

# **Calvary Lutheran Church Annual Report January 1 – December 31, 2020**

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Calvary Lutheran Church, at the Crossroads of Grace and Service, shares Jesus Christ with others so that all may discover and experience God’s Hope and Love.

## **REPORT CONTENTS**

Page:	Page:	Page:
<b>2. Agenda</b> <b>2. Ballot</b> <b>3. Pastor Stephen Norby</b> <b>3. Pastor Justin Fenger</b> <b>4. Dana Kocka, Youth Director</b> <b>4. President Stuart Larson</b> <b>5. Pastor’s Discretion Report</b> <b>5. 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>6. Calvary Statistics</b> <b>6. 2020 General Fund Financials</b> <b>7. Caring and Outreach</b> <b>7. Family Ministry</b> <b>8. Finance Ministry</b> <b>8. Learning Ministry</b> <b>9. Learning Ministry Continued</b> <b>9. Carl Hammer Fund Information</b>	<b>9. Resource Ministry</b> <b>9. Bethel Cemetery</b> <b>10. Calvary Endowment</b> <b>10. Worship Ministry</b> <b>11. Youth Ministry</b> <b>11. Quilting</b>  <b><u>Please see green packet for</u></b> <b><u>Treasurers Report</u></b>

## **Our Vision**

The Vision of Calvary Lutheran Church is to mobilize Christians dedicated to transforming lives.

We are a passionate family of believers, deeply committed to each other. We nurture, grow, mobilize and send our members out beyond the walls of our church to change the world, one person, one neighborhood, one community at a time, all while trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us. In so doing this we encourage experimentation and new ways of doing things. We are fearless and practice uncommon love and hospitality.

## **CALVARY VISION, MISSION AND VALUES**

The VISION of Calvary Lutheran Church is to mobilize Christians dedicated to transforming lives.

Our MISSION is to share Jesus Christ with others so that all may experience Gods Love and Hope

Our direction is shaped by the following VALUES:

Jesus is the center of our faith • We nurture strong relationships and encourage all to share their gifts • We are welcoming, compassionate, and engaged within our community • We build partnerships with other organizations to expand Christ’s mission • We are good stewards of our resources • We mentor, educate and equip people to develop future leaders within the church • We encourage creativity in our services and programs • We trust the Holy Spirit to lead us.

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

9:30 a.m. January 24, 2021

## DEVOTION AGENDA

### I. BUSINESS

#### A. APPROVE MINUTES

#### B. SPENDING GUIDE

#### C. BYLAW CHANGES

1. C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

2. C12.13. The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

#### D. REFINANCE MORTGAGE

#### E. BALLOTS/ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### F. OTHER BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

### II. REPORTS

1. Pastor Steve Norby

2. Pastor Justin Fenger

3. Pastor's Discretion

4. Youth & Education Director Dana Kocka

5. Calvary Statistics

6. Treasurer Report

7. Caring & Outreach Ministry

8. Family Ministry

9. Finance Ministry

10. Learning Ministry

11. Resource Ministry

12. Worship Ministry

13. Youth Ministry

14. Bethel Cemetery

15. Calvary Endowment

16. President Stuart Larson

### III. ADJOURNMENT—LORD'S PRAYER

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## Ballot

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

President Elect \_\_\_\_\_ Al Judson  
3-Year Term  
(2021-2023)

Family Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ Brandi McMahon  
3-Year Term  
(2021-2023)

Youth Core \_\_\_\_\_ Mandy Runyan  
3-Year Term  
(2021-2023)

Resource Core \_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Aanenson  
3-Year Term  
(2021-2023)

CALVARY ENDOWMENT FUND (Vote for 2)  
3-Year Term \_\_\_\_\_ Al Judson  
(2021-2023)

\_\_\_\_\_ Andy Kietzman

#### BETHEL CEMETERY (Vote for 2)

2-Year Term \_\_\_\_\_ Ron Norenberg  
(2021-2022)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Kent Cease

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Vote for 2)

2-Year Term \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Harmon  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sheryl Kosel  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wayne Koop

## **Pastor Stephen Norby**

John 14: 27. *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.* – Jesus

As we look back at 2020, with all the conflict and controversy I am led to share these words of our Lord. The pandemic has changed everything, and I never thought that I would see the day that citizens of our country would attempt to overthrow our Federal government. Serving the Lord with you has given peace to my heart and as you look over this annual report, you will see how God provides ... abundantly.

Since March 15 restrictions for worship were instituted for our safety. As Lead Pastor, my focus has been serving you in ways that include:

- *Calling 212 family units on the phone to touch base for prayer and mutual support. These calls will continue in part because of the peace that is given with conversation.*
- *Keeping in Touch has faithfully connected 'homebound' members with lay visitors. I have faithfully visited almost all on the list.*
- *Adult Education between services at 9:30am has provided adult educational opportunities.*
- *Confirmation ministry for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders was faithfully done including faith statements shared at the service of confirmation.*
- *The Finance Core adopted our new envelope system that is very successful. The Endowment Committee administered a bequest of \$40,000 that has blessed the Kingdom of God. Statements of Intent are being promoted and tracked. Thanks to you our fund balances are strong.*
- *The assignment of the Resources Core has been given to Pastor Justin. ALICE training for dealing with a shooter in our building was offered to our community.*
- *Worship Core has provided many and various worship experiences from summertime in the park to Christmas Eve with glow sticks. I officiated at many baptisms, funerals, weddings as well as working with Sandy James our worship coordinator. We developed a meaningful Lenten Series and look forward to doing this again.*
- *The Innovation Core was not able to host a council retreat because of COVID-19. They stand ready and willing to assist individuals, groups and Council Cores to implement ideas into action.*
- *The Executive Committee with Wayne Pearson has given guidance in personal issues. 2021 will be a year of opportunity as new configurations for mission are explored with transparency and partnership.*

Pastoral Care continues to be my top priority next to Preaching God's Word as well as properly administering the Holy Sacraments. With the 'Peace' of Christ that our world can neither give nor take away, 2021 promises to be a year of renewed celebration within our sanctuary.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve

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## **Pastor Justin Fenger**

What does God want to show us?

Then where do we move?

I always marvel at Philips request to Nathaniel, "Come and see" before anything else Philip invites Nathaniel to come and check out what God is doing. How often I have moved without pausing and asking, "What does God want to show me?" Instead, I begin to move in my own direction and invite God to come and follow me. I think I got it backwards. Calvary's annual meeting is a time to pause and ask, "what does God want to show us?" To reflect on the last year and to acknowledge where we are currently in the life of the congregation. Over this past year I have seen incredible growth, hard to believe with our doors closed half the year, but because our doors were closed we shifted our focus to serve and envisioned different ways to show up in people's lives. Our transformation into technology and online, offering worship and classes. Our youth and children seemed to be involved at every level of congregational life especially Sunday school and worship because they record their gifts out in neighborhoods, home, and school. We have a daily devotional series through our daily texts and adult education that can be accessed right through your fingertips. I realize it is not the same and the hope that all goes back to normal soon, but until that time Calvary has learned to adapt, flex, and move with each change. I am grateful for the letters, calls, and prayers that the congregation has sent to Calvary's staff with words of encouragement and our council that has made tough decisions.

What Nathaniel witnessed next as he followed the invitation "come and see" was God's abundant mercy overflowing and pouring out for everyone to partake in a feast that has no end.

God has shown us many things pointing towards his abundance this past year. With whatever comes to Calvary can be seen as an opportunity to continue to adapt, flex, and move into a new year.

Blessings

Pastor Justin

## **Dana Kocka, Youth Director**

Dear Calvary Members,

This year has been a roller coaster! From being someone that likes to be well organized and plan ahead, the chaos of COVID has rocked my world! I realized there were areas within my life that I needed to submit to God. Areas in which I took for granted because I thought they were absolutes. I have continued to pray for the peace that only God can give and realized He is my source of truth, strength, wisdom, and peace. I have continued read and reread Colossians 3:15, '*Let the peace of Christ rule within your hearts.*' Paul gives us this amazing outline on how we should live our lives for God every day! He encourages us to imitate Christ's compassionate and forgiving attitude, to let love guide our lives, to let the peace of Christ rule within our hearts, to always be thankful, to remain in God's Word at ALL TIMES and to live as Jesus representative. That is how I want to live my life and I desire the same for you as well!

Leading like Jesus is not about doing things so others might see the impact; it's about doing it for Jesus especially when no one is looking. I believe with all my heart that we are called to live our lives running vigorously towards Christ 24/7. Yes, we fall, but as it says in *Proverbs 3:6*. '*Seek Gods will in all that you do, and He will direct your path.*'

Being a youth leader during COVID, it is important to be real, constant, understanding, and present. This past year has been hard on our youth! One by one their outlets (sports, drama, concerts, extra curriculars, etc..) have abruptly and/or slowly been taken away or drastically changed. What they thought to be absolutes (PROM, graduation, sporting events, school, etc) were changed drastically or canceled. Though these changes were made in good faith, the impact was felt greatly within their lives.

This past year has caused trauma on many young lives, leaving feelings of brokenness, sadness, anger, fear, anxiousness, frustration, etc... These emotions and feelings have been shared regularly. We have continued to pray like warriors and seek God's peace, understanding, strength and wisdom. As human beings, we may not have all the answers, but when we seek God's will and guidance, HE SHOWS UP!

This year during a Bible Study Series led by Tim Tebow, Tim said "When you fill your mind with the truth of God's Word, you will have more hope and a better perspective on your life." This resonated with our youth. So, in this time we will continue to imitate Christ's compassionate and forgiving attitude, to let love guide our lives, to let the peace of Christ rule within our hearts, to always be thankful, to remain in God's Word at ALL TIMES, to live as Jesus representative, to be present and real as we grow together. The yearning to grow closer to God is stronger than ever, and we have work to do.

In the midst of a pandemic, God is still so good. This year it is our prayer that God continues to use us, grow us, teach us, mold us and mature us into the people that He created us to be. When you are down, cry out to God. When you need answers, seek His truth and wisdom from His Word, the Bible. God is present! God provides! God guides! God cares! God sustains!

In Christ,

Dana Kocka (Director of Youth and Education)

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## **President Stuart Larson**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phillipians 4:13

It is obvious that 2020 was a year like no other. It started with so much hope and promise. Then along came a disease, and not just a disease but a pandemic.

Our Christian lives involve relationships with Christ, our families, our communities, and the world. All these relationships became strained and our church was closed for a time.

Our staff adapted, our congregation responded, and I believe our church community is stronger than ever. Some of our missions were temporarily paused, but all our missions will return with a strong commitment to our community and to the world.

A special thanks to Pastor Steve, Pastor Justin, and Dana for their willingness to enhance digital worship, also known as "live theater." Thanks also to all of those who provided music and helped with the live streaming.

Thank you to the office staff, Wayne, Amity and Sandy, for providing the support necessary to succeed in these trying times.

I sincerely thank the council and core members along with every member of this congregation for their strong support of Calvary Lutheran Church during this difficult year.

## Pastor's Discretion

The Pastor's and the discretionary fund facilitators want to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Calvary congregation who so willingly have donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We sit at the crossroads of grace and service. People who are in need come through Calvary doors asking for help. Sometimes it is for gas vouchers to get to a doctor appointment or work, or a food voucher to help until the next paycheck comes in, or maybe it is for a ten-dollar gift card to The Dollar Tree to purchase personal hygiene items. We have helped hundreds of our neighbors in need. Their lives have been enriched by your generosity. Thank you to Beth Krueger who so graciously has given her time to help in this ministry. Thanks also to Wayne Thompson, Jerry Perpich, Cheryl West, Jean Krufft, Joe and Jan Braun, and Eric Haugland!

\*Full detailed account of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is available in the office.

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## Calvary Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 26, 2020

### **I. Call to order**

Tom Van Bruggen called to order the Annual Congregational Meeting of Calvary Lutheran Church at 11:44 am on 1/26/2020.

### **II. Roll call**

See sign in sheets with member signatures. Devotion by Pastor Justin Fenger, all in attendance were asked to write down their prayer for 2020 at Calvary, the prayers will be posted in the February Newsletter. Then the Friday Men's Prayer Group 2020 prayers were shared by Pastor Justin Fenger and Tom Van Bruggen.

### **III. Business**

- a) Agenda, one correction delete F. Bylaw Change. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Lin Norenberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Larson, motion passed.
- b) State of the Church-Long Term Liabilities was reviewed by Tom Van Bruggen.
- c) Special Congregational Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2019. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Harmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Hanson, motion passed.
- d) Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2019. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Lin Norenberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Platz, motion passed.
- e) Spending Guide for 2020. Motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Joel Vorhes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Larson, motion passed.
- f) Innovation Core-motion to proceed with the continuing resolution as stated in the bylaws 1<sup>st</sup> Judy Dulski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Larson, motion passed.
- g) Marketing Core-is to be developed so will start as a sub-committee of the Church Council.
- h) Ballot-Tom Van Bruggen asked for nominations x 3 from the floor, hearing none motion to accept the ballot as printed 1<sup>st</sup> Glenn Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Arvayda Carter, motion passed.
- i) Van Fund Transfer-motion to transfer the funds from this fund of \$13,252.49 to the general fund 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lin Norenberg, motion passed.

### **IV. Reports**

- a) See reports as printed. Two updates: Audit completed 2018 and 2019, copies of the audits are available in the Church Office. Caring & Outreach, note that Caring/Outreach Core is currently co-chaired by Glenn Anderson and David Simmons. The bulletin board in the Narthex will have a new posting identifying current needs for assisting others. The hospitality duties will transition to the Marketing Committee in 2020. With no other additions motion to approve the reports as printed 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Dove, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Larson, motion passed.

### **V. Announcements**

- a) Stuart Larson announced that we are participating in the Practicing Resurrection Workshop hosted by the synod. Please see Practicing Resurrection Covenant.
- b) Tom Van Bruggen stated the following to complete his presidency, we have a big, wonderful operation. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
- c) As President elect Stuart Larson thanked Tom Van Bruggen for his service and leadership as President, he thanked Mark Harmon for his 3 years of service and his willingness to chair the Marketing Committee. He also welcomed Jeremy Caudillo as President Elect.

### **VI. Adjournment**

Tom Van Bruggen adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm. Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Harmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Dulski, motion passed. Pastor Steve Norby led the congregation in the singing of the Doxology.

Minutes submitted by: Sonda Tolle

**Calvary Lutheran Statistics**  
**January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

**Members Received:**

Baptism	11
Affirmation of Faith (Confirmed)	15
Transfer	8

**Members Removed:**

By Death	13
Transfer	6

**January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**  
**Financial Statement – General Fund**

	01/01/17 – 12/31/17	01/01/18 – 12/31/18	01/01/19 – 12/31/19	01/01/20 – 12/31/20
YTD Total Income	\$508,182.85	\$499,445.68	\$536,822.35	\$526,797.60
Monthly Summaries				
	01/01/17 – 12/31/17	01/01/18 – 12/31/18	01/01/19 – 12/31/19	01/01/20 – 12/31/20
Jan	36,340.81	30,736.00	35,770.99	50,422.68
Feb	37,411.68	32,480.98	35,399.52	37,757.34
Mar	34,609.53	34,362.49	53,163.56	46,830.30
Apr	40,051.00	41,391.93	41,515.64	42,879.23
May	33,150.98	27,877.37	32,500.67	33,618.61
Jun	44,245.40	46,403.73	50,718.25	39,381.62
Jul	37,522.61	39,018.53	31,559.72	35,165.00
Aug	31,669.28	29,802.75	33,410.25	41,918.22
Sep	37,417.14	43,968.51	44,979.06	29,183.46
Oct	38,317.12	44,543.45	42,876.61	39,601.61
Nov	33,242.00	33,242.00	37,826.07	49,672.61
Dec	81,646.49	80,873.97	86,174.52	45,307.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 485,924.04</b>	<b>\$479,904.61</b>	<b>\$525,509.86</b>	<b>\$491,738.73</b>

## **Caring and Outreach Ministry**

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."-Matthew 25:40

The Caring & Outreach Ministry Core is the umbrella of our church projects, whether it be collection of food or supplies, service projects or donations. The ministries reflect the commitment of Calvary and our mission is to minister to the hurts and hopes of people in our congregation and community, and the world through visitation and support of the outreach programs of the congregation.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to minister to the hurts and hopes of people in our congregation, community and the world through visitation and support of the outreach programs of the congregation.

We do this through providing:

- Attention to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs and provide spiritual care through visitation and specialized ministries.
- Communication to visitors.
- Encouragement to members of the community who do not belong to Calvary. Information and activities on humanitarian need and a means to respond to these needs. Encouragement for faithful attendance and participation and seek out members who have ceased to be active.
- Strengthening activities among all members of the congregation.
- Oversight on the outreach ministry of this congregation and support, benevolence, and partnership with other missions.

We do this through the support of:

- Communications: Calvary's website and social media page(s). (Contact: Tina Crabb 218-237-7322, Pastor Justin Fenger 218-732-7284)
- Hardhat Ministry: (Contact Glenn Anderson, 218-639-2528 or Kristi York, 218-301-6964)
- Hospitality: Greeters, Visitor Follow-up, New Member Welcome/Sponsorship, Ushers, Welcome Desk Attendants. (Contact: Sara Forsberg 218-732-7175, Roger Olson 218-252-2877)
- Hospital Visitation. (Contact: Dorothy Meyer 218-255-4853, Renee Brauer 206-434-1950)
- Hunger & Justice. (Contact: Maurice Spangler 218-252-9513)
- Jail Ministry. (Contact: Sara Forsberg 218-732-7175 or Sheryl Kosel, 218-573-6789)
- Keeping In Touch Lay Communion Ministry. (Contact: Sara Forsberg 218-732-7175)
- Lutheran World Relief efforts. ([www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org))
- Mission Partners in Eagle Pass, Texas and India. (Contact Pastor Justin Fenger 218-732-7284 or [www.facebook.com/sanlucaseaglepass](http://www.facebook.com/sanlucaseaglepass))
- Offer moral support to Helen's Kitchen, Helping Hands, Campus Ministry, Food Angels, Animal Shelter, LSS Meals on Wheels, Living At Home, etc. (For contact information, visit our website [www.calvaryparkrapids.com](http://www.calvaryparkrapids.com))
- Pastoral Discretion Fund Assistance Team. (Contact: Calvary office 218-732-7284)
- Prayer & Care Team. (Contact: Lin Norenberg 218-255-3414)
- Projects & Events: Back to School Breakfast/School Supplies, Father Project & Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, etc. (Contact: Dorothy Meyer 218-255-4853)
- Puerto Rico Mission Trip. (Contact: Joan Tweedale 218-252-7362)
- Stephen Ministry. (Contact: Lin Norenberg 218-255-3414)
- Support Groups: Alzheimer's Care Givers, Parenting Classes, Grandparents Fellowship. (Contact: Calvary office 218-732-7284)

For more information about our outreach missions, contact Co Chairman Glenn Anderson 218-639-2528, or David Simmons Co Chairman 218-255-1522 the Calvary office 218-732-7284 or visit our website [www.calvaryparkrapids.com](http://www.calvaryparkrapids.com).

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## **Family Ministry**

It is odd to think that our first Family Ministry event was Bingo. Prizes, Laughter, Subs from Stacked High Deli and our Council President calling out the numbers. Gathering has been what Family Ministry has done best. That all changed in March, to say that Family Ministry did not struggle would be an understatement.

But Family Ministry did not lose its focus to connect church and home.

2020 Family Ministry Overview Highlights

- Bingo w/ Stacked High Deli
- 3rd grade Bible course and Distribution
- Holy Week adventures online
- First communion online course
- Laundry distribution (Suds of Service)
- Trunk n treat community event.
- Dismantling racism group study (Messy Miracle of Sight)
- Advent Bags over 220
- Drive-in church

Family Ministry is looking forward to gathering again but we will take what we learned this last year and apply it in 2021 with the same focus, Connection life, family, culture, church, community, and home.

## **Finance Ministry**

The Finance Committee meets regularly on the Monday prior to Council meetings where we review the current month's financial activity and approve monthly outlays. We also discuss potential Stewardship plans and generally review the financial health of the Church.

The committee includes Bob Hansen, Wayne Pearson, who serves as treasurer, Tony Platz, Al Judson, Wayne Johnson, and Harry Wenner, chair.

The pandemic challenged us during 2020 and continues to challenge us in 2021; however, our church adapted very well to the new temporary reality. Our general fund income was down somewhat, but our general fund expenses were also less. So, our congregation starts 2021 positioned strong financially. We have a strong general fund balance and have made good progress on our construction loan balance.

The 2020 general fund offering income, including transfers was \$526,797.60 versus \$549,425.00 budgeted. The general fund checking account balance as of December 31, 2020 was \$94,216.41 compared to a December 31, 2019 balance of \$78,505.58.

The calendar year 2020 building fund activity included \$147,593.45 of offerings and other income. Regular and extra principal payments have been paid toward the construction loan balance which has a year-end balance of \$1,675,547.07. This represents a total reduction of principal in 2020 of \$75,503.50. Our rental property had \$11,200.00 of rental income.

The Building Fund bank balance as of December 31, 2020 is \$87,239.53 compared to a December 31, 2019 balance of \$105,949.50. The finance committee had previously recommended and council approved keeping a reserve of about \$70,000.00 in the building fund at the end of each month, with the \$12,144.00 mortgage payment due at the first of each month. The Finance Committee recommended to Council and Council approved the refinancing of the mortgage with Northwoods Bank at a 3.75% rate, 20-year amortization with a 7-year ARM. The present interest rate of the mortgage is at 4.375% with 5 years left on the ARM before it would have to be refinanced. This refinancing proposal is being presented to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting.

Through your generosity, Calvary provided \$88,929.78 in gifts via Caring and Outreach and our designated funds for external benevolences. The major beneficiaries of your gifts include the NW Minn. Synod, the Pastor's Emergency Fund, our Mission Partners, Pathways, Lutheran Social Services, Missionary Sponsorship, Hubbard County Food Shelf, Helping Hands, and many others. The balance of our designated funds, both external and internal, stands at \$126,056.72.

The finance committee, executive committee, and church council have reviewed the proposed Spending Guide for 2021. The Spending Guide includes hopefully a realistic estimate of offering income, based on our analysis of the effects on 2020 offerings. We ask that you prayerfully consider adopting the proposed Spending Guide at our annual meeting.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their support, focus, and diligence. I would like to thank the Pastors, staff, Council members and congregation members for their support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Wenner, Finance Committee Chair

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## **Learning Ministry**

The past year has not been a typical year! COVID has rocked our churches, schools, business, and communities. Each and every person has been affected. The things that once seemed like absolutes, now seem fluid and subject to change. As a Learning Core, we have continued to adapt to changes as they arise. We have continued to be creative and steadfast while forging ahead.

The Learning Core is responsible for facilitating educational opportunities for Calvary including Sunday School, Breakfast Club, Release Time, Adult Education, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Camp Opportunities, etc... The Carl Hammer Campership Fund is also one of our on-going projects. Learning Core committee members are Dana Kocka, Linda Becker, Bill Simpson, Nicole Weston, and Jo Judson. Our regular meeting time is 6:30 on the first Tuesday of each month.

This past year looked drastically different from years past, due to COVID. We have continued to look ahead. We have continued to look for new effective ways to share God's word. Some of our greatest strengths from previous years have not been options because of COVID, however we continue seek God's direction and guidance as we forge ahead. In the midst of a pandemic, God is still so good!

Sunday School looks drastically different this year compared to years past. This past March we went virtual. We carried this out through to the end of the school year in May. It was not being utilized as we had hoped and felt there were too many links to open, so we prayed. We prayed for vision, insight, and God's guiding hand.

As the summer approached, we used a VBS curriculum called BOLT. Bolt was an interactive, changeable, and adaptable VBS. Bolt was wonderful! We got several children and youth involved through the recording process and they did an amazing job! We loved the concept and continued to forge ahead with the same concept as we searched for Sunday School curriculum.



We found a curriculum from pursueGODkids.org, that we could add to, change, edit, and adapt. We formed a dance team; found style of music we were looking for and God placed Anna Miller in Park Rapids longer than she had planned. Anna has since selflessly given her time, talent, energy, and passion for dance to our Sunday School and dance team. We record, create, edit, and share Sunday School each and every week. Desi Kohrs and Brenna Behrens (High school youth) have been key youth that help record our weekly Sunday School Intros, Bible Memory Work, Big Ideas, and prayers. Dana continues to have a creative eye while writing, creating, sharing, editing, and seeking God's guidance. The current Sunday School is offered both in person (9:30am) and virtual (anytime.) In person attendance varies from week to week, however current curriculum allows us to adapt to last minute changes. In other words, it is COVID friendly 😊 Christmas program was also virtual which included powerful messages, behind the scenes reenacting, special music, familiar faces of Calvary kids ages 3-18, and much more.

There is no Release Time this year due to COVID, so we had to find new ways to fulfill the Confirmation Requirements. Pastor Steve continues to meet with the 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday Evenings from 7:00-8:00 (20 sessions.) Pastor Justin met with the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (October-December) on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the Month. Pastor Justin will meet with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders from January through the end of the year on the first, third and fourth Wednesdays. We continue to plan but adapt and modify to changes as they come. Many more confirmation opportunities continue to take place.

We continue to strive for opportunities for Adult Education. Dana began the year with The Corona Virus Challenge. Pastor Justin began daily texts. Pastor Steve shares his Monday Morning Text Studies and provides several Sunday School opportunities for adults. As we look back upon the year, we see Gods shaping, Gods guidance and God's grace. We continue to look for more opportunities for learning and growing. In the midst of the pandemic, we have grown and continue to seek Gods goodness every day.

Submitted by Linda Becker (Learning Core Chair) and Dana Kocka (Director of Youth & Education)

### **Carl Hammer Memorial Campership Fund**

Carl Hammer, a member of Calvary Lutheran Church who died in 1999, bequeathed \$15,000 to Calvary for the purpose of helping children attend camp. On April 5, 2000, the Learning Committee made a motion to establish the use of the fund. The fund is supplemented through pancake breakfasts, memorials, pledges, and designated offerings.

Carl Hammer Balance December 31, 2019	\$ 26,610.14
Carl Hammer Balance December 31, 2020	\$ 27,214.39

### **Resource Ministry**

Resource members include - Dick Longtine, Ron Norenberg, Jerry Bunting, Jerry Perpich, Dennis Aanenson, Jan Kehr, Tony Kohrs and Wayne Johnson. This ministry is responsible to oversee maintenance, security, insurance, electricity, gas, land, buildings, and personal property.

We would like to thank all the volunteers that are dedicated to helping us maintain the building and property. A special thank you to the gardeners for keeping the grounds so beautiful each week. Also, the Art Committee volunteers for decorating the interior.

This year we have upgraded our A/V system to better broadcast our online services during the Government Lockdowns. We also have expanded the A/V Booth (thank you Glenn Anderson & Jerry Bunting). Please take a look the next time you are in the building. Calvary is now out of the rental business as our renters have moved. Council has approved our request not to rent again due to the high cost of repairs. Anyone interested in Resource Core, Garden Club or Art & Decorating please contact the office.

Respectfully Submitted by Resource Core

## **Bethel Cemetery-Ronald Norenberg, Treasurer**

<u>BETHEL CEMETERY JAN-DEC 2019 FINANCIAL</u>		2020 Income:	
Check Book Balance 1-1-20:	\$11,359.23	Sites(lots)	1,000.00
2019 Operating Expenses:		Donations	45.50
STS (mowing)	1,500.00	Setting Stone	177.16
Safety Deposit Box	30.00	Interest from checking	<u>3.74</u>
Insurance (1 Year)	200.00	Total Income:	\$1,326.40
Maintenance (Sexton)	500.00		
Birdhouse rebuild and		Other Funds:	
Corner stone repair	203.12	Mission Investment Fund (Thru 11-30-20)	
Cemetery Clean Up	<u>60.00</u>	\$17,427.88	
Total Expenses	\$2,670.28	Thrivent	<u>\$16,330.16</u>
		Total Cash Assets:	\$43,773.39

## **Calvary Endowment**

The Mission Expansion Fund Committee was created as an organization of Calvary Lutheran Church by amendment to the Church Constitution on July 22, 2001. In 2017, the name was amended from the Mission Expansion Fund to the Mission Endowment Fund in an effort to increase congregational awareness of the Fund.

It is the desire of Calvary Lutheran Church to provide a vehicle through which monies and other gifts not otherwise designated or covered by our operating budget can be invested and utilized for ministry through its Mission Endowment Fund.

Investment proceeds from the Mission Endowment Fund are used to provide outreach services throughout our local community, synod and ELCA at large. This includes support for extraordinary programs, capital improvement and ministry initiatives within our congregation.

Annual distributions from the Fund include income and realized gains from investments. When the Fund exceeds \$500,000.00 in value the annual distributions may include up to 10% of the Fund corpus. Fund balances are currently invested in the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

The fund's balance grew considerably in 2020 with a generous gift received late in the third quarter.

Current members of the committee are:

- Mark Evans
- Jerry Thomas
- Linda Grover
- Al Judson
- Keith Mikus
- Marleen Seach

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Evans, Chairperson

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## **Worship Ministry**

In a year that has turned our world upside down, one of the area's most directly impacted by the ongoing Pandemic has been our time together in worship. We are all eager to gather again to worship, face to face, in our sanctuary, together as the people of God. However, through the tragedy, fear, and suffering of this health emergency, our worship and mission have not ceased at Calvary Lutheran Church. Many important steps have been taken to continue ongoing worship at Calvary during the pandemic, but also to place us in a better footing going forward.

Since Calvary first closed its doors in March, Sunday worship has continued through a variety of digital platforms. Livestream services are broadcast over Facebook, the Calvary Website, and Vimeo. Look out for a greater use of the Vimeo platform in coming months, as it allows us greater control and flexibility in sharing our content. In addition to our Sunday morning worship offerings, the Pastors have offered online bible study and adult education opportunities, and education core has offered Sunday school and other programming online as well. To make this happen, significant investments have been made in hardware and software to improve the quality of our video streaming capabilities, both for at home livestreaming, and for in person worship when we more fully reopen. In fact, the increased functionality has been appreciated by grieving families, and we have an increased our usage to include livestreaming and recording funerals, weddings, and baptisms. We are currently moving forward with broader and deeper training on our new technology for worship, so that we can fully utilize these tools, and have a larger team of volunteers trained in their use.

There have been several significant in-person worship opportunities over the year. The summer months allowed outdoor worship opportunities, and we are continuing outdoor worship through the winter months as well. Our early service garners a small but loyal crowd, and we are grateful for their efforts to follow strict COVID protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy. As the year progresses, we look forward to more opportunities to "open back up". However, just because worship and mission look different during a pandemic, neither worship nor mission has stopped for God's church. God's mission through the members of Calvary continues.

In addition to improving online worship and increasing opportunities for in person worship as the public health situation improves, we will be focusing on encouraging, fostering, and supporting lay leadership within all aspects of worship. We would like to invite all members of Calvary to become active in worship leadership in the coming year. This can take many forms, from serving communion or reading, making music, or running video, sound, or the PowerPoint (we will teach you how!). If you have a desire to contribute to worship, we will find a way to utilize your time and talents!

The Calvary Worship Core meets monthly to support and strengthen our worship experience, and to support our pastoral staff in planning and preparing meaningful worship experiences. Members of the Worship Core include Martha Thompson, Sharon Gorden, Leandra Craigmile, Sarah Forsberg, Chris Luckerth, Sandy James, Pastor Steve, and Pastor Justin. We are always in search of fresh ideas and voices to enhance the worship experience, and we welcome suggestions. We would welcome new members to join our meetings to help plan this important part of our church life. Worship Core typically meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:15pm.

Praise and Glory to God, as we continue to serve God's people in Park Rapids and throughout the world.

John Cook, Worship Core Chair

## Youth Ministry

**Youth Director:** Dana Kocka

**Youth Core Committee:** Jen Michaelson (Council Representative), Heather Steffel, Nora Simpson, Missy Vrieze, Sandra Lichter, Kristen Edevold, Tricia Hoyt, and Laura Kirlin.

2020 looks drastically different than years past. 2020 was a year we adapted to change. It was a year we were forced to try new things and success was measured differently. 2020 was a year with trial, error, creativity, connection, and prayer. Though 2020 looks differently than we would have liked it to, we have grown and continue to strive for new ways to engage kids and minister Gods truth into their hearts and lives. We will grow stronger through these challenging times.

### Mission Trip

Calvary was set to send a group of thirty to Los Angeles on Mission Trip in June. We had a wait list three deep, and the youth were so excited for the mission before them. Though we were unable to move forward with this mission trip, the mission to share the love and truth of Jesus is deeply embedded within our youth's hearts. Youth continue to ask frequently about mission trip 2021.

### Jr. and Sr. League

Jr. and Sr. Leagues met regularly until March when shutdowns took place. Sr. League transitioned into daily zoom devotions. The numbers started at roughly twenty, but as their school classes continued to demand more screen time, the kids shared they were zoomed out. Though this was not a failure, we did realize that our youth needed a break from technology, and we needed to find new ways to engage. Dana did meet with other youth leaders from the area and they had the same conclusion. Sr. League (grades 9-12) meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of every month, and Jr. League (grades 6-8) meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. 2020-2021 school year, we started with weekly in person League nights with the proper precautions. The kids have been resilient! Gods message has been powerful and the kid's openness to sharing is powerful and encouraging!

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is a time when High School Youth come together for bible studies, discussions, questions, and personal experiences shared within the group. Our numbers are much lower on Sunday mornings than Wednesday evenings, but we continue to grow as we open our bibles and dig deep! We hope numbers will go up when COVID settles.

### Youth Group Alum Ministry

As youth graduate from High School and go out into the world, we feel the need to continue to encourage and support our Youth Group Alum both, spiritually and personally. Picture postcards from Youth Group experiences from the throughout the years, are sent randomly throughout the year. This outreach ministry encourages young adults (ages 18-25) to keep an active relationship and faith in Christ and encourages faith involvement within their community in which they live.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Michaelson (Youth Core Council Representative) & Dana Kocka (Youth Director)

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## Quilting Annual Report

Calvary mission quilting for 2020 was again, a very successful year. All monies donated for quilting are kept in a separate fund and supplies are either donated or purchased using the fund monies. Mission quilting is not a part of the church budget. 214 quilts were shipped to Lutheran World Relief, 20 were given to Calvary's senior graduates, and 12 purchased with donations going to the quilting fund. Thank you to all who contribute to this mission in whatever capacity needed.

