CALVARY CALLER MAY 2025





Crumbled Have Spires in Every Land

One of my first and most notorious sermons shortly after ordination—perhaps my very first as a pastor—was in part a meditation on the classic Nicolai Gundtvig hymn "Built on the Rock, the Church Shall Stand." If you know the song, you know the next line: "Even when steeples are falling."

In that long-ago message I mused, perhaps too freely, that even a solid stone edifice like the Neogothic Revival church building in Lynchburg, Virginia, where Sister Jennie and I had just been ordained, is subject to the ravages of time. Every building, and every human body, and indeed as St. Paul writes "all creation is in bondage to decay."

This is true even of a well-maintained human body (which mine has not always been) and a well-maintained church building (which Calvary's has been for a very long time). As far as I know, Holy Trinity in Lynchburg is still standing, and yet like every old church building, its maintenance expenses surely keep growing.

Calvary does not have a steeple or a spire, strictly speaking. But we do have a beautiful bell tower, and we've known since Christmas that we had a leak somewhere from the outside to the inside,

near the baptismal font. Not until this past week could we get heavy equipment up there to inspect the damage.

What was found was basically the worst case scenario: water is not only getting inside the building, it's been running down the wood structure of the tower itself, which is beginning to rot. The bell needs to be removed while we further assess the damage and put together options for addressing it. We will have a special

congregational meeting May 25th to discuss this.

But I believe it is helpful to keep Gundtvig's song in mind while we discern a way forward. He avers that even when steeples are falling and spires are crumbling, bells are STILL chiming and calling. Our carillon will be temporarily silenced—we'll have to find other ways to quiet down at the beginning of worship for a time. But the hymn further affirms that God's true abode is in the heavens above, as well as in every human heart that trusts God.

And most importantly, even when everything else seems to be crumbling, God's faithfulness endures, God's word endures, and so God's people will surely endure.

Pr. Jon

REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

Saying Farewell

This coming Sunday, May 4, we will say Godspeed to four amazing high schoolers who are looking toward their imminent graduation dates. Each will be going in different directions. Each will be dearly missed. I hope you will join us for worship on Sunday and help me express how much their presence at Calvary has meant to you and how knowing them has changed you. We also hope that farewell does not mean goodbye forever, and that there will be homecomings for holidays and some summers where we can look forward to seeing one or more of them and celebrate their return and hear how they are doing.

We also will be saying goodbye to another great year of kids, youth, and adult Sunday school as we soon will be ending for the summer to take a nice, deep breath. Granted we are never done with learning about our faith, but before we say goodbye to that after-worship routine that's been a part of us all year, come celebrate with food and fellowship all-together as a congregation with the Parish Ed Chili & Game Day on Sunday, May 18 right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

If you enjoy making a mean pot of chili and are willing to make a pot to share, talk to Sister Jennie. Find our sign-up sheet in the narthex so we know about how many to plan for. And if you can bring things like crackers or cheese, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. More importantly, bring yourself, a spirit of fun, and bring your favorite game to play and be prepared to mix with people of all ages playing fun games and enjoying a good bowl of chili. All types of games are welcome: board games, card games, dice games!

In peace,

Sr. Jennie Myers



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MATT EIDE

Dear Calvary Friends,

The year is flying by. Happy Spring! Enjoy the beautiful Oregon weather.

I am calling a <u>Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 25th</u>, following service. The Council needs the congregation's approval to spend more than \$5,000 that was not budgeted. Unfortunately, we need to discuss some building repairs that are beyond that number. You may have noticed the bell tower in disrepair, and there are serious issues with the current condition. At the meeting, we can discuss what our options are.

Thanks so much to our Generosity Committee for the Annual Stewardship Drive in April, focusing on both financial giving and time/talents. For those that turned in your cards, thank you. For those that still need to do so, there's still a bit of time. Please see Diane Schoolitz with your time/talent cards!

As the summer gets closer, our Sunday school program will be taking a hiatus. Please join Parish Ed for their End-of-the-Year celebration on May 18th at Chili & Game Day. They have done so many wonderful things this year (with more to come with VBS in just a few weeks), and now we get to celebrate the kids!!!

We are going to look into painting more handicap spots in the parking lot for our members who need a closer spot to the door. While we do this, I ask that if you do not need the closer spaces, to park further back so the front spots can be used by those that cannot walk as far. We want to make sure everyone can worship with us and this will certainly help. Thank you, in advance, for your continued attention to this.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to myself, the Pastor, or a member of the Council.

Together in Christ,

Matt

PARISH ED NEWS & INVITES



Sign up in the narthex so we know how many to plan for!





A huge thank you to everyone for donating Easter egg candy and for all the youth and parents who helped fill and hide eggs for the egg hunt to help make Easter special for kids at Calvary this year! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Vacation Bible School Updates



There are so many ways to get involved in VBS. We needs volunteers in many little ways, and one way is supplies donations. Here is a list of things that would greatly help us out!

Look for a donation wagon in the Narthex where you can bring in your donations. Thank you so much for your help.

All God's Critters Community Evening Vacation Bible School

VBS begins with a sit-down dinner for the whole family. Kids then stay for stories, crafts, music and games as they learn about the love of God for all kids. We want every child to participate, scholarships are available upon request. All faith backgrounds welcome. We hope to see you there!

WHO: ENTERING K-5TH, FALL 2025

WHERE: CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
909 NE A STREET, GP

WHEN: JUNE 11TH, 18TH, 25TH, 5PM-7:30 PM \$5.00 INCLUDES ALL 3 SESSIONS



Our VBS program is offered in partnership with Newman United Methodist, St. Luke's Episcopal and Calvary Lutheran Churches.

HERE ARE 3 AREAS WE NEED
YOUR HELP:
• WELCOME FAMILIES AT

THE DOOR (AT THE BEGINNING)

- HELP SET-UP BEFORE
- HELP TEAR-DOWN AFTER

ALL VOUNTEERS ARE
INVITED TO EAT WITH US
DURING THE FAMILY
MEAL AT THE START OF
EACH WEDNESDAY NIGHT

JUNE 11, 18 & 25
Can you
help
with VBS
we will have a
sign-up sheet in
The NARTHEX
SOON,
YOU CAN ALSO
TALK TO SR. JENNIE

SMALL GROUP INVITES

Faithful Walkers

We will meet again on Saturday, May 31 at 9:00 a.m. at Reinhart Volunteer Park, meeting in the parking lot next to the pedestrian bridge. If you've not joined us for a walk yet and are interested, please connect with Sr. Jennie. Invite someone new to join you for a nice walk in the park and conversation. Who knows? Maybe this is an entry point for a new person to become curious about Calvary.



Prayer Small Group

Our Prayer Small Group gathers the second Tuesday, monthly, at 10:00 a.m. Join us and explore new ways to pray! If you have any questions, please talk to Sr. Jennie.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 13th at 10:00 am. Hope to see you there!



Same Small Groups: New Identities

It took awhile to develop identities, but we're excited that we now have names for our outdoor small groups. The Faithful Walkers and the Faithful Hikers. If you see these names, they are still very much a part of Calvary's small group ministry. These new names better describe who we are as groups.

Faithful Hikers

The first hike takes place on **Saturday**, **May 3** at **UPPER Table Rock**. We will offer carpooling from Calvary at 7:20 am and **meet at the trailhead at 8:00 a.m.** If you haven't joined us for a hike yet and are interested, please connect with Sr. Jennie. This is a great event to invite someone new to join with you and let them be curious about Calvary through a fun hike and conversation.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE SEEKS HELP

Special thanks to Melinda Eide for coordinating an Easter Sunday cookie fellowship with the help of some wonderful Calvary bakers. The Outreach committee is planning their next cookie fellowship for Mother's Day, May 11, in celebration of mothers and Pastor Jon's sacrament of multiple baptisms. On June 8, we will celebrate Confirmation Day for the participating youth, and Outreach is coordinating a cookie fellowship on this date, too.

Would you like to bake some cookies for these special occasions? Don't bake? You can still participate by lending a hand with clean-up tasks. Contact Marcia Cottrill or Sharla Coon if you would like to do some baking or cleaning tasks for either day.

Outreach continues to recruit greeters for Sunday worship services. Volunteering to be a greeter is a great way to share your gift of friendship. Greeters receive visitors, friends, and members at Calvary. There's nothing quite like receiving a smile and a 'Good Morning' from a greeter when you arrive for church services. If you would like to sign up to be a greeter on a rotating basis, let Marcia Cottrill know.

Thank you, Karen Nantais



FIRST QUARTER PROPERTY REPORT

- 1. The project to replace all office, classrooms, and Fellowship Hall windows has been completed.
- 2. All of the windows, inside and out, have been cleaned.
- 3. Roof gutters that were clogged have been cleaned out.
- 4. There is a continuing project of water leakage in the Baptism area. Some of the wallboards have had to be replaced. The leak has not been located, and a lift needs to be brought in to locate the leak in the bell tower roof.
- 5. April Project: All the sidewalks and some walls will be power washed.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, MAY 25TH, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The reason for the meeting will be to discuss the future of our bell tower. The tower is rotting and needs to be replaced.

We have some options and need to take a vote on the direction approved by the congregation. (We need congregational approval for any additional budget items exceeding \$5,000.)

Please plan to be present at the meeting to discuss the available options, which will be followed by a vote.

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

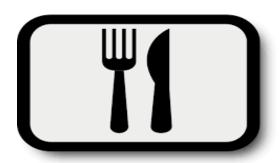
COMING SOON!

The newly updated **Calvary Lutheran Directory** is about to be printed and distributed. For safety reasons, please do not toss your old one in the trash. We ask that you shred it or bring it to Kim in the office and she will shred it. We cannot risk the personal information of the listings in the Directory falling into the wrong hands.

Thank you for helping keep all of us safe!

THE TABLE IS SET! JOIN US FOR LUNCH WITH FRIENDS ON May 2nd at NOON.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING A FRIEND!

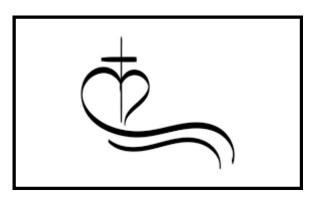


NEW DATE: The next **Blood Drive** at Calvary is scheduled for Thursday, **May 29th from**

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Blood donations save lives. Please consider making an appointment to give.







THIS IS THE DAY
THE LORD HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT.



EVENTS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DRIVERS WANTED

The church office occasionally receives requests from people looking for rides for different reasons. Often we refer these out to local organizations, but occasionally we have a request that doesn't fit neatly into any of those boxes. In particular, we have a member who would like to pay respects to their parents' resting places at Eagle Point Cemetery in late May but is unable to drive themself. We also have another member that is in need of a ride to and from church on Sundays.

If you can help with this or would like to make yourself available for similar pairings, please contact the church office.

Hearts and Hands ~ Our Hands to Others' Hearts

This vibrant group has made stewardship a full-time job! We have sponsored many money-making activities, such as bake sales, the Annual Bazaar, and Christmastime Greens sale to name a few.

Our faithful quilters have made hundreds of quilts to sell and to donate. A box full was mailed to Kentucky after a tornado!

The funds made from these activities are given to local charities, and have also supported our own church. Our group has also done fun things: A clothing swap, organized lunches, women's salad luncheon with a featured speaker, lefse making, organized tours, and craft classes. All or any of these items can be repeated, or other, fresh ideas can present something new for the group to consider.

All that is needed is an organizer to make this happen! If you have an idea, or want to support an event, please join us at the meeting to "plan the future," which is June 11th at 9:30 am. You can also contact Mary Quick, Karen Mastel, or Karen Blom.

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.



Mid-Week "James" Bible Study

James Bible Study currently meets at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and 1:30 pm on Wednesdays at Calvary for 12 weeks.

Pastor's Exodus Bible study occurs every Sunday following worship. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S WEEKEND INVITATION!



WEEREND Beyond JOIN US
AUGUST 1-3
COST: \$150



lutherwoodoregon.org



Time away to reflect, rest, and renew is what this weekend is all about. The Camp Lutherwood staff will provide leadership for a variety of camp activities, such as archery, the climbing tower, and hiking if you seek some personal challenge. Or enjoy time in the pool, a quiet moment by the creek, or coffee and conversation on the patio. Gathering together in song and community round out this weekend designed just for you. Bring a friend or come on your own; it is a weekend you won't want to miss. Cost includes lodging, meals, and programming.

Weekend Leader To Be Announced!









SPECIAL EVENT FOR ALL CALVARY LADIES! COME JOIN THE FUN!

Do you have fond memories of camping as a child or young parent? This summer, for two nights at a lovely Lutheran campground (near Eugene), you can partake in a fun ladies' Christian weekend! From August 1-3, you can take time away to reflect, rest, and renew at *Camp Lutherwood*. Leadership is provided for a variety of camp activities, including Bible study time, all meals, dorm-style sleeping accommodations, camp fires, hikes, games, singing, swimming and more! See the flyer above for more details with a contact number/email for registration/questions. This camping experience will give you the opportunity to make new friends or get to know someone better. Carpooling available. Please contact Sister Jennie Myers or Arlette Butler for more information.

MESSAGES AND INVITATIONS

GREETER MINISTRY

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2

Serving as a Greeter is a calling and a vital ministry in welcoming every person who enters Calvary. We need you! Greeters welcome our members, friends, and visitors. First impressions are lasting, and we believe Calvary is a sharing and caring congregation open to everyone.

At least two members are needed as greeters each Sunday before service — one at the front church main door, and one at the back door entrance. Greeters provide a warm smile, a handshake, and a friendly welcome to all. It is nice to work in pairs.

GREETER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- •Wear your name badge, as well as the red "greeter badge."
- •Arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of worship.
- •Open the door for each person, if possible.
- •Greet each person with a smile, a warm hello, and offer your hand for a handshake.
- •Introduce yourself to guests or re-connect with people you know.
- •Provide basic church information, such as the location of restrooms, water fountains, nursery, etc.
- •Invite guests to print their names in the guest book and direct them to an Usher for a Sunday bulletin.
- •Stay at your post until the first hymn has begun, so those who arrive late will be welcomed.

Invite guests to stay for Sunday school, adult Bible study and/or any planned fellowship activities.

If you would like to become better acquainted with those in your church family, serving as a greeter will provide an experience for you and your church family from a whole new perspective! Please sign up on the "Greeters" schedule on the bulletin board by the church office. For more information on how you can become a greeter, contact the church office at 541-479-2577 or Greeter Ministry Chair, Marcia Cottrill. If you are unable to greet on your scheduled day, please find a replacement or contact Marcia Cottrill at 541-218-8540 so she can find a substitute for you.

"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psalm 84:10b



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!!

"Community Corner"

HELP! I'M IN NEED OF A SET OF WHEELS!

Calvary Member, Marla Vidrinskas, is in need of a used car. Marla can't get to church until she can find and purchase a car. Can you help?

Do you, yourself, have a used car for sale or know someone that might have a used car for sale?

If so, please contact Kim in the office for Marla's contact information.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY (CBS)

CBS is on break now and will resume September 8th at 10:00 a.m. For inquiries or questions, please reach out to Babara Williams at 541-955-4595.

VBS NEEDS LIST

Here are some needs from the stage decoration team as we prepare for bringing VBS to Calvary!

- Old, flat, white sheets (5)
- Stuffed farm animals, 18 inches or larger (3-4)
- Hay bales, real or fake, 4-5 large or 6-7 small

Soon we'll have a needs list from the craft teachers.

Thank you all!

NEED MOWING? TRIMMING? WEED WHACKING? OUTDOOR CHORES STACKING UP FAST? DO YOU NEED A HAND?

If you said, "yes," then you came to the right place! Evan Strickland is currently raising money for college and is offering help with yard work, such as mowing, trimming, weed whacking, basic equipment maintenance, et cetera, for \$15.00 per hour.

If you could use Evan's help—and would like to help Evan at the same time—then this is a win-win!





For safety reasons, please contact Kim in the office for Evan's contact information.

Thank you, Evan!!

Hearts With a Mission is expanding services in Josephine County to include its "Hearts for Seniors" program. This program provides companion care to seniors 65+ who are living independently in their homes who may not have family support or robust resources, in a variety of practical ways such as weekly meal prep, light housekeeping, rides to appointments, and simply providing a listening, compassionate ear.

Please contact Colleen Padilla at: colleen.p@hwam.org or call her at 541-941-6682.

EASTER SUNDAY PHOTO PAGE







May Celebrations!!!

BISINE DAY B

05/02	Loraine Beckman				
05/05	Roberta Marsh				
05/07	Gordon Hoefer				
05/07	Freya Matthews				
05/07	Ryan Thompson				
05/08	Dennis Hinders				
05/08	Madison Rounsaville				
05/08	Tannon Rounsaville				
05/10	Marie Hill				
05/13	Zachary Baker				
05/13	Dale Wachsmuth				
05/14	Don Wilson				
05/16	Ben Albertson				
05/16	Pat Chambers				
05/16	Carol Smith				
05/17	Caleb Myers				
05/20	Morgan Gravelle				
05/23	Marcia Lembcke				
05/24	Natalie Bjorge				
05/25	Ann Stutts				
05/26	Sharon Hoback				
05/27	Sean Connelly				
05/28	Larry Bailey				
05/29	Karlee Albertson				
05/30	Linda Mann				
05/31	Bonnie Lawler				



05/01 NOEL & SHARON HOBACK 05/06 DAVE & NANCY LINDALL 05/06 KEITH & LISA JAROSLOW 05/07 KIRBY & JANINE NAVE 05/19 DEAN & TERESA **SCHWERDT** 05/29 BRAD & AUDRA **MYERCHIN** 05/30 DON & KARIN LANAHAN



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			3	1	2 12 pm LWF 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	3 Faithful Hikers 8:00 am Upper Table Rock
9:30 am Service HS Gift Presentation Sunday School Adult Ed (Exodus)	11:00 am P. Ed HAPPY HAPPY 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	6 10:00 am Prayer Group 3 pm Steward- ship Mtg 3:30 pm Praise Team 4:00 pm James Bible Study	7 9:30 am H & H 10 am W & M Mtg 1:30 pm James Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	8 2:00 pm Countryside Svs 4:30 pm Council Mtg	9 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	10
11 Sunday School Adult Ed	11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	13 10 am Prayer Group 4:00 pm James Bible Study-Last one	9:30 am H & H 1:30 pm James Bible Study-Last one 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	15	NO YOGA CLASSES TODAY	17
18 9:30 am Service 10 am Church on the Turf End of Sunday School-Chili & Game Day party following worship Adult Ed	19 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	20	9:30 am H & H 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	22	23 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	24
9:30 am Service SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER WORSHIP No Sunday School—on break	HOLIDAY Church Closed HAPPY DAY NO YOGA	27	9:30 am H & H 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	9:00–2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	30 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	9:00 am Faithful Walkers— Reinhart Vol Park



909 NE "A" Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Phone: (541) 479-2577

E-Mail: calvluth@calvarylutherangp.org

www. calvarylutherangp.org

Jon Myers, Pastor Sister Jennie Myers, Director of Discipleship Wendy Ross, Director of Choirs Kimberly White, Administrative Assistant

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

