

News from Calvary



December 2018



Calvary's Mission

As God's Children, our mission is to

Know His Word,

Share His Word

and

Live His Word.

Calvary's Vision

To be a Christ-centered church, alive with worship and meaningful ministries, where the youngest to the oldest are serving and being served, growing and helping others to grow, and connecting with each other and our surrounding communities.



Serve.



Grow.



Connect.

Table of Contents



From the Pastor	page 4
Advent Sermon Series	page 5
Advent Worship & Soup Suppers	page 6
Mission Christmas Project	page 7
“Deck the Halls” at Calvary	page 8
Caroling Party	page 8
Christmas Worship Services	page 9
Annual Living Nativity	page 9
The 2019 Ladies’ Tea	page 10
Thank You for Your Time & Talents	page 11
Those Who Serve Us	page 12
Birthdays and Anniversaries	page 14



This year, I experienced one of the biggest life-changing events ever...the birth of my son. And while I joke that I've really come to appreciate God's gift of caffeine, I can honestly say that I wouldn't change any of it even if I could. My son is an amazing gift from God. Even with the diapers, loss of sleep, and other life adjustments, my son is still such an amazing blessing.

I've become one of those dads who love to show off pictures of my son. I love to take him for walks and introduce him to new people. I love to share with other people his latest accomplishments. Again, he's such an amazing blessing to both Liz and me. Oh and did I mention that I love him?

And yet, Samuel's birth is not the only event that has been life-changing. When I met and eventually married my wife, who is another amazing blessing and gift from God. Graduating from various schools. The death of my mother. My brother getting married. The various friends I have made throughout my life.

But when it comes to life-changing events, there's one that trumps them all, and I don't even remember it. I was a baby when it happened. That's when I was baptized and God brought me into His family. Where God combined simple water with His Word to work forgiveness of sins, rescuing me from death and the devil. I can't think of any event that could be more life changing than God securing my eternity and adopting me into His family.

And yet, for many of us in the church, we've begun to treat baptism as commonplace. We treat it as if it's not really that big a deal. A wise friend of mine once told me that if you walked into a cemetery and saw people rising out of their graves, you'd probably go and tell people. But for some reason when we are in church and look around at everyone whom God has rescued from eternal condemnation to new life in Him, we see this resurrection, but for some reason most Christians don't talk about it.

The reality is, if your life with God really is that life-

changing, then it should be just as natural to want to talk about what He has done for you as it is to talk about the weather. If we really believe that God has done so much to and for us, it's only natural to want to talk about Him with other people.

As we begin this Christmas season, I'd like to challenge you. Pick at least one person that you know who isn't a churchgoer. First and foremost, begin to pray for that person on a daily basis. (*Prayer is one of God's most underused gifts.*) The second half of this challenge is to invite that person to join you at worship. Don't just invite them to come to church, but invite them to come with you and sit with you at worship. Statistics show that eighty percent of first-time visitors to a church come because someone invited them. Maybe some of them were only waiting for an invitation. Maybe it will be the best Christmas gift you ever gave.

*Remember my friends, wherever you go, whatever you do,
you're on the King's business.*

Blessings,
Pastor Kuder

[illegible]

Hark: The Herald Angels Sing

This four-week Christmas series, starting Dec. 2nd, walks through the angelic messages foretelling how Jesus' birth would fulfill God's promise of hope to the entire world. "Hark" explores the powerful and transformative truth of the incarnation of Jesus as well as the faithfulness of God toward us in all of His promises.

Advent Worship & Soup Suppers

The Advent season begins Dec. 2nd. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ, we invite you to join us for our Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship services.



Soup suppers start each Wednesday at **6:15 p.m.**, followed by a worship service at **7:30 p.m.** **Midweek services will take place on Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19.**




GOD WITH US

Advent Worship Series

Our Advent series for traditional worship focuses on the ways in which God is with us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. Services will reveal how Christ continues to be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23).

- **Week 1:** Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes according to His will.
- **Week 2:** Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to His heart.
- **Week 3:** Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.

As usual, we are looking for soup chefs, salad makers and dessert bakers. [Browse your Calvary Cookbook for ideas!](#) Speak to Anne Daly or Ruth Bolger if you have any questions. Do join us for this wonderful time of fellowship.



A special thank you is extended to all the ladies participating in our Mission Sunday Christmas project. 50 hygiene kits for the homeless were assembled for Beat the Streets Ministries by Nancy K and Cindy, 50 Christmas gift bags were assembled for the Holy Spirit Food Pantry by Karen G and Jaya, 20 baby gift baskets were assembled for the Diapers and More Baby Pantry by Ruth B and Anne, and 150 Christmas treat bags were assembled for the Jersey Shore Dream Center's mobile food pantry by Tracy, Melissa, Joyce, and Liz. Together, you all assembled 270 Christ-centered items and reminded families of the real reason we celebrate Christmas.



Come "Deck the Halls" at Calvary!



December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

We all admire the beautiful Christmas trees that shine brightly in the Sanctuary and Kavasch Hall each year. Before you decorate your tree at home, come and join us as we decorate God's house in preparation for Christmas. Afterwards we'll enjoy cocoa and cookies together.

Caroling with Calvary!



It's never too early to start playing Christmas carols-- at least, that seems to be the reigning theory in department stores and on radio stations. While we may not all agree with this theory, carols certainly do have a time and place in the Christmas season.

This year that time and place is **Sunday, Dec. 23.** We will meet at Calvary at 12:30.

Caroling has been a Calvary tradition for many years. It is a way to reach out to those who may have trouble making it to church on Christmas Day, to let them know that we are thinking of them. So, if you'd like to brush up on your knowledge of carol lyrics while spreading the joy of the season, come join us! Contact Ruth Bolger for more information: 973-226-2487.

Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

+ ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ + ~ +



Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex if you are able to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Haenchen at 973-783-7783.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all

people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Luke 2: 8-14)

That's what Calvary's Living Nativity is all about.

SPREAD THE WORD!



On Sunday, January 27th from 2:00-4:00 join us at Calvary for our annual **Ladies' Tea**. Lori Hynson, speaker, singer, Bible teacher and author of "SuperGal vs. God", is our guest speaker this year.



She speaks with transparency and humor to encourage women to surrender their struggles to live up to who the world says they should be and discover who God created them to be. It promises to be an uplifting time, so think about the friends and coworkers you'll want to invite to come with you.

-Debbie Houlihan



Thank You All!

As another year draws to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our members who give of their time and talents to support everything we do. We are one body with many parts, and each part is essential to the life of Calvary.

- ❖ Altar Guild
- ❖ Bakers & Cooks
- ❖ Bible Study Leaders
- ❖ Choir
- ❖ Church Secretary
- ❖ Church Leadership
- ❖ Flower Visitors
- ❖ Greeters
- ❖ Mission & Outreach Coordinators
- ❖ Music Director & Organist
- ❖ Pastor Kuder
- ❖ Praise Team
- ❖ Property Committee Members
- ❖ Sunday School Teachers
- ❖ Ushers



Those Who Serve Us:

✝ Altar Guild: Lauren Molinari

✝ Greeters:

Dec. 2	10:00 AM	Cindy Eucker
Dec. 9	10:00 AM	Nancy Keltner, Brian Keltner
Dec. 16	10:00 AM	Karen Gordon El
Dec. 23	10:00 AM	Ajit and Jaya Lakra
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Nancy Keltner
Dec. 25	10:00 AM	Karen Gordon El
Dec. 30	10:00 AM	Don and Lucille Wernes



Those Who Serve Us:

† Flower Visitors:

- Dec. 2 Jaya Lakra
Dec. 9 Edith Conte
Dec. 16 Anne Daly
Dec. 30 Joyce Sapara-Grant

† Ushers:

- Dec. 2 10:00 AM Gbenga Adesokan, John Ricca,
Harold Vaughan
Dec. 5 7:30 PM John Ricca, John Wickham
Dec. 9 10:00 AM Ajit Lakra, John Wickham
Dec. 12 7:30 PM Ajit Lakra, Gordon Wickham
Dec. 16 10:00 AM Chris Molinari, Stephen Molinari,
Gordon Wickham
Dec. 19 7:30 PM Bob Eucker, Bill Keltner
Dec. 23 10:00 AM Brian Keltner, Karl Wetter
Dec. 24 7:30 PM Rich Akers, Dylan Behlen,
Lewis Dokie, Brian Keltner
Dec. 25 10:00 AM Gordon Wickham, John Wickham
Dec. 30 10:00 AM Rich Akers, Abbaccus Dokie



Many Hands Make LIGHT Work



Happy Birthday

Dec. 2	Gordon Wickham
Dec. 2	John Wickham
Dec. 5	Elaine Methven
Dec. 6	Cindy Eucker
Dec. 7	Thankamma Mathews
Dec. 9	George Lofmark
Dec. 10	David G. Behlen
Dec. 11	Claire Scott
Dec. 16	Tanny Singh
Dec. 18	Gbenga Adesokan
Dec. 24	Chris Eucker



Happy Anniversary

Dec. 22	Don & Lucille Wernes
Dec. 26	Ajit & Jaya Lakra
Dec. 29	Chris & Joyce Sapara-Grant