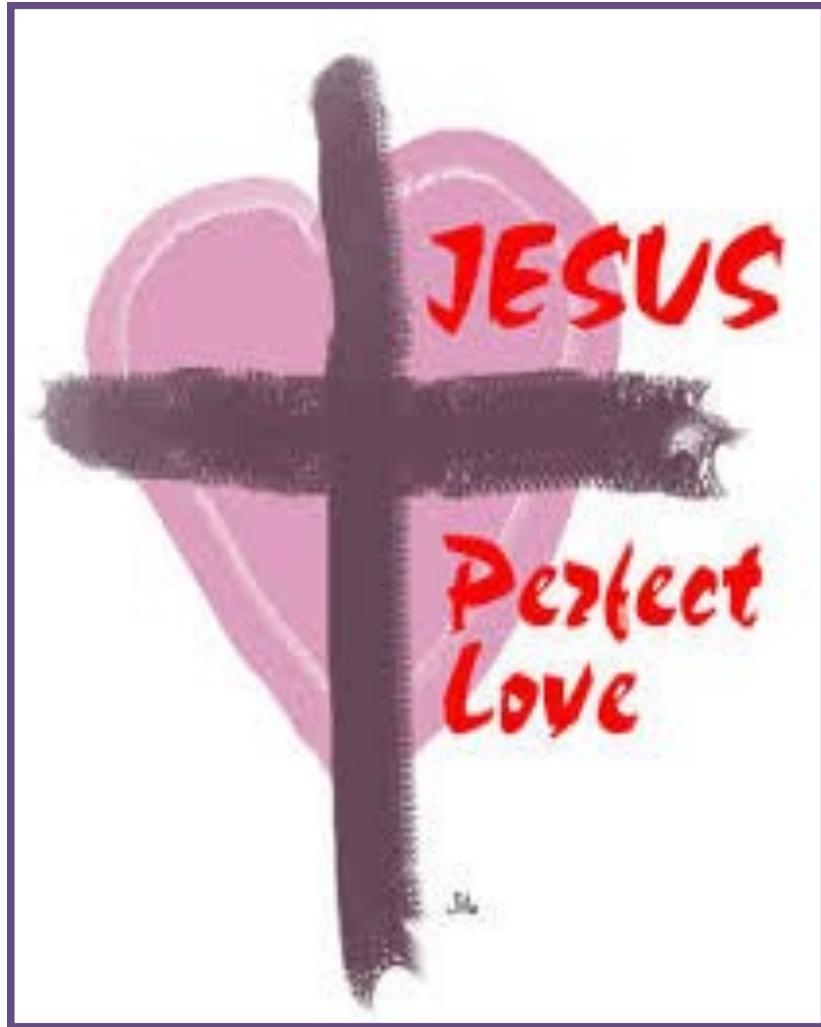
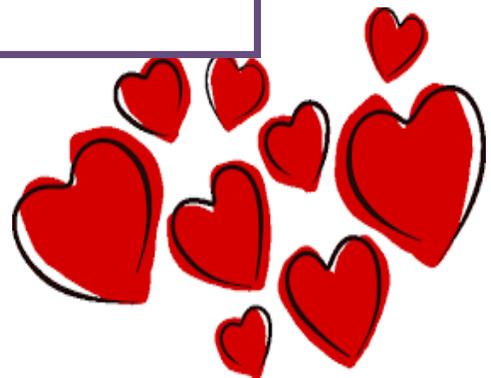
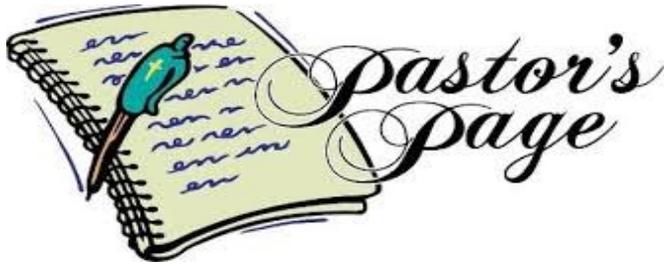


Calvary Caller



February
2024





with a day now somehow associated with giving chocolates. And we'll gather to be reminded of our mortality on the death day of the one saint besides jolly ol' Saint Nick to have his feast turned into a widely celebrated secular occasion.

Happy Valentine's... Ashes?

Every once in a while, our various calendars and traditions manage to line up in a truly spectacularly ironic way. Not only is 2024 a leap year. Not only will 2024 see the season of Lent fall almost as early as it possibly can. This year Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on the Feast of Saint Valentinus—or as it's more commonly known, Valentine's Day.

Ironies abound! Like nearly all official saints, Valentine's feast day marks the occasion of the 3rd century bishop's death—according to at least one account, by beheading. How romantic!

The association of Valentine's Day with romance, flowers, chocolate and so forth seems to come from a medieval association with courtly love, and that connection seems to have more to do with the time of year—the first signs of winter's thaw—than anything specifically to do with Valentine's life or death, in any of the various overlapping and conflicting traditions.

So this year we mark the first day of Lent, during which many choose to "give something up"—say, chocolate?—

This is a good year, then, to remember that the love at the heart of the story we share is not some impossible romantic ideal, but the universal, sacrificial love of God revealed in Christ Jesus. Talk about suffering for love's sake! And the one passion that matters most is the occasion that waits for us at the end of Lent: the Passion of Jesus Christ, the one crucified for my sake and yours. Happy Ash-Valentine's Day!

Pastor Jon



A Sunday of Firsts

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve you as a Deacon in the most Pastoral way on Sunday, January 21 and, really, the whole week leading up to Sunday and beyond. Pastor Jon was not in any shape to be leading you through Sunday morning service. This is a testament to how Pastor Jon and I work together, complementing gifts and filling in for one another when the one just cannot.

It was truly humbling to bring you the Good News through preaching. This particular expression of my call to proclaim the Good News is a career-long growing edge for me. I have not been preaching for as long or as often as Pastor Jon. I appreciate all of your honest feedback as I learn and grow as a preacher. So it was the first time preaching at Calvary. And I look forward to future opportunities to be up in front again soon, bringing the Word.

It was also nerve-racking to be presiding at the table for Communion for the first time ever. It was very humbling being given that responsibility with confidence from Bishop Laurie. Many of my fellow sisters in their whole careers as Deaconesses have never had the opportunity or a reason to preside at the table. So it was an especially holy moment of worship for me.

And as I've told many of you, even when things don't go perfect in worship for one reason or another, "God still shows up." I reminded myself of that often on Sunday.

I've been to the hospital and Countryside more times lately and that is such a favorite thing of mine, maybe besides hanging out with our youth, that of being given the honor of visiting people and the gift of hearing pieces of their stories and praying with them.

All this to say, it truly is an honor for us to be here serving WITH you all and to be a part of the amazing ministries that Calvary is already doing. I wonder what else God has in store for Calvary? Watch out, because God is loose in the world—actively engaging with us, hearing us, inspiring us, challenging us, and above all, loving us.

In peace,
Sr. Jennie Myers
Director of Discipleship



FROM THE COUNCIL:

Dear Calvary Friends,

Can you believe it is already time for Lent?

We enter the season of repentance, fasting, and prayer; we remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

As part of the Wednesday schedule, there will be a short soup supper at 5:00 pm with the service at 5:30 pm. Thank you for the committees/groups that are helping:

February 21: Council

February 28: Worship & Music | Choir

March 6: Outreach

March 13: Hearts & Hands

March 20: Fellowship | Parish Education

Many of you have asked, how can I help? There are many different opportunities at Calvary to participate, from ushering on Sunday (see Paul Hoadley), to assisting with Sunday School (see Sister Jennie), to Committee/Council participation (see a Council member or myself). There is a list of Council members on page 12 in this Caller. Council meets on the second Thursday each month at 4:30 pm.

Above is just a small list of potential places we would love help with, keeping in mind there are lots more.

I ask that you prayerfully consider where your gifts may be best served. We can always use another set of hands.

Together in Christ,

Matt Eide

Council President



Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes
February 14th at 5:30 p.m.



Soup Supper and Lenten Services

February 21st - 5 pm Soup Supper / 5:30 Service
February 28th - 5 pm Soup Supper / 5:30 Service
March 6th - 5 pm Soup Supper / 5:30 Service
March 13th - 5 pm Soup Supper / 5:30 Service
March 20th - 5 pm Soup Supper / 5:30 Service

[There will be a soup sign-up sheet in the narthex beginning Sunday, February 4th.]

Childcare Available for Ages 0-5



Parish Education Notes

Parish Education News

We are well into the new year of 2024 and there is still much going on with kids + youth Sunday school and the Adult Education Bible Study with Pastor Jon. Once a month we offer a break for Sunday school teachers on the last Sunday of the month by planning a fun gathering at church or an outing



somewhere in the community. These are for kids, youth, and their families and often anyone who enjoys getting to know or building relationships

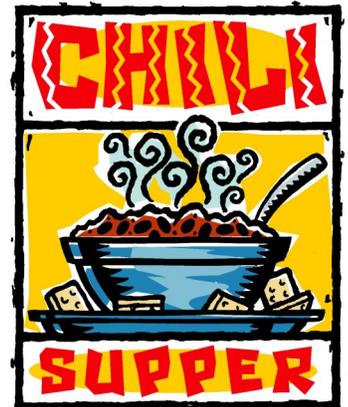
with our younger people.

That said, our next Parish Education outing will be ice skating at The Rrrink in Medford on Sunday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m. If you think you'd like to join in, we're trying to get a group rate, so just let Sr. Jennie know.

Knowing that March will be a very busy month, between Lenten Wednesday evenings and preparations to make Holy Week meaningful and Easter special, we decided to relax with our end-of-the-month outing for March. But stay tuned, as we will start collecting Easter candy for the kids' egg hunt on Easter soon.

However, save the date for a fun Chili and Game Night the last Sunday of April—it will be an early evening to account for getting dark and school the next morning.

Again, this will be fun for youth, kids (and families), and others at Calvary that specifically enjoy this activity and getting to know Calvary's awesome younger people. And if you have a mean chili recipe that you'd like to share and come to enjoy in fellowship, please contact Dick Cottrill.



We thank you for all the ways that you are involved in faith formation at Calvary, and there are many ways for people of all ages. If you have ideas for faith formation for children, youth, or adults, the Parish Ed is always open to people with energy and new ideas.

In peace,
The Parish Education Team

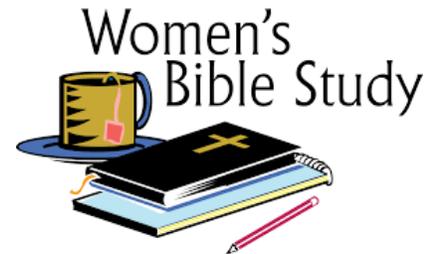
Calvary Happenings in February

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS
IS HERE AGAIN.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON
FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY
2ND
AT NOON!



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.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

February 23rd from
9:00 a.m.—
2 p.m. Located in
Calvary Lutheran's
Fellowship Hall.
Hope to see you
there!

Parish Ed invites all kids, youth
(and families)...

also anyone brave enough to
grab some skates AND hang out
with Calvary's youth!

to some fun times on ice for our
February outing!



Ice Skating at The Rrink



Sun, Feb 25, 2024 | 1 PM
The Rrink (Rink-Southern
Oregon Ice)
1349 Center Drive, Medford,
OR

RSVP WITH SR. JENNIE (WE'RE SHOOTING FOR A GROUP
RATE SO WE NEED AN EXPECTED HEADCOUNT

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!!



Dear Calvary,
I wanted to thank you for your generous support of Angel Tree. As a congregation, we were able to provide 115 foster kids in Josephine County with Christmas presents. We also prepared and provided 150 surprise bags for children visiting Santa at the Christmas party. To support the Christmas party, we also provided 12 dozen cookies for decorating and eating. Thank you for your generosity in all those areas.

Our next project will be **Welcome Boxes**. When children are taken into custody, they often have to wait several hours for placement. A social worker gives them age-appropriate boxes to occupy their time. They will then take these boxes with them into their new foster home. They are given these boxes to provide some comfort and entertainment. It is a scary time for them.

What to include in Welcome Boxes: Age groups: 2-4, 5-9, 10-12, 13-17, boy or girl.

Essentials: Something to color or write with, something to color or write on, toothpaste, flashlight (with batteries), nightlight, encouraging note (You are special, You matter, Made for you with love).

Fill the rest of the box with age-appropriate items, such as, books, toys, Legos, socks, dolls, cars, etc. No religious items, vitamins, hygiene items containing alcohol, violent play, or used items. Put in a plastic bag and mark the bag with age and gender and place in the Every Child box in the narthex.

May you be blessed as you bless others.
Melinda Eide

HEARTS & HANDS NEWS/UPDATE

The following is a letter from Catherine Deley, Student/Family Liaison, Grants Pass High School:

The generosity shown towards our students made a big difference this holiday season. This was the best year yet! Eighty-one students received a lot of Christmas joy! Between gifts, Christmas dinner, donated gift cards, or dinner and a movie, our students were well taken care of. Everything was packed in duffle bags and backpacks for continued use.

None of that would have been possible without the amazing clubs, individual staff members, and community partners that gave so generously. Thank you on behalf of our happy students and extremely grateful parents/bonus parents - who have taken on some of these kiddos in some cases -for making this a most joyous season.

There were countless hours of shopping with angry customers when they saw my overflowing cart rolling up to one of two cash registers that was open, packing and struggling with duffle bag zippers that didn't want to cooperate and making lots of calls for delivery arrangements. Seeing happy students and families. . . .Priceless.

Catherine Deley,
Student/Family Liaison
Grants Pass School District #7

Friendship Bible Study Group News:

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!

Calvary's Children, Youth & Family

HIGH SCHOOL HANGOUT!

Sunday, February 11 @ 2:30
at Calvary Youth Room/Upper Room

Getting to know each other better, exploring our faith in conversation, playing fun games! Plenty of snacks!

DID SOMEONE SAY PIZZA?

HOSTED BY THE BOLDONS IN FEBRUARY...
TEXT LAURA OR SR. JENNIE SO WE HAVE A SNACK HEAD COUNT

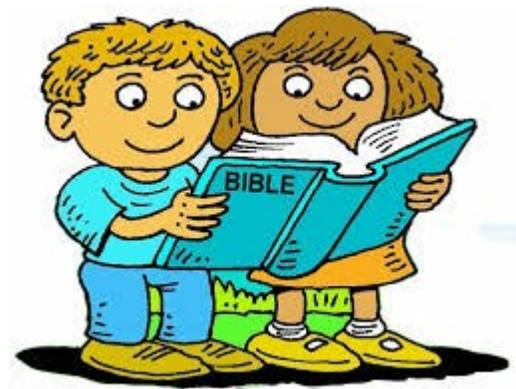


Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 18 during worship. We will be giving seven individuals: Some who are right at third grade, and a few older ones who we are helping catch up. This is a gift from the church as these young people are growing in their faith and developmentally ready for a more grown up readers' Bible. Please come and support them in this milestone along their faith journeys!

Sr. Jennie

Director of Discipleship



FRESH IDEAS ~ LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!!

it's

Prayer Time

A New Monthly Small Group Idea

What is prayer? Do I pray enough? Is there a right way to pray?

Come learn from each other new and different ways to talk to God!



Does this pique your interest?

Talk to Sister Jennie

it's

Coffee Time

Is there really any bad time for coffee?
Come to talk about and pray together...
and have coffee!

Thinking About Loss

Janine and I have a friend whose husband died two years ago. She is a strong, intelligent woman who is working, is very socially active and seems to be always travelling somewhere. She is living a very full life; yet, she has told us about how lonely and painful it is to be without her husband. The nights are the loneliest. I have come to realize that grief is not something to “get over,” or even, “move on from.” The loss of someone that we love will always be there. At first, that loss is all we can focus on. But eventually we build our lives around it. We can be active, productive, and even joyful—but that loss never goes away. Even many years later, we will revisit it. When we do, we might experience pain, loneliness, even guilt. But we will also find thanksgiving and, as Christians, the hope of reconnecting with that loved one.

Sitting in every pew of our congregation are people who have experienced loss. For some of us, the loss has been very recent, and that wound is very tender. For others of us, it has been a while, but we still remember. With that awareness, Sister Jennie, Pastor Jon, and I wonder if some of us would find a support group helpful. This would be a safe place to share with others who are also grieving a loss. I would facilitate this group; however, the structure and frequency of this group has yet to be determined. If you might be interested in engaging in this process with me, please let me know.

Such a group could be a way we can activate what Paul writes in 1Co. 1.4. To paraphrase, “God comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.”

Blessings,

Kirby (kirbynave@yahoo.com)

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite anyone to a Bunco Party on March 10th at 2:00 p.m. Come have some fun and enjoy some snacks! For more information, please contact Judi Bliss.



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

Calvary Walkers Small Group

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

Join us for walks at Reinhart Volunteer Park!
(Meet at parking lot by the pedestrian bridge)

Walking together...
Exploring the park...
Together, exploring our faith!

The next walk will be Saturday, February 24 @ 10am



COME FOR THE HIKE...
STAY FOR THE CONVERSATION...
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS + FAITH!

Calvary Hikers Small Group

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, February 3 @ 10am



Small Groups!



FEBRUARY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| Feb 3 | Diane and Larry Weaver |
| Feb 6 | Shirley and Ben Albertson |
| Feb 12 | Jack and JoAnne Nahmias |
| Feb 21 | Jim Sweeney and Diane Hoover |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

- | | |
|--------|-------------------|
| Feb 1 | Dave Bliss |
| Feb 1 | Harold McClarnon |
| Feb 6 | Glenda Bailey |
| Feb 8 | Don Hurd |
| Feb 9 | Kimberly White |
| Feb 9 | Joan Hathaway |
| Feb 10 | Charlene Jernigan |
| Feb 11 | Jan Brown |
| Feb 12 | Jill Cook |
| Feb 13 | Ken Stutts |
| Feb 16 | Marilyn Dierks |
| Feb 16 | Francis Sprain |
| Feb 18 | Ryan Tommerup |
| Feb 21 | Peter Angstadt |
| Feb 27 | Elaine Byrum |

Due to an inadvertent database error, KAY HUNZIKER'S BIRTHDAY was omitted last month. It is/was actually January 15th. Our sincere apologies, and a Happy very Belated Birthday to one of our beloved Countryside residents!



Serving the Lord in February

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
David & Tanya Haight

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Linda Johnson/Carol Wilson

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Gary Blom/Janine Nave

Pastor Jon/Sister Jennie
Jack & Joanne Nahmias

ALTAR GUILD

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

LECTORS

Crystal Zimmer
Joan Hathaway
Marcia Lembcke
Linda Johnson

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

VIDEO/SOUND

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

HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Barb Woodburn
Elaine Trump
Glenda Bailey
Laura Bolden
Jennifer Voris

USHERS

Ryan Thompson, Captain
Matt Eide
Diane Weaver
John Mann

ACOLYTES

Deserae Gindlesperger
Kimberly Gindlesperger
Kayden Gindlesperger
CJ Myers
Allie Myers

ALTAR FLOWERS PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:

Larry & Diane Weaver
Jack & Joanne Nahmias
Stutts Children
Anna & Valentina Gorskaya

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 12 pm LWF	3 10 am Calvary Hikers (Cathedral Hills)
4 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 6:30 pm Confirmation Night	5 10-11:30 am CBS	6	7 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 10 am Music & Worship mtg 2 pm P. Ed mtg	8 2 pm Countryside Service 4:30 Council meeting	9	10
11 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 2:30 pm High school Hangout (Calvary)	12 10-11:30 am CBS	13	14 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30 pm Choir ASH WED 5:30 pm Ser-	15 3 pm Fellowship meeting	16	17
18 9:30 Service 10:45 am Adult & Youth Sunday School 6:30 pm Confirmation Night	19 10-11:30 am CBS HOLIDAY (President's Day) OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 3:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Soup Supper	22	23 9 am—2pm Red Cross Blood Drive 	24 10 am Calvary Walkers (Volunteer Park)
25 9:30 am Service 10:45 am Adult Sunday School No Kids/Youth Sunday School 1:00 pm Ice Skating outing	26 10-11:30 am CBS	27	28 6 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Hearts & Hands 1 pm Friendship Bible Study 3:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Soup Supper	29 LEAP YEAR!!		



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