



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Reflections on the Risen Christ

JESUS AND MARY - JOHN 20:1, 11B-18

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb... But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.”

I have been trying to imagine these moments for Mary or any of Jesus’ disciples. The years of traveling alongside him and witnessing him do things beyond imagination. Throughout Lent, Holy Week, and even Easter morning trying to imagine those last moments at what seemed like such a horrific end to the life of this man whom they had come to love. Their teacher, who they knew loved them deeply. And then, to have to this moment just like Mary, and find his body gone. The sadness and probably anger at someone taking him from this resting place.

The story says, she sat there weeping. I mean what else could one do but just be overwhelmed with sadness. Then first two angels appear and ask, “why are you weeping?” Then a man who seems like a gardener (which when you think about it makes sense, Jesus who tends the gardens of life) also looks at her as says, “who are you looking for?” Mary responds with a question to which Jesus responds with one word, “Mary.” It is in this moment, at the sound of her name on her Savior’s lips that everything changes. At once all is revealed to her. Suddenly she see life to its fullest again, and he is standing right in front of her. Her Savior. Her lord. Jesus.

God knows your name. God knows you, and just as he called out to Mary, he is calling out to you. From our moments at the open tomb, to voices in your family and friends, even through you to others, God is calling to you. God knows your name and with it, hope is alive in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Chris

Giving Boldly for Life Together

A STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear church friends, grace and peace to you as we continue this journey through the Easter season. We just celebrated our risen savior, and as we near the end of our fiscal year, we are set to begin our annual Give Boldly challenge.

We're excited to report that giving has continued to grow this year! This is fantastic news. Thank you so much for investing in our life together. In fact, this year we planned to include our year-end appeal in our budget, so, assuming our giving trends continue, a successful appeal should lead us to a balanced budget at year's end.

The Call to Give Boldly: Over the next few weeks, we invite you all to join this special Give Boldly challenge. It has been inspiring to witness participation of all ages in our envelope appeal each year. As such, the envelopes are back! We encourage everyone to take one (or more) and make a special one-time gift in addition to your regular support.

To make this effort even more impactful, every gift will be matched up to a total of \$20,000! In addition, we are looking for 10 new recurring automated givers to sign up for RebelGive. The council has set that each new giver will unlock an additional \$1,000 match up to \$10,000.

It is a joy to be church together and let's end this year strong as we look to an exciting future of opportunities to shine God's light. Your gift matters and we thank God for you!

With gratitude and faith,
Calvary's Stewardship Ministry Team

A Special Thanks

To all those who made our Lenten Journey and Holy Week such a blessed and meaningful experience. From the decorators to those who prepped communion, from the musicians, choir members, pastors, and those who brought the dramas and live last supper to life, to the meal teams, office staff, and all those who worked hard behind the scenes, we are so thankful and blessed by your passion and gifts. You are amazing and touched our hearts deeply with God's love.

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!

End of the Program Year Changes

The changing season means changes across the board in our Calvary programming. Make a note of these and keep an eye on the calendar as we move into summer programming soon.

- May 6 - Final Wednesday Sunday School. One last chance for fun faith development until fall.
- May 10 - Last day of Connections Worship/Sunday School. Join Jeremiah and Brett for a deep discussion of faith.
- May 13 - Final Calvary Alive dinner. Bring everyone for our pizza party!
- May 13 - End of year celebration for confirmation. Don't miss The Game Show in worship.

The schedule changes but the faith building continues. Thanks for continuing to participate in the active ministries at Calvary all summer long.

A Note About Summer Worship



Our regular Sunday and Wednesday worship schedule continues through May 13. On May 17, we will gather for one service at 9:00am to celebrate our seniors. We call this Baccalaureate and we are excited to surround them and bless

them into this next phase of their lives. Following this service, all throughout the summer, we will continue to worship with one service at 9:00am. Starting on June 2, our Acoustic Contemporary Worship in the Lounge will switch to Tuesdays at 6:00pm. This service is a joyful mid-week gathering of worship where praise and learning connect together. Join us as we worship throughout the summer, sharing the sacrament, hearing faith statements, and celebrating life together in song and word. Come, let's worship together!

Sunday Morning Traditional Worship: 9:00am
(Starting May 17 with Baccalaureate)

Tuesday Evening Acoustic Contemporary Worship: 6:00pm
(Starting June 2)

A Celebration of Quilting Ministry



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 as to not get the quilts dirty. We are deeply thankful for this ministry, and the hands and hearts that quilt with love!

See Calvary's May Birthdays Here

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

May Ministry Partner: Peoples Church



Calvary's Monthly Ministry Partner for May is Peoples Church! Peoples Church is a vital ministry that supports our local homeless population with food, shelter, worship, and community. These needs have been felt particularly hard in our area, with community members reporting that homelessness and related issues are the number one problem our community faces.

A mission congregation of the ELCA, Peoples Church of Bemidji is made up of folks from diverse ethnic backgrounds, most well-acquainted with poverty and some marginalized in our community. Peoples Church has been at the forefront of caring for some of our most vulnerable neighbors for over 20 years! Please help us support this vital ministry in our community! You can make checks out to Calvary with "Ministry Partner" or "Peoples Church" in the memo line or donate online with RebelGive.

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.

We've Only Just Begun



Calvary Crafters have deliveries of 9 chemo hats, 4 fleece blankets, 2 shawls, and 24 prayer scarves that were made in April! In May, the Crafters will meet Monday, May 11 at 7:00pm at Cheryl's and Monday, May 18 at church at 10:00am. Note that we meet a week early because of Memorial Day. Contact Cheryl with any questions at 218-368-3098.

Summer Trips Are Happening

Our next summer trip meeting is Sunday, May 17 at 7:00pm at the bonfire ring outside church. We'll make a plan to finalize trip details, talk about itinerary, and maybe have a s'more. We're getting ready for some great summer trips with Calvary youth this year. First up is our Service Adventure to Duluth for middle school youth, June 14-17. Six kids and three adults will be making the trip and finding opportunities for fun and service. Then we'll head out on a houseboat with the senior high youth. We'll have 8 kids and 2 adults heading to Rainy Lake for Bible Camp on a boat. It will be great.

Giant Gym Game Night Will Be Exciting

CLUB and Confirmation kids play giant gym games together on Wednesday, May 6 following worship. It will be a chance to run around and share some fun together. It's all part of the many celebrations we'll be having to end the year strong. Thanks in advance for planning on having fun. Talk to Brett if you have any questions.

VBS Is Coming

Prepare for another adventure with Vacation Bible School August 3-6, 9. We'll create Rainforest Falls and join together in Exploring the Nature of God. It will be a great experience for families, friends, teachers, helpers, leaders, and more. Together we learn about God's love and how to share that with everyone. Save the date and watch for details on how to participate and how to help. Registration is now open. [Register online](#) or talk to Brett for more information.

Our High School Graduates Are Amazing

Join us on Sunday, May 17 for a Baccalaureate service. We'll have only one service that Sunday at 9:00am. We're going to surround our high school seniors as they celebrate their faith in daily life as students. Let's all gather together to pray for them and worship with them on this special day. If you know of any seniors that should be on our list, talk to Brett soon. It's an awesome way to honor our graduates. See you on Sunday, May 17 at 9:00am with treats after for everyone.

Sunday School on Sunday Ends In May

May 10 is the last day of Sunday School. Come and join us in the Connections Worship at 10:30am that day. We'll sing and dance and hear a goofy story that turns out to be about how much Jesus loves us... So a typical Sunday. It will be a great day, and the youth are serving rolls that day, so come for that treat, too.

FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – JULY-JUNE

General Fund – March

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$105,949	\$106,469	\$928,412
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$110,988	\$106,200	\$912,007

Cash, Receivables, & Savings: \$173,502

February Ministry Partner: Bemidji Area Food Shelf \$2,390

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$63,472

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

Special Notes on Membership, Congregational Meetings, and Voting Privileges

With summer around the corner, soon comes our church's annual meeting. This year it will take place August 2 right after worship. This summer may also include a special congregational meeting, and as such, we thought it appropriate to review how membership/voice and voting privileges work according to our constitution and bylaws.

Chapter 8 of our constitution outlines membership guidelines for Calvary and defines active membership (voting members) as baptized and confirmed members who have during the current or preceding calendar year, participated in communion, and have made a contribution of record to this congregation (C8.02). As an active member, you have the privilege to voice and vote at special and annual meetings of the congregation. Please note it takes about 10 days to fully process recordable gifts and note them on your giving records.

In terms of voting at congregational meetings, Chapter 10 of our constitution states that you do need to be present in person at the meeting (C10.05) or by way of remote connection such as Zoom as long as simultaneous aural communication can be shared (C10.08). All actions shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in the constitution (C10.06). A vote made by an inactive, associate, seasonal, or non-member person shall be deemed an invalid vote and will not be counted.

Congregation meetings are an important way to share in the life, vision, and ministry of our congregation, and we hope you take the time to participate. If you have further questions, please reach out to the Church Council President, Church Administrator, or the Lead Pastor.

Calvary Lutheran Church Council

Help Needed for Deep Cleaning Kitchen

We are planning a deep cleaning of the kitchen and pantry at 9:00am-12:00pm on Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 28. We need your help! Many hands will enable us to finish the necessary tasks quickly. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Kathie Ochowicz at 320-492-7721 or Judy Westerman at 218-340-5474 to let them know you are able to help. Thank you so much!!!

Kathie and Judy

School's Out for Summer

There will be NO SCHOOL or child care the week of Monday, May 25 through Friday, May 29. Our first day of summer programming for Preschool and our School-Age Camp Crew is Monday, June 1. We will have four full classrooms this summer! We will be closed Friday, June 19 and Friday, July 3 for holidays and our last day of programming will be Friday, August 28. We're looking forward to having a fun summer at Calvary!

Preschool Graduation



Preschool Graduation is on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will be recognizing the kids that are graduating from our program and moving on to kindergarten! Feel free to come see the program and celebrate with us!

Ashley Holmgren - Director of Preschool Ministry

Big Thank You

I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all the people that donated items, volunteers that gave their time, and staff members that helped with our Garage Sale Fundraiser!! We were able to raise \$4,800 toward our preschool playground renovation project! Also thank you to the DAV that came together to collect remaining items for those in need. I am astounded at the generosity and ways the community came to support us with this sale!

Thanks again!

Ashley Holmgren - Director of Preschool Ministry

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks

Thanks so much to all the people who make Sunday school on Wednesday and Sunday such an amazing part of the faith development of our Calvary kids. We have wonderful teachers, super assistants, excellent helpers, and an exceptional band to keep us all moving and dancing and singing. It's all part of a great Sunday school experience for our kids and families. Thanks for your support and participation.

Office Closed

Calvary Lutheran Church office will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day and Tuesday, May 26 for our staff retreat.



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 - Thursday June 11, July 9, August 13 from 9:00-11:00am
Choir - Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm in the Sanctuary

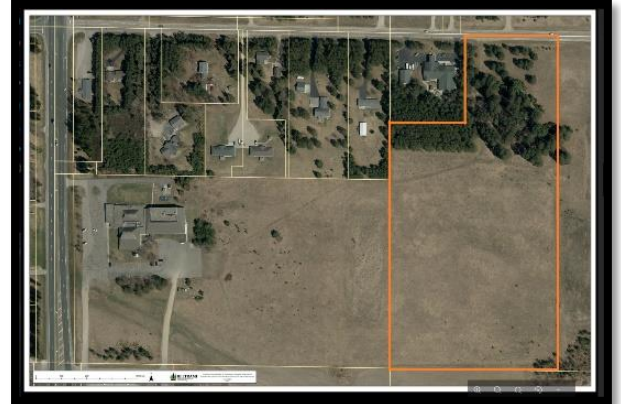
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

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)

The Process of the Stewardship of Land Task Force

This process got started in the Spring of 2024 when a curious question was brought before the church council wondering if Calvary would ever consider selling a part of the back property. We have received various questions like this over the years, and we realized that before we could seriously consider any question like that, we first needed to enter a process of discernment, exploring history, dreams, and imaginations for the land. We also needed to answer the questions of where God is leading us into the future and how the land supports and fits into that vision. With this in mind, the council formed a Stewardship of Land Task Force in the Spring of 2025. This team was empowered specifically to explore the question of how God is leading us through our stewardship of land to be a beacon of light for Bemidji and beyond. It was a great question embedded deep within our church values, God's mission for Calvary, and the creative imagination of where the Spirit is leading us next. As of the Annual Meeting in August of 2025, this team had begun their work of discernment.

While there were a lot of ways we could explore this, the chosen approach for our team and our congregation was one of **Learning, Listening, Discerning,** and **Sharing**. First, when we say 'stewardship of land' what are we referring to? Calvary sits on about 40 acres of land. What you generally see on the top of the hill where the building and parking lot reside is about 10 acres and as you look down the hill to the grove of trees to the east, we see about another 30 acres. The land we are exploring in this process is what resides down the hill from Calvary's building and parking lot.



Learning: Before imagining the future of our land resources, we needed to first reflect on the story that led us here. The team spent their first few months visiting with groups of folks who are tied directly to the history of Calvary's land, and researching the church records, titles, and other pertinent information. The goal of this learning process was to discover the story that led us here and ultimately create a Land Narrative that would be shared with the congregation.

Listening: When the Land Narrative was complete, we sought out to engage our congregation in a series of listening forums. Each of these forums began with prayer, the sharing of the Land Narrative, and focused discussion around three guided questions.

- 1) *When you think of Calvary Lutheran Church, what values are important to you as they guide our church's mission?*
- 2) *Where do you sense God is leading Calvary into the future to be a beacon of light and love?*
- 3) *How do you see our resources of land supporting these values and living into God's mission for our church family and community?*

We also explored these questions with various ministry teams and groups. Our goal during all these conversations was to listen and learn about your dreams, imaginations, and where you see God guiding us.

Discerning: Following the forums we entered a time of discernment hoping to focus on one idea or a collection of ideas that align with our values and mission. In February we invited you to fill out a survey exploring the question of selling part of the property or not, and what we should focus on in either case. From the clarity of this survey, we were able to focus our discernment and enter the final part of this process.

Sharing: Currently we are preparing a presentation and recommendation to present to the council of our findings. They ultimately have the responsibility of approving the recommendation or not and bringing it to the congregation for consideration. When they are ready to do so, they will schedule a special congregational meeting to discuss the findings with a possible motion coming to the floor. We encourage you to watch for those announcements which will come by newsletter and shared in worship.

The following set of pages are summaries of the information that has been shared throughout this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team. Our names are included on the last sheet. Thank you all for your love, prayer, and support of our church family. What a joy it is to be church together!

Narrative of Land – Calvary Lutheran Church

Developed in September of 2025 by our Stewardship of Land Task Force

The story of Calvary's land begins embedded deep within the roots of a family. Leo and Ruth Fenske purchased this land in 1946 to be a family farm adjacent to the pioneer farm of Leo's father. For many years this land served as a family farm, growing crops and supporting dairy production, as well as other things. Part of it even supported a deeper purpose as Leo worked to help train and equip veterans as they returned from WW2 to care for their families. The land was beautiful, meaningful, and it helped shape lives.

This continued for many years until Leo began to see a vision for the legacy of what the land might become. It was in the late 70s when conversations began to turn a portion of the family farm into space for the growth of a church community. As conversations unfolded and dreams emerged, Calvary found itself in a unique situation. It had resided in the Nymore neighborhood; a beautiful space where the ministry was flourishing. Unfortunately, the church had no room to expand, leading Calvary to dream of where God might lead them next. Where those dreams took the church was to the start of a journey with the Fenske family. On August 7, 1979, Calvary signed a contract for deed to purchase 40 acres of this beautiful farm for \$72,820. This contract was fulfilled in two segments: the 20 acres where the building currently sits in 1981 and the remaining 20 acres down the hill in 1983.

With this purchase came hope, excitement, and a leap of faith found in big dreams. Calvary was seeking how God was calling us to be a beacon of light for Bemidji and beyond. The wish list of dreams included building a space with more Sunday school rooms, a larger kitchen, an expansive fellowship hall for community dinners, and a beautiful space for the church family to worship. Fieldstone was used to adorn the space symbolizing a connection to the beauty of this land. While it came later, the dreams even included the building of a gymnasium (which was a progressive idea at the time) and additional classrooms and meeting spaces to meet the growing needs of the church and the Bemidji community. The church was designed with energy conservation in mind with the hope of expanding that vision into the future, all in an effort to be faithful stewards of what we have.

Over the last 40 years we have seen these daring dreams come to life and shape lives of love. Preschool ministry grew. A food shelf, adult care services, multiple expressions of worship including an outdoor worship space, and intergenerational ministries were all connected to those dreams. We have even seen some of those ministries, like Adult Day Services, grow beyond these walls. To support them, Calvary was able to gift them a couple acres of our land at a minimal price so they could place their own footprint in service to our greater community.

God has and continues to shine through Calvary Lutheran Church. While many dreams have shaped our path along the way, we continue to seek how God is calling us to be a beacon of light, not just for today, but for many years to come. We are all part of this journey together. Let's run the race before us!

A special thanks to Billie and Bob Edwards, Dallas and Joyce Way, Gary Sorenson, Ron Gladen, Pr. Keith Zeh, and the Stewardship of Land Task Force for your wisdom, insights, and research to develop this narrative of our land.

Values, Mission, Vision Summary

Stewardship of Land Forums – October and November 2025

Introduction: In the fall of 2025 we gathered for a series of church family forums to explore questions around our values, sense of mission, and vision for ministry. We hosted one of these forums at a Tuesday lunch and learn, another one on a Wednesday night after worship, and the last one on a Sunday morning after worship. Our goal was to engage as many people of different ages as possible who could represent a solid cross section of our congregation. We had over 250 people engage with this process with great questions, hopes for the future, and joy shared in our life together. From those forums and the poster boards created at them, our Stewardship of Land Task Force has created these summaries of what was shared/learned.

Values: *When you think of Calvary Lutheran Church, what values are important to you as they guide our church's mission?*

1. **Calvary seeks to be a loving community where all people can experience belonging.** It is important to be open, welcoming, and affirming to all people. Worship, fellowship, and programs should be inclusive, inviting, accessible, relevant, safe, and embrace people in their stages of life. Offering a variety of high-quality musical expressions engaging people in worship and faith is of core importance. Ultimately, we seek to create a space where all voices are valued, diversity is celebrated, and all are met with love and grace.
2. **Calvary seeks to be a connected community of joy and love formed in the grace of God.** It is important for us to live the values of love as authentically as the clothes we wear. Kindness, compassion, joy, respect, faithfulness, and general goodness are to reflect the love and grace of our savior. We are not afraid to be honest about challenges before us and seek to call leaders who walk alongside our church family living a life of faith and encouraging us to do the same. We are empowered by a culture of support who share joy with each other and offer care in times of sorrow; one people who live as a family of faith.
3. **Calvary seeks to be a faithful community of learning and growing that empowers us all to live as love.** We believe in building up the foundation of our community through engaging and interactive learning environments for children, youth, and families, as well as opportunities for adults and seniors to share their gifts and grow in their faith. We seek to be a community of learners that interact between the generations working toward stability, healthy stewardship practices, and the empowerment of faith in action opportunities that engages the life of the church and the greater community with our neighbors.



Mission: *Where do you sense God is leading Calvary into the future to be a beacon of light and love?*

- ❖ **Worship Ministry:** God is calling us into authentic worship that inspires hope and connection formed in the love of God; relevant worship that engages people in their stages of life through different styles of music, liturgy, sacraments, preaching, teaching, and prayer.



- ❖ **Youth Ministry:** God is calling us to invest in the building up of our youth through opportunities to learn, grow, serve, and connect as families, as friends, and throughout the generations of our faith community.
- ❖ **Community Ministry:** God is calling us into authentic relationships formed in the love of God; relationships that are adaptable and are grounded in connection through opportunities to gather, share meals, have fun, and support each other in both the joys of life and the sorrows we experience.
- ❖ **Environment and Sustainability Ministry:** God is calling us to care for creation and to seek ways to sustain our life together and the blessings we share as a church family.
- ❖ **Open Arms Ministry:** God is calling us to have open arms of welcome that shine as a light that loves and cares for all people; light that uplifts diversity and embraces inclusion of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and expressions of the self.
- ❖ **Faith in Action Ministry:** God is calling us to live as love which models Christ's love and care for the hungry, poor, lost and forsaken; love that engages opportunities for all ages to put their faith into action serving our neighbors and supporting our ministry partners, who too seek to share God's love and care.

Vision: *How do you see our resources of land supporting these values and living into God's mission for our church family and community?* While there were many ideas shared that cross a whole spectrum of passions, we were able to reduce them down to a few core ideas connected to either selling a portion of the property and using the money to enact ideas or keeping the property and developing on it. It should be noted that exploring leasing options could be helpful too.



- ❖ **Keeping the whole property ideas:** Cultivating the land into a community garden for the food shelf or subletting it to a local farmer for a revenue source; building an animal shelter, wood working shop, senior housing, affordable housing, housing for the homeless, or expanded child care center to include a special needs program and drop out program; developing it into a solar garden or a community park; or simply leaving it as an intentional green space.
- ❖ **Selling a portion of the property ideas:** Using the funds to update the existing playground for the preschool; building a new outdoor worship space that could also be used for weddings as an additional revenue source; reducing all or part of our debt; building a residential treatment center connected to our existing building; investing in solar panels for our existing building; updating our existing building and grounds such as resurfacing the roof and parking lot, remodeling the kitchen, replacing the lights in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, as well as other building updates as needed; investing the funds into an endowment.



Land Option Survey Summary

Stewardship of Land Task Force – February 2026

As we write this summary, we are finding ourselves full of gratitude. Over 250 people engaged in the forums last fall, 55 households/individuals spanning all ages submitted surveys, and we have had half a dozen small group conversations as well as many individual conversations. We are so thankful for all who have shared their voice as these conversations have been faithful, meaningful, and share a deep dedication and love of our church family.

We were amazed by the clarity that came through this survey. Of the 55 completed surveys, 52 encouraged us to continue exploring this option of selling a portion of our land. The other 3 gave positive feedback and constructive thoughts about the stewardship of our land and the value of holding it. There were 3 primary themes we found:

1. **Mortgage Debt Reduction:** There were many ways suggested to engage the question of debt reduction, but overwhelmingly, reducing the debt (in all or in part) was the most dominant theme.
2. **Ministry Enhancement and Vision:** A second primary theme encouraged us to use the proceeds of the sale to enhance and grow our vision and ministry. A few prevailing ideas that were shared include: Recreating the outdoor worship space as a fully accessible space at the top of the hill, building a labyrinth, a creation care space, a community garden, as well as solar paneling the building. *A special note: the outdoor worship space could be used as an additional revenue source for wedding rentals and concerts.*
3. **Building Maintenance:** A third primary theme encouraged us to use the proceeds of the sale to focus on addressing the needs of our current church building. A few prevailing ideas that were shared include: repairing the roof, updating sanctuary and fellowship hall lighting, and a major update of the kitchen.

Special Note on Other Themes: While not a primary theme, one other notable point shared by a few people discussed investing the proceeds of the sale and using the yearly returns to enhance future ministry goals.

Special Notes on Land Valuation: According to Beltrami County the current estimated land value for Calvary's entire 38.75 acres is \$227,900. After visiting with a real estate agent, he valued the back 20 acres of the property around \$250,000-\$300,000. The current offer on 17.5 acres of the back property is just above \$1,000,000.

We know there are a few major challenges before us as a congregation. Deferred maintenance of our building and property, our mortgage debt, and the needs of a growing ministry are to name a few. These major challenges align clearly with the three primary themes shared by our congregation. We remain humbled by the conversations and discussion around this opportunity for our congregation and are encouraged to move forward into the mission that God has instore for Calvary. What a joy it is to share life together!

Calvary's Stewardship of Land Task Force: Randy Frisk, Sue Supalla, Tom Hatfield, Wayne Coombs, Evan Gack, Nicholle Bieberdorf, Garrett Fultz, and Pr. Chris Leach.

