

CALVARY CALLER

November 2025

All Things Renewed

Over the next two months we'll have a Holiday Bazaar, a Christmas Program and a Christmas Gala. Sound familiar?

These events have looked different in the past. Maybe they didn't happen for a time due to a perceived lack of interest or sufficient volunteers. More than one has seen multiple attempts at renaming, as they've drifted from the original vision or implementation.

Any yet—they're back! And each of them is going to be the best version that their current planners and volunteers can put together.

You might have questions! "Why call it a bazaar if we're not selling everything we used to?" "Didn't we vote multiple times **not** to have such-and-such event—or at least call it something else?" "Can we still call it a 'gala' if it starts before dark?" I've heard these and other valid objections to our holiday events lineup.

But here's the thing: starting new ministries is **hard**. Really hard. They take lots of time, effort, energy and other resources.

Sister Jennie and I, going back to even before our first congregational call, have found it's hard to start new things! That hasn't always stopped us—she's particularly tenacious with good ideas—but we've also re-discovered and lived a truth we'd been told many times before: it's often easier to transform an existing ministry than to start a new one from scratch.

And even that's hard! There's resistance. There's doubts. There's nostalgia for what used to be—even if it could never be that way again!

But this is how God works! In Revelation 21:5 God declares "I am making all things new." In Isaiah 43:19 God promises "I am about to do a new thing." In 2 Corinthians Paul declares that anyone in Christ is "a new creation... see, everything has become new!"

God is not making all new things, but rather making all things new—that is, renewing them—not doing away with the old, but transforming and reconciling it to God's own self. This is good news, especially for those of us getting older—which is all of us!

God is up to something around here, but often it's not us doing a brand new thing, but rather allowing things to be renewed, or trying to do familiar things in a new way. This is God at work in us and through us—the Bible tells us so.

Pr. Jon

Reflections from Sister Jennie

I will be traveling to Chicago on November 6-10 for my Annual Deaconess Assembly. This is a formal requirement for me to be part of the ELCA Deaconess Community, much as all pastors and deacons are expected to participate in their synod's annual assembly. But I also take joy in these annual gatherings, because geographically I live far apart from nearly all my deaconess sisters. It is something like a family reunion but also a time of attending to the business of being a church community, along with worship, continuing education and mutual learning, as each of us lives out our diaconal calling uniquely.

You may remember that I serve on the Deaconess Community's Responsibility and Reconciliation Team (or R & R Team), which gets called in when there is conflict that needs mediation. It's a team that normally doesn't require any travel, just the occasional Zoom check-in meeting, unless an overt conflict arises within the Community. Thankfully this team has been blessedly quiet since I've been asked to serve in this way. We have the privilege of helping set an appropriate tone at the beginning of each Assembly, guiding all in attendance to remember the covenant of conduct we have agreed to for our time together.

At each assembly I look for a new ministry idea from another sister to bring back to my own context, something to try doing with others or teach to others. I want my own ministry at Calvary to benefit in this way from my time away.

I would ask for your prayers as I travel and am engaged in a different sort of business of the church, just as I will be praying for you all while I am away. Kids & youth will be with their own Sunday school teachers as usual after worship. This will be the second Sunday of the month, which means I will be missing a Youth Hangout. I am very sad to be missing time with our youth. The youth hangout will be happening with one of our youth parents and Deb Christophersen in a public setting at the downtown Dutch Bros this month. I am very grateful to them and glad to have them engaged in the lives of our youth.

In peace,

Sr. Jennie Myers

Thoughts From the Council President

Happy Thanksgiving Calvary Lutheran.

The Congregational Meeting is Sunday, November 23, after service. This is the same weekend as the Annual Hearts & Hands Bazaar. We look forward to your attendance at the meeting and your purchasing power at the bazaar.

Budgets will be available for viewing on Sunday, November 2. Let us know your thoughts!

As a follow up to last month:

Each year some Council positions become available. As we look at the next few years, we made a decision to offer all roles to the congregation. We would love for you to take part with us. If you would like to speak more, let me know.

Here is a list:

Property: Works with the Property Committee on all things building

Fellowship: Plans and organizes gatherings (e.g., Gala), works with Parish Education

Outreach: Works with outside organizations that need support (e.g., ROC, WCST, Every Child)

Treasurer: Executive position; oversees the financial workings of the organization.

President: Executive position; oversees the entirety of the organization and heads the Church Council.

Christmas is right around the corner! What a wonderful season!

In Christ,

Matt

Parish Ed News

Kids & Youth Christmas Program Practices

Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec 14 during
worship (be at church at 8:30 am)



Four Condensed Practices for All (Please plan to have your child at these)

- This Sunday, Oct 26 right after worship (its last minute, come if you can)
- Next Sunday, Nov 2 after Sunday School
- Sunday, Dec 7 during Sunday School (try on costumes too)
- Saturday, Dec 13 Dress Rehearsal @ 10:00 am

If you haven't heard from other sources of communication, our practices for this year's Kids & Youth Christmas Program have started and we're already off to a great start! It will be a great telling of the Christmas Good News. If you couldn't make it to our first practice, there will be a few more practices. Please make every attempt to have your child at the remaining ones so they can confidently know what they're doing and feel comfortable by December 14.

Kids Activities during Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 23

Meredith Myerchin, who is our newly hired staff nursery attendant, will have some fun kids fall craft activities planned for kids who don't want to sit in the sanctuary during the Annual Meeting. She will be gathering with kids in the Upper Room immediately following worship. This will hopefully allow more parents to attend the meeting and participate in the conversation. For the same reason there will be no Sunday school to allow all our Sunday school teachers to be able to attend the meeting, an important part of being a community as a church. If you plan on having your child join Meredith in the Upper Room on November 23 please let Sister Jennie know so we can make sure we have enough craft supplies ready for your child.

Faith, Family & Fall Creations Afternoon Photos



We took a rainy & cold day and made caramel apples & pumpkins out of it and had an awesome time making all sorts of crazy creations. Thank you to all our families, first for their flexibility with the last-minute change of plans, and second for jumping into helping make our Faith, Family & Fall Creations event a success. Thank you also to everyone on the Parish Ed Team for quickly going into creative brainstorming mode to come up with a great event that was fun and engaging for families at the last minute when it was clear that going to Wildlife Images was no longer an option.

In peace,
Sr. Jennie & The
Parish Ed Team

Calvary Youth & Families



The VBS Planning Team has formed and is looking at curriculums. A quick note: last year our VBS was an ecumenical joint project, and this year it will be a ministry just representing Calvary Lutheran. We will of course invite other kids in the community to participate in our program. For now, we are asking you, the congregation, to start thinking about how you'd like to get involved, to help out in this wonderful kids' ministry this summer! **If you have a way you'd like to contribute time or ideas you can talk to Sr. Jennie Myers, Suzanne Wicklin, Vicki Boyer or Lynda Boydell.**

GPHS Orchestra: GPHS Holiday Concerts- Save the date! December 16 & 17. Tickets to support our youth in choir, orchestra & band will be for sale on Dec 7th & 14th after Worship.

Middle School & High School Youth!

We hope to see you on the Second Sunday in November at **Dutch Bros on 6th St. & D Street** (with indoor seating) Deb Christophersen & Jessica Menke will be waiting to greet you at 2:00 p.m. Grab a warm drink & we'll have fun starting our youth birthday card ministry for the younger Sunday school kids & our homebound families.





Holiday Bazaar

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holiday Quilt and Bake Sale



“With a few surprises.”

Saturday, November 22 from 9 am to 1 pm
909 NE A St.

Pie by the slice, muffins, & coffee

Homemade quilts, lefse, baked & canned goods

Sloppy Joe Lunch 11 am

Proceeds benefit local charities.
2024 Charities: GP Sobering Center, Our Foster Kids, Joe's Place Ministries, Mid-Rogue Foundation/Evans House, GP YMCA

The **Bazaar** is Saturday, **November 22 from 9:00am to 1:00 pm**. We will be setting up the Bazaar on Tuesday, November 18th. If you have items for the Bazaar, we invite you to bring in your **Hand Craft items Tuesday, November 18th between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Baked Goods & Perishables Friday, November 21st between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Please mark your items clearly. Thank you. If you have any questions please contact Carol Wilson.

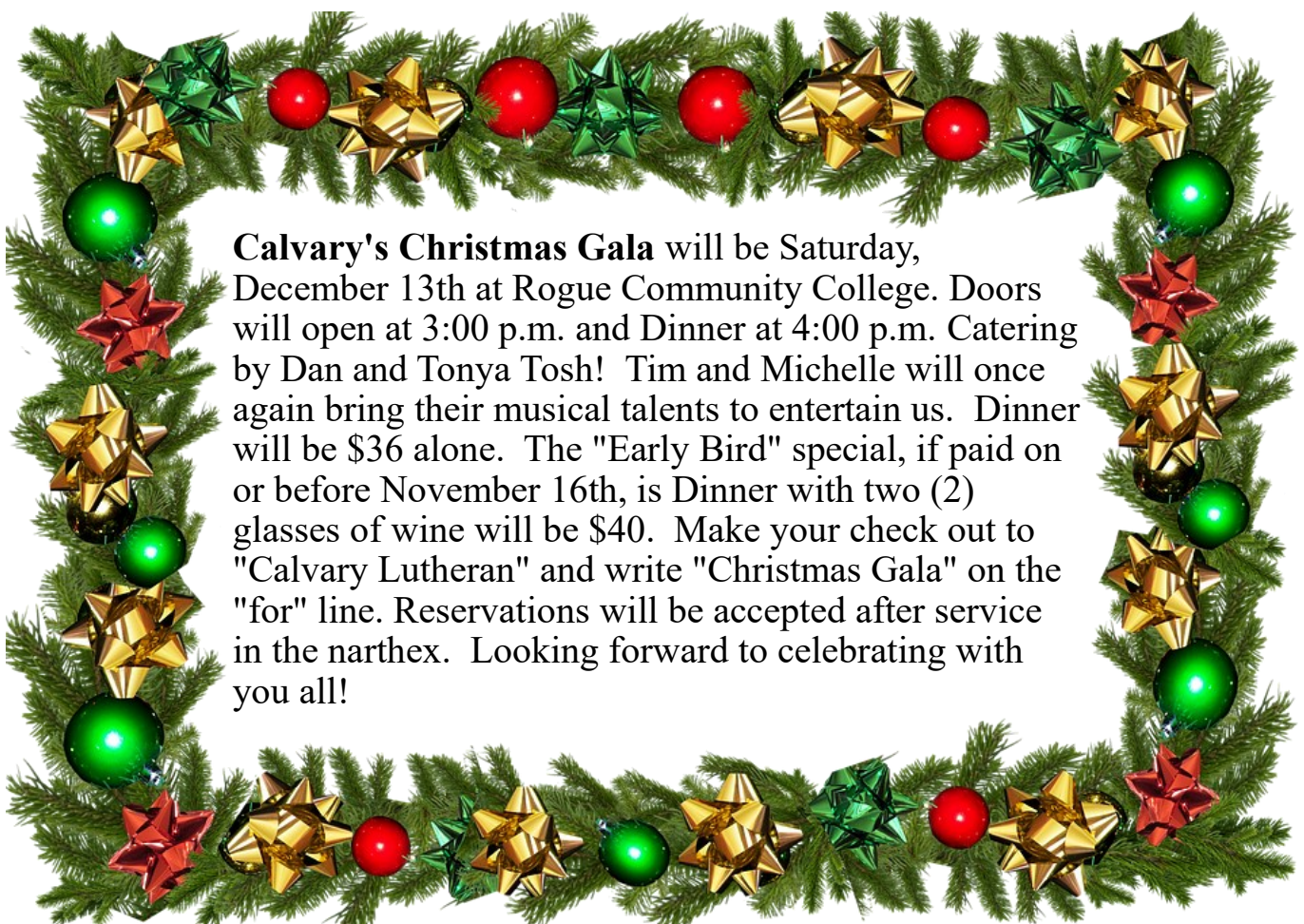
Our baked & canned goods area is the first thing people see when they come through the door. We want it to be packed full of cookies, candies, breads, rolls, pies, cakes, scones, pastries & other specialty treats as well as canned goods of every kind... jams, jellies, relishes, pickles, vinegars, sauces, specialty mustards & salts.

If you are a quilter, sewer, crafter, woodworker or artist we would love to have some of your things to sell...quilts, baby blankets, pot holders, dish cloths, table runners, ornaments, trivets, cards, gift tags, center pieces and paintings.

We are also accepting gently used Fall & Christmas decorations but no junk please. This is not a rummage sale.

All our proceeds go back into the Community. Last year we gave \$1000.00 to each of the following: G.P. Sobering Center; Joe's Place Ministries; Mid-Rogue Foundation/Evans House; G.P. YMCA; new windows in fellowship hall; our Foster Kids.

If you have any questions please talk to Karen Mastel, Karen Blom or Carol Wilson.



Calvary's Christmas Gala will be Saturday, December 13th at Rogue Community College. Doors will open at 3:00 p.m. and Dinner at 4:00 p.m. Catering by Dan and Tonya Tosh! Tim and Michelle will once again bring their musical talents to entertain us. Dinner will be \$36 alone. The "Early Bird" special, if paid on or before November 16th, is Dinner with two (2) glasses of wine will be \$40. Make your check out to "Calvary Lutheran" and write "Christmas Gala" on the "for" line. Reservations will be accepted after service in the narthex. Looking forward to celebrating with you all!

The 2025-2026 school year is off to a good start. I look forward to partnering with your generous faith-based community in helping to provide for my school kiddos with much-needed items. This helps alleviate some of their stress level, which can be incredibly high with not knowing if they will be able to provide for themselves. What I haven't mentioned before but would like to address is, yes, I do all I can to provide for my houseless students but also, as we are a high poverty school, I try to help out as many of our students with great needs in addition to our houseless students. Last year along with the 150 students I worked with on a regular basis and helped to provide needs for all school year, I also provided over 350 items to students considered high poverty. I rely heavily on donations to make this happen and without your help for the last couple of years, I wouldn't be able to provide as much as I've been able to. It truly takes a village to support our community of students in need. They are my heart, they are my reason for reaching out to Community Partners such as you for continued support to help make sure our kiddos never have to do without. Our need is high, and our kids are grateful. Thank you for continually caring for our kids.

Forever Grateful,
Cathy Deley
Grants Pass High School Student Liaison

**THE TABLE IS SET!
JOIN US
FOR LUNCH WITH
FRIENDS ON
November 8th at
NOON.**

**YOU'RE WELCOME
TO BRING
A FRIEND!**

let's
EAT
together

INVITATIONS & UPDATES

As a reminder, the Narthex Welcome Team is a branch of Outreach Team, in partnership with Council, whose task is looking at how we can use our narthex space wisely to be even more welcoming to everyone from children to adults!!

MAKING THE NARTHEX
EVEN MORE
WELCOMING TO ALL!

Happening Now!



New Changes--Did You Notice?

- We have a **Kids Corner** to welcome little ones who aren't quite ready to leave their parents for the nursery & need a quiet moment to look at a book while parents can still see/hear worship happening. **Kids Worship Boxes** have now moved to the Kids Corner.
- A new **Welcome Table** for bulletins that sits flush against the glass walls & allows the sanctuary doors to be opened wider. The round table is now in the Upper Room for meetings, Sunday school crafts, Youth Hangout games etc.
- The fold-up table by the courtyard windows is gone & **new brochure/magazine holders** installed on the wall outside the church office. Find your devotions & info on other Lutheran organizations on the wall. Local organization brochures can be found on the big bulletin board for now. **More good changes coming soon, keep watching!**

Questions or ideas? We invite you to talk to anyone on our team (Whitney Bixler, Karen Blom, Marcia Cottrill, Karen Nantais, Diane Weaver, and Sr. Jennie Myers).



Calvary's Kids Corner had its first customer recently!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES INVITES

November Faithful Hikers

The **Faithful Hikers** will be meeting for our next hike at **Cathedral Hills on Saturday, November 1st**. We will meet at 9:00 am at Espey trailhead Parking lot. If you enjoy hiking and want to get to know some new people please join us. Talk to Sr. Jennie for questions



Grief Small Group

Our new **Grief Small Group** next meets on **Friday, November 7**. The group meets the first Friday of each month at 11:00 am in the sanctuary with Kirby Nave. The core material for this small group will be focused on Elizabeth Kubler Ross' 5 Stages of Grief. The group will meet for an hour in time to join in for "Lunch With Friends" (just remember to sign up.) For any questions please talk to Kirby Nave.

Notice: Faithful Walkers on Winter Hiatus

The **Faithful Walkers** will again take a break as the weather gets colder and rainy, and as we go into the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays to be with family.

Invitation to Pastor Jon's midweek Bible Study We'll be trying a new format, focused on the texts we'll hear in worship the following Sunday. Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.



Winter Adventures Small Group

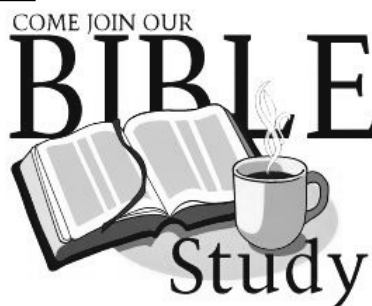
SOON RESUMING
(AS THE SNOW BEGINS TO FLY)

**Snowshoeing at
Crater Lake etc.**

Skiing locally: Mt. Ashland,

Winter hikes

Interested or want to learn more? Talk to Sister Jennie



Winter Adventures Small Group—last year we gathered those at Calvary who don't hide from the snow in the winter months but rather like to seek it out. A group would go skiing at Mt. Ashland a few times, and we did a snowshoe hike at Crater Lake National Park. Start thinking if you would enjoy getting to know a smaller group of people at Calvary who are outdoor, snow-seeking types. Talk to Sister Jennie if 1) you'd be interested in re-joining this group from last year, or 2) if you're newer or just seeing this invite if you want to be included this year.

OFFICE & COUNCIL INVITATIONS & UPDATES

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT POSITION

The council Property Management position is currently vacant.

The position's responsibilities include:

- Assure the maintenance of all church property and equipment.
- Facilitate the acquisition of equipment.
- Facilitate or work with any special committees dealing with capital improvements of church property.
- Oversee the assignments of duties of the church custodian.
- Develop and carry out a long-range plan of annual property inspections and proposed repair projects.
- Be responsible to the Congregation Council.

Presently Larry Weaver and Gary Blom continue to manage issues at the church. They would like to bring someone on board as soon as possible and are willing to work with a new individual to facilitate a clear understanding the budget, continuing scheduled maintenance, and who the church's contacts are for outside help.

Timing is important for filling this position, as both Larry and Gary wish to terminate their direct involvement at the end of the current year.

If you are interested in this position or would like more information, please contact Gary Blom, Larry Weaver, or Matt Eide.

Calvary's New Google Calendar

Did you know that in the church office we have been working hard on updating processes including how we keep our calendar? A big thank you to Scott Christophersen, who has been helping us with all our technological advances and troubles lately. Calvary now has an accessible Google Calendar, and you can all visit it on Calvary's website. Click on the following hyperlink to visit our calendar: [Events](#). We hope that as different teams meet this will be a welcome resource for planning your team's events. You can easily view what is on the calendar. Please note that currently you cannot add any events yourself, as it is read-only. You can reach out to Carolyn in the office and request that she add an item to the calendar. Pastor Jon, Sister Jennie and a few other people in leadership have access to edit the calendar as well. When you open an event on the calendar, it has the added feature of giving you map directions that will open up on your phone.

For now, this is **not** replacing the dry-erase calendar in the office but rather adding an additional way for everyone to view events even when the office is closed. Eventually in partnership with the Narthex Team and the coming re-designing of how we use our bulletin board spaces, the goal is to get a printed copy of our calendar where everyone can see it, and you'll be able to write in any event additions there, and those write-ins will get added to the online calendar promptly. If you have any questions, you can contact the church office.

November Celebrations!!!



Mary Lou Alonso-Bagos	11/1
Sherry Damico	11/3
Dr Pete Tommerup	11/4
Mary Jane Ainsworth	11/5
Graham Baker	11/5
Teresa Schwerdt	11/6
Alexandra (Allie) Myers	11/7
Timothy (TJ) Willhite	11/8
Kimberly Gindlesperger	11/9
Nancy Lindall	11/13
Kathleen Baker	11/15
David Grimes	11/16
Madeleine Angstadt	11/19
Debbie Kroeger-Vroman	11/19
David Ross	11/20
Jackie Matheny	11/22
Wendy Ross	11/22
Elaine Wolf	11/22
Jan Stutts	11/24
Brian Johnson	11/28
Mike Lawler	11/28
Judi Bliss	11/29
Matt Eide	11/29
Joanne Nahmias	11/29

11/04
Lyle & Fran Sprain

11/19
Jessica Albertson &
David Matthews

11/27
David & Wendy Ross

11/29
Bill & Willa Bianchi

The deadline for submitting articles, pictures, etc for the December Caller will be third Friday of November. Thank you!

Church Office Hours:
Mondays 8am-3pm
Tuesday-Fridays 9am-3pm



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 9:00 a.m. Faithful Hikers: Cathedral Hills
2 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 Sunday School all ages Christmas Program Practice after SS 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	3 10-11:45 a.m. Community Bible Study (CBS) 11-11:45 a.m. Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	4 11:00 a.m. Parish Ed Team Mtg 3- 4:00 p.m. Stewardship 4:00 pm Bible Study	5 9:30 a.m. Hearts & Hands 10 a.m. Worship/Music meeting 1:30 pm Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Praise Team	6 <i>Sister Jennie Gone</i>	7 <i>Sister Jennie Gone</i> 11-11:45 a.m. Chair Yoga 12-1:00 p.m. Yoga 12p.m. Lunch with Friends	8 <i>Sister Jennie Gone</i>
9 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 Sunday School all ages 2:00 p.m. Youth Hangout @ Dutch Bros 6th St	10 <i>Sister Jennie Gone</i> 11-11:45 a.m. Chair Yoga 12-1:00 p.m. Yoga	11 OFFICE CLOSED VETERAN'S DAY 4:00 pm Bible Study	12 9:30 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:30 pm Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Praise Team	13 2:00 p.m. Countryside Service 4:30 p.m. Council Mtg	14 11-11:45 a.m. Chair Yoga 12-1:00 p.m. Yoga	15
16 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 Sunday School all ages 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	17 11-11:45 a.m. Chair Yoga 12-1:00 p.m. Yoga	18 4:00 pm Bible Study	19 9:30 a.m. Hearts & Hands 1:30 p.m. Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Praise Team	20	21 No Yoga	22 9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m. Quilt & Bake Sale Christmas Bazaar
23 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting (Kids activities in Upper Room No Sunday School	24 No Yoga	25 Red Cross Blood Drive 9:00 am - 2:00 pm No Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team	26 OFFICE CLOSES NOON 9:30 a.m. Hearts & Hands No Bible Study	27 	28 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKS- GIVING	29
30 9:30 a.m. Worship No Youth/Kids Sunday School 10:40 Adult Sunday School						



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Jon Myers, Pastor

Sister Jennie Myers, Director of Discipleship

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School