



2508 Washington Ave SW
Bemidji, MN 56601

Update on the S.H.E.D. fun-raiser!

Calvary embarked into doing a raffle to help support our ministry and mission through technology needs over and above our general budget. As a new venture, we thought that the tickets would sell quickly both because sheds are often purchased in the spring, and because of this shed's high quality construction.

Things have not progressed quite the way we had hoped. As of today, we have hardly covered our expenses, let alone paid for the technology upgrades that the fundraising was supposed to support. Because of this, Calvary will be extending our drawing deadline to June 20 (Father's Day – would be a great gift for dad) in hopes that we will be able to increase our ticket sales, and thus better supporting our ministry here at Calvary.

We recognize that this is a different plan than we originally had expressed when many of you bought tickets, and we hope it won't diminish your desire to help meet our goal. If, however, you have purchased a ticket and are not willing to support this time extension, please contact Garrett (gfultz@calvarybemidji.org or 751-1893) to request a refund. Thank you for your continued support of God's mission in our community!

We do need some volunteers to join in promoting this fundraiser in order to make this extension successful. Please prayerfully consider how you can help, and contact Shar at spaquette@calvarybemidji.org.



THANK YOU

Calvary Staff would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Randy Frisk - moving the SHED around town! Joyce and Dallas Way, Steve and Peggy Reznicek, and Sue Moen for the transformation of our choir room/meeting space! Sammi Weigel for all your help during Holy Week! Ethan Oftedahl for learning and growing with Shar in our worship/video production! Judy Westerman, Penny Pokorny and Betty Port for cleaning and decorating our church during the Easter season. All the great office volunteers that have returned to help us out in our daily routines - we missed you!

Reflect Well

PASTOR GENELLE'S SABBATICAL

Pr. Genelle's sabbatical and road trip has begun. As our pathways diverge for these three months, Pr. Genelle will be able to do some travel, meet people and renew relationships. Her eyes are focused on seeing Jesus in all these new places and people. Back here at Calvary, faith formation programming is wrapping up as in person worship is ramping up. Thanks to all who have stepped in to provide care and ministry to others in Pr. Genelle's absence.

One of the new developments has been that Pastor Genelle and Chad have decided to move back to the farm in Bagley. It has been 17 years that Chad has commuted to the farm to tend the land and animals so Genelle could be closer to her work. With Catherine soon driving and Genelle's willingness to commute, now is the time to return to the farm. Genelle's focus on her family during this sabbatical has gifted them the time to make this move possible.

If you haven't yet, please share a memory, story, or picture with the REFLECT team by emailing it to sabbatical@calvarybemidji.org or drop something off at the Calvary office. Here are a couple examples of memories, to the right is Pr. Genelle and the Frauenholtz family after Greta's baptism and below is our 2019 confirmation class.



Calvary's Incoming Vicar

This August will mark the completion of Vicar Daphne's internship with us at Calvary. As we bid her well in her future ministry, we'll be welcoming a new seminary student, Vicar Jami, who will begin his internship here toward the end of August. Prior to Vicar Jami's arrival, we'll be putting a few things in place to welcome him, and we need your help! Two items we need are 1) A place for him to live and 2) an internship committee. If you have a house/apartment/in-law suite that you'd be willing to volunteer or rent out, or would be interested in serving on Vicar Jami's internship committee, please contact Pr. Jeremiah.

Adult Education Opportunity

For those interested in some Christian Education, we have a treat for you! This month, our former Pastor Andrew is providing an in-depth study of Christianity in India in collaboration with the synod's India campaign. This is a 4 week series, with a 15-30 minute video and supplemental materials provided each Sunday beginning May 2. It will be available on the Facebook page of Pr. Andrew's Texas church (www.facebook.com/SaintMatthewLutheran) with more in-depth conversation with pastor Andrew over zoom the following Monday evening at 7:30 pm. If you're interested in joining in on the Monday evening conversations, please contact pastor Jeremiah (revholst@calvarybemidji.org) for the Zoom link.

Calvary's Faith Formation Program

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to extend an extra special thank you to all parents, students, and especially our faith formation leaders for all of your dedication this past year. It's been a time of many quick changes, difficult technology issues, and isolation frustrations for all of us, and we SO appreciate your flexibility, support, and patience as we worked together to provide faith formation for our younger members in the midst of the COVID pandemic. You're all amazing, and we are so grateful for the ways you step up to be the church together! If you are a parent of children Pre-K to 5th grade, please take a few minutes to complete a [faith formation survey](#)! Our goal is to offer faith formation programming that is fun, safe, engaging, and meets the needs of our families. We NEED your input to help us plan for the future of faith formation at Calvary.

Calvary Connection Update

This month we wrapped up our initial run of the Calvary Connection podcast. It began as a Lenten experiment – a way for us to join in conversation as a congregation around a fascinating book.

An experiment that you responded to extremely positively, it turned out! The engagement with the podcast was beyond our expectations, and we are grateful for the ways so many of you expressed your appreciation for the conversations we shared together. Due to the success of this initial series, plans are in the works for more Calvary Connection to come! During her sabbatical, Pastor Genelle will be doing a series on where she is and what's she's up to ("Journeying with Genelle"). In the fall, we have plans for another book study series similar to the original run. There's even preliminary work underway for a series on understanding our Lutheran faith!

Summer Baptism at Calvary

We are excited to announce that we can now offer baptism as a part of in person worship! We have baptism festivals coming up on Sunday, May 30 and Sunday, September 5. Summer Baptisms - If you are interested in having your child baptized at Calvary this summer, please contact Kim Warren (kwarren@calvarybemidji.org) in the church office for more information and to schedule a baptism.

Senior Recognition and Blessing WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Join us in prayer and celebration as we recognize and bless our high school graduates! We invite all Calvary connected seniors to join us in person on Wednesday, May 19 for a service of blessing to mark this important milestone in your life. If you plan to attend this special service please RSVP to Kim Warren (kwarren@calvarybemidji.org) by Wednesday, May 12. The Calvary community is invited to pray for our seniors and then to worship with us online on Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm.

Summer Softball League

It's that time of year again, softball season is here! Calvary is looking for more players to join our team. Softball begins the second week in May. Calvary's team plays once weekly at 6:30 pm. The tournament following the season begins in August. This is a great opportunity for some competition, fellowship, and fun! It's also a great way to meet other Calvary folks; Everyone age 14+ is welcome, male or female! If you're interested, visit with Garrett in the church office!

2ND OFFERING MINISTRY PARTNER - BSU LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY.

One of Calvary's main ministry partners is Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) of Bemidji, housed in the Lutheran Campus Center at 1221 Birchmont Dr. NE, at the south end of BSU's campus. LCM is a vital outreach of our church, as it establishes supportive relationships with and genuine hospitality for young adults during their college years. Pastor Emily serves both the BSU and Northwest Technical College communities, providing worship opportunities and connecting students with local churches in fellowship.



LCM is our May second offering partner - please help support this important ministry we share. You can donate using Rebel Give, or by writing a check to Calvary Lutheran with "second offering" in the memo line. Thank you again for supporting the work of the larger church!

Organ Update

What a rollercoaster! Fixed one day, broken the next...fixed again...broken the next day...the technician I have been working with is 95% sure that we can get some more years out of the organ if we replace the power supply...at a parts cost of \$2800 and with me installing back into the organ. To be transparent, we will not be able to return the part if, by chance, it is not the fix.

Because this is not in our already stretched budget, we will not purchase this part without money in hand. Through some generous donations, we already have almost half of the amount needed - yay God! If you love organ music and have the resources to give to this project, please do! Just indicate on your gift that it is for the organ repair.

Calvary Clean Up Days

The Calvary building is open and having regular activities again! After being closed for a almost a year we have some cleaning projects that we need your help with. We are looking for small groups of folks to come in on Thursdays to do a variety of small cleaning projects.

Calvary Clubs

Theology Club is meeting on Thursday, May 6 at 6:00 pm at Diamond Point Park! Group will discuss which theology book to read and discuss next. Please come, all are welcome!

Gather Bible Study is meeting on Thursday, May 11 and 20 11:00-12:30 pm on zoom AND in person (hybrid), utilizing the WELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. Our theme this month is "The Journey of Generations, waiting to be unwrapped." Please come, all are welcome!

Care Cards Club continues to write cards of hope, encouragement, memorial, prayers, birthdays and inspiration to Calvary members. Please contact me if you'd like to join this letter writing team!

Contact Vicar Daphne for more information on these clubs, to get the zoom links, or just to say hello: vicardaphne@calvarybemidji.org

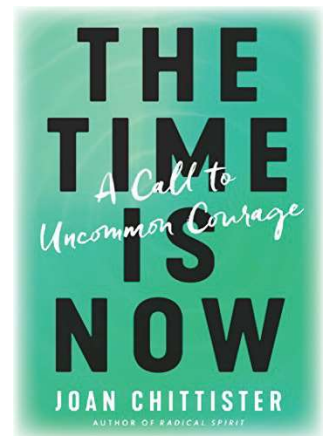
See Calvary's May Birthdays Here!

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

Summer Book Study

Interested in more book study conversation with your Calvary family? This summer, Tamara Mason invites one and all to join in reading and discussing the book *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister.

"For the weary, the cranky, and the fearful, Sister Joan's energizing message invites us to participate in a vision for a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today. This is spirituality in action, this is practical and powerful activism for our times. Pairing scriptural insights with stirring narratives of the truth-tellers that came before us, Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment".



The group will gather for the first session on Wednesday, June 2 after church about 7:15 pm at the new fire pit on the south end of the parking lot. Bring your own lawn chair and join in as we discuss the book's introduction and first chapter!

Synod Assembly

On May 22, Calvary representatives will be joining with others from around the synod to take part in our annual synod assembly, doing the business of the larger regional church. Like our congregational annual meeting, this year synod assembly will be virtual. Please pray for us as we work for God's mission together!

FINANCIAL REPORT

7 MONTH FISCAL YEAR - JANUARY TO JULY

	Monthly Income	Monthly Inc. Budget	Monthly Exp.	Monthly Exp. Budget
March				
General Fund	\$60,025	\$66,485	\$74,381	\$65,350
Preschool	\$45,072	\$30,345	\$18,466	\$29,276

Cash & Receivables: \$405,602.06

March Ministry Partner: Bemidji Community Food Shelf \$3,695

Calvary Foundation Balance: \$45,821.65

**Needed each week to support the budget is \$15,000.*

Getting to Know Council-at-Large Member, Nicholle Bieberdorf

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Nicholle Bieberdorf, and I am one of the newly elected members of our Church Council. I have served on our Council in years past. In fact, I remember celebrating Pastor Genelle's 10th anniversary while on the Council, so that tells you how long ago it was. In the years since, I've been blessed to be serving with Pastor Nate and the other adult leaders with the High School Club and missions trips. I have also most recently been on the Foundation Board working to grow that ministry with your gifts, prayers, and support. I am looking forward to serving you as part of our Church leadership. I will also be serving as the Chair of the "Explore Well" committee that is part of Pastor Genelle's Sabbatical exploration and our renewed Strategic Plan for Calvary. More to come on that in the months ahead.



My husband, Eric, and I have been members of Calvary for over 25 years, raising our children, Laura, Ryan, and Aaron in this church. Calvary has always felt special to us and ALIVE with the Holy Spirit. Gratefulness is too small of a word to convey the depth of feeling for how wonderful it has been to walk together on our journeys of faith, praise, and service to God - and I'm talking about both our family unit, but also with this congregation together as the Family of God. I shared a story at my dad's funeral in December about how when my brother and I would leave the house, that my dad would call out, "Remember who you are!" As a young child, I thought at first that he was afraid that I would forget my name and not be able to get back home. But Dad clarified by reminding us that we were children of God and that reminder before leaving the house was, in his way, a blessing on our departure. From Psalms 100:3, "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." (NIV).

This past year, the Lost Year, seems so surreal; almost like falling asleep during a movie and waking up trying to piece together what has been going on while you've been asleep, or like we are coming out of a long hibernation feeling maybe just a little groggy. So we are waking up in a completely different spot than when we fell asleep. This spot requires that we are going to need to have conversations about priorities at Calvary, and we are going to need to strategically plan, and we are going to need to financially support what we determine our priorities to be. One way right now is to support the S.H.E.D fundraiser that will go for supporting our technology needs. Tickets are available online or in the Church Office, but hurry, the drawing is June 20!

My friends, I look forward to serving you; to worshipping with you; to planning with you; and to growing with you. Remember who you are!

Peace,
Nicholle

Worship Opportunities - Come and Worship

Calvary Lutheran Church continues to offer many worship opportunities, both in-person and online. We realize that there continue to be many immuno-compromised people that just cannot worship with us in our sanctuary, so we pray that our online opportunities continue to help people feel connected. We are currently offering one in-person service per week at 8:30 am on Sundays. We ask that worshipers pre-register on our website beginning on Friday for the following Sunday each week. We are pre-registering to provide for contact tracing information, should there be a need, as well as providing some notice for us if we need to set up our overflow worship space. Please know that we welcome everyone to worship at Calvary! We are just trying to do our due diligence to honor God and protect our neighbors. While it feels different, we continue to look glorify God through all of our worship.

Calvary is also co-hosting the summer drive in services held at the fairgrounds this summer. We have developed a wonderful partnership with First Lutheran and Lutheran Campus Ministry as we worship together in our cars. Again, seems a little weird, but God is glorified!

And, finally, we are offering an online Sunday service each weekend. This online worship can be accessed through our website (bottom right of the home page), on YouTube, or on Facebook. Please continue to reach out with any prayer requests, comments, questions, and we will follow up as needed.

SUMMER WORSHIP SNEAK PEEK - AND SURVEY - PLEASE RESPOND!

Sundays through June and July we will be focusing on some creation themes, continuing to meet in person at 8:30 am and online opportunities. In our midweek worship, beginning on May 26, we will be hearing the wise words of our soon to be 9th graders, as they share their statements of faith. Please [take the survey](#) to let us know your day and time preferences for an additional in person worship opportunity. We want to know how to best use our time, energy and resources to honor our God in worship.

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