



Calvary Family News

February 2025

Being an Example

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

I have a friend named Joe. He is a pastor of a Church Venture Northwest Church in Yakima, Washington. We first met at the Blue Mountain Pastor's Prayer Retreat four years ago and reconnect each year at the retreat. In a lot of ways, our situations are very different. Joe is in his early thirties with a wife and three kids under the age of ten. He is in a city that is ten times the size of Baker. He is one of three co-pastors at Westside Church. Average Sunday attendance is about 600 spread over two services. Their congregation is on the upper end of the socio-economic spectrum with doctors, lawyers, and business owners being well represented.

So why am I telling you about some big rich church 250 miles from here? To make us feel bad? No, in fact just the opposite. I want to let you know that our little church in our little town is fulfilling the passage above and being a light that shines even as far as Yakima.

At the Prayer Summit last week Joe and I were praying for each other and he thanked the Lord that he could use me as an example to his congregation. I was a little shocked and being the nosy guy that I am, afterward I asked what he was telling people about me. Turns out it wasn't me, but Calvary Baptist he was using as an example. He told me that Westside Church was bussing people from the Union Gospel Mission to church on Sundays to attend their services. Some of the church people were suffering from a case of affluenza (a condition that turns rich people into snobs), and asked why they were bringing "those people" into the church. His response was to tell them about our Community Dinner ministry and that if a small church like Calvary could serve more folks dinner each week than attend a Sunday service, they could welcome those who were in a different living situation than they were.

At one time our church motto was: 'Being a Living Example - Of a Loving God - To a Watching World'. I feel that our faithfulness to the Lord and our community has done just that for a large church some distance away that needed a reminder that we are called to humbly serve our Lord and our neighbors. Thanks.

Serving Him,

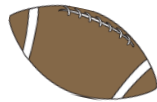
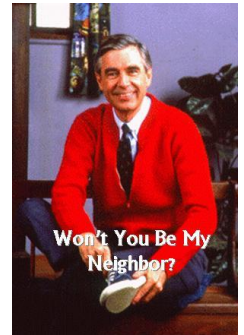
Pastor Karl

The Kingdom of God is Not Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

There are few things more dangerous than preaching that God loves everybody unconditionally, because the message people hear is: "There are no conditions. I can continue to live just as I'm living, in full rebellion against God, and I have nothing to worry about because there aren't any conditions that I have to meet. If God loves me unconditionally, I don't have to repent. I don't have to come to Jesus. I don't have to leave my life of sin. There are no conditions and no strings attached; God loves me just the way I am. He's glad that I turned out so nicely."

There is no understanding of the good news apart from the bad news. Christ came into the world that was already under the universal indictment for rejecting God the Father while the clear revelation of God was made manifest to every human being. Human nature is so fallen that we don't want God in our thinking, we don't want God in our minds. We get in trouble when we want so much to win people to Christ that we'll do everything we can to hide from them the reality of the wrath of God. We don't tell them that for every moment they refuse to repent, they are heaping up wrath. They need to know that Jesus died to take away sin but that only happens for those who, through faith, repent and accept the free gift of salvation that He offers.

People aren't afraid of the wrath of God, and it's because we're telling them, "You don't have to be afraid of God because God is nice and His kingdom is like Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."



Super Bowl Party!

Everyone is invited to our (maybe) 4th annual Super Bowl Party and the home of Dennis and Kelli Wright. Kickoff is at 3:30pm on Sunday, February 9th. It will also be a potluck snack-a-thon, so bring your favorite finger food to share and eat everyone else's. Table games have also been known to break out, so come and enjoy some fun and fellowship even if you aren't a football fan (we won't judge).

Thank You!

We just want to **THANK YOU ALL** for the generous staff Christmas Bonus! We were able to go out to dinner together as a team! Praising the Lord for your Church!

Camp Elkanah Staff

(The Camp Elkanah Staff will be sharing with us during Worship on Sunday, February 23rd!)



February Birthday

24th Cheri Smith



March Newsletter Items, we would love you to have in Tuesday, February 25th! Thanks for your input for ideas, articles & support!



February 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	27 6pm Ladie's Bible Study at Church 6pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis' 7:07pm YoungLife at BMS Cafeteria	28	29 5:30 Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	30 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Entrée Encores & Dessert!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	31	1 
2 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	3 6pm Ladie's Bible Study at Church 6pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis' 7:07pm YoungLife at BMS Cafeteria	4 10:30a-1:30p CBC Serves at Sr Center 	5 5:30 Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	6 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Quintessential Cuisine & Dessert!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	7 9am Ladies First Friday Breakfast at Truck Corral 5pm NOCC Banquet at Naz	8
9 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship & Gideons, Children's Church & Nursery 3pm Superbowl Party @ Wrights 	10 6pm Ladie's Bible Study at Church 6pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis' 7:07pm YoungLife at BMS Cafeteria	11	12 5:30 Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	13 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Chili Dogs with Dessert!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	17 6pm Ladie's Bible Study at Church 6pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis' 7:07pm YoungLife at BMS Cafeteria	18 	19 5:30 Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	20 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Spaghetti & Dessert!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	21	22 7:30 am Men's Breakfast in Browning Hall
23 9am Adult Sunday School 10am Worship & Camp Elkanah, Children's Church & Nursery	24 6pm Ladie's Bible Study at Church 6pm Men's Bible Study at Dennis' 7:07pm YoungLife at BMS Cafeteria	25 March Newsletter Items	26 5:30 Prayer & Dinner in Browning Hall	27 5-6pm Community Dinner— <i>Taco Soup & Dessert!</i> 6pm Celebrate Recovery	28	1

Thanks to our Faithful Thursday Dinner Cooks as they strive to come up with tasty meals for us! Sorry I wasn't able to get in touch with our faithful servants for you!