

## *From Lent to Holy Week*

If you receive this April Newsletter on April 1, it will have been on the last of the 40 days of Lent. We will have journeyed through six telling Gospel stories from Saints Matthew and John. We will have overheard six mid-week imaginary stories from Malchus and Mark, Barabbas and Caiaphas, Pilate and his wife, Simon and the Centurian, the two thieves and lastly from Mary and John. Altogether they have offered us a compelling presence of those who personally accompanied Jesus on his final footsteps to his cross of glory.

Sunday April 2 is Palm Sunday, the day we will lean into the compelling story of the Passion of Jesus. His abiding love for us all carried him through the Kidron Valley, through the narrow streets of Jerusalem, and up onto the heights of Golgotha just outside the city limits. On both Palm Sunday and Wednesday evening, April 5, we will worship our Lord by way of the interactive liturgy of "The Cry of the Whole Congregation". This dramatic telling of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus is a rich combination of Biblical text, drama, music, liturgical dance, instrumentation and silence. Lutheran teacher and scholar Walter Wangerin, Jr. wrote this emotionally alive liturgy several years ago. Over many years and in many worship contexts it has truly enabled many congregations a unique worshiping experience.

Maundy Thursday (April 6) brings us the humility and grace of the power of Jesus' teaching to his disciples known through the ministry of foot-washing and the ministry of service to one another. The New Commandment (Maundy), to love one another as Jesus has loved us, is realized by those among us who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. The service concludes with the stripping of the Altar symbolizing the humility reflected in Jesus' being flogged, stripped and beaten by his un-believing oppressors.

Good Friday (April 7) is remembered through the Scriptural readings at the noon Tenebrae Service. The cross is veiled to symbolize Jesus' mid-day death and worshipers are invited to bring their Lenten nails to offer in contrition at the close of the service. The evening service features The Stations of the Cross.

April 9 is The Day of Jesus' Resurrection. Easter Festival services will be held at 6:30 am, 8:30 am, and 10:45 am. It will be a wonderful celebration!

Pr. Paul N. Svingen, Interim Lead Pastor

## *Online Church Directory!*

Calvary's church directory is online, and it's not complete without YOU! Check it out at [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://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 https://youtu.be/Bd3Ym-11SFM](https://youtu.be/Bd3Ym-11SFM) 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!

## **Brett Carter ~ Director of Faith Formation**

### **SUPPORTING YOUTH MISSIONS**

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Youth Silent Auction. It's fun to see the excitement of bidding, but even more fun to know all the proceeds go to support the Middle School trip to Milwaukee and the Senior High trip to Nashville to serve in mission to others. A special thanks to the youth and parents who solicited local businesses and created personal projects to make the auction a huge success. Thanks also to all the area businesses and congregational members who donated items. Watch for more options to support the youth of Calvary who will be serving others this summer.

Have a great meal and support the youth of Calvary at the Easter Breakfast from 7:30-10:45 Sunday, April 9. Middle and High School youth heading to Milwaukee and Nashville this summer to serve in mission to others will serve the meal as a way of raising funds for the trips and to say "Thanks!" to the congregation for helping make these trips possible. Come for the celebration of the resurrection, stay for the fellowship and breakfast and support of Calvary missionaries.

Calvary is trying something new to support our youth mission trips this summer—Calvary T-Shirts! Click on the link below to order a shirt, designed by Calvary and modeling our mission statement. Your online order will be delivered right to your door. Best of all, a generous portion of each purchase supports the youth mission trips this summer. This is a great way to represent Calvary wherever you wear it! There are multiple styles, colors and sizes available (including hoodies!). Please share the campaign on your own social media to spread the word!

Click <https://bit.ly/3yCcc0y> or scan the QR code to order a Calvary T-Shirt!



## **Foundation Scholarships**

Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation is pleased to offer a tuition scholarship up to the amount of \$300 each year for up to four years for college-aged youth who have been active in the life of our congregation. Scholarship applications are reviewed by the Foundation Board. Contact Ashley Johnson at 330-714-9144 or [ashjohnson411@gmail.com](mailto:ashjohnson411@gmail.com) or Nicholle Bieberdorf at 218-766-8063 or [nbieberdorf@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:nbieberdorf@calvarybemidji.org) for more information or an application. Applications can also be picked up in the church office. Applicants should check with their college to determine if funds will be matched by the college. The deadline for this scholarship application is May 15, 2023.

## **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!

- April 2: "A Holy Week conversation"
- April 9: **No Adult Ed; Easter Sunday**
- April 16: "God's mission, our vision"
- April 23: "What is a healthy congregation?"
- April 30: "Faith and Addiction"

## **April 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 worship in a contemporary style on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

Holy Week begins April 2, Palm Sunday, where we, as a congregation, will go from Palms to Passion, through procession, Word, song, sacrament, and stark realization. We will also share this worship experience on Wednesday, April 5 for our Holy Week Experience service.

April 6 we celebrate Maundy Thursday, marking the anniversary of the Lord's Last Supper. We will have a noon service, then celebrate with those taking their First Communion at 6:30 pm.

April 7 marks Good Friday. We offer a noon Tenebrae service, and then we will be presenting "Journey to the Cross", a dramatic stations of the cross presentation at 6:30 pm. Remember to bring your Lenten nails as an offering of contrition to end both of the Good Friday services.

Our Gospel texts for the month are:

- April 2 ~ Matthew 26:14--27:66
- April 9 ~ John 20:1-18
- April 16 ~ John 20:19-31
- April 23 ~ Luke 24:13-35
- April 30 ~ John 10:1-10

## **Online Sign-Up for Worship Servants**

We are trying an online worship servant sign up to see if we can get less "canceling and switching" when people sign themselves up for the dates they are available, for the positions they would like to serve in.

We know online sign up is not a favorite for many of our most faithful servers. However, if you could try it out for a month or two to see if it is helpful, both in the scheduling and the managing of worship servants, we would definitely appreciate it!

Click <https://signup.com/go/WVafeei> (or sign up on the website) to grab your spot(s)! This link will be available through Friday, April 21, at which point we need to complete the master schedule.

We will take the information from this sign up and plug into the 'normal' schedule, which will continue to be mailed out at the end of the month. Thanks so much for your willingness to try something new, and your dedicated service to the ministries at Calvary!



## **New Member Orientation**

Interested in becoming a member of Calvary? Know someone looking for a church home? While you can become a member of Calvary Lutheran Church at any time, we schedule New Member Orientations a couple of times per year to facilitate fellowship and a wider connection within our community. Our upcoming New Member Orientation will be held April 19 at 5:30 pm in the lounge. Contact Pr. Jeremiah ([revholst@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org)) for more information, or to sign up! We look forward to welcoming our newest members during worship on Sunday, April 23 and Wednesday, April 26.

## MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ CALVARY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Calvary's April ministry partner is our own preschool, with proceeds directed toward tuition scholarships for families who might be struggling to pay for tuition. We feel called to serve all the families we can, even if some help is needed. We have been able, through generous financial support, to offer scholarships to all in need who attend our school. This is a very integral and necessary way for us to reach out to families and help them feel welcomed to our elite preschool program. We know that not all families seek out this kind of support, but to have support available is a prayer for us to help answer. Donations can be made by check with "ministry partner" or "preschool" in the memo line or online using RebelGive indicating monthly ministry partner in the memo.

Calvary Lutheran Preschool was able to award each family that applied for a scholarship this year. The children and families will benefit from the strength of Calvary's preschool program now, and throughout their educational futures, as they will have a very solid foundation in Christ and knowledge to build from. Thank you for this!

From Calvary Preschool to you, we pray you see the blessings that are poured upon you daily, that if opportunities arise to help, you do as you can, and for you to live a rich and blessed life. May God keep you healthy, safe, and loved, Amen.



### Preschool Update from Director Tony Kerr

Hello families and friends of Calvary Lutheran Preschool! We are patiently waiting for mother nature guide us into spring, but she continues to bless us with all this snow... the kids love playing in it, so that is the silver lining of that. We are revving up our Spring with several activities. We had Family Fun Night themed in Dr. Seuss on Thursday, March 28 when we watched "Green Eggs and Ham" while eating green eggs and ham for dinner, followed by Dr. Seuss bingo! It was a blast! Following this fun activity, we will be hosting our annual Open House on Thursday, April 13 at 5:30 pm. We did open registration early this year and are already over half full for the next school year. This is a "Yay God" situation. Let your friends know that if they are looking for preschool programming to check us out, drop in and take a tour. I feel we will be filling pretty fast this year.

We have been on our journey through Lent, teaching the students about Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the stories that surround it. We will be celebrating with our Easter programs on April 13 & 14.

The preschool is also Calvary's ministry partner this month. We will use all proceeds for scholarships for families who wish to attend but may not have all they need to make it happen. Thank you for sharing in this wonderful ministry!

Feeling blessed, Tony Kerr, Preschool Director

### 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.

### Meal Schedule for Calvary Alive

- April 5 – Chicken Tortilla Soup
- April 12 – Chili
- April 19 – Taco in a Bag
- April 26 – Baked Ziti

### Easter Holiday ~ Office Closed

Calvary's office will be closed on Monday, April 10 in observance of Easter. Be sure to enjoy this beautiful holiday and celebration of resurrected life with your family and loved ones.

### 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.

**No new members in March; no deaths in March.**

### See Calvary's April Birthdays Here!

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST-JULY

### General Fund – February

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$72,060	\$101,461	\$671,591
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$95,998	\$109,368	\$707,540

(General Income Y-T-D Includes Grants of \$19,157)

**Cash, Receivables, & Savings:** \$216,541

**February Ministry Partner:** Trek North Student Needs Fund - \$1,387

**Calvary Foundation Balance:** \$53,445

February's finances show a deficit of about \$23,000. This is partly due to quarterly benevolences being paid out to our ministry partners in February. However, this does align with the trend Calvary has shown throughout this fiscal year – Expenses are currently about \$36,000 higher than income.

We want to thank everyone for their continued support as we continue to grow in our ministry together!



## Getting to Know Calvary Council Member ~ Larry Kent

A year ago, during the season of Lent, the Calvary Explore Team led a listening session, hearing from the community and congregation to greater understand of how best to serve our mission as we come out of COVID while challenged with leadership changes. I wanted to share just a few things that have happened as a result those sessions.

- A new position was added to the Church as we hired Brett Carter, Director of Faith Formation.
- Sunday school and adult education have been added on Sundays between services.
- A Stewardship focus team was created to focus on the stewardship of our congregation, our Church land and buildings and our community. Our work in stewardship will continue as we explore more ways to steward our community and our church building and its land.



Through it all we had a team of wonderful volunteers form as a call committee who tirelessly met to find and secure the next leader of our Church. I recall in those listening sessions how important our pastoral staff is to our Church, that the quality we have come to expect from our past be the same level moving forward. Our call committee delivered on their charge in finding the very best, and in a few short months we will recognize another milestone in our Church as we welcome Pastor Chris Leach and his family into the family of Calvary and the community of Bemidji. What a blessing this is to our Church!

So what's next? As we look ahead as a council and as a Church, it is important to recognize the changing landscape, the way technology plays into our church lives and the changing needs of our members. It is important we as a congregation recognize the need for our Church in this community, and in the lives of our children, our adults, and our seniors. We all have a role to play, a place where we can connect to one another and gather as one body, to impact our community and our world through our commitment, our love and service. In the coming months, Council will continue to look at the information and recommendations provided by the listening sessions last year to determine how best to meet the needs of our Church. We are exploring more ways for our congregation to be part of the ministry of Calvary, looking at a team approach to engage people with their gifts and talents that allows all to serve our Church and community.

The Church is a place to gather, yet the people who gather are the Church. The community of Calvary goes beyond the walls of our worship space and into our community where we truly serve our mission. I invite you to not only continue to GATHER with us at worship but get CONNECTED and with your gifts and talents SERVE and minister as Calvary Lutheran Church.

May this Easter season inspire in us all a renewed joy to serve our mission: GATHERING to worship, CONNECTING with Jesus, SERVING our neighbors.

Blessings to all, Larry Kent, Council Member

### Theology Club

Even if you have not been able to join us recently, feel free to join the Theology Club on April 13. We will be doing a deeper dive into the bible verses where Christophanies were noted in Session 2. 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 - <https://1517-academy.thinkific.com/courses/christ-in-the-old-testament>.

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom and all are welcome. You can find the link to the Zoom meeting room at <https://www.calvarybemidji.org/adult-ministries/>.

## Ways you can SERVE

### Help Wanted:

**Head Usher/Host 10:45 am 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](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org)) or Shar ([spaquette@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:spaquette@calvarybemidji.org)) to find out more!

**Hosts for 10:45 am 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 Shar ([spaquette@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:spaquette@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](mailto:gfultz@calvarybemidji.org). This is a great way to support our Calvary community!

**Sunday School Teachers:** If you have a love of kids and think that teaching them about faith is important, then we need you! Don't let the occasional conflict keep you from this rewarding opportunity ~ we can work with your schedule! Please call, text, email, or talk to Brett to let him know you can help out. 218-210-2622 or [bcarter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:bcarter@calvarybemidji.org).

## Calvary Spring Bazaar

Saturday, April 1st  
9am to 2pm

Rolls and coffee available for breakfast.  
Lunch will be served 11am to 1pm by  
Calvary's Youth Group as a fundraiser  
for their missions trips.

2508 Washington Ave SE, Bemidji, MN 56601 218-751-1893