

The Calvary Focus

APRIL 2025

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Our journey through Lent is halfway over. As anticipated, the weather has started getting warmer and the spring flowers are beginning to grow. We have several daffodil plants around the grounds at Calvary that are growing. It was such a joy to see the tender shoots popping out of the ground, despite the cold around them. Soon enough the beautiful yellow flowers will burst open, a gentle floral scent filling the air. Is there anything better than the first blooms of spring flowers each year?

As we have journeyed through Lent, we have been focusing on cultivating the practices and heart postures that help us blossom into who God created us to be. I hope that you have noticed that growth within you. If nothing else, may the transition from winter to spring remind you that there is a season for everything and that no season lasts forever. May the winter seasons of your life burst forth with the promise of new life that spring brings.

Easter will be here before we know it. Many of us have started making plans for Easter lunch and preparing for visits from the Easter bunny, but don't hop ahead too far just yet. There are still a few stops along the way to the cross. We typically celebrate the Sunday before Easter as Palm Sunday, but it is also known as Passion Sunday. I served in four churches prior to Calvary, and only one celebrated the Sunday before Easter as both Palm Sunday *and* Passion Sunday. The other three celebrated it only as Palm Sunday. I can understand why. It is fun to celebrate with waving palms and shouts of "Hosanna!" But celebrating both Palm and Passion Sunday forces us to look at the stark reality: Jesus did not enter Jerusalem for a big party; it was his path to the cross. We must walk that path with Jesus through Holy Week. We cannot skip from the joy of Palm Sunday right to the joy of Easter without first sitting beside Jesus at the Last Supper, falling asleep in the garden when he asks us to stay awake and pray, fleeing when he is arrested, denying that we know him, watching him suffer and die on the cross, and dwelling in the dark tomb.

We know the joy that awaits us as Christ is resurrected from the dead, but do not rush ahead. Take one step at a time through Holy Week. Feel the weight of Holy Week, the impact it has. If we are willing to look upon the suffering of Christ, it has the potential to soften our hearts and open our eyes to see the suffering of those around us. May God lead us through Holy Week and into the world to share God's love, hope, and grace.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda



8 Doyle Martin
 Bev Wynn
 19 Preston Reddell



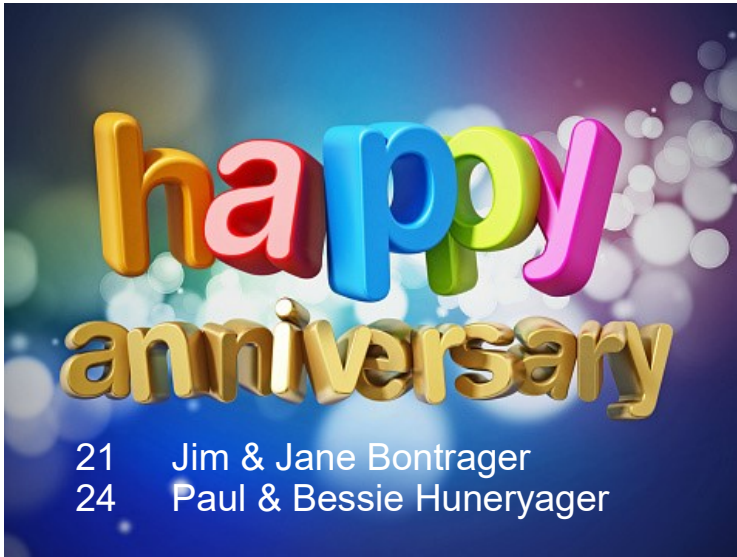
**PIZZA & PASTA
 COMMUNITY DINNER**
 Thursday, April 3
 6:00 pm

Come join us for a time of fellowship. This is a free meal for everyone.

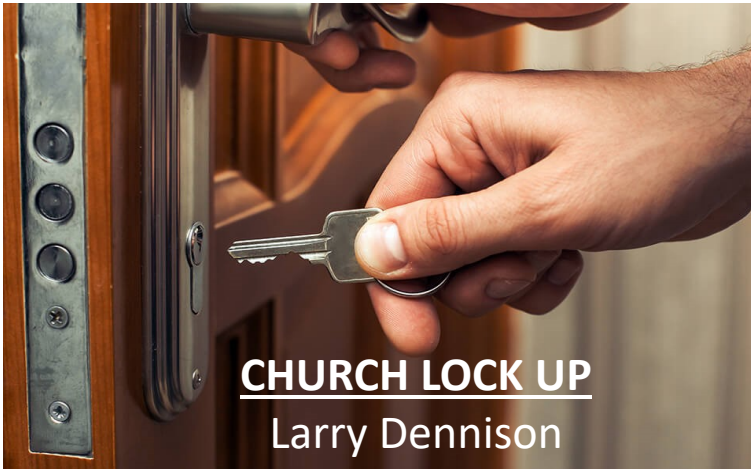
Join us for a free community dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 3rd, at 6:00 p.m.! This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a delicious meal and great company.

For dinner, enjoy pizza or pasta with a salad. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

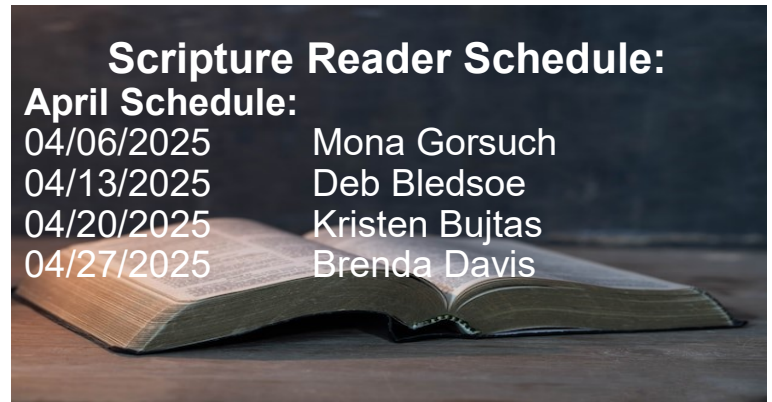
Come as you are—everyone is welcome! No RSVP is needed, and the meal is completely free. We look forward to sharing this evening of food, fellowship, and community with you.



21 Jim & Jane Bontrager
 24 Paul & Bessie Huneryager



CHURCH LOCK UP
 Larry Dennison



Scripture Reader Schedule:
April Schedule:
 04/06/2025 Mona Gorsuch
 04/13/2025 Deb Bledsoe
 04/20/2025 Kristen Bujtas
 04/27/2025 Brenda Davis

Bashor Children's Home
Duct Tape
Donation



Calvary will be collecting various colors of duct tape for Bashor Children's Home during the month of April. Bashor Children's Home is requesting Duck Tape only brand duct tape, please.

Lenten & Easter Events

SAVE YOUR QUARTERS!

LENTEN FOLDERS



COLLECTION WILL SUPPORT MISSIONS

Palm Sunday
Palm Parade

Invite and bring children for a palm parade to help kick off the service

April 13



On Palm Sunday we are looking forward to having a parade of palms to kick off the service. We encourage you to invite and bring children to assist us in making this a truly festive parade on Sunday, April 13.

Easter EGG HUNT **CANDY DONATIONS**

We are welcoming small individually wrapped candy donations for our Easter egg hunt! Please bring donations in by Sunday, April 13

WELCOMING

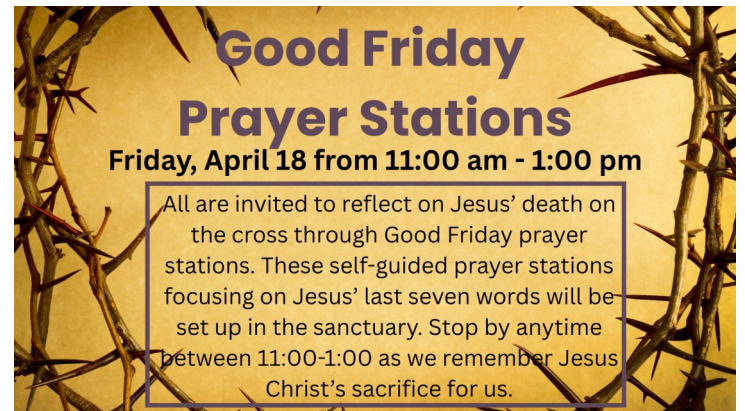
Candy donations for our Easter egg hunt! Calvary is welcoming candy donations for us to fill Easter Eggs!! Candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit in an egg. Please bring candy to Calvary by Sunday, April 13, to make sure the eggs get filled!!

Good Friday

Prayer Stations

Friday, April 18 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

All are invited to reflect on Jesus' death on the cross through Good Friday prayer stations. These self-guided prayer stations focusing on Jesus' last seven words will be set up in the sanctuary. Stop by anytime between 11:00-1:00 as we remember Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us.



The *Living Cross*

ON EASTER MORNING, BRING SPRIGS FROM BUSHES OR FLOWERS FROM YOUR YARD TO ADORN OUR CROSS AS WE CELEBRATE OUR *Resurrected Lord*



Living Cross

Spring is here! Look around your yard for flowers or sprigs from bushes and trees. On Easter Sunday morning, April 20, please bring a Spring cutting, and we will attach them to a cross as a symbol of our Resurrected Lord.

You are invited!

Easter Celebration

Palm Sunday Palm Parade
April 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Children are invited to begin our service with a festive palm parade.

Easter Sunday
April 20

9:00 am - Gathering
9:30 am - Worship Service
10:30 am - Fellowship
10:45 am - Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Lilly
Orders due :
April 6

*Would you like to order an
Easter Lily in memory of or in
honor of a loved one?*

*Please print the information on the
form below. The cost is \$9.50 per
lily. Place your order in the offer-
ing boxes, leave it in the church
office drop box, or mail it to
Calvary before April 6th.*

~~~~~

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of lilies: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Calvary United Methodist Church  
2222 West Indiana Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

**WE ARE HIRING A PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR THE  
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Creating a World of Learning and Fun!*

Accepting applications until April 1

Questions: 574-293-0783

Calvary UMC Preschool

Brenda Davis and Brenda Johnson will be retiring from their preschool positions after serving our preschool school for over 30 years.

The Preschool Board is looking to hire our next Preschool Director. If you know someone that would be interested in heading up our preschool program, have them check-out the Preschool Director job description here:

<https://docs.google.com/.../2PACX-1vRkqQKieo4yNMm.../pub>

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to the church office, 574-293-0783 or email, [office@elkhartcalvaryumc.org](mailto:office@elkhartcalvaryumc.org)



**A Time for Rest**

“After Jesus dismissed the crowd, He went up on a mountain top to pray.”

Matthew 14:23

Rest and renewal are important to run the race of life as it helps us to finish strong.

There is a story of a knight being pursued by an enemy when his horse became lame. Who took the time to stop at the blacksmiths to have it re-shoed. As the enemy approached he was able to escape with a rested, newly shoed horse.

A life serving Christ without rest and renewal does not allow us to serve at our best. It causes us to become burned out.

**Elkhart Calvary United Methodist Church**  
2222 West Indiana Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

**Return Service Requested**



**Sharing the love of God through words and actions**

**PLEASE KEEP OUR WORLD, OUR NATION, OUR CHURCH AND  
THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS**



- Calvary's Website: **[www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org](http://www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org)**
- Calvary's Facebook Page: **Elkhart Calvary UMC**
- Prayer Request: **[elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com)**

**DONATE**



- Donate to help Calvary Share the love of God through words and actions:  
**<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/d45a1315-6f3e-4d20-980f-4187bbc0d6e0>**