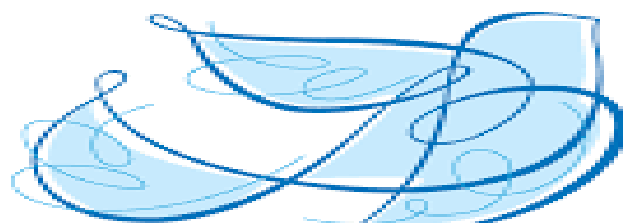


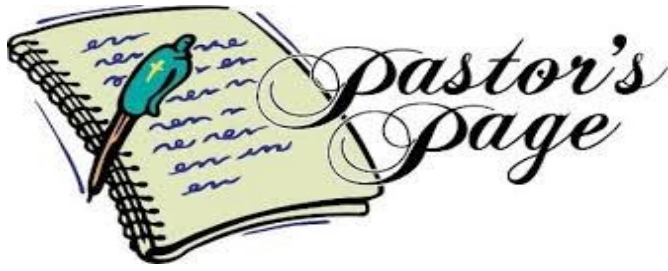


CALVARY CALLER

March 2024



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



The Psalms: Jesus' Prayerbook

This Lent on Wednesday evenings we are working our way through the Psalms, guided by categories largely borrowed from Lutheran martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Prayerbook of the Bible* (1940).

If you don't know his story, Bonhoeffer was a young German pastor and theologian who dared to challenge Nazi ideology and policies and participated in passing messages designed to strike at Adolf Hitler himself. He was imprisoned and ultimately executed at Flossenbürg concentration camp mere weeks before its liberation by American forces in April 1945. He was only 39.

Though Bonhoeffer interprets the Psalms through the person and work of Jesus Christ, his willingness to publish this slim volume in praise of parts of the Old Testament, even as Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union were starting to carve up Europe, was an astonishing challenge to Nazi authority, which rejected the Old Testament as hopelessly tainted by its Jewishness.

But of course, Jesus himself was born and raised Jewish. Bonhoeffer insists on reading the Psalms through Jesus, who ultimately embraced and embodied their fullness on the cross. Bonhoeffer reads the Psalms of David in particular as pointing explicitly towards Christ's kingly identity and his saving sacrifice.

Through Jesus the Psalms offer another answer to his disciples' insistent request: "Lord, teach us to pray!" For Bonhoeffer, since the Lord's Prayer has us ask for all that we need, it is inextricably connected to the Psalms and vice versa.

However, the Psalms draw out important prayer themes that may not be so obvious in the Lord's Prayer itself, especially both praise and lament (e.g.: "This is awful, Lord, help!").

With Jesus as our pray-er, the Psalms become not just human prayers to God, but God's Word to and for us. It is tempting to cherry-pick the Psalms for those that are most familiar, comforting, or obviously applicable to our present life circumstances.

Bonhoeffer advocates something different: Pray your way through them all, a venerable practice for Christians, through every time and place. Not just the ones that speak to us or make sense to us—even the ones that confuse or confound us. If they were good enough for Jesus to pray, they should be good enough for us to read with, through, and to him.

Pastor Jon



What Are You Adding to Your Life This Lent?

I have vivid memories growing up in the Lutheran Church of a heavy focus being put on the message of fasting and having to answer the question “what are you giving up this year”? And I’ve come to see that the idea of fasting can be problematic if not introduced correctly.

When I was growing up I only heard the question “so, what are you giving up?” I never understood or internalized that there was a spiritual component to it—that the thing or even a behavior you’re giving up should be discerned as something that is keeping you from feeling closer to God, or rather keeping you from putting God first in your life.

It took me until I was a young adult to finally hear that. Without the spiritual component, it starts to feel like just something you have to do at Lent without a deeper meaning. What did that look like for me and others I saw around me? It acted as a short term guilt trip. Let’s give up sugar! Let’s give up caffeine! Or I’ve also heard, this is a great time to go on a short term diet.

And you tell yourself it’s only 40 days I can survive that long and then I’ll get it back. If you add the spiritual component back in and you ask “is food, sugar, caffeine getting in the way of putting God first in your life?” Maybe that genuinely is true for some, but for others probably not. That certainly wasn’t why I gave those things up.

The other problem with fasting is it’s not just something you should “get through” and return to doing as soon as Easter comes. It should be something you decide that you can do less of or can do without not just for 40 days but for good. It should be something you change or repent of forever.

I’d like to offer a different approach that I came across a few years ago. Adding something new to your life at Lent and beyond. What if you added something to your life that you’re not currently doing that will help you feel closer to God?

Have you been meaning to add prayer in a more intentional way into your life? Or maybe how you were taught to pray just doesn’t work for you and you’ve been wanting to learn new ways to pray. Have you wanted to know more fully God’s stories/our stories in the Bible and start reading the Bible? Have you wanted to find ways to more fully follow the commandment to love your neighbor and help in the community?

These are just a few probing questions to get you thinking. There are so many new things we can decide to add or ways of responding to God’s love and grace that we can think of this Lent. Think of Lent as a new beginning for how you can live with God in this world.

*In peace,
Sr. Jennie Myers
Director of Discipleship*

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com 

Here is a new perspective on fasting from and adding new ways of being in relationship with one another starting this Lent.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dear Calvary Friends,

As we continue Lent this month, I remember all the amazing things that Jesus Christ has done for us, culminating in the most important sacrifice. We remember during this time to celebrate in the following season, Easter.

It was wonderful to see so many people at our first soup supper this Lenten season, close to fifty people. As the weeks progress, I hope to see each of you in the pews with us or watching online.

“Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth, I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.” Psalm 61: 1-3.

In December, we approved a budget that is much higher than last year. As we pray for our needs to be met, we must all do everything we can to work towards achieving our goal.

“Pray to catch the bus, then run as fast as you can.”

As of the end of January:

Giving:	\$22,994
Expenses:	<\$32,705>
Difference:	<\$9,111>

This is only the first month of the year and our giving/expenses are not equal each month. What I ask here, is to continue to keep the church in your prayers.

As the flowers have started to bud and Spring begins, we remember the beauty that God has bestowed on us in the many blessings of each day. In our hectic lives, we do not always notice the small (and large) blessings around us. A challenge to each of you as we head into the season of Easter, think of each day as a wonderful expression of God’s love for us and give thanks.

Together in Christ,

Matt



Parish Education Notes

What an exciting time to be able to walk alongside seven individuals (ranging from 3rd-7th grade) as they received a more grown-up reader's Bible in February. A next milestone in their faith journeys. The Study Bible that they received will help them to dive more fully into the stories that are God's, theirs, and ours.

But the publisher of this Bible doesn't assume that they know everything and expects they still have questions. Each book of the Bible has a great introduction—telling why that book was written, what's going on in the context of the big story, and other things important to know about each book of the Bible. It also has stopping points all through the Bible to highlight verses and asks “wondering” questions that will connect to older kids and youth.

Your Parish Education Team is here to support and encourage faith formation for people of all ages—one way is providing resources to help meet people where they're at in their faith journey. There is a great adult daily devotion resource that is always available on the round table in the Narthex called, “Christ in Our Home.”

Another way is by gathering folks together to build and strengthen relationships in the name of Christ! We're looking forward to planning a fun **Chili and Card/Board Games Event on Sunday, April 28**. This will be for youth, kids (and families) and anyone who would enjoy this activity and getting to know Calvary's awesome younger people. More details to come soon. But if you have a great chili recipe that you'd like to make and to come and enjoy in the fellowship, please contact Dick Cottrill.

We thank you for all the ways that you already engage in faith formation at Calvary, and there are many ways for people of all ages. If you have an idea that you're not seeing, come talk to Sr. Jennie or any member of the Parish Ed Team (Audra M, Kelly T, Jennifer V, Dick C, and Charlie S).

In peace,
The Parish Education Team



Calvary Happenings in March



EASTER FLOWERS

are now available to purchase for \$15 each. Please see Kim in the office to sign up and make your dedication. Mostly available will be azaleas, however, there will be a limited number of Easter lilies, too.

Looking to increase your flexibility, posture, strength? Good news! There will be two new yoga classes taught at Calvary in the upper room: Chair Yoga and then Regular Yoga following!

Ria Cuyler, a professional yoga instructor for many years, will be teaching two classes every Friday and Monday, beginning Friday, March 1st, as follows:

Chair Yoga: 11-11:45 a.m. (Chairs are provided; bring your own mat.)

Regular Yoga: 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Bring your own mat.)

There is a suggested donation, per class, of \$4 for Chair Yoga and \$6 for Regular Yoga. (Fees are paid directly to Ria.)

Please join in for the many health benefits yoga can provide. Both men and women are welcome!

Ria Cuyler: 541-218-1072 by text messages, please.



COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

resumes the study of David on January 8th from 10:00—11:30 a.m. If you are interested, but would like more information, please contact Barbara Williams at 541-955-4595.



Friendship Bible Study Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 1-2:00 p.m. at the church. Please contact JoAnne Smith for information and to confirm attendance, as sometimes the group meets for lunch away from the church and wouldn't want to miss you!

PRAYER SMALL GROUP meeting following worship services on Sunday, March 10th, for anyone interested in a new, monthly prayer group, will gather at the rear of the sanctuary to formulate a plan. If you can't make the March 10th meeting but want to be a part of things, please talk to Sister Jennie to keep you informed.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH HANGOUT

Sunday, March 10th at 2:30 p.m. Meet in the Upper Room for snacks, games, and conversation. Let Sister Jennie or Stephanie Love know if you can make it!

HEARTS & HANDS NEWS:

Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday) there will be a baked goods sale before & after worship. Pies, cookies, breads, cakes, etc. will be available. Questions? See Mary Quick.

Hearts & Hands next meeting will be April 10th at 9:30 a.m.



Bake Sale

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!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite everyone to a Bunco Party on March 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the church. Come have some fun and enjoy some snacks! The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, please contact Judi Bliss.



FRIENDLY REMINDER: You are welcome to take the altar flowers you purchased home with you after Sunday services, however, please remember to leave the green, metal vase containers the flowers are in. The containers belong to the florist shop, and Calvary is charged for them if they are not able to pick them up on their next delivery of flowers to us. We have plastic containers in the kitchen for you to take your flowers home in, so you can leave the green, metal vases. Thank you for keeping our florist shop happy!



Are you looking for a fun, spiritual way to learn, network, and grow as a Lutheran? Then the **Crater Lake Cluster Women's Retreat** may be just the event for you!

The retreat is being held at St. Rita's Retreat Center in Gold Hill on **March 15, 16, and 17**. Registration information and all the details may be obtained by calling Marie Wachsmuth. Additional contacts for information is through the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Bertha Miller at 541-761-7487 or Yvonne Torala at 541-592-2147.

It's time to start bringing bags of candy donations for the kids' **Easter Sunday** egg hunt. There's a wagon in the Narthex for placing candy donations until March 24th. (Please ensure all candy is individually wrapped or sealed in its box you purchased it in.)

If you would rather make a donation instead of going out to buy candy, just write "Easter Candy" on a donation envelope or in the memo of your check (for credit) and put it in the offering plate. Someone will be happy to shop for the Easter candy for you!



EASTER EGG HUNT



Calvary's
Kids &
Youth Easter
Egg Hunt



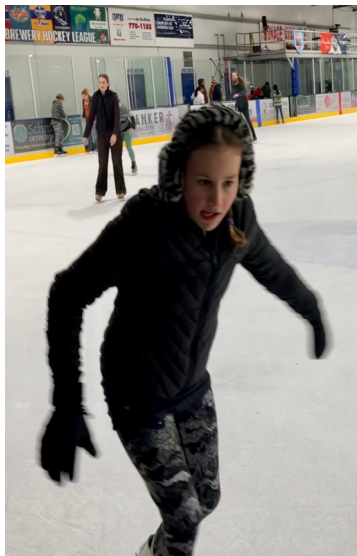
Sunday,

March 31

following
worship

Meet in Upper Room
(We have baskets if you
don't have one)

Calvary's Children, Youth & Family



Ice skating
fun for all!



EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

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

New Prayer Small Group

If you're interested, we're gathering for a quick standing meeting Sunday, March 10 at the back off the sanctuary to form a plan!

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**



Meeting on the First Saturday each month at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead. Questions or want to join in? Talk to Sister Jennie

JOIN US ON HIKES AT CATHEDRAL HILLS (MEET AT SKY CREST TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT)

The next hike will be Saturday, March 2 @ 10am



The next walk will be Saturday, March 23 @ 10am (instead of Easter weekend).

Small Groups!

CALVARY UPDATES & FINANCIAL NEWS

2023 Year End Financial Report

Operating Account as of 01/01/2023	\$130,612
Operating Account as of 01/31/2023	\$111,031
Budgeted Income as of 12/31/2023	\$353,460
Actual Budget Income as of 12/31/2023	\$363,117
Budgeted Expense as of 12/31/2023	\$353,460
Actual Budget Expenses as of 12/31/2023	\$367,136
Restricted Funds as of 12/31/2023	\$33,481
Investment Funds as of 12/31/2023	\$273,658
Thrivent Choice Funds as of 12/31/2023	\$2,671

Restricted Funds Summary

Major Improvements	\$6,974
Non-Budgeted Benevolence	\$2,156
1% Benevolence – Outreach	\$1,568
Pastor Discretion	\$4,125
Memorials	\$20
Family/Youth Ministries	\$14,134
Endowment – Deposits	\$696

Savings & Investment Funds

Savings/Money Market	\$110,352
Mission Investment CD 906	\$4,017
Mission Investment CD 898	\$49,109
Mission Investment CD 980	\$110,180

2023 Benevolence Giving

Non-Local

Oregon Synod	\$13,822	
Missionaries		\$6,000
Middle East Crisis (Lutheran Disaster Relief)	\$500	
Flood, Hurricane Victims (Lutheran Disaster Relief)	\$4,057	
Lahaina Fire Victims (Lutheran Disaster Relief)	\$5,819	
TOTAL	\$30,198	

Local

Gospel Rescue Mission	\$9,408	
Reach Our Community (ROC)	\$8,197	
Every Child		\$5,218
Woman's Crisis Support Team	\$6,191	
Salvation Army	\$1,901	
TOTAL		\$30,915

Benevolence Total **\$61,113**

Disaster Relief Donation Update

Each month 4% of Calvary's general offering is designated for Disaster Relief. The designated money, plus any individual contributions, is distributed quarterly to a specific disaster chosen by the Council.

This month, a check was sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief for \$4,953.17, designated for Lahaina, Maui, to assist the people who have been impacted by the wildfires. Thank you for your generous donations.



- 3/1 Chuck Hathaway
- 3/1 Don Lanahan
- 3/1 Mitchell Matheny
- 3/5 Sandy Hoadley
- 3/5 Lori Nissen
- 3/6 Scott Christopherson
- 3/7 Paul Hoadley
- 3/7 Linda Welo
- 3/9 Sandie Andrew
- 3/9 Andrew Jaroslow
- 3/10 Gloria Fox
- 3/11 Bowman Bixler
- 3/12 Brandon Jaroslow
- 3/13 Kendyl Jernigan
- 3/14 Hope Rodriguez
- 3/14 George Straka
- 3/16 Kirby Nave
- 3/17 Rudy Rugenstein
- 3/18 Zane Bjorge
- 3/18 Vic Connelly
- 3/19 Dawn Grinde
- 3/19 Mary Ann Stevenson
- 3/22 Adele Tamosunas
- 3/23 Grace Connelly
- 3/23 David Gilmour
- 3/26 Linda Butler
- 3/26 Kim Grinde
- 3/26 Roger Scheusner
- 3/29 Evelyn McFarland
- 3/30 Karen Nantais
- 3/31 Kerrie Bjorge

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!!

- 3/2 Jeff & Elaine Wolf
- 3/4 Frank & Sherry Damico
- 3/5 Bev & Gene Totten
- 3/7 Ken & Ann Stutts
- 3/9 Dan & Dolly Rodriguez
- 3/17 Linda & Timothy Sullivan
- 3/23 Don & Carol Wilson
- 3/25 Barry & Evelyn McFarland
- 3/26 Dave & Jill Cook
- 3/27 Alan & Bonnie Cordes



Serving the Lord in March

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Melinda Eide & Crystal Zimmer

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
David & Tanya Haight

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Travis & Jennifer Voris

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Carol Wilson & Gary Blom

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Janine Nave & Carol Wilson

ALTAR GUILD

Evelyn McFarland
Anna Gorskaya/David & Tanya Haight
Teresa Schwerdt
D. & M. Angstadt / Sandy Hoadley
Dolly Rodriguez

LECTORS

Linda Johnson
George Straka
Marcia Cottrill
Jennifer Voris

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

HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Mary Quick, Hostess
Larry & Diane Weaver
Pat Brown
Janet Capetty
Pat Chambers
Deb Christopherson
Teresa Connelly
Julie Galloway
Bev Kane

VIDEO/SOUND

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

USHERS

Scott Christopherson,
Captain
Jim Love
David Grimes

ACOLYTES

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


ALTAR FLOWERS PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

Mary Stevenson
Claudia Canter
Stutts Children
Eide Family / Kris Panacy
Don & Carol Wilson / Gary & Karen Blom

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Zoe Thompson

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 12 pm LWF 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	2 10 am Calvary Hikers Small Group — Cathedral Hills
3 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 6:30 pm Confirmation Night	4 NO CBS today 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	5	6 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 2 pm P.Ed mtg 3:30 pm Choir 5 pm Soup Supper 5:30 Service	7 2 pm Countryside Service 4:30 Council meeting	8 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	9 2:00 pm Mark Grinde Memorial Service
10 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 2 pm Bunco 2:30 pm HS Hangout	11 10-11:30 am CBS 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	12	13 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am Music & Worship Mtg 1 pm FBS 3:30 pm Choir 5 pm Soup Supper 5:30 Service	14 2:00 pm Countryside Service 4:30 Council Meeting	15 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	16
17 9:30 Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 6:30 pm Confirmation Night	18 10-11:30 am CBS 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	19 1:00 pm Outreach Meeting	20 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm Service	21	22 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	23 10:00 am Calvary Walkers (instead of Easter weekend)
24 PALM SUN <i>Bake Sale before & after service</i> 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult, Kids/Youth Sunday School 31 EASTER No Sun.School	25 10-11:30 am CBS 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	26	27 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1 pm FBS 3:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm Service	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30 pm Service (No soup supper)	29 GOOD FRIDAY 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga 5:30 pm Service (No soup supper)	30



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