



Calvary
lutheran church

invite • inspire • equip • engage

Volume XVII, Issue I
January 2017

The Caller



A Friendly Church

Dear Calvary Members:

Happy New Year! Can you believe it's 2017?!

What better time than a new year, for all of us to consider new ways for our congregation to be open and welcoming to newcomers?

For the past several months your Council has been working hard to read, discuss, and discern how Calvary can be a gracious space for new people. In part we are having this conversation because it is apparent that we are an aging congregation that struggles to attract and keep younger adults and families. The younger families and adults we have here already are wonderful people, but we can't expect them to be the only reason that newcomers might want to join us again. So why not consider some very practical ideas about how each of us can help to make Calvary an inviting place for visitors to return?



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Important Dates

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29th

Please read this article with yourself in mind. Ask yourself, How can I help make welcome happen? What concrete action can I take to encourage newcomers' continued presence with us here at Calvary? How might my prayers affect the growth we hope for in members? Your small acts of love will help others to see Calvary as a hospitable and safe place to worship and practice their faith.

May God give us the courage and the will to claim this new future for ourselves.

Your sister in ministry,



Pastor Lori

A Letter to Churches Seeking New Members

My husband and I moved to the city a few years ago and have been “between churches.” We’ve been to visit quite a few of your churches and have some observations you may find helpful in encouraging more new members:

No public humiliation. Please don’t make us stand in a room full of total strangers and introduce ourselves. We want to be anonymous since we’re not sure we want to see you again; and, frankly, we’re still seeing other churches. It’s not you; it’s us. We just don’t know you very well yet.

Acknowledge we exist. Being anonymous is not the same as being invisible. We’re probably going to be a little confused about what to do and where to go, so having someone greet us and ask if we have questions is most appreciated. Plus, if you act like we’re not there, we start to think we might as well not be there.

Put it in writing. Spell out *everything* we need to know in the bulletin: when to sit or stand, where to find the words. Even if you have one of those groovy new digital displays, include in the bulletin what will and won’t be on the screen.

No stalking. Please don’t chase us down the street to tell us you were glad to see us. When you act like it’s a miracle of God that you have visitors, it freaks us out. We may or may not fill out an information card, but that doesn’t mean we don’t like you. It may just mean we found everything we needed on your website.

a friendly “nice to
see you again”
makes us feel like you
noticed we were there

Remember us. You get a gold star if we come back and you remember our names, but just a friendly “nice to see you again” makes us feel like you noticed we were there.

Have a website. If you don’t have a website, we won’t be coming to your church. That alone tells us you aren’t ready for new people. There is simply no excuse not to have one.

When, where, what. There are basically three things we want to know when we come to your website; when your worship services are held, where you are located, and what you believe. And we really like to see all three on the home page, but at least make them SUPER easy to find and no more than one click away. If you are having special services like Christmas Eve (when visitors like us are likely to attend), please put those special worship times on the home page. We have encountered any number of church websites that seem to be more interested in looking pretty than actually being useful. You don't have to be fancy to get what we need to decide whether to come visit.

Tell us what you really believe. Be proud of what you believe and spell it out on your website. Progressive? Great! Theologically conservative? Super! But what do those things mean in the life of your community? It's really helpful before we show up waving rainbow flags to know that you'll be waving our rainbow flags to know that you'll be petitioning for an Intelligent Design curriculum in the local schools. If that is your belief, wonderful, but we both know we're not going to be a good fit there, so let's save each other the frustration. We'll find out soon enough, so let's get that awkward part out of the way online. There is someone out there who would love to find a community like yours if only they knew it existed.

Finding a new church home is not always easy, especially if the one you came from was such an important part of your lives. We were very, very close to our previous faith community; it's hard to think of anywhere else coming close. Or maybe we've never been to church, and we want to explore that spiritual side for the first time; but it's all so new and confusing. Or perhaps we're broken and need a place where we can be broken, and it's still okay.

Any number of the things that might bring us to your doorstep can make it hard to do much more than show up, sit quietly in the back, and sneak out afterward. But that's the beautiful thing about church communities—they bring new people into your life, they can open your heart and mind to new experiences, they can mend those deepest of wounds, and affirm your relationship with God. With all that on the line, don't let the little things mentioned above get in the way of connecting people to the Good News.

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This article is by Lyda K. Haws and originally appeared in Leading Ideas, April 25, 2012. Used by permission.

You can also read *50 Ways to Welcome New People* from The Lewis Center for Church Leadership at https://www.churchleadership.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/50_Ways_to_Build_Strength_in_Welcoming_New_People.pdf

Outreach

Red Wagon Spotlight: Homeless Humans of Tacoma



HOMELESS
HUMANS
OF TACOMA

Our Red Wagon rolls on Sunday, January 8th for Homeless Humans of Tacoma. Launched by Patti Ramos in March 2016, Homeless Humans of Tacoma meets the needs of the homeless in our neighboring city of Tacoma. You can follow them on Facebook [at www.facebook.com/homelesshumans.help](http://www.facebook.com/homelesshumans.help).

Donation Requests:

- ◆ \$5-10 gift cards: McDonald's, Jack in the Box, KFC, Fred Meyer, Kmart, Walmart, Starbucks
- ◆ Cleaning wipes (resealable, individual size)
- ◆ Hand warmers (available at dollar stores)
- ◆ Flashlights and batteries
- ◆ Safety whistles
- ◆ Gatorade
- ◆ Electrolyte or vitamin water
- ◆ Large and X-Large men's hoodies (clean and gently worn)



Financial donations will be forwarded to Homeless Humans of Tacoma to buy the most needed items. Please note that the only clothing donations needed are men's hoodies.



If you have clothes you would like to donate in the new year, the Federal Way Multi-Service Center is seeking donations.



Upcoming Outreach Events

Way of Companionship Workshop

Working Well with the Homeless



Sunday, February 12, 2017

1:00—4:00 p.m.

There is no cost to attend. Donations accepted.

Calvary Lutheran Church

2415 S. 320th Street

Federal Way, WA 98003

Register by signing up in Calvary's Narthex, calling the office at 253.839.0344 or online at <http://alturl.com/zeeze>.

On Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 P.M., Calvary will be hosting *Neighbors in Faith*, a forum encouraging neighborly relationships between Christians and Muslims. Learn more about Neighbors in Faith at neighborsinfaith.org.

Women's Ministries



Naomi Circle

Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 A.M.
Carolyn Davis Home

Contact: Madeline Yamada



LWR Quilting Ministry

Monday, January 9th at 10:00 A.M.
Learning Center #1

Contacts: Corky Black or Madeline Yamada

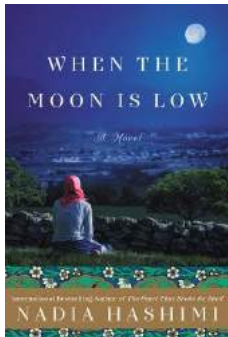


Lunch Bunch

Thursday, January 19th, 11:30 A.M.
Olive Garden
35030 Enchanted Pkwy S, Federal Way, WA 98003

Contact: Mary Helen Amberson

Book Clubs



Book Club

Open to men and women interested in exploring literature together.

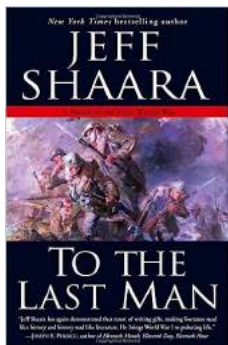
January Meeting: Monday, January 23rd at 7:00 P.M. in the Library

January Book: [*When the Moon is Low*](#) by Nadia Hashimi

February Meeting: Monday, February 27th at 7:00 P.M. in the Library

February Book: [*She Walks These Hills*](#) by Sheryl McCrumb

Contact: Gail Pierson



Men's Book Club

January Meeting: Thursday, January 12th at 1:30 P.M. in LC #1.

January Book: [*To the Last Man: A Novel of the First World War*](#) by Jeff Shaara

February Meeting: Thursday, February 9th at 1:30 P.M. in the Library

February Book: [*John Adams*](#) by David McCullough

Contact: Larry Bengtson, Bill Johnson

Bible Studies

Sunday Forum

Sundays at 10:15 A.M. in the Social Hall

Resumes Sunday, January 8th

January 8th	<i>Preventing Internet Fraud</i>
January 15th	<i>Sanctuary with Kyle Franklin</i>
January 22nd	<i>Annual Meeting Primer: Budget Preview & Internship Conversation</i>

Facilitator: Varies

Tuesday Bible Study

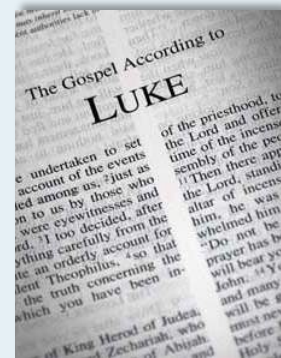
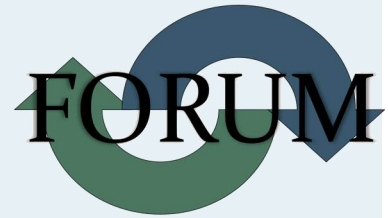
Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. in LC #1

Resumes Tuesday, January 10th

This weekly Bible Study continues a study of the Gospel of Luke

January meeting dates: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, and 1/31

Facilitators: Pastor Lori Cornell, Intern Pastor Jake Schumacher



Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M. in Pastor's Office

Resume Wednesday, January 11th

A weekly discussion of the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and how they apply to our lives today.

January meeting dates: 1/11, 1/18, and 1/25

Facilitators: Pastor Lori Cornell, Intern Pastor Jake Schumacher



Men's Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:00 A.M.

The men are in the midst of study from The Great Courses, [*Apocalypse: Controversies and Meaning Western History*](#).

January 5th	Poverty Bay Café, 1108 S. 322nd Place, Federal Way 98003
January 12th	LC #2
January 19th	LC #2
January 26th	LC #2

Facilitator: Bill Johnson



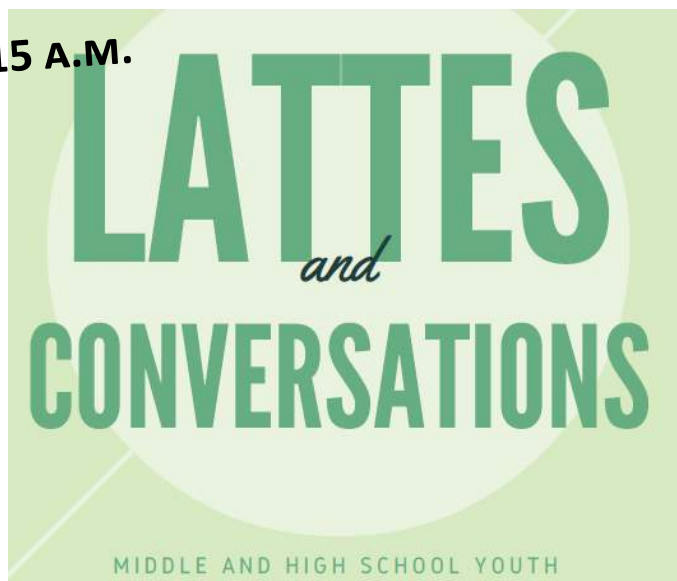
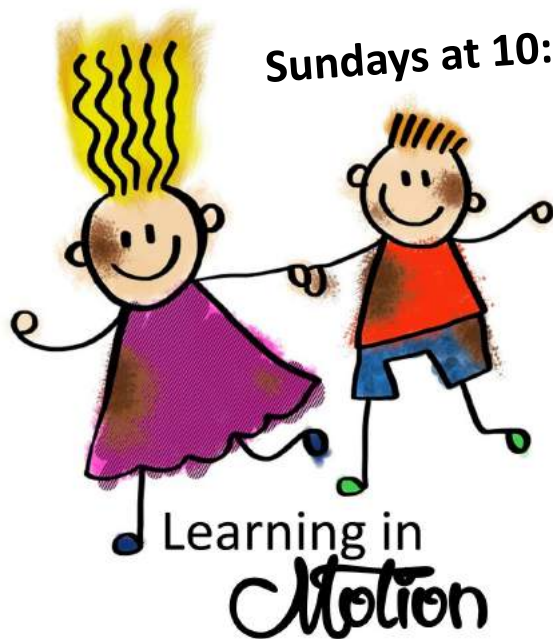
Intergenerational Ministries



There are no Faith Education activities on Sunday, January 1st or on Sunday, January 29th. There is a single worship service at 10:00 A.M. on each of these dates.

On Sunday, January 8th, Faith Education resumes. All students—PreK through High School—will gather in LC #1 to pack sack lunches for residents of the Reach Out Homeless Shelter.

Learning in Motion (PreK to 5th Grade) will meet at 10:15 A.M. in LC #2 on Sundays, January 15th & 22nd.



Confirmation resumes on Thursday, January 5th and will be held every Thursday at 6:30 P.M. in the Library.

On Thursday, January 12th at 8:00 P.M. Confirmation & FLY will be serving dinner for our Reach Out Homeless Shelter residents.

Coffee Shop Hours with Intern Pastor Jake



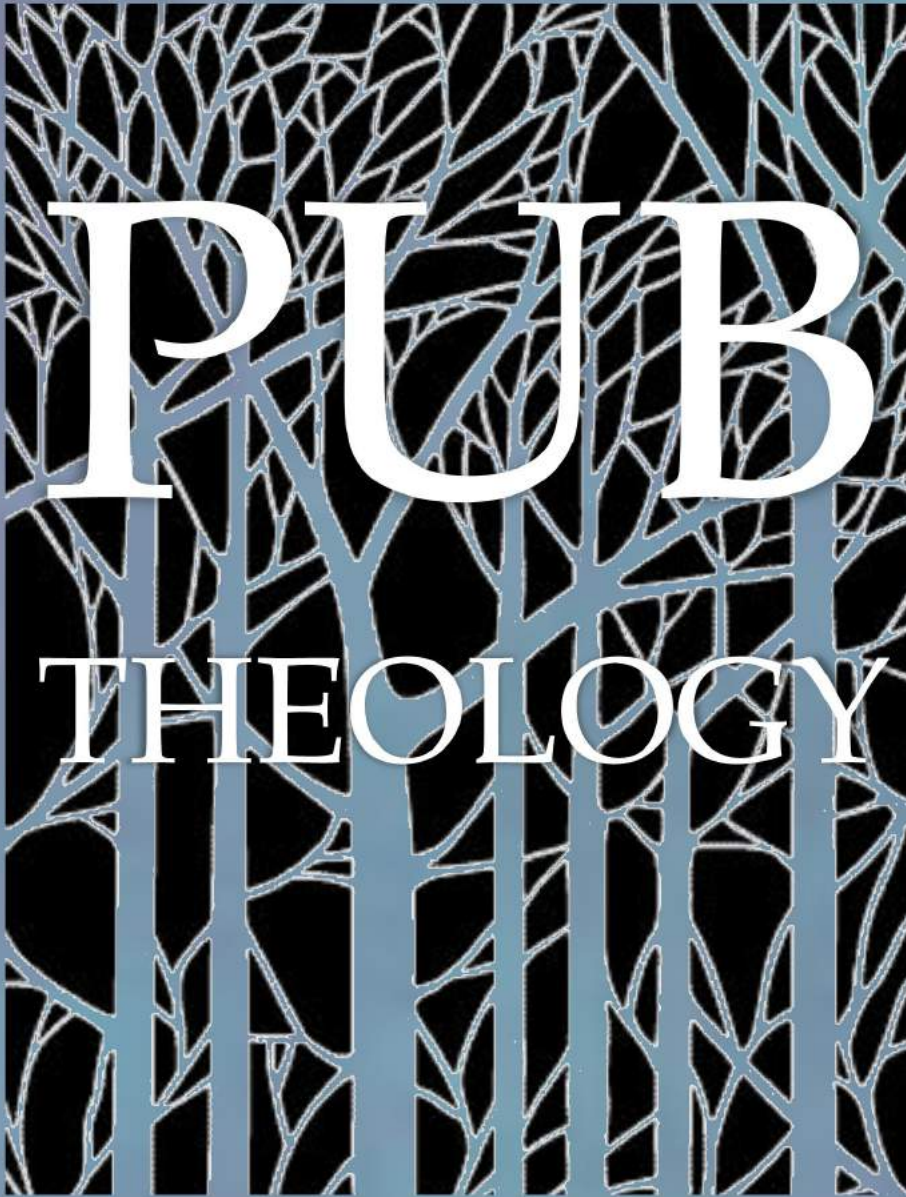
Thursdays
10:00-Noon



Young Adult Ministries
presents
*Ice Skating
at Kent Valley Ice*

on Sunday, January 22nd

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PUB THEOLOGY

January 27th ♦ February 24th

4th Friday of the Month at 6:30 PM
Billy McHale's Restaurant (Federal Way)

Calvary Family & Milestones

Prayers for Members with Ongoing Health Issues

Vivian Anderson	Janet Freeman-Daily
Marion Beck	Paula HeideIman
Virginia Benson	Jeanne Hotchkiss
Marsha Case	Harold & Ardy Jobse
John & Pat Corliss	Joann Jones
Yvonne Eagan	Marlise Ross
Carrie Ferguson	Grace Schwartz

Baptismal Anniversaries

Denise Achman	Ben Johnson
Anna Chamberlain	Joshua Johnson
Lin Fant	Katherine Peterson
Mike Fant	Torie Peterson
Paula HeideIman	Emily Thoreson
Carolyn Hillis	Desamu Thorpe

Birthdays

- 1 Grace Huffman
- 3 Charlotte Warner
- 3 Tony Willing
- 6 Dave Frost
- 7 Ellen Gaebe
- 7 Holly Fisher
- 9 Martha Smith
- 10 Trent Fernandez
- 11 Sue Thoreson
- 15 Jean Schiedinger
- 16 Nellie Gordon
- 16 Curtis Hogenson
- 16 Marjorie Lyman
- 18 Janet Vahala
- 20 Randy Baeth
- 20 Roger Lundeen
- 21 Jacob Thoreson
- 24 Lin Fant
- 24 Jake Schumacher
- 27 Ardy Jobse
- 30 Nancy Fallon

Grounds Work Party will be held on Saturday,
January 7th at 9:00 a.m. Bring your work gloves!

Choir Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 12th
at 6:00 P.M. (Bell Choir) and 7:15 P.M. (Calvary Choir).
Calvary Choir will serve in worship on Sunday, January 15th.

Thank You to everyone who gave Christmas gifts to the
staff! It was generous and much appreciated. ~Pastor Lori,
Rachel, and Sarah

Additionally, Thank You for Jake & Mandy.

“We want to thank the congregation for the gift cards that we
received this Christmas, along with the many gifts and cards
from individual members. We have felt a warm welcome ever
since we walked into these doors. Thank you for all you do!”



*The Serving in Worship Schedule was not available at the time of publication.
It will be e-mailed separately in the (relatively) near future.*

January 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Lessons & Carols Worship/Sanctuary	2 9:00 AM Staff Mtg/Work Room 7:00 PM Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Support Group/Fireside Room	3 7:00 PM Manage ment Team/WkRm	4	5 8:00 AM Men's Bible St/Poverty Bay Cafe 10:00 AM Coffee with Intern/ Poverty Bay Cafe 6:30 PM Confirm ation/Library	6	7 9:00 AM Grounds Work Party 10:00 AM Naomi Circle/Carolyn Davis Home
8 9:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion/ Sanctuary 10:15 AM All Youth Packing Sack Lunches/LC #1 10:15 AM Forum/Social Hall 11:15 AM Deeper Life/ Communion/Great Room 12:45 PM LEGS Meeting/ LC #1	9 9:00 AM Staff Mtg/Work Room 10:00 AM LWR Quilting Group/ LC #1 6:30 PM CYFM Team Mtg/Library 6:30 PM Deeper Life Band Rehearsal/Great Room 7:00 PM Family & Friends Mental Health Support Group/Fireside Room	10 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study/LC#1 7:00 PM Church Council/LC #1	11 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study/Pastor's Office	12 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study/LC #2 10:00 AM Coffee with Intern/ Poverty Bay Cafe 1:30 PM Men's Book Club/LC #1 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Loft 6:30 PM Confirm ation/Library 7:15 PM Calvary Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 8:00 PM FLY- Serve Reach Out Dinner	13	14
15 9:00 AM Traditional Wor- ship/Communion/Sanctuary 10:15 AM Faith Education 11:15 AM Deeper Life/ Communion/Great Room	16 9:00 AM Staff Mtg/Work Room 6:30 PM Deeper Life Band Rehearsal/Great Room	17 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study/LC#1 7:00 PM Building & Grounds Teams/ LC #1	18 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study/Pastor's Office	19 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study/LC #2 10:00 AM Coffee with Intern/ Poverty Bay Cafe 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch/Olive Garden 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Loft 6:30 PM Confirm ation/Library 7:15 PM Calvary Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	20	21
22 9:00 AM Traditional Wor- ship/Communion/Sanctuary 10:15 AM Faith Education 11:15 AM Deeper Life/ Communion/Great Room	23 9:00 AM Staff Mtg/Work Room 6:30 PM Deeper Life Band Re- hearsal/Great Rm 7:00 PM Book Club/Library	24 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study/LC#1 7:00 PM Finance Tm/LC #1	25 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study/Pastor's Office	26 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study/LC #2 10:00 AM Coffee with Intern/ Poverty Bay Cafe 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Loft 6:30 PM Confirm ation/Library 7:15 PM Calvary Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	27 6:30 PM Pub Theology/Billy McHale's	28
29 10:00 AM Coming Together Worship/Sanctuary 11:30 AM Constitutional Meeting/Social Hall 12:00 PM Annual Meeting & Potluck/Social Hall	30 9:00 AM Staff Mtg/Work Room 6:30 PM Deeper Life Band Rehearsal/Great Room	31 10:00 AM Tuesday Bible Study/LC#1	1 10:00 AM Midweek Bible Study/Pastor's Office	2 8:00 AM Men's Bible St/Poverty Bay Cafe 10:00 AM Coffee with Intern/ Poverty Bay Cafe 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Loft 6:30 PM Confirm ation/Library 7:15 PM Calvary Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	3	4 9:00 AM Grounds Work Party

ANNUAL meeting

Sunday, January 29th

Following 10:00 A.M. Coming Together Service

