

August 2025



Calvary Lutheran Church

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SMALL

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, and welcome to our first newsletter in recent history!

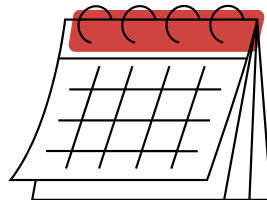
I do thank God for each of you and continue to ask your prayers for Calvary Lutheran, for our shared ministry, for myself and for my family. I have said it before, and I'll say it again, prayer is our weapon, our battle cry of faith, and it is effective. The first thing we should do in the morning is pray; the last thing we should do at night is pray, and in between? Pray. Which leads me to the Bible verses I pray guide my ministry among you and for you and in our community:

The first is Romans 12:12 *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* We rejoice in the sure hope of the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of our Lord, prefiguring our own victories over death. We are patient in the troubles, stresses, anxieties, and tribulations of this age, because Christ has inaugurated a new era of hope. And we are in prayer, as God the Holy Spirit speaks faith and that same confident hope in our hearts, that we are changed and made holy in our living and our actions.

The second verse I pray is a theme for my ministry is from John 3:30 *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* It isn't about me or my pride. It is about Jesus. What we do in our lives, in ministry, together as a congregation, individually as Christians, point to Jesus and to our faith, the faith given to us in baptism, the faith which brings salvation because Jesus completed his work on the cross and in his resurrection.

There are many other verses that would be appropriate verses for our ministry together, but I will start with those, and with our quarterly memory verse: Galatians 6:9 *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* The Holy Spirit is at work in you, in your midst, and around you. We persevere in joyful hope, together, with God's graces and blessings.

In Christ,
Pastor David Small



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars to wear Red on Sunday, October 26th to celebrate the Reformation!



SHOPRITE 1 MILE WALK/5K SIGN UP

Fast or Slow. Run or Walk- it doesn't matter!
We want you to join us on September 1st to
help STAMP OUT HUNGER

Scan the QR code to join the Calvary team!



COUNCIL CORNER

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Calvary's first newsletter! On behalf of our church council, I'd like to provide you with updates on certain topics of importance to our church.

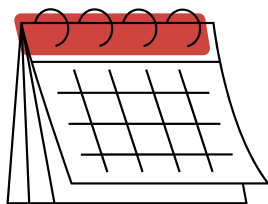
On a positive note, we are completing our final refurbishment work repairing and upgrading our lower-level Fellowship Hall, following the April 2024 flood. This Hall will now afford us with a beautiful (essentially new) space for fellowship. In addition, I'm happy to report that our church website was recently updated and upgraded, with new, expanded information. Take a look at the new, more current format. Also, on behalf of Council I want to thank everyone who has donated their time, talent and treasure over the past year to help us upgrade and improve our church facilities. Of particular note was the very successful, generous contributions in response to our facility fund drive, which provided for new railings, doors, bathroom fixtures, etc. Building on this success, Council has prepared a list of additional facility upgrades that will further improve the churches appearance, upkeep and functionality. Council will continue to explore options for funding of these improvements on a priority basis.

Notwithstanding the above, I need to convey to you that our church is presently facing an operating budget challenge. While our 2024 budget finished in positive territory, year-to-date in 2025, we are facing challenges to meeting our operating budget needs. Council will continue to seek ways to reverse this projected trend, and with everyone's help, I feel confident this can be turned around by year's end.

Council was recently informed that our insurance company does not intend to renew our current church policy, so we are diligently seeking other companies, with a new contract required by 9/1/25. I am confident that through the efforts of Carol Dennis and others, a new policy will be written for us by then.

There are many additional positive happenings at Calvary not mentioned above, which makes me proud to serve in my capacity for the church. With everyone's help I know we can continue to meet our challenges and be a positive force in our community.

Thanks,
Dave Potts, Pres. Council

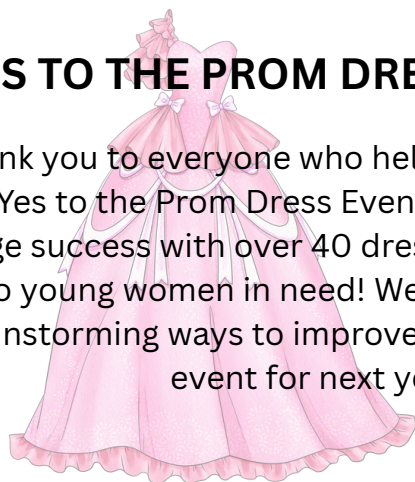


SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 7th at 9am!

SAY YES TO THE PROM DRESS

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with our Say Yes to the Prom Dress Event!! It was a huge success with over 40 dresses given to young women in need! We are already brainstorming ways to improve the event for next year!

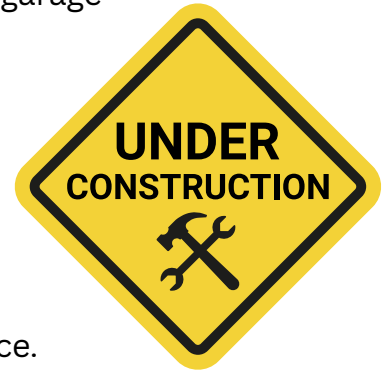


TRUSTEE AND PROPERTY MINISTRIES

GOD has truly blessed our Calvary Lutheran Church property and trustee ministries in 2024/25 to include many significant accomplishments.

The highlights include

- Complete renovation of our basement and LCAC classrooms to our new fellowship hall,
- Replacement of the roofs on the church, parsonage and detached garage
- Entrance doors are in progress of being replaced
- HVAC upgrades and repair
- Sale of LCAC pre-school items
- Toilet replacements in the upstairs church
- New main entrance handrail installed
- Outside drainage tile cleaning
- Chimney repairs at the parsonage
- Many other miscellaneous repairs and ongoing outside maintenance.



2025 and on will continue to present many opportunities for us as stewards for GOD's church.

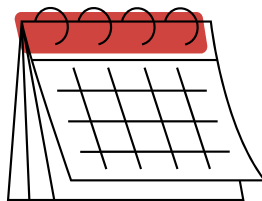
We look forward to many large and small projects that will beautify and improve our church as a welcoming place for all who enter through our doors. Outside areas include landscaping and memorial garden maintenance opportunities, church exterior signage repair and renovations, side and back railing repair, parking lot improvements for lighting and asphalt, and interior painting and cleaning opportunities inside the church.

We ask for your continued prayers, financial support and volunteerism in any way as we continue the mission of Christ at Calvary.

Thank-you
The Trustees

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to join the prayer chain or add a prayer to it, please contact Rose Purdie at 609-458-7288 or email office@calvary-medford.org



FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

Please join us for our monthly Fellowship Dinners

August 17- BBQ

September 21- Back-to-School (favorite school lunch)

October 19- Oktoberfest (German dishes)

November 16- Chili Cookoff



DICKENS FESTIVAL

Calvary will once again host a booth at the Dickens Festival in Medford on December 6th. Look for more information in the bulletin about how you can be involved!



A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Our church is preparing (ready for this) A Talent Show!
Yes, we need you and all members of Calvary to participate.



So what does a talent show have to do with stewardship? Everything! You see, good stewardship is much more than giving money to our beloved church: it's giving of yourself, your abilities, your skills, your work experience, your hobbies, your interests and your friendships in and out of church.

Let me give a few possible examples of how you can turn your talent and abilities into good stewardship.

- Let's say you have an interest in cooking or baking: now let's say a special occasion or activity is taking place at church and snacks are needed, could you be called upon to help?
- Let's say some wall in the church building needs painting: could you offer to come and paint?
- Let's say you have medical training (nurse, EMT, doctor, etc) would you be willing to participate in a parish nursing program? How? Let's say as an example, a church member is recovering from a medical procedure and needs assistance in getting back into Sunday worship. With your experience could you help?
- Let's say you are mostly house bound, could you make a few phone calls to others who are part of our shut-ins list, or call a few members to remind them of an up-coming voters meeting? In other words, you can help Calvary without leaving your home. Think of it as a phone ministry.
- Let's say you enjoy gardening, would you be able to come over and help tend our church's flower beds? Could it be that some visitors coming to Calvary do actually "judge a book by its cover?"
- Let's say you want to use or improve your riding lawnmower skills or just learn from the pros: we have lots of lawns to practice on. By the way, men and women are welcome to participate.
- Let's say you're a home handy person: there are always jobs waiting to be done in our building. Neglected small jobs often turn into big expensive repairs.
- Let's say you have a friend or neighbor that would want to help; feel free to invite them to help. Calvary is a friendly place: let's show-'em who we are.

Stewardship service possibilities are endless!

So, does Jesus talk about a talent show in the Bible? Check out Matthew 25:14-30. We need your help, your participation, your talent. Christ will show you in abundance.





Christian Caring Center-

- Food Collection 2nd Sunday of the Month
- Donation bin is in the Narthex

Thrivent-

- Use your Thrivent Action Fund to help with church outreach opportunities
- Ask Pastor Small for more information

Church Reader-

- Sign-up in the Narthex

Interested in Becoming a Member

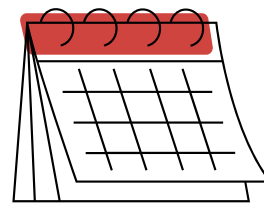
Contact the church office at office@calvary-medford.org or speak with Pastor Small about becoming a member of Calvary



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

9am Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
10am Worship

Holy Communion is typically celebrated
on the 2nd and 4th Sunday



UPCOMING DATES

AUGUST

- 10th Communion Sunday
- 17th Fellowship Luncheon
- 24th Communion Sunday

SEPTEMBER

- 1st Shoprite 1 Milewalk/5K Run
- 7th Sunday School/Adult Bible Class resume
- 14th Holy Cross/Communion Sunday
- 21st Communion Sunday

OCTOBER

- 12th Communion Sunday
- 26th Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 2nd All Saints' Day/Communion Sunday
- 23rd Last Sunday of the Church year/Communion Sunday
- 29th Decorate church for Christmas
- 30th Advent Begins

DECEMBER

- 6th Dickens Festival

QUARTERLY MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

