CONNECTION

CALVARY CHURCH

Calvary Staff

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Rev. Dr. Daniel Lute

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Office Hours & Info

Mon.-Th:	8 AM - 4:30 PM
Fri.	8 AM - 4PM
Closed:	12 - 1 PM each day
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December 21, 2026 is the deadline for the January 2027 Connection

A Word from Dr. Dan

One of my favorite Christmas songs is not one that you'll find in the hymn books or on most favorite Christmas albums. It's "Snowfall" by Manhattan Transfer. It's one of those slow jazzy songs that slows my heart rate down and causes me to consider the season that I have been so hurriedly rushing through. Some may say, "Well...it's not about Jesus." My answer would be, "And you won't find "God" in the book of Esther, but it still speaks of Him. And it's not, "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." It's about God in creation. Snow. Falling.

I am reminded of the great Christmas passage in Genesis 8:22. 22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Gen. 8:22 NIV)

Or perhaps Psalm 147:15-18, "15 He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

16 He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.

17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?

18 He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow." (Ps. 147:15-18 NIV)

Or perhaps the blessing passage of Isaiah. 10 "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it

bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isa. 55:10-11 NIV)

So as the seasons once again follow in their divine cycle, grab a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, curl up on a comfy chair with your favorite throw and a nice book and stare out the window. Snow. Fall. God.

Merry birth of Jesus,

From Dr. Dan and First Lady Deb

December Birthdays

Mike Hopkins	December 2
Frank Austin	December 4
Martha Cotner	December 6
Danny Reef	December 6
Jeff Beeman	December 13
Kathy DeWitt	December 28
Steve Sims	December 29
Jane David	December 30

December Anniversaries

Steve & Joyce Reed
married for 65 years December 16

HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR TREATS

A tremendous thanks to all who have provided treats for coffee hour and joined in fellowship. If you would like to help on a Sunday, the sign-up sheet is on the welcome table in the front entrance. If you prefer to provide treats but have Deacons assemble them on Sunday morning, please let the Deacons know. See a Deacon if you need more information or would like to provide treats with a Deacon.

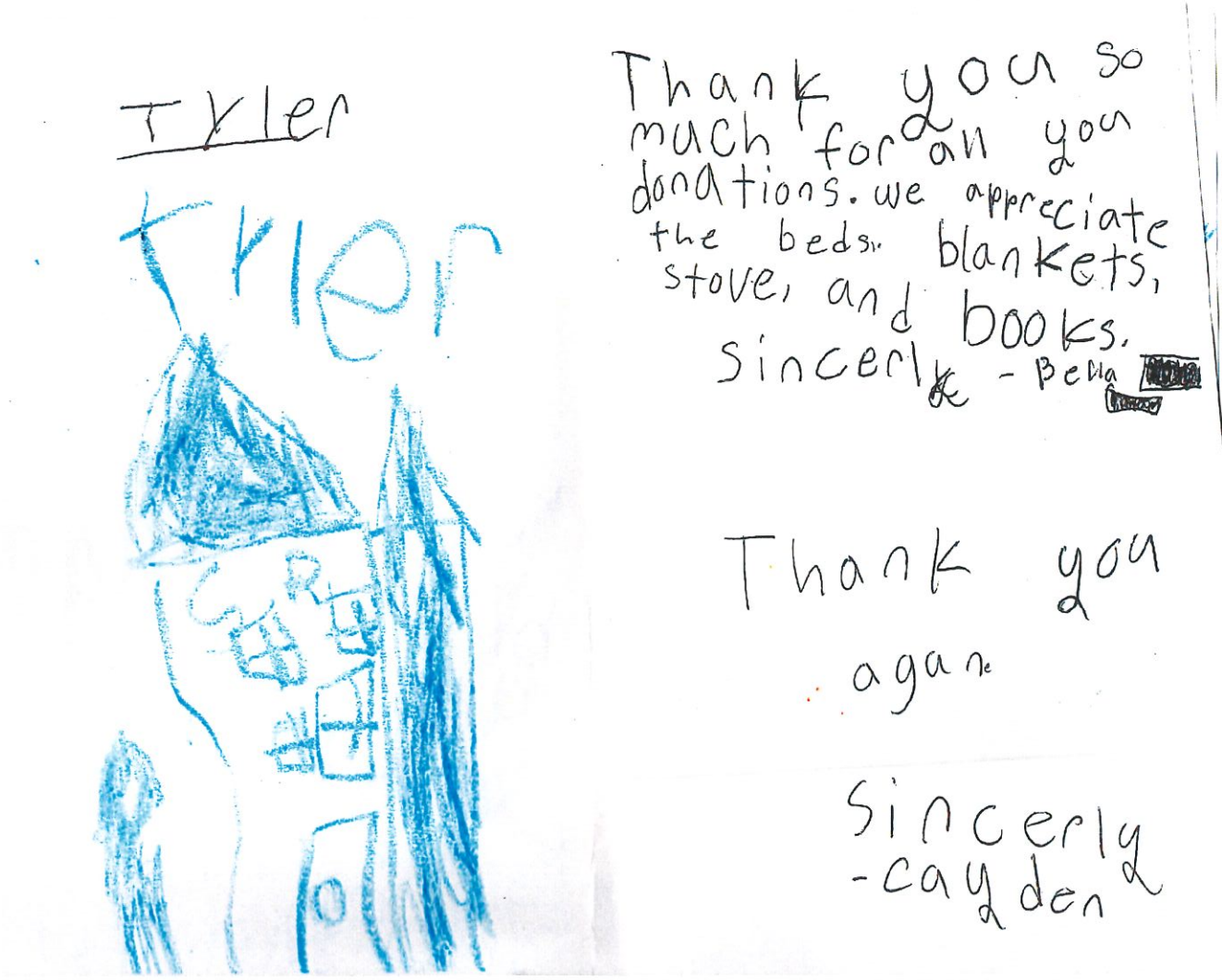
CALVARY'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come join us December 24th at 6:30 pm for our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

CARE PORTAL *by Chris Williamson*

Care Portal, a Calvary mission, through Josiah White's ministry, has helped fill needs from Department of Child Services requests for the last couple of years. We have helped with all kinds of items for children in need who have been placed with other family members or returned to a parent or parents. Recently, Calvary got to help on a larger request for a mother of four finally able to get in a home with her children. We purchased a good used stove for the family.

While most recipients thank us, this mother had her children write thank you notes, and I wanted to share some of them with you.



CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

The Deacons would like to once again encourage a Christmas card exchange at Calvary. With the ever-growing price of stamps, this will give covenant partners an opportunity to give Christmas cards to one another without the added expense of stamps. On November 22, 2026, there will be baskets with Christmas cards that covenant members may pick up to use if they wish. You are welcome to use your own cards if you prefer. The Deacons ask that you return these completed cards back to the baskets outside both entrances to the sanctuary no later than Sunday, December 13, 2026. We will then sort the cards and distribute them on December 20th. If we have a card for a person that is not present, the Deacons will either deliver or mail to the recipient. We hope you will include shut-ins with cards and messages. These will be hand delivered to each shut-in personally. We will have a list of shut-ins and their locations available on November 22nd as well. Please see a Deacon with any questions.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS BAGS *by Sara Overway*

This year for Sr. Christmas Bags we will only stuff bags for those in the nursing homes. The bags will have the same items as last year. The other bags will get a gift card, thanks to the Calvary Presbyterian Church Foundation. If you would like to donate to the Sr. Christmas Bags fund, please make sure to write Sr Bags on the memo line.

Thank You again for your continued help in spreading God's love to those less fortunate.

Sara

Elders: Class of 2026

Sara Overway
David Swigart
Terrie VanSoest

Elders: Class of 2027

Jeff Overway
Scott Rush

Elders: Class of 2028

Dave Reinking

Deacons: Class of 2026

Jeff Goltry
Pat Reef
Buttons Smith

Deacons: Class of 2027

Judy Bainbridge
Tim Roth
Chris Williamson

Deacons: Class of 2028

Carole Maxwell

We want our covenant partners and any other friends of Calvary to know that there are wonderful scripture based Bible studies currently in session. We will try to keep our Connection viewers informed of what each study is studying monthly. The following is information on current studies. We welcome all who want to join a study to do so!

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING & EVENING BIBLE STUDY *by Deb Lute*

On November 23rd, the Monday morning and evening Bible study led by Deb Lute completed our study, "The Making of a Godly Woman: Becoming the Woman God Wants Me to Be."

This study explored the many aspects of being a Godly woman. We began with THE FEAR OF THE LORD: without honor and respect for God, we cannot become the women He calls us to be.

We then examined the value of INNER BEAUTY, THE EXCELLENT WIFE, A MENTOR, and the importance of PRAYER. We closed with THE PROVERBS 31 WOMAN, discovering that she represents not perfection but direction: a life pointed toward God and obedience to Him.

The group will break for the holiday season and resume on February 15th with "Philippians: Finding Joy in Christ." All ladies are invited to attend.

DR. DAN'S BIBLE STUDIES *by Rev. Dan Lute*

Dan's Wednesday Bible study series on Exodus will be taking a break until the beginning of the new year.

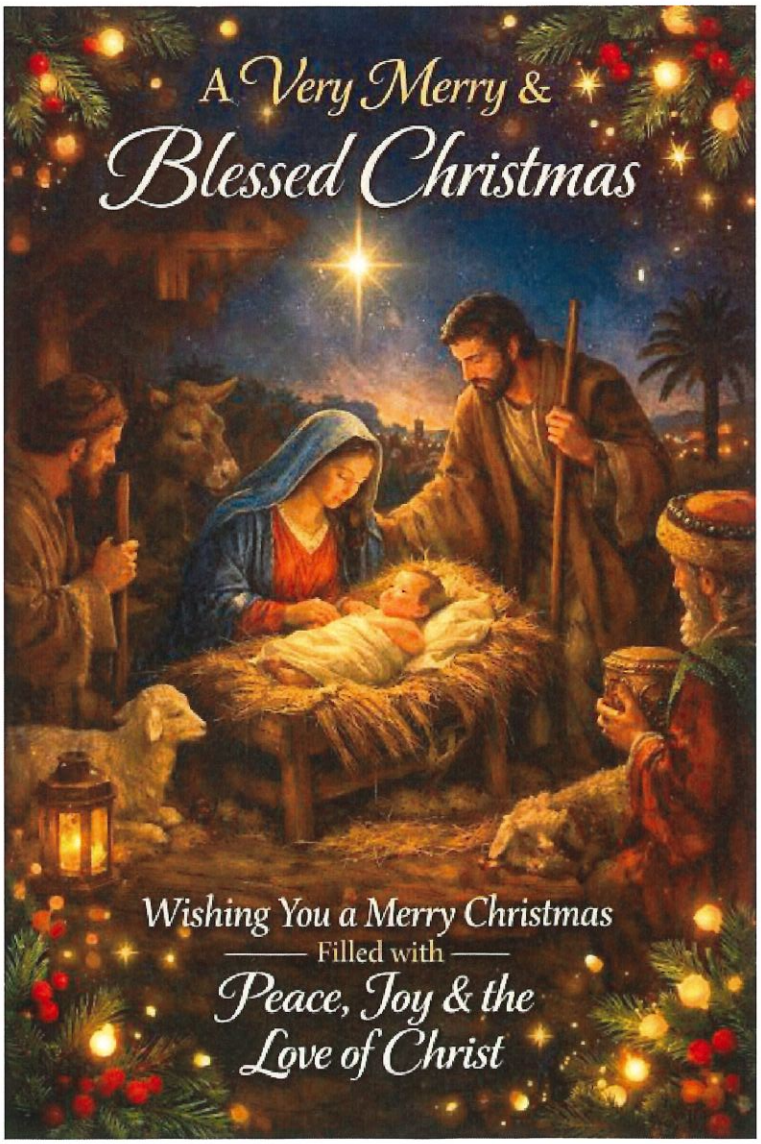
The Ezekiel study after the service on Sundays will continue through the winter until the study is completed.

The Men's Thursday morning Bible study meets from 8:15-9:15 in the library. They are studying *The Apostle John's First Epistle*.

LOAVES AND FISHES SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Loaves and Fishes provide meals for the needy as well as fellowship by many of the local area churches including Calvary . This program provides a Saturday lunch, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., all year long. Donations are accepted. Meals will be served on the following dates:

December 5	No Meals Served
December 12	No Meals Served
December 19	Church of the Good Shepherd
December 26	Trinity Episcopal



December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 am Synergy Homeschool Grp 10:00 AA 2:30 Alanon 6:00 Deacons Meeting 6:00 Senior Dance Group	2 7:30 pm AA	3 8:15 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 Mom's Group 6:00 Warming Center Training	4 10:00 am AA	5 *L&F – No Meals Served*
6 9:30 am Worship with Guest Speaker Dr. Mitch Glaser 7:30 AA	7 6:00 pm Fencing Class 6:30 Session Mtg 6:30 Dance Fitness Class 7:30 AA	8 8:30 am Synergy Homeschool Grp 10:00 AA 2:30 Alanon 6:00 Senior Dance Group	9 7:30 pm AA	10 8:15 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 Dance Fitness Class	11 10:00 am AA	12 *L&F – No Meals Served* 7:00 am Delta Kappa Gamma Brunch/Meeting
13 9:30 am Worship & Communion 10:45 Ezekiel Study 7:30 AA	14 6:00 pm Fencing Class 6:30 Dance Fitness Class 7:30 AA	15 8:30 am Synergy Homeschool Grp 10:00 AA 2:30 Alanon 6:00 Senior Dance Group	16 7:30 pm AA	17 8:15 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 Mom's Group 6:30 Dance Fitness Class	18 10:00 am AA	19 *L&F at Church of the Good Shepherd*
20 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Ezekiel Study 7:30 AA	21 6:00 pm Fencing Class 7:30 AA	22 10:00 am AA 2:30 Alanon 6:00 Senior Dance Group	23 7:30 AA	24 *Christmas Eve* Church Office Closed 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 *Christmas* 10:00 am AA Church Office Closed	26 *L&F at Trinity Episcopal*
27 9:30 am Worship with Dave Reinking 7:30 AA	28 6:00 pm Fencing Class 6:30 Dance Fitness Class 7:30 AA	29 10:00 am AA 2:30 Alanon 6:00 Senior Dance Group	30 7:30 AA	31 *New Year's Eve* 8:15 am Men's Bible Study Church Office Closed at Noon		