

The Calvary Focus

DECEMBER 2022

Volume 10 Issue 12

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This year's Advent season worship series is called *An Advent Song of Ascents*. Isaiah is our anchor text for this Advent worship series, but Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul. "I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" The opening line from Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent spirit this year. From "I was glad" to "go to the house of the Lord." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent season.

Let us go up. Up, why up? Going to God is always up. Going to worship is always up. That was a geographic reality for the Jewish people. Jerusalem was built on a hill, so no matter which direction you approached, you were going up. And since true worship could only happen in the temple, let us go up to worship is the description of the approach.

But what are we approaching? Well, worship of course. And something more. This is Advent, the season of anticipation, of watching and waiting – active waiting. Christmas? Well, no and yes. We're not trying to be mysterious here, but there is definitely a no and yes to that question.

No, the season of Advent isn't really designed to be a countdown to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christ's return and the establishment of the kingdom of God. It is a reminder that we are heading someplace; we are works in progress; we are longing for something more. That's the upward call of Advent. We sing an Advent song of ascent as we climb up to worship in that new reality, that new way of being in the world. Not that this is a human-made reality, but that we are longing for this completion. We are looking forward.

At the same time, we are indeed looking back. Yes, we are anticipating Incarnation, the time when God broke into our history and became present in an astonishing way. And we look forward to when Emmanuel – God with us – will be how we live always. We remember Christmas, the real depth and power of this singular act and the child who lived God's presence among us, something that even the worst of the commercialism cannot ultimately overcome. We can grumble about how we've lost the true meaning of Christmas in this crass and cynical age, and perhaps we should. But we can also be surprised at how something pure and wonderful can appear in the most unlikely places, from the most unlikely sources to remind us that we are all longing for something more, something of eternity and of the beloved community described by the one whose birth we celebrate. That is anticipation worthy of singing Advent Songs of Ascent.

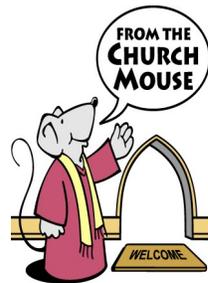
Pastor Paul



- 4 Ethan Martin
- 5 Bessie Huneryager
- 8 Janet Dennison
- 11 Brenda Davis
- 16 Darlene Kurtz
- 19 Jodi Mann
- Audrey Shaffer
- 23 Sherrie DeFord
- 24 Joan Marling
- 27 Gloria Fawley
- 30 Derek Lipp
- Dorothy Sir Louis
- Jeff Stubbs



CHURCH LOCK UP
Jeff Stubbs



A Kodak camera ad says that it is the gift that keeps on giving. Many others use the same phrase. But Jesus is the true gift that keeps on giving. He gave His blood to cover our sins. He gives us peace in the midst of life's storms. He gives us eternal life with Him.

John 16:24 says, "ask for anything in Jesus name."

He gives us what we need.

Revelations 22:17 states "The Spirit and the bride say "come". And let him who hears say, come whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

Merry Christmas!!



- 7 Jerry & Sherrie DeFord
- 19 Jeff & Rhonda Stubbs
- 20 Dennis & Lynn Nelson
- 29 Phil & Brenda Davis

DEADLINE

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

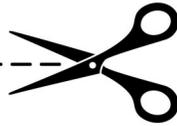


The Ladies Lunch group hopes everyone has a blessed holiday season. They will plan to meet for lunch again in the Spring.



2023 Offering Envelopes

will be available in the Narthex for pick up after Sunday, December 4. The boxes will be 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.



Do you want to order a Poinsettia for Christmas in memory or in honor of a loved one? Please print the information on the sheet below. Cost is \$6.00 each.

Make checks payable to Calvary UMC. Please turn in to the church office by December 4, 2022.

Name _____

Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

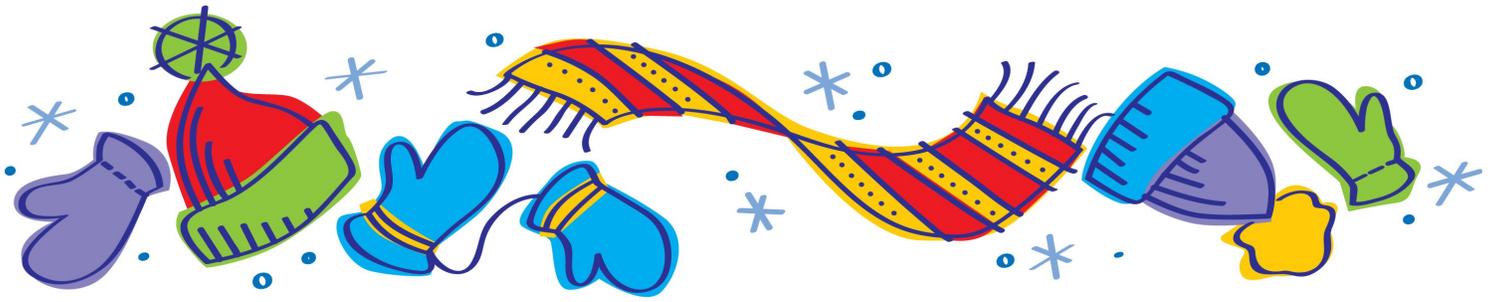
You may mail your check to Calvary United Methodist Church, 2222 W Indiana Ave, Elkhart, IN 45616.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH

11 PM

Invite your friends and relatives, (children in pajamas) to an inspirational evening ushering in Christmas! If you cannot attend in-person, the Christmas Eve Service will be streaming live on our Facebook page, Elkhart Calvary UMC.



We will be donating the items from our Hat, Mittens, Gloves and Scarf Tree, to Mary Daly Elementary School. We are looking for hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. Please remember, these are grade school age children.

With the snow we have already had in November, here is some information you may need. If you have questions as to whether or not Worship is being held, tune into WNDU or WSBT as we do let them know of any closings. You may also check their website www.wndu.com, TV channel 16 or www.wsbt.com, TV channel 22. Hopefully we will not have to alert them of any closings!



If you would like to make a year-end contribution to the church, please have it in by Tuesday morning, December 27.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 and January 2, 2023 in observance of Christmas and New Years Day.

Service Times

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2022 at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning - December 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

New Years Morning - January 1, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.





To all of the very special people at Calvary:

Thank you for all the many cards that you sent; the very cuddly prayer shawl that I make use of daily; and all the calls and prayers.

I am home now with help but meeting my goals (not as fast as I would like) but without God, I would not be!!

Love you all,
Mary Lou

Heading to the grocery store this week?

Consider picking up an item or two for our food pantry

- PEANUT BUTTER
- JERKY
- CANNED MEAT
- CRACKERS
- TUNA PACKETS
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- GRANOLA BARS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CEREAL
- SOUP

Prefer shopping online?



Check out our **Little Free Pantry** wish list on Amazon



would like to make a donation to the preschool program, please feel free to take an envelope and mark on the outside "Preschool". If you are unable to make it to church and want to donate, please feel free to send a check made out to Calvary Preschool. Thank you for your continued support of Calvary's preschool program.

The preschool held it's annual trike-a-thon, November 18 & 22. There were 21 students that rode 549 laps. On average each student rode 26 laps, which is just over a mile. This year's top rider rode 50 laps. This year's Calvary riders were Danny De La Virgen and Ethan Wilson. If you



Some fun facts about December

- December begins on the same day of the week as September every year.
- December ends on the same day of the week as April every year.
- December is one of two months to have a solstice (the other is June, its seasonal equivalent in both hemispheres).
- In December the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere is turned towards the sun, meaning that December 21/22 is the Northern Winter Solstice and the Southern Summer Solstice. This means that this date would have the least daylight of any day in the Northern Hemisphere, and the most in the Southern Hemisphere.
- There are 24 hours of darkness at the North Pole and 24 hours of daylight at the South Pole in December.

“Just for Fun” Days

- December 1 Eat a Red Apple Day
- December 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 10 Human Rights Day
- December 13 National Cocoa Day
- December 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- December 21 Crossword Puzzle Day
- December 24 Christmas Eve
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 26 National Candy Cane Day
- December 30 Bacon Day
- December 31 New Year’s Eve

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:**

Kevin Lipp (son of Dave and Kathy Lipp)



- Calvary's Website: www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org
- Calvary's Facebook Page: [Elkhart Calvary UMC](#)
- PayPal account: elkhartcalvary@gmail.com
- Prayer Request: elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com

