

# *CALVARY CALLER*

## *FEBRUARY 2025*



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### Christ Still Rises

This week I had the privilege of learning again from a phenomenal preacher who is now the Dean of Duke University Chapel in North Carolina. The Rev. Dr. Luke Powery preaches with a passion and precision rooting in the black preaching tradition. But he also works songs, especially spirituals, into both his preaching and lecturing with a boldly booming baritone.

So, I've spent the last few days steeped not only in prayer and preaching—the conference theme—but also song. It takes a great deal to move me to tears, but they started flowing unbidden during a song immediately after Dr. Powery preached at closing worship.

Descending piano arpeggios invited us into singing together, and the room filled with a song none of us had ever heard, let alone sung. But my voice caught in my throat partway through the first line:

“Christ still rises  
When fear grips our city  
When death takes no pity  
When much is unknown

Christ still rises  
When friends are divided  
When joy feels misguided  
When we are alone”

I have no doubt the songwriter meant some much bigger city with these words—probably Chicago, where he lives and works. But it struck me how well these words capture the division I feel here in GP and across the country, and the

very human suspicion, fear and anger that keep us from bridging this gap on our own.

Over and above all is this song's stirring declaration that even so, nonetheless, Christ still rises. Not just 2,000 years ago from a tomb in Jerusalem but here in this city, here in this country, here in our midst. The song closes:

“Christ still rises  
When grieving is ended  
When bodies are mended  
When beauty heals pain

Christ still rises  
When fear has retreated  
When death is defeated  
And joy will remain  
And joy will remain.”

~ Pastor Jon

## *REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE*

# LOVE

What is Love?

February is the month often known for Valentine's Day, which is not really a Christian holiday anymore. Although it did start as the Feast of Saint Valentine, remembering the Christian martyr St. Valentine. Valentine's Day today is more centered on romantic love, which was not the original focus of the saints feast day. There are other kinds of love that we know about. There is agape, or God's love, which is his unconditional love. And there is Philia, or brotherly

love. Note the city of Philadelphia is named the City of Brotherly Love. And that is showing love through friendship, loyalty, and mutual respect, which I think we in the church can relate to. This also looks like showing care and compassion for one another and putting others' needs above our own.

I want to challenge you to wonder how you are already showing love for one another? In your own family? For your church? How about in the community?

I see so many ways that Calvary shows love for each other and definitely in the community. This congregation knows how to share food, both one-on-one when someone is sick, but also in large portions as we see monthly at Lunch with Friends.

We have a strong heart for sharing benevolently the gifts of money that were first shared with us from God and giving it to others in need both locally and far from here. This sentiment was shared strongly at our last annual meeting, and it was such a voice of love driving this. It was awe-inspiring to see the loving response to the Angel Tree just this past Christmas for all the foster kids that come through Every Child. This folks, is love! I also see love in the relationships at church, among friends and families. But also among the mixing of generations.

Our Pizza Bowl event was a great example of how we can have great fun with each other no matter how old or young we are when we have the spirit of God's love in our hearts. Those relationships at church between the older and younger are so important and life changing for all!

The final challenge as you think about love this month is what is a new way that you feel called by God to show love at Calvary? Locally in Grants Pass? Or even further away?

In Peace,

Sister Jennie

# **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MATT EIDE**

Dear Calvary Friends,

Wow, it is February already and the Lenten season will be upon us before we can blink.

A huge thank you to the congregation for helping us meet our financial obligations last year, ending just over \$500 in the positive. Wonderful blessings. As we continue into this year, the Council will monitor (as we always do) the monies coming in and, if we see a surplus, we plan to use it for benevolence. We predict that needs will present themselves, as the Los Angeles fires did.

There is an opportunity to take part in the Synod Gathering. Every three years the Synod holds an in-person conference in Portland. This year it will be May 30 through June 1 at the Holiday Inn on the Columbia River. The theme this year is "Anam Cara: Soul Friends in the Spirit of Jesus." Anam Cara, a Gaelic phrase, describes a sacred relationship that encourages spiritual growth.

During the session, the Bishop is up for nomination and confirmation (every six years). A Task Group will present candidates at the session. Our current bishop, Laurie Caesar, has shown her willingness to stand for re-election.

There will be other topics and measures to vote on. Calvary Lutheran has two (2) votes.

Let me know if you would like to be nominated to attend. We should have our process concluded by the March Council meeting (March 13<sup>th</sup>).

As a note, the wider ELCA Church-wide Assembly will be July 28 through August 2 at the Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

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



# CALVARY'S CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Calvary Lutheran Church

Financial Bottom Line  
as of December 31, 2024



As of  
December 31, 2024  
Actual

Operating Income

\$403,235

Operating & Payroll Expenses

\$402,678

Net Operating Income

\$557

2024 Benevolence Giving  
As of December 31, 2024

Oregon Synod

\$15,112

Disaster Relief Budgeted/Designated

\$17,672

Local Benevolence  
Budgeted/Designated

\$25396

# PARISH ED NEWS / INVITES



## Parish Ed Updates

The nursery will soon be open and available to visiting and regular Calvary families with infants and toddlers. Many thanks to Kendyl and Charlene Jernigan, members of Calvary, who have volunteered to help out when they can and as there are families in worship who can use this support. At other times, when there is no one attending the nursery, please know that the space is always a viable place for parents to use as a family drop-in space.

Calvary's January PizzaBowl was lots of fun, with the older and younger folks mixing together. We had about 30 people from Calvary at the bowling alley, whether actually bowling or watching the fun. It was great to have a community presence! Then we all gathered for pizza and refreshments at Wild River shortly after. It was all great fun and relationship building time together!

Our next Parish Ed event for kids, youth, and families will be on Sunday, February 23. We have been invited to a learning afternoon and training demonstration about how service dogs help the veterans in our community. We'll get to interact with the dogs and learn about "Operation Rambo." Meet at Black Bear Diner at 2:00 p.m. Please let Sr. Jennie Myers know if you can make it so we have enough snacks.

In peace,

Sister Jennie and the Parish Ed Committee



## God's New Creation



### Summer 2025 Vacation Bible School Updates

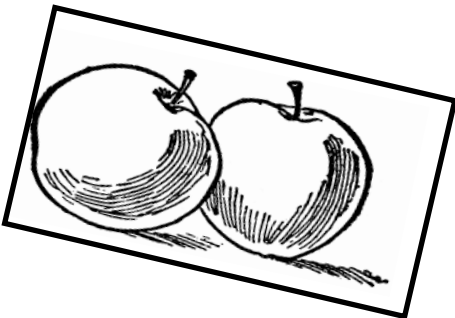
Vacation Bible School is returning to Calvary this summer, but in a new way. We will be joined with some of our ecumenical brothers and sisters in town, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and Newman Methodist Church who are part of the planning team. We're hoping to have a good crowd of kids around the building this summer.

Our VBS program will run weekly on Wednesday evenings in June, beginning with a family dinner each session. So save the following dates: June 11, 18, and 25. Times will be announced very soon. We will together be exploring God's New Creation and the important role that farms and animals play in helping solve the problem of world hunger and how we are called to help as well.

Thinking ahead...

- If you have kids in Kindergarten through 5th or 6th grade, please save the date. We hope to see them here this summer.
- If you have middle- or high-school youth, we invite them to save the date. We would love their help, too!
- If you would enjoy teaching or interacting with kids in some fashion, or would like to be around to volunteer in even the smallest way, please save the date.
- We'll need people to greet and check kids in each week.
- We'll need volunteers to cook dinner one week.

If you see yourself with a way you'd like to be a part of VBS this summer, please check in with Sr. Jennie soon!



### February Youth Hangout

Our next Hangout will be **Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.** at Calvary. Come for snacks, conversation and a group game of Apples to Apples! Bring a friend!

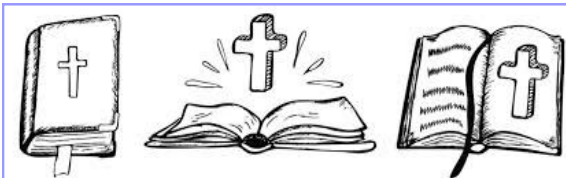
# CALVARY EVENTS & INVITATIONS

## COUNCIL INSTALLATION



### COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY (CBS)

CBS invites you to join their Bible Study on Mondays from 10:00—11:30 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran. The group is doing an 8-week study of First, Second, and Third John. For inquiries or questions, please reach out to Babara Williams at 541-955-4595.



### KIDS KORNER LIBRARY



IT'S EASY TO CHECK OUT A BOOK OR TWO!  
COME, READ ALONG WITH US!

### 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,  
February 11th at 10:00 am.  
Hope to see you there!**



**WINTER ADVENTURES SMALL GROUP  
GATHERING IN ASHLAND!**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ~ INVITATIONS!

**LUNCH WITH FRIENDS  
WILL BE FRIDAY,  
February 7th  
at NOON.  
PLEASE JOIN US!**



The next **Blood Drive** at Calvary is scheduled for **Friday, February 21st from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Blood donations save lives. Please consider making an appointment to give. The American Red Cross thanks you!



Will and Luke Boldon are involved in this year's **GP Jazz Fest on Saturday, February 15th at the GPHS Performing Arts Center at 6:00 p.m.** and are selling tickets now! The Boldons will be available after church on Sunday, February 2nd selling tickets. **Final ticket sales are February 7th**, so don't miss out. GP Jazz Fest involves the high school and middle school Jazz Bands, along with Guest trombonist, Marshall Gilkes! There is also a silent auction and desserts beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$20 for students/seniors. Any questions? Please email Laura Boldon at [boldonlaura@gmail.com](mailto:boldonlaura@gmail.com).



### Mid-Week Ephesians Bible Study

Ephesians Bible Study meets at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and 1:30 pm on Wednesdays at Calvary. Any time is a good time to join in!

PASTOR'S GENESIS BIBLE STUDY IS A WRAP. NEXT, PASTOR BEGINS AN EXODUS BIBLE STUDY, which occurs every Sunday following worship. All are welcome!





## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!!

### **OUTREACH** **COMMITTEE NEWS**

Many thanks to Melinda Eide and Crystal Zimmer for their ongoing partnership with *Every Child*. Melinda and Crystal give tirelessly, representing Calvary Lutheran.

In addition to overseeing the Angel Tree, they ensure that snacks and drinks are available in *Every Child's* pantry for visiting parents and their children in foster care to enjoy. Calvary recently received thank you letters from *Every Child* for our ongoing support.

Melinda reported at the January 22nd Outreach meeting that ***Every Child* needs small dressers for local foster children.** Many times, a child is placed in a home with nothing but a plastic bag to hold their personal belongings.

If you have a used dresser or chest of drawers that you no longer need, please consider donating it to *Every Child*. For more information and to arrange a pick-up, please contact Melinda Eide.

Thank you for your support!



### **“Community Corner”**

**A new feature in the  
monthly Caller  
newsletter!**

Do you have something you want to advertise to the community, or something you want to give away or sell at or below cost? This is not for business ads or soliciting sales, but rather free furniture items and the like.

We'll consider listing items on a case-by-case basis until we get a feel for what's appropriate.

Please contact the church office to submit an ad for an item for consideration you'd like to sell or give away.

### **WINTER ADVENTURES UPDATE**

Our crew of snow-seeking folks have been out skiing at Mt. Ashland a few times last month, and we're about to do our first ranger-led snowshoe hike at Crater Lake on Saturday, February 1. We have a group of 7 signed up to go. We will plan to keep taking advantage of the snow and cold in higher elevations as long as we can. So if you enjoy being in the snow and are just seeing this, let Sr. Jennie know so you can join in the fun.



Let it  
SNOW

Get your HAPPY on!!



02/01	Dave Bliss
02/02	Jonnie Maurer
02/03	Jeanne Workley
02/06	Glenda Bailey
02/08	Don Hurd
02/09	Kimberly White
02/09	Joan Hathaway
02/10	Charlene Jernigan
02/11	Jan Brown
02/12	Jill Cook
02/13	Ken Stutts
02/16	Marilyn Dierks
02/16	Frances Sprain
02/18	Ryan Tommerup
02/19	Shawna Henderson
02/21	Peter Angstadt
02/27	Elaine Byrum

**HAPPY**  
anniversary

02/03 LARRY & DIANE  
WEAVER

02/06 BEN & SHIRLEY  
ALBERTSON







02/11 PAUL & ADELE  
TAMOSUNAS

02/12 JACK & JOANNE  
NAHMIAS

02/21 JIM SWEENEY &  
DIANE HOOVER



# ***FEBRUARY 2025***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1  1:00 pm Snowshoe Hike @ Crater Lake  
2  9:30 am Service  Sunday School Adult Ed (Exodus Study Begins)	3  10:00 am Community Bible Study  11:00 am P. Ed  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	4  3:00 pm Stewardship mtg  4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	5  9:30 am H & H  10:00 am Worship & Music  1:30 pm Ephesians Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	6	7  12 pm LWF    11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	8
9  9:30 am Service  Sunday School Adult Ed  2:00 pm High School Hangout  	10  10:00 am Community Bible Study  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	11  10:00 am Prayer Group  4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	12  9:30 am H & H  1:30 PM Ephesians Bible Study  3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	13  2:00 pm Countryside Service  4:30 Council Meeting	14    Valentine's Day  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	15  6:00 p.m. Grants Pass High School Jazz Fest
16  9:30 am Service  Sunday School Adult Ed	17  HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED  10:00 am Community Bible Study  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	18  4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	19  9:30 am H & H meeting  1:30 pm Ephesians Bible Study  3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	20	21  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga  9-2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive  	22
23  9:30 am Service  No Sunday School Adult Ed	24  10:00 am Last Day of Community Bible Study (Resumes 3/10)  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	25  4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	26  9:30 am H & H 10 am Outreach Mtg  1:30 pm Ephesians Bible Study  3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	27	28  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	





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[www. calvarylutherangp.org](http://www.calvarylutherangp.org)

**Jon Myers, Pastor**

**Sister Jennie Myers, Director of Disci-  
pleship**

**Wendy Ross**, Director of Choirs

**Kimberly White**, Administrative Assistant

**Sundays:** 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School