

The Calvary Focus

DECEMBER 2021

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Words from Pastor Paul...

Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into the Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and let the holiday transform everything around us.

But there is a deeper and more profound invitation being offered in the season of Advent. The invitation is to remember that we are heading for home. Or if we're not, if we've forgotten that there is a home toward which to head, it is the invitation to long for the home we call the kin-dom of God. It is where family resides, where peace resides, where justice abides, and hope will rise. Advent reminds us that we shouldn't be complacent about the way things are – not that we want to become angrily attuned to every perceived failing in those around us or the world at large, but that we want to be those who look forward to something greater, something more that is just on the horizon. Advent is the call to come home.

Yes, this year we have called our Advent series "Come Home for *Christmas*" not "Come Home for Advent." That was only to catch your ear and the ears of those with whom you worship week by week in this glorious season. We're not all about Christmas, the holiday, about December 25 with all the jingle bells and tinsel. We are about Christmas, the Mass of Christ, the celebration of the Incarnate one who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. We are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That's the home to which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to your church and the world: "Come home for Christmas."

In Christ,
Pastor Paul



Birthdays of the Month

December

- 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



Celebrating Anniversaries this Month

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

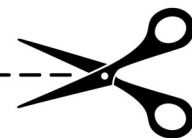
LOCK UP
Michael Rand

DEADLINE

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



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



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 5.

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.



Advent Study

Mike Grib will be leading a six week small group spiritual disciplines in association with our Advent series; *Come Home for Christmas*, on Sunday mornings following the worship service. The study will start Sunday, November 28 in room 201/202.



2022 Offering Envelopes

Will be available in the Narthex for pick up after December 5. 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.



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.



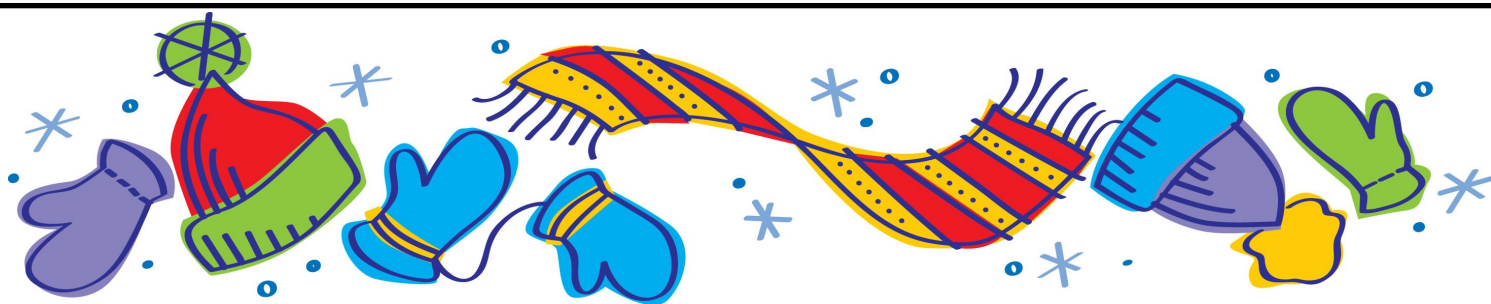
The 'Ladies' Lunch group will not be meeting in December. Their next outing will be on January 15th to eat at McAlister's Deli.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS!!**



Winter Coat Drive

Calvary has been given an opportunity to **share the love of God through words and actions** by helping Mary Daly Elementary School out. They are in need of winter coats, especially youth sizes. Any new or gently used coat can be brought in and placed in the box labeled, "Mary Daly's Coat Drive". All coats will need to be in by the end of December.



We will be donating the items from our Hat, Mittens, Gloves and Scarf Tree, to Mary Daly. 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!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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
THESE 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**

