

Calvary

LEADERS CONNECT

words of encouragement for those serving, teaching, and leading at Calvary

Motta's Minute: First African UMC

For the last two years the First African United Methodist Church has been meeting at Calvary, gathering to worship every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. in our youth room. First African UMC is an official "start-up" church and received partial funding through the Dakotas Annual Conference. As part of this journey, Calvary has generously provided space and also spiritual and administrative mentoring support. Calvary Church and First African are two separate churches but Calvary has enjoyed hosting and partnering with this church in many ways: through community outreaches, Trunk-or-Treat, distributing winter coats and Christmas meals, etc. On Sunday, March 3 we will celebrate with a joint service with First African as Pastor Tamba Clark preaches on the tenth commandment.

Continue to pray for First African UMC! With the recent resignation of Pastor Abednego Thomas, First African is in a leadership transition and the Dakotas Cabinet is praying about a new pastoral appointment. In the meantime, assistant pastor Tamba Clark has been preaching and leading the church and has also formally applied for the lead pastor position. Calvary is in a covenant-mentor relationship with First African until 2020. We are thankful for the opportunity to work together and we look forward to what God will do in the coming year.

January Leadership Council Notes

- ◆ Outreach ministry focus changing from monthly to quarterly
- ◆ 2019 "state of the church" letters reviewed and sent regarding membership and the future of our local congregation; contact the Calvary office for more info
- ◆ 2018 finance breakdown discussed (including Y childcare contract renewal process); 2019 budget in final review and approval stages
- ◆ Leadership Council finalizing details for a formal complaint policy
- ◆ Upcoming Family and Youth Events:
 - Palm Sunday is April 14. Children will sing and wave palm branches
 - "God is Creative" all-church outreach Feb. 23, 2-4 p.m. All ages welcome!
 - Youth winter retreat: March 29-31, Jamestown



FEBRUARY 2019

- Motta's Minute
- January Council Highlights
- Special General Conference
- 40 Days of Community
- "I WILL" *worship wholeheartedly*
- Seek God for the City

Colossians 3:23-24

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**"*



“Dry Bones”

Prayer Conference

Sunday, March 31, Calvary UMC

Revival preacher Al Whittinghill will speak at Calvary’s morning services and at 6 p.m. Sunday evening.

Al is a gifted, forceful teacher of God’s Word who uses practical applications and real life examples to relate God’s message to everyday life !

Dates to Watch

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2-4 p.m.

“God is Creative” all-church outreach. Join us for crafts & coffee as we explore the beauty of our creative God. All ages welcome!

Sunday, March 11:

United Prayer quarterly F-M gathering. Schlossman YMCA, Studio 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15:

Celebration of Life service for Roger Kalinowski, 7 p.m.

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving

We are blessed by your 2019 giving commitments and for the generous hearts here at Calvary!

“Do not store up for yourselves [material] treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires, that on which your life centers] will be also.”

—Mt. 6:19-21, AMP

Special General Conference Session

Last month we released a “state of the church” mailing about a special General Conference of the United Methodist Church that will occur **in St. Louis, MO on Feb. 23-26**. The General Conference is the top international legislative body for all matters of our church and its constitution (the Book of Discipline). This special session has been called by Council of Bishops to receive and act upon recommendations from The Commission on a Way Forward in regard to human sexuality and the future of our denomination. This 32-members Commission has been meeting since January 2017 with a charge to “lead the church forward” amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ issues and resulting questions about the unity of the church. **Please pray that delegates will have wisdom, unity, and that they will uphold the authority of scripture** so we can refocus on our mission to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. Stay tuned on details from the conference via the [Good News Magazine website](https://goodnewsmag.org/) (<https://goodnewsmag.org/>) or visit the Calvary Welcome Center to view a copy of Pastor Dave’s letter and some of the pertinent articles this letter referenced.

40 Days of Community

What on Earth are We Here For?

We live in an extremely isolated world today. Our culture feeds individualism and lifts it up as a value. But the fruit of rampant individualism is massive loneliness. Many believers today are very lonely.

One of God’s purposes for our lives is to learn to love people in our spiritual family—the church. As we do this, our congregation will grow warmer through fellowship, deeper in discipleship, and more powerful in our mission to reach the lost. As leaders, we should **continually** be calling and inviting people to small groups! Who could you invite this season?

God planned for Christians to fulfill His purposes *in community* together: in our church families, in small groups, and in the world as a whole. Why? Because we’re better together! **Starting March 10**, the 40 Days of Community all-church preaching and study focus will grow our congregation in worship, in rich relationships, and in faith that overflows in our city and world. **Find a small group and invite someone to join you!** 40 Days small group sign-ups are coming in the next few weeks.

Sessions Include:

1. We’re Compelled to Love God’s Family
2. We’re Commissioned to Reach Out Together
3. We’re Chosen to Fellowship Together
4. We’re Connected to Grow Together
5. We’re Called to Serve Together
6. We’re Created to Worship Together



I WILL Worship Wholeheartedly with Others

Do you have a willing spirit? In his powerful book “I Will,” Thom Rainer challenges modern believers to a corporate worship revolution: rejecting a culture of self-focused “churchianity” in pursuit of a more sacrificial, countercultural, and BIBLICAL life as Christ’s body. And this starts with our attitude.

A willing, Christ-exalting attitude means we recognize that no church is perfect. It understands that some members will be irritants to us and that no person leads flawlessly. But **because we love Jesus**, we worship and serve together anyway. **Because we love Jesus**, we realize that membership in His body is a gift. And **because we love Jesus**, we care for His body at Calvary with gratitude, humility, and JOY. Grateful people are joyous people!

Does joy describe your attitude of worship at Calvary? Ask the Lord to give you a joy “gut check” in these areas:

- ◇ Do I praise Jesus wholeheartedly or come on Sundays with a distracted, cynical spirit?
- ◇ Do I come to worship expecting powerful, miraculous, and visible expressions of the Spirit as we unite together as a body?
- ◇ Do I enjoy God’s people and find it a privilege to bless and serve them?
- ◇ Do I regularly “rate” my pastor’s preaching, the quality of music, or the flaws of others instead of giving focused attention to Christ and His Word?
- ◇ Does my private worship of God spill over as a source of encouragement to my pastor, leaders, and fellow church members?

True worship always manifests itself in experience with other believers. True worshippers do not go to church for a “worship experience,” but to experience Christ in worship. If joy in His household does not describe your weekly experience, ask Jesus for a new work of grace in your spirit.

Reject “churchianity” and make this commitment in 2019: **I WILL worship wholeheartedly with other believers at Calvary.**

“Seek God for the City” Prayer Focus

Do you long for breakthrough in our world? The *Seek God for the City* booklet coordinates congregations in a united prayer effort and a sustained vision for revival. These daily prayers provide scriptures and topics help God’s people pray with passionate, confident, and full-hearted hope!

In this supplement to Calvary’s 40 Days of Community, we will pray in faith: as WE come to God, seeking His face, we believe HE will come to US bringing His kingdom. Don’t pray these prayers alone! Use the *Seek God for the City* booklet for family devotions, small group/class time prayer, and for our “One Accord” congregational prayer cries on the second Sunday of each month.

The forty days to Palm Sunday makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer. **Grab a booklet at the Calvary Welcome Center and join us in concentrated prayer from March 6 – April 14, 2019.**

FEBRUARY 2019

Calvary exists to

KNOW CHRIST *and* MAKE HIM KNOWN

through

Evangelizing

the Lost of the Community

Experiencing

the Lord in Worship

Encouraging

the Fellowship of Believers

Educating

the Faithful in Christ, and

Equipping

our Leaders for Ministry.

*“By this my Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit and so
prove to be my disciples.”*

—John 15:6