



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Calvary's COVID-19 Update

Calvary continues to honor the MN Stay at Home order as recommended by our governor. If the order lifts, our staff will continue to work from home and be available to the congregation by appointment. Please email or call us between 9:00-4:00 pm Monday through Friday and we will be happy to assist you. Calvary's Child Care remains open for essential workers in our community through Friday, May 29. Summer child care (for preschool through elementary aged children) will begin the first week of June.

Calvary's leadership did apply for a Payroll Protection Program loan and received it.. These monies are designated to paying our staff and for mortgage interest and utilities. This is a huge blessing during this time so our ministry can continue and be reimagined. Calvary's worship staff continues to provide two worship services a week. The Tele-Care team calls the congregation every 2 weeks with undated information and questions. It is great to stay connected this way. As always, our website and Facebook page have the latest information. Be safe, Calvary church! And may God continue to bless us with clear vision during these days.

An Open Letter to Those Who Worship With Us at Calvary Lutheran Church.

The coronavirus has changed life for all of us. It has changed life in the church. I don't believe it has shaken our faith. Our financial lives have changed, some dramatically, some only a little. The financial health of our church has changed on the more dramatic side.

Today we received our economic stimulus check from the federal government. It was labeled as an IRS Tax Refund in my checking account. Billie and I will be faced with a decision. Many of you will be faced with the same decision. How much, if any, can we use to help support our church.

A congregational family of four will likely receive \$3400.00 Our family of two received \$2400.00. Some of you will be desperately in need of all the dollars. That is understandable. Some will be able to give a half percent (\$17 .00 or \$12.00). Some will be able to give one percent (\$34.00 or \$24.00). Some will be able to give five percent (\$170.00 or \$120.00). Some will be able to tithe ten percent (\$340.00 or \$240.00) Some may be able to give more or even the entire amount.

I have faith in our wonderful, multigenerational congregation. Those who can give a little, will still have the blessing of giving. Those who can give more, will know that they are helping all of those who are involved with our congregation and its ministry. Those who are able to give a larger gift, because it was unanticipated income, will know that they are fortunate enough to uphold the church in its sudden need.

These are difficult times that draw us all closer to reexamine our lives, our family priorities, our personal relationship with Christ and our needs for the future.

Please prayerfully consider your decisions for how you will use the economic refund.

Bob and Billie Edwards

A Letter to Our Congregational Family

Needing some help getting groceries or running other errands while we all "stay at home?" Your Calvary family is here to help! We have a team of volunteers willing to assist those who are vulnerable or homebound during this time. Email or call Pr. Jeremiah if you'd like some assistance.

**We're Here
to Help!**

Bible Study & Book Club with Vr. Daphne

CALVARY BOOK CLUB

Please join us on Thursday, May 28 from 7:00-8:30 pm to discuss the third book in The Potluck Club book series. It's called "The Potluck Club Takes the Cake" by Linda Evans Shepherd and Eva Marie Everson. All are welcome!

GATHER BIBLE STUDY

Gather Bible Study is meeting on Zoom these days. We meet every other Thursday, and everyone is welcome to attend, whether it's your first time, or you have been a member since the beginning! We hold these meetings every other Thursday from 11:00-12:30 pm. Our May meetings will be on are Thursday, May 7 and Thursday, May 21. Please join us!

Contact Vr. Daphne at VicarDaphne@calvarybemidji.org to receive information to join in on these meetings through Zoom. We hope to see you there!

Trouble Signing Up for RebelGive? Contact Garrett!

Do you still need to sign up for our online giving platform, RebelGive? Are you having issues with the setup process that is keeping you from completing your giving account? Do you have any questions about RebelGive?



If you need help with anything regarding RebelGive, reach out to Garrett! He is always available to help you, answer your questions, and get you signed up for RebelGive. Garrett can be reached by email at gfultz@CalvaryBemidji.org or by phone at 218-533-0423. Electronic giving is FREE when using a bank account and it cuts down on our staff having to physically touch money and checks that are dropped off or mailed, keeping our staff as safe and healthy as possible!

Community Needs

One of the biggest needs right now are for what the MN Department of Health calls Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for essential workers and students, patients, clients, etc. PPE includes face masks, gowns, and alcohol based hand- sanitizer. Bemidji is in need of two thousand (2,000) face masks. The material has been donated to the United Way of Bemidji, so the need is for volunteers to sew the masks at home using this pattern from the state. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/how-to-make-face-mask-coronavirus.html> or any pattern they want. Finished masks can be returned to United Way and they will distribute them accordingly. United Way is open from 11:00-5:00 pm during the week, and staff is available via phone call at 218-444-8929.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Another huge need is for volunteers age 50 and under to help with food distribution for following places:

- Bemidji food shelf - M, W 9-3pm
- Community Table
- Ruby's Pantry
- North Country Food Bank
- Churches United.

There is also a need for volunteer staff and material items for homeless shelters in town. Some of these shelters house people who are COVID positive. I have attached a job description below. The shelter is also looking for items to help people who are quarantined to pass time, such as, games and other forms of entertainment. They are also accepting food donations.

[Covid Job Description](#) - Please contact Denae Alamo if you are able to volunteer in any of the areas above. She can be reached by phone at 218-444-8929 or through email at atdenae@unitedwaybemidji.org

EVERGREEN CRISIS SHELTER

Gary Russel stated the biggest need right now is for face masks and gowns for youth and staff to wear when working with youth who may be symptomatic. Staff are now required to wear PPE equipment, so if you have any masks or cloth gowns available, please contact Gary. Other items the youth can use to really engage and pass time quickly in case of quarantined are: Kid interesting puzzles (not puzzles that would appeal only to seniors,) cool-detailed coloring books, comic books, mp3 players and headphones, anything that kids can be absorbed in to help pass the time.

*The shelter has 12 staff members. They can house 10 youth at a time. Contact Gary Russel at 218-751-4332



2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - BUILDING REPAIR PART 2 – CLEAR VISION!

During April, our second offering was raising money to help offset the cost of repairing the water damage to the western wall of the church (near the preschool entrance). Because of the size of the project, our second offering in May is related! This month, we're raising money for Clarity Glass to seal the windows, doors, and expansion joints along the wall to avoid future damage. The cost is \$4,000 for this part of the project. We made great strides toward our goal through April, and we are getting close to being able to begin our repairs! We hope to begin our project by the end of May. Let's work together to assure good *vision* through our windows into the future! Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope for you to use in order to bless Calvary with a gift to help with these building repairs." You can mail or drop it off at church (door 6).

Calvary received a \$20,000 Nielsen Foundation grant for building repairs. Calvary's leadership was pleased to hear that we were approved for the grant to help Calvary get started with our building repairs. We want to double their gift and pay for phase 1 of the necessary repairs. Your offerings, given through May's second offering or to the Annual project, will go to help expedite these repairs. Calvary is grateful to be a valued community partner in Bemidji and recognized with gratitude for all we do to support a variety of activities in our building.



Calvary Care Cards

Calling all people who like to write letters, notes, or cards! Care Cards is a new ministry at Calvary aimed at providing another way for us to connect with our Calvary family during this time of separation. To join this important new ministry, follow these simple steps:

- 1.) Contact Vicar Daphne Urban through email at vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org to join the writing team and get a list of folks to write to.
- 2.) Use stationary or cards that you have at home to write each person on your list a heartfelt card and mail it to them!

Our Continued Worship Opportunities

Calvary's online worship services will continue in May on Wednesdays and Sundays. We offer two unique worship opportunities every week that can be found on our Facebook page and the Calvary website, www.calvarybemidji.org/sermons/. Grab your bible, pullup a chair, and join us for weekly worship.

We also encourage you to invite a friend! Send the link out through text, email, or on your social media page to invite others to join us in worship! We are church together!

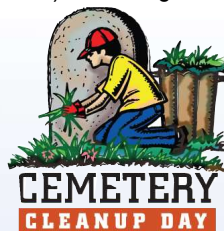
Want to be a part of worship? Video tape yourself sharing special music, recording up to 90 second videos where you see God at work, record your family saying the Lord's Prayer and/or the Apostles' Creed and share with any of our worship staff. The more people we can involve in worship, the more we will feel connected to one another.

If you are interested in joining Calvary as a member or looking to schedule a baptism, we are still finding ways to accomplish these important faith milestones.

Cemetery Clean Up Day Moved to Saturday, May 16

If we are allowed to gather by this time, Our Cemetery Clean Up has been moved to Saturday, May 16. You are invited to help spruce up our beloved Calvary Cemetery (Roosevelt Road.) We will gather around 9:00 am for a variety of projects to be done. Please bring water, rakes, work gloves, and work boots along!

To participate, text or call Arden Stevens at 218-556-8970 to let them know you can help. Put your faith into action and come to serve!



FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>March</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$90,901.....	\$58,973
Y-T-D	\$217,617.....	\$202,247
Preschool ...	\$14,730.....	\$29,137
Y-T-D	\$230,570.....	\$251,523

Gen. Fund is Jan.-Dec.; Preschool is July-June

Cash & Receivables \$50,734

March Ministry Partner:

Bemidji Community Food Shelf: \$5,863

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$40,674

Church, you heard the plea to help with a financial shortfall that we experienced this year and I am so grateful to be a part of a community who can hear a need and respond! Your generous donations helped at a crucial time. Thank you for your ongoing support with your time, talent, and treasure to help build up the kingdom of God through Calvary Lutheran Church. God loves you and so do I!

Gratefully, Pastor Genelle

Meet Mitch Eickman, Calvary Council's Member At-Large

"Hello Calvary, my name is Mitch Eickman. I have been a member of the council since January of 2019, and it has been an eventful 17 months. My wife, two children and I have been members since 2014, shortly after we moved to Bemidji. I am honored to serve as a member of the council and look forward to the rest of 2020. I find myself looking forward to Sunday mornings reconnecting with the church, listening to the sermons and listening to the praise band and special music from everyone's homes. I hope to speak to you in person this year about the church, our financials and discuss the question, 'What is the church going to look like after COVID?'"



The Great Church Rummage Sale

Remember in 2018 when we read some challenging books about the Reformation? As we celebrated being a Lutheran Church for 500 years, we also read some shocking news about the rhythm of reformations. Phyllis Tickle's basic thesis was that "every 500 years, the Church goes through a rummage sale, and cleans out the old forms of spirituality and replaces it with new ones. This does not mean that previous forms become obsolete or invalid. It simply means they lose pride of place as the dominant form of Christianity." (Apr 27, 2008)

While written by Tickle in 2008, in 2020 the church is seeing a reformation of new and engaging ministries during this time of COVID-19. The church has had to engage in new, awesome, and wonderful ways of being God's church. Scary and yet life giving. A reformation of cleaning out the old to make ways for the new. It is, indeed, a GREAT time to be the church!! (And, to be honest - a tad bit exhausting...) Move Holy Spirit, move us and shape us! Be Thou My Vision so that we can see better as you see.

2020 Programmatic Year Wraps Up On-Line

A huge thank you to all the Sunday School helpers, Kingdom Kids drivers, Kidz Choir volunteers, confirmation guides, Lent mentors, CLUB adult volunteers, Calvary Alive meal prep, servers, and clean up teams and so many more. Calvary programming could not happen without all of you taking a key role. This year didn't close like we normally do - with great celebration and fun. But know that your efforts don't go unnoticed or unappreciated. We CAN'T WAIT to get back together when it is safe to do so and continue growing in our life and faith together. THANK YOU FOR BEING THE CHURCH!

Need a prayer?

Calvary's pastors have recorded some prayers for all of you that can be found on the COVID-19 page of our website, CalvaryBemidji.org. These prayers provide comfort, help, and faith in the God who walks with us during these times of great uncertainty. Prayer requests can also be shared on the website or Facebook page. May our lives be a constant prayer.

CALVARY LUTHERAN EMERGENCY PAGER: 218-308-6654

24 HOUR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: 1-800-422-0045

CHURCHES UNITED OF BEMIDJI: 218-444-1380

Visit our website at calvarybemidji.org to join us for our online worship!