

Gratitude is essential..

The gifts that have built this church and support the work of Calvary every day are from generous hearts without desire for recognition. As time goes on, without some tangible acknowledgement of major and specific gifts, the names and generosity of the people who provided them are lost. Expressions of gratitude and recognition are more for those who come after, rather than for the donors themselves.

Churches with gratitude or recognition installations report the joy that future generations feel and express when they attend church, or visit from afar, and see the names of their family members and know their family, perhaps generations of them, helped make this church and the work it does possible. To express the gratitude of the church family for the generosity of donors and provide a permanent recognition of their gifts, past and future, the Calvary Endowment Committee is pleased to unveil the Generosity Forest.

This beautiful art installation is a work in progress. An effort will be on-going to identify all gifts and their donors from the beginning of fundraising to build the church through today. Space is also available to document future donors and their gifts. Engravings on the gratitude leaves and stones will be completed as donors past and future are identified, if they choose to be recognized.



Welcome to the Generosity Forest

An art installation to honor the generosity that built this church and sustains it.



Matthew 6:9

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

The Generosity began nearly 75 years ago...

In 1949, a group of Lutherans in Rapid City began to invest their time and treasure to create Calvary Lutheran Church. They built a church home on Cottonwood Street, that met the spiritual needs of hundreds of individuals and families for decades. In the early 2000's, Calvary Lutheran Church committed to envisioning, funding and building a new, bigger building to better serve and support the spiritual growth and needs of a growing congregation. Being realistic but wanting to ensure the final church would be beautiful and meet the long-term needs of a diverse congregation, it was decided to fundraise and build in stages.

In 2007, with the Fellowship Hall complete, the first service was on October 27, 2007. Another round of fundraising generated the additional financial resources and commitments needed to build and furnish the sanctuary and complete the church as envisioned. The first service in the new sanctuary was June 20, 2009. In 2017, the mortgage was "burned" and Calvary's new church was complete and fully paid for, solely through the generosity and support of church members and friends.

Over these many decades Calvary Lutheran Church has been a spiritual home and a place of hope, celebration and renewal for many. Generous hearts have provided the material and human resources needed to support members of the church and community to live their best lives reflecting God's love for everyone.

The Generosity Continues...

As a congregation committed to meeting the spiritual, physical and other needs of current and future members, individuals and families continue to share their treasure.

- Recently many opened their wallets to support remodeling the fellowship hall to be more functional for more uses, the addition of gathering areas for coffee and conversation and enhanced work areas.
- Members and friends always support the varied and on-going fund-raisers held by the youth of the church. These funds are used to enhance the spiritual growth of these young people and ensure money is not a barrier to participation.
- Quilters within the church use their time and treasure to both raise funds and provide comfort and warmth to those who receive the quilts.
- Generous donors within the church recently funded new bibles for all the pews to provide the opportunity to follow scripture during services of any kind.
- Calvary opened its doors and hosted a concert to support the relocation of Ukrainian Refugees to the South Dakota and Rapid City communities. It was an uplifting evening of giving and reflects Calvary's commitment to community.
- Consistent donations of time and money are provided by church members whenever a need is identified. Many of these donations are never known to the broader church community but reflect quiet support by individuals.
- Ongoing Endowment donations continue to build a financial foundation and revenue stream to support the church and it's work now and into the future. Current earnings of nearly \$25,000 annually support current activities while the principal grows over time.