

The Calvary Focus

AUGUST 2026

Volume 14 Issue 8

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Where has the summer gone? It seems like just yesterday my children and I celebrated the first day of summer break with doughnuts from Divine Dough (it is in Edwardsburg, MI and we highly recommend it) and a morning spent at one of their favorite parks. The slower, easier pace of summer will soon give way to the daily routine of school and work. We will once again celebrate going back to school with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on Sunday, August 9th. We encourage you to invite the students or school staff in your family to join us as we offer a special blessing over them at the beginning of a new school year. Students will receive a new backpack tag, and rumor has it that there will be a selection of fun stickers again this year!

Our August sermon series will give a final nod to the lush and verdant landscapes of summer. I don't know about you, but I feel there is a new flower or bloom popping up in our landscaping every time I walk into the church building. What a wonderful summer delight! Our August sermon series is called "Planted in God" and has a focus on planting and nature. All throughout scripture, our life of faith is compared to the natural world, particularly plants and gardening. God is our source of life, nourishment, and joy. We are planted in God, deeply rooted in Christ.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all of you as we have navigated our first month with a new worship time and a new pastoral arrangement. Thank you for your flexibility, kindness, support, and prayers as I started my appointment at Evangel Heights. I have been graciously welcomed there, and I enjoy getting to know the congregation. Rev. Dick Garman, a former pastor here at Calvary, worships at Evangel Heights with his family. It was a joy to meet him, as we share a special Calvary connection. As a reminder, even though I am only in the office at Calvary on Mondays and Wednesdays, I am still your pastor on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please do not hesitate to contact me, whether it is a pastoral care issue or otherwise. I am grateful to be your pastor, and it is my joy to serve in ministry here at Calvary.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda 



- 3 Shirley Williams
- 5 Mona Gorsuch
Wendie House
- 7 Joy Miller
Ruth Rockwell
- 12 John Campbell
- 17 Isaiah Toliver
- 23 Jane Bontrager
- 27 Rev. Amanda Moseng



McAlister's Deli August 15, 2026

Ladies Go To Lunch will be heading to McAlister's Deli, 285 County Road 6, Elkhart, Saturday, August 15. A carpool leaves at 12:45 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. lunch time. All ladies are invited to attend. Please call the church office, 574-293-0783, if you are planning to attend. Come and bring a friend or relative. All ladies are welcome.



Come unto the Light

Like a dimmer switch as it is turned up brightens the light, as we read and study God's words we receive more of God's light.

"My word is a lamp unto my feet."

Psalm 119:105

"For the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

Revelations 21:23b

Scripture Reader Schedule:

August Schedule:

08/02/2026	Jackie Mann	Psalms 1
08/09/2026	Steve Basse	Luke 8:4-15
08/16/2026	Janet Dennison	Matthew 13:24-30
08/23/2026	Mona Gorsuch	Luke 6:43-45
08/30/2026	Deb Bledsoe	John 16:1-8



Join us in worship on Sunday, August 9th @ 9:00 a.m. as we pray for our students at the start of a new school year. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship. Invite your children and grandchildren.



As the new school year begins, we want to surround our students, teachers, and school staff with love, support, and prayer. On Sunday, August 9th, we invite you to a special Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Students are invited to bring their backpack to church that morning. During the service, we will offer a blessing over the backpacks and the students who carry them, as well as the teachers, school staff, and parents who guide and support them. This is a meaningful way to remind students that God is with them wherever they go—and that their church family is cheering them on every step of the way. Everyone is welcome! Invite your neighbors, friends, and classmates to join us as we pray for a safe, joyful, and successful school year. Let's start the year off right—with hope, faith, and community.

DEADLINE

Do not forget to mark your calendars. The September Focus deadline is Thursday, August 20!!!



SUMMER COMMUNITY PICNICS

Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 pm

Come join us for a time of fellowship, hot dogs, hamburgers, and ice cream. There will be indoor and outdoor seating. This is a free meal for everyone.



LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Bring in your loose change,

Sunday August 30

**Collecting coins, bills and
checks for Bashor
Children's Home**



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**
- Calvary's Facebook Page: **Elkhart Calvary UMC**
- Prayer Request: **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>