

Calvary Family News

December 2025

Let Your Light Shine Before Men

Almost twenty years ago, there was a beautiful, warm(ish) day in the middle of November and Laurie and (mostly) I decided it was the perfect time to put up our Christmas lights. And since it was such a nice day, she and (mostly) I went big. I never had it confirmed but I'm pretty sure you could see our house from outer space. Our daughter Jessie came home for Thanksgiving from college and claimed that when she turned off of Campbell onto 4th Street she could see the glow from the house (she said it like it was a bad thing?). She was also slightly put out because our Christmas lights were up and on before Thanksgiving which is apparently a big no no. It's interesting because I've been seeing a lot of Christmas lights up already this year. More than I have ever seen this early before. Maybe, like me back then, it's because the weather has been so nice. Or maybe with the way the world has been this year people want something cheerful and uplifting in their lives.

And as children of the most high God, that is exactly what we have: Tidings of Comfort and Joy because Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day. As we spend this season celebrating the birth of our savior, my prayer is that we remember the spiritually less fortunate and share with them the greatest Christmas gift that could ever be given.

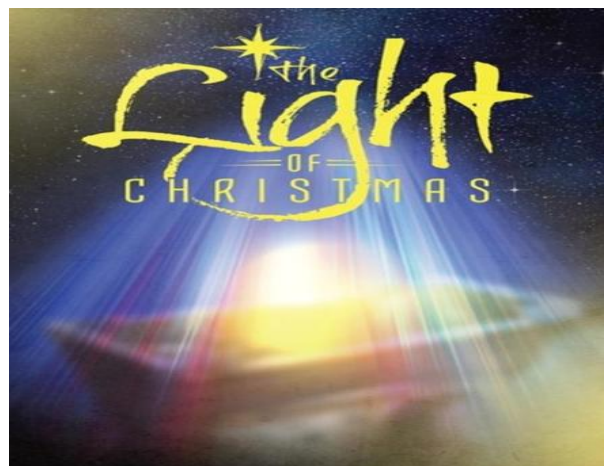
[16](#) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17](#) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16 &17

Our Lord's love is so great that He came down from the perfection of Heaven, squeezed His divine self into a human body, and was born a baby just like everyone else. Born of a virgin, fathered by the Holy Spirit, Jesus, Emanuel (God with us), came at the time appointed by God the Father, to live and die to save us from the penalty of our sins. That is why I (and I hope you) love Christmas so much and want to share it with others.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Karl



Warning--Change of Plans!! We will have **Community Dinner on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm**, for **Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve**. We will be inviting all to come to the **6 pm Christmas Eve Service** & also the **6 – 9 pm East Coast Style New Year's Eve Party** afterwards! So bring your friends to dinner and join in the Service & Party following! Wouldn't it be exciting to double attendance for that! We will resume our usual 5- 6 pm Thursday Night Community Dinners on January 8th, 2026, with Celebrate Recovery at 6 pm. We Hope You Can Make It!



December Birthdays

11th Justin Emmons
18th Ray Hesseltine
20th Barb Stucky
22nd Karl Wittich
24TH Carol Whelan
26th Jena Mough
31st David Mough



**Don't Forget Prayer Time
at 9 am, Sundays.**

*Please turn in
January
Newsletter Items
On December 30th
or before.*



East Coast New Year's Eve Party 6 – 9 pm!

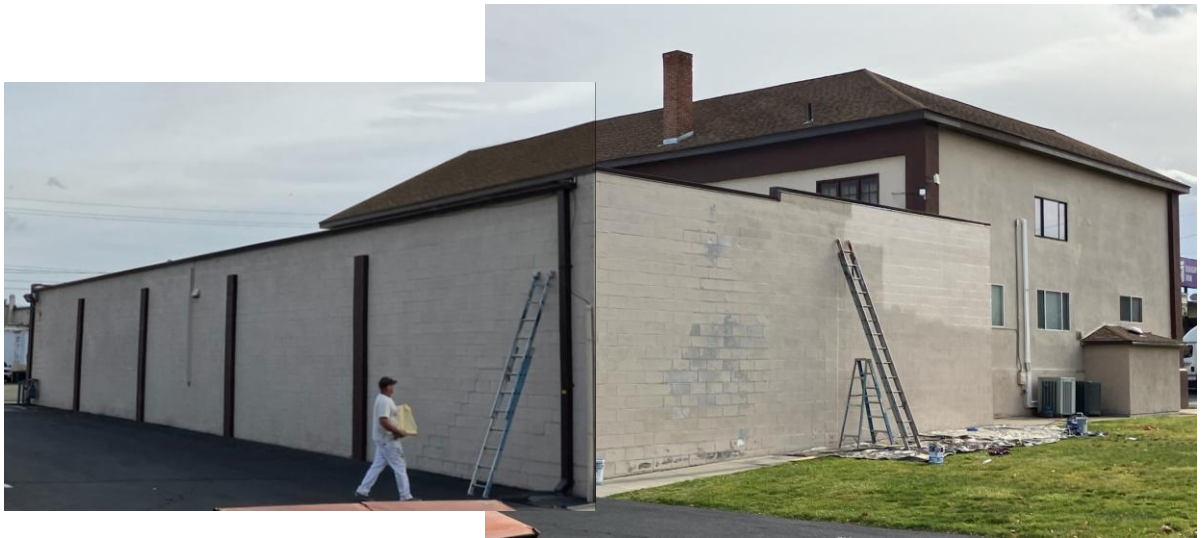
After Community Dinner, stay & bring some Finger Foods, Board Games, possibly Cribbage Boards, and practice your corn hole aim, and join us for the 7th H.M.T.A.C.B.C.C.T! (You remember-- the Hopefully More Than Annual Calvary Baptist Church Cornhole Championship Tournament!) We would love to have you come, and invite family, friends & neighbors to join us for the festivities as we ring in the New Year and be home by 9 pm! tap

Leaf Caper—Where Did They Go?

One day last month, a group of five church members, came in and quietly took all the maple leaves they on Fourth Street side and around. They were here about 2 hours, working quickly to fill two trailers and left to do more good deeds I would guess. At the dump, they even assisted a friend who was unloading her truck.

We appreciate how nice the lawn looks on Fourth Street, and here are a few pictures, in case you recognize any of the culprits, or if you want to tell them thanks. tap





What a Blessing!

God had been great providing all the food donations rolling in regularly for Community Dinner, as well as the Thanksgiving Day Feast with many hands giving their time. We also had painters, David Gentry and Jacob Gentry, donate their time and effort in sprucing up our church, fitting it around their other jobs. They were able to get about halfway around the church before the weather turned cold, stopping the work. They plan to return in the spring and finish up Broadway and Third Streets. But it has been looking nice, as you can see in the before and after pictures. tap



I Am Coming Soon

Have you ever considered how the Bible ends? No, it's not "The End." **Revelation 22:21** ends with the word "Amen." It is a Hebrew word signifying agreement. It is sometimes rendered by the phrase "*so be it*." John's final thoughts come directly from the mouth of Jesus and refer to His second coming. "*He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon'*" (v. **20**), to which John adds: "*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*" Then the Apostle, as is the case so often at the close of New Testament Epistles, pronounces a benediction: "*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen*" (v. **21**).

What did Jesus mean when He told John, "*Surely I am coming soon*"? Soon? Almost two thousand years have passed since Jesus uttered those words. You might be tempted to say, "That's hardly soon."

The word is elsewhere translated "*quickly*." It is possible that what Jesus meant was that when He comes, it will be unexpected, that He will come "*like a thief*" (**2 Peter 3:10**). He will come suddenly and without warning. No one will be able to predict the hour at which He comes. One of the very last words that Jesus spoke before His ascension was a warning not to try to predict the time of His coming: "*It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority*" (**Acts 1:7**). Interestingly, many have attempted to predict Christ's return anyway, despite His warning.

But perhaps Jesus meant these words regarding His coming to imply that in the grand scheme of things, the next significant redemptive event will be the second coming, when He will create the new heavens and new earth.

It is also possible that Jesus deliberately worded it to make us come to terms with the fact that the second coming could be within our lifetime. Many of us don't live each day with that thought in our mind, but we should. Even if there remain unfulfilled prophecies (for example, does **Romans 11:26** suggest that many Jews must be saved before Jesus returns?), nothing precludes the possibility that these could occur in our lifetime. What urgency would fill our souls if we were to imagine this possibility—the possibility that we might never die but be taken up into the clouds? Imagine what that would be like.

It is noteworthy that John's response is a prayer: "*Come, Lord Jesus!*" I wonder how often we have included those words in our prayers. What decisions—different decisions—would we make if we thought that Jesus would return before we die? There have been many days when reading the daily news has caused me to say, "*Come, Lord Jesus.*"

Paul, too, made a similar prayer, citing the Aramaic form, *maranatha*, meaning "*Our Lord, come!*" (**1 Cor. 16:22**). Perhaps it is time for us to insert this prayer more often into our own prayers.

Derek W.H. Thomas

(Submitted by F.S.)

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9 am Prayer 10 am Worship	1 5:30 pm Decorating Church & Pizza 7:07 pm YL @ BMS	2 10:30 am – 1:30 pm CBC Serves at Sr Center	3	4 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	5	6
7 9 am Prayer 10 am Worship	8 7:07 pm YL @ BMS	9	10	11 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	12	13
14 9 am Prayer 10 am Worship	15 7:07 pm YL in Browning Hall	16	17	18 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	19	20
21 9 am Prayer 10 am Worship	22	23	24 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 9 am Prayer 10 am Worship	29	30 January Newsletters Items Due	31 5-6 pm Community Dinner 6-9 pm East Coast Style New Year's Eve Party!	1 New Year's Day 	2	3