

CALVARY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



December 2016 / January 2017 Monthly Newsletter

From Our Pastor

Is THAT in the Bible???

I like peculiar things. Well, to be more precise, I like the peculiar things in the Bible that we don't often read. Maybe it's the excitement of learning something new, maybe it's the fun of sharing weird stories with others, or maybe I'm just a peculiar kind of guy—at least that's what my daughters tell me.

How about you? Do you remember the peculiar account where the prophet Isaiah was commanded by God to walk around naked for three years (Is. 20:2-4) to prophesy how the Israelites would be taken away into exile? What about the time that God told the prophet Jeremiah to go and bury his underwear down by the Euphrates River (some versions try to translate it "belt") and then dig it up many days later to compare the ruined loincloth with the ruined, sinful nation of Judah (Jer. 13:1-11)? What about the prophet Ezekiel, who God told to go and play "fort" in the marketplace with a clay tablet, an iron pan, and some sand to show how the city of Jerusalem would be overtaken (Ezek. 4:1-3)? Each of these accounts were definitely attention getters.

Well...that's the Old Testament...I'm...I'm sure the New Testament doesn't have anything odd like that... right? What about the young man in the Garden of Gethsemane at Jesus' arrest who became so scared when a soldier seized him that he left his linen cloth in the soldier's hands as he ran away naked into the night (Mark 14:51)? What about the account of the Apostle Paul, who preached such a long sermon that one of his hearers fell asleep sitting in a window and fell three stories to his death—don't worry Paul raised him back to life and then went right back to the worship service where they celebrated the Lord's Supper and then he preached for another five or six hours (Acts 20:7-12)?

There's a lot of unexpected things in the Bible. The truth is that even these very unexpected accounts have a central place in telling the story of God's continuing interaction with this world. Even a young man running away naked into the night at Jesus' arrest shouldn't surprise us because it illustrates how utterly alone Jesus became at that dark hour. Even his closest disciples ran away in shame and horror, as any of us would do also in the same situation, doing anything to escape a similar fate.

Even though the Bible is made up of 66 books written by thirty-five or so different authors over a span of about fifteen hundred years and two different ancient languages, it is the inspired Word of God that makes us wise unto salvation. It tells us one complete and connected story of the promise and the fulfillment of the coming of God's own Son in Jesus Christ. Why? Because it was guided by one Spirit, who still continues to call to us in the Word, calling us to find our part in the story of God's action.

At this time of year when many start making new resolutions and trying to create new habits, I would like to challenge you wherever you are in your daily devotional life to spend just a little more time individually and collectively in the Bible. I want to encourage you to make it your goal to see how far you can make it through the Scriptures this year. There are countless different reading guides to help you read the Bible every day, such as the Lutheran Service Book in the pews pp. 295-299, www.biblegateway.com, or the YouVersion app for smartphones). I suggest just finding a reading guide that works for you and then sticking to it. If you miss a day, just skip it and go on. If you get confused about something, don't worry about it and just keep on reading. Even if you are only reading two or three times a week, oh well, it is still getting you deeper in God's Word. How is our Lord inviting you to step into His story and grow a little deeper this year? What kind of peculiar, unique, and one of a kind adventures will he work in your life, as He brings His Word to bear on your everyday life? Well, we will have to wait and see.

God's Blessings, ***Pastor Kurt Ebert***

"... from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
2 Timothy 3:14-16

Staff Spotlight

Dave Estell



What do you do at Calvary?

I take care of maintenance for the church and school

What is your favorite thing about Calvary?

The people

Favorite Book/Verse of the Bible?

John 3:16

Favorite Hobby?

Sports of all kinds

Favorite Sport/Team(s)?

Racing, A.J. Foyt and Colts

Favorite Food?

Steak

Hidden Talent/Little Known Fact about You?

I'm good at everything I do!

Dianne Noe



What do you do at Calvary?

Teacher in the Resource Room

What is your favorite thing about Calvary?

Christ-centered place to teach

Favorite Book/Verse of the Bible?

Psalms, I love the poetry of this book

Favorite Hobby?

Spinning, gardening, reading and knitting

Favorite Sport/Team(s)?

Toledo Mud Hens

Favorite Food?

Anything I have grown!

Hidden Talent/Little Known Fact about You?

I can start a fire with flint and steel

Make a Joyful Noise!

Calvary Christmas Caroling December 10th from 2-4pm

We are told to “make a joyful noise . . . ” It doesn’t say what type of noise as long as it is a JOYFUL one. So come and make a joyful noise of caroling for our homebound members, nursing home and assisted living residents, and anyone else that will listen to us.

Meet at church at **2:00pm on Saturday, December 10th**. Dress appropriately for caroling inside and outside.

This is an event for the entire family. You need not have any prior singing experience. What better way to share Christ’s birth then with caroling!



NO SIGN-UPS NEEDED

Contact Ellwyn Parks at 997-6720 or (ellwyn_parks@att.net) with any questions.

Interested in becoming a member of Calvary? Our next Foundations of Faith class will start Sunday, January 8th in Room 125 at 9:20 am. This 6-session class gives an overview of our Calvary, our Christian faith and the Lutheran perspective. Adults interested in joining our congregation are encouraged to attend. If you would like to be included or just desire more information, please contact Deaconess Emily Spelde: espelde@clcs.org or 317-695-9366 (call or text.)

Calvary Spring Dinner & Auction—Save the Date

Saturday, March 11, 2017 5:00pm Calvary’s first Spring Dinner Auction at Ulndy’s Schwitzer Hall. “*Stepping Out in Faith*” dinner, musical entertainment, inspirational speaker, silent auction!
More details coming soon!



2016 Holiday Worship Schedule

SATURDAY SERVICES

Saturdays at 6:30 pm

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday, December 11th at 10:45 am – Sunday School Christmas Program

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday, November 30th, 7:00 pm

Special service with Lessons and Advent Carols set to special music

Wednesday, December 7th, 7:00 pm

Special service with the children of our school, 3rd-8th grades

Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00 pm

Special service with the children of our school, PS-2nd grades

Wednesday, December 21st, 7:00 pm

Special service with the Hand Bell Choir

CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE – Saturday, December 24th

5:00 pm - Candlelight Service

7:00 pm - Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY – Sunday, December 25th

10:00 am with Communion (*One service only; No Family Education Hour*)

CHRISTMAS DAY – Sunday December 25th

12:30 pm – Special Tamil Indian Service at Calvary

NEW YEAR'S EVE – Saturday, December 31st

6:30 pm with Communion

10:30 pm – Special Tamil Indian Service (Off site)

NEW YEAR'S DAY – Sunday, January 1st

10:00 am with Communion (*One service only; No Family Education Hour*)



Parish Education

There are a lot of amazing classes being offered in December and January! Please see below and we look forward to seeing you!

Known and Loved Intergenerational Event: January 8th: Everyone (young and old, families and singles, Sunday school families and children, Adult Bible study groups, etc.) is invited to join us in the **Gym** for food, fellowship, and an engaging discussion around God's Word. See you there!

Sunday Morning Classes for Children

Sunday School: Our Sunday School theme this year is "**Walking in God's Word**". We have wonderful teachers placed in each room and a curriculum appropriate for your student, pre-school through 8th grade.

Christmas Program: The Children will have their Christmas Program rehearsals on December 4th and 11th during the Sunday School Hour. Please join us for the Christmas Program during the 10:45 service on December 11th.

Sunday Morning Classes for Adults

"Into the Word: Preparing the Hearts of God's People": Join us December 4th, 11th, & 18th as we begin this study through parts of Isaiah. We will begin a new study in January, please join us!

"An Apostles Creed for the New Millennium": Join Bob Blazek on December 4th, 11th, & 18th as we continue this study with discussions about the work and the persons of The Father Almighty, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

New Members' "Foundations of Faith" Class: Our New Members' "Foundations of Faith" class for adults will meet beginning on January 8, 2017! Completing this class does provide the opportunity to join Calvary. Topics include: What does it mean to be a Christian? ; Law and Gospel; the Sacrament of Baptism; the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and Growing as a Disciple of Christ. Please contact Deaconess Emily Spelde (espelde@clcs.org, 317-783-2000, ext 239) if you have any questions or would like more information.

"The Vine Speaks": Join Diane Gibson as she begins this new class on January 8th. The study will run through January and is based on the book, "The Vine Speaks" by Cynthia Steinbeck. The study focuses on John 15 and correlates the truths found in John 15 as they are related to actual plants in a vineyard.

"The Star of Bethlehem": Celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord, please Join Pastor Main as he leads us as we view the DVD, "The Star of Bethlehem" on Sunday, January 8th.

"Whistling Past the Graveyard": A new book study begins on January 15th! The Kendalls will be leading a study and discussion of "Whistling Past the Graveyard" by Susan Crandall. The book takes place in the South during the early 1960's at the height of the Civil Rights movement and chronicles the travels of Starla and Eula as they motor across Mississippi and Tennessee. There is a lot of faith and spirituality at the heart of the story between these two characters that will be discussed.

Young Adults: The young adult class will wrap up their study, "Fully Devoted" in December and will begin a new topic for our faith journey in January. Please join us!

Saturday Night Classes for Adults

Our Saturday night bible study will finish their study of the **Parables** in December with the "Parable of the Sower" on 12/3, "Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard" on 12/10, and "Parable of the Great Banquet" on 12/17. Please consider joining Pastor Main in the conference room Saturday Evenings at 5:00 as he leads us this month.

Adult Ministry

Lunch OUT! Wednesday, December 7th, 11:30am Bynum's Steakhouse
3850 S Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46217. Come join us at this award-winning restaurant! Easy parking; banquet room is just inside the front door and reserved for Calvary Lutheran. Dig out that Christmas sweater and celebrate with us.

Lunch & Learn Wednesday, December 21st, 11:30 am Christmas Party !



Christmas Party

Special music will be provided by Calvary's Gene Davis. Baked ham will be provided; bring two dollars and a dish to share. Do you know someone who could use some holiday cheer? Invite them to join us! We will celebrate Jesus' birth and honor our December birthdays, too.

Lunch OUT! Wednesday, January 4th, 11:30am Golden Corral, Greenwood St. Rd. 135 and Marlin Road, in front of Meijer. Seniors' *earlybird* price of \$8.31 includes beverage and tax. Tables will be saved for Calvary Lutheran.

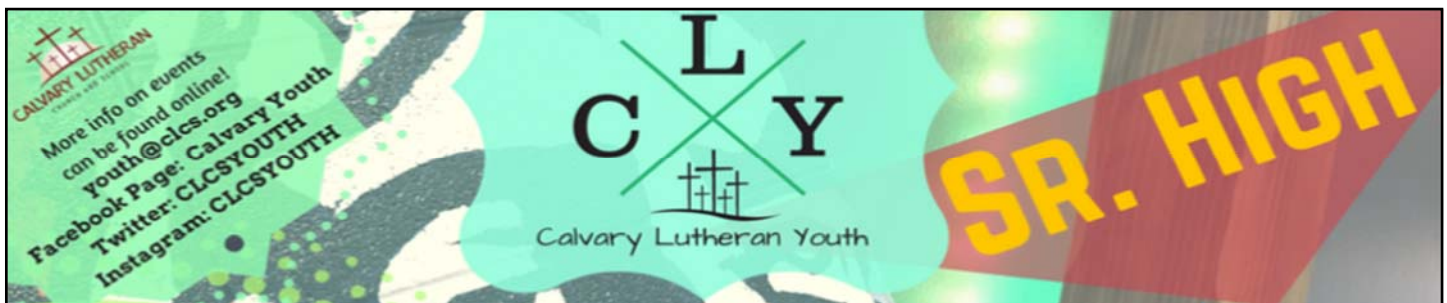


Lunch & Learn Wednesday, January 18th, 11:30am Healthy New Year!



Guest Speaker: Holly Moran, Registered Dietitian for Franciscan Health, will discuss hidden sugars and other additives to be aware of. Provided entree: Choice of Meat or Vegetable Lasagna. Bring \$2 and a dish to share.

Youth Ministry



December

4 | Small group
11 | Card Sorting/Ice Skating

January

8 | Small group
15 | Ski Trip at Perfect North Slope
22 | Small group
29 | Small group

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

Have you ever been lost?

Have you ever been truly lost? To me lost is more of a separation from others and not simply unable to find where you need to go. GPS technology is usually able to refigure the route when a wrong turn sends us off course. Being separated from others creates anxiousness that blurs rational thought and panic may set in. We then find ourselves even more lost if lost can be quantified. When our daughter, Jen, was two, she and I went out birthday shopping for Cheryl. As I was looking through the birthday cards trying to find that perfect sentiment, I looked up and could not see Jen anywhere. I dropped everything and frantically looked up in all directions. As I called her name I heard her response. To my amazement, she was right next to me. I then picked her up and held her, breathed a sigh of relief with a thankful glimpse to heaven as I continued my birthday card search. For that brief second I had lost my daughter. Imagine our lost condition from God as sin entered our world. We were separated from God and no GPS could ever place us on a path to Him. Sin created an eternally lost condition that could never be restored by our merits and efforts. Yet God in His infinite mercy had a plan. This plan included sending Christ incarnate on Christmas. The Babe in the manger is the Savior of the world. Through His death and resurrection we are no longer lost and separated from God, but redeemed and restored. Only Adam and Eve knew what it was like to walk with God in the garden. They experienced the immediate separation and being lost from God. We have only known our sinful condition. Yet how magnificent it is to feel the mercy and grace of God not only this Christmas season, but even unto eternity for we have been found through the waters of Baptism granting to us the gift of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"History of Christmas - His Story"

Students in third through eighth grade will be presenting our **Advent Service on Wednesday, December 7**. The prophets of the Old Testament all point to Jesus as the long expected Messiah. We invite you to attend this 7:00PM worship service.

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

Our Preschool through second grade students will be leading our **Advent service on Wednesday, December 14**. The Preschool through Second Grade will present "For Unto Us a Child is Born" a service of Christmas joy based on God's gift to all mankind. The service begins at 7:00PM.

End of second quarter

Our second quarter will be completed on **Wednesday, December 21**. Report cards will be distributed through the students on Monday, January 9th. We commend our learning into the Lord's Hands asking him to bless those who teach and those who learn in this place.

Christmas Vacation

Our final day prior to Christmas vacation is **Wednesday, December 21**. School will dismiss at 3:00PM on that day. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd. We ask the Lord to be with all traveling during this Christmas break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No school

Calvary Lutheran School will be closed on **Monday January 16** in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We ask the Lord to eliminate the sin of prejudice that still exists in our world today. We ask God to reveal "the Dream" of Dr. King to all people.

2017-18 Preschool Kindergarten & First – Eighth Grade Registration Information

Preschool, Kindergarten, First – Eighth Grade registration for Calvary members, returning students and their siblings, and new registrations from the community will begin on February 1st. Our Early enrollment period will continue through March 15th. Families are invited to call and schedule an appointment for a tour during the school day.

We are excited as we prepare and plan for the upcoming school year. Help spread the word to coworkers, neighbors, friends, and family. God has blessed us enabling us to be a blessing to others.

Tenth Annual Trivia Night

What are the lyrics in the theme song to "Gilligan's Island?" What is ophophobia? Start formulating your Trivia Team for our Tenth Annual Trivia Night. Teams are to consist of 8-10 players. Team entry fees are \$100.00. Ten different trivia categories consisting of ten questions in each will be the format for the evening. Members of our Student Council will be serving refreshments as you play. **The fun begins on Friday evening, January 20 at 7:00PM in the gymnasium.** Money raised through this event will be used to assist our Soccer Field Project. Invite your high school through adult colleagues, neighbors, friends, and relatives to join you. Last year 6 teams assembled for our Trivia Night. Let us fill the gymnasium with 20 teams. Fill your team with various trivia category individuals. A great fun filled evening is waiting for your participation. Don't have a team yet? Please sign up and register as an individual. We will place you on a team. Cost per individual is \$10.00. The Kendall-Deitz trivia team is the reigning champions. They are eager to defend their title!!

Calvary Lutheran School News from Principal Rensner

State Tax Credit Information

Too Good To Be True?! 50% TAX CREDIT for Indiana tax liabilities!

God has provided a unique opportunity to help fund the Christian education of our Calvary students. The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana has been identified as a Scholarship Granting Organization. Scholarships through private and corporate donations are granted to Calvary student families whose income is less than 200% of the Federal free or reduced hot lunch guidelines.

Multiple Benefits for Calvary Lutheran School students, the private or corporate donor, and Calvary Lutheran Church

1. Students and their families accepted in this program will receive a scholarship grant per child enrolled in Kindergarten -8th grade at Calvary.
2. The donor will receive a 50% Indiana State tax credit for every dollar donated. Example: A donation of \$1000.00 will result in a tax credit of \$500.00 towards your Indiana income tax liability as well as a \$1000.00 charitable deduction on your Federal taxes. Private as well as corporate donations will receive this benefit.

Creative donations

Put your donation on a credit card that offers special incentives. Reward points, airline miles, etc. in addition to the tax savings. Reap the rewards while assisting others to hear God's Word.

How may I help? \$54,000 needed to fully fund all applications

Donations are currently being accepted. Please submit your donation to the church or school office or send directly to the Lutheran SGO of Indiana by December 31. Please note: You must include the donor form with your donation. Forms are available in the church and school offices and online at www.LutheranSGO.org. We have received approximately \$38,000 towards our goal of \$54,000. Remaining funds will stay in our account for future student financial needs.

What happens in the future?

Children receiving a scholarship grant are eligible the following school year to convert this grant to an Indiana State voucher. This again significantly reduces the need for congregational funded scholarship dollars.

Children will have the opportunity to hear God's Word through your giving. God continues to open doors to others once thought closed due to financial restrictions. Your assistance in this program is so greatly appreciated! Your gift is multiplied in so many ways.

National Lutheran Schools Week

Calvary will join with thousands of other Lutheran School students and teachers during the week of January 22-29 as we celebrate NLSW!! Many exciting activities are planned during this week-long celebration. A calendar of events will be distributed following our Christmas Vacation.



NEWS FROM LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS

Christmas

Concert and

A Charlie Brown Christmas

LHS fine arts students will present their annual **Christmas concert** on **Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm** in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium. Chamber Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Band, and a special art gallery show will be presented. In addition, Saints on Stage will present the stage adaptation of the classic television special ***A Charlie Brown Christmas***. Join Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts gang as they witness the wonder of God's Greatest Gift at Christmas. Tickets are \$5 and available through the school office or at the door. A special performance of ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** by itself will be performed **Saturday, December 10 at 3:00 pm**.

LuFest 2017 – March 17, 2017

Our LuFest Team is looking for sponsors and donors for this year's **LuFest** which will take place on **Friday March 17, 2017** at **Crane Bay Event Center**. Our Sponsorships start out at only \$500. We also offer a Maroon Sponsorship for \$1250 and a Gold Sponsorship for \$2500. This is a great way for your employer or business to show support for Lutheran High School as well as gain exposure to attendees and supporters of our school. Please fill out the [Sponsorship Form](#) (download at lhsi.org or pick up in the LHS office) if you are open to being a part of our most fun, meaningful and impactful event yet!

We are also accepting new and exciting donations for our Live and Silent Auction. Our team is looking for new items like Apple watches, iPads, household items; date night experiences and group excursions such as the Brew Bus or Escape Room; gift baskets (Ultimate Tailgating, Dog Lovers baskets, Chocolate Lovers baskets, etc.); and destination weekend get-aways (to Cincinnati, Chicago, Louisville, St. Louis...) with event tickets for museums, sporting events, popular restaurants, shopping gift cards and more. If you are interested in leading a gift gathering party or organizing a class or group basket, please contact Michelle Bradbury at lufest2017@gmail.com. We greatly appreciate your interest in LuFest!

Christmas Break Office Hours December 22 – January 2



Spiritual Care

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has reviewed the information on the potential candidates and narrowed the list to a smaller number. We will now begin the interview process.

Please continue to keep the Call Committee and the call process in your prayers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Call Committee: Tim Coxey, Stephanie Deitz, Pastor Ebert, Rhonda Hansen, Phil Hendershott, Gene Jend, Randy Irwin, Sarah Skipworth, and Kirsten Springer.

Compassion Ministry

Thanksgiving Food Collection—Update

THANK YOU for your GENEROUS food donations.

Our Thanksgiving Baskets helped over 20 families comprised of over 32 adults and 60 children.

Calvary is blessed to be able to provide help to these grateful families.

The Compassion Ministry Team is thankful for your generosity.



Extravagant Sharing There are so many ways God opens doors for us to share our blessings! One of the ways we have to Extravagantly Share with those who have the need of some special care is through our giving to The Sharing Place of Lutheran Child and Family Services. Our Extravagant Sharing collections will begin again in January. In January we ask you to bring in canned and dry pasta mixes and/or canned pork and beans. In the following months we will collect:

February: Canned and instant potatoes

March: Facial tissues

April: Cereal

Thanks to everyone who give from their heart to provide for the needs of God's people.

Fellowship Ministry

Holiday Cookie Exchange and Packaging Event Saturday, December 3rd in the Narthex

Fellowship Ministry Team would love to have lots and lots of Holiday cookies (including fudge and candies) donated so we can package them to sell and benefit Calvary CAN. Thank you to all bakers who are sharing your time and talents to benefit Calvary CAN.

There are TWO ways to participate

1) Come to the *Holiday Cookie Exchange Sat., Dec. 3rd at 10am;*

Bake at least 5 dozen cookies; 3 dozen to exchange and at least 2 dozen to donate

If you picked up a Rubbermaid container in November, please bring your donated cookies in the Rubbermaid container and your "cookies to exchange" in your own container



Please label nuts or no nuts

Fellowship and refreshments in the Narthex

(Optional) If you would like to share your recipe, please bring it and we will make copies for those at the Cookie Exchange

2) Interested in baking cookies to donate?

Drop off cookies (label nuts or no nuts) Friday, Dec. 2nd in the kitchenette by 4pm or bring your cookies Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10am and join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Narthex

After the Cookie Exchange, donated cookies will be packaged to sell after services on December 3-4th. **Proceeds go to Calvary CAN.**

Questions: Contact Linda Bugher @ thebughers@att.net or 317-432-1865.

Stewardship Emphasis

Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.

And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.

And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.

Support for the Tutoring and Tailoring Centers in India

In addition to our September, 2017 Mission trip, we have more ways to participate in God's mission to reach India. In 2015, Calvary India Mission and Pr. Raji were able to start two Tutoring Centers and one Tailoring Center in India. The startup funds were donated by Divine Savior Lutheran Church. The Tutoring Centers provide after school care, a meal, help with school work and Christian education to some of the poorest children in the area. The Tailoring Centers teach sewing skills for making clothes and craft items to sell to some of the poor women, mostly young mothers. Both of these ministries are offered without cost to Christian, Hindu and Muslims families as a Christian outreach effort. Now the startup funds are nearly gone, and Calvary has stepped up to help keep these centers operating. Some support is coming from the Calvary budget, but we need your help if we are going to keep all three centers open and continuing their outreach efforts in 2017.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? The Calvary mission envelopes collected in November, December and January will go toward the Tutoring and Tailoring Centers. For those who don't use the mission envelopes, we will be having a door offering the weekend of January 14/15. Please be generous with your mission envelope support over the next few months, and look for a door offering opportunity in January. Thanks to Calvary for your support of this important outreach opportunity!

Financial Page

Service Opportunity—Calvary's "**Women in Mission**" will have Christmas gifts ready to deliver to our shut-in members by **December 1st**. The table with the gifts is ready in the Café. Pick up your gift to deliver to a shut-in today.



BLANKETS FOR BABIES - Our dates are Thursdays 6-8pm in the cafe area: **Dec. 1st, Jan. 12, & Jan. 26**. Questions? Contact Susan Daniels 317-882-3691

Operation Christmas Child A big thank you to all who participated in this event. **194 boxes were packed** by Calvary members, families, seniors, and school children. What a wonderful way to spread the message of Jesus Christ throughout the world!



Are You a Thrivent Financial Member? In order to best communicate to the people of Calvary who are also members of Thrivent Financial, we are trying to update our list of those who are members. Please contact the church office to let us know (317-783-2000 or churchsecretary@clcs.org).

Amazon Smile—Free Money for Calvary – Did you know that when you make purchases through Amazon Smile, you can designate a charity to receive a donation? Any money received on Calvary's behalf through the end of the year will go to **Calvary Can**. Please remember to designate Calvary when you're making Amazon Smile purchase during the Christmas season! Also, ask your employer if they match donations made to Calvary School and/or Calvary Church. Normally it's as easy as filling out a form, and Calvary receives extra funding for ministries. Questions? Talk to Sandra Wilson or anyone on the Stewardship Ministry Team.

EPIC Center Book Discussion Series

A four-week book discussion will be presented in the EPIC Center Library at the 9:30 hour on **Sundays, January 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February 5th**. We will be reading and discussing the book, *Whistling Past the Graveyard*, by Susan Crandall. The book is set in the South during the early 1960s, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The story follows an unlikely pair, a white 10-year-old girl and a black woman, who meet up unexpectedly and motor across Mississippi and Tennessee in a beat-up pickup truck, on what becomes a pilgrimage to Nashville. On the way, they encounter many dangers and kindnesses, and develop a bond that is unbreakable. Our readers will join them in their journey!

The local libraries have copies of the book, and we will make copies available to those who wish to purchase one, (gently used) for \$4.00.

Dan and Sandy Kendall

CALVARY ALUMNI FEATURED IN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Lutheran High School is presenting *A Charlie Brown Christmas* on **Saturday, December 10th** (3pm) and **Sunday, December 11th** (3pm). The cast features seven Calvary graduates, including Delaney Blazek, Ted Deitz, Mitch Price, Daniel Leach, Hope Messer, Elayna Brock, and Emma Turner. Tickets will be available at the door. Make plans to attend.

Worship for Shut-Ins
Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
 Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002 www.worshipforshutins.org
Sunday 10:00 AM - WHMB-TV 40 Sunday 11:30 AM - Direct TV Channel 377

December 2016

December 4, 2016 - Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7; **Old Testament:** Isaiah 11:1-10; **Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

"The Perfect Ruler" - Sermon Text: Isaiah 11:1-10

by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne, IN

We know from history about imperfect rulers. Isaiah speaks about the perfect ruler: Jesus Christ. His rule means for you forgiveness, life, peace, and rest.

December 11, 2016 - Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: Psalm 146; **Epistle:** James 5:7-11; **Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-15

"Discouraged Prophet?" - Sermon Text: Matthew 11:2-11

by Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church - Decatur, IN

Could it be that John the Baptist was discouraged, even depressed? Some debate whether this is possible since he was the great way-preparer. Yet, after all, John was part of our fallen race, as was his discouraged predecessor Elijah. As we face such discouragement and perhaps depression, we too have our faith reinforced by returning to the works and words of the Savior.

December 18, 2016 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: Psalm 24; **Old Testament:** Isaiah 7:10-17; **Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

"Go Ahead...Ask!" - Sermon Text: Isaiah 7:10-17

by Rev. William Mueller, Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Fort Wayne, IN

Are we too timid to ask God the tough questions of life? Go ahead and ask...for He has something gracious to tell us!

December 25, 2016 - The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

Psalm: 2; **Epistle:** Hebrews 1:1-6; **Gospel:** John 1:1-14

"Joy To The World" - Sermon Text: John 1:1-14

by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church - New Haven, IN

The true joy of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While we celebrate the gift of God's Son we remember the purpose of His coming, to save us all from the consequences of our sin so that we may "become the children of God."



**CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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Family Education Hour (Sunday School) 9:30 AM

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