



THE VISITOR March 2024

920-494-2431
1301 S. Ridge Road
Green Bay, WI 54304
www.calvarygb.com

Forming Community

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.
(Matthew 18:20)

Gathering in community, particularly Christian community, is a gift. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in *Life Together* writes, “It is by God’s grace that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly around God’s word and sacrament in this world. Not all Christians partake of this grace... They know that visible community is grace.” And the grace of our visible life together has been easily taken for granted in a bygone era; when participation in congregational life was assumed and church attendance was seen as a duty.

Today, the world has changed. Congregational life cannot be assumed. And church attendance is approached like an a la carte menu of choices and options. Communities have become divided in how to respond to the changing reality around them. Some argue for a return to practices that worked in the days of full sanctuaries and building expansions. Others argue to embrace new and contemporary practices to attract new folks. This leaves communities fragmented and at odds with one another while people are experiencing severe loneliness and isolation. There is a keen hunger for connection and belong. And yet, it has been difficult for faith communities to faithfully engage with those who desperately need a community.

This Lent, we are exploring Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together* to examine our own life together. The central claim in Bonhoeffer’s book is simple, yet the implications are profound: “We belong to one another on through and in Jesus Christ.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer found himself in Germany in the mid-1930s. He directed an underground seminary at Zingst and Finkenwalde from 1935-1937, before there was yet a loyalty oath to the Führer or extreme public violence against the Jewish minority. “There were, however, already many other ominous signs of the times...” (Rev. Dr. Craig L. Nesson, Wartburg Seminary). Bonhoeffer sought to imagine a Christian community that would form people to be *intentionally Christian* in a time and place that had mostly forgotten what that means. Our challenge, today as in Bonhoeffer’s time, is to imagine how an intentionally Christian community emerges from fragmentation.

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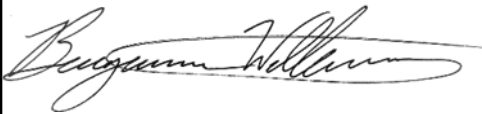
Bonhoeffer's simple, yet profound, solution is to place Christ at the very heart of the community. "It means, *first*, that a Christian needs others for the sake of Jesus Christ. It means, *second*, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, *third*, that from eternity we have been chosen in Jesus Christ, accepted in time, and united for eternity." (Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 5). In other words, when Christ is at the heart of community, it allows that community to be messy, complicated, imperfect, and still together. As Christ's church, we are called to be different together. This is how God has always intended the church to be.

Consider the disciples Jesus gathers: one a betrayer, one a doubter, one a denier. At the end of Christ's ministry here on earth, the disciples all abandoned Jesus. The community that Jesus gathered and cultivated was nothing but messy, complicated, and imperfect. And still, because Jesus was at the heart of their gathering, they were still gathered in that upper room waiting for some good news on easter morning. They continued in ministry to change the entire world for centuries after they were finished here on earth. Because they were bound to one another in and through Christ, they were "accepted in time, and united in eternity." Their legacy we carry on today. It certainly looks different. It may even sound different. And still, the heart of our gatherings is the same: Jesus Christ.

As we journey through the remaining days of Lent, I invited you to reflect on why it is you gather in Christian community. Why is it important to you? What are the things that weaken it? What are the things that strengthen it? And, ultimately, how are you called to cultivate that community that Christ is gathering?

Our answers may be different. Our callings are most certainly different. And, when we insist on letting Christ be the heart and center of our community, we will find that there is more than enough room for all of us in this life together.

In common hope,



Pr. Ben

Installation of Pastor Ben



Dear Ones of Calvary,

Thank you for your support and celebration at my Installation. I began my ordained ministry on a hay wagon in the middle of a cornfield in June of 2020. While that moment was special and meaningful, I did miss the opportunity to gather with fellow clergy and have the entire community surround me in prayer without restriction. You gave me that. I appreciate your prayers, your words of blessing, and your faithful commitment to walking in ministry with me. I look forward to the work that God has entrusted to us. And I give thanks to God for bringing me to this community.

With gratitude,
Pastor Ben



Easter Blessings



Faster Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship—Sun March 24th 8 & 10:30 am

Palm Sunday Breakfast—Sun March 24th 8:30-10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Worship—Thur March 28th 6 pm

Good Friday Worship—Fri March 29th 12:15 & 6 pm

Easter Sunday Worship—Sun March 31st 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, March 24

8:30am - 10:30am in the MPR

\$10.00 per person

Children under 2 are Free

**CREATED
TO BE**

All proceeds go towards
students attending the
ECLA Summer Camp!



Palm Sunday Breakfast Items Needed

Please consider donating some of these items:

Butter
Cans of Salsa
Cheddar Cheese
(shredded)
Chocolate Chips
Frozen Sausage Links



Orange Juice Concentrate
Pancake Mix
Pancake Syrup
(sugar free)
White Milk

Drop off Donations at the Church Office
by **Sunday, March 17.**

Monetary donations welcomed!

thrivent

CALVARY—THRIVENT

Calvary Thrivent Members – Thank you!

You directed \$4,134 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Calvary in 2023. Thank you!

Don't forget any remaining 2023 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31st.

We thank you in advance for directing them to Calvary.



Gazebo Plaques

All requested plaques have been hung in the Gazebo.

Next order for any plaque will be in April!

(Approximate cost \$15)



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

To all Calvary Food Pantry volunteers—thank you for shopping, shelving, packing and distributing the food for our pantry.

The number of volunteers to do these jobs has decreased in the past 3-4 years, so we are always looking for additional people. Please help, if you can.

We know volunteering isn't possible for everyone; however, willingness to help often is. An alternative is available... a donation of a specific item/items each month.

March's item: Dinty Moore Beef Stew or Canned Beef

These items will be placed on a cart at the distribution site for pantry recipients to take if they so desire. (It will be an additional item, not placed in the regular bag of groceries.)

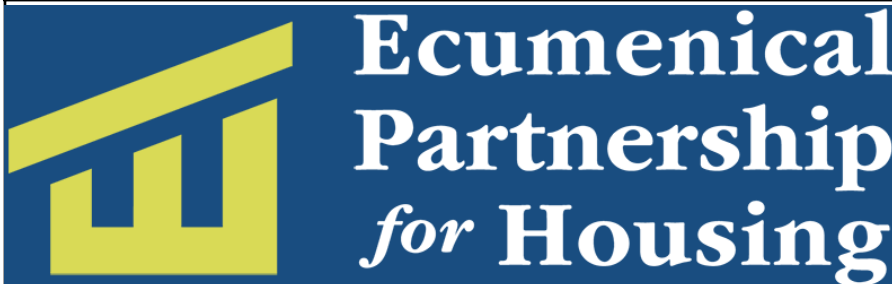
We always welcome any contributions of food or \$ for the Pantry.

Regular weekly items in the bags include:

Soups, pasta & sauce, canned vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit, canned tuna or canned chicken, crackers, packaged or boxed entrées.



NEW Community Shelter
 Approx. 135 meals served Tues Feb 13th
 at the NEW Shelter.
 Thanks to all who prepared food
 and festive cookies.
 Special thanks to confirmands
 Quinn and Trevor for serving.



**February 2024
 EPH
 Partnership Church
 Update**

Save the Date

Please save the date to join us for our annual EPH Celebration & Service Award Event on Monday, May 6th at 5:30pm. This event will include looking back on the past year with gratitude and hearing from a family about their journey to self-sufficiency in the EPH program. More details to come soon!

Community Impact

Thank you for your continued partnership with EPH! With your support, EPH provided housing and case management for **60** families – including **162** children – last year. An additional **36** families – including **83** children – were served through our prevention program to help them avoid experiencing homelessness in 2023. We are currently housing **33** families, including **92** children.

Your prayers, volunteer hours, and financial contributions are truly making a difference for many families in our community. Thank you for helping carry out our mission of providing safety, stability, and solutions leading to self-sufficiency for families facing homelessness.

Employment Opportunities at EPH

EPH is seeking an experienced professional to fill the newly created role of Director of Social Services. This person will be responsible for overseeing a team of four direct reports while using their skills and knowledge to empower families experiencing homelessness as they work towards self-sufficiency in our housing programs. Please view the full job description on Indeed or reach out to Crystal DeCleene at crystalde@ephgb.org or 920-857-4848 for more information.

We are also seeking a Part-Time Maintenance Associate to help keep our homes in excellent condition for the families we serve at EPH. Please apply on Indeed or reach out to Wendy at wendyn@ephgb.org for more information.



SHP -One bed at a time.

The request came in a few days before and when I talked to the Mom about the need for a bed she shared her story about how her life had changed two years ago. You see she and her future husband were in a tragic auto accident and unfortunately he didn't survive. She was left to raise their two year old son alone and the medical bills forced them into homelessness. After two long years she was finally able to get an apartment for the two of them but didn't have the funds to buy a bed for her now four year old son.

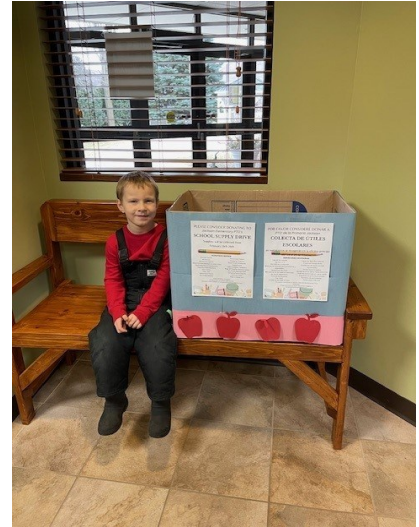
On the delivery day our team assembled the single bed in the completely empty room with the usual care. I snapped my photo of the dinosaur blanket on the bed that was just donated two days before by kids from a local grade school. As we were heading out the door I let Mom know that we were finished. She came in and called out to her son to come and check out his bed. I was expecting the typical excitement we normally get when kids see their own bed. But not today! Oh no, he stood next to it and was as brutally honest as a child and said "I don't like it!" My heart dropped! What I thought? How can this be? I pointed out the different types of dinosaurs but he wasn't having any of it. Mom tried her best to convince him to try it out. Nope he said again "I don't like it!" Then finally this very independent young man said "I think I'll try it." He climbed up and slowly put his head on the new pillow. We both waited and then heard him say "I love my new bed!" I turned to see a tear in Mom's eye as she thanked me. Heading out the door and down the hallway I could still hear him talking about his new bed! On to our next delivery but with another reminder of how important a bed can be to a child and how lucky we are to be able to help.



Annie Jackson Elementary— School Supply Drive

The Annie Jackson Elementary School PTO and students would like to thank everyone for the generous donations during their school supply drive.

The kids say, "Thank you Calvary!"



GENESIS PRESCHOOL



Spring is in the air at Genesis and we are looking forward to celebrating the upcoming spring holidays.

We have lots of fun St. Patrick's and Easter activities planned. We will also have another Gym Day this month as well.

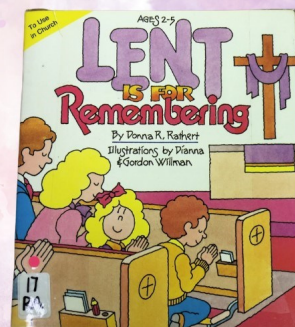
Registration for our 2023-24 school year is now open. Please spread the word about our preschool program. Our program is for children who are 3-4 years old. There are always two teachers in the classroom, both hold a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. For more information please visit our Facebook page or give us a call at 920-494-2431 ext.110.

Lent is for Remembering

This is a book of symbols and activities of the Lenten season for ages 2-5 years.

A great parenting guide to help your little ones understand the meaning of Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Communion, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter.

Stop by the Library for this and other books!



Angel Castro

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Hello people of Calvary! I wanted to share with you all a little about a trip I took in January! You may not know, but in July Calvary is taking 6 youth to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering!

To help prepare for the Gathering, the Network (part of the ELCA) hosted an event called the Extravaganza. This event was from January 17th-20th and was extremely fun! During the day, I attended several seminars and training sessions on leadership, church work, and ministry. In the evenings, I got to explore the town of New Orleans with other youth leaders from our synod and build connections and explore what the youth and my leaders will be doing in July. Some of my favorite moments include exploring the New Orleans Museum, eating yummy beignets, and participating in a city-wide scavenger hunt put on by the ELCA. I was able to learn so much about the history of the city and bring so much knowledge back to the youth.

I am so extremely grateful for the opportunity to gain more information and knowledge and better prepare myself for the ELCA Gathering this summer. I was able to create strong friendships with other youth leaders that will last a lifetime! Please enjoy some photos of my new youth director friends!



Upcoming Events for Calvary's Youth



March 17th from 9:15am-10:30 am in the MPR

Those wanting the chance to throw a pie at Pastor Ben can purchase a raffle ticket outside the Narthex Sunday mornings between services.

All money raised will help pay for students attending Confirmation Camp and The ELCA Gathering!



Saturday, April 13th from 12:00pm-3:00pm

The Eras Tour movie will be played along with bracelet making, Taylor games, and a Taylor themed Bible lesson! All are welcomed!

Link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F44ADAA2BABFB6-47660838-taylor>



For more information on the Confirmation Camp—please email Angel at angel@calvarygb.com

Calvary Lutheran Church
Staff

Office Hours

Mon. thru Thurs. -

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fri., Sat. & Sun. - Closed

Office (920) 494-2431

Pr. Ben Williams - ext. 104

pastorben@calvarygb.com

Kent Paulsen - Worship & Music

kentpaulsen5@gmail.com

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Coordinator

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Finance Coordinator

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Angel Castro - ext. 109

Director Youth & Family

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Web/Media Specialist

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April Peterson - ext. 110

Genesis Preschool Director

april@calvarygb.com

Jim & Sofia Lemmens

Custodial Staff

Office: 920-494-2431

What's Happening

Time & Talent Form

If you haven't already filled out a

Time & Talent form...

we would love to have you fill one out
(see included) to help in becoming a part of
Calvary's ministries.

Forms can be dropped off at the office.

Thank you!

Easter Flowers

Flowers may be purchased in
memory or in honor of a
friend or loved one.

The cost is \$15.00.

Envelopes are available in the
Narthex or the Office.

**Orders are due by
Monday, March 25th.**



Just a reminder that you can watch Sunday Worship on

Calvary's YouTube Channel

Please go to our website

<https://www.calvarygb.com/home>

and click on the

[Calvary's YouTube Channel](#)

My gifts/interests are: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| ___artistic | ___needlepoint |
| ___building consensus | ___organizing/coordinating |
| ___caring | ___photography |
| ___children's activities | ___planning |
| ___clerical work | ___praying |
| ___communication | ___promoting programs/ideas |
| ___computers/website | ___public speaking |
| ___cooking/serving food | ___quilting |
| ___coordinating events | ___reading aloud to others |
| ___data entry | ___recruiting others |
| ___delegating | ___sewing/knitting |
| ___designing processes | ___sharing new visions/ideas |
| ___drama | ___social justice |
| ___evaluating programs | ___sound system/recording |
| ___facilitating groups | ___teaching adults |
| ___finances | ___teaching children |
| ___follow-up | ___team building |
| ___fundraising | ___telephoning |
| ___gardening | ___training |
| ___leading | ___video recording |
| ___library work | ___visiting others |
| ___listening/discussing | ___working with young people |
| ___maintenance work | ___writing |
| ___marketing | ___other _____ |
| ___musical | ___other _____ |

I would like more information on the following ministries:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___Acolytes | ___Lectors |
| ___Altar Guild | ___Liturgists |
| ___Buildings & Grounds | ___Newcomers |
| ___Choir | ___Outreach |
| ___Christian Formation | ___Stephen Ministry/Pastoral Care |
| ___Hospitality/Community Events | ___Stewardship |
| ___Intercessors | ___Other _____ |

My three greatest areas of experience (E) are: (mark 1, 2, 3)

My three greatest areas of interest (I) are: (mark A, B, C)

- | E | I | E | I |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___aging | ___communication/media | ___ministry in daily life | ___stewardship |
| ___finance/business management | ___property management | ___worship, arts, music | ___caring/pastoral care |
| ___spiritual growth | ___ecumenism | ___education: children | ___education: teens |
| ___personnel | ___outreach ministry/advocacy | ___education: adults | ___gardening/flower arranging |
| ___newcomer ministry | ___office work | ___social/fellowship | ___maintenance/repair |

My preference at this time is to explore opportunities for ministry that are: (check one)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ___one-time commitments | ___on-going commitments |
| ___short-term commitments | ___no commitments now |

The skills I would most like to develop further - or the knowledge I would most like to gain from using my gifts at Calvary:

Comments:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:



1301 S. Ridge Road
Green Bay, WI 54304

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Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays: 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Visitor is the monthly newsletter of Calvary Lutheran Church. Information for the newsletter can be dropped off at the Church Office or emailed to: dawn@calvarygb.com.

***The deadline for the April issue is
March 20, 2024.***

***Find us on YouTube.
Search for Calvary
Lutheran Church—
Green Bay***

