



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Reflections on the Gift of Sabbath

Calvary has a beautiful history of being blessed by a number of wonderful pastors. They have helped craft worship that is engaging and enriching for our family of faith. They have guided ministry teams to share life and ministry throughout all ages of those who call Calvary home. They have showed up in our deepest moments of grief and celebrated with us in our greatest moments of joy. They have each brought their gifts into this community, some with music, some with preaching, some with strategic vision, some with our littlest Lutherans. We have been blessed as they preached the Word of God, shared their caring hearts, connected with our family, brought laughter, joy, and even shared their own tears. We thank God for the journey with them, and for the journey we continue to walk together.

For just over six years now we have been particularly blessed to share this road with Pastor Jeremiah. His gift of presence, prayer, great preaching, and a fierce love has and continues to touch our lives. He has walked with Calvary through some major transitions and been a sturdy and faithful presence for our shared life of faith. I am particularly thankful for how he wears his faith on his sleeve and how his caring presence shows up in the midst of all our lives. He is more than my colleague in ministry and more than a fellow pastor. Pr. Jeremiah is my friend, and I look forward to the continued journey together in ministry in the years to come.

But first, we as church family have an opportunity to bless him in a special way. The gift of sabbatical is a gift that can't be understated. Many times, throughout Jesus' journey, he took time to rest. This intention sets an important pattern for our lives of faith, both in taking sabbath each week to rest, but also in taking an intentional time to renew, reconnect, and restore on our pastoral faith journeys. This is the gift we get to offer Pastor Jeremiah this summer, and I am so excited for him to receive it.

Starting on May 27, 2026, Pastor Jeremiah will begin a 12-week sabbatical. His first Sunday back with us will be August 23, 2026. Our hope is that this time will give him space to nurture his own faith by adopting a unique spiritual practice to his sabbatical journey, taking intentional time in solitude and rest, and spending unique and life-giving time with his family. Our prayer is that God meets him in just the way he needs during this time of sabbath, and that Pr. Jeremiah returns to us with a renewed and restored sense of presence and faith. To support him, we as a church family will commit to giving him that space by not reaching out or expecting his presence, and by lifting him and his family up in prayer and thanksgiving. And don't worry about me this summer as I operate as a solo pastor for the three months. Many church members are already stepping up to help with worship, home visits, and in other things as needed. If you would like to help too, please don't hesitate to ask. We walk this road together.

As we are preparing to bless Pr. Jeremiah with this sabbatical, I want you to hear from me how deeply grateful I am for you. Not all pastors are able to take a sabbatical, but here at Calvary it is special gift of support that we can offer. The way you care by supporting us in this way can't be overstated. I love being a pastor with you and bearing the joys and challenges of this life we get to share. You are a blessing and I thank God for this road of ministry we you! Peace on the journey my friends!

Peace,
Pastor Chris

"So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God, 10 for those who enter God's[a] rest also rest from their labors as God did from his." Hebrews 4:9-10

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.

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

12:00pm Holy Communion Worship and a light lunch.

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

Good Friday Worship

April 3 at 12:00pm & 7:00pm

12:00pm Tenebrae Service

7:00pm with our **Calvary Choir** as they take us on a journey to the Cross through music and word.

Easter Morning Celebration Worship

April 5 at 6:30am, 8:30am, and 10:30am

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

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



A Blessing of the Quilts

Join as we celebrate the faithful work of the quilting ministry on Sunday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 6. You will see the fruits of their labor draped throughout the Sanctuary, and in worship on both Sunday and Wednesday, we will bless these quilts together. From there they will be sent across the world to share God's love and warmth with those in need. We ask that you do not have any colored liquids in worship at those services, so the quilts do not get dirty. We are deeply thankful for this ministry, and the hands and hearts that quilt with love!

Calvary Foundation **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Calvary Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for Calvary students continuing their education after high school. These scholarships support students as they continue their education while growing in faith and leadership beyond high school. Whether you're a graduating high school senior, a past Calvary scholarship recipient, or a graduate currently pursuing post-secondary education, you are welcome to apply!

If you would like an application or have any questions, reach out to the church office. Applications must be submitted by May 15.

Bemidji Food Shelf Extended Hours

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, the Bemidji Community Food Shelf is excited to announce extended evening shopping hours. Beginning Monday, April 6, BCFS will be open from 5:00-7:00pm on the first Monday of each month, offering an additional opportunity for anyone in our community to access food assistance. Extended hours will continue on the first Monday of each month until further notice. BCFS regular shopping hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm. For more information, contact the Bemidji Community Food Shelf at bcfsmn.org or 218-444-6580.

Did You Know?

Unless asked, hospitals don't alert pastors when their congregation members are admitted. If you would like Pr. Chris or Pr. 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 use. Please let us know if you'd like one of the Caring Friends Ministry Team members to make a delivery and a visit!

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 ministry 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.

Middle School Adventure Serve

We'll still find space if you're interested in joining the middle school trip to Duluth this June 14-16. It's a quick trip with a big impact - one day of service, and one day of fun. Make your plan to join in for this great opportunity to work and serve with your friends. Contact Brett for more information.

Silent Auction Thanks

A loud thank you, thank, thank you to all the participants in this year's Silent Auction! Because of your giving, we raised more than \$5,000 to support the faithful youth ministry at Calvary. Funds will help families join the Middle School Adventure Serve to Duluth and the Senior High Bible Camp on a Houseboat. These trips develop faith through service, fun, singing, activities, and spiritual rest. It's all possible because of our community's generosity. Thanks for supporting Calvary youth!

Calvary Crafters Are Back



Please contact Cheryl at 218-368-3098 if you have any questions.

Calvary Crafters are back to meeting twice a month to work on scarves, prayer shawls, blankets, hats, and mittens for local charities and beyond. In April, we will meet April 13 at 7:00pm at Cheryl's house and April 27 at 10am at church.

Summer Trips

BIBLE CAMP ON A HOUSEBOAT

There are still a couple spots left on the houseboat trip this July 12-17 on Rainy Lake. It's Bible camp on a boat with a lot of time for spiritual renewal in the quiet of nature. We'll sing songs, swim, have campfires, swim, travel at low speed, and swim for an amazing week in the forest. Talk to Brett for more information.

Sunday School on Wednesday

Sunday school on Wednesday meets in the lounge again on Wednesday, April 15 following worship. We're still looking for a teacher to finish off the year as a facilitator for this class. It's a "get things started" opportunity to offer your help to a group that meets as families each week. We meet four more times with the last night on Wednesday, May 6. Thanks for making it a great year.

Preschool Closed

Calvary Lutheran Preschool will be closed Friday, April 3, for good Friday and Monday, April 6 in observance of the resurrection of our lord. Enjoy Easter with friends and family!

Church Closed

Calvary Lutheran Church will be closed Monday, April 6, in observance of the resurrection of our Lord. Enjoy Easter with friends and family!



August 3-6
and 9

9-Noon,
Mon.-Thu.
9am Sunday

Register
now



FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – JULY-JUNE

General Fund – February

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$104,542	\$105,869	\$848,152
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$87,418	\$107,117	\$801,406

Cash, Receivables, & Savings:	\$101,713
February Ministry Partner: Calvary Foundation	\$1,934
Calvary Foundation Balance:	\$62,847

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

A Message from Calvary Council ~ Amber Coquette



Hello Calvary Family!

As Easter approaches, we are reminded of the heart of our faith—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This sacred season invites us to reflect on the incredible gift of new life, hope, and redemption that we celebrate on Easter morning.

In a world often filled with uncertainty, Easter proclaims a powerful message: light overcomes darkness, and life triumphs over death. It is a time to renew our faith, reconnect with one another, and rejoice in the promise that God's love is always at work in our lives.

We invite you to join us as we gather in worship, fellowship, and celebration. May this Easter fill your hearts with peace, joy, and renewed purpose.

"He is not here; He has risen!" — Luke 24:6

Amber Coquette - Treasurer

Save the Date

FAITH IN ACTION DAY IS APRIL 26!

Calvary is bringing back Faith in Action day, Sunday, April 26 with a variety of service opportunities following all worship services that morning.

PROJECTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Volunteering at the Bemidji Community Food Shelf
- Clean-up at Calvary Cemetery (weather-dependent)
- Preparing food for Peoples Church (on-site at Calvary)
- Compiling personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (on-site at Calvary)
- Additional projects may be added in the weeks ahead!

Supplies will be needed in advance of some projects! Watch for opportunities for providing donations as plans come together. Sign-ups for each project will be available at church after Easter. Advanced sign-ups are encouraged, but certainly not required. Signing up ahead of time will help us ensure good coverage for each project. Email Pr. Jeremiah for further details or to get on a list if you just can't wait!

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."
- 1 John 3:18

A Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who made our Lenten Journey such a blessed and meaningful experience. The musicians and the Holden Evening Prayer united our hearts in song and prayer. Gathering each week in 'the attic' drew us deep in to faithful questions around the stuff we carry in our lives. The characters were real, engaging, and related to life as we journey together to the cross. And speaking of life, the Lenten Devotional book touched hearts in ways we are only beginning to see. Thank you all for sharing your love, your talents, and your stories. You have blessed our lives in loving ways and we thank God for you. What a joy it is to be church together!

Sunday School Group Picture Day

We'll gather in the front of the sanctuary during the 10:30am Connections Worship Sunday, April 26 to take a large group picture of all the kids and families in Sunday school this year. Come and show your Sunday school smiles!

Preschool Garage Sale

Calvary preschool will be having its 2nd annual garage sale fundraiser on Friday, April 24 and Saturday April, 25. Please keep us in mind as you start your spring cleaning! We will start accepting donations Sunday, April 19 through Wednesday, April 22. Come shop and find some great deals while supporting our preschool!

Easter Programs

Calvary Preschool will be celebrating Easter with our Easter Programs coming on Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. Come celebrate Easter with us as the children sing songs and tell the joy of the Resurrection story in their own words.



Opportunities TO CONNECT

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study - Wednesdays 8:00am at Perkins
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 at Giovanni's
Quilters - Every Thursday 9:00-11:00am
Choir - Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm in the Sanctuary

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

The Refuge - 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month, 4:00-5:30pm in Room 1 at Calvary (Erin Kossivi 813-417-7678)
Refuge Kids - Weekly, Fridays at Bemidji Covenant Church Family Life Center from 4:30-5:30pm (Erin Kossivi 813-417-7678)