

CALVARY CALLER

July 2025

Transitions

We are in a season of staff transitions—three, actually. One is very much in progress, as Janine Nave will soon step down as our financial accountant, to be replaced by Diana Little, who joined Calvary with our last round of new members. Longtime choir director, and more recently, music director Wendy Ross has announced her intention to retire at the end of the summer. And Kim White made good on her long-standing commitment to move on to make way for a new office administrator.

Diana comes to us most recently from Roseburg, where she was parish admin for Faith Lutheran, but she spent most of her life in the Sacramento area, where she worked in financial affairs for the USAF at McClellan Air Base. She is so eager to begin that she acquired a copy of QuickBooks to start learning it for herself, even before we brought her on board.

The Worship and Music committee is meeting imminently to discuss the music director transition. We are grateful for Wendy's many years of service as director of choirs, most recently under Nancy Hodgson, as well as stepping up to take on many of Nancy's duties upon her retirement. She is working ahead these days to plan worship music well in advance, and she will remain at Calvary as a resource to our next music director upon her formal retirement.

We are currently accepting applications for a new office administrator. Kim brought us through a particularly difficult period, as she started during my second month here, when I knew almost nothing about Calvary's office procedures. This gave her the opportunity to rework nearly everything she touched, streamlining and improving the workflow.

I am personally grateful for Kim's team-oriented mentality, and I am proud of Calvary for helping her get out of a difficult and potentially dangerous personal situation shortly after her hiring. Her departure has been well-timed for me to tackle our worship projection software, to make things happen that we knew were possible but had not yet been tried.

The reality of church work is an overlapping of the personal and the professional. The lines between workplace, family and source of spiritual connection and consolation, between working, leading and serving, and between work, play and rest, inevitably get blurry even for those with the clearest and best-protected boundaries. I will be doing my best as we bring on new staff to help them navigate these challenges, while they help Calvary continue to become the best version of itself, and I ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor Jon Myers

REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

Trying New Things

When I first arrived at Calvary and began working with the Parish Education Team, we did some hard looking at the resources that we used to teach Sunday school and the devotions that were being offered to all ages. We've since started a new Sunday school curriculum that is great for PreK through middle school. We've also added family devotional newsletters to support our youngest families with newly baptized babies.

We also wanted to assess who was actually finding benefit from different devotional resources. We did surveys and also watched who was taking devotions weekly/monthly. We found that Christ in Our Home is still a very popular resource and so we will continue to provide it. We did find that there was a very minimal draw to another subscription resource called Taking Faith Home. We had been printing it out and also providing a digital copy of it weekly by email.

Just because we've been using something for a while doesn't mean that changing things up cannot be a good thing. So, the Parish Ed Team did some talking with those few who were using Taking Faith Home, listened to what it was that they appreciated so much about that resource, and also did some research to find an alternative possible resource that may cost less or even not cost at all. We think we found something, and we'd like to offer this new resource for you to try out in your own devotion faith life at home for a while, for those who are interested, and see what you think. Sometimes a new perspective on the same text from different writers can be exactly what you are needing. Something to break us out of the usual mold and make you think.

This new resource is called Faith Formation Journeys, written by a team of ELCA congregational leaders. It's a simple one page sheet. It provides this week's texts and offers a daily reflection question diving deeper into one or two passages from within the whole Gospel reading. It also gives a preview of what the next week's readings will be if you like to be prepared for the next Sunday morning.

Our plan is to add a PDF version in the Weekly Updates email that you receive on Fridays. We will do that for a while, but to not send it by email indefinitely. Be looking out for this to be added to the weekly email very soon. Eventually we'd like to equip you to receive it in your own email box directly from the writers as it arrives weekly if you find it to be beneficial to you. Please come talk to Sister Jennie if you find you enjoy this resource and would like to get it in your email box and aren't sure how. You can also come talk to anyone on the Parish Education Team to let us know what you do or don't like about it. We will also print a few for Sunday mornings for a while. Just consider this an experiment—a chance to try something new!

In peace,

Sister Jennie Myers



Parish Ed Happenings



At the beginning of June, on Pentecost, we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for Luke, Eleanor, Deserae, and Calysta.

Thank you to everyone who was present to support these four youth in their day of Affirmation of Baptism. We invite you to continue to support, get to know, and encourage them each in their faith!

We are in the middle of summer and are taking a break from kids & youth Sunday school, and regular Adult Sunday school. The Parish Ed Team is hard at work in the background, readying things for the fall so that we can have another fun, exciting and meaningful year of Sunday school.

An invitation reminder, anyone interested in learning about what it means to be a Lutheran? Grab your coffee and stay after worship on July 6, 13 & 20!

Lutheranism 101: All are invited to three sessions with Pastor Jon, the first three Sundays in July, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your questions, your curiosity, and if you have one, your Luther's Small Catechism.

Session 1: What is a "Lutheran"?

Session 2: What kind of "Lutherans" do you find at Calvary? What makes what we do together at Calvary "Lutheran"?

Session 3: What does the future hold for "Lutherans"? What does the future hold for you at Calvary? Why call oneself a "Lutheran"?



Vacation Bible School Thank You's & Photos

This past June we invited almost 20 kids from the age of 5-10 into our space on Wednesday evenings for Vacation Bible School with the help of leaders from Newman United Methodist and St. Luke's Episcopal Churches. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, volunteered their time, cooked a meal, helped setup or cleanup, helped make decorations, put your all into acting in a fun opening skit, sang songs with the kids, helped make our awesome farm-themed stage come alive, prepared a lesson or activity for the kids. Whatever it was that you jumped in on, we thank you for helping give the kids from our church and other churches the experience of hearing about God's love and getting to meet kids from other churches while playing, creating, learning and having fun. We collected almost \$200 in offering over three weeks. This will get donated to the Raptor Creek Community Garden, a very local way that these kids can help solve the problem of hunger.

Enjoy some pictures that capture a bit of the community of kids that was built over the past three weeks!



Music & Songs helped to tell the story of God's love for all of creation.

We had fun in our Bible story rotation each night where kids got to dive into Bible verse and learn more!



Our middle and high school youth were rock star leaders at VBS!



More Vacation Bible School Photos



We also did a craft each night, where we made the animal or farm character of the night. The final night the characters were community garden vegetables, so we planted seeds to take home and care for.

And no VBS program is complete without crazy fun outdoor games where you get to run around, get wet, and work together as a team!

VBS is the best for making new friends, or bringing your friends to you and have even more fun together. We hope next year we'll have even more of our kids bringing more friends to join the fun!



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES INVITES

July Faithful Walkers

Join us on **Saturday, July 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Reinhart Volunteer Park**, meeting in the parking lot next to the pedestrian bridge. Please note this is earlier than usual to allow for those on vacation. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor to join you for a walk in the outdoors!



July Faithful Hikers

Our next hike takes place on **Saturday, July 5th at 10:30 am**. We will be driving to Crater Lake and hiking Cleetwood Cove Trail down into the crater to the water level. We want to catch this opportunity before the park service closes this trail for two years. We will carpool from Calvary's parking lot 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.

The Calvary Youth went bowling at the end of June. We may have been a small group and very amateur bowlers but that didn't keep us from having fun!

Stay tuned for plans for our July summer event. There is talk of going to play laser tag in Medford. Stay tuned to announcements and if you're on the group text for updates.

For questions talk to Sister Jennie Myers.



INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE TABLE IS SET! JOIN US
FOR LUNCH WITH FRIENDS ON
July 11th at NOON.**

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



The ROC Food Pantry Update



**So far Calvary has donated 520
pounds of food since April! Thank
you all for your on-going donations.
Our goal is 100 pounds (or more!) per
week; keep up the good work!**

The July **Blood Drive** at Calvary is
scheduled for Friday, **July 18th from
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

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



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.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!!

“Community Corner”

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.

I am extremely thankful for the gracious people who have given me the opportunity to earn money with yardwork and other odd jobs, helping me raise money for college. The requests were so abundant, I haven't always been able to keep up. The generosity of Calvary members and their willingness to help has impressed me greatly. The experience has been rewarding in many ways and one that I would highly recommend to anyone else. I am very grateful to the church community. Thanks for all your help.

Evan Strickland

FREE, BEAUTIFUL, and
PLENTIFUL **IRIS Tubers**
are available from
Linda Hurd.
Please contact Linda
directly to make
arrangements to
gather some.

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

Sharon Matson is looking to
employ a housekeeper, once a
month, for \$90.00. If
interested, please contact
Sharon Matson directly for
more specifics.



July Celebrations!!!



Linda Hurd	07/02
Bev Totten	07/03
Gayl Bohey	07/04
Marla Vidrinskas	07/06
Brian Smith	07/08
Luke Boldon	07/09
Jean Scherpf	07/09
Jeff Wolf	07/09
Pam Whatley	07/11
Diane Hoover	07/12
Linda B. Johnson	07/12
Raymond Boyd	07/13
John Ainsworth	07/14
Michael Jaroslow	07/15
Dean Schwerdt	07/16
Lynn Tosh	07/19
Barry McFarland	07/21
Tom Brown	07/22
Linda Hoback	07/25
Janine Nave	07/26
Megan Spang	07/28
Jaimie Glans	07/30

07/07
Judi & Dave Bliss

07/09
John & Mary Jane Ainsworth

07/18
Vic & Teresa Connelly

07/19
Charles & Bonnie Stucke

07/24
Jan & Tom Brown

07/29
Ken & Charlene Jernigan

07/31
Scott & Deb Christopherson

JULY



<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THU</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
		1	2 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 10am Worship & Music 11am Outreach Mtg 3:30 pm Praise Team	3	4 4th of July Holiday  No Yoga	5 Faithful Hikers (Cleetwood Cove Trail @ Crater Lake) 8:30 carpool leaves
6 9:30 am Service	7 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	8	9 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	10 2:00 pm Countryside Service 4:30 pm Council Meeting	11 12pm Lunch with Friends 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	12
13 9:30 am Service	14 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	15	16 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	17	18 (9:00—2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive) 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	19 9am Faithful Walkers (Reinhart Volunteer Park)
20 9:30 am Service	21 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	22	23 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	24	25 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	26
27 9:30 am Service	28 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	29	30 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Quilting 3:30 pm Praise Team	31		



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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)

