

CALVARY CALLER

August 2025

New Leaders Elected for the ELCA

While my family and I were enjoying a cool, relaxing week in the far northwest corner of the Lower 48, many friends and colleagues were gathered in blazing hot Phoenix, Arizona, for the ELCA's triennial Churchwide Assembly.

Perhaps most importantly, the assembly was considering candidates for the two most prominent positions at the head of the ELCA. The presiding bishop is a lot like our synod bishop, juggling the roles of both CEO and spiritual leader, while the secretary is responsible for, among other things, interpreting the ELCA's governing documents, which is way more important than it sounds.

For the first time, we have elected an African American pastor to each role, a first for either office. The Rev. Yehiel Curry, our new presiding bishop, has most recently been the bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod, and the ELCA's new secretary, the Rev. Lucille "CeeCee" Mills, has most recently been an assistant to the bishop of North Carolina Synod. Though prominent leaders in those synods, compared to previous occupants of those offices, they totally qualify as relative "outsiders."

I have not met Pr. Curry, but friends and colleagues who have worked with him are absolutely ecstatic and believe he is the right person for this moment. I met Pr. Mills, when we were both very new pastors in the Virginia Synod, and you could tell then that she was going to continue to overcome obstacles to "go places."

What interests me less than either leader's blackness—although that is an unapologetically a deep part of them both—is that they came to the pastorate by a process specifically intended for second-career candidates with lots of experience outside the church.

They also both, like me, have been what the ELCA calls "mission developers"—or what most people would call "church planters." It should go without saying that both have shown themselves to be worthy of that calling.

The ELCA is a big, lumbering beast, and it's already a shadow of the institution it was when formed in 1987. Its newest leaders have certainly already experienced how it steers more like a giant cargo ship in a narrow shipping lane than a nimble jet boat on the Rogue River!

But my prayer is that these two newly-elevated leaders, relative outsiders and very different from those who've previously occupied those roles, will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead us in fresh new directions and to rise to meet new challenges over the next six years that we can't quite yet imagine.

Pastor Jon

Thoughts From the Council President

Happy August Calvary Lutheran.

Summer is still in full swing, but we will be coming into our fall season soon. This is the time of the year that the Council starts planning the budget for the next year. More to come on the budget process, be sure to look for it in early November before our annual meeting.

We are running a bit behind on our budget this year, but not too much.

Larry Weaver (make sure to tell him thank you for all the hard work he puts in) continues to work with the contractors for the bell tower. It is everyone's hope that it will all be finished before the rainy season. Larry would love some help with the Property Committee. (Many hands make light work.)

Lots of staff changes this year.

Kim left as our Administrative Assistant in June. We continue to search for someone to fill the role. Thank you to Pastor and Sister for stepping in to keep things going.

Janine Nave has passed the baton to Diana Little as our Financial Accountant. Thank you so much to Janine for all her efforts over these past few years.

Wendy Ross has resigned as the Director of Music. She is looking forward to spending more time enjoying her retirement. The Worship and Music Committee is working on a plan for how things will work going forward.

If you are looking for ways to take part (and thank you for submitting your time/talent cards), help is certainly needed.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. I will see you all soon.

*In Christ,
Matt*

Faith Formation/Sunday School Important Fall Dates

As we enter into the last month of summer, check out the bulletin points for some dates to save as we get ready for the fall and gearing back up for back to school and the start of Sunday school!

- **Back to School/backpack blessing during worship on Sunday, August 24.** Kids, middle/high school youth, teachers and anyone involved in school/education will be invited forward at the end of the children's message for a blessing as you get ready for a new year of learning. What a great time to be reminded that every step of the way God is with you! We will be handing each child and youth a something special to add to their backpack or keys to remind them through the year that God is indeed with them. **Kids and youth can bring their backpack into worship to be blessed.**
- **Sunday school Welcome Banner Blessing during worship on Sunday, August 24.** Most of last year the Sunday school kids and youth were dreaming, planning and creating their Welcome Banner. All but the finishing touches were completed by the kids at the close of the Sunday school year in May. We will be ready to present the banner with the kids to the congregation to be blessed and then hanged up in its new home. We will invite all kids and youth and those adults who helped make it happen to come forward to be a part of blessing the banner during worship.
- **Faith Formation/Sunday School Pizza Party Kickoff on Sunday, September 7.** Everyone at Calvary is invited to stay for pizza, lemonade and cookies following worship on Sunday September 7 as we get ready to resume Sunday school classes for kids and youth and adults. It's a great time to have fellowship, get to know someone new and share a meal together!
- **Middle/High School Youth invited to gather with Sr. Jennie & youth SS teachers in Upper Room on Sunday, September 7 during Pizza Party** (see Calvary Youth page 5 for more details)
- **First Day of Sunday school for Kids and Youth on Sunday, September 14.** Parents be looking in your email soon for this year's Sunday school registration form so we can be sure we have the most updated information about your child.
- **First Day of Adult Education Forum on Sunday, September 14.** Join Pastor Jon in the Fellowship Hall following worship and continue exploring the book of Exodus where conversation paused for the summer. If you didn't attend last year you're more than welcome to join in!



Parish Ed Updates

It feels like the middle of summer, but in the background the Parish Education Team is working hard in the background to make sure that we are ready for the fall in September when Sunday school resumes. This has involved a lot of inviting new people into the classrooms and checking in with existing teachers to see if they will be returning again. We give thanks to everyone who has served as a teacher, to new people who have just given a faithful yes, to people who have served and need to step away. If you are reading this and you love teaching and you haven't been approached come talk to Sister Jennie or Whitney Bixler. We can always use substitute teachers when our main teachers get sick or are out of town.

Even though it is summer, we just finished up a 3 Sunday series on Lutheranism. If you missed it and had hoped to attend, talk to Pastor Jon, who led the sessions. This is how we know what you're interested in. A follow-up or repeat series can always be planned in the future.

Also be sure to check out the Sunday school bulletin board at the foot of the steps to the Upper Room. Thanks to Whitney Bixler it has been updated with a beautiful spread of memories captured in photos from our three weeks of Vacation Bible School earlier this summer. It tells a great story.

Faithfully serving, the Parish Education Team

Interested in Acolyting?

Would your child be interested in being an acolyte during worship? First of all—what is an acolyte? An acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and extinguishes them at the conclusion of worship. You will also see the acolyte hand the ushers the offering plates and collect them again at the end of offering time.

If your child would like to learn how to do these things and be a part of worship, please talk to Sister Jennie. We will be getting ready to have a fall training for returning acolytes and new kids who are interested in learning.



Calvary Youth

The youth have been having fun getting together when we can all agree on a time and place. (This is harder than it sounds!) So far we've gone bowling, played mini golf and enjoyed ice cream together. Stay tuned to your group chat as plans come together for one more gathering in August!



Save the Date for Sunday, September 7

On Sunday, September 7 we'll be having pizza after church as we get ready for Sunday school. **Middle and high school youth** you're invited to bring your pizza into the Upper Room for conversation and to hang out. Bring your ideas of what you want to do together during the year as a youth group and when it works best for your schedule to gather. We want to find things to do that are fun for all and to find a time that allows as many to gather together.

High school youth you'll also have a chance to talk with Sr. Jennie and your youth Sunday school teacher about what you'd like to do for Sunday school. So think about what you'd like to learn about or talk about this year.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES INVITES

August Faithful Walkers

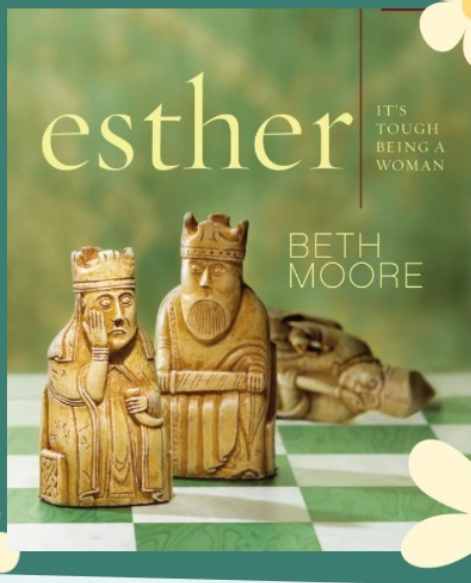
Join us on **Saturday, August 30 at 9:00 a.m. at Tom Pearce Park** (note location change), meeting in the parking lot on the far side of the kids playground area. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor to join you for a walk in the outdoors!



Fall Small Group...Start Thinking!

Hiking 2.5 miles down into the crater at Crater Lake in July. At least one of us went full swimming, and a few dipped a toe or two!

Woman's BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday's, 9-11 am

September 17 - November 12th

**To learn more see Melinda Eide or
Jennifer Voris**

August Faithful Hikers

Our next hike takes place on **Saturday, August 16 at 9:30 am**. We'll be meeting at the parking lot of Mt. Ashland Ski Area and we'll decide where to hike along the Pacific Crest Trail on Mt. Ashland. Carpooling will be available and will leave Calvary at 8:30 a.m.

If you are interested please let Sr. Jennie know. We'd love to have new faces! All ages welcome as long as you are aware of your physical capability for hiking.

INVITATIONS & UPDATES

**THE TABLE IS SET! JOIN US
FOR LUNCH WITH FRIENDS ON
August 1st at NOON.**

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



The ROC Food Pantry Update

We love supporting the ROC Food Pantry with both financial and in-kind donations. Our collection point is a shopping cart just inside Calvary's front doors. Thank you all for your on-going donations. Our goal is 100 pounds (or more!) per week; keep up the good work!

Current needs: canned fruit and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, beans, rice (small packages, please!)



The August **Blood Drive** at Calvary is scheduled for Friday, **August 22nd from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

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

Jennifer Voris will be selling **farm fresh eggs** after worship on Sunday, August 24. Proceeds will go toward benevolence.



Property Chair Needed

The Calvary council's property chair is currently vacant. Our property committee maintains all church property and equipment, rents or acquires equipment, works toward capital improvements and long-term projects, oversees regular internal and external cleanings, and reports to our congregation council. Currently Larry Weaver and Gary Blom are managing this work, but they hope to mentor someone new and step back by year's end. To volunteer or learn more, please reach out to Matt Eide, Gary Blom or Larry Weaver.

August Celebrations!!!



Marcia Cottrill	08/01
Ken Jernigan	08/01
Jon Myers	08/03
Ken Hoback	08/04
Arlette Butler	08/04
David Matthews	08/05
Shaun Hoback	08/08
Carolyn Pearson	08/13
Bonnie Cordes	08/14
Karen Blom	08/14
Will Boldon	08/15
David Lindall	08/18
Bonnie Stucke	08/19
Julie Galloway	08/19
April Marshall	08/21
Lilly Bixler	08/21
Rorie Hoback	08/23
Paul Bohey	08/23
John Mason	08/24
Ed Weitzel	08/24
Deryk Matheny	08/25
Sharon McCorkle	08/26
Gene Totten	08/27
Larry Weaver	08/28
Dolly Rodriguez	08/30

08/10
Dick & Marcia Cottrill

08/10
Kelly & Pete Tommerup

08/11
Debby & Roger Steinbrenner

08/15
Verne & Linda Welo

08/16
Linda & Don Hurd

08/21
Bonnie & Mike Lawler

08/21
Ed & Dianne Weitzel

08/23
Clay & Holly Rounsaville

08/23
Jon & Jennie Myers

08/26
Chuck & Joan Hathaway



<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THU</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
					1 12pm Lunch with Friends 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	2
3 9:30 am Service	4 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	5 11am Parish Ed Mtg	6 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	7 2:00 pm Countryside Service No Council Mtg	8 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	9
10 9:30 am Service	11 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	12	13 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Planning Mtg 3:30 pm Praise Team	14	15 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	16 9:30 am Faithful Hikers Pacific Crest Trail at Mt. Ashland
17 9:30 am Service	18 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	19	20 9:30am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	21	22 9:00 am—2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	23
24 9:30 am Service (Back to school blessing during worship)	25 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	26	27 9:30am Hearts & Hands Quilting 10am Outreach Team 3:30 pm Praise Team	28	29 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	30 9am Faithful Walkers (Tom Pearce Park))
31 9:30 am Service						



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Jon Myers, Pastor

Sister Jennie Myers, Director of Discipleship

Wendy Ross, Director of Choirs

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

(except summer)

