



Canines for Christ during Community Impact Weekend



Adult Mission Trip to Greece - In the Footsteps of Paul



Serving at Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry



Serving Cocoa & Cookies after the Clarkston Holiday Lights Parade



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Calvary's Mission Statement

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to a Bible-centered, grace-oriented approach to worship, fellowship, and spiritual development. Regular prayer provides a foundation and permeates everything we do. Our empowered and spiritually-gifted laity are constantly looking outward with a strong commitment to sharing the faith, growing the Body of Christ, and providing Christian community service.

Based on Our Core Values

Calvary's Spiritual Growth Pathway

Enter Engage Equip Extend

In response to Christ's love for us, we enter into an intentional and lifelong journey of spiritual growth. We ask ourselves and others to come as you really are to become all that God has made you to be by choosing to grow one step at a time. We understand that the pathway is not a one-way route to maturity, but a lifelong pursuit with many twists and turns, even detours and setbacks. Through this, we come to know Christ better and authentically live out our calling to make Christ known to all. We do all of this Because You Matter! All people everywhere matter to God and to Calvary. We do it Better Together as we continue Living Into What Matters!

Calvary's Core Values

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grace-Oriented | Bible-Centered |
| Grounded in Prayer | Inspiring Worship |
| Outward-Focused | Caring Community Fellowship |
| Spiritual Development | Empowered Christians in Action |
| Christian Community Service | |
- These things don't change, but how we live them out likely will.

THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH PATHWAY

Enter
LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE AT CALVARY
John 1:39
Jesus invites us to "come and see."

Engage
HEAR GOD'S WORD AND SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER
Matt. 7:24
Building life on the foundation of God's love

Equip
LIVE AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED
1 Corinthians 12:7
Each person using the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the good of all.

Extend
SERVE OTHERS AND FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD JESUS IN THE WORLD
Acts 1:8 & Matt. 5:14-16
The call to go, share God's love, and be light to the world.

Five Purposes of the Church

- Worship Fellowship Discipleship Ministry Mission/Evangelism

Six Faith Practices

- Worship Prayer Bible Study Giving Serving Sharing

AGENDA

&

MEETING MINUTES

65th Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

February 22, 2026

- Opening Prayer
- Determination of a Quorum (10% of Confirmed Active Members - 84)
- Affirmation of Agenda
- Affirmation of the 64th Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Ministry Celebrations and Vision for the Future
- Affirmation of 2026 Church Council Nominations
- Affirmation of 2026 General Operating Fund Spending Plan
- Adjournment & Closing Prayer

As in the past, in an effort to maximize participation, efficiently use our time, and minimize disruption of our regular worship schedule, Calvary's Annual Congregational Meeting will convene after each worship service, opening in-person at 8:45am, continuing at 10:30am, and concluding hybrid (in-person and online) at 12:00pm. During worship, online and in-person, we will celebrate 2025 ministries and look ahead to 2026.

Results of items affirmed by written and online ballots will be counted at the conclusion of the meeting and announced the following weekend during worship. Due to the nature of our meeting format, all agenda items must be submitted prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting and approved by Church Council at least two weeks prior to the meeting. All Calvary members are strongly encouraged to review this Annual Report and attend one of the informational Town Hall Meetings either online or in-person in order to review the 2026 General Operating Fund Spending Plan and discuss other items of importance prior in preparation of the 65th Annual Congregational Meeting.

Per Calvary's Constitution, Section C8.01.c. Voting Members are confirmed members (completed Discover Calvary or Confirmation class) who have communed and have made a contribution of record during 2025 and/or 2026.

Council President Steve Doyle welcomed all and opened the 64th Annual Congregational Meeting in prayer immediately following the 8:00am service at about 8:50am. Steve provided an overview of 2024. He thanked the congregation and staff for another great year of ministry. He shared about the positive impact of the sale of the White Lake property. He also touched on the success of the Living Into What Matters Capital Appeal. Steve went on to thank Curtis Vargo for his service on Church Council for the past seven years. He encouraged all to read the very well produced Annual Report celebrating Calvary's ministries.

Steve requested a motion to affirm the 63rd Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes and the Agenda for the 64th Annual Congregational Meeting (NOTE: a motion is needed for the first session only.) Jan Modesitt made a motion to affirm and Sally Wickstrom seconded the motion. The motion was affirmed by voice. Steve reiterated the two items presented for Affirmation – both items have already been affirmed by the Church Council and thus do not require a motion. They include the Affirmation of Patrick McCauley to Church Council and the 2025 Spending Plan.

Steve pointed to the four Town Hall Meetings that were held prior to this Annual Congregational Meeting as an excellent forum to go deeper into the details and full opportunity for in-depth questions and answers. The Town Hall Meetings allow the format of the Annual Congregational Meeting to focus on a more general overview and voting as indicated in the agenda. Congregation was invited to bring additional questions to Council Members after the meeting.

Diane Biggs, Council Treasurer, presented an overview of 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Spending Plan. In addition to the many ministries supported through the 2025 Spending Plan, Diane highlighted how Calvary continues to expand our outreach and community partnerships – leveraging our facility and resources while, most importantly, living more fully into Calvary's mission: "To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known." Diane opened the floor for any questions regarding the 2025 spending plan and no questions were asked.

All voting members and non-voting guests were asked to sign in on the provided clipboards. Ballots were then distributed as Steve restated the items for affirmation: the appointment of Patrick McCauley to Church Council and the approval of the 2025 Spending Plan. Ballots were subsequently collected.

Jan Modesitt shared her heartfelt gratitude for all who serve at Calvary – including pastoral leaders, staff, and the many dedicated volunteers. She expressed that, like many others, she feels deeply blessed to call Calvary her church home. Jan's heartfelt sentiments were confirmed with a round of applause by all. Thanks Jan!

Steve concluded the first session with prayer, while the meeting remained open to allow the process to continue through the remaining two sessions. At approximately 10:35am, the second session began with prayer following the 9:30 a.m. service, followed by a brief review of the year. Steve called for voice affirmation of the agenda and the minutes from the 63rd Annual Congregational Meeting, which had been moved and seconded during the previous session. The second session then followed the same format as the first, including a financial review presented by Diane, written-ballot affirmation of the Church Council Nominee and the 2025 Spending Plan, and closing prayer.

At approximately 12:05pm, the third session began after the 11:00am service, following the same format as the second session. For those joining online, Kellee Rainoldi communicated through email details about how to register to receive a link to the private YouTube livestream, join the livestream at approximately 12:00pm, and vote online with Survey Planet. A single paper ballot listing the two items to affirm was distributed to those attending in person.

At the conclusion of the third session, Steve called for a motion to adjourn. Clark Merriman moved to adjourn, and Lois Keel seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice affirmation. The 64th Annual Congregational Meeting was concluded with prayer by Steve.

A Quorum of at least 87 active confirmed members was met by combining the total of those who attended the in-person and online sessions. Voting included 117 confirmed members (111 in-person and 6 online) and there were seven non-voting guests. Two members who joined us online did not participate in the voting process.

The 2025 Church Council Nominee, as proposed by Church Council, Patrick McCauley (1st Term), was affirmed by the Congregation by written and online ballots. 117 - YES and 0 - NO.

The 2025 General Operating Spending Plan, as proposed by Church Council, was affirmed by the Congregation by written and online ballots. 116 - YES and 1 - NO.

Submitted by Paul Scheil, Council Secretary



Membership as of 12/31/25

Baptized Active Membership at the end of 2024	1060
Baptized Members Received in 2025	
By Baptism - Children (15 yrs and under)	15
By Baptism - Adults (16 yrs and older)	1
By Affirmation of Faith (Discover Calvary)	4
By Transfer from ELCA Congregation	1
By Transfer from Other Congregation	7
From Other Sources and/or Statistical Adjustment	0
Baptized Youth Confirmed	6
Total Baptized Members Received in 2025	34
Baptized Members Removed in 2025	
By Death	10
By Transfer to ELCA Congregation	2
By Transfer to Other Congregation	4
From Other Sources and/or Statistical Adjustment	19
Total Baptized Members Removed	35
Active Members at the End of 2025	1059
Active Voting Members at the End of 2025	846 *

* Active Voting Members are confirmed individuals who have given and/or attended within the current year.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

Calvary Staff as of 12/31/25

Program Staff

Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Pastor Emeritus
 Licensed Lay Minister[§]
 Licensed Lay Minister[§]
 Worship & Technical Arts Director
 Adult Spiritual Development Co-Director
 Adult Spiritual Development Co-Director
 Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
 Nursery & Youth Ministry Coordinator
 Youth & Family Ministry Curriculum Coordinator
 Faith Community Health & Caring Coordinator[§]

Support Staff

Administrative Ministry Director
 Administrative Assistant
 Facility Assistant

Pastor Jonathan Heierman
 Pastor Bob Hegdal
 Pastor Robert Walters
 Dana Chobot
 Ray Chobot
 Keith Van Goor
 Annie Van Goor
 Debbie Heierman
 Rebecca Higgins
 Nicole Hock
 Andrea Vassas
 Cindy Dixon

Kellee Rainoldi
 Chelsea Griego
 Sheila Gerber

Pastoral Acts as of 12/31/25

Baptized Children	15
Baptized Adults	1
New Members Received	12
Baptized Youth Confirmed	6
First Communion	13
Couples Married	3
Funerals	
Members	7
Non-Members	8
Active Participants	1629 [†]

† Active Participants include all people of all ages (members & non-members) who attend worship, small groups, events, etc. throughout each year.

Attendance as of 12/31/25

Average Weekly Worship Attendance by Time

8:00am Worship	39
9:30am Worship	79
9:30am You-Tube Live-Stream	124
11:00am Worship	99

Average Weekly Worship Attendance by Type

In-Person	211
Online	124 [‡]
Overall Average Worshipping Sundays	336 [‡]

‡ Online statistics reflect the average number of views each week, however, the actual number participating could be higher as more than one person might be tuning in at the same time but counted as one view.





As I reflect on this past year at Calvary, one phrase keeps coming back to me again and again - we made more room. More room for people. More room for connection. More room for what truly matters.

Serving as your Council President continues to be both humbling and deeply meaningful. I have had a front row seat to the ways God shows up through ordinary people who simply keep showing up in faith. Not loudly. Not for recognition. Just consistently showing up with open hearts and willing hands. This year was not defined by one major decision or a single moment. It was defined by presence. By choosing to be with people, right where they are.

That idea of "Living Into What Matters" stayed with us this year, even as it took on a different shape. It became less about a campaign and more about a calling. We saw it lived out in the ways our church made space for others, especially those who might otherwise feel unseen or on the margins. We leaned into what it means to be a church where all are welcome, where stories matter, and where faith is expressed through action.

During the holidays, we were able to support 36 families through our Giving Trees. That represents meals shared, stress eased, and a reminder that people are not alone. We came together for two Community Impact Weekends, stepping outside our walls and into our neighborhoods to serve side by side. Sanctum House Craft Nights created space for creativity, healing, and connection. Theology on Tap opened up honest conversations and curiosity around faith in everyday life.

Our support of HOPE Shelters, the Baldwin Center, Accent Pontiac, On A Dragonfly's Wings, and community events in Clarkston and Pontiac continued to reflect our commitment to showing up where support and hope are needed. Even something as simple as our Holy Smokers being present in the early hours of a summer's day filling the air with the smell of delicious BBQ as a way to connect, build relationships, and share hospitality.

What stands out to me most is not any single program, but the heart behind them all. A willingness to say "yes." A willingness to listen. A willingness to make room. Room at the table. Room in conversation. Room in community. Room in our hearts.

None of this happens without the faithfulness of so many. Our council members, staff, volunteers, ministry leaders, and congregation continue to give generously of their time, energy, and compassion. Your commitment is a powerful testimony of faith in action, and I am deeply grateful to serve alongside you.

As we look ahead, my hope is not that we simply do more, but that we continue to go deeper. Deeper in our relationships. Deeper in our faith. Deeper in our commitment to loving our neighbors as ourselves. If we keep making room for all people while staying grounded in what truly matters, I believe God will continue to do more than we could ever plan or predict.

Thank you for being the church. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for helping Calvary be a place where people are welcomed, known, and loved.

Executive Council as of 12/31/25

- President Steve Doyle
- Vice President Ashley Fecteau
- Secretary Paul Scheil
- Treasurer Diane Biggs

He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God; we shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature.
Ephesians 4:12-13

Council Terms

Each Council member serves a three-year term, only two full terms consecutively.

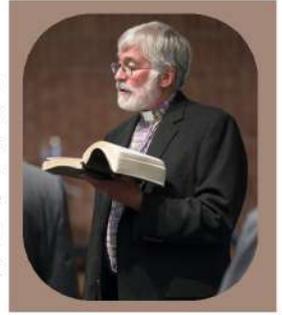


January 2026
Marcus Craft (2nd) Steve Doyle (1st)



January 2027
Ashley Fecteau (1st) John Merz (1st) Samantha Ruelle (1st) Paul Scheil (1st) Rick Tyler (1st)
January 2028
Patrick McCauley (1st)

Senior Pastor Jonathan Heierman



2025 has taught us a lot, giving us the opportunity to trust God more and grow in many ways, reminding us that in all times and in all circumstances, "God is good" and our calling remains the same - to shine the light of Christ into the world God made and loves. As a congregation, we continue to be open and welcoming for all people "to come as they really are," as we connect in-person and online, innovatively trying new things, and proactively seeking to grow and expand our ministry. I clearly recall that in my very first sermon at Calvary, preached the same day I was called to be your pastor, I shared that I believe we have more in common with the church of the 1st Century than the church some of us grew up in. This means that we live in a time in our country in which the role of the church has moved from an assumed central place to an optional activity and many see the church as not very relevant, in some cases, even harmful. Yet this is also a time of great opportunity, and studies consistently show that there is a deep longing for meaning, purpose, hope, and belonging, and that people, especially young people, want to make a difference in our world – something the church can address as we bravely speak and compassionately act in the world with God's love, grace, and hope. Our goal is not to return to the way it was before, which is simply not possible, but to move into a new future addressing the needs of today. As God speaking through the prophet Isaiah proclaims, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"* Isaiah 43:18-19a This has led me to concentrate on how we can reimagine and revitalize the way we share the "old, old story," connect with people near and far, while offering hope and compassion to the marginalized, and to our hurting and deeply divided world in ever more profound and focused ways. For 65 years, the people of Calvary have been living as the Body of Christ, and today we are building on that strong foundation as "Better Together," we write the next chapter of ministry and do all that we can to ensure that this church will be here for future generations. With ongoing passion and excitement about today and tomorrow, I share with you again this year my life Bible verse: *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"* Psalm 118:24

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the Lord.
 Jeremiah 29:11-13

First and foremost, I am blessed to work with such an amazing staff. Each one brings their unique gifts and abilities, as well as a passion for our ministry fueled by the Holy Spirit. I am also very thankful for our forward-looking and faithful church leaders, our generous and flexible congregation, and our wonderful friends and partners in ministry in the communities we serve. The tireless effort and wonderful creativity of our staff alongside hundreds of volunteers makes our expanding ministries possible. I appreciate

your prayerful support and encouragement, your enduring passion to grow and share the love of Christ in ever new ways, and your trust in our leadership. I am very proud of our work together this past year and I am very excited about our future, learning new things, connecting with new people, and the impact we can have through our ministries inside our church, online, and in the world outside the church walls.

A VERY BIG THANKS to our amazing and dedicated Program Staff - Associate Pastor Bob Hegdal (in addition to guiding Mission & Outreach Development, he leads Confirmation and works closely with Youth & Family Ministry); Worship and Technical Arts Director Keith Van Goor; Adult Spiritual Development Co-Directors Debbie Heierman and Annie Van Goor; Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator Rebecca Higgins; Nursery & Youth Ministry Coordinator Nicole Hock; Youth & Family Ministry Curriculum Coordinator Andrea Vassas; and Faith Community Health and Caring Coordinator Cindy Dixon* (unpaid staff*).



A VERY BIG THANKS also to our fantastic, very resourceful, and essential Support Staff - Administrative Ministry Director Kellee Rainoldi; Administrative Assistant Chelsea Grieco; Facility Assistant Sheila Gerber; and Bookkeeper Diane Biggs. We were also blessed with the energy and enthusiasm of a number of volunteers and student interns who joyfully assisted wherever needed.

I am delighted to let you know that in 2026, Tina Lewis (aka the flower and food pantry lady) will be joining our staff in an unpaid position - Food Pantry Coordinator, or something similar. This will help us continue to grow and enhance the work Tina is already doing with such joy and dedication.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20





Outreach Growing Each Year. The principle is that as we look outward in mission, we will grow in both vitality and numbers. I believe that this "ripple effect" is also what people are seeking in a church today. Our goal is not just getting people to come to church. Rather, it is transforming lives and being the church out in the world wherever any of us go to Extend the love of Christ. In John's Gospel, as Jesus called his first disciples, he began by asking "what are you looking for", then invited them to "come and see," and when they were ready "follow me." I believe this a pattern for our evangelism as a faith community and as people of faith - and that it yields a great harvest!

I recall the words I shared 15 years ago in a video during our **50th Anniversary Celebration** in 2011. How prophetic the words really have been, and they continue to guide us into a new future.

We are on this journey together, and what we do today sets the stage for the next 50 years. I know I won't be here 50 years from now as Calvary celebrates its 100th anniversary, but by God's grace many will be, including some of you. It is my hope and my prayer that when people look back on the legacy we have left, they will marvel at our generosity in challenging times, they will find inspiration from our passion to help hurting people, they will take courage from our willingness to "get out of the boat" and follow Jesus wherever he calls for us to make a difference for him in his world. (As I got up from my office sofa and went outside on to Main Street in Clarkston) Come with me, we're going outside; I want to show you something...



This is our mission field, here and in White Lake and far beyond. You see, as important as what we do inside our beautiful church buildings, it is what we do out here that is really God's call. You see, Jesus never really told the world to go to church, but he did clearly call the church to go to the world. It is my hope that Calvary's next 50 years will be known especially for what we do to reach out here, outside the church building. Remember Calvary is not a place, but it is wherever you go or we go together in Jesus' name. We are blessed - that is for sure and certain, but not just for us. We are blessed to be a blessing for others. That's God's calling. That's why we exist!



Guided by the Holy Spirit, our ministry "outside the walls" continued to grow in 2025, particularly in addressing mental health and food insecurity, while making our facility available to community organizations. Our outreach ministries include **Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry**, our **Pontiac Community Orchard & Playground** - "the campus without walls," the **Walk for Hope**, and **Survivors of Suicide Loss Day** organized by our LIFE Ministry Team, as well as continued connections with our global partners at **Hareabi Lutheran Church in the Mbulu Diocese of Tanzania** and Palestinian Christians at **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem** and so much more. Another way we are "Living Into What Matters" is by making our space available. This was a stewardship and outreach commitment we made when we

renovated in 2018. Our remarkable administrative staff manages this increasingly complex schedule with grace and flexibility while balancing the facility needs of our ministry with those of our community. Each time someone walks through our door, we have the opportunity to share the love and hospitality of Jesus.

More difficult to quantify, but no less impactful, are the myriad of ways we share the Good News of Jesus, serve beyond Calvary's ministries, and live out the "Fruit of the Spirit" in our daily lives - "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Some of your stories I know. Most I do not. I would love it if you shared your stories with me so that they can inspire others as we seek to transform the world for Christ. Our congregation is truly wonderfully blessed by God to be a blessing to others. Thank you for all that YOU did, and will continue to do, in "being the church" outside the walls and helping us stay clearly focused on why we are here.



Spiritual Growth Pathway | Enter | Engage | Equip | Extend. Come as you really are. Grow to become more like Jesus. Go out to make a difference! The Spiritual Growth Pathway embodies the biblical framework and baptismal covenant upon which we are purposefully building our entire ministry at Calvary. These words of invitation and encouragement sum up what we are about in all that we do - "In response to Christ's love for us, we enter into an intentional and lifelong journey of spiritual growth. We come as we really are to become all that God has made us to be by choosing to grow one step at a time, so that we can go out into the world to share God's love and make a difference. We understand that the Pathway is not a one-way route to maturity, but a lifelong pursuit with many twists and turns, even detours and setbacks. Through this we come to KNOW CHRIST better and authentically live out our calling to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN to all." I am also very pleased that we have renewed our commitment to revising and reemphasizing our intentional **Inclusion Ministry** as we grow and celebrate our diversity while



meeting each person right where they are. This will help ensure that we can welcome, assist, and support each person and family in the best way possible to be fully a part of the congregation and to grow in faith, so each member of the Body of Christ is valued and honored for their spiritual gifts and unique SHAPE (Spiritual gifts, Heart passions, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences). We do this, and all that we do, "Because You Matter!" The Pathway expresses our core DNA as a congregation and offers a lens and framework to focus, evaluate, and maximize our effectiveness in all that we do in ministry with all ages, experience levels, unique gifts, and abilities. In this way, we accomplish our mission "to know Christ and to make Christ known!" and to grow in faith both "deep and wide" as a "come as you really are" church.

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Luke 12:48b

Generosity in Giving - Thank you!

Calvary continues to thrive as a vital and healthy congregation - faithful, growing, and positively committed to the future in so many ways. Our willingness to "get out of the boat," trust God, and boldly move outward in mission is stronger than ever. I am joy-filled to report that we continue to be a very generous congregation. Through our General Operating Fund, our strong support of the "Living Into What Matters" Capital Appeal, as well as other benevolence giving for our food pantry, holiday gifts and meals, Sanctum House, and more, we have generously and faithfully offered to God's ministry through Calvary about \$1.2 million this year.

"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8b



However, as you will see from the Treasurer's Report, we ended the year with a shortfall. While disappointing, this was not unexpected and was something we talked about last year at the Annual Meeting. A sizable increase in our mortgage interest rate, uncertainty in our nation's economy, the culmination of mission support funds from the ELCA for ministry in Lapeer (which is now closed), and 2025 giving below 2024 by about 2%, all contributed to this. Thankfully, we have prepared for just such a time and have more than sufficient Reserve Funds available to see us through. Though we certainly do not want this to become a pattern. I view this clearly, not as a crisis, but as an investment in the future, an opportunity to grow in our stewardship of God's good gifts, and an invitation to trust God more, not less, as the "mantle" is being passed from many long-term members to new generations. While we will definitely continue to manage wisely, I feel very strongly that cutting back in staff or ministry at this time would only lead towards a downturn like so many congregations are experiencing. Now, more than ever, is the time to invest in the future. So, looking ahead to 2026, we will need to continue to work together as we give prayerful attention to significantly growing our General Operating Fund and fulfilling or making new commitments to the Living Into What Matters Capital Appeal. Our continued faithful stewardship is crucial to our continued growth and vitality. I continue to trust that God has provided through us all that is needed to accomplish the ministry God calls us to do. Thank you in advance for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to Calvary's ever-expanding mission and impact.

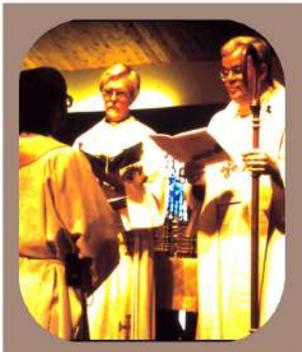
A BIG THANK YOU to our Church Council leaders for their faithful and courageous leadership of our congregation in 2025. I am so blessed to work with these folks and I very much look forward to each and every Council meeting we share together. Thank you Diane Biggs, Marcus Craft, Steve Doyle, Ashley Fecteau, Patrick McCauley, John Merz, Samantha Ruelle, Paul Scheil, and Rick Tyler. Marcus will be stepping down from council after two terms of faithful service. We will greatly miss his passion for ministry and enthusiasm! I am, however, also very excited to welcome one new Council member in 2026. Each Council member has grown and contributed in very significant ways that have made our church more joy-filled and stronger in boldly stepping out in faith as God calls. Thank you to our congregation for your trust and confidence in our Council leadership.



"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6





THANK YOU! We are Living Into What Matters! Thank you to each of you who are part of Calvary (wherever you may be) for leading, serving, giving, growing, sharing faith, loving others, and more. Without you, our ministry does not happen. Better Together, we are expanding the reach of the light of Christ nearby and around the globe! We are Living Into What Matters!

Thank you for a great and challenging 37th year as an ordained pastor and 27th year with you at Calvary. I continue to learn so very much each day and each year. I love my work and calling more and more. I love sharing it in partnership with each of you. While Debbie continues phasing towards retirement from her staff position, I have not, and I do not anticipate retirement for a number of years. However, our Church Council and I have begun discussions about the Senior Pastor transition and how important it will be to plan ahead and do this well for the sake of Calvary's future. More on this in the years to come. But for now, as we begin 2026, I am more excited than ever about what God has in store for us and I firmly believe our best years are yet to come. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for this amazing opportunity!

My prayer as we begin 2026...Gracious God, as we make this journey together along the Spiritual Growth Pathway, while practicing our faith, may we Enter and Re-Enter into your presence, Engage and Re-Engage in spiritual practices, be Equipped and Re-Equipped to serve you, and Extend always your grace to all. Help us as your people to boldly trust you each and every day as we continue to risk taking steps of faith into your future believing that we can do all things through him who gives us strength and vision. In Jesus' name, Amen!

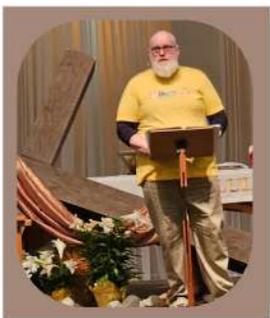
God is so very good...all the time!



"For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:14-21

Associate Pastor Bob Hegdal



Each year, I am excited to share the many impactful ways Calvary continues to show up in the community with messages of encouragement, hope, and love through our mission and outreach ministries. In 2025, we truly did "Live Into What Matters." I am grateful for the myriad of ways Calvary is willing to step in, step out, and jump in, filling cracks in systems and serving the most vulnerable among our community. Calvary continues to respond to God's call to be present and serve others through whatever need may arise. These are opportunities to remind those we encounter that they matter. Throughout the year, Calvary is present in the lives of people that we may never meet. We may never fully know the impact made through the ways in which we engage the community and the world with the hope that so often comes through generous acts of service to others.

As I reflect on 2025 and my work as Associate Pastor, I am truly grateful for the opportunities that I have had to support Calvary's mission and ministry.

I continue to enjoy leading our **Confirmation Class** of 8th and 9th graders. It is so rewarding to see the students grow in their faith through instruction followed by small group discussion with one another led by our amazing small group leaders. It is so inspiring to watch the youth begin to develop their voices in expressing their faith.

Voice of Truth Mission Experience is one of the highlights of my summer. This year, we spent some time serving at **Disaster Relief at Work (DRAW)** helping them gear up in response to natural disasters that occur throughout the Midwest. We spent a day with **Micah 6 Community** cleaning up two abandoned lots and around their greenhouses. One day, we headed down to **Grace in Action Church** to learn how they assist with the immigration crisis while preparing a



patio to host summer events. We also found time to serve at Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry. Our last day, we worked hard to clean up the property, weed the flower beds, and fruit trees at **Calvary Pontiac Orchard and Playground**.

Just 18 months ago, **Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry** was created with long-time partner, Lighthouse of Oakland County. This development allowed us to continue our weekly food distribution while enhancing what we can now offer to those in need. We are extremely grateful for Tina Lewis, who so masterfully leads Calvary Lighthouse. In December, we celebrated Michele Robinson's retirement after serving for 25 years with Lighthouse and assisting with the move of the Clarkston location to Calvary. As our relationship continues to blossom in new ways, we expect to be able to make an even bigger impact in the lives of our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. In response to the relocation and establishment of Calvary Lighthouse, we also began distributing food collection boxes throughout our community. To date, over 20 local businesses have placed collection boxes at their locations to collect food and hygiene products in support of Calvary Lighthouse. This became increasingly important during the most recent government lockdown, allowing us to keep this well-oiled ministry going.

Our partnership with **Metro Food Rescue** remains a blessing as they provide an assortment of bread and packaged treats each week. These items help to fill the food boxes we share with the community while providing enough bread to fulfill the 450 sandwiches we make each week. Currently, we provide approximately 60 meals for the students at Accent Pontiac and 365 sandwiches for the Baldwin Center in Pontiac.



Throughout the first half of 2025, we provided dinner for our partners at **HOPE Shelter** in Pontiac. Calvary volunteers shopped, prepared, delivered, and served our Pontiac neighbors. During the summer, we also delivered trays of BBQ in concert with events at Calvary's Pontiac Community Orchards and Playground.

The **Holy Smokers** once again provided delicious food for our Ferry Farms neighbors with the help of Calvary volunteers. These events help us stay connected with this amazing community while sharing the bounty of apples, pears, and vegetables that are harvested at our Pontiac Community Orchard. This summer, we delivered 240 meals to the HOPE shelter plus another 300 were shared with our Pontiac neighbors. We also provided over 100 back to school backpacks to our Ferry Farms neighbors right before school started.



Twice last year, we partnered with **North Sashabaw Elementary** to provide a taco and a spaghetti bar for 300 students and parents during their annual "Math Night" and "Literature Night" events. This Clarkston school has the largest number of students in the free/reduced lunch program.

Calvary is a founding member of **The Community Impact Team** which has been serving our community for almost 15 years. We continue to play an instrumental part as our role expands beyond the biannual Community Impact Weekends jumping in to assist our neighbors with projects like building handicapped accessible ramps as well as minor construction and plumbing projects. In 2025, we increased our outreach responding to additional projects as

they came about. It is also important to note that Pastor Jonathan serves as president of this leadership team, keeping Calvary at the forefront of these amazing service-oriented events. Twice a year, we host projects like planning and tie-blankets in collaboration with our **Congregational Caring Ministries** and Kindness Rock painting in support of **LIFE Ministry**. This year, we hosted a quilt raffle to raise money so we could purchase 100 clean birthing kits in partnership with **Global Health Charities**.



This past summer, Calvary participated in golf outings to support **SCAMP** and **On A Dragonfly's Wings**. We are always looking for more golfers to join us for these community building opportunities.



Thanks to the Calvary family, our **Giving Trees** provided support to 36 local families at Christmas. In addition, Calvary donated 150 toys to Micah 6 Community for their Annual Santa Workshop. This impact was made possible through your generosity and meaningful partnerships with **Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church of Lake Orion, Tailored Harmonies, HeathQuest of Waterford, Classic Iron Gym, Clarkston High School Cadets, Creative Co-Op Preschool, and Clarkston Internal Medicine** - each of whom is committed to serving our community. Blessed to be a Blessing.

Calvary's **Men's Breakfast** continues to meet weekly at 2 South Brunch House. This group serves as a gathering space for men to talk about how faith and life connect in their daily lives. I look forward to each early morning conversation over breakfast and appreciate the support and fellowship that this group so generously offers. There is always an empty chair available for anyone who may be interested.

2025 also marked the beginning of a new ministry, **Theology on Tap**, which meets monthly in a local restaurant discussing the intersection events in the world through our own lens of faith. It is generally a lively discussion, averaging 12 people each month, but there is always room for a few more.

Noting all the many ways that Calvary focuses on Mission and Outreach, I'd like to reflect on an excerpt from my most recent message on the call of the disciples.

In the midst of the times in which we are living, Jesus' call to "fish for people" doesn't feel simply like an instruction to go find more church members. At this moment in the history, it feels more like a call to take our boats out into the world's storms - to rescue people who are at risk of drowning, to throw lifelines to those clinging to the wreckage that life so often leaves behind, and to show up with love and compassion, modeling grace and offering hope in the midst of what can too often seem like a broken, broken world. Jesus is calling us to respond - to get back into our boats, armed with life jackets, bailing buckets, and Dramamine - and head into the storm so we can fish for people who are hoping for the church to show up and help keep them from drowning amid all that life can throw at them. Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.

"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."
Luke 5:10b

I am so excited to see what new Mission and Outreach experiences emerge for Calvary in 2026. As always, if you have any ideas for new North Oakland County partners, you can reach me at BHegdal@Calvary-Lutheran.org.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry

Tina Lewis



2025 was **Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry's** first full year operating at our Clarkston Campus. We distributed over 1620 boxes, averaging 135 boxes per month. In October and November, we did have a slight increase in clients due to the uncertainty around SNAP benefits and the holidays. We continue to distribute boxes every Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm. We also deliver 65 boxes once a month to a local mobile home park.

Michele Robinson, who worked for **Lighthouse of Oakland County** for over 25 years, built strong on-going relationships with several organizations including **Clarkston Community Schools Bus Drivers - Stuff the Bus, Connecting Clarkston, Bailey Lake Elementary 5th Grade Leaders, Mt Zion Church, Springfield Christian Academy, Clarkston Football Team, USPS - Stamp Out Hunger, Movement Search, and the Lions Club**, to name just a few. These organizations annually host food drives and/or donate cash and gift cards to help keep the pantry stocked.



In 2025, we had a concerted effort to expand these relationships and with additional food drives. We were fortunate to have many businesses support these efforts including **Oakland Eye Care, Michigan Mechanical Automotive Repair, Elevate Nutrition, Impact Nutrition, All Tire, Acorn Kitchen & Bath, Chase Bank, and Independence Elementary School**.



The success of Calvary Lighthouse reflects the faithful commitment of our volunteers, whose dedication to weekly operations and large-scale food drives enables us to serve our community with care and compassion. Weekly, volunteers distribute food boxes; pickup bakery and grocery donations from Nieman's; pick up produce donations from Independence Market; enter data into Lighthouse's system; receive, weigh, sort, check expiration dates, and store donations; sort, count, and box bread and bakery donations from Metro Food Rescue; fill boxes with an appropriate variety of food; and monthly food boxes are delivered to a nearby mobile home park.



Monthly, Calvary Lighthouse also supports families from Clarkston Community Schools and supplies donations to the **Freedge** located at Reissance High School. In addition, we work with the **Clarkston Community Garden** throughout the summer to distribute fresh vegetables to our community.



This past fall, **Lighthouse of Oakland County** acknowledged the successful move of its Clarkston Food Pantry on Dixie Highway to Calvary by recognizing all of Kellee Rainoldi's hard work during this critical transition. Kellee was given their "**Mission Possible Award.**" This award is given to an individual "who embodies the spirit of Lighthouse through meaningful change, leadership, and innovation in action. This person lives the mission every single day." Kudos to Kellee for establishing a strong foundation and providing ongoing support for Calvary Lighthouse.

I am very excited to see our pantry grow to help so many more in and around our community. In February of 2026, we have plans to host Share the Love: an Empty Bowls fundraiser. At the heart of our event is a hearty soup dinner with live music. Guests will learn how their generosity helps fill the truly empty bowls of our neighbors struggling to feed their families. To kick off the evening, each person will choose one of my husband, Richard's, hand-thrown pottery bowls to take home with them as a lasting reminder of the many neighbors who rely on Calvary Lighthouse. We are grateful to those who have already confirmed sponsorships: **Oxford Bank, Oakland Eye Care, Costco, Dort Financial, and Madison Motor Sales.** 2026 is sure to be a great year for our growing ministry.



Dear God, may this heart so small, remind me Your love is meant for all. A sign to serve with hands and care, to feed the hungry everywhere. May this heart help me remember each day, to love, to give, to serve Your way. Amen

Faith Community Health & Caring

Cindy Dixon

Red Cross Blood Drives. Calvary is considered a premier partner of the American Red Cross because we consistently hold six blood drives each year. In 2025, we hosted blood drives in February, April, August, and November. Thanks to our 20 Calvary volunteers who assisted at check-in and snack. Of course, these events would not occur without the dedicated blood donors. Thank you, in 2025, we collected 165 units.



God's Work Our Hands. This group meets the first Thursday of each month at 1pm and the third Thursday at 7pm. We meet for prayer, fellowship, and a time of blessing of completed items. This year, the group created six full-sized prayer shawls, 30 love blankets, 20 memory blankets, and 15 tie-blankets. Prayer shawls are offered to families struggling with illness or loss. Love blankets are donated to Trinity Health Oakland Hospital for their "No One Dies Alone" program while the memory blankets are part of their Peri-natal Loss Program. The tie-blankets are shared with local families at Christmas as a part of the Calvary's Giving Trees. We also make prayer dishcloths and prayer squares that are shared with our Confirmation youth.



Congregational Care. Currently we have seven trained volunteers that visit nine of our homebound members.

Medical Equipment Loan Closet. Calvary has a limited supply of mobility equipment i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, raised toilet seats, canes, crutches, shower chairs, etc. available for temporary loan as situations arise. Contact the church office if you or someone you know is in need of such an item.



Senior Faith & Fitness. This is our fourth year offering a faith-based, outreach-oriented fitness class for adults age 50+ and individuals with special needs of any age. Biblical encouragement is incorporated into a senior fitness program in ways that are straightforward, but not forced upon anyone and may include: prayer, Scripture, faith-health connections, etc., as appropriate. They meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11am in the Youth Center. The class is led by a qualified senior fitness instructor. Prior to 2020, Calvary hosted a similar program managed by St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital for eight years and led by the very same instructor.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
Proverbs 17:22



In 2018, LIFE Ministry was established in response to several tragic suicides that affected Calvary and the Clarkston community. Each year, the ministry organizes a range of events and workshops aimed at supporting individuals grappling with mental health wellness, as well as those mourning the loss of loved ones to suicide. Strong partnerships have been forged with organizations such as **Clarkston Community Schools** and **On A Dragonfly's Wings**, working collaboratively to nurture this vibrant ministry, which emphasizes sharing the light of Jesus in a hurting world while spreading messages of hope and kindness. Throughout the year, the LIFE Ministry team actively participates in numerous local events, including **Camp Dragonfly**, **CIDL's Trunk or Treat**, **Pinwheels for Prevention**, **Hug A Dragonfly 5k**, and the **Niner-8-8 Golf Outing**. To learn more, email - LIFE@Calvary-Lutheran.org.

Chelsea Grieco and Kellee Rainoldi were invited to volunteer during the very first Camp Dragonfly. This camp is a free, week-long summer camp focusing on helping kids (4th-8th grade) learn skills and strategies to develop strong mental health habits. Students benefited from joining small and large group activities to help them develop peer relationships, learn healthy coping mechanisms and foster positive mental health. This camp focuses on self-regulation and coping strategies that will include nature, nutrition, physical movement, journaling, team building, and so much more. LIFE Ministry was the primary sponsor of the backpacks that each student received.



This year, **Clarkston's Walk for Hope** marked its sixth anniversary in partnership with Clarkston Community Schools, raising a record-breaking \$3,250 in support of On A Dragonfly's Wings, a local non-profit organization. Be sure to pick up a Kindness Rocks t-shirt from the WellSpring Bookstore to support this amazing ministry. Save the date for Clarkston's Walk for Hope - August 8, 2026 at 9 am - The theme is Kindness is Free!



This year, we included something new, **The HOPE Zone**. This was a huge hit for all ages especially given the hot temps. The HOPE Zone offered a variety of stations like breathe easy, move your mood, origami expressions, kindness rock painting, and more with the goal of filling a **Passport to Peace** to win prizes. Passport to Peace was a simple handbook to encourage families to dive deeper into mental health wellness. Huge shout out to the **Clarkston High School NHS Students** who volunteered their time to make this such a successful addition.



Did you know that Calvary is home to the third **Kindness Rock Garden** in the Clarkston area? This garden is a serene spot for anyone seeking a peaceful place to enjoy nature, pray, or admire beautifully painted rocks. Visitors are encouraged to take a rock, leave a rock, or share one with someone who may need a reminder of God's love. During Community Impact Weekends in April and November, rock painting opportunities are offered for families to keep this lovely garden filled with inspiring words and beautifully decorated rocks. The garden is located in the back corner of Calvary's parking lot, near the Low Ropes Course.



Each November, the team hosts the impactful **Survivor Day** event in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The annual gathering is designed for survivors of suicide loss to connect, find comfort, and gain understanding through shared stories of hope and healing. The day features a hot breakfast, a short film, facilitated discussions, coping techniques, mental health resources, and more. This event is open to anyone who has lost someone to suicide or cares for someone who has, providing a safe and supportive environment for participants to grieve and remember their loved ones as the holiday season approaches. Plan to join Survivor Day - November 21, 2026 at 8am.

Recently, we received a thank you note from someone who attended this event in 2025. They wrote:

"It was a pleasure to meet the staff and many volunteers this past November. I am most grateful to those who worked to bring this event to Clarkston. Thank you especially to your organizers who helped me register and then greeted me that morning. I was very impressed with many of those I met who were present help those who have lost a loved one by suicide, like me. May your congregation continue to thrive."

Again this year, with the support of Pastor Jonathan, the LIFE Ministry team is planning to lift up **Mental Health Wellness and Suicide Awareness** during Worship in May and September. You are invited to join the LIFE Ministry Team as we discover new ways to show others that they are not alone and that hope truly does exist.



"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16

This year, I've found myself reflecting on how that "light" often manifests in the most practical, behind-the-scenes ways. Whether it's a perfectly timed fader move on the soundboard or the selfless decision to change how we play an instrument for the sake of the room. These "good deeds" are all aimed at one thing - clearing the path so our congregation can glorify God without distraction.

One of the most significant shifts we tackled in 2025 was the transition from acoustic drums to e-drums in the worship center. For those who aren't musicians, this might seem like a simple gear swap, but it's actually a major cultural shift. Most musicians naturally prefer the feel and resonance of live amps, floor wedges, and acoustic drums. However, our team is comprised of people who are endlessly selfless.

Maury Vincent worked tirelessly to make this transition seamless, focusing on the technical hurdles so the heart of the music remained intact. The result was immediate. During the very first week, I had four people comment on how much better the music sounded, completely unaware that the drums they were hearing were now digital.

This change also directly impacted our sound team - Rick Hedden, Steve Doyle, and Tom Grant. These men are constantly learning and growing, managing live audio in a way that sounds professional far beyond what our budget should allow. It is never about looking good or being flashy; it's about minimizing distractions. I'm always grateful for the congregation's patience during these shifts, too. There is no "one-size-fits-all" volume or mix, and it often takes a few Sundays for the sound to stabilize when we make a big change like this. We are beyond blessed by the time and expertise this team brings every week.



We also saw some wonderful continuity in our physical space. Last year, Gordon Tate used his engineering skills to build a wire trough to tidy up the worship center wiring. This year, Rick and Anne Tyler stepped up - without even being asked - and took it upon themselves to paint the trough so it blended perfectly. It's a small detail that speaks volumes about the spirit of service at Calvary.



As with any year, we also experienced some bittersweet transitions. We were sad to see Chelsea Vernarsky and her husband, Joe, move to the west side of the state. Chelsea has lifted up this congregation with her talent and spirit for years, and while we miss them, we are so thankful for the time they spent with us. On the other hand, we are thrilled to welcome Curt Beyerlein to the technical team.



Reflecting on 2025, I am consistently humbled by the generosity of this community - whether it's the team members who faithfully show up to serve on the tech team at our early morning traditional service; the musicians who share not only their time and talent but also their resources Sunday mornings and at community events like the Annual Car Show and Women's Gathering; or those who consistently worship each week while also serving in other areas of Calvary's ministry.

Our volunteers are so capable and committed that it's easy to assume every need is met, but there is always room for more hands. If you have a heart for service - whether on the worship team or behind the scenes with the tech crew, please reach out - KVanGoor@Calvary-Lutheran.org.



Standing and serving alongside such outstanding people is the highlight of my year. God is good, all the time!

"...we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”
Proverbs 3:5-6



One of my all-time favorite verses - Proverbs 3:5-6 - is now paired with my 2026 Star Word - deeper. As I move into this year, my heart’s desire is to go deeper in all the areas of life where roots have already been formed - my 2025 Star Word was rooted. Over the past year, rhythms and routines have taken hold, anchoring me more firmly in Scripture, worship, fellowship, and prayer. My time, attention, and energy have been shaped by these practices, and I am grateful for the steady foundation they’ve created.

Looking ahead to the word deeper, I extend this prayer not only for myself, but for all of us at Calvary.

Together, let us grow deeper in our faith through prayer, Bible study, Sunday worship, serving, giving, and developing authentic relationships with one another. As our faith deepens, may we grow in confidence in the Holy Spirit’s work within us - not only to live as God intends, but to impact our circles of influence and God’s world in meaningful ways.

If growing deeper in faith is something you’re longing for, I encourage you to join a **Growth Group**. These groups provide a space to discuss scripture or faith topics in an environment that welcomes questions, confusion, discovery, and insight. Groups gather around Bible studies, seasonal materials, and specific books. Through them you’ll find both renewed spiritual focus and the life-giving energy that comes from genuine connection with God’s people.

It’s also important that we create opportunities to invite friends from outside Calvary to “come and see” what God is doing in our church. Events like the **Car Show**, **Calvary’s Campout**, and **Chili & Mac Cookoff** are natural, welcoming spaces where that invitation is easy to extend. Jesus told his disciples, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch” Luke 5:4. He invites us to do the same - to go deeper and to bring others along so they, too, may experience the love and grace of Jesus. If you want to learn more, please email - AVanGoor@Calvary-Lutheran.org.



Another opportunity to share the love of Jesus is through Calvary’s social media presence, which I have the privilege of helping shape. In addition to event invitations and announcements, posts reflect sermon themes and the inspiration, encouragement, and hope shared each Sunday. When you “like,” “comment,” or “share” Calvary’s posts, you strengthen our online presence, helping to create space for others to connect to the True Vine. As we grow deeper together, this prayer from Colossians captures my hope for us all.

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:7

2025 Calvary Events & Activities

- Star Word
- Holiday Decorating
- Get Connected!
- Calvary Campout
- Car Show
- Chili & Mac Cookoff
- Women’s Gathering
- Walk for Hope
- Kick Off Sunday
- Survivor Day
- Lent & Advent Dinners
- Red Cross Blood Drives
- Clarkston Tree Lighting
- Sanctum House Craft Nights
- Zonjic Benefit Concert
- Women’s Book Club
- Theology on Tap
- Adult Mission Trips
- Senior Faith & Fitness
- Recovery Groups
- Community Impact Weekends
- Mid-Week Meetup

2025 Growth Groups

- Women’s Bible Study
- Men’s Bible Study
- Young Couples
- Peace In The Storm | PITS
- Something More Bible Study
- Wednesday AM/PM Bible Study
- Lent Study - 10 Groups
- Advent Study - 7 Groups
- 40Days of Strength - 16 Groups
- Calvary Women
- Divorce Care
- Grief Care
- Saturday Hike
- WELCA Bible Study
- Men’s Breakfast
- God’s Work Our Hands
- Discover Calvary
- Spiritual Gifts Core Class

Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people.
Matthew 4:19

In 2025, Youth & Family Ministry (YFM) focused on **Joining Jesus** - helping children recognize where Jesus is already at work and learning how to follow Him in everyday life. YFM equips young people to be present with Jesus through prayer, scripture, worship, service, and community in a world that can feel anxious and disconnected. What if every child and family knew that Jesus is not only calling us - but inviting us to walk with Him?



Our vision is that every child experience a meaningful relationship with God, supported by consistent leaders who walk alongside them through every PHASE of life. As we join Jesus, we discover that faith is not something we do alone - it is lived out together. This is where Jesus meets us, shapes us, and sends us to share God's love with others. This is our invitation to children, families, and volunteers alike - come, follow Jesus - and join Him in what He is already doing in our world.



YFM partners closely with families and volunteers, utilizing dependable and relevant PHASE-based curriculum to support youth through every stage of development. We intentionally incorporate fresh ideas, equip our leaders, and prioritize building meaningful, Christ-centered relationships. Our ministry is enriched through opportunities such as Community Impact Weekend, Voice of Truth Mission Experience, Vacation Bible School, and local events including Taste of Clarkston, Good Friday CrossWalk, and Clarkston Holiday Lights Parade. Throughout the year, YFM connects with families through social media and sharing weekly videos that reinforce Sunday programming themes - including Summer Sundays. Youth are also encouraged to step out in faith through camps such as CHARGE, SpringHill, and Stony Lake Summer Camp.



Partnering with Families to Help Them Win! With the steadfast support of our volunteers and leaders, YFM continues to share the light of Calvary in partnership with families. We believe that when the light of the church (symbolized by yellow) combines with the heart of each family (represented by red), the result is a stronger, more vibrant faith impact (orange). We deepen family connections through meaningful resources and shared experiences. Bring Your Family to Class Day is an open invitation to our parents and caregivers to join their children for Sunday programming. Each fall, Gift Bible Sunday celebrates faith milestones as Preschoolers, 2nd Graders, and 8th Graders receive new Bibles - marking an important moment in their spiritual journey. In January, YFM hosted our annual One-Year Celebration, welcoming families of newborns to receive age-appropriate Bibles and share in a joyful reception. New this year, families were invited to join YFM for a lovely Christmas Program. It was a wonderful way for the children to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



The PHASE Leadership Team. Pastor Bob Hegdal, Rebecca Higgins, and Nicole Hock work closely with Kim Hilliard and Jayne Bannister, who fully embrace the PHASE approach to learning. Supported by faith-based curriculum, this model focuses on critical developmental milestones in a child's life. The team guides families using Calvary's Spiritual Growth Pathway and a comprehensive milestone map, encouraging children to Enter into a relationship with God; Engage and deepen their faith; be Equipped as disciples in today's world; and Extend their faith to others. We are grateful for a team that supports parents and adult influencers with practical tools, while fostering a culture among leaders and volunteers that honors each developmental PHASE and empowers faith formation.

YFM Volunteers. We are deeply thankful for our more than 60 dedicated volunteers serving across all five PHASEs - from Nursery through High School. We also have Junior Volunteers - 4th through 7th graders - who have been a joy to watch as they share their servant hearts and leadership enthusiasm monthly during Sunday programming. To support and grow with our volunteers, we offer quarterly Volunteer Refreshers focused on safety, sensitivity, and community building, as well as opportunities for professional development through the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza and other educational conferences. Our volunteers' commitment is a true blessing - and they are undeniably Joining Jesus.



YFM Inclusion Ministry. This ministry is being shaped by a passionate team of volunteers committed to celebrating diversity and fostering belonging. This ministry creates space where individuals of all abilities, backgrounds, and experiences feel seen, heard, and valued. We are thrilled to share that this ministry has been chosen to receive an ELCA Disabilities Ministry Grant. This grant will help us offer training for volunteers while providing more sensory and inclusive support tools for children in our ministry.

Nursery. Throughout this year, Calvary's Nursery served as a vital ministry supporting families with the youngest among us. By offering dependable, loving care during worship services, Bible studies, Growth Groups, and church events, this ministry helps parents participate fully in the life of the church while knowing their children are well cared for and safe. It has been a true blessing to welcome new families to our church while also continuing to serve those who have been part of our congregation for many years. Our volunteers demonstrate incredible dedication, maintaining strong safety standards and creating a calm, welcoming environment where children can feel secure and loved. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and faithfulness of those who serve in this ministry. As we look ahead, we joyfully welcome new volunteers who may feel called to support this important work and help continue caring for the youngest members of our church family.



Preschool & Elementary. At this PHASE, our 2nd Graders and parents are invited to participate in Bible 101 to strengthen foundational Biblical understanding. Our 3rd Graders and their families are encouraged to attend First Communion classes led by Pastor Jonathan Heierman. On Maundy Thursday, we joined in celebration of First Communion for thirteen students. YFM hosted the Lent Family Experience which helped families focus on reflecting the image of God through each other's uniqueness. We also hosted a financial workshop that explored Biblical stewardship and money management for kids and parents. This fall brought our 4th through 7th Graders back to SpringHill Camp for a special weekend retreat. This year, we also offered our Nativity FUNtivity in-person and online. We had a wonderfully positive response to this event as we recreated the birth of Jesus using sweet treats. YFM wrapped up the year with an interactive and joyful Christmas Program, complete with the debut of a new youth band.



Middle School. Middle School students brought faith and history to life by performing our annual Martin Luther skit for Elementary kids. In the fall, students also participated SpringHill Camp retreat and our CHARGE At Home event with older youth. Our 6th and 7th Graders continue to love participating in our many service opportunities.



Confirmation. Our 8th and 9th Graders continue to thrive in our Confirmation Class through peer-driven discussion, Lutheran faith instruction, and meaningful large and small group engagement. Fall and winter retreats foster deep relationships and spiritual growth. This year, six 10th Graders celebrated their Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday - an important milestone in their faith journeys. Students of all ages served the bigger church through Community Impact Weekend, Voice of Truth Summer Mission Experience, and Vacation Bible School.

Club 3:16. Our 10th through 12th Graders meet on Sunday evenings in a welcoming and supportive space where they can truly be themselves. Their time together is centered on building relationships, catching up on life, sharing stories, and having honest conversations about the challenges they are facing. In January, students participated in the SpringHill Youth Retreat, which provided meaningful opportunities for faith growth and connection. Matthew Toombs, an 11th Grader, served as our Youth Representative at the 2025 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly with several Calvary Leaders. In June, many of the youth served as part of Calvary's Voice of Truth Mission Experience, where they put their faith into action through service and community engagement. YFM fills the summer months with fun events and activities that strengthen friendships and keep students connected. 2026 will find many of our teens excited about our Mission Trip to Logan County, West Virginia. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our youth will continue growing in faith through fellowship.

Growth and Goals. We are inspired by the generosity of our youth and their growing commitment to tithing and service. Our focus on safety for all helped us make significant updates within our building while updating safety procedures. Families and leaders were kept informed of our safety protocols which also included our first Fire Drill. We continue our intentional connection with Small Group Leaders to better support them. Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to build on this momentum by focusing on milestones, relationship-building, expanded programming, additional service opportunities, and new summer camp options for older youth. If you want to learn more about Youth & Family Ministry please reach out - YFM@Calvary-Lutheran.org.



2025! WOW! Of course, 2025 offered so many opportunities for growth - physically and spiritually. As the clock ticked into the new year, I immersed myself in the final preparation for the Certified Church Administrator project - Revising Calvary's Employee Handbook - which hasn't been revised since 2006. For me, it was a five-year labor of love and such a relief when I received final approval in February. Whew!

This work is now ready to move into its next phase, and with the help of our Church Council and guidance from Diane Biggs and Pastor Jonathan Heierman, I'm excited to see these revisions put into practice. I'm so thankful for Calvary's support of this achievement. Over the past 10 years, I have learned the value of serving Calvary and the community with a joyful heart - especially recognizing that administration is indeed a ministry. In July, I received my certificate and officially added CCA - **Certified Church Administrator** to my signature.



Our Administrative Ministry oversees so many aspects of Calvary's Ministry, yet, none of this work can be done by one person. I am truly grateful to the many volunteers and staff who jump in making things go that much smoother. Especially when, not once but twice this year, I had to step aside for **two shoulder surgeries**. We were aware as 2025 started that I would be getting my right shoulder repaired in March but it came as quite a shock that I would then need to have a reverse shoulder replacement on the same shoulder in October.

As I mentioned in 2024, there are so many parallels between physical therapy and the hours we spend building upon our faith and sharing it with others so they can do the same. Little did I know that exactly a year after Nicole Hock's first shoulder repair, she too would need another, a month before my replacement. Again, God allowed us to lean on each other, support one another, and share each others' burdens, growing our friendship that much stronger. This is what God calls us to do in our day-to-day life and definitely as we walk alongside Jesus. I'm happy to report both Nicole and I have pretty much full range of motion in our left arms. I thank God every day for the marvels of modern medicine and His timing for the huge nudges He tends to need to give me when I stray from relying on Him.



In July, Lighthouse of Oakland County reached out to congratulate me on being awarded the **Mission Possible Award**. WHAT? To say this award caught me by surprise is an understatement. It's not often that an administrator receives this kind of recognition, and honestly, I'm just doing what I know God has called me to do.



When Lighthouse approached us about relocating their Clarkston Food Pantry, I knew right away that we simply had to make this happen. But HOW? Well we cleared out closets, purged boxes, reorganized work areas, and relocated activities to bring to life this vision of further helping those experiencing food insecurity while sharing hope and compassion. Our relationship with Lighthouse spans many, many years and watching this partnership flourish into such an amazing ministry is a great example of the many blessings that come when we serve together.

As I did in the speech given on September 30, I'd like to acknowledge a few key people who have been so essential on this journey. My family - Mathew and Keeton - they are often drawn into situations they don't exactly choose for themselves, but they come along with me anyway. Sheila Gerber - my personal day planner, who asks the best questions and always keeps me on my toes. Chelsea Grieco - our daily dose of sunshine, who joined Calvary in late 2024 right in the middle of this transition - and wasn't scared away. Last but not most certainly not least, Tina Lewis - she voluntarily stepped into a unique leadership role with excellence and care. These individuals keep me grounded reminding me daily of God's love and grace.

"based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God."
1 Peter 4:10

Of course, none of this would be possible without the countless volunteers who serve so faithfully and selflessly. They are truly the hands and feet of Jesus, making a difference in the lives of others every single day. I am so very grateful to God for the love and support that He has provided through each of you. It is a true testimony to the love Calvary has for all of God's

people. **Thank you!** I remain honored and humbled to have persevered through the ups and downs of 2025. I am deeply appreciative to be among so many amazing people, knowing that God continues to use my determination to encourage others to step outside their comfort zones, to serve boldly, and to believe in what IS possible.

As if all of this wasn't enough to share with Calvary's Congregation, 2025 marked the first time we have ever participated in a fire drill to include Youth & Family as well as those in Worship. It was an impressive event. In 2026, we will continue developing Safety and Security Procedures in an effort to keep our congregation safe. If you are interested in joining the **Safety Team**, please don't hesitate to reach out - KRainoldi@Calvary-Lutheran.org.

The Clarkston Beastie Bots Robotics Team



The Clarkston Beastie Bots Robotics Team #14757 is a Clarkston FIRST Robotics Team of 11 middle school and junior high students, sponsored by Calvary Lutheran Church where they meet throughout the year.

Team #14757 has competed in FIRST Tech Challenge for seven seasons and attended over 30 official events since 2019. This team was considered a rookie team and began competing in 2018. After several transitional years, the team rebranded in 2024–2025 as The Clarkston Beastie Bots, reflecting their renewed focus on long-term sustainability, community impact, and team identity, they organized into subteams: build, coding, driving, marketing, plus research and design. New members begin by exploring all subteams before

choosing a role. Returning students mentor incoming members, forming a leadership pipeline that ensures knowledge transfer and long-term sustainability. Students help set goals, lead discussions, and oversee projects, preparing the next generation of Beastie Bots leaders.

Team #14757 aims to do more than just build robots. They inspire students to collaborate, share ideas, creatively solve problems, engage with cutting-edge technology, compete with robots, and have fun while learning. This team is committed to fostering curiosity, teamwork, and innovation in STEM while promoting gracious professionalism both within the team and the broader FIRST community. It is also a priority of The Beastie Bots to lift up and support other FTC teams. They do this by being open to assisting other teams with parts if they have them available and recognizing teams that stand out from the others.



A vital part of the success of this robotics team is connecting with STEM professionals. Because of the connections with Calvary, the team was able to host two very influential professionals, **Blake Fecteau** (Propulsion Manufacturing Strategy and Planning Director with General Motors) and **Anthony Grieco** (Connected Vehicle Service Domain Leader with Stellantis). During the visits from the speakers, the team made sure they shared their excitement for robotics and invited each speaker to take a closer look at their robot. This was valuable because the students were able to practice presenting, answer questions, and the speakers shared ideas for possible tweaks.



Fundraising is essential to the long-term success of The Clarkston Beastie Bots. With the help of Calvary, the team runs a year-long can drive. They also have fall mum sales and work continually to secure sponsors – including \$1,000 grants from both the Boeing Company and Thrivent Financial. This year, they also received additional support from Cedar Lodge Masons right here in Clarkston. The coaches collaborate with the team to develop an annual budget covering robot parts, uniforms, food for competitions, pit materials, and portfolio supplies. They track income and expenses using a team spreadsheet and measure success by maintaining a positive balance.

It is important to The Clarkston Beastie Bots Robotics Team to connect to the community and support others. Thanks in part to Calvary, Team #14757 participated in Community Impact Weekend twice by serving local nonprofits and area neighbors in need. The Clarkston Beastie Bots are building a legacy rooted in sustainability, outreach, technical excellence, and FIRST values. Through thoughtful planning, strong community partnerships, meaningful recruitment efforts, and innovative engineering, they are ensuring that their program continues long after today's members graduate. The team is proud to serve as ambassadors of FIRST and to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders.

The 2026-2027 season, Mathew Rainoldi and Jason Sherrill will lead the Clarkston Beastie Bots again with plans to host several events at Calvary as they continue to promote STEM in our community.

Creative Co-Op Preschool

Since 1958, Creative Co-Op Preschool has been licensed by the State of Michigan partnering with Calvary just over 10 years ago. Since then, Creative Co-op Preschool has achieved significant milestones and experienced notable growth. Students have had the opportunity to explore various cultural and educational venues, including a visit to "The Painted Pot" in Rochester, the Clarkston Independence District Library, and Spicers Cider Mill. These field trips exemplify the preschool's commitment to offering a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom. The preschool is committed to creating a nurturing and enriching learning environment which has profoundly impacted the positive experiences of the students year after year.



Boy Scout Pack 163

Status & Advancements. Pack 163 includes 55 registered Scouts and 16 registered adults. This is a family Pack which accepts girls and boys - the only one in the area. Most Scouts advanced to their next rank, this year. Current Den Count: 7 Lions, 10 Tigers, 5 Wolves, 12 Bears, 13 Webelos, and 8 Arrow of Light.

Activities. 2025 was a great year full of adventure. Scout Dens meet once a month to complete achievements and activities for further advancement. Scout Pack 163 also met once a month to award achievements, host activities, and work on future plans. During Pack meetings, scouts learned about Science and camp safety.

Recently, Pack 163 celebrated the 116th anniversary of Scouting and learned about Scouting history. Each March, Pack 163 races in the annual Pinewood Derby hosted at Calvary. The pack also had a carnival with games created by the Bear Den.

In March, Pack 163 raced in the annual Pinewood Derby hosted at Calvary. The pack also had a carnival with games created by the Bear Den and went on a campout at Cole Canoe Base in Alger. During the summer, Scouts marched in the Clarkston Fourth of July Parade and spent the night at the Sloan Museum in Flint.

September is the start a new scouting year, which includes several new leaders and a few new Scouts to Pack 163. Scouts went camping at D-Bar-A Scout Ranch in Metamora, where they had fun hiking in the dark, fishing, shooting BB guns, playing human foosball, and putting on campfire skits. Scouts attended Greenfield Village for a day of fun. The Scouts also volunteered to collect canned food as part of the Scouting for Food donation drive. As part of Community Impact Weekend, Scouts and parents raked leaves around the church property. In December, Pack 163 built a float for Clarkston's Holiday Lights Parade. They braved the frigid weather to walk and were awarded the "Most Creative STEM" award.

Thank You! We are excited for 2026 and continue to enjoy the support of Calvary!



Boy Scout Troop 189

Advancement. Troop 189 had a great year with 11 rank advancements. Scouts also earned 42 Merit Badges.

Activities. As an active Scouts BSA Troop, we have participated in more than 20 events throughout the year. Activities included: Scout Advancement camp at Camp Agawam, cabin campout at Camp Kiwanis in Frankenmuth, overnight Lock-In at Urban Air, Pioneering Campout at Holly Recreation Area, Clarkston Holiday Parade, as well as escape rooms and a swim night. In February, the Troop attended the Pon Man HoDag - a district wide troop competition and winter campout. The Scouts completed the Chief Pontiac Trail backpacking trek three times: once in the winter, once in the fall, which included canoeing a portion of the trail, and once in the summer for a special Warrior Trek. And we took a Mystery Trip that included visiting a civil war reenactment. During the summer 6 scouts and 4 leaders attended summer camp at Camp Frontier at Pioneer Scout Reservation in Pioneer, OH in July. We also had 5 scouts and 3 leaders who attended Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico for a High Adventure backpacking trek in August.

Community Service. As a Troop, we completed 173 scout service hours and 147 adult service hours for a grand total of 320 hours of community service in 2025! Scouts served at Great Lakes National Cemetery, performed two Adopt-A-Road trash pick-ups along Waldon Road, performed a flag ceremony for the Angels Place Race at St. Daniels Catholic Church, and supported the Clarkston Family Farm Christmas Party (which had Assistant Scoutmasters in costume). Scouting for Food in November resulted in 160 bags of food delivered to the food pantry at Clarkston United Methodist Church. The troop also got a chance to give back to the Chief Pontiac Trail area by help to clean out fire pits at Proud Lake State Campground.

Thank You! Troop 189 would not be possible without the continued support of Calvary, its staff, and members. We were established over 60 years ago and are very proud to represent Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are sincerely grateful to you for all that you do to support Troop 189!



Finance Ministry



Diane Biggs

The Finance Ministry Team's duties encompass a broad range of financial responsibilities vital to Calvary's operations and strategic planning.

Financial Oversight. Ensuring that Calvary's financial activities align with established accounting policies and procedures.

Monthly Reporting. Monitoring and reporting the financial results of the General Fund and all other funds to the Church Council each month.

Investment Management. Reviewing and overseeing the investment activities for designated funds on a quarterly basis.

Stewardship and Transparency. Acting as faithful stewards of Calvary's financial gifts, ensuring transparency in financial matters and reporting to the congregation.



Kellee Rainoldi

The big picture for 2025 is that we remained within our approved spending plan without lessening the impact our programs and ministries have on equipping disciples and responding to needs in our community and beyond. We were intentional and careful with expenses throughout the year, acting with both faith and responsibility during a time when income was lower than we had hoped. Giving decreased by 2% from 2024, along with the conclusion of our ELCA and Synod mission support

connected to our ministry with Christ the King in Lapeer, which elected to close. This was not unexpected - we spoke about it together last year and knew it would be a challenging season. As a result, we ended the year with a General Fund shortfall of \$41,000, even as we launched the Calvary Lighthouse Food Pantry and continued to grow and expand our many ministries.

Taking Jeremiah's words and placing Calvary into the text, we can say that even in a year of drought, Calvary bore fruit. It is a powerful reminder that those who trust in God remain connected to a source of spiritual nourishment that sustains them through difficult seasons.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.
Jeremiah 17:7-8

To cover the shortfall, we used a portion of our reserve accounts - resources that have been a true blessing from God and have been stewarded carefully over time. We also want to be clear that our reserves remain healthy. These funds exist for moments like this, and using them was a thoughtful, planned decision - not an emergency measure.

Thank you, each of you, for your continued faithfulness and generosity, for trusting in the Lord, for trusting in Calvary to be good and wise stewards of your gifts, and for fully participating in our shared mission, "To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known."

We begin 2026 with gratitude, noting that we experienced the largest increase in General Fund offering pledges in a decade - not as a measure of success, but as a reflection of our shared willingness to step forward in faith and live into a common mission. We are blessed that our mission partners, including Lighthouse, Sanctum House, and the Community Impact Team, continue to work alongside us to reach more lives than any one of us could alone. Our volunteers remain one of our most vital resources, generously offering their time, energy, and commitment. Your faithful support allows Calvary's ministries not only to continue, but to grow and thrive.

Thank you for boldly stepping into the new year together.



KickOff Sunday



Maundy Thursday Foot Washing



Christmas Morning Pets & PJs



Calvary's Chili & Mac Cookoff



Clarkston Tree Lighting



Good Friday CrossWalk & Worship



Sanctum House Craft Night



Calvary's Annual Egg Toss



Community Impact Weekend

2026 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING VOTING ITEMS

2026 Church Council Nominations

Affirmed by Church Council on 02/02/26



Steve Doyle | 2nd Term

My wife, Shannon, and I joined Calvary in 2016 with our daughters, Kayla and Claire. When we first started coming to Calvary, it was an experience we have never felt before at a church. Being raised Catholic, my family was at church every Sunday (2nd pew). Going to church felt more like an obligation than seeking spiritual fulfillment. Calvary was different. I'm still learning about my faith and journey with God. In the Spiritual Gifts and SHAPE classes, I've learned that my primary gifts are discernment, visionary and leading management, and nurturing leadership. With God's help, I will continue to learn how to use these gifts.

Outside of church, I own and operate a business and leadership development corporation, which operates globally, with a primary focus on operations and professional development. I firmly believe that to drive business and inspire leaders and their organizations to be better, we do it together and we start making that impact today!

On Sunday mornings, you can often find me serving at the Technical Arts Desk or as a reader at the later services. I've also served on the Because You Matter capital appeal team. Thank you for your trust, guidance, and for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.



Sarah Craft | 1st Term

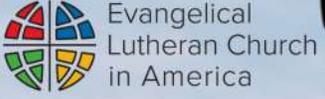
My name is Sarah Craft. In 2012, I began attending Calvary after I started dating my boyfriend Marcus, who is now my husband. His family have been longtime members, and on the occasion I visited while I was still in college or living in Grand Rapids before we got married, we would come to Calvary together. My parents had helped start a small non-denominational church with some of their college friends in Wixom, so I had grown up very firmly in the church, but whenever I had attended a "denominational" church, I often found them stuffy or exclusive. This wasn't the case when I came to Calvary. The "come as you really are" ethos was lived out through friendly people, sermons that felt full of God's grace, and open Communion.

Over the years, I've participated in many Growth Groups and even led a few. It is through these groups that I really came to know Calvary as my church home, growing in my faith and seeing firsthand the impact Calvary can have on the people who walk through its doors.

I've lived in Michigan my whole life, growing up in Wixom before attending college in Holland at Hope College. I studied English Literature and Communications and swam on the varsity team for four years. I've spent the last several years working in corporate communications for a construction firm. In my spare time, I love gardening, swimming, and reading. We have two boys, Isaiah (almost 5) and Alexander (2), who keep us moving. Our family feels at home at Calvary, and we've been supported by our church family through many of life's peaks and valleys. I know that God has made me better in so many ways through Calvary and blessed me to be a blessing as I continue to lean into my purpose here.

Calvary

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Holy Smokers at Calvary Pontiac Community Orchard & Playground



Serving Dinner at North Sashabaw Elementary



Women's Book Club



6th Annual Clarkston Walk for Hope

2025 ANNUAL REPORT