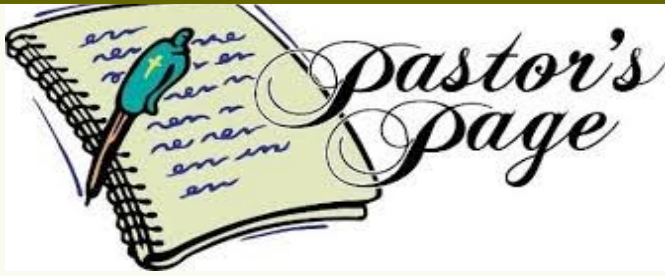


Give
THANKS
to the LORD,
for HE is GOOD.
His LOVE
ENDURES forever.
PSALM 136:1

AUGUST 2024

CALVARY CALLER



Social Benefits of Community

I'm rather reluctant to promote the "benefits" of being a Christian, especially ancillary ones. As Lutheran martyr and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." The Gospel transforms us from selfishness and self-involvement for the sake of others. We don't embrace it because it's good for us, but rather because it's good for others.

And yet... one on-going and emerging tragedy of modern, Western life is that many people are becoming ever more isolated from one another. According to the Center for Disease Control in 2020, "social isolation significantly increases a person's risk of premature death from all causes." The overall risk of social isolation has surely only increased since.

Increasingly people, especially older folks, are living alone, and rates of volunteerism are dropping. Technology now allows some of us to work remotely and all of us to stay connected electronically, though perhaps superficially, but it can also isolate us from one another if, for example, we sit around together in a room with our noses in our phones.

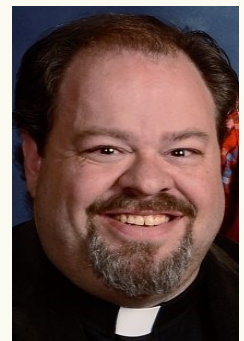
Of course, loneliness and isolation are not the same thing: one can be extremely lonely in a crowded room. And yet the two clearly go hand-in-hand and seem to be increasing, and one of the biggest factors appears to be the swift decline in reported religious affiliation. It's no wonder: one well-reported finding is that people who were randomly assigned to sing in a choir reported less loneliness and more interest in life than those in a control group. Just being around other people is good for you.

One of the best things about every congregation I have served has been the way that members check in on each other, especially informally. Sister Jennie and I spend a good bit of each week checking in on folks, but we're only two people. When a congregation makes this part of its collective and self-chosen work, the dividends are incalculable. People who otherwise might withdraw come out of their shells. Prayer needs that might go unidentified are brought to light. People who need assistance are less reluctant to ask for help.

And best of all, unlikely friendships form. If you look at Jesus' first disciples, it was a pretty unlikely and motley crew. Other than the first four, two pairs of fishermen who already knew each other, these people would have never come together without him.

That's maybe the best thing of all about church: Jesus brings people together, to care about and care for one another. And so it turns out that what's good for others becomes good for us, too. Maybe this benefit of Christian community isn't so ancillary after all!

Pr. Jon



REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

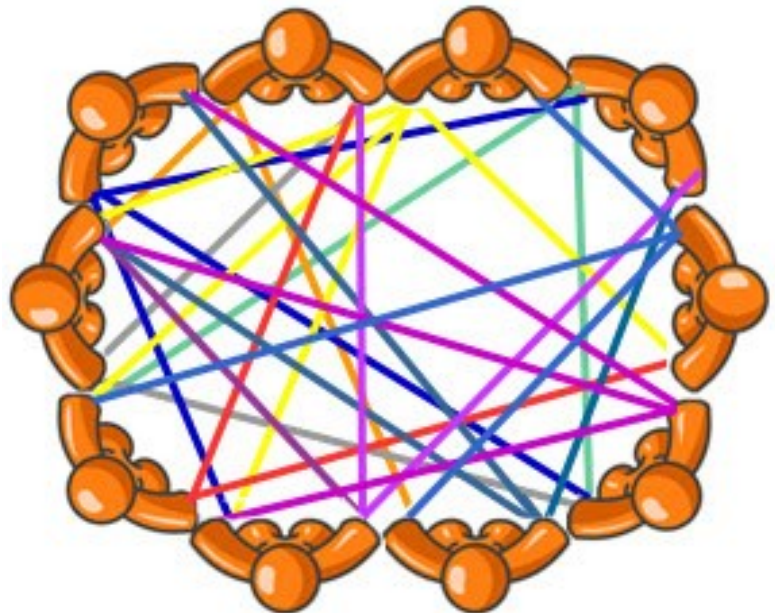
Connectedness

A fun activity I like to share with both youth and adults involves standing in a big circle with a large ball of string. One person starts by tossing the ball of string to someone across the circle, while holding onto the end of the string. The next person tosses the ball to someone else while still holding on to the string they received. One version has each person answer a question about themselves to help everyone around the circle get to know each other better. By the end it's easy to see a giant web of connectedness that has been created with nothing more than a ball of string.

This is a great image for any group. You can't always see the string, but it's there. When someone pulls on their string, it affects not only them but also a whole bunch of other people. If someone were to cut their section of string off from the rest of the web, that would affect everyone, too! We have shared memories and experiences, shared joy, shared sadness, shared worries, and so many other things, and this all affects the community in beautiful ways. Calvary has so much connectedness—deep friendships, so close they feel like family—multiple generations of individual families that come to Calvary, and so many other ways.

In Christ we are all connected, as it is the love of Christ that binds us together strongly in the good times and the challenging times. This is the image of the Body of Christ: many members and one body all connected in Christ. May we continue to find new connections with the familiar faces we see all the time, but also with the new faces that join into the life at Calvary, so that they, too, will feel the love and the connectedness of this community. We can do this by inviting them into what we know and love about Calvary. But as relationships are always two-way, we should also be open to listening to what new ideas they may be excited to share and try out with others at Calvary. Let us keep finding ways to celebrate our connectedness and fellowship in Christ with each other!

*In peace,
Sister Jennie Myers*



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MATT EIDE

Dear Calvary Friends,

And we are back!

Many exciting things are happening at Calvary as we finish off the summer. Hiking, walking, and eating! Keep an eye out for areas where you can participate.

A shout-out to the AMAZING "Lunch with Friends" team. September's lunch will begin the FOURTH year! Can you believe it? Beginning in 2021 to bring people together for fellowship and lunch, the monthly event hosts almost seventy people on the first Friday of the month. Thank you so much to all the people who work tirelessly to make this happen.

As we start to contemplate the new school year, Calvary is beginning to plan the start of the church year. I know, I know, it's only August, but the Christmas season will be here before we know it. Until then, go out and enjoy the beautiful summer weather while you can.

Kirby and Janine Nave (thank you!) attended our annual Synod meeting in June. They will be providing a summation during Council in August. The Council will begin the budget process for 2025 in September, to have everything ready for you to review prior to our annual meeting. Our expenses continue to outpace our giving for the year, and we will look to the budget for potential areas of opportunity.

Our next congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 24. I look forward to seeing everyone.

We recently hired back-up support for Kim. Her name is Rosemary. She will be working when Kim is not (namely vacations and sick time) and will pick up Monday mornings. The total between the two of them will equal one person's time. The intent is to give Kim flexibility in scheduling and allow her time away (without worry) from the office to recharge and recoup, when needed. Kim continues to make the job more efficient, and Rosemary will create continuity for whatever the future needs may look like.

Please know that Council members are always interested in your feedback on how things are going. If you are not sure who is a member of Council, we wear the BLUE nametags on Sunday mornings.

Together in Christ,

Matt



Children, Youth & Family News

Many Thanks!

The high school youth have been busy this summer with a few fun outings and also giving of their time volunteering in the community at the Josephine County Food Bank. The Parish Ed Team is already collecting new energy and ideas for the fall as we get ready to meet on August 12. We take every opportunity we can find to thank everyone who has given of their gifts for volunteering as teachers and to all the caring adults who are willing to help and hang out with and really get to know our young people.

We also want to take this time to thank anyone who has ever supported the children and youth ministry program financially. Whether it was a one-time offering designation or an on-going giving, we thank you and appreciate your partnership in ministry. We can't do it alone! We hope that the photographs that we put in the Caller of the children and youth doing fun and meaningful things together is showing how we are faithfully using the resources we are entrusted with. So a huge overdue thank you to all!

The Parish Education Team



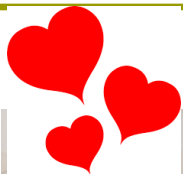
Cooling off with cold drinks after fun outdoor activities at Family Fun Center!



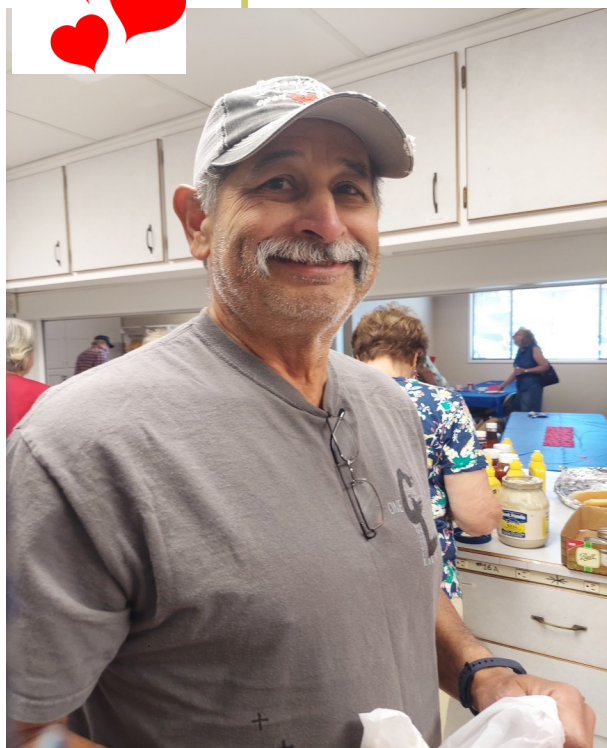
BUMPER BOAT FUN AT THE FAMILY FUN CENTER IN MEDFORD ON A HOT, JULY SUMMER DAY!



BOWLING FUN IN JULY WITH OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS! THESE ARE A FEW OF THEM! THANK YOU!!!



Here's our Danny Rodriguez lending his man muscle to Lunch with Friends. Thank you, Dan! We appreciate you so much for ALL you do!! Our church is so nice and clean, thanks to you **and Dolly!!** You're are both so detail-oriented, you never miss a thing! Keep it up and keep smiling! **WE LOVE YOU!**



These are just some of our *Lunch with Friends* kitchen crew members, cooks, bakers, decorators, clean-up crew, you name it! **THANK YOU, LADIES, FOR ALL YOU DO! WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH!** We so look forward to this luncheon every first Friday of the month! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Thank you to Lori Elrod for never missing a beat on collecting the sheets from the Friendship pads and then logging the attendance each week. Lori makes two trips each week to perform a much-needed—and appreciated—task. THANK YOU, LORI! WE LOVE YOU!!

MORE CALVARY VOLUNTEERS



God's
Work,
Our
Hands!

**Thank you to Sister Jennie &
our youth for volunteering at
the Josephine County Food
Bank this month!**

Each Thursday morning the food bank needs pallets and pallets of bread sorted so they are ready to be distributed to people in need! These young people were so glad to jump right in!



Calvary News & Opportunities in August & Beyond

HELP NEEDED!! The HOLIDAY BAZAAR is scheduled for NOVEMBER 16th this year, and we need your support to make it happen. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex, and we need any and all participants to sign up now to support this event.

Please, even if you have participated in the event in the past, we need you to sign up so we know for certain that you will be participating and in what capacity. It takes a lot of planning and communication well ahead of the event itself to ensure success.

The sign-up sheet lists several areas where help is needed. (We need a certain number of participants, or this annual event will not be happening, unfortunately.) If you enjoy the event and want to see it continue, please get involved.

Now is the time.

We need crafters, bakers, kitchen crew folks, set-up and clean-up crews, cashiers, and a number and variety of areas that could use your participation.

You are welcome to attend the **H & H Special meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, August 14th at 9:30 a.m.** to ask questions, receive answers, and be involved in the planning. For questions, see Mary Quick.

Thank you all so much!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Hearts & Hands
Bake/Quilt Sale



We need volunteers to
help in our charity event.
Please sign up to support
this annual event.

Event Date: Nov. 16, 2024

(Without your support, this
event may not continue.)

CALVARY INVITES, EVENTS & NEWS

Hiking feet in a circle of love in July!! Fun was had by all! Can you name those shoes to their hikers???

Join in the fun at the next hike, which will be August 3rd at 8:30 a.m. at Cathedral Hills.

See Sister Jennie for details.



LUNCH WITH FRIENDS WILL BE **FRIDAY, AUGUST 2nd at NOON.**

let's do
lunch

PLEASE JOIN US!

There is a
place for
you at
our table...



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
SMALL GROUP
WILL BE TUESDAY,
AUGUST 13 AT
10:00 A.M.

IF YOU'VE BEEN
MEANING TO JOIN,
IT'S NEVER TOO
LATE.

SISTER JENNIE IS
ALWAYS
AVAILABLE FOR
YOU TO TALK
WITH.

MORE CALVARY INVITATIONS

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE WANTS YOU TO KNOW:

If you are interested in making your donations online, but not sure how, please reach out to Diane Schoolitz, Generosity/Stewardship Chair, for one-on-one assistance in creating your online Vanco Profile for seamless giving. At Calvary, we use Vanco services. They provide simple, safe, and secure monetary donations for one-time or monthly gifts. Your gifts can be designated for a particular ministry upon your request.

Go to <https://www.calvarylutherangp.org/> , click "GIVE," scroll down to bottom of page and click the green "GIVE" button. This will take you to the secure.myvanco.com site.

"The goal of our Generosity/Stewardship Ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to them."
Quote from Ask, Thank, Tell by Charles R. Lane"

Join the Calvary Hikers Small Group on Saturday, August 24th at 8:30 a.m. at the Limpy Botanical Interpretative Loop Trail trailhead.

Watch the announcements closer to the hike day for information regarding carpooling options from Calvary.

Please let Sr. Jennie know if you're interested in joining up with us for this easy, under-canopy and cool hike!



MEMORIES OF LUNCH WITH FRIENDS ON JULY 5TH!



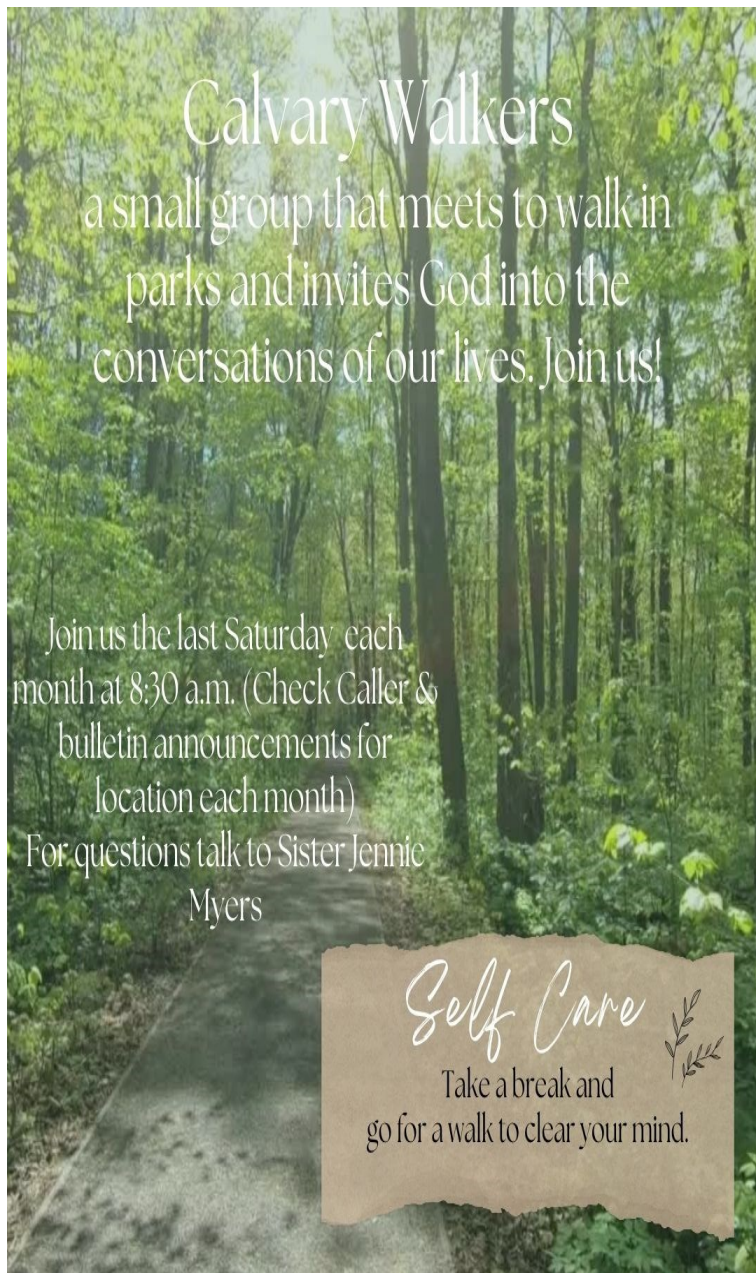
We didn't realize
we were making
memories, we just
knew we were
having fun



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

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



Calvary Walkers
a small group that meets to walk in
parks and invites God into the
conversations of our lives. Join us!

Join us the last Saturday each
month at 8:30 a.m. (Check Caller &
bulletin announcements for
location each month)
For questions talk to Sister Jennie
Myers

Self Care
Take a break and
go for a walk to clear your mind.

**The next walk will be Saturday,
August 31st @ 8:30 am at Tom
Pearce Park in Grants Pass**

CALVARY HIKERS IN AUGUST

Join us for a hike at Cathedral Hills at 8:30 am
on Saturday, August 3rd. Let Sr Jennie know if
you plan on coming. All who are interested and
physically capable are always welcome!

Calvary Hikers

a small group that meets to explore
trails high and low & to invite God into
the spaces of our lives as we together
hike and chat! Join us!

Join us the first
Saturday each
month at 8:30 a.m.
at Cathedral Hills
(Espy Trailhead
parking lot)



We have done some
mid-month excursions
away from town. Watch
bulletin announcements
for opportunities.

For questions talk to
Sister Jennie Myers



UPCOMING EVENTS & MORE INVITATIONS!

A special invitation is being extended by Hearts & Hands to all women!

We will be hosting a salad luncheon on Wednesday, **August 7th at 11:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

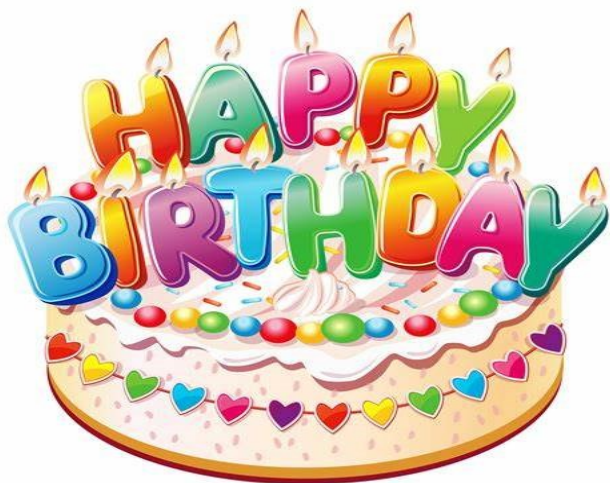
This event will feature Caryn Galli as our guest speaker. The title of her presentation is "Faith in the Balance."

The ladies of the Community Bible Study group are also invited, so please come and enjoy fellowship with them.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex. Please sign up to reserve your space and to bring a salad to share. Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor!

Mary Quick





HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

8/1	Marcia Cottrill
8/1	Ken Jernigan
8/3	Jon Myers
8/4	Arlette Butler
8/4	Kenneth Hoback
8/5	David Matthews
8/7	Nancy Breen
8/8	Shaun Hoback
8/13	Carolyn Pearson
8/14	Karen Blom
8/14	Bonnie Cordes
8/15	Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
8/15	William Boldon
8/18	Roy fox
8/18	David Lindall
8/19	Julie Galloway
8/19	Bonnie Stucke
8/21	Lillian Bixler
8/21	April Marshall
8/23	Paul Bohey
8/23	Rorie Hoback
8/24	John Mason
8/24	Ed Weitzel
8/25	Erik Hanberg
8/25	Deryk Matheny
8/27	Gene Totten
8/28	Larry Weaver
8/30	Dolly Rodriguez

8/1	James & Tobie Baertschiger
8/8	Dennis & Debbie Kroeger- Vroman
8/10	Marcia & Dick Cottrill
8/10	Pete & Kelly Tommerup
8/11	Roger & Debbie Steinbrenner
8/15	Linda & Verne Welo
8/16	Don & Linda Hurd
8/20	Dawn & Matthew Grinde
8/21	Dianne & Ed Weitzel
8/21	Mike & Bonnie Lawler
8/23	Holly & Clay Rounsaville
8/23	Jennie & Jon Myers
8/26	Joan & Chuck Hathaway



Serving the Lord in August

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
8/4 Jennifer & Travers Voris

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
8/11 David & Tanya Haight

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
8/18 Linda Johnson & Carol Wilson

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
8/25 Gary Blom & Melinda Eide

ALTAR GUILD

Sandy Hoadley / Dolly Rodriguez
Bonnie Lawler / David & Tanya Haight
Denise & Madeleine Angstadt /
Teresa Schwerdt

LECTORS

8/4 Jennifer Voris
8/11 Linda Johnson
8/18 George Straka
8/25 Marcia Lembcke

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Karen Blom
Debbie Vorman
Karin Lanahan
Roberta Marsh
Kathy Mason
Linda Johnson

VIDEO/SOUND TEAM

Gary Blom
Larry Weaver
Janine Nave
Monte Zeller
Evan Strickland
Keith Jaroslow
Lisa Jaroslow
Jim Sweeney
Dean Schwerdt

USHERS

Ryan Thompson, Captain
Matt Eide, Diane Weaver,
and John Mann

ACOLYTES

Kimberly Gindlesperger
Kaydan Gindlesperger
Deserae Gindlesperger
CJ Myers
Allie Myers
Adeline Walker

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Zoe Thompson

ALTAR FLOWERS PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

8/4 Kimberly White
8/11 The Welo Family
8/18 The Hurd Family
8/25 Mike & Bonnie Lawler

AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4:30 pm Council Meeting	2 12 pm LWF 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	3 8:30 am Calvary Hikers —Cathedral Hills 1:00 pm Grams' Memorial Service
4 9:30 am Service	5 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	6 3:00 pm Steward- ship Meeting	7 11 am H&H Womens' Salad Luncheon: "Faith in the Balance" 3:30 pm Praise	8 2:00 pm Country- side Service	9 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	10
11 9:30 am Service	12 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga 3:00 pm Parish Ed Meeting	13 10:00 am Prayer Group	14 9:30 am Hearts & Hands SPE- CIAL MEETING FOR BAZAAR PLANNING 3:30 pm Praise	15	16 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	17
18 9:30 am Service	19 9-11:00 am CBS Meeting 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	20	21 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30 pm Praise	22	23 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	24 8:30 am Calvary Hikers at Limpy Botanical Interpretive Loop Trail
25 9:30 am Service	26 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	27	28 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am Outreach Meeting 3:30 pm Praise	29	30 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	31 8:30 am Calvary Walkers — Tom Pearce Park



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