



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

A Prayer for the Great Promise

"...And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:20b (NRSV)

Lord, these are the last words that you say to your closest friends according to Matthew's Gospel. They are the last words you say to us on those pages, and what are they? A promise. A promise for today. A promise for tomorrow. A promise for every moment that is to come.

It seems like I am reminded of that promise when I most need to be reminded of it. I love that you do that, even when it surprises me. I remember you doing that very specifically a few years ago, surprising me in two moments, one I was part of and one I was not. The first was a party my wife and daughter attended up north. It was a birthday party for a one year old who is the son of some of our closest friends. There was, as I understand, a fair amount of energetic busyness with many kids and adults moving and playing in their home. The day was full of joy, and not just any joy, but the kind of joy filled with your spirit; that gift we receive in baptism. They had fun and it was exciting to hear about it and anticipate our daughter's birthday which would be coming up.

The second of these experiences was another birthday party at the same time which I attended. It was for a wonderful woman turning ninety-nine. It was an enjoyable afternoon which I would not describe as busy at all. In fact, it was rather peaceful. We sipped coffee, enjoyed a piece of cake, shared stories around our table, and celebrated together as family and friends. It was a great afternoon and yes, Lord, you were there. In the smiles and warmth of the people gathered, your Spirit was moving again.

After meeting up with my wife and sharing our two experiences, I noticed something special in those moments. Though they shared a common purpose, be that celebrating a birthday, the two gatherings were about as different as one can imagine. One was quiet while the other noisy. One was busy while the other peaceful. Though they were both very different, the joy was the same, because Lord, it was your joy, completely through your promise to be with us always. That is the truth of it, be it in the first year of one of your children's lives or the ninety-ninth birthday and beyond, you are there. Renewing us again with your spirit. Drawing us together as your body. Forgiving us and equipping us to live as your people every day in every way.

Return us again to the power of your promise, Lord. You are with us. We are yours. Surprise us when we need to be surprised. Quiet us when we need to be quieted. Connect us when we need to be connected. May this summer bring both the rest and the joy we need, both bound in your Spirit. Always in your name, AMEN.

Peace,
Pastor Chris

Special Congregational Meeting:

JUNE 14, 2026 AT 10:15AM AFTER WORSHIP

The church council has called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, June 14 to discuss a motion to consider selling a portion of our back property. The summary work from the Stewardship of Land Task Force details their findings and is available for reading. It was mailed/emailed out to every household in May and continues to be available at the church office and on the usher tables. As we are preparing for this meeting on the 14th, we invite you to reach out to the task force or council members with your questions. They will also be available after worship on June 7 for conversation. Thank you for your participation in this process throughout the last year, and we look forward to exploring this resolution after worship on Sunday, June 14. God's peace!

Save the Date for our Annual Church Meeting: August 2, 2026 at 10:15am after worship.

Join us for Summer Worship at Calvary



We are excited to resume our mid-week worship opportunity on Tuesdays at 6:00pm starting June 2. Join us for a relaxed, Acoustic Contemporary Worship in the lounge. Communion will be served each week, and we will also welcome the sharing of faith statements as the summer rolls on. Our traditions worship will continue on Sundays at 9:00am with a few contemporary Sundays thrown into the mix. Faith statements will also be shared at each of these services. It is going to be a wonderful summer of life together. See you in worship.

Traditions Worship: Sunday Mornings at 9:00am

Acoustic Contemporary Worship: Tuesday Evenings at 6:00pm

A Huge Thank YOU!



You are amazing, church! Our end of the year Stewardship Appeal has been a great success again. Your response was amazing, and again this year, we saw participants of all ages. What a joy! If you haven't had a chance to grab an envelope, there are still a few remaining. You could also make a gift on RebelGive and Jamie will pull an envelope to match your gift. We are

also still searching for a few new automated giver sign-ups. Each new one will unlock an additional \$1,000 match with the appeal. If you have been considering it, there is no better time than right now. Just contact Jamie or Garrett in the office to get started.

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

Pr. Chris and the Stewardship Ministry Team

Calvary's Summer Office Hours

Starting the first week of June, Calvary's office hours will be changing. The office will be open Monday-Thursday, from 8:30am-4:30pm, and on Sundays from 8:30-10:00am. The church office and front of the building will be closed on Fridays through the summer.

Calvary Crafters

Crafters will be working on fleece blankets, baby items and hats, mittens, and scarves in June. These items go to local charities, our church and people outside our community. This Spring, two prayer shawls were mailed beyond our city and one out-of-state this spring. Contact Cheryl at 218-368-3098 with questions or to join our group.

June Meeting Dates

June 8, 7:00pm at Cheryl's house

June 22, 10:00am at church

Blessing the Seniors



On Sunday, May 17, we gathered to celebrate Calvary's graduating high school seniors with our Baccalaureate service. Here are some snapshots of our congregation gathered together to bless them for the next step of their journey.



See Calvary's June Birthdays Here

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

June Ministry Partner: Meals on Wheels



Calvary's Monthly Ministry Partner for June is Meals on Wheels! Our ministry partners are organizations that connect with and serve elders in our community – Meals on Wheels in June. Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to people in their homes; it's one point of connection for folks who may be homebound. Calvary is a long-time supporter of this vital ministry, and we are proud to continue our partnership of service in the Bemidji area!

You can give to our monthly ministry partners through RebelGive or by check. If your writing a check, please make the check out to Calvary Lutheran, with the name of the mission partner (example: "Meals on Wheels") written in the memo line.

Have Fun at Camp

We have campers going to Camp Emmaus this summer, and it's going to be a great experience. Send us your pictures and we'll share them with the congregation to encourage even more kids to attend the camp. We'll also try to make some visits to camp, so let us know when you will be there. Most of all, have a great Bible camp experience!

Sunday School Thanks



A huge thanks to everyone who helped with Sunday School this year from the teachers and helpers who were there most Sundays and Wednesdays, to the parents who stepped in when they got a text on Saturday night. It's

an all-out effort for a congregation to raise up faithful kids, and so many volunteers have been providing extra grace for our kids. We'll do it all again next year. Watch for your chance to help again.

Pray for our Duluth Travelers

Here's the list of participants in this year's Middle School Adventure Serve trip to Duluth. Aliya McMartin, Braelyn Holmgren, Ella Simon, Emma Erickson, Olivia Swedberg, Piper Whiting, Ashley Holmgren, Jen Erickson, & Brett Carter. Keep them in your prayers as they travel to serve and play June 14-16. We'll bring back some stories to share and we thank you for your continued support of Calvary youth!

Pray for the Houseboat Crew

The group heading out for the Senior High Houseboat trip includes Abby Ravnikar, Amanda Olson, Evan Gack, Kaden Lucas, Kaylah McFarlane, Julia Pirkl, Kinsley Olson, Megan Berg, Jenna Olson, & Brett Carter. Prayers requested for a safe trip and an amazing time of disconnecting from the everyday and reconnecting with faith.

VBS Decorating Meeting - June 7

It's time to start making our rainforest for this year's Vacation Bible School. Let's meet after church on June 7 (about 10:15am) to dig into some projects that can be done both at home and at church. Whether you can be here when we meet a few days this summer, or if you like to make vines while watching your favorite show, we want you to have the opportunity to help. Any questions, talk to Brett.

VBS Help Wanted



It takes a big group of us to make VBS happen every summer. Now is your chance to sign up to help. We need teachers, helpers, crew leaders, decorators, crafters, photographers, gamers, and more. Last year we had over 40 volunteers who helped in all of these areas. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2tsuf4zf> to register as a volunteer.

Office Closed



Our Office and Preschool will be fabulous Friday, June 19, 2026 in recognition of National Independence Day.

FINANCIAL REPORT

12 MONTH FISCAL YEAR – JULY-JUNE

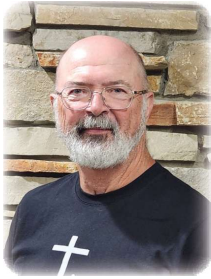
General Fund – April

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>
\$102,736	\$105,869	\$1,031,148
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
\$96,348	\$105,502	\$1,008,354

Cash, Receivables, & Savings:	\$181,514
February Ministry Partner: Churches United	\$1,785
Calvary Foundation Balance:	\$63,662

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

A Message From Calvary Council ~ Curt Peterson



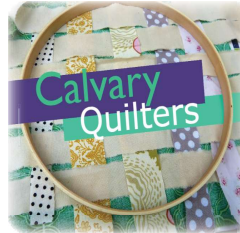
Hello Calvary!!!

Whew, what an exciting close out to the school year! The baccalaureate service was a joy. It's always exciting to see and hear what lies in store for our high school seniors. Now, we are moving into our summer schedule and looking ahead to our annual meeting August 2. In the meantime, there are a couple of meetings coming up this month, detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, concerning the possibility of selling a portion of our land. It's exciting to see where the Spirit is leading us. Pastor Jeremiah will be on sabbatical this summer, a chance for him to kick back, relax, and renew. I think I can speak for the council when I say I hope you enjoy your summer, whatever your plans, and please remember to pray for our school groups on their adventures this summer.

Curt Peterson - Member at Large

Preschool News

Calvary Quilters



Quilters will continue their weekly meetings through June 11, then will meet Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, August 13 from 9:00-11:00am this summer. They will begin their weekly Thursday meetings again in September. If you would like to join them, reach out to Deb Bartz at 218-556-3708.

Congratulations Preschool Graduates



CLASS OF *
2026 *
Vivienne Branham, Ava Dobmeier, Ian Fliss, Logan Fluey, Cici Kinne, Hudson Lorton, Frederick Petersen, Kully Rasmus, Aria Reiersen, Jolene Reiersen, Juniper Zachow, Kobe Belair, Colby

Dremmel, Emma Eck, Sylvester Goose, Arden Henriksen, Niko Kondziolka, Gavin Page, Scout Reiersen, Willie Webb, Jack Bender, Annika Kaehne, Arya Kranz, Mihka Risberg, Fletcher Senenfelder, Lorraina Trego, & Adam Winkka.

We are so proud of you, and you will do wonderful things as you move into kindergarten! Thanks for making Calvary Preschool part of your journey!

Ashley Holmgren - Director of Preschool Ministry



RebelGive

Connect Through Giving!



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



Summer Programming



Our first day of summer programming for Preschool and our School-Age Camp Crew is Monday, June 1. We will have five 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!

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)