

The Calvary Focus

JANUARY 2025

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The radio stations have stopped playing Christmas music, Christmas decorations have been put away, and stores have moved on to Valentine's Day. Just when you think Christmas is over, I am here to remind you that Christmastide extends beyond Christmas Day itself. Those 12 Days of Christmas happen *after* Christmas, not before Christmas. So if you still have your tree and decorations up, you still have time and you are in good company- I always promise my husband that our decorations will be put away before Lent. Christmastide brings us all the way to the Epiphany of the Lord, January 6th. We will celebrate Epiphany Sunday on January 5th, the day in which we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Our Epiphany sermon series is titled "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" and will focus on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. It is during the season of Epiphany when we already highlight key moments in the life of Christ- Baptism of Our Lord Sunday (January 11th) and Transfiguration Sunday (March 2nd). We will fill in the rest of the Sundays with other significant aspects of Jesus' life and ministry, including:

- His time being tempted in the wilderness
- The rejection he encountered
- Calling the twelve disciples
- His teaching, healing, and other miracles

Since we are in Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary, our scripture texts will come from the Gospel of Luke (Matthew is Year A, Mark is Year B, and John is interspersed throughout all three years). "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" will take us all the way up to Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th.

While we started a new liturgical year with the beginning of Advent, we are also in the midst of celebrating a new year, the start of 2025. I love this time of year. It feels so hopeful to me and it is the opportunity for a fresh start. What are your hopes and dreams for 2025? What resolutions, intentions, or goals will you set for yourself? While many of us choose goals that are related to our physical or mental health, what can you do in this new year to grow in your relationship with God? How can you deepen or expand your faith this year? I pray this new year would draw us closer to God and one another, and that we would continue to be inspired by the Holy Spirit as we seek to love God and our neighbors.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

Happy Birthday



January Babies!

- 3 Becca Crimmins
- 6 Kevin Lipp
- 11 Michael Rand
- 12 Suzie Crimmins
- 15 Madeline Johnson
Dave Williams
- 26 Beth Key
Steve Rand
- 27 Brandon Williams
- 28 Jerry DeFord
Milo Moseng
- 31 Mina Moseng



15 Mitchell & Pastor Amanda Moseng

DEADLINE

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



CHURCH LOCK UP
Michael Rand



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 9. Who will you pick as the winner? Be sure to start collecting your crackers and soup to vote for the team you think will win. Each box of crackers or can of soup will count as a vote for your "team." These items will go to Church Community Services (CCS).

LITTLE FREE PANTRY
Suggested Winter Donations

- Hand warmers
- Emergency blankets
- Socks
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Peanut Butter
- Jerkey
- Canned meat
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Granola bars
- Soup
- Canned or dried fruit
- Cereal
- Canned vegetables



Dear Calvary Family:

As 2025 begins, we would like to say thank you. Our family has been blessed in many ways from our Calvary Family. We are beyond blessed to know and have worked along side all of Calvary's congregation. We would like to say thank you for the generous Christmas gift and all your prayers through out this past year. You are a generous congregation and our family appreciates each and everyone of you! We are blessed to be able to work and be a part of Calvary's family.

*Thank you,
John, Jennifer,
Ethan and Aaron Martin*



The Ladies Lunch group hopes everyone had a blessed holiday season. They will plan to meet for lunch again in the Spring.



2025 Offering Envelopes

are available in the Narthex for pick up. The boxes are 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.

**THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who baked cookies for Calvary's Cookie Walk. We had a wonderful variety this year. The profit for this year's Cookie Walk was \$818.00. Also, thank you to all who came and bought cookies.



Pastor Amanda will be working from home the week of December 30, 2024-January 2, 2025. If you need to reach her please email or call her.

Remember To Recycle

With all the holiday orders, deliveries, and presents received, be reminded Calvary does have a way to conveniently assist with recycling. Located near the main entrance in front as well as in the coat hanging area inside the lower level entrance are containers for plastic bags (all clean bags with recycle mark) and for Styrofoam. YES-clean Styrofoam

Elkhart has a company – Tri-Power Recycling who is one of the largest Styrofoam/EPS foam recyclers in the US. If you wish to take directly to them, their location is up the street from Calvary. Drive up N. Nappanee Street to McNaughton Ave, turn right (east) back to 1240 Anderson Street. (Right behind where the old Martin's grocery was located.) They have bins inside the entrance gate to place the Styrofoam and corrugated cardboard as well. All cardboard boxes are acceptable even if they have tape, staples, or labels on them. *Tri-Power hours are Monday thru Friday 7:00 to 4:00 and Saturday 7:00 to 12:00*

Also, if you have used printer ink cartridges, bring them to Calvary office area and place in marked box by the other bins.

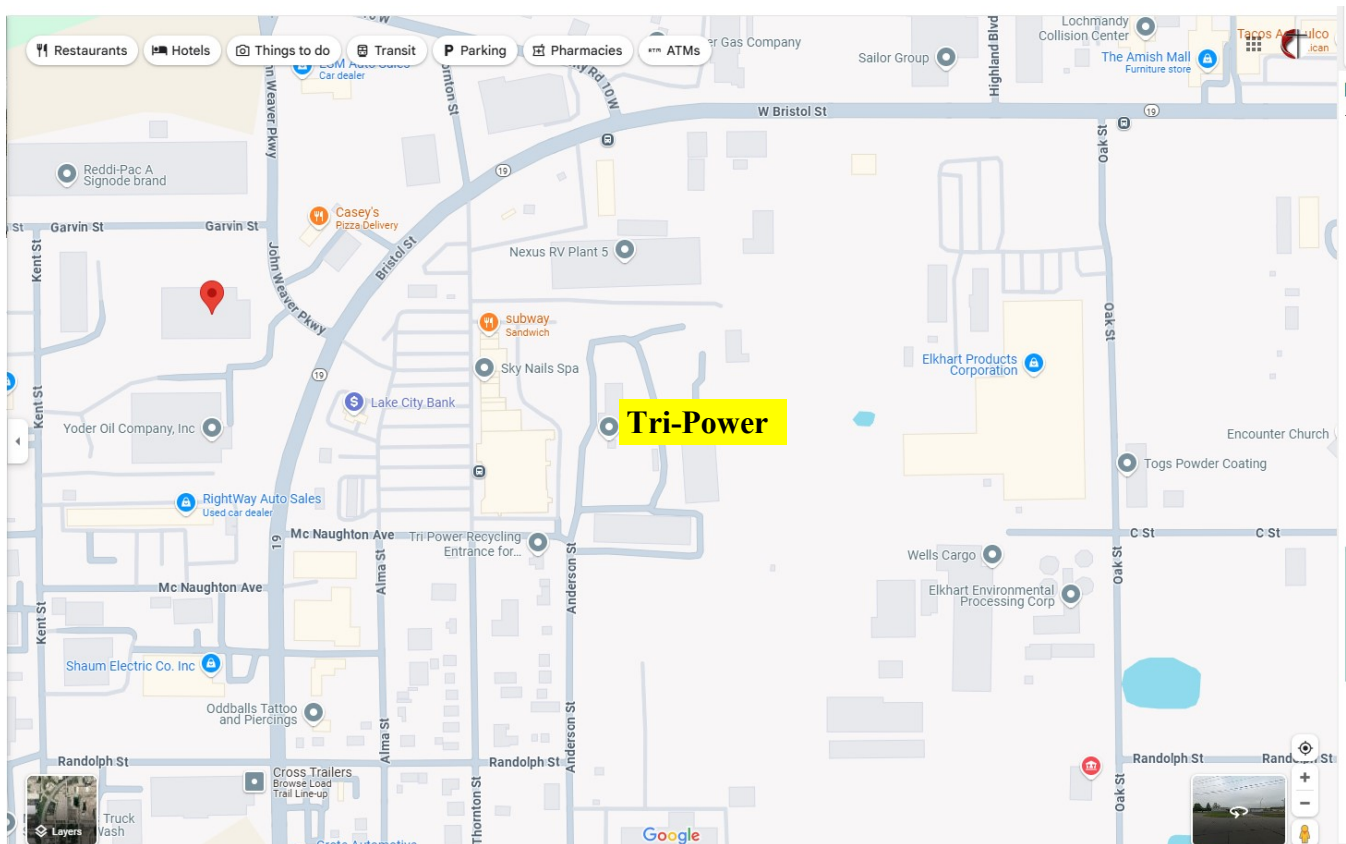


Two Gardens

The first garden (Eden) was made for mankind to live in forever. But it became the garden of rejection when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

In the other garden (Gethsemane) Jesus obeyed God the Father, not looking to self, but to the salvation of mankind so those who believed in Jesus may spend eternal life with God, as it was intended in the first garden.

We have a choice as to which garden we want to live in. We can live in the garden of disobedience (Eden) or the garden of obedience (Gethsemane).



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
THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS**



- Calvary's Website: **www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org**
- Calvary's Facebook Page: **Elkhart Calvary UMC**
- Prayer Request: **elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com**

DONATE



- Donate to help Calvary Share the love of God through words and actions:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/d45a1315-6f3e-4d20-980f-4187bbc0d6e0>