



Calvary Herald

JUNE 2025 ~ VOLUME 56 ~ ISSUE 6

Faith, Fun & Fellowship: Summer!

Great news! Calvary's "Faith, Fun and Fellowship" group will be meeting weekly during the summer, rather than just once a month! Gatherings will be held each Wednesday at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Here's the rundown of what's happening this month:

- **June 4: Bingo and snacks.** Drinks will be provided. Bring a prize from your closet and a snack to share.
- **June 11: "Blast From the Past" Part 2.** Bring something to share or display from your past. Ice Cream Floats will be provided!
- **June 18: "Tacky Day" Potluck.** Wear something wild and wacky and bring a dish to share.
- **June 25: Tea Party.** Wear a fun hat and we will share tea and treats!

The Faith, Fun and Fellowship group will also be taking a road trip this month to visit Reynolda Gardens and the Dairi-O in Winston Salem. That trip is scheduled for June 16, and you'll only need to cover the cost of your meal. If you'd like to participate, meet at the church at 9:15 in the morning that day to ride the bus or carpool. And if you need any additional information about these summer fellowship activities, please contact Beth Church (828/391-1726) or Kathy McKnight (336/648-4523).



Vacation Bible School Is Finally Here!

Calvary's VBS for 2025—*"TRUE NORTH: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"*—will start on Sunday, June 1 and runs through Thursday, June 5. An optional snack supper will be available in the fellowship hall each evening at 5:30. And activities for your kids, grandkids, and neighbors' kids will run from 6 to 8:15. Along the way, our bold explorers will meet fun characters like Clawdia the Crab and Bruce the Moose. But even more important, they'll discover that when they wonder, when they feel alone, and when they need hope...they can trust in Jesus!

Please ask the Lord to be at work, and if you have questions, contact Alex Bracey (336/712-5245).

Summer Sermons

Pastor Alex recently invited everyone in our church family to provide suggestions for his summer sermons. And even though it would be impossible to cover all the topics, passages, and spiritual growth needs that people mentioned, he's grateful for the input, and he's hopeful that God will speak to us as we study the scriptures together.

Now, the process of moving from "suggested topic" to "actual sermon" is just beginning! And there might be some changes along the way. But here's a tentative outline of some of the topics Pastor Alex hopes to cover.

- ***In the latter weeks of June***, the pastor plans to share a series of sermons around the theme: **"Fess Up!"** Now, we often think of "fessing up" when we have to admit we did something wrong. But what if we can only "confess" what's sinful and broken in our lives when we can also "profess" the qualities of God that make our confession a safe and hopeful thing to do? For example, what if we can only confess our need and weakness when we can profess God's provision and strength? Come ready to consider how confessing and professing enable us to make Christ the anchor of our souls.
- ***For several weeks in July***, the pastor hopes to lead us in "satellite's-eye-view" (which is even less detailed than a "bird's-eye-view") of the Book of Hebrews. In a series called **"Hebrews Lite,"** he will introduce us to some important truths about who Jesus is – and what it means to "live in faith" in response.
- ***Finally, in the early weeks of August***, the pastor will invite you to **"Put on Your New Selfie."** In a world that encourages us to focus almost exclusively on ourselves, how do we discover the "selfie" God made us to be? How do we learn how to "deny our selfie"? And why is it good to know that we're never "all by my selfie," but are lovingly enfolded in the family of God?

Hopefully, we'll also have a week or two to cover some of the other topics that were mentioned in our summer sermon survey. But even if we don't, Pastor Alex hopes we'll have some fun and will discover together how God's Word continues to speak to us. So why not structure your summer so that "shared worship" is one of your summer highlights? And why not invite a friend to seek the Lord with us?



Youth Mission Trip

Right after Vacation Bible School, an energetic group of students and a brave group of adult volunteers will be headed for Chicago, Illinois to serve the Lord alongside Restoration Ministries, where they'll help with a food pantry, a clothing store, a community garden, and a variety of children's programs. It's a long trip—almost 700 miles! And so, the team will "break up" the trip, traveling two days to get there and two days to return. But more important than the physical distance they'll be traveling will be the spiritual distance they cover.

You see, youth mission trips like this aren't just fun. (Although they are.) And they don't just allow students to visit exciting places. (Although they do.) No, trips like this allow our young people to step outside their comfort zone! They get to see how different people live – and to discover not only how Jesus is at work among those people – but also how Jesus is at work in them! They'll learn how God is with them, and has gifted them, and has made them part of a community of friends in which they can help each other to know and follow the Lord.

So, please pray for our mission team as they set off for Chicago. Pray that they'll grow in Christ, and that they'll develop stronger relationships with each other. Pray that they'll be safe and will learn more about how God is at work in them and in the world. And to help you be specific in your prayers, here's a list of the students who are part of the mission team: Marlee Hauser, Emma Kate Norman, Bristol Golding, Lucy Bennett, Harper Leathers, Reese Cox, Talon Dearborn, Jackson Gardner, Carter McPeak, Gabe Mauck, Eli Cox, and Baker Leathers.

Calvary's Youth Minister Alex Bracey wants you to know how much he appreciates the support that our church family consistently provides for our youth and his ministry to them. And if you'd like to know more about what the youth are doing—or how you can support that work—he'd be eager to speak with you.

Dear Calvary...

Thank you so much for the meal you provided after the memorial service for my mother, Anita Nichols. We are truly grateful for the prayers and thoughtfulness during such a difficult time of loss.

*Sincerely,
Vicki Fields*

We would like to thank you for the batteries, gloves, and paint brushes that you have donated to the individuals and staff of LifeSpan. We truly appreciate it!

LifeSpan Ministries, Dobson

Thank you! What a blessing it was to receive those bags for our students and families! I had used my last one the day you brought more. What a blessing! God is so good. Thank you so very much!

*Patty, School Social Worker
Meadowview Middle School*

I would like each of you to know how much your beautiful cards and well-wishes for my 85th birthday mean to me. I am thankful for being a part of such a loving fellowship for so many years – and for all the memories of serving God together. I treasure your friendships, miss you, and pray God's blessings on each of you.

*In His Love,
Carolyn Greene (Calvary's former organist)*

Over 220 local taxpayers thank you! We enjoyed using your facilities so that we could provide VITA* tax services to those who needed them!

Thank you so much, the VITA volunteers
(*VITA, the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, provides tax preparation assistance to elderly members of the community.)

On behalf of our school community, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of student hygiene bags. Your kindness and support make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, ensuring they have the essentials they need to feel confident and cared for.

Your generosity reflects the spirit of compassion and community, and we are truly blessed to have your support. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for making a positive impact on our students' well-being.

*Alicia Henson and Hayley Zurita,
School Counselors, Mount Airy High School*



The Calvary church family would like to extend a special word of thanks to those who have given special gifts during the past two months.

- *In memory of Ray Mills:* Faye Haas
- *In memory of Anita Nichols:* Vernell Goins, Roger & Donna Keck, JoAnn Surratt, Johnny & Paulette Surratt, Lowell & Margaret Layman
- *In memory of Norris & Jo Hodge:* Roger & Donna Keck
- *In memory of Howard & Thelma Shelton:* Bob & Janet McPherson
- *In memory of Arthur & Vera Forrest:* Charles & JoLynn Johnson
- *In memory of Earlie & Lois Jarrell:* Roger & Carol Jarrell
- *In memory of Suzanne Simmons:* Paulette & Johnny Surratt, Roger & Donna Keck

