Trips Update

We will be holding a Mission Trip Meeting, Sunday, February 26 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Let's gather to catch up on plans for high school kids going to Nashville and Middle School kids heading to Milwaukee. We'll talk about fundraising, itinerary, participants, and plans to make it a great trip. Kids and parents/guardians should plan on being here. Contact Brett (bcarter@calvarybemidji.org) if you have any questions.

Meal Schedule for Calvary Alive

- February 1 – Sloppy Joes
- February 8 – Bacon Cheeseburger Hotdish
- February 15 – Shepherd's Pie
- February 22 – Minestrone Soup

Wanted: Liturgical Dancer, Actors and Readers

There will be weekly opportunities to help with Wednesday worship services through Lent. 2-3 dramatic readers are needed each week (both for noon and for evening) to help focus our hearts and minds on the cross. We have a need for a liturgical dancer for our Holy Week Experience service on Wednesday, April 5. We are also discussing doing a dramatic service on Good Friday. Please contact Shar (spaquette@calvarybemidji.org) if you are interested in helping in any way.

Amazon Smile

In case you had not heard, the AmazonSmile program will be coming to an end by February 20. We want to thank everyone who has donated to Calvary, or any other organization, through this program since it was launched in 2013. The small donations from each purchase made through AmazonSmile have really added up over the years since we began participating.

Please remember to take advantage of this program through its last few weeks. As a reminder, Calvary received almost \$200 last year from this program alone!

Donation Statements

Unless you have requested otherwise, your 2022 donation statement has been sent out via email to the address we have on file. Please review your donation statements to ensure the donations shown match your records. If they don't, reach out to Garrett to make any adjustments or corrections.

FINANCIAL REPORT 12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST-JULY

General Fund – December

| <u>Income</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Income</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| \$136,659 | \$101,461 | \$497,232 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Budgeted</u> | <u>YTD Expenses</u> |
| \$148,765 | \$135,203 | \$504,362 |

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$12,757)

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$266,761

December Ministry Partner: Village of Hope - \$2,483

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$52,694

Getting to Know Calvary Council Member ~ Nicholle Bieberdorf

Greetings, everyone! My name is Nicholle Bieberdorf. I serve on the Council as the President. As a Council, we have been so excited about the work completed in 2022 as we worked together as a congregation to share our excitement and vision of the ministry here at Calvary. As a congregation, we have answered the call of our Stewardship committee to pray about and practice faithful giving. "For where your treasure is there your heart will be also" Matthew 6:21. It is an important practice that we do need to continue to grow. Thank you for your treasures.



There are many opportunities for you to plug in at Calvary: worship servants, music, Bible studies, crafts, faith formation and education, committees, and leadership. Talk to Council or staff if you are looking for opportunities.

Welcome Gary Port - Daytime Custodian



Gary Port was born in Bemidji in 1940. He was raised in South Minneapolis and baptized at Calvary Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. Gary was found by Jesus in the 8th grade thanks to a Boy Scout leader. Gary married the love of his life, Betty in 1960, (boy was he lucky!) and they returned to Bemidji in 1965. They had 5 beautiful children, 4 boys and 1 girl, (got lucky again!) Gary worked as a residential contractor for 40 years. At this point in life, he's mostly waiting for Jesus to return (...hoping to get lucky again ;))

Gary is glad to be at Calvary every day, helping to maintain the congregation and facility needs. Calvary is glad he's here!

Preschool Update from Director Tony Kerr

Hello Calvary family! I pray this reaches you well. The preschool has been busy, and it is hard to believe the school year is already half over. We have been doing monthly Family Fun Nights and it has been very well attended. January's was Pajama and Pancakes on Thursday January 26 at 5:00 pm. Our Christmas programs kept us busy in December as we prepared each group to perform for their families. The Sanctuary was full of parents and grandparents looking through the heads of guests to see their child singing and telling the story of Christmas. Last week we hosted our Donuts for Dads activity where students made crafty dad gifts and shared some special time with dads, grandfathers, or other important male figures in their families. It again was well attended. Raphael's Bakery did not disappoint either.

We are still able to serve more families with our preschool programs. We can take around 8 more students. So, if there are families who are ready to start a preschool program, let them know, drop in for a tour, shoot a call or email... just let us know and we will get you taken care of.

Our ministry at the preschool is strong as we hold weekly children's chapel and do a circle prayer for the week with all students and staff. Our faith lessons are aligned to the seasons of the church calendar, and the students are ready and excited to hear about God's plan for us all.

There is always so much going on at the preschool. Please know you are always invited to come see what is happening, to drop by for a coffee, or to just say "Hello."

Thank you all for your well wishes and prayers. May God richly bless you in all you do! Amen!

The Refuge GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Calvary is hosting a grief support group for those who have experienced a death related loss. This is a continuous support group called The Refuge. Group meetings are from 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursdays in Room 1 at Calvary. No need to pre-register. Contact Erin Kossivi at 813.417.7678 with questions!

Refuge Kids is for any child that has lost a primary caregiver to death (parents, sibling, or primary caregiver). The program is best suited for kids 7-13 years of age. The group meets weekly on Fridays in the Bemidji Covenant Church Family Life Center from 4:30-5:30 pm. For more information contact Erin Kossivi 813.417.7678.

Theology Club

The Theology Club will be discussing Christ in the Old Testament by Chad Bird from 1517.org. It is a free video series. Here is a link to the course: Christ in the Old Testament (<https://1517-academy.thinkific.com/courses/christ-in-the-old-testament>). We will meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via zoom and all are welcome. We will discuss the Introduction and Lesson 1 on February 9th. Contact Rick Olson (rkarlo37@gmail.com) or Becky Peck (bucky_rjp@yahoo.com) for the zoom link or for more information.