

# *The Calvary Focus*

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JANUARY 2026

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Happy New Year! We welcome 2026 and the possibilities it brings. A new year offers us a fresh start, as well as the opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed. What were the highlights of 2025 for you? What did you celebrate? What brought you grief or struggle? Where did you see God at work in your life and the lives of those around you?

We can ask those same questions about the life of the church. When I look back on 2025, I see us bringing back the monthly community dinner- an opportunity for not only the congregation to share a meal together, but to welcome our neighbors and extend the table for them. I see children's Sunday school starting up again for our youngest worshipers, a place for them to learn and grow in their knowledge and love of God. I see the installation of the drinking fountain and water bottle filler, a tangible way to care for our neighbors who do not have access to clean water. Those are just some of the highlights.

I celebrate that we welcomed new members into our church family and that we have seen new faces join us in worship. I celebrate the continued care and compassion shared with our neighbors through community breakfasts and the food box. I celebrate the countless hours of service each week. I celebrate the commitment to grow in faith through Bible study and worship.

I grieve the death of beloved congregation members. I miss their presence with us. I also acknowledge the struggles we face financially. We invested a lot in repairs and replacements in the church building alone this year, and the list continues to grow.

And yet, in the midst of it all, I see God at work. I see God at work in the lives of our young people, who continue to bring joy and energy to our Sunday mornings. I see God at work in every meal served, every relationship built at our community meals. I see God at work in the friends that have become family, the support given to one another, the laughter and tears that are shared. God is at work, friends. In every act of love and compassion, in every step of faith, in every moment of serving, God is glorified and God is at work through us. So let us not lose heart, because even though the struggles and challenges persist, God is not done. And neither are we. Let us step into 2026 with boldness, with faith, and the confident trust that God is able to do more than we could possibly imagine.

In Christ,  
Pastor Amanda

# Happy Birthday



## January Babies!

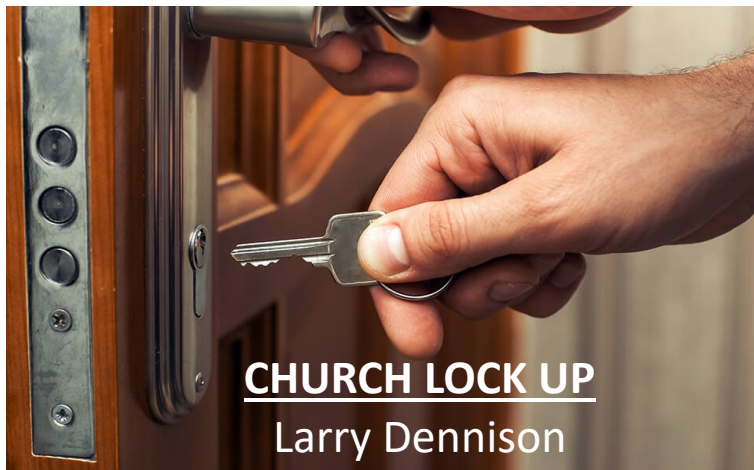
- 3 Becca Crimmins
- 6 Kevin Lipp
- 11 Michael Rand
- 12 Suzie Crimmins
- 15 Madeline Johnson  
Dave Williams
- 26 Beth Key  
Steve Rand
- 28 Jerry DeFord  
Milo Moseng
- 31 Mina Moseng



15 Mitchell & Pastor Amanda Moseng

# DEADLINE

Do not forget to mark your calendars. The February Focus deadline is Tuesday, January 20!!!



## CHURCH LOCK UP

Larry Dennison

## Super Bowl Food Collection

Sunday, February 1 & 8

1 box of crackers = 1 vote  
1 can of soup = 1 vote

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 8. Who will you pick as the winner? Be sure to start collecting your crackers and soup to vote for the team you think will win. Each box of crackers or can of soup will count as a vote for your "team." These items will go to Church Community Services (CCS).

## COMMUNITY DINNER CHICKEN AND FIXIN'S

Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 pm

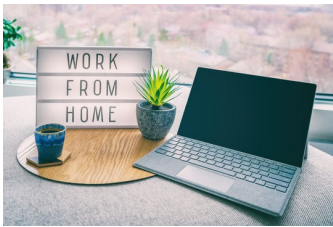
Come join us for a time of fellowship, while enjoying chicken and fixin's. This is a free meal for everyone.





The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 31, 2025 and Thursday, January 1, 2026 in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

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Pastor Amanda will be working from home the week of December 29, 2025-January 1, 2026. If you need to reach her please email or call her.

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## 2026 Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes

are available in the Narthex for pick up. The boxes are in alphabetical order. If you do not find yours or do not have offering envelopes, please let the church office know and we will issue a set to you.



"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs of gratitude in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

Resentment imprisons us in bitterness (envy) and perpetual discontent.

A grateful person looks outward and upward recognizing the gift of grace God has bestowed on us, a resentful person looks inward fixated on self.

Choose which person you want to be. As in song, give thanks with a grateful heart.



## Traveling Communion

Do you worship from home and live locally? Pastor Amanda has started bringing com-

munion to congregants in their homes on the Monday after a Communion Sunday. The upcoming dates are January 5, February 2 and March 2. If you would like communion brought to you, please contact the church office by 9:00 a.m. that Monday.

## Scripture Reader Schedule:

### January Schedule:

01/04/2026	Jackie Mann	John 1:1-18, Isaiah 60:1-6
01/11/2026	Steve Basse	Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSVUE)
01/18/2026	Janet Dennison	Deuteronomy 5:1-5 (NRSVUE)
01/25/2026	Mona Gorsuch	Ephesians 3:14-21

# FREE ZOOM TRAININGS FOR LAITY & CLERGY:

**Saturday, January 31, 2026**  
9 AM - 12 PM (CT)/10 AM - 1 PM (ET)  
and/or  
**Saturday, February 7, 2026**  
8 AM - 11 AM (CT)/9 AM - 12 PM (ET)

## LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY



**Northern Lakes District**

Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

**TO REGISTER:**



[INUMC.SWOOGO.COM/  
LEADERSHIPU2026](https://inumc.swoogo.com/LEADERSHIPU2026)

## WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Staff Parish  
Endowments and Planned Giving  
Fresh Expressions  
Growing Young  
Trustees and Finance  
Church Governance/Single Board  
Clergy Early in Ministry  
Church Administrative Assistants  
Outreach: Food Pantries and Beyond  
Chat with the Chancellor: Legal Tips for Every Church  
Church Development: More than Just Sundays  
Lay Leadership



**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>**