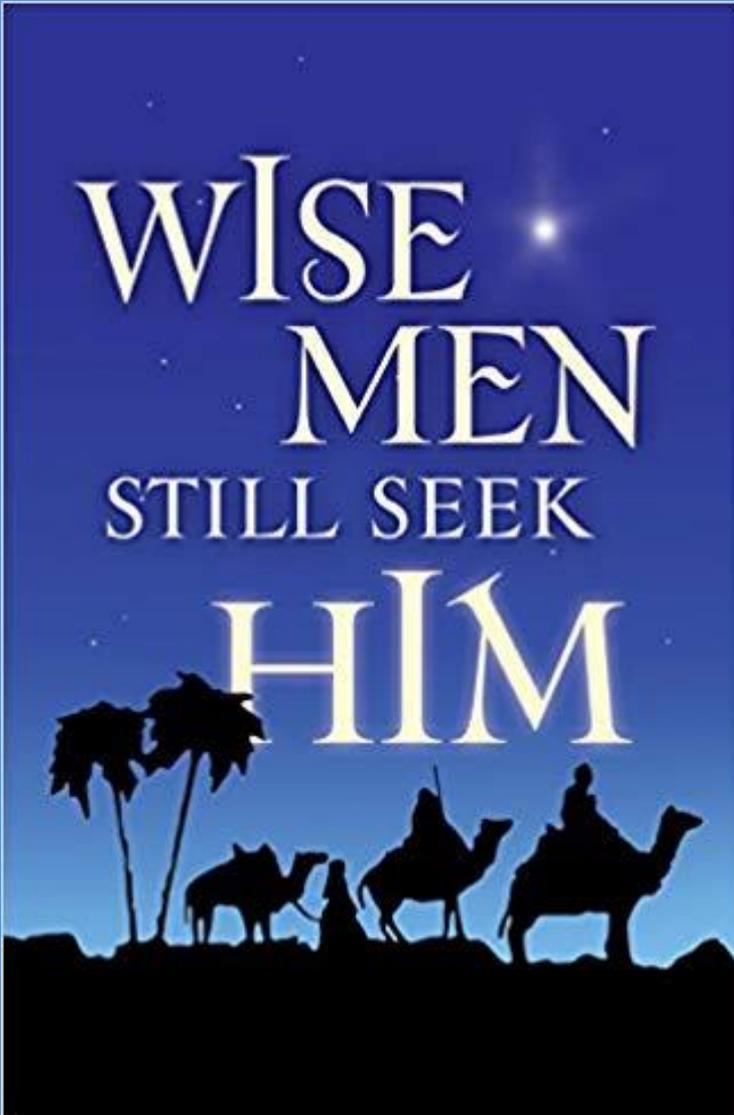


News from Calvary



January/February 2020

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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.



Connect.



Grow.



Serve.

When I read through the Bible (*which for me is something that I'm always doing*), I find that there are certain books of the Bible that I enjoy reading more than others. However, I never skip over the harder ones, because God can speak to you through any scripture. But as I said there are some parts of the Bible that I enjoy reading more than others and one of those is 2 Samuel. The majority of 2 Samuel is about King David.

Now, when I read this book, David's life always seems so big. From his battle with Goliath, to the prior king, Saul, trying to kill David, to his adventures while he's trying to escape Saul, the battles he faced once He was king, even when he sinned against God and man, his whole life just seems so big. And yet throughout his life, he just seems to have this amazingly deep relationship with God.

Yet, I've heard it said by so many people that when you read about David's life, it almost doesn't seem real. And because of these things David can be hard to relate to. "Because he's not like me."

But as I said before, his life was so big, it was larger than life. And again, it wasn't just the things that some people might consider great, some of his sins were big as well. And while I realize that all of our sins are an abomination to God, when we measure some of those sins by human standards, some of them were truly evil. And as I write this, I'm specifically thinking about what happened between David and Bathsheba.

One night, David sees Bathsheba bathing on a rooftop and he begins to lust after her. And since he's king, he can do whatever he wants. So, he has her brought to him. They have sex and he then sends her away. Later on, he finds out that she's pregnant by him. Once he finds this out, he calls her husband off the battlefield, in the hope that while he's home, he'll have sex with his wife and in the process cover up David's sin. But Bathsheba's husband doesn't feel that it's right to do that when his brothers in arms are off in battle. So, David sends Bathsheba's husband back to the battlefield and gives secret orders that once the battle is underway, to pull everybody back except for Bathsheba's husband. Thereby murdering him. And then after the time of mourning passes, David takes Bathsheba as his wife.

Later on, the prophet, Nathan, confronts David with the wickedness of his sin. And David gets it. He gets just how wicked his actions were. He gets just how repugnant his actions are to God. And so, he repents. He repents to God, falling on His grace and mercy. After which, he moves on with his life.

And this is the part that many people struggle with. That David can just simply move on from this. Some people argue that every time David looked at Bathsheba after, it should have devastated him because she would have been a reminder of the fact, he had killed her husband. How could he live with himself knowing that they had started their relationship in the midst of adultery? And yet ... David does move on.

However, I believe that many of us are guilty of this same thing. That we are guilty of not moving on. Of not trusting God's mercy and grace. Regardless of whether those things happened three day ago or 30 years ago, some of us have a hard time moving on. Of not trusting that Jesus' blood actually covers all of our sins.

Since you're reading this, then there's a good chance that you are already a believer and that you already have faith. And yet for so many of us, there is still a portion within ourselves that struggles with our faith. It's at these times that I'm reminded of those words from Mark 9:23-25 where this man comes to Jesus hoping that He can heal his son and Jesus calls him out for his lack of faith. The man then responds to Jesus "*I believe; help my unbelief!*"

I believe that's where many of us fall. That we actually do believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead to pay for our sins.

But at the same time, we struggle with our faith as well. And if this is you, I pray that during these times of struggle you become like this father who also struggled with his faith in a time of crisis. That you too would pray to God that He would strengthen your faith as well. And through that strengthening of faith, you might come to trust Him with your whole heart. And in so doing, you would be blessed and know just how much He truly loves you and be able to move on in that knowledge as well.

Remember my friends, wherever you go, whatever you do, you're on the Kings business.

blessings,
 -Pastor

In honor of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we will be collecting donations for the First Choice Women's Resource Center, a pro-life ministry providing free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds to women in Montclair, Morristown, Jersey City, Newark, and Plainfield.

Baby bottles will be available in the narthex to take home and fill with your loose change throughout January and February. Please return the bottles by February 16th.

We thank you for your prayerful participation. By supporting this pro-life ministry, you'll help keep them in the position to provide loving support to pregnant women during their crucial time of need.



THE KURRE CHRISTMAS LANDSCAPES

The next time you pass through Kavasch Hall, take note of the large painting on the inside wall. If it looks familiar, that is because it is one of the two matching landscapes that have hung above the altar during Advent and Christmas for the past several decades. Although not of professional caliber by any means, the painting depicts a small hamlet of a half dozen tiny buildings nestled in a valley, dominated by the church spire at its center and a massive, snow-capped mountain overseeing the entire landscape below. This year, it was decided to retire the paintings from active duty in the sanctuary and purchase the colorful new banners that we have enjoyed in their place this past holiday season.

Those of us who have been around Calvary for a while may remember that the two paintings are the work of Mr. Fred Kurrle (pronounced like “Curley”). Frederick and Louise Kurrle were one of the many devoted and supportive Christian families with which Calvary has been blessed over the years. They immigrated to the United States from Germany in the years between the two World Wars. Mr. Kurrle was a skilled horticulturalist who worked for some time at the Rudolph Nursery in Roseland. Mrs. Kurrle was a homemaker. They had two sons, Frederick and Robert. At some point, probably in the 1940’s or 1950’s, Mr. Kurrle opened his own landscaping business. They purchased their home at 73 Bloomfield Ave. (now a medical building) and used the adjacent vacant lot (now a parking lot) to maintain a revolving stock of small trees and shrubs.

I had the experience of working for Mr. Kurrle for several summers during the mid to late 1960’s. Unlike today’s landscape contractors who arrive at a property hauling a massive enclosed trailer full of powerful ride-a-mowers, weed whackers and leaf blowers, we mowed most lawns with human powered reel mowers and edged them with hand clippers. We roamed the wooded streets of Essex Fells, North Caldwell and Llewellyn Park in an old Ford pickup. Whenever we arrived back at the lot for lunch on a hot summer day, Mrs. Kurrle was always there with a refreshing glass of ice tea or lemonade.

Once the shrubs were pruned, the leaves collected, and the equipment put away for the winter, Mr. Kurrle sold Christmas trees and wreaths out in front of his lot on Bloomfield Ave. But when the holiday season was over, he enjoyed his favorite pastimes – bowling and painting. It was during one of those quiet winter months that he would have painted the two matching Christmas landscapes. They may be of a place he knew in Germany, perhaps even somewhere near his home town – I don’t know.

The Kurrles contributed to Calvary in many ways. Being an expert horticulturalist and botanist, Mr. Kurrle kept the shrubs around the church healthy and neatly pruned. He would have also provided the trees and wreaths for Christmas. Although not a wealthy family by any means, the Kurrles were frugal, and years after her husband’s passing, Mrs. Kurrle’s

generosity was instrumental in funding the Calvary Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, for which we are all most grateful.

So even as I sit in the pews of our sanctuary during the Christmas season, admiring our new brightly colored red banners with their timeless message: “Glory to God in the Highest” “Peace on Earth”, I often take a few moments to remember some of those patriarchs who once worshipped in these same pews and who gave so much to our church. I pray that my praise and service might live up to their legacy.

- Andrew Wolcott

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CALVARY BANNER FUND

At our last congregational meeting, we discussed both the need to appreciate our Calvary history and the desire to consider purchasing contemporary banners to enhance our sanctuary. Above are the images of our new Christmas banners (gold on red). The cost of this pair of banners was \$300. We encourage members to consider making even small ongoing donations to our banner fund so we can add new banners for Easter or general inspiration. Please speak to Pastor or me with any comments or questions.

- Anne Daly

Those Who Serve Us: January

✝ Altar Guild: Lauren Molinari

✝ Greeters:

Jan. 5	10:00 a.m.	Nancy Keltner
Jan. 12	10:00 a.m.	Nancy Keltner
Jan. 19	10:00 a.m.	Lauren Molinari
Jan. 26	10:00 a.m.	Gordon and Ruth Wickham



Those Who Serve Us: January

✝ Flower Visitors:

Jan. 5 Joyce Sapara-Grant
Jan. 12 Jaya Lakra
Jan. 19 Edith Conte
Jan. 26 Liz Kuder

✝ Ushers:

Jan. 5 10:00 a.m. John Ricca, Gordon Wickham
Jan. 12 10:00 a.m. Richard Akers, John Wickham
Jan. 19 10:00 a.m. Brian Keltner, Stephen Molinari
Jan. 26 10:00 a.m. Ajit Lakra, Karl Wetter



Those Who Serve Us: February

✝ Altar Guild: Jaya Lakra

✝ Greeters:

Feb. 2 10:00 a.m. Gbenga Adesokan

Feb. 9 10:00 a.m. Nancy Keltner

Feb. 16 10:00 a.m. Edith Conte

Feb. 23 10:00 a.m. Karl and Luise Wetter





Jan. 13	Robin Haenchen	Jan. 16	Lauren Willenborg
Jan. 22	Pastor Kuder	Jan. 22	Marit Lofmark
Jan. 23	Lauren Molinari	Jan. 24	John S. Wickham



Feb. 3	Eric Ponczek	Feb. 4	Bill Keltner
Feb. 7	Lehman Lee	Feb. 14	Ken Meyer
Feb. 21	Tracy Dokie	Feb. 22	Karl Wetter
Feb. 28	Melissa Bonaguide		