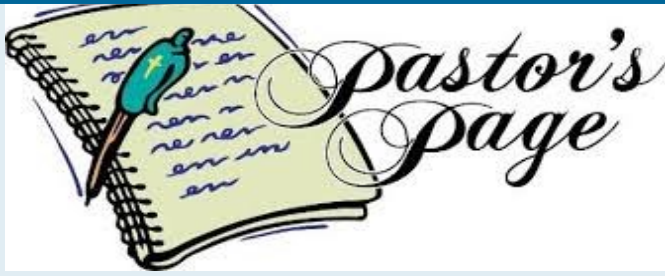


CALVARY CALLER MAY 2024



¹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
²Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

~Psalm 8



"I Am Doing a New Thing"

God is doing new things among us at Calvary. We had more young families in worship yesterday than I can remember since we've been here, outside of Easter and Christmas Eve. I can't think of any particular reason that might have been, except perhaps the general excitement around the Chili and Game Night.

And I don't think we need to overthink the reasons why. I have always taken my calling to be working with precisely those people who are in my presence at any given moment. I'm truly sorry if you've ever wanted my attention and felt tuned out or turned away. It's just that the person or people in front of me are always the most important people to me in that moment.

This mostly serves me well, but it also saves me a lot of hand-wringing. Some of you have the gift of checking in on those who aren't around. I'm grateful for you! I do not have this gift. Instead, I'm almost laser-focused on working with those who show up and serving those before me.

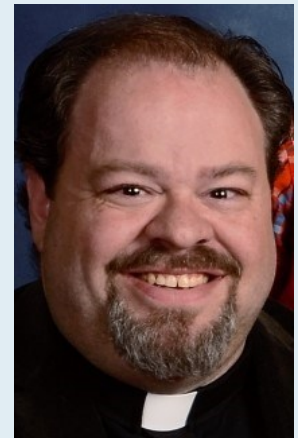
If yesterday was not a fluke—and I don't believe it was—it's one visible sign of a

subtle shift in our life together as a congregation. Many of you wanted a pastor with a young family to draw in others. Many of you dreamed of again having a staff person dedicated to connecting with, working with, and serving young people and their families. This commitment is bearing fruit already, and we haven't even been here a year.

Change is hard and uncomfortable. We may find we need to let go of some old habits. Some treasured memories of events and programs of days gone by may need to be celebrated as warm memories rather than set patterns for the future. "I am about to do a new thing... I will make a way!" says the Lord in Isaiah 43.

We want to be attentive to the hopes, needs, and dreams of everyone in this community—those who have been here for forty years and those who just showed up forty minutes ago. We won't always get that balance right, but by God's grace, we'll come closer every day, and become closer every day, God willing.

Pastor Jon



REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

Making Time & Praying With Each Other

Last week I went over to Countryside Village to see who among our Calvary friends I could see. They are busy folks! I specifically wanted to try seeing a few that I had not yet had a chance to.

I walked one to the front door, because she was on her way out, but she was so excited that I thought of her. The next person didn't seem to be answering, but then I saw a different Calvary friend strolling down the hall, headed to the cafe, and it was good to talk briefly and see them out and about.

The next person I was able to sit with and hear her story, and she got to know pieces of my story, as well. We must have sat together for over an hour. Then I decided to go check on the person who wasn't in their room before. She was so glad that I made the time to stop back by to check on her and to pray with her.

Next I ran into yet another Calvary friend on her way to lunch. She seemed like she needed to talk and could use prayer. So I asked, "Would you like to pray together?" And it was just what she needed.

Now, I don't usually run into nearly that many Calvary folks in the hall, nor am I typically lucky enough to see that many people in one trip. Usually they are busy living their lives, enjoying being out and about. But in that one morning, I was able to see so many.

Why am I telling you this? Because it struck me over and over how, for the handful of people who I saw, it made their day that I would stop and take time for them. Whether it was just a few minutes or much longer didn't seem to matter. I took the time to pray with them. And it meant the world to them.

How often do we notice when someone isn't at church or haven't seen someone in a while but then you move on. I wonder what it would be like to stay with that thought and to follow up? Give that person a call, tell them that you miss them, see if you can go visit them and give them your time to listen to what's going on, and pray together.

I know many of you do this already, and I'm so thankful for that. But I know it can be easy to forget to do. And the more we are all connected to each other in different ways, the stronger we are as a congregation to do God's work in the world.

And it can be easy to convince yourself that you'd be bothering them. But what if that's exactly what they need, without knowing the words to ask—to have someone ready and willing to listen and to offer to pray with them? What if you are the one—the friend they've been waiting for? These moments that build relationships up are God's timing.



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dear Calvary Friends,

Happy Spring!

It's such a beautiful time to be in Grants Pass. The cherry trees in bloom are my favorite.

Thank you to Diane Schoolitz for joining our Stewardship Chair and Karen Nantais for joining as Outreach Chair. All the seats on Council are now filled. Hooray!

Also, many thanks to Janine and Kirby Nave for stepping in and offering to attend the Oregon Synod gathering on June 1. We look forward to hearing their impressions.

In looking at our financials:

	<u>Through March</u>	<u>Annualized</u>
Budget	\$105,040	\$420, 159
Income	\$81,962	\$327,848
Difference	<\$23,078>	<\$92,311>

In the past few years, giving has fluctuated throughout the year, so it is important to note that these are only the numbers through March. I bring this to you in the spirit of transparency. I would not want you to be caught off guard later this year. The Council will continue to monitor our progress and report to the congregation often. I ask for your continued prayers for the Church!

I look forward to a wonderful Spring and welcome your feedback.

Together in Christ,
Matt



Parish Education Notes

Parish Ed Updates

The Parish Education Team would simply like to give a big thank you to everyone who made the Chili and Game Night what it was, a time of gathering, a time of getting to know each other deeper, a time of breaking bread together over chili and literally bread, a time of laughter and learning through enjoying new and old games with one another. We literally couldn't have done it without all of you. I'm going to stop there and let some pictures do more of the talking! I hope we will have more opportunities to gather together like this, for those who enjoy it. If you have new ideas and energy for things like this, the Parish Ed Team would love your energy!

We are also excitedly learning about and building a relationship with Camp Lutherwood, an amazing outdoor ministry of the ELCA, a part of our own Oregon Synod territory. We are getting to know the executive director right now. Our next move is going to be planning to invite her out to talk to everyone at Calvary during a Mission Minute. She will be staying for a Meet n' Greet after church when she comes out. So we are looking forward to learning more about a wonderful resource for faith formation for all ages.

There is so much to be thankful for, as we, as a congregation, get ready to wrap up another year of Sunday school and faith formation for the summer. Youth and kids SS will be wrapped up on May 19. The Adult Bible Study of Genesis will be going on a summer hiatus from Memorial Day-Labor Day. Stay tuned for smaller bite-sized summer adult forum topics. And of course, if you have a topic that you'd love to learn more about, please talk to Pastor Jon or anyone on the Parish Ed Team.

To celebrate the past year and new relationships built, the Parish Team will be celebrating with hot dogs and an ice cream social right after church on Sunday, May 19. All are invited and welcome! This is for kids, youth, and all adults. Save the date!

God's Peace,
Sr. Jennie and the Parish Ed Team



May Sunday School Mother's Day Projects

All kids and youth will be in the Upper Room on the first Sunday of May, as has been our pattern this year. I'm doing a special invitation, because we'll be doing various Mother's Day projects. We will have different activity stations specific to age and interest from younger kids to older youth. So please come and be ready to roll up your creative sleeves so we can work together to tell our Moms how much we appreciate them and love them. If you haven't been able to come in a while, you are more than welcome!

**May 5 During SS
(Upper Room)
Kids & Youth (all
ages) Are Invited
to prepare for
Mother's Day by
Crafting With
Love**

We will have age appropriate craft stations for your sons/daughters to express their love and appreciation for Mom through different kinds of art.

To say anymore will spoil surprises.



~ PLEASE READ THIS FOR YOUR SAFETY ~



Scam Alert

Just a quick reminder, and friendly reminder, that little good can come from responding to texts, emails, and phone calls from unknown senders—unless you can immediately authenticate their identity.

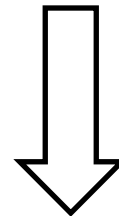
I was never at any real risk, but someone recently tried to pull me into a cryptocurrency scam over the last week and a half. They started with a “mis-directed text” that I followed up on, because I initially thought it might be someone from Calvary whose number was not in my phone. In retrospect, there were many red flags, and my well-founded suspicion of “strangers on the internet” ultimately kept me out of trouble.

The SEC offers tips on avoiding such scams, which always seem to have a new angle: <https://www.sec.gov/oiea/investor-alerts-and-bulletins/social-media-and-investment-fraud-investor-alert>.

And a reminder that, if someone calls, texts, or emails, ever claims to be me and needs your help, immediately contact me at church or by a known good email address or phone number to confirm, and be especially wary of urgent requests for money or gift cards.

Pastor Jon

Here’s a real example that Sister Jennie received just today pretending to be Pastor Jon (the email was sent from “lutheranchurch0017@gmail.com”)



 **From: Jon Myers >**
To: Sister Jennie Myers >
Today at 10:12 AM

Greetings Jennie Myers

Hello, Are you less busy at the moment? I got a request for you to manage discreetly. I will be going into a meeting shortly, please no calls so kindly respond back via email.

Blessings,

Jon Myers
Pastor.

Calvary Happenings in May



LUNCH WITH FRIENDS WILL
BE FRIDAY, MAY 3rd at
NOON. PLEASE JOIN US!



THE THEME FOR THE LUNCHEON IS



Church YARD SALE

CALVARY LUTHERAN LOT SALE

June 8th from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

GOT STUFF?? Join your Calvary family on Saturday, June 8th, from 9:30-1:00 for a yard sale in our church parking lot. This is an opportunity for fellowship with your friends and Calvary families, as well as outreach in the community. We will be making reservations for spaces during May. Please note: This is NOT a drop-off-your-items sale.

Participants will rent a parking space and table(s), if needed, to set up your sale items, then take away any unsold items, clean up your rental space area. You get to keep all the money from your sales, or you can donate it to your favorite cause. (The money gleaned from parking space/table rentals will go to Hearts and Hands for their local philanthropy.)

Rental spaces are available for Calvary members and our invited friends for \$20 per space.

Additional spaces are \$10 each. If you do not have your own table(s),

Calvary tables may be rented for \$5 each. The sale will be advertised to the public for shopping. Also, if you have crafts you would like to sell, this is an opportunity to have a space to do that.

Because shoppers frequently arrive early to look for bargains, please plan to be set up by 9:00 a.m. and ready to sell.

For questions or comments, please contact Elaine Trump or Marcial Cottrill.

Elaine
541-218-0278
etrump@gmail.com

Marcia
541-218-8540
marciacottrill@gmail.com



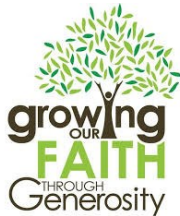
CALVARY UPDATES | INVITES



Considering membership? We'd like to extend an invitation to join the Calvary Family! And as a friendly reminder, please introduce yourself to visitors at Sunday worship and invite them to sign the Friendship book at the end of the pews. Let's show folks how awesome our congregation truly is!!

Calvary Lutheran Church

Financial Bottom Line as of March 31, 2024



As of
March 31, 2024
Actual

Total Operating Income	\$81,962
Total Operating & Payroll Expenses	\$96, 079
Net Operating Income	(\$ 14,117)

Tax-Free Donations to Calvary from IRA Accounts

RMD is a tax term for "Required Minimum Distribution." People who have reached the age of 72 and own an IRA are required by law to begin withdrawing funds from their IRA account. Usually, the financial company holding the funds will notify a IRA holder of the RMD requirement and determine how much must be withdrawn from the IRA each year. The IRA holder then can do what they wish with the funds. These funds are usually taxable when withdrawn.

If the IRA holder would like to donate their RMD or a portion of it and make their RMD non-taxable, the proper term in making the funds tax free is called QCD, "Qualified Charitable Distribution." If the IRA holder would like to give funds via a QCD donation, they must inform their financial company and provide the name of a non-profit organization, address, and the organization's tax ID number. The funds must then be forwarded directly to the non-profit organization. The funds cannot be sent to the account holder and then the account holder gives the funds to the organization. This would be considered a normal contribution to the organization and not tax-free to the account holder (although, for tax purposes, it is a donation on Schedule A).

Calvary currently has several members who take advantage of this program, not only to help with Calvary's budget, but to ensure a tax advantage for themselves. It is easy to set up with your financial organization. Donations from your RMD can be forwarded to Calvary monthly, or as a once-a-year donation. Remember that the law requires withdrawals from the IRA to continue each year. Once you know that your financial organization will set up a QCD and you desire to make Calvary the benefactor, you can get Calvary's tax ID from Janine Nave or Gary Blom. You can also contact Gary if you have any questions regarding the process or the tax advantage.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Blom

God's Work, Our Hands

CALVARY UPDATES | INVITES

Hearts & Hands May Update

Our group met on April 10th with a busy agenda. Prior to the general meeting, we presented backpacks, tee-shirts, and notebooks to Cathy Deley from Grants Pass High School for the homeless youth. These items were purchased by a \$250 Thrivent gift, which was applied for by Dan Rodriguez.

We decided to hold our annual bazaar again and structure it similarly to last year's Bake and Quilt sale. The date for our sale is Saturday, November 16th.

We also voted to have a Floral/Greens arrangement day and sale. The workday will be Wednesday, December 11th with the sale to be held on Sunday, December 15th. Mark these dates on your calendars!

With these two money-making items formalized, it was decided to gift \$10,000 from our treasury. Research was presented on five local charities:

Joe's Place
Hillcrest Veteran's Village
YMCA
Calvary Lutheran
Rogue Valley Humane Society

Checks will be distributed in approximately two weeks.

We continue to meet on Wednesdays; please come by and join us! The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12th at 9:30 a.m.

I am hoping to schedule some summer outings. If you have suggestions or ideas, please let me know.

Mary

**Extra Hands are
always Welcome!**

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT MARCH 2024

The freon tubing in the refrigerator was leaking. The refrigerator has been repaired.

The project to replace all of the church lights with energy-efficient bulbs has been completed. The project is being funded from an Oregon State Energy grant.

The back door entrance to the Fellowship Hall project has been completed.

Submitted by Gary Blom

***Mother's Day is Sunday,
May 12th!***



FUN AT CHILI & GAME NIGHT!!



HEARTS & HANDS MAY UPDATES

In April, Calvary Hearts and Hands presented a gift of nine backpacks, three notebooks, and 50 tee-shirts to Catherine Deley, Student/Family Liaison for Grants Pass High School. The gift was made possible by Dolly and Dan Rodriguez with monies from Thrivent.

Anyone who is a member of Thrivent can apply for a \$200 credit card to help with events at Calvary Lutheran. And you can do it twice a year! In the past, this money has helped with our annual Bazaar, Bake and Quilt Sale, and the Easter Bake Sale. We currently are applying to assist with the monthly Calvary luncheon, "Lunch with Friends."

It's easy to apply, however, it must be done online. You simply set up an account at Thrivent Financial (<https://www.thrivent.com>). At the top menu bar, find "Your Needs" and click on the drop-down arrow. Find the heading "Give Back" on that page and click on it. Next, scroll down the page a little and click on "Thrivent Action Teams." There are four steps, as follows:

- 1) Apply to lead a project (log into your Thrivent account to complete your application).
- 2) Get your Thrivent Action Kit (it will be mailed to you).
- 3) Take action (rally your team to bring your project to life), and;
- 4) Share your success story (submit a project report of how you spent the money).

So, how could you help support an event at Calvary? Just think of the various events that could use your help! Please, visit the Thrivent website to apply for your kit/card and make it happen!

Thank you,
Hearts & Hands Team



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

**come for the hike/walk
stay for the conversation!**
Small Groups!

Join us for a walk on the
last Saturday each month
at Reinhardt Volunteer
Park

(Meet at parking lot by pedestrian bridge)

For questions or more
information, talk to
Sister Jennie Myers

Calvary Walkers (Small Group)

Come to walk...stay for the conversation
Building relationships + faith



**The next walk will be Saturday,
May 25th @ 10am.**



Calvary Hikers
Small Group

First Saturdays
monthly at
10:00 a.m. at
Cathedral Hills
(Espey
Trailhead)

**Curious?
Talk to Sr.
Jennie**

See new
views
Have new
conversations.
Come out and
hike with us!

The next hike will be Saturday, May 4th @ 10am. Bring your ideas for where you'd like to hike as a group this summer. On June 1, Pastor Jon and I will be attending the Oregon Synod Assembly on Zoom. For those who are hiker usuals, think about if you want to still hike together in June or do you want to skip June? Things to ponder.

Prayer Small Group

Second Tuesdays monthly at 10:00
am at Calvary. All are welcome!



**"REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT
CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES..."**
1 THES. 5:16-18

The next Prayer Group meeting will be Tuesday,
May 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Calvary's Children, Youth & Family

On Sunday, May 26th, we will be celebrating Luci Love for a few moments during worship. Luci will be graduating from high school later in the week.

Luci is the daughter of Stephanie and Jim Love, and granddaughter of Viola Hansen. Let's help her celebrate this milestone in her



High School Hangout

Our May High School Hangout will be on Sunday, May 19th at 2:30 p.m. at Calvary in the Upper Room for fun games, snacks, and conversation.

Thank you to Kelly Tommerup, who will be helping host this month's hangout.

Note that this will be the third Sunday of the month, as a week before will be Mother's Day.

Hope you can all make it! Bring any summer ideas for hanging out or going somewhere together!

Welcome Box Middle School Project

The middle school youth are currently working on Every Child Welcome Boxes, as part of a Sunday School project. The boxes are for youth who have had to be removed from their homes due to unstable and unsafe living situations. As the youth are awaiting an emergency placement at Social Services, upon entry they receive a welcome box with some personal essentials, art and writing supplies, and a personal note from each of our Calvary teens.

The Every Child Welcome Boxes will be blessed during our May 19th church service so we may send these boxes out with love and prayers for their situations and futures, in Jesus' name.

Calvary High School Hangouts

Come hang out with us!

Second Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m.

A fun and safe space for teens.

Food, space to explore faith and talk about life, and fun games





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

5/01 Noel & Sharon Hoback
5/06 Nancy & David Lindall
5/06 Keith & Lisa Jaroslow
5/07 Kirby & Janine Nave
5/19 Dean & Teresa Schwerdt
5/29 Brad & Audra Myerchin
5/30 George & Nancy Breen
5/30 Don & Karin Lanahan

5/1 Nadine Fowler
5/2 Loraine Beckman
5/5 Shinae Ferguson
5/5 Roberta Marsh
5/7 Gordon Hoefer
5/7 Freya Matthews
5/7 Ryan Thompson
5/8 Dennis Hinders
5/8 Madison Rounsaville
5/8 Tannon Rounsaville
5/10 Marie Hill
5/13 Dale Wachsmuth
5/14 Don Wilson
5/16 Ben Albertson
5/16 Pat Chambers
5/16 Carol Smith
5/17 Caleb Myers
5/20 Morgan Gravelle
5/21 Dirk Baertschiger
5/23 Karen Grams
5/23 Marcia Lembcke
5/24 Natalie Bjorge
5/25 Carol Dallas
5/25 Ann Stutts
5/26 Sharon Hoback
5/27 Sean Connelly
5/28 Larry Bailey
5/29 Karlee Albertson
5/30 Linda Mann
5/31 Bonnie Lawler



Serving the Lord in May

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Gary Blom / Melinda Eide

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Linda Johnson / Carol Wilson

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
David & Tanya Haight

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Travis & Jennifer Voris

ALTAR GUILD

Anna Gorskaya / David & Tanya Haight
D. & M. Angstadt / Sandy Hoadley
Dolly Rodriguez

LECTORS

Linda Johnson
Janet Capetty
Marcia Lembcke
Joan Hathaway

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastor Jon Myers
Matt Eide
Karen Blom
Crystal Zimmer
Judi Bliss
Jennifer Voris
Gary Blom
Noel Hoback
Jeanine Nave
Jackie Matheny
Audra Myerchin
Jennifer Voris
Diane Schoolitz

HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Karen Mastel, Hostess

Bonnie Cordes
Sharon Matson
Sharon Emfinger
Laura Erb
Diane Hoover
JoAnne Smith

VIDEO/SOUND

Gary Blom
Larry Weaver
Janine Nave
Monte Zeller
Evan Strickland
Keith Jaroslow
Lisa Jaroslow

USHERS

Ron Tosh, Captain
Dennis Hinders
Andrew Walker

ACOLYTES

Kayden Gindlesperger
Deserae Gindlesperger
CJ Myers
Allie Myers
Sub: Luke Boldon

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Zoe Thompson

ALTAR FLOWERS PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

Crystal Zimmer
Denise Angstadt
Sharon Matson
Mary Quick
Stutts Children



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am M&W 2 pm Parish Ed	2	3 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga Noon—LWF	4 10 am Calvary Hikers—meet at Espey Trailhead
5 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 6:30 pm Confirmation Night	6 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga Church Office Closed	7	8 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1:00 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30 pm Choir	9 2 pm Countryside 4:30 pm Council Meeting	10 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	11
12 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School	13 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga Church Office Closed	14 10 am Prayer Small Group	15 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30 pm Choir	16 3 pm Fellowship Meeting	17 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	18
19 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Hotdog & Ice Cream Party (end of SS) 2:30 pm HS Hangout 6:30 pm Final Confirmation Night	20 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga Church Office Closed	21	22 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am Outreach 1:00 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30 pm Choir	23	24 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	25 10 am Calvary Walkers—Volunteer Park
26 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult Sunday School Break	27 - HOLIDAY-CHURCH IS CLOSED (No Yoga classes today)	28	29 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30 pm Choir	30	31 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga 9-2 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	



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, Deaconess

Wendy Ross, Director of Choirs

Kimberly White, Administrative Assistant

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School