



2508 Washington Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## *A Prayer of Wonder on Psalm 8*

“Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” On my heart today, Lord, burns this declaration. For a lot of reasons I suppose, many of which just took place this last month. For the gift of hands and hearts sharing your love through teaching Sunday School, to the many people serving meals, leading confirmation groups, and making quilts. For those who invited us into the end of the year stewardship appeal, and those who rallied in grace to see it successful. And worship, God... being together, witnessing your love poured out, celebrating our seniors and life together. There you were Lord, in it all, connecting us and leading us forth!

So often the question burns in our hearts of ‘where are you, Lord?’ Amidst tragedy, in the aftermath of grief, even in times of celebration. And yet, moments like these from the last month break into our hearts and remind us of all that you are. How you speak to us through your people. How “you have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” That through us all you work, God, even when we don’t know it. You establish your foundations of love through your people. That you establish your presence through each of us... through our church...

But why God? “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place.” When I think about how you have fashioned the heavens and the earth to move by your will. How all of creation exists by the imaginative beauty of your creativity. Who God... Who are we that you would be mindful of us? Who are human beings that you would care for us? That the creator of all that is seen, and unseen would find each of us worthy of such a love?

And yet you do. In fact, “you have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.” I know that ‘to rule over’ by your will does not mean control and use, but to care. You are mindful of us all because you care, and you have made us to be mindful of creation and especially each other in order that we too would care. We ask you to help us with this, because God, it is so easy to be tempted to forget. It is so easy to put ourselves before our neighbors. It is so easy to serve ourselves rather than share your love... But you have made us to be people of your grace. Every day, God, speak your love through us. Help us to see your presence. Help us to be your presence. For after all, we return to your truth. After all, we remain your people with your blessing on our hearts. May we proclaim again “Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Pastor Chris

# Acoustic Contemporary Worship!

We are excited to announce a new mid-week worship opportunity this summer! While during the year we worship on Wednesday evenings, with the community events downtown on Wednesdays, we will gather on Tuesdays at 5:30pm instead. Join us for a relaxed, Acoustic Contemporary Service in the Lounge. Communion will be served each week, and while we plan to be in the Lounge, we hope to gather outside on occasion for a campfire as well. We have big dreams for what this service may become. Join us as we try some cool things as the summer goes on. See you in worship!

Traditions Worship: Sunday Mornings at 9:00am

Acoustic Contemporary Worship: Tuesday Evenings at 5:30pm

## A Huge Thank YOU!

We did it! The end of the year Stewardship Appeal has been a great success. Your response was amazing, and we saw participants from all ages. There was a beautiful buzz among Sunday School, confirmation students and families, all the way through those who have called Calvary home for a life time.. And together we did it. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

If you still have an envelope at home, please bring it in so we can officially close the appeal. Your gift makes such a difference in our life together, within these walls and beyond them. You are amazing Calvary Lutheran Church, and it is a joy to walk together!

Pr. Chris and the Stewardship Ministry Team

## High School Youth

Pray for our high school kids getting ready to be Anchored in Faith during this summer's trip to Rainy Lake on a houseboat in July. Pray for Aiden, Amanda, Evan, Kaden, Kaylah, Megan and Serenity and our adult leader Kyja. It will be a great week of unplugged fun while creating a bit of Bible camp on the water. We leave after worship on July 21. Join us as we send off the group together as a church.

## Middle School Trip to South Dakota

The faith-building experience for middle school youth is at Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota. Avri, Caleb, Julia, Orin, and Trinity will put their faith in action during special service opportunities as part of this week-long mission trip. Keep them in your prayers. They'll learn a lot and see how God's work happens through their hands. Join us as we send them off after worship on June 9.

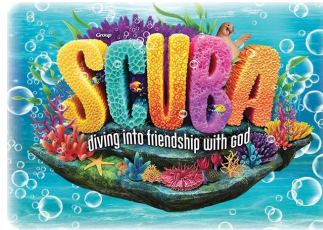
## Congrats Grads!



Congratulations to Calvary's class of 2024, (2037)! We had 30 preschoolers graduate from our program on May 23, 2024. These kids are moving onto the next big step of their lives in kindergarten. We will miss them and ask you to keep them in your prayers as they enter this next step of their journey to kindergarten.

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## VBS Share the Fun Board Will Be Up Soon



Keep alert for the big bulletin board filled with opportunities to help with Vacation Bible School this summer. We're diving into friendship with God during Scuba VBS Monday-Thursday August 12-15 and Sunday, August 18. Whether you can help a little or a lot, we'll have options. We're going

to build a watery environment to set the stage for experiencing God's love. We'll need crafters and builders from now till then. During the actual week, you can help one morning or all week long. The big bulletin board will be your place to check in. Talk to Brett if you have any questions.

## Another Calvary Game Night Scheduled



Join us for our second Calvary Game Night! Our first game night in May was a TON of fun, and we hope to build off that excitement in June. Plan to join us for fun and games following worship on Tuesday, June 25. Pizza will be available, (we want to make sure nobody is too hangry to have fun!)

Games will start around 6:30pm and we plan to wrap up around 8:00pm. Speak with Garrett in the office if you have any questions. See you there!

## Closed for Juneteenth



Our Office and Preschool will be closed Wednesday, June 19, 2024 in recognition of National Independence Day.

## See Calvary's June Birthdays Here!

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



## JUNE MONTHLY MINISTRY PARTNER

Calvary's monthly ministry partner for June is Northwoods Habitat for Humanity. Established in 1990, Northwoods Habitat is an ecumenical Christian ministry determined to end poverty housing in our community. Dedicated to the vision that everyone deserves a decent place to live, since their founding Northwoods Habitat has built and sold 60 homes to families who needed nothing more than a hand-up to break the bonds of poverty. Northwoods Habitat for Humanity is part of the larger Habitat for Humanity network, which since its founding in 1976 has been seeking to put God's love into action through building safe, affordable housing with people in the United States and around the world.

You can donate to Northwoods Habitat for Humanity using RebelGive, or by writing a check to Calvary Lutheran with "monthly ministry partner" in the memo line. Thank you for supporting the important work they do in our local community!

## Bemidji Community Food Shelf

Thank you to the wonderful and consistent volunteers at the food shelf on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Also thank you for the donations from Calvary of 100+ pounds to help those who shop there in the past two months. If you are interested in helping out at the Food Shelf, please contact Len Ochowicz at 320-364-3117.



**RebelGive**

Connect Through Giving!



**Call Jamie or Garrett for Help! 218-751-1893**



## Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to get involved with the Calvary Community? The altar guild needs you! Calvary's altar guild is responsible for preparing the elements for Communion and Baptisms - it's a great way to help support the shared worship life of our congregation! If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Pr. Jeremiah.

## Confirmation

Our 2024 confirmation class will be sharing their faith statements during Sunday morning worship services each week between June 2 and September 8. Come and support these wonderful young Calvary members as they proclaim God's love in their lives! Special thanks to all who have walked alongside them throughout the confirmation process, particularly those who volunteered to serve as confirmation small group guides and Lent mentors.

## Thanks For Your Help & Support!

As Calvary shifts into a new summer schedule, our Calvary Alive crew looks forward to a three-month time of relaxation and recharging. I would like to express my thankfulness to all of you for your involvement and support of the Wednesday Calvary Alive meals. Your willingness to volunteer your time to help prepare, set up, serve, and clean makes it all possible. This meal could not happen without you!!!

## Baptisms at Calvary

If you are interested in having your child baptized at Calvary, please visit our baptism page on our website to get scheduled with us! If you have any questions, you can contact the office at 218-751-1893 or [Visit the baptism page on our website!](#)

I am not only thankful for your time and effort, but I am so pleased with the welcoming spirit that you bring with you to make this event welcoming and fun.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – AUGUST-JULY

### General Fund – April

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$107,125	\$98,396	\$812,845
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$89,215	\$98,982	\$855,904

**Cash, Receivables, & Savings:** \$41,124

**April Ministry Partner:** Preschool Scholarships \$1,686

**Calvary Foundation Balance:** \$55,443

As we await the fall when we reconvene, I look forward to working alongside you again. If you have any ideas, input for meals, or simply how to make this event even more appealing, feel free to contact me at the number listed below. We are always accepting new volunteers too! Again, thank you to all volunteers, parents and confirmation students for all you do. Blessings to you all!

Kathie Ochowicz  
320-492-7721

*Thank you*

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

# *A Message From Calvary Council ~ Nicholle Bieberdorf*



Hello Calvary!

My name is Nicholle Bieberdorf and I am the president of our congregation. I am entering the last year of my term on council. My husband, Eric, and I have been members at Calvary for 25+ years. We raised our family here and have been a part of many activities at Calvary. One of the reasons we love Calvary is the different ways we can connect with others and be in service to God and this church community. Eric coordinates the mowing crew for the Calvary Cemetery. It's a great group and they would love to add you to the roster! I have been one of the adult leaders for the high school CLUB group for many years and I have found it a wonderful way to stay connected with our youth and grow my own faith right alongside our Calvary kids. If you are looking for a way to plug in to service or activities here at Calvary, please talk with one of the pastors or council members to learn more. Better yet, maybe ask the person sitting next to you at worship what they are doing to be connected here at Calvary.

The council has been blown away by our congregational response to the Stewardship Team's spring financial challenge. You, WE, met and surpassed our goal of \$35,000. We are also really energized by the number of people that have signed up for the automated giving through RebelGive. This routine, planned method of giving provides stability to our income and allows us to imagine and listen for what God is calling us to do with our ministry. Garrett and Jamie in the church office can help with getting signed up for this method of giving.

Lastly, mark your calendars for the upcoming annual meeting on Sunday, July 21 following the 9:00am worship service. We will be seeking people to be elected in the following areas: 3 council members and 5 delegates for the synod assembly in May 2025. Please talk with one of the pastors or council members if you have interest in hearing more about how you could serve.

Peace to you,  
Nicholle B.

## *Calvary Crafters*

Calvary Crafters are busy in June working on no-sew blankets at our day meeting and on individual projects at our evening meeting. All projects are to supply our church and various agencies in our community with hats, scarves, mittens, baby items, various blankets and throws, prayer shawls and prayer scarves. Thrivent has generously given us another grant to purchase our supplies. Our meeting dates for June are Monday, June 10 at 7:00pm. at Cheryl's, and Monday, June 24 at 10:00am at Calvary. All are welcome! With questions or for more information contact Cheryl at 218-368-3098

## *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 the last Tuesday of June, July and August from 4:00-5:30pm. . The Refuge meets in Room 1 at Calvary. No need to pre-register - Contact Erin Kossivi at 813-417-7678 with questions! The Refuge meets in Room 1 at Calvary. No need to pre-register - Contact Erin Kossivi at 813-417-7678 with questions!

## *Refuge Kids*

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.

## *A Note of Thanksgiving*

Dear members of Calvary Lutheran Church. We wanted to inform you of a transition taking place in our Preschool Ministry. On May 30, 2024, the Church Council accepted the resignation of Tony Kerr as the Director of the Calvary Preschool. Tony has brought many gifts to the lives of kids and families through his ministry, and we wish him well as he pursues other professional opportunities.

Cards of well wishes and appreciation can be dropped off in the church office. The staff will take care of getting those cards to Tony. Please keep his family and our church family in your prayers as we enter this time of transition. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nicholle Bieberdorf or Pr. Chris. Thank you and God's peace.

Pr. Chris and the Calvary Church Council

## *Opportunities to Connect*

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study - Wednesdays 8:00am  
Martha Circle - Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Hope Circle - Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 9:30 - 11:00am  
Marigold Circle - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday every of month 10:00 - 12:00pm  
Senior Group - 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month 12:00 - 1:30pm  
Crafters - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of every month

For more information about the different groups please contact the front office 218-751-1893.