

Calvary Communicator



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We're on the Web!
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Check for all church events

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOSH	2
HANNAH'S DESK	3
ELDER'S CORNER	4
EVANGELISM/HOSPITALITY	5
TOGETHER IN MISSION	6
PRAYER REQUEST	7
FEBRUARY CALENDAR	8
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	9
NETWORK OF LIFE	
KIDS PAGE	10
FEBRUARY WORDSEARCH	11

Connecting People to the Love of Jesus

Calvary Lutheran Church invites you to explore the love of Jesus. We offer many ways to connect with the love of Jesus whether it is through traditional or contemporary worship, Christian education or church and community ministries. We invite you to be a part of the journey to everlasting life and to know and experience the loving, saving grace of God.

Calvary Worship Times Opportunities for Worship

Sunday - 8:30 am

Sunday - 11:00 am

Monday - 6:30 pm

Office Hours

M-TH 8 am - 4 pm

Friday

9 am - 2 pm

Elected officers, staff, and administration also need a time to worship, receive the Lord's Supper, and study God's Word over the weekend. Please allow them to do that and refrain from business discussions during those spiritually edifying times. Feel free to write a note, send an email, leave a message, visit the office during office hours, or otherwise let an Elder know of your needs and concerns.

From the
Pastor's
Desk



Psalm 63

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;

my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

⁶ when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life

shall go down into the depths of the earth;

¹⁰ they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be a portion for jackals.

¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God;
all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

This is a rough time of year. It is cold and dreary. It is a dark and desolate place. Not too unlike the wilderness that David was lost in when he wrote this Psalm. Well, maybe, it was not -4

degrees like was today. Maybe there was not any snow. Yet it was still barren wilderness and David felt lost.

I do not blame you at all for feeling lost or distressed during this time of year. We certainly have a lot of reasons to feel that way. But just like David, we have one place to turn and that is to the Lord.

I love his language. David recognizes that he is hot and thirsty. He is weary and in need of rest. In his need, David turns to the Lord. It is in the Lord that he is satisfied. That just like an empty stomach is satisfied after a Thanksgiving feast, David's soul is satisfied by the love and presence of God.

David knows that God is with him. He knows that God is leading him the empty wilderness. That God is leading him to the comfort of His eternal throne.

God is doing the same for you. Even as we navigate the bitter cold of winter, God is with you to satisfy you with the warmth of His presence. Even as you navigate illness and surgery, God is with you to satisfy you with His health and healing. Even as we navigate the utter despair of our sins, God is with you to satisfy you with bitter sufferings and death of His son, Jesus. God is with you.

Set your sights on God. Seek Him. Let your soul thirst for His love. In God alone, you will be satisfied.

In the Love of Jesus, our precious savior,

Pastor Josh

Hannah's Desk

Dear Calvary Family,

Happy February! As we step into the month of love, it's a great time to reflect on God's immense love for us, and how we can share that love with others. The Bible reminds us in 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." This verse is a beautiful reminder that our ability to love others stems directly from God's unwavering love for us.

As we move through the month, I encourage each of you to consider how you can show love in your everyday actions—whether through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or spending time with those who need it most. Love isn't always grand gestures; sometimes, it's the little things that make the biggest difference.

Upcoming Events

Drop-off Movie Night – February 14th

On Valentine's Day, we will host a fun and relaxing Drop-off Movie Night from 5:30-8:00 PM for children. This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy a movie and snacks at the church.

Please sign up on my desk to reserve a spot for your child. I also need volunteers to help with the event, so if you're available, I would love to have you pitch in!

Middle School Bible Study – February 16th

Middle School students, join us for Bible study on February 16th at 6:30 PM. We'll dive deeper into God's Word and have a time of fellowship. It's always a fun and engaging time, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Barnabas Groups – Sign Up Now!

If you haven't already, there's still time to sign up for Barnabas Groups—our small group ministry focused on encouraging one another in Christ's love. These groups meet regularly to share prayer, support, and fellowship. We have a Saturday morning group and a Thursday evening group to accommodate different schedules. Please sign up on the bulletin board and find the group that best fits you. We'd love for you to join us as we grow together in faith.

Vacation Notice

Pastor and I will be away from February 21st-27th for my brother's wedding. Please keep us in your prayers for safe travels and a joyous celebration with family.

As always, thank you for your continued support and participation in the ministry here at Calvary. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Let's make this February a month full of love, joy, and service to one another!

In Christ's Love,

Hannah Obermann

Elder's Corner by John Fasnacht

Gods Hand in Celebrating My Parents 70th Wedding Anniversary

Big event for my family this month - the celebration of my parents 70th wedding anniversary! I thank God for the many blessings over those 70 years, and of course for continued blessings.

The preparation work for the celebration has caused me to reflect on God's work over those years. There have been many ups and downs, and God certainly works in mysterious ways.

As Christians, we have faith that He is present in ALL things, guiding the way with His perfect will. Sometimes His will is revealed to us. Other times, it may not be obvious, and we are sometimes left with "heaven questions". In Proverbs 3:5-6 we learn to 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight'.

Growing up, my siblings and I knew very little about our parents' childhoods and ancestry, so we decided to explore. We quickly learned that we are lucky to be alive. Well not lucky, but fortunate by the grace of God.

We learned that my ancestors immigrated during the 1800s from Germany and Ireland (dad's side) and Poland and Slovakia (mom's side). These families likely experienced much poverty, political upheaval, and hunger during the post-Napolean era, and all ended up in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Coincidence? I doubt it. My bet is on God's plan.

Both parents had very tough childhoods with their parents dying at early ages and them being placed with foster care, siblings, Catholic charities, State care facilities and the like. I always found it interesting that they spoke little of it and never complained. Not many people come out of such upbringings well. I thank God for watching over them, and I pray that He would help others in those types of situations as well.

And how did they meet? A bizarre encounter at a local hospital of all places. Mom worked in the cafeteria and dad did lawn care, both as teenagers, with mom living in a boarding house and dad at a Catholic charity. They had to individually support themselves. They dated for some time before getting married. My dad eventually enlisted in the Army, which ultimately took them to many locations across the United States and Germany.

Here they are 70 years later, having had 6 children, and blessed with 10 grandchildren and many great grandchildren. The journey continues one day at a time - who knows what else is in front of us all, before Jesus brings us all Home.

I read that on average, only 1 in 1000 marriages last 70 years. I'm not sure how that statistic was arrived at, but nonetheless, it's a rare event and one to be celebrated. So, here's what I take from all of this - live each day and be thankful for and put to good use the blessings that God has given us. Try to understand what you can, and don't be anxious in trying to figure everything out; God will reveal these things to us in His perfect way.

Evangelism/Hospitality & Fellowship Update

February is often referred to as the "Love" month because of Valentine's Day. But every month is a "Love" month because of God's constant and unconditional love for His children. There is nothing we do to earn it. He gave it freely to each of us and it gives Him joy to see us love and care for others.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us...Ephesians 5:1-2

College & Military Blessing Boxes will be packaged up and mailed on February 10. Now's the time to make your delicious cookies so we can share a touch of home with them. Please place 4-6 cookies, depending on size, in a zip lock baggie. These will be added to the snack donations that we continue to receive. Help is needed to sort and pack items on Monday, February 10 at 9:30 in the Community Center.

Kitchen/Church cleanup help needed on Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 AM. There is a lot of dust from our Lift construction. Purg-ing may also take place. Please get items or-ganized in large storage closet.

Shopping Cart Donations- Please help fill our cart with soups and crackers for winter along with other non-perishable items and personal items such as Kleenex, T. paper, personal hygiene items. Thanks for support-ing Loves & Fishes and our neighbors.

Coming up-

Lent begins March 5 with mid-week service and Meager Meals begin March 12.

CELC Craft Fair will be on March 29. Contact Audrey to help.

Easter Egg hunt will be on April 12. Contact Hannah to help.

Palm Sunday Breakfast will be on April 13 Contact Lori to help.

Our next Evangelism Meeting will be Wednesday, February 5 at 6:30 in the Wisteria Room.

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is blessed to have knitters and crocheters with the talent to create shawls that will bring comfort and joy to the person who receives it.

As the shawl is being worked on, prayers are said for the recipient asking for God's blessings of healing, peace, comfort and love and reminding them that God is always with them. Before shawls are given away, they are blessed by Pastor Josh.

Anytime you want to give a shawl to someone or have any questions, speak to Ruth Greer, Lori Gulaskey or Sue Kemper.

Here are a few notes received recently: "Thank you so much for gifting me the prayer shawl. It has provided me with much comfort as I recover from surgery. I can feel the love and prayers that went into making it. God's Blessings, Leslie P"

"Thank you so much for your kindness and your many blessings. Love, Nancy E"

Together In Mission

Every year that we've served on staff with Cru Jenn and I discuss what our family's plan will be for Winter Conference. Will we go down as a family? Will I go to the conference on my own? We plan for how we will get down there and when we will have to leave extended family that we are visiting for Christmas. It always feels like it's too early to be leaving as I need to report down to the conference by December 27th. Which usually means we start traveling on December 26th. So over the years, you can imagine that this particular rhythm of life of leaving family just after Christmas can be wearisome. It's not fun to leave extended family. We don't usually look forward the packing/repacking and travel that's involved. And if we're honest, we might prefer to have our own post-Christmas plans rather than going to Cru's Winter Conference. And yet, every year, God uses Winter Conference to draw students to Himself for the first time, build them up in their faith and mobilize them on mission trips. This year was no different. The same familiar hesitations came up in my own heart before the conference but also the same joy after getting to see God work. This year, I went solo, leaving Jenn and the rest of the family to get extra time with my in-laws.



Our group at NYE party at Cru's Winter Conference in DC

For me, being at Winter Conference this year was nostalgic. We happened to be at the same exact hotel we were in when I was a senior in college. Not only that, one main speaker, Roger Hershey, and the emcee, Shelby Abbott, were the same when I was a student. (which is now 20+ years ago!) Yet, God did new and exciting things at the conference. Part of my role at the conference was to recruit toward the Puerto Rico Summer mission that I'm helping to lead. While there I was able to get the contact information of 32 students who showed interest and so far we've had 20 students begin applications to join us!

The students that we brought from our schools had a blast. It was so fun to get a chance to hang out with them and hear what

the Lord was doing in their lives. I was proud of one particular student who opened up to others about a mental health struggle he'd been having. Several of our students engaged in evangelism for the first time during the day of outreach. Others decided to take steps of faith by committing read their Bibles more regularly, to serve/lead in their local Cru movements or go on a summer mission trip this summer. I'm excited to say that 4 of our students are highly considering joining us for the Puerto Rico Summer Mission this summer, which would be awesome!

Another year, another Winter Conference; Same God doing new things. Praise Him for how He works! And thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry!

Joel + Jenn


FEBRUARY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1
Barnabas
Group A


<p><i>2</i> 8:30 Communion 9:45 Fellowship/SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 H.S Bible Study 7:00 Financial Peace</p>	<p><i>3</i> 6:30 Worship</p>	<p><i>4</i> 10:00 LBS</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i> 7:00 Elders</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i> 8:00 MBS</p>
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<p><i>9</i> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Bible Study/SS 11:00 Communion 5:30 H.S. Bible Study 7:00 Financial Peace</p>	<p><i>10</i> 6:30 Communion Pack & Ship Military/College Boxes</p>	<p><i>11</i> 10:00 LBS</p>	<p><i>12</i> Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i> Movie Night 5:30</p>	<p><i>15</i> Newsletter Deadline</p>
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<p><i>16</i> 8:30 Communion 9:45 Bible Study/SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 H.S. Bible Study 6:30 M.S. Bible Study 7:00 Financial Peace</p>	<p><i>17</i> 6:30 Worship President' Day (office & school closed)</p>	<p><i>18</i> 10:00 LBS</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i> 6:30 Council</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> 8:00 MBS</p>
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<p><i>23</i> 8:30 Worship 9:45 SS 11:00 Communion</p>	<p><i>24</i> 6:30 Communion</p>	<p><i>25</i> 10:00 LBS</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
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KIDS PAGE



“YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF TOMORROW
BY EVADING IT TODAY.”
— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Help the hearts to meet in the middle of the maze.

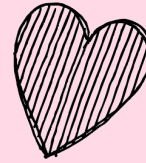


HAPPY
GROUNDHOG
DAY





Valentine's Day Word Search



A word search grid shaped like a heart, containing the following letters:

		B	Z							M	W								
		M	A	R	D					S	H	U	G						
	I	E	L	O	V	E				O	N	W	F	H	J				
J	P	H	C	S	W	K	B			D	E	G	G	E	A	T	Q		
F	I	S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T	L	B	E	Y	D			
O	N	G	P	S	M	E	R	M	N	W	H	G	R	H	T	J			
Q	K	S	X	J	B	R	Q	C	F	X	E	M	U	O	W	A			
W	T	C	A	N	D	Y	D	H	Y	C	A	B	A	N	D	F			
	Y	R	B	H	L	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	R	G	I				
	C	U	P	I	D	J	R	C	H	J	T	K	Y	O	T				
		A	G	Y	K	Q	U	O	V	L	E	S	U	Q					
		B	R	P	L	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E					
			Z	D	A	M	P	A	E	W	A	J	Y						
				S	N	Q	R	T	B	A	G	T							
					T	U	C	E	R	C	H								
						X	V	Z	D	Z									
							X	R	E										
								I											

LOVE
CHOCOLATE
PINK
VALENTINE
ROSES

CUPID
FEBRUARY
RED
HUG
FLOWERS

CANDY
HEART
SWEETHEART
CARD
SWEET