



2508 Washington Ave SW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## *A Prayer for Our Life Together*

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” – Colossians 3:12-14

Where did the summer go? My guess is, God, you have heard this silent prayer more times than you can count. Even as I offer my heart right now in prayer to you, I find this question stirring on my mind. Because it has gone so fast. It seems like just yesterday we celebrated our seniors in worship and blessed them on their journey. Now that journey has begun as many of them are off at college or working full days. We have had hot days, cool days, more rain than last summer (which was desperately welcomed) and even some fun along the way with a packed house for VBS, meaningful worships, laughter as we sang on Tuesday nights, and moments of caring, supporting, and walking with each other. Yeah, the summer has gone fast, but it has been so good. That’s you God, after all. Good, weaving in and through our hearts, our lives, our families, and our faith.

I always find summers to be a unique experience in ministry. Many folks are traveling, and it is fun to hear their stories and see their pictures. Of course, work continues, but it often feels different. I love that Bible camps are in full swing and fun events happen all summer across our community. It is quite beautiful and provides a nice break from the normal routine of the year, and an opportunity to experience how you meet us in different ways. And you do, and I love that!

That is quite a gift you give us, God, and how it has a way of stirring our souls for joy as we gather again this Fall. Rally Sunday is just a few short weeks away and I can feel your Spirit energy building in me and in us as a family of faith. And just to think, we have some exciting things coming together this fall for our church family. The hub of life on Sunday morning is sure to be full of joy. Sunday School kiddos and parents, those who love the deep tradition and of course, a cup of coffee before they gather for some adult learning. And lets not forget about, Calvary Alive with all the excitement, energy, and learning that takes place on Wednesday nights. I am so excited for the praise band to lead us again on Wednesdays. Yeah, they rock, and yeah, their music brings us closer to you! Between it all and through it all is you, and with you, there is a place for us all. A hub of life at Calvary to refuel our life together. You have been stirring in our hearts all summer and the journey with you continues to be one of joy, wonder, and love.

I guess what I really want to say today God is "thank you," Thank you for the busy. Thank you for the calm. Thank you for traveling with us, attending games with us, and for relaxing with us. Thank you for the music and the exciting get-togethers. Thank you walking with us and thank you for tuning our hearts to the joy of life together this fall. Guide us with your love and help us share it, be it, and shine it as if it were the clothes we wear. We are thankful for this life together and the blessing of having this church family. In Jesus’s name, Amen.

Pr. Chris Leach

## New Member Orientation

Interested in becoming a member of Calvary? New member orientation will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30pm. Come and find out how to officially join the family! Contact Pr. Jeremiah for more information, or just stop in!

## Confirmation 2024-2025



All are welcome to participate in Calvary's confirmation program! Calvary's program is 3 years long, studying Old Testament, New Testament, and Luther's Small Catechism. We typically run from 6th-8th grade (with Confirmation Sunday celebrated in the fall of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year), but older students are absolutely welcome. Please speak to me, Pr.

Jeremiah, if you're wanting to enroll as a non-traditional age.

This year, Confirmation Orientation for all confirmation families will be Wednesday, September 18. Join us for worship at 6:15pm with orientation to follow. Classes will begin the next Wednesday (September 25) and run through Wednesday, May 21.

To register for confirmation, you can register on the Calvary website or follow the QR code above. Thanks, and God Bless. – Pr. Jeremiah

## Sunday School

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT FAMILY CONNECTIONS**



Register now for Sunday School which starts on Sunday, September 22 when families connect in worship at 10:30am in the sanctuary. Families (children and a responsible adult) learn the same Bible story together before kids head off to age-level classrooms. Kids in pre-school through 5th grade are invited to participate. Use the QR code to register. A paper registration is also available in the church office. Adults have a new opportunity this year to join in a sermon talk around the weekly lessons with the preacher that day. That will happen in the lounge. Talk to Brett if you have any questions.

## Something New:

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY**

Families seeking to connect during the week will have the opportunity to be part of Sunday School on Wednesdays starting September 18. Come early for supper at 5:15pm, then families (children and a responsible adult) will meet in the lounge at 5:30pm. Leaders will provide the music and a fun overview of the weekly Bible story, and then families will work together through the lesson options based on the age of the kids attending. Use the same QR code to register online. A paper form is available in the church office.

## Club

Club begins on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:15pm in the youth room. It's time for high school kids to gather again to consider some great faith questions, sing songs, play games, and wonder together about what God has in store for us. We meet every Wednesday and are excited to welcome the new class of 9<sup>th</sup> graders getting ready to be confirmed this fall. Bring your questions and your friends as we try not to laugh when we pray out loud.

## Calvary Choir

Do you like to sing? Then join the Calvary choir and help bring great music to our church through singing, and fellowship with other members of Calvary. We rehearse every Thursday evening from 5:30 to 6:30pm starting Thursday, September 12, minus Thanksgiving and a break between Christmas and New Year's. We will sing a couple of Sundays a month and finish our year singing for the baccalaureate service on Wednesday, May 14. Come join with other voices in making beautiful and meaningful music for worship! If you have further questions, please contact Mary Thoreson at 218-556-6541.

## VBS Thanks

I want to say a huge thank you to all those who participated in our Vacation Bible School this year as we spent a week diving into friendship with God! If you didn't make it to the wrap up on Sunday, August 18, check out the recording on our web page. Thanks especially to the families who made sure the kids were here every day. And, for all that to happen, I'm so grateful for the nearly 40 helpers who planned, decorated, built coral, led stations, led crews, organized, and more, and more! It was a VBS for the whole congregation effort and it's so great to see so many people celebrating God's friendship together. Same time, same place next year. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

Brett Carter

## Open House

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 11:00AM - 1:00PM**



Learn about Volunteer Opportunities and the impact you can make.

414 Lincoln Ave SE, Bemidji, MN  
218-444-1380 / [cunited@paulbunyan.net](mailto:cunited@paulbunyan.net)

Churches United is a nonprofit organization of Bemidji Area Churches, led by the spirit of Christ, working together to meet the emergency needs of homeless and low-income people in a prayerful way.

## 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.



## See Calvary's September Birthdays Here!

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



## SEPTEMBER'S MINISTRY PARTNER

### Calvary Preschool Scholarship fund

Calvary's September ministry partner is our very own preschool! Proceeds will be directed toward tuition scholarships for families who may be struggling to pay for tuition. Through generous financial support, we have been able to offer scholarships to all in need who attend our preschool. This is a great way for us to help our families feel welcomed to our preschool program. We know that not all families seek out this kind of support, but we can help answer some prayers by making the support available. Donations can be made by check or online through RebelGive with "ministry partner" or "preschool scholarship" in the memo line.

### Calvary Game Night!

Our September game night will be held on a Thursday this month! Join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, September 26 for lots of fun, laughs, and games. Feel free to bring your favorite games to share with some new friends. Please contact Garrett in the office with any questions or suggestions.

Thanks to everyone that has made this a successful Calvary activity so far, it has been a ton of fun!

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, remember to bring generosity to life and take advantage of their Thrivent Choice dollars. Speak with your Thrivent representative or Garrett in Calvary's office to find out more about directing Choice Dollars today!

### Baptisms at Calvary

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

### 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 4:00-5:30pm starting in September the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month 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 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 4:30-5:30pm. For more information contact Erin Kossivi

### 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 of every 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
- Quilters - Every Thursday Starting September 19, 9:00-11pm

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



**RebelGive**

Connect Through Giving!



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



### FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – JULY-JUNE

#### General Fund – July

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$66,528	\$105,792	\$66,528
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$69,605	\$91,003	\$69,605

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$50,480.42

February Ministry Partner: People's Church \$1,266

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$53,685

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

## A Message from Calvary Council ~ John Selisker



Howdy Calvary,

My name is John Selisker and I'm a new at large member of the church council. I'm taking this time for you to get to know me. I'm very happily married to Kathy Selisker and we have a blended family consisting of 4 adult children and 8 grandchildren. I had no church affiliation for years as my wife quietly prayed for us to attend any church together. That all changed when we attended a funeral for Cliff Bitker with Pastor Genelle officiating. At the end of the day, I believe God nudged me and I thought THIS IS IT! I said we found a new home! We began attending and have been for 7 years. We started to involve ourselves in church activities. We worked the lutefisk/meatball dinner, worked Calvary Alive, church decorating, working at the food shelf and a host family for Hakuna Matata church orphans. We have been ushers for many years. God has worked many miracles into our lives by giving us many church friends and although pastors we loved have moved on, he's given us the greatest replacements I believe there is. We've grown to love PJ and PC in our lives as I hope all of you have. A great church with a great mission. I was reluctant to join the council because of the stroke I had in 2017 that has left me with many thinking handicaps. God sent a messenger to me who was relentless and I'm glad he did! I believe being on the council

will help me understand the inner workings of the church as deep down it is a business on top of a place to worship. I will be able to be a part of making the decisions that will affect all of our lives as God works through me to you. We often get questions and I look forward to being able to point people in the right direction to get the correct answers they may need. I hope to see you in worship and other services and functions there may be. I would also like to invite you all to participate in Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 15 at 10:00am and continuing with a big party! Lunch will be served and will also include lots of fellowship. You'll also get to see your council members out and about helping in anyway they can. I hope to see you there also. (P.S. get involved)!

May God be with you all,

John Selisker

### *The Joy of Worship Together: Beginning after Rally Sunday!*

We have many opportunities to worship together throughout each week. While some styles are designed to meet specific worship needs of certain groups, all worship at Calvary is open to all people. Worship in a way that speaks to your heart and join the celebration of life together.

**Traditions Worship:** Sundays at 9:00am. If traditional worship speaks to your heart, then check out our Traditions service on Sundays. This service will focus on worship with traditional Lutheran elements as well as traditions that are important to Calvary. This service is followed by coffee fellowship and adult learning opportunities.

**Connections Worship:** Sundays at 10:30am. If you are seeking an interactive worship experience with a lot of energy and fun, then this service is for you. Designed specifically for families with preschool and elementary age kiddos, at this service families connect in worship and kick off the time of Sunday school and learning together. We will sing contemporary songs with a praise band, participate in a Bible story come to life, and share communion each week as we connect. Student learning begins in the family, and we get to celebrate growing together. Following worship, adults are invited to gather with the preacher for fellowship and a sermon talk series.

**Contemporary Worship:** Wednesdays at 6:15pm. Calvary Alive is a joyful time on Wednesday evenings. It includes learning opportunities for all ages, a church family meal, and of course our Contemporary Worship. All ages are invited to praise with our praise teams, hear messages from our pastors, and share holy communion as a family. If contemporary worship is what your heart longs for, then join us on Wednesday nights starting September 18.



### Sunday, September 15, 2024

10:00am: Celebration Worship (Church Parking Lot)

11:00am: Sunday School Orientation (Sanctuary)

Immediately Following: Rally Party (Church Parking Lot)

Let's celebrate life together with worship and food as we kick off our fall ministry at Calvary. Worship will be in the back parking lot of the church. **Please bring your own chair.** The Rally Party will include yard games, bounce houses, music, and, of course, great food. **Come for Jesus, stay for the fun and fellowship.** All are welcome as we celebrate being church together!