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Pastor Jon Myers, Pastor

Sister Jennie Myers, Director of Discipleship

Wendy Ross, Director of Choirs

Jeannine Reddell, Pianist

Jill Cook, Organist

Kimberly White, Administrative Assistant

Sundays:

9:20 a.m. Pre-Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship





A New Season

My family has been worshiping and ministering with Calvary for just over three months now, and already we are turning the page to a new season, both literally and figuratively. Sister Jennie and I are now “official” — marking a new season of ministry together with you.

The arrival of fall brings the beginning of a new school year, cooler temperatures, shorter days, the hope of rainfall and, we trust, an end to fire season. The valleys will begin to fill with misty fog more often and even unirrigated lawns will soon green up.

The start of a new school year is a good time to pull together new opportunities. We’re working with the families of confirmation-age students to gently re-imagine what that could be for the sake of their faith formation. We’re renewing existing small groups and piloting new ones.

We’re also reminded that fall colors — such as they appear in our local conifer woodlands — will soon brighten our surroundings and then quickly fade. But that, too, will quickly give way to the giddiness of the winter holidays.

Amid all that we continue getting to know one another, to disclose and discover what makes us each uniquely us, as well as the unique stories that have brought us each to Southern Oregon and brought us together as Calvary Lutheran Church.

But it is the same Christ who draws us together, who calls us to minister with, to, and among one another. It is the same cross that we gather under. It is the same God whose

love and grace we proclaim together in word and deed to a world hungry for good news. Let’s get to work!

Blessings to you and yours in these new beginnings,

Pastor Jon

HEARTS AND HANDS BAKE & QUILT SALE

Our annual “*Sale-Abration*” will be on Saturday, **November 18th from 9-1 pm**. Browse our items for sale, such as quilts, crafts, and a variety of muffins, pie by-the-slice, and coffee during the event.

Leaf making began on Sept 20th. There’s still time to sign up to help. Dates in October are the 4th and the 8th. A meeting to finalize our event will be held on **October 11th**.

How You Can Help: You can bake, craft, or you can be a cashier or a helper. Help is also needed with set-up and clean-up. A sign-up sheet is currently posted in the narthex. Please sign up and join in the fun! More details on the Sale-Abration will follow as we get closer to the event.

Holiday Donations: We are currently looking for holiday donations for our big “*Sale-Abration*.” If you have fall or Christmas decorations in “good” or “gently-used” condition, please contact Karen Mastel.

Funds from previous bake/quilt events have been donated to a variety of non-profits (mostly local), such as, Every Child, YMCA, Food with Friends, Casa, and The Roc, among others. Our sales have been a “sweet” way to help our community while stocking up on delicious and wonderful items, along with serving our church and Our Savior (He’ll be there, too!).

If you have questions, see Mary Quick, or any member of the Hearts & Hands group!

Clarion Theatre Presents:

“My Traitor,” a dramatic musical playing two weekends, October 12th and October 22nd. “My Traitor” is based on a true story of religious persecution in Ukraine and a woman’s choice between her faith and her husband.

Tickets are \$16—\$20 and will be at the RCC Auditorium.

Go to Clarionor.org or see Don Lanahan.





COUNCIL OPENINGS

Council will have several vacancies as current Council members complete their term at the end of 2023. Please, prayerfully consider serving in one of these areas. Council positions begin January of 2024. Contact any Council member for information or submissions.

Deadline for your submission is October 1, 2023

OFFICER OPENINGS (3):

President

Secretary

Treasurer

COUNCIL MEMBERS (3):

Music & Worship

Property Chair

Stewardship Chair

NON-VOTING MEMBER

Council Recording Secretary



From the Council:

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." — John F. Kennedy.

Change. We've talked a lot about change here at Calvary over the past two years, and we've certainly experienced our share of it. Even though change can be a bit stressful, we know that it is an opportunity for growth and improvement.

On September 10, we had the honor of officially installing Pastor Jon and Sister Jennie into ministry here at Calvary. As they begin in their respective roles, we will see more change, and we'll see things being done differently... and that is exciting. As a church, we need to remember that things won't, and shouldn't necessarily, look like what they did in the past or even in the present. I encourage all of us to pause and reflect on changes we're seeing. I encourage all of us to be open to doing things differently.

As we move into October, our fall season is in full swing. Our Sunday School had a fun pizza kick-off and is meeting each Sunday after worship service. It's exciting to see new faces getting involved and seeing this time with our kids and youth looking a little differently. I know the Parish Education team, along with Sister Jennie, have spent time listening to our kids and youth to hear what they want in their time at church. We are also grateful to have a Sunday morning Bible study up and running, too! This is an excellent opportunity to delve deeper in God's Word and how we can personally implement His teachings into our lives. Our Hearts and Hands ministry has been literally up to their elbows in lefse as they work on Wednesday mornings preparing for their annual sale in November. They also are partnering with a representative from Grants Pass High School to be able to offer resources and support for youth in our community who are in need.

It is very exciting seeing God move in our church, in our community, and in our members. The growth and change are so evident and awesome. I pray for God to continue to work in and through each one of us, wherever we are, and whatever we are doing.

Lisa Jaroslow, Council President



DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE KEY

Calvary's pizza party has come and gone. It was a blast! There was pizza, there was ice cream, there was laughter, there was relationship building. We shared food together and celebrated the start of Christian education at Calvary, both young and old. Our children, youth, and adult classes have hit the ground running. Behind all our faith formation programming at Calvary is celebrating and encouraging relationships and exploring even more about faith.

Our **adults** have started a verse-by-verse study of the **book of Genesis** with Pastor Jon, which is meeting in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday following worship. If you're reading this and you're thinking, "this sounds interesting," it's never too late to join in. They will catch you up to speed. Bring your questions, your stories, your bible, your willingness to learn something new about Genesis, about yourself, and about how God is working through it all.

The **children and youth** are gathering in their classrooms each Sunday after worship to have fun getting to know their teacher(s) and each other and to talk about **faith and God**. The high schoolers are meeting in the Upper Room this year to talk about faith and how it relates to their world. To bring everyone together, every so often, we're excited to continue our large group gatherings **the first Sunday of each month**, which will allow the younger ones to interact with the older youth in an intentional way.

The Parish Education Team will be kicking off the month of October by trying something new. We're going to try a children, youth, and family week-night event. Join in for a **Pizza & Pumpkin Painting evening** so we can continue getting to know each other. This will be open-house style on **Tuesday, October 10, from 5-7 pm**.

Holding to our tradition of **large group outings** for younger and older families, **the last Sunday of each month** we wholeheartedly invite everyone at Calvary to join in to build relationships and get to know younger people and have some fun together. For the **first large group outing of the year**, we invite everyone to the outdoors of **Cathedral Hills** on **Sunday, October 29 at 1:00 p.m.** We will meet at the **Espey Trailhead** parking lot. There will be shorter and longer trail options. If you're reading this and this sounds fun, please join in! There will be more details about carpooling options closer to the event.

If you're not engaged in faith formation at Calvary and any part of this sounds interesting, or you have questions about engaging, please talk to Sister Jennie or our Parish Education Team chair. Let's have fun **building faith and relationships** together this year!

–Sr. Jennie Myers

Women's Friendship Bible & Book Study

Please join us on **October 11th at 1pm** for the Women's Friendship Book Study. We are going through the book *I'd Like You More If You Were More Like Me*, by John Ortberg.

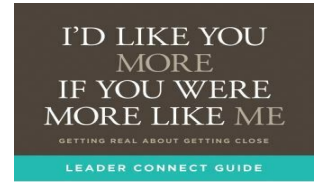
Questions? Contact Jo Anne Smith.

Future dates: November 8 & 22; December 13

A BIG THANK YOU!

A big, big thank you to everyone who helped make Pastor Jon and Sister Jennie's installation service go so smoothly. People of Calvary, you are gifted in hospitality of all types. Thank you to the ushers, to the Fellowship Team for the wonderful dinner, for all involved in the worship slides and bulletin-making, to the team that ran the slides and microphones during worship, to the praise team for bringing beautiful music, and to all who made our kids feel special and a part of things that afternoon. Thank you! And to everyone who attended the worship service and stayed for dinner—your love and support for us and for each other was so clear that day and keeps on as we continue to build relationships and community. It takes work, but it's definitely worth it!

– Sister Jennie, Pastor Jon and the Myers Kids



JOHN ORTBERG
Bestselling Author



ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Pastor Jon for an Adult Bible Study on Genesis:

From the Beginning,

directly after the service in the Fellowship Hall.



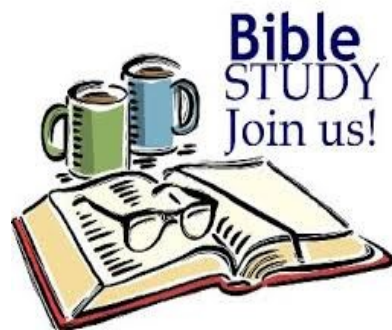
Sunday School for Children and Youth!

Meet in the Upper Room for snacks

before going to your classrooms.

ATTENTION CALVARY LADIES!

Community Bible Series (CBS) is currently convened with an eight-week study on David. CBS is a non-denominational women's group that has been meeting at Calvary Lutheran Church on Monday mornings from 8-12 pm for the past twenty-some years. If you're interested in this study of David and would like more information, please contact Barbara Williams at (541) 955-4595.



"The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us."

-Psalm 67:6

Children are Listening in Worship

We just don't know what our children are attending to in church. Since talking to the kid's about baptism during "Children's Time," one of our twins, (honestly, the one I least expected to be listening) has come to me a few times a week, and with her wet finger, she has made the mark of the cross on my forehead saying, "Mommy, you're God's child." Children are listening and taking in much, especially, when we aren't expecting it.

Some months ago, our oldest was at home working on homework when he burst out into song. Not a song from the radio. It was a few snippets of Marty Haugen's, 'Holden Evening Prayer.' Did I ever sit down and teach him note-by-note the words to those songs? No. He was in worship, and he was listening – maybe exactly when I thought he wasn't. Wow!

Even if they are listening and learning in worship, it does not mean they are always going to know the "how" of worship. Right now, Calvary is struggling to find a Nursery Attendant. We are looking for someone with the right gifts, talents, and time to be with Calvary's youngest. The absence of a Nursery Attendant will mean our young kiddos will be among us during worship time for this season as we wait. For some of you, this may be joyous. For others, particularly those hard of hearing, or easily distracted (like me), it will be more difficult!

My two older kids are old enough to have "mostly" learned to sit quietly through worship service. They have had special people come along side them who taught them how to worship. Our young twins have spent much more of their time in church nurseries,

so they will need to learn how to worship. Ideally, at their age, they should be transitioning into small segments, spending some time in the service and then going to the Nursery for a break as they learn how to worship with us.

I know our youngest girls have befriended many of you, they look up to you, and have asked to sit beside you during worship. It is a gift for them. They have shared how much fun it was to sit with you as we drive home in the car after the service. I hope it is also a gift to you, as well, BUT, if you are not feeling it, it is okay to be honest and say, "Not today."

When you are able to accommodate one of them, feel free to use this as an opportunity to teach them the "how" of worship. Remind them when it is time to be quiet and when we sing. Show them when we stand and when we can move around. Don't be afraid to remind them to use their "quiet voices." Like most children, they will take direction much better from you than they do from their parents.

Other children will come along in our worship life together. I know you will show them both your grace and patience as they, too, learn to worship. They may not know how to yet, but they'll get there. They may forget to be quiet, and sometimes they may have trouble sitting still during the long stretches of the service. (Honestly, so do some of us grown-ups, so have grace for yourself.) Remember, God shows up in our midst, especially when children are present.

-Sr. Jennie Myers



**On “Bound Conscience” – or Rather, Being
“Conscience-Bound”**

The phrase “bound conscience” entered conversations in the Lutheran Church in the run-up to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which saw years of difficult conversations culminate in a series of votes about how we as a church would find ways for congregations, that choose to do so, to “recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships.” This was extremely controversial, and the language of “bound conscience” -- or as I prefer, “being bound by one’s conscience” – was invoked to find a way forward together.

The intent was never primarily that we should each declare ourselves conscience-bound to a particular interpretation of scripture, but rather that we recognize that fellow Christians – members of the same Body of Christ – might be conscience-bound to a different conviction than our own. It is not about “agreeing to disagree,” or “tolerating differences,” but rather mutually bearing one another’s burdens. It means speaking carefully so as not to shake one another’s faith. It means being generous in how we interpret others’ words and actions. It means dying to our need to be right and being raised to love and care for one another more fully.

I hadn’t intended to address this subject here so soon, but our lectionary put Romans 14 before us on Sunday, September 17th. In both Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is addressing the issue of whether Christians

should be eating meat that had previously been sacrificed to Greek or Roman gods, or what the Old Testament would identify as “idols” (false gods).

On the one hand, to eat such food could be understood as a bold declaration that idols are not real and, therefore, no harm can come to the eater. Paul himself clearly held this understanding. But others insisted that eating food that had previously been sacrificed could be viewed as an endorsement of the whole Greco-Roman temple system and its underlying economy, or at the very least, Christians ought to avoid even the appearance of doing anything connected to idol worship. Paul made it clear that those who agreed with him should not flaunt their freedom, but rather bear the burden of not causing others to stumble in their faith.

As a “case study,” the application is not clear and direct, but the call to mutually bear one another’s burdens and to engage in ongoing community discernment couldn’t be clearer. Accordingly, various ELCA congregations across the country have come to different conclusions about whether and how to recognize, include and support LGBTQ+ folks, especially those who desire to be married to another, and yet we largely continue to bear with one another.



October Celebrations



Keith Jaroslow 10/02
Audrey Myerchin 10/02
Dennis Vroman 10/03
Sophia Thompson 10/04
George Breen 10/06
Kaydan Gindlesperger 10/07
Dick Cottrill 10/08
Brad Myerchin 10/08
Tanya Haight 10/09
Emma Thompson 10/15
Lori Elrod 10/19
Rudy Dierks 10/21
Alan Cordes 10/22
John Mann 10/23
Jax Rodriguez 10/25
Carol Wilson 10/25
Eleanor Myerchin 10/26

Happy Anniversary

10/01 Barbara & Buck Woodburn
10/06 Whitney & Kevin Bixler
10/12 Denise & Peter Angstadt
10/23 Travers & Jennifer Voris
10/27 Larry & Glenda Bailey



Serving the Lord...

Communion Assistants

10/1 Pastor Jon / Sister Jennie
Crystal Zimmer & Melinda Eide

10/8 Pastor Jon / Sister Jennie
Gary Blom & Carol Wilson

10/15 Pastor Jon / Sister Jennie
Linda Johnson & Diane Weaver

10/22 Pastor Jon / Sister Jennie
David & Tanya Haight

10/29 Pastor Jon / Sister Jennie
Travers & Jennifer Voris

Video/Sound

Gary Blom

Larry Weaver

Rich Acosta

Monte Zeller

Jim Sweeney

Altar Guild

10/1 Dolly Rodriguez

10/8 D & M Angstadt

10/15 Dolly Rodriguez

10/22 Anna Gorskaya

Lectors

10/1 Joan Hathaway

10/8 Mary Quick

10/15 George Straka

10/22 Jennifer Voris

Hostess Committee

Linda Welo

Sandy Hoadley

Terry Morrison

Janine Nave

Denise Nelson

Marty Porter

Kris Panacy

Council Members

Pastor Jon Myers

Lisa Jaroslow

Karen Blom

Matt Eide

Karen Mastel

Gary Blom

Judi Bliss

Bill Bianchi

Rich Acosta

Jackie Matheny

Audra Myerchin

Ushers

Ken Jernigan,

Captain

Altar Flowers Presented to the Glory of God by:

10/1 George Straka & Elaine Byrum

10/8 Marcia Cottrill celebrating Dick's birthday

10/15 Johnson/Bixler in celebration of their anniversary

10/22 Travers & Jennifer Voris in celebration of their anniversary

10/29 Lanahans & Scherpfs in memory of John



(continued) The very nature of voting on such matters in 2009 was itself polarizing and led to ruptured relationships. Some congregations left the ELCA, and many individuals left their congregations, unable to reconcile their conscience-bound convictions with the stance that their congregation adopted at the time. Some congregations parted ways with their pastors over the matter. However, far fewer people, leaders and congregations, broke off relationships than many feared, and I believe the mutual bearing of conscience-bound convictions is the main reason why.

There exists a discernment process for being more intentional about welcoming and including LGBTQ+ folks, the endpoint of which could be adopting a Welcome Statement and becoming a so-called "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. I have no pre-conceived notions as to whether or not Calvary should pursue this process, nor how it would turn out. Indeed, this process cannot be led by a congregation's pastor – although a pastor can, of course, encourage or resist it. It would need to be the result of a groundswell of interest, and it would need to respect that, bound by our good consciences, we are each in a different place on this subject – not on two different sides, which is a false and potentially destructive dichotomy.

Such a conversation, were we to pursue it at some point, should not be driven by concerns about worship attendance, membership numbers, or budgets and offerings. Instead, it must be driven primarily and precisely by our concern for others. If we worry about anything, it should be that we might miscommunicate our intentions, that we might fail to share the fullness of the Gospel, that in trying to please

everyone, we might actually reach conclusions that satisfy no one, and fail to answer the call to love and serve one another and our neighbors as ourselves.

Folks at Calvary have found ways to bear one another's burdens long before I ever arrived. I look at our Sunday morning blend of organ, piano, guitar and drums, hymns and praise songs, not as a compromise of worship preferences, but rather mutually bearing the burden of one another's worship needs and differing convictions about what constitutes "right worship."

And I look at our provision of both wine and juice, and wafers - both gluten-free and not - as another sort of mutual burden-bearing around the communion table. We cannot always be all things to all people. There are people in recovery who cannot even be around alcohol, and people so allergic to gluten that they literally cannot be around it. On the other hand, there are others who cannot imagine alcohol-free drink, or gluten-free bread, fulfilling Christ's command to "do this in remembrance of me."

In all such cases, I err only if I dismiss the concerns of those who disagree with me as trivial or nonsensical. We are not called to sacrifice our own needs, but rather follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, by attempting to bear the burdens of those whose needs or convictions differ from our own. We may not be able to meet everyone's needs or satisfy everyone's conscience-bound convictions, but the Gospel frees us to bear one another's burdens and turn the rest over to Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jon

Calvary Children, Youth & Family Happenings

Calvary Youth

High School Hang Out!

Sunday, October 15 at 2:30 p.m.
Meet in the Upper Room at Calvary
for snacks, games, and fun!
Questions? Talk to Sister Jennie



Sunday, October 29th All-Calvary Group Outing to Cathedral Hills for a Hike!

All are welcome—kids, youth,
and adults of Calvary!

There will be no Sunday
school on October 29. Instead
we're heading outdoors for a
fall hike. If you can/are
willing to carpool talk to Sister
Jennie. Meet at Espey
Trailhead Parking lot at
1:00 p.m.



ATTENTION CALVARY WALKERS & HIKERS!

In order to accommodate different interests and challenge levels, we are forming two groups.

The 1st group, THE CALVARY WALKERS, is a “low-impact” walking group. We will walk on level/paved paths. The Calvary Walkers will meet on the last Saturday of each month.

The 2nd group, THE CALVARY HIKERS, will hike more **challenging** trails and difficult terrain. We will meet on the first Saturday of each month and decide together as a group which trail to tackle.

Both groups should remember to bring water, a jacket, and ideas for another hiking trailhead/walking destination. Be sure to bring an open spirit, too!

Stay tuned for upcoming hiking/walking events in October! All are welcome to both groups!



CALVARY WALKERS

OCTOBER 28th at 9:00 am
Meet at Sharla Coon's house to walk the Fruitdale Creek Trail. Plenty of parking & bathrooms are available.



COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE IS HAVING THEIR ANNUAL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR DECEMBER 13TH FROM

10 am to 3 pm at 1700 Kellenbeck Avenue in GP.

Vendors are needed! Limited number of spaces, first-come, first-served. A 48" round table, linen, and two chairs are provided, along with complimentary drinks and cookies. Cost is \$20 per table, with a November 1st application deadline.

If interested in being a vendor, please contact Kim @ 541-507-7382, or email led@countysidevillageretire.com



for an application.
Hope to see you there!

NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR SISTER JENNIE!

You can now find Sister Jennie in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to noon. Sister is available to meet outside of these posted times, however, if you need to find her, at-church office hours will be the easiest way!



Meet the Myers

Pastor Jon and Sister Jennie would love to sit down and get to know you, individually, or as a family. If interested, please fill out a "Meet the Myers" form located in the narthex. Pastor Jon or Sister Jennie will contact you.

HEARTS & HANDS NEWS: Calvary Hearts & Hands has voted to partner with Grants Pass High School (GPHS) Family Liaison Center, which serves their homeless students. Some of these students are totally on their own, having to meet their own needs, all while trying to succeed in school in hopes of improving their personal situation later in life. Their aim and goal is to graduate! Many families have been displaced and are in 'survival' mode. When basic needs fail to be met, the focus on school becomes secondary.

The Family Liaison Center is overseen by Catherine Deley. Catherine's goal is to remove the barriers that prevent the homeless school population from finding success in school. Catherine has an overwhelming task at hand, as she is only one person, with the need to service 130 homeless students.

Hearts & Hands, in addition to a monetary gift to the Family Liaison Center, is creating a "**Basic Needs**" box. The box will appear in the church narthex on **Sunday, October 8th**. Our goal is to donate some of the material essentials the students need. The current essential needs are "travel-size" personal hygiene items, such as gender-neutral deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, small hair brushes and combs, and small bars of soap. Each month there will be updates in the Caller, as the students' needs change.


Your gifts will help ensure these students are more secure and can then competently focus on school. Thank you. (Contact Karen Mastel for more info.)





October



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:20 am Pre-Service 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Adult & Youth Sunday School Council Name Nomination Deadline	2 Community Bible Study (CBS), 8am-Noon	3 10 am Outreach Special meeting	4 6:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Lefse making 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am Worship & Music 3:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 4 pm Nomination Committee meeting	5 3:15 Parish Ed Meeting	6 12:00 Lunch with Friends	7 9:00 am Calvary Hikers meet at Espey Trailhead parking lot
8 9:20 am Pre-Service 9:30 am Worship Genesis Bible Study & Sunday School following worship Basic Needs box offered	9 OFFICE CLOSED for Columbus Day (CBS will still meet)	10 5-7 pm Pizza & Pumpkin Painting	11 6:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 2 pm Countryside Service 3:00 Fellowship mtg	13	14 3:00 pm McClarnon Family Service
15 9:20 am Pre-Service 9:30 am Worship Genesis Bible Study & Sunday School following worship	16 Community Bible Study, 8am-Noon	17	18 6:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Last Lefse 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 4:30 pm Council meeting	20 9-2 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	21
22 9:20 am Pre-Service 9:30 am Worship Genesis Bible Study & Sunday School following worship	23 Community Bible Study, 8am-Noon	24 10 am Outreach meeting	25 6:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 9:00 am Calvary Walkers—Fruitdale Creek walk (Meet at Sharla Coon's house)
29 (Reformation Sun.) 9:20 am Pre-Service 9:30 am Worship Genesis Bible Study & NO Sunday School today 1:00 pm Parish Ed Walk at Cathedral Hills	30 Community Bible Study, 8am-Noon	31 