

# Calvary Family News

December 2020

## The Best Time of the Year

Well, we're getting close to the end of a year that a lot of people are glad to see come to an end. It's been a rough year for a lot of people, especially those who have been adversely impacted by Covid 19. But this year has also had a lot of things that we can praise God about, particularly here at Calvary. We have learned a lot about how we can be creative in the way we minister to one another. Discovering how to broadcast our services on facebook was a bit of an ordeal but we figured it out and are now able to share our Sunday services with anyone who wants to watch. We very suddenly became unable to serve Community Dinner in our usual come in and sit down fashion but we were able to quickly adapt and continue to serve over fifty people each week "grab and go" style meals.

We also have a new pastor and a new elder who are excited to see where the Lord is going to be taking this congregation as we trust Him to lead us into the future. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our prayer breakfasts in November. While He hasn't given us any answers through strong wind, earthquake or fire (see 1 Kings 19 if you don't know what I'm referring to), please continue to pray that we will hear the Lord's still, small voice that He so often uses when directing His people. Our study in Esther repeatedly reminds me that God is always working and that we, many times, need to be paying attention to notice what He is up to.

If it's December it must be time to decorate the house, put up the tree and enjoy my favorite season of the year. And while I really do like lights, stockings, and inflatable snowmen in front yards, I truly do celebrate the coming to earth of our savior, Jesus. The Christmas story never gets old. The God who created everything simple by thinking it into existence, stepped into time and space (things that He created) and became one of us. Jesus, born in a barn, raised in a working class family, lived a humble life, and died a humiliating death, but then God the Father raised Him back to life and He once again reigns in Heaven for eternity. That's what Christmas is all about and this is my favorite Christmas verse.

**John 3:16**

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."**

Serving Him,  
Pastor Karl



- 6** **Ila McGuire**
- 6** **Bob Haskell**
- 18** **Ray Hesseltine**
- 20** **Barbara Bentley**
- 22** **Karl Wittich**
- 24** **Carol Whelan**
- 26** **Jena Mough**
- 31** **David Mough**

**Cleta Sword has been thinking about the Glory of the Lord and shares with us these thoughts taken from a book by Bill Crowder -Windows on Christmas**

Christmas Luke 2:9 “An angel of the Lord appeared and the glory of the Lord shone around them...”

The Shekinah (Hebrew) glory is the perfect, brilliant light of the presence of the all sufficient God. It evokes wonder and worship.

“The whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah 6:3 Throughout the Bible we see it.

MOSES saw the glory. Ex.24:17. Exodus 29:42 - God met with His people.

SOLOMON built the temple and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. I Kings 8:6-11.

But God said in I Kings 9:6 -7 If you do not obey these commands, I will reject this temple. Sadly, it happened.

EZEKIEL saw the glory of the Lord. Ez. 10:4. The temple was full of the radiance of the glory of the Lord. Ez.10:18 – the glory of the Lord departed.

Then some 600 years later the glory returned. Luke 2:9 The angel announced the the good news: “Christ is born.”

John 1:14-18 The Word became flesh. We have seen His glory, the glory of the the one and only who came from the Father.

Hebrews 1:3 and 6 -The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the majesty in heaven:

When God brings His first born into the world, He says, “Let all God's angels worship Him.”

Oh, come let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord...

this Christmas day and every day!

**In January we hope to start a women's Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am...**

This will be held in Browning Hall (so we can social distance as necessary). The class will be led by Janice Haskell and we will be studying the book of Genesis. A good way to start the new year. Hope you can join us.



**Watch for more information on a Possible Christmas Eve Service...** It is uncertain if we will be allowed by law to have one, so stay tuned, pray, and hope for the best!

## Family Fun

December 2020

We had been hoping to be able to get together for some church family activities, however, the virus does not seem to be cooperating... so we will be having some family fun activities for you to participate in at home and share with us in the Calvary Baptist Facebook page! I am determined that Satan will not steal our joy and that we can still enjoy some fellowship and fun while also respecting the the need to be safe!

Be watching for some family activities December 6 will begin the Gingerbread house competition! We will get you started with some supplies and please post a picture of your work in progress and once your family has completed their gingerbread house please post the finished product! We will admire your handiwork in church on December 13!

December 13 we will have a scavenger hunt challenge for you! Again post yourselves enjoying the hunt! On December 20 we will view the pictures and celebrate success and fun!

December 20 will begin our 'Act of Kindness Family Challenge' Stay tuned for more details. May the joy and peace of the Lord be with you this holiday season!

Please text or email me your name and address if you would like supplies delivered to your home!



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**Evangelical Christians love America.** Some see in her the last hope of creating a Christian nation. But it is not a Christian nation. It is pagan to the core. It is in danger of becoming, if it is not already, the new "Evil Empire". The Mayflower Compact is a museum piece, a relic of a forgotten era."In God we trust" is now a lie.

Yes, we must always work for social reform. Yes, we must be profane in Martin Luther's sense of going out of the temple and into the world. We do not despise the country of our birth. But in what do we invest our hope? The State is not God. The nation is not the Promised Land. The president is not our king. The Congress is not our Savior. Our welfare can never be found in the city of man. The federal government is not sovereign. We live- in every age and in every generation- by the rivers of Babylon. We need to understand that clearly. We must learn how to sing the Lord's song in a strange and foreign land.

America will fall. The United States will inevitably disintegrate. The Stars and Stripes will bleed. The White House will turn to rubble. That is certain. We stand like Augustine before the sea. We pray that God will spare our nation. If He chooses not to, we ask for the grace to accept it's demise. In either case, we look to Him who is our King and to heaven, which is our home. We await the city of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, Whose builder and maker is God.

Many of us enjoy supplementing our knowledge of God's word by listening to teaching on-line. Do you have a favorite Bible teacher or program that you would like to share with the congregation? Drop a note to Tamera or Janice with the address of your favorite website. Upon pastoral approval, we will list these suggestions for listening in the January issue. **3**

**Many of us remember singing the old hymns of the faith.** They gave us words to use in worshiping our Lord. Personally, they taught me a lot of doctrine. We would like to share one of these hymns with you each month. Read them like a poem or sing them if you know the melody. This month's hymn, translated from German is:

## A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.



Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same.  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear for God has willed His truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.  
(written by Martin Luther)



**Remember the Deadline  
for January's Newsletter  
will be December 28th!**



# DECEMBER

2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9a Sunday School</p> <p><b>10a Worship &amp; Children's Church &amp; Nursery</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30- 6pm Free Community Dinner</p> <p><b>French Toast Casserole!</b></p> <p>6:15pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9a Sunday School</p> <p><b>10a Worship &amp; Children's Church &amp; Nursery</b></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30- 6pm Free Community Dinner</p> <p><b>Chicken 'Tater Bowls!</b></p> <p>6:15pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9a Sunday School</p> <p><b>10a Worship &amp; Children's Church &amp; Nursery</b></p>	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30- 6pm Free Community Dinner</p> <p>6:15pm Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>9a Sunday School</p> <p><b>10a Worship &amp; Children's Church &amp; Nursery</b></p>	<p>21</p> 	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>23</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>5:30- 6pm Free Community Dinner</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9a Sunday School</p> <p><b>10a Worship &amp; Children's Church &amp; Nursery</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>January Newsletter Items Due!</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30- 6pm Free Community Dinner</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Happy New Year</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b></p>