



CALVARY CALLER

NOVEMBER 2024





Leading with Curiosity

Last week I had the privilege of spending several days at a retreat with all my fellow pastors and deacons. There was a lot of sitting in silence—most of you know how hard that is for me—and just when I would get comfortable being alone with my thoughts: “Okay, turn to one or two people to share!”

The conversations that came out of that were rich and fruitful. In the middle of one such conversation, a colleague said: “I think Paul left at least one important ‘fruit of the spirit’ off his list: curiosity.” And I told him, wow, yes, that sounds exactly right!

What would it look like for each of us to lead with curiosity? I don’t just mean how our leaders at Calvary lead. I mean leading all our conversations with curiosity, perhaps starting with “Tell me a little more about yourself!”

And when something surprises you, offering a nonjudgmental, “Oh, that’s interesting, why is that?” Or when it seems like an emotion is brewing under the surface, “How are you feeling about that?” And sometimes just following your natural curiosity, “Could you tell me more about that?” It almost always feels good to be asked such questions! Especially when it’s clear that the asker is genuinely interested in your answers.

The secret beauty of such curiosity is that most of us really do want to talk about ourselves—not everything all at once, and certainly not the hard stuff, not with someone we’re not yet sure we trust. And yet one key way to build trust is to enter into conversations with a posture of curiosity.

It’s amazing what you can learn this way, even about people you’ve known for a very long time. And can you imagine how different this election season would be going if instead of shouting, mudslinging, fearmongering and misinformation, candidates for public office went into Election Day fostering a spirit of curiosity?

Okay, maybe that’s too big a miracle to imagine! But consider curiosity’s place among the more familiar fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). We can ask God to bring forth all these fruits in our lives, for the sake of building stronger and deeper relationships with one another and those around us in our daily lives.

Pastor Jon

REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

Deaconess Assembly

I want to let everyone know that I will be traveling Thursday to Saturday right before our Annual Congregational Meeting for the Annual Deaconess Assembly. This is an important requirement of my association as a sister of the ELCA Deaconess Community, very similar to requirements for pastors and deacons attending Annual Synod Assemblies and Bishop's Convocation. But it is also essential for me as a time to refresh, reconnect with sisters I have not seen in at least a year, and conduct important business that can only be done when we are all together in person. We learn, worship, laugh and play together all in a very short time span. This year we will be discerning and electing a new Directing Deaconess. I would ask for all your prayers, not only for me, but for all traveling, and for God's spirit to be with all of us gathering in Chicago to do this work.

I have made sure that my travel will not keep me from being present and a part of the important work that Calvary has before us at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 24. I pray that God's spirit is already working in each of you, helping you discern God's will for Calvary as November 24 approaches.

In Peace,
Sr. Jennie Myers



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MATT EIDE

Dear Calvary Friends,

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, November 24 following the service.

We have talked a lot this year about giving and budget. Our expenses continue to run much higher than our giving. A particularly important note is that giving is the same/similar as 2022 and 2023.

	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2022	\$348,809	\$348,809
2023	\$343,372	\$343,372
2024	\$345,000 (<i>estimated</i>)	\$420,159 (<i>estimated</i>)
2025	\$TBD	\$350,000 (<i>pending</i>)

Our challenge is that we collectively agreed (via vote) to increase our budget for 2024 to \$420,000. This puts the difference between budget and giving at approximately 75,000. There have been funds that have not been (or will not be) spent, with the estimate at \$400,000, or \$50,000 in money spent beyond what we have received.

When we agreed to the budget in December 2023, and it **was said** that the budget was aspirational. Unfortunately, giving stayed steady over the last (now) three years.

The Council will make recommendations on cuts (benevolence, security, committees) that can get us closer to our number of \$350,000, but there are challenging decisions to make, and we must do that together. I strongly encourage you to review the budget and come to the Annual Meeting with recommendations and questions.

If you have questions that you would like answered prior to the meeting, I encourage you to reach out to me or any member of Council. The Budget and Annual Report should be out by November 10.

Together in Christ,

Matt



Children, Youth & Family News

Parish Ed Updates

Calvary's fall Faith Formation is into full swing. Sunday school classes are going, new and old Bible studies are meeting. And we just wrapped up our first kids, youth and families Pumpkin Painting event. It was a great evening of creativity, fun and delicious food.

Our committee will next be turning our attention to all the preparations that go into getting the kids, youth and adults ready for another Christmas Drama. We have a bunch of people who are excited to be a part of it this year so it should be fun!

We are keeping at the forefront of our conversations the current needs of our youngest worshippers, what the next phase of the nursery might look like, and praying about what we most need in a future nursery attendant. We are also, as a part of the conversation, discussing what having a Children's church at Calvary might look like, where children are invited to a safe space to play and learn about the same lessons the adults are hearing and allow for some moving around. This would be between the Children's sermon and the beginning of the communion liturgy.

In peace,
Sister Jennie and the Parish Ed Committee

Join Us for Summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2025!

It's not too early to start getting ready for an unforgettable time of fun, learning, and spiritual growth as we debut a new Summer Bible School model! Kids will embark on exciting adventures through Bible stories, music, crafts, and games, all designed to bring them closer to God.

The 4-week summer program is the perfect way to offer something slightly different for our community. This program will meet once a week in the evenings, making it easy to fit into people's schedules.

Also, we are excited to announce that we will not be doing this alone—our neighboring churches, including Newman Methodist Church and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, will all be coming together with us, each playing a unique role in partnering together to provide quality kids programming this summer in Grants Pass.

But we can't do it alone—we need ****YOU****! VBS is successful because of amazing volunteers, and we're calling on passionate people like you to help make this year's program the best yet. Whether you love working with kids, enjoy behind-the-scenes planning, or have a special skill to share, there's a place for everyone.

Ways You Can Help:

- ◆ Group leaders and assistants
- ◆ Craft and game helpers
- ◆ Snack/dinner coordinators
- ◆ Set-up and clean-up teams
- ◆ Registration and greeting

Ready to Make a Difference? Sign up today to be part of an amazing team! Talk to Sister Jennie, Whitney Bixler, or Vicki Gindlesperger to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Let's make this summer a time of faith, fun, and lasting memories for our kids!

The VBS Planning Team

Calvary News & Reminders in November

Friendly Reminder:

The Annual Report to the Congregation will be out by November 10th.

You can find your copy of the report on the round table in the Narthex on this day.

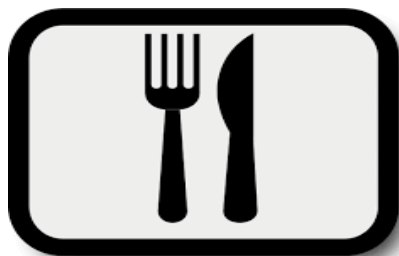


**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS
NOVEMBER 3RD.**

**THE ANNUAL
CONGREGATION MEETING
WILL BE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER
24TH, FOLLOWING SERVICES.
Save the date!**



**LUNCH WITH FRIENDS
WILL BE FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 8th
at NOON.
PLEASE JOIN US!**



**Next blood
drive is
November
26th from
9:00 a.m.—
2:00 p.m.
We hope to
see you there!**



THANK YOU, CALVARY CHURCH COUNCIL

Thank you to all the members of Calvary Lutheran Church Council, past and present, for the commitment and dedication you bring to your positions. I feel blessed to have served over 10 years with such a caring group of leaders who are continually looking at new and better ways to seek God's plan for Calvary. You have all strengthened me in my Christian walk and have shown me how strong the leadership of this church has been.

For this I am forever grateful.

I challenge and encourage each of our church members to find a "passion" at Calvary and follow it; join a committee, join the Council, be part of the discussion. Become an active voice on how and where Calvary Lutheran can go and grow!

Karen Blom

SMALL GROUPS' NEWS & UPDATES

Winter Adventures Small Group

If you missed our quick meeting on Sunday, October 27 but are still curious about what this group might look like, there will be some that want to go downhill skiing at Mt. Ashland or perhaps Mt. Shasta, there is also an interest in venturing up to Crater Lake sometime to try out snowshoeing as a guided snow hike. If this sounds interesting, reach out to Sister Jennie. There is still time, too, as the snow will not fly for a little while.

The **Calvary Walkers** will be on hiatus until the fair weather returns.
Enjoy the break!

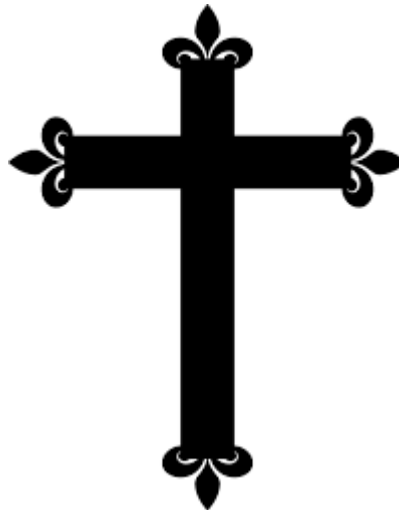


The next hike will be Saturday,
November 2nd
at 8:30 a.m. at Waters Creek.
All are welcome!



"Let all those
rejoice who put
their trust in
You; let them
ever shout for
joy."

~Psalm 5:11



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, November
12th at 10:00 am.**

Mid-Week Ephesians Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Calvary.

There's still time to join in if you're interested!



SAVE THE DATE!

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOLIDAY BAZAAR



Sweets-Gifts-Crafts

Saturday, November 16

10 am to 2 pm

909 NE A St.

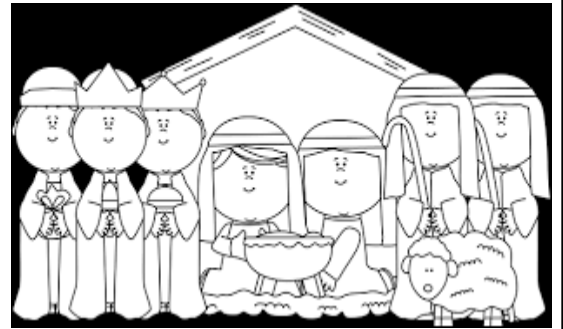
**Sloppy Joe
Lunch 11 am**

Pie by the
slice, muffins,
& coffee

Proceeds to
benefit local charities

Homemade
quilts, crafts,
lefse, baked
& canned
goods

**2ND ANNUAL KIDS,
YOUTH & ADULT
CHRISTMAS DRAMA WILL
BE HAPPENING DURING
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY,
DEC 15TH.**



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

***Carols and Cocoa at
Countryside Village
December 14***

Caroling songbooks will be provided. Bring your Christmas spirit & joyful voice. Reindeer ears optional! Cocoa will be served following music.



Meet in the activity room with fireplaces just beyond the main entrance. Look for the piano!



SAVE THE DATE

**Join us this December 14
@ 4:30 PM as we spread some
Christmas cheer to the residents
at Countryside Village! (1700
Kellenbeck Avenue)
For questions talk to Sr. Jennie,
Marcia Cottrill, or Karen Nantais**



SOME OF OUR STITCHCRAFTERS GATHER TO PREPARE FOR THE BIG EVENT ON NOV 16TH!



“We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”
~ Romans 8:28



CALVARY KIDS CAUGHT IN ACTION!



NOVEMBER CELEBRATION TIME!!



11/01	Eric Cordes
11/02	Logan Nelson
11/03	Sherry Damico
11/04	Pete Tommerup
11/05	Mary Jane Ainsworth
11/06	Teresa Schwerdt
11/07	Allie Myers
11/09	Kimberly Gindlesperger
11/12	John Henderson
11/13	Natalie Baertschiger
11/13	Nancy Lindall
11/16	David Grimes
11/19	Madeleine Angststadt
11/19	Debbie Kroeger-Vroman
11/19	Kathryn Weidenbach
11/20	David Ross
11/22	Jackie Matheny
11/22	Wendy Ross
11/22	Elaine Wolf
11/23	Herman Baertschiger
11/24	Jan Stutts
11/28	Brian Johnson
11/28	Mike Lawler
11/29	Judi Bliss
11/29	Matt Eide
11/29	Joanne Nahmias

Happy Anniversary

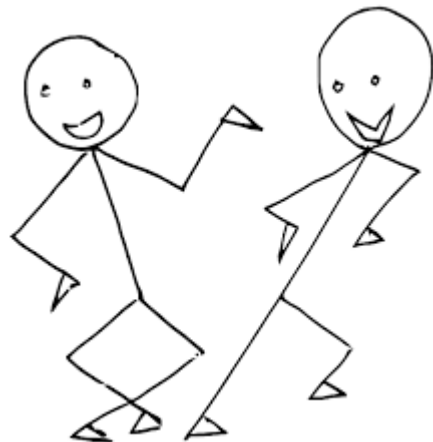
*11/04 FRANCES & LYLE
SPRAIN*

*11/19 DAVID MATTHEWS &
JESSICA ALBERTSON*

*11/27 WENDY & DAVID
ROSS*

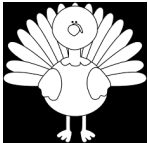
*11/29 RAY & KATHRYN
WEIDENBACH*

*11/29 WILLA & BILL
BIANCHI*



Get your HAPPY on!!

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	2 8:30 am Hikers @ Waters Creek DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
3 <i>ALL SAINTS SUN</i> 9:30 am Service Sunday School Adult Ed 6:30 pm Confirma- tion	4 10 am P. Ed 10-11:30 am Last CBS (resumes Jan 6, 2025) 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	5 3:00 pm Stewardship Meeting 4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	6 9:30 am H&H 1:30 PM Ephesians Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	7 4:30 pm - 1st Family Communion Class (F. Hall)	8 12 pm LWF 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	9
10 9:30 am Service (Generosity Moment: Sharon Magnuson) Sunday School Adult Ed	11 10-11:30 am CBS HOLIDAY (VETERANS DAY) CHURCH CLOSED NO YOGA TODAY	12 10:00 am Prayer Group 4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	13 9:30 am H&H Meeting (Bazaar Finalities) 1:30 PM Ephesians Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	14 2:00 pm Countryside 4:30 pm Council Meeting	15 NO YOGA TODAY	16 10-2:00 PM HOLIDAY BAZAAR & BAKE/QUILT SALE
17 9:30 am Service (MM: Stewardship) Sunday School Adult Ed 6:30 pm Confirmation	18 NO YOGA TODAY	19 4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	20 9:30 am H&H 1:30 PM Ephesians Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	21 Sister Jennie: Traveling for Annual Deaconess Assembly	22 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	23 (Sister Jennie Returns from Assembly)
24 <i>CHRIST THE KING</i> 9:30 am Service Adult Ed ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING No Sunday School	25 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	26 9-2:00 pm RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 4:00 pm Ephesians Bible Study	27 9:30 am H&H 1:30 PM Ephesians Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir	28 HOLIDAY CHURCH CLOSED  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	29 OFFICE OPEN 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	30



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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