

Fall 2020 Programming and Schedule

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:14-15)

Fall activities are coming! There is something special about the “ekklesia” – the assembly of God’s called-out believers – and Jesus promised to manifest His presence in unique ways when two or three are together in His name (Matt. 18:20). Christians rejoice at the opportunity to gather (Heb. 10:25; Psalm 122:1; Psalm 133) and we are stronger because of it (Prov. 27:17; 1 Cor. 12-14; Gal. 6:1-6).

We are thankful to serve your families and we look forward to reconnecting! While we recognize any plans we make can change, we are tentatively planning to kick off Wednesday evening programming **Sept. 9** and expanded Sunday morning ministry **Sept. 13**.

Loving One Another

God has been so gracious to our church in the last seven months. Our online ministry has expanded, Zoom groups and home-based VBS gatherings allowed people to spread Christ’s love in special ways, and many people experienced a revival of prayer and worship at the “family altar.” Thank you, Calvary, for your adaptability and your faithful giving during this unique, unprecedented time!

As we look ahead to the fall, our desire is to meet everyone at their point of need. We will continue to prioritize not only the physical health and safety of our congregation, but also to nurture social, emotional, and spiritual health as we connect face to face. This will require great grace as we interact. While we may differ on many viewpoints, we pray Calvary will focus more on what we AGREE on than on what we disagree over! As we gather for fall programming, please proceed at a pace your family is comfortable with, and exercise the humility and gentleness of Christ as we “outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10).

Honor is communicated through both our words and our actions – including extra programming precautions. Gathering in community includes an intentional commitment to maintaining the health of our congregation, so before participating in any onsite activity, please assess the health of yourself and your children. If you (or your family members) have a slight fever or any symptoms indicating illness, please worship OFFSITE. Thank you!

Ready to reconnect? Here are some places to plug in:

Sunday Worship

To accommodate many people, several Sunday services will be available. You are welcome to join us for:

8:00 AM Worship: This 45-minute service will serve monthly contact-free communion, with a focus on hymns, prayer, and preaching. Masks are required for congregants; meeting in the sanctuary.

9:00 AM Worship: This 60-minute service will serve monthly contact-free communion, with a blend of hymns, praise songs, prayer, and preaching. Masks are encouraged (but optional); meeting in the sanctuary.

10:00 AM Submerge Church Worship: Starting Sept. 20, we will welcome Paul Letvin and his congregation into our building. This church will lead worship in Room 102 and welcome Calvary families to join any time. We pray the Lord will build unity between our churches and look forward to sharing resources, fellowship, and potentially some programming or leadership.

10:30 AM Worship (Live and Livestream): This 60-minute service will serve monthly contact-free communion, with a blend of hymns, praise songs, prayer, and preaching. Masks are encouraged (but optional); meeting in the sanctuary. Live-streaming of the 10:30 service will continue via Facebook.

12:00 PM Calvary African Worship: Join Tamba Clark and the African congregation for soul-stirring worship, prayer, and preaching each Sunday afternoon. Masks are required for congregants; meeting in the youth room.

Sunday Morning House Church Gatherings: Plans are also underway to launch two house churches this fall (Kindred and Moorhead). For details, please contact Kyle Freier or Blake Carlson.

As we worship this fall, please try to space out in the rooms and practice common-sense physical distancing. Hand sanitizer will be accessible at both doors and offering and bulletins available at the sanctuary doors to limit contact. We will hold off on serving coffee and cookies until we've had a few months at the "new normal" (to be re-evaluated in November). Let's spread the gospel – not germs! 😊

Discipleship and Family Ministry

Sunday youth and children's discipleship will run live (onsite) from 9:00-10:00 AM **starting Sept. 13.**

Wednesday AWANA and youth programming will run live onsite (with possible online options, TBA) **starting Sept. 9.**

A full schedule of adult small groups will be publicized on the Information Center and website as details are finalized (calvaryfargo.com/ministries/discipleship-groups/). **New groups will begin in early September!**

Gathering guidelines are as follows:

Children's Ministry: Adult volunteers will wear masks or face shields; children's face coverings are encouraged.

Youth Ministry: Adult volunteers will wear masks unless they are speaking/leading upfront; youth face coverings are welcome and are especially encouraged through the opening games and singing. Sanitizer will be available at the door. Our goal is to livestream to YouTube during the music and teaching most Wednesdays.

Adult Discipleship: Adult groups will meet live, online, and in a hybrid of both. Each small group leader will set the expectations for face coverings or social distancing and these guidelines will be clearly communicated with the full small group schedule – coming soon!

Proactive Communication/Response

It is very possible that a restart in fall programming may bring increased exposure as we gather. If you receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, please contact Beth Dodds ASAP (office@calvaryfargo.com) so group leaders can alert other families of a potential exposure.

For families and individuals uncertain about best practices following any illness or COVID-19 exposures, please follow the school guidelines posted by the North Dakota Department of Health:

https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/NDDoH_COVID-19_Parents_Decision_Tree.pdf

Thanks and God Bless!