

## *A Prayer for Our Journey Together*

"I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." (Psalm 121)

For years, God, I read this text and was drawn to one line... "I lift my eyes up to the hills, from where will my help come?" From you, God. It comes from you. And you have reminded me of that year after year through the voices of people, through music, in creation, and in the stillness of my heart. Especially in those times where I most needed support, love, and grace. Like when you called me to the wild adventure of being a camp counselor at Pathways and then a youth director in East Grand Forks. Or from there to seminary in the cities. And from there into worship ministry in North Saint Paul, and later caregiving ministry in Owatonna, and eventually the call to be a pastor in Barnesville. You have been my rock and strength, a very present help on the journey. Which of course would take a new turn over these last few months; a turn to the wonderful folks here in Bemidji, and your call to walk with them and with Calvary in ministry, love, and grace.

Your call is often so surprising, but these last few months, and really, since the moment you brought us to each other this summer, this journey has felt authentic and blessed. It is such a joy to be here, with them, with you, in the full swing of a fall in ministry together, trusting in what feels like the beginning of a warm and exciting journey woven in your love. I am finding my heart so full of thankfulness. I am thankful for the open arms that have welcomed my family, for the staff and the collaboration that has already begun, for the folks here who deeply love you and are deeply loved by you. You have begun to weave together our stories in the power of your grace, which ultimately brings me back to your words in this psalm. And while I have typically been drawn to the first line, I find my hope today comes from the last line, and what I have begun to sense as one of the most simple and genuine promises in all of scripture. The promise that you are here with us, and that you will keep our going outs, and our coming ins, from this time on and forever more. What more honest way is there to explain everything we experience in life but the coming ins and going outs of all we experience. I am so thankful for that, because we know that at times we are going to mess up, and you will be holding us through it. And other times we are going to experience wonderful joy, and you will be holding us through it. All of it... all of it will be held in your arms. Thank you for this God. Because transitions are so hard. Change is so hard. Letting go is so hard and finding one's way in something new can be so hard. But you hold it all, giving us a deep and profound hope that we are never alone.

Keep this journey that we now share together in your arms of grace. Hold all our going outs and coming ins, and everything that will mean for our life together. I am so thankful to be woven together in Calvary's story and so excited for how you are calling us to walk in ministry together. Thank you for the gift of this church family, and for the promise that you are holding us all in your love. In Jesus's Name. Amen

Pr. Chris Leach  
Lead Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church



## ***Sunday School***

We are underway! Thanks to everyone for participating in our new Connections Worship Sundays at 10:30am as the kick-off for weekly Sunday School. Our helpers are bringing the Bible stories to life and the students are finding joy in faith. What more could we want? See you Sunday.

## ***Kingdom Kids***

Kingdom Kids starts now—meeting in the youth room 3:15-5:15pm on Wednesdays. Check the website to register or stop in the church office for a paper form. Talk to Brett Carter for more information (218-751-1893 or [bcarter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:bcarter@calvarybemidji.org)). The cost for Kingdom Kids is \$50 per session and there are four sessions this year. So far we don't have transportation from Gene Dillon, so if you know of someone who can drive, let the church office know.

## ***Confirmation***

Confirmation begins in October for youth in grades 6-8! We meet each Wednesday night following worship from 7-8:00pm. Register online at [www.calvarybemidji.org/confirmation](http://www.calvarybemidji.org/confirmation) or by filling out a paper registration form in the office. Contact Pr. Jeremiah for more information or with any questions at [revholst@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org)

## ***Middle School Youth Gathering***

Middle School youth will gather with kids from all over the synod for a great overnight experience called "Enough" at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria November 18-19. Come for the awesome t-shirt, or the powerful speakers, or the food, or the fun time with friends. Any way you get there, you'll experience God's love. The cost is \$150 with your registration by October 27 (\$180 after). Talk to Brett Carter for more information (218-751-1893 or [bcarter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:bcarter@calvarybemidji.org)).

## ***Middle School Summer Trip***

Register now for the Middle School Summer Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation, SD hosted by Youthworks June 9-14, 2024. \$100 reserves a spot for kids in grades 6-8. We'll need adult leaders too. It will be a great week of service, fun, and faith. Space is limited, so register soon—see the link on our website or register in person in the church office. Talk to Brett Carter for more information (218-751-1893 or [bcarter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:bcarter@calvarybemidji.org)).

## ***High School Summer Trip***

We're headed to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, July 14-21, 2024. It's the first Gathering since 2018 and the first time for Calvary to attend in a while! It's going to be great. There's not much more fun than tens of thousands of Lutheran youth all in one room. Registration information is on the Calvary web page under Summer Trips. A \$150 deposit by October 29 holds your spot. We'll need adult leaders, too. Talk to Brett Carter for more information (218-751-1893 or [bcarter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:bcarter@calvarybemidji.org)).



### **October Menu:**

- **October 4 - Hot Dogs & Mac**
- **October 11 - Tacos**
- **October 18 - Dinner Church-Chicken Wild Rice Hotdish**
- **October 25 - Lasagna**



## ***See Calvary's October Birthdays Here!***

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

## MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER ~ LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In October we partner with Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR is a non-profit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering. Each year, they serve millions of people through many different projects in 32 different countries! It is difficult for us to personally travel to a disaster site to help, but LWR can do this for us. For this, Calvary is grateful to partner with them this month.



### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Partnership is more than money! Our Calvary quilters make quilts on Thursday mornings from 9-12:00 noon, many of which are distributed through LWR. Come and join them! Another group of Calvary folks puts together hygiene and other care kits, which are also shared through LWR. You are encouraged to give throughout the month to our ministry partners. Donate online using RebelGive or by check made out to Calvary Lutheran with "Monthly Ministry Partner" in the memo line.

## Calvary Happenings - October

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:**
- **Baptisms:** Brayden Page, Brody Sabol
- **Deaths:** Tracy Wild

## Baptisms at Calvary

If you are interested in having your child baptized at Calvary, just contact the church office to get schedule with us! For more information, please visit the baptism page on our website.

## 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, with group meetings held on Tuesday evenings from 4:00-6:00pm. This month, through October 24, The Refuge is meeting on in Room 1 at Calvary. No need to pre-register - Contact Erin Kossivi at 813-417-7678 with questions!

**Refuge Kids** will resume this fall. This group is for any child that has lost a close family member (parents, sibling, or primary caregiver). The program is best suited for kids 7-13 years of age. For more information contact Erin Kossivi 813-417-7678.

## Minnesota Autism Center

We are excited to announce our partnership with the Minnesota Autism Center (MAC)! Through the most recent school year, MAC partnered with Bemidji's Boys and Girls Club was hosting them in their building. MAC was put in touch with Calvary to be a host site for their organization through this summer. You may see their staff, students, and signs in and around Calvary's building through August. We are very excited to partner with them to help expand awareness and acceptance in the Bemidji community.

Visit [www.mnautism.org/](http://www.mnautism.org/) learn more about MAC!

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
Holiday Bazaar**  
**Saturday, October 28th**  
**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Quilted Items, Arts & Crafts, Honey, Paparazzi Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Color Street Nails, Wood Crafts, Mary Kay, Candles, Rope Pottery, Homemade Baby Items, Scentsy, Lefse & Baked Goods, Epicure, Homemade Soaps & Lotions, Thirty One, Hand Made Jewelry, personalized jewelry boxes, and Lots of Hand Crafted Items.

Lunch will be served by Calvary Lutheran's Youth Group from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, to raise money for their Missions Trips.

## Come to CLUB, Starting Now

High School kids meet Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the youth room for CLUB, a chance to have some fun, ask some faith questions, and connect with each other and some faithful adults. The night starts with a snack and ends with prayer, so bring a friend and any concerns you have. Talk to Brett Carter for more information (218-751-1893 or [carter@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:carter@calvarybemidji.org)).

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### 12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST-JULY

#### General Fund – March

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$72,942	\$97,821	\$72,942
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$86,602	\$90,801	\$86,602

**Cash, Receivables, & Savings:** \$129,485

**March Ministry Partner:** Bemidji Community Food Shelf - \$1,519

**Calvary Foundation Balance:** \$50,423

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



## Getting to Know Calvary Council ~ Renee Dralle



In the words of Pastor Chris, "Helloooooooooooooo Calvary!" My name is Renee Dralle and I am one of the newest members of the Church Council. As a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church, I am humbled and excited to join this amazing group of individuals and be part of guiding Calvary into the future. My husband and I, along with our youngest daughter, moved to Bemidji a little over a year ago. As a little girl, I would come here to visit my grandmother in the summer and spent many happy hours splashing in Lake Marquette and picking raspberries at Uncle Leo and Aunt Ruth's house! (Fun fact.... Calvary Lutheran Church sits on land once owned by my Great Uncle Leo and Aunt Ruth!) As an educator, I have always had a passion for teaching and am SO excited to build on the energy of Rally Sunday and participate in developing and growing our Christian Education Programming! As always, if you have any questions or concerns about what is happening at Calvary, please feel free to reach out to a council member or staff member. God's Blessings to You All!



### Volunteers needed

Do you want to share your gift of cooking with the congregation? Would you feel fulfilled by helping tidy the kitchen after our Wednesday night meals? Yes?! Consider joining our Calvary Alive crew! We are looking to add to our wonderful group of volunteer cooks and clean up teams. If Wednesday afternoon doesn't work for you to prep a meal, no problem! Meals can be prepared on Tuesday nights for serving on Wednesday.

**Come help us make Calvary the place to be on Wednesday nights!**  
**Speak with Kathy Ochowicz or talk to Garrett in the office (218-751-1893) to be a part of this great ministry!**

### Coffee Fellowship Volunteering

With our fall programming in full swing, we are in need of some helpful folks to sign up to host family fellowship time between our Sunday worship services. We are looking for people that are willing to make coffee, set out and serve snacks and treats, and tidy up following fellowship time. All volunteers, of course, are still encouraged to attend the worship service! You would be able to bring your favorite homemade treats or use packaged treats provided by Calvary.

Sign up as a family or join with another couple! We will gladly accept your help on any Sunday you are willing to sign up for. Contact Calvary's office to sign up to serve your fellow parishioners in this fun and meaningful way!

### Online Sign-Up for Worship Servants

Please help us fill our worship servant assignments! Call the office with the dates and positions you wish to fill in November and we will get you signed up! Anything still vacant by Sunday, October 22 will be assigned by the office. Thanks for your service in our worship ministry!

### Help Wanted:

**Head Usher/Host for Sunday services:** This role would be the connecting person between the worship staff and the worship hosts for the particular service. Visit with or email Pr. Jeremiah at [revholst@calvarybemidji.org](mailto:revholst@calvarybemidji.org) to find out more!