



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Reflections on Woven Stories

He often feels pulled in many directions. From basketball games to plays and concerts, playing at the park and caring for the home they created. He never knew what it meant to be busy until he had kids, and yet every day is full of love, joy, and laughter. Life is busy but life is good. Though it often feels like it is going too fast, every moment of his story matters...

She can never seem to overcome the piles. The To-Do lists at work never seems to end. One thing is crossed off and two more are added. It is stressful but work is work. It used to be something she loved. Sometimes it still is. Sometimes it just tires her out, but she keeps at it. It's important, one day after another. Though it can be overwhelming, every moment of her story matters...

A child runs and plays in the joy of everyday. From the moment of waking up, this child sees the world with wonder. Be it a new toy or a goofy face, fun can be found in pretty much every place. His parents love watching him grow, constantly amazed at new sounds, new actions, and new learnings. This child sees life with a deep wonder; life full of possibilities. Though he has his whole life ahead of him, every moment of this child's story matters...

She sits quietly in her chair and marvels at it all. 90 years of have passed with a million different moments all wrapped up in a life well lived. She is a great grandparent now and the things she has seen would take your breath away. The deepest lows to most glorious highs. The greatest excitements to the deepest peace. Life is hope... hope through faith... faith in love... love which has guided her and still fills her. Love which makes every moment of her story matter...

His name was Jesus and he was as real as you and me. He marveled at creation. Shared stories of faith. Worked long hard days. Cared for God's children doing things no one thought possible. He came to love, but the world rejected him, and this man suffered greatly. They made him wear a crown of thorns and carry a cross on which they nailed him. He experienced life at its lowest point so those he loved could experience life at its highest. His love he poured out... His life he gave... we call him Lord... He is our Savior... and every moment of his story matters...

We all have different stories, and they all matter to God. Sometimes we struggle like the disciples. Sometimes we doubt. Sometimes our words of faith don't match our actions in life. And yet these things never define us, because our stories are woven together in Christ's story. Which leads us to those great and powerful moments when all we can do is sit in awe and wonder say that "truly this man was God's son." Truly this man is our Savior.

God never gives up on us. Never. And his story is the greatest story ever told; a story of God's love poured out where forgiveness and love overcome sin and hate. It is a story which invites us to ever walk with Jesus. Soon through Holy Week; tomorrow and forever. May you be moved by this story and may you be renewed by this story. In Jesus Name, AMEN.

Peace,
Pastor Chris

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."
John 3:16*

Experiencing God's Story in Holy Week

Come and worship through Holy Week and experience God's Story of a deep love poured out for you.

Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 at 9:00am

We will be joining both services together that morning in one beautiful worship service. Following worship, we invite everyone to Sunday School for the whole congregation in the Fellowship Hall.

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

*12:00pm Holy Communion Worship
7:00pm with a **Live Last Supper** drama and Holy Communion*

Good Friday Worship

April 18 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

*12:00pm Tenebrae Service
7:00pm With **A Love Poured Out: A Journey to the Cross** through Music and Word.*

Easter Morning Celebration Worship

April 20 at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am

The Easter Brass will play at 8:30am and 10:30am and Holy Communion will be shared at all three services.

***Easter Breakfast** will be served from 7:30am - 10:00am*

Sing for a Season

4 Songs - 5 Rehearsals - 1 Powerful Night of Worship on Good Friday

Where

Calvary Lutheran Church

Rehearsals

5:30pm on Thursday nights March 20, 27, April 3, 10.
The final rehearsal will be Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30pm.

Sharing Music on Good Friday

The service is at 7:00pm on April 18.

Our part of leading will be sharing our four songs in worship woven between passages of scripture and prayer.

Who

Everyone is Welcome

You are invited to share your love of music through the Calvary Choir as we worship God during Holy Week this year. Come and sing, experience God's love in music, and help share God's message of salvation on Good Friday.

Contact Mary Thoreson (218-556-6541) or Pr. Chris if you are interested.

Lenten
SEASON

Did You Know?

Unless asked, hospitals don't alert pastors when their congregation members are admitted. If you would like Pastor Chirs or Pastor Jeremiah to visit you while you're hospitalized, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at church! We would love to come and pray with you. For those who worship online at home, hymnals and bibles are available for your use - please let us know if you'd like one of the Caring Friends Ministry Team Members to make a delivery and a visit!

Office Closed

Calvary Lutheran Church office will be closed Monday, April 21 in observance of the resurrection of our lord. Enjoy Easter with friends and family!

Blessing of the Quilts

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2024

We have a beautiful ministry here at Calvary that is connected to many churches all across our world. Each week, a faithful group of folks gather to work with their hands creating quilts of love to blanket the world in God's warmth. Join us on Sunday, May 4 as we celebrate this ministry in worship and bless these quilts that will be sent off to places and people that God has in mind. We are thankful for their work and the light that it shines into this world.

See Calvary's April Birthdays Here!

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

April Ministry Partner: Churches United



Calvary's monthly ministry partner for April is Churches United! We all have both spiritual and physical needs. Churches United is a place where God is working to provide especially for the physical needs of our neighbors.

Located in the old Lincoln School on 4th Street in Nymore, Churches United is a place where people can go to receive material and financial assistance in the name of Jesus. Around twenty area churches work together through this ministry to provide gas and food vouchers, bus and laundry tokens, and other gifts for community members in need.

To support Churches United (or any of our other monthly ministry partners), you can donate online through RebelGive by choosing "second offering monthly partner," or by providing a check to Calvary with "Churches United" in the memo line. Volunteers are also always welcome! To volunteer, contact Wanda at 218-444-1380.

Sunday School FOR THE WHOLE CONGREGATION



Sunday School for the Whole Congregation kicks off with the Palm Sunday Parade on Sunday, April 13. Everyone in Sunday School, kids and family, meets at church at 8:45am to get ready to lead the parade for the congregation. Then we'll all hang out

for an amazing worship service (just one at 9:00am that day) and we'll gather with everyone in the Fellowship Hall following worship for a fun activity, treats, and coffee.

VBS

Come and meet this summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS), *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*, at a quick introduction meeting on Sunday, March 30 at 11:30am. We'll meet for half an hour or less. The goal is to get started thinking about decorations for a cool "up north" themed VBS. Whether you can help in person, at home, or while canoeing down the Mississippi, join the fun of this group as we prepare for another amazing VBS. The dates for VBS are August 4-7 & 10. Contact Brett Carter at church for more information.

Summer Trip Meeting - Denver

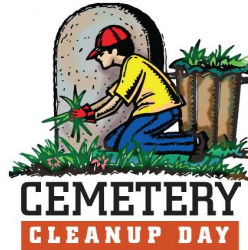
Let's make some plans. Kids and a parent/guardian should plan on attending our summer trip update and planning meeting on Sunday, March 30 from 6:00-7:00pm at church. Information about travel plans, costs and fundraising, an adult leader update/request, participants, and more will fill the meeting. Talk to Brett if you still want to register. Both trips need a female adult leader as soon as possible. Contact Brett Carter at church for more information.

Opportunities to Connect

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study - Wednesdays 8:00am
Martha Circle - 3rd Tuesday of every month 1:00-3:00pm
Hope Circle - 3rd Tuesday of every month 9:30-11:00am
Marigold Circle - 1st or 2nd Monday of every month 10:00-12:00pm
Senior Group - 3rd Friday of every month 12:00-1:30pm
Quilters - Every Thursday, 9:00-11:00am

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

Cemetery Clean-up Day SATURDAY, MAY 3 AT 8:00AM



We are looking for volunteers to help us with some Spring cleaning at Calvary Cemetery (Roosevelt Road). We will meet at the cemetery at 8:00am to work on a variety of projects. Please bring your own water, rakes, work gloves, and work boots. To join, text or call Arden Stevens at 218-368-1140 to let her know you can help. Put your faith into action and come to serve!

Calvary Foundation COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Attention, Church Family! Calvary Foundation is excited to share that scholarships are available for our college-aged youth. These scholarships are designed to support individuals who have been active in the life and ministry of the congregation in their pursuit of higher education. We encourage all eligible members to apply! The application deadline is Friday, May 16, so please be sure to submit your applications by then. If you have any questions, need assistance with the process, or want an application, feel free to reach out to Calvary's office! We look forward to supporting you in your educational journey!

FINANCIAL REPORT 12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – JULY-JUNE

General Fund – February

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	
\$135,069	\$105,792	\$783,364	
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	
\$94,211	\$107,042	\$782,638	
Cash, Receivables, & Savings:			\$60,771
February Ministry Partner: Calvary Foundation			\$818
Calvary Foundation Balance:			\$57,303

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

A Message From Calvary Council ~ Nicholle Bieberdorf



Greetings Calvary!

The season of Lent feels like a long one to me. It's only 40 days, right? When I was younger, my dad and I would give up sweets. It seemed to make time go by faster experiencing it with someone else. This Lenten season, I have been propelled through the Lenten journey in following the path of the clay pitcher and listening to how we are the clay in the Potter's hands (Jeremiah 18:6), being shaped and re-shaped in God's image. It is amazing to listen to the buzz and watch the connection between the Lent mentors and mentees. God at work!

From the Council, we're keeping eyes on our financials, while also starting to dream about some taskforce groups that could begin to do some future planning. We continue to promote online giving because it truly does help with stability of income. We yearn for a day when those worries take up less space. It is a journey that we are on together and it does take all of us together as the Church to live out our church life together.

Peace and prayers to you as you are clay in the Potter's hands,
Nicholle Bieberdorf - Council President



Easter Programs

The Preschool Easter Programs will be on Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come celebrate Easter with our Preschoolers and their families and hear the story of Easter told in their own words.

Ashley Holmgren - Director of Preschool Ministry

Preschool Closed

Calvary Lutheran Preschool will be closed Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21 for Easter Break. Enjoy Easter with friends and family!

Preschool Fundraiser

We will be having a Preschool Garage and Bake Sale Fundraiser Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 from 8:00am to 2:00pm. We will be taking donations the week of April 28. Please think of us when you are doing your Spring cleaning! We will be accepting gently used and washed items to be sold at the sale. If you would also like to donate baked goods for the Bake Sale, we will be taking donations for those as well during the week of April 28. All donations are appreciated! Help spread the word; it will be a big sale! Thanks for supporting our Preschool Ministry!

Ashley Holmgren - Director of Preschool Ministry

Food Shelf

The opportunity for volunteers is greater than ever as the need for fresh nourishing food grows each and every year. There are many jobs to do that can match any skill level, assisting clients to shop, interviewing clients, weighing food, stocking shelves, or helping clients to loading carts in their cars. Your support is crucial in ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry! Help to show our commitment to help our neighbors!

Meals on Wheels

Thanks to the wonderful crew of volunteers Calvary had in March to fulfill the need for meal deliveries in our community. Your help is greatly appreciated! For those of you who volunteer or have volunteered, there will be an appreciation luncheon for you at the Senior Center at noon on Tuesday, April 29. Please contact Len at 320-364-3117 so an accurate count is available for the meal on wheels staff.

