

The Calvary Focus

MARCH 2025

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The journey through Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th this year. Advent and Lent are two seasons in the church year where we prepare ourselves for significant moments in the life of Jesus Christ. The journey through Lent is introspective, following the path of Jesus as he made his way to the cross. Lent has the capacity to feel somber and barren, particularly when we consider that Lent begins with the reminder that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

The inner feelings of Lent match the season of nature it starts in. Lent begins in the cold days of winter, when the trees are bare, and snow covers the ground. The days are still shorter, the nights are longer and darker. And yet, as we move through Lent, the earth makes way for spring. Buds begin to form on the trees and flowers start blooming. The days become longer and have more sunlight. New life begins to spring up around us.

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance. Many of us give something up for Lent, such as coffee, chocolate, watching TV, etc. as a means of spiritual sacrifice and mirroring Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. The intention is to demonstrate self-discipline and focus on our relationship with God, temporarily denying ourselves a pleasure or indulgence. But what if instead of giving something up, we cultivated something new?

Our Lenten sermon series is called "Cultivate." As we journey through Lent, we will focus on cultivating practices and heart postures that lead us closer to God. Following the transition from winter to spring, we will nurture our spiritual growth so that new life will emerge within and around us, as we blossom into who God created us to be.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda



March BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Laura Rand
- 6 Kathy Lipp
Virginia Scott
- 8 Richard Gorsuch
- 12 Jim Eger
- 14 Paul Gulley
- 15 Gary Checkley
Larry Dennison
- 16 Kristen Bujtas
- 20 Paul Martin
- 27 Nadine Zerger



- 21 Richard & Mona Gorsuch



UMCOR Sunday March 30

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides disaster response. They are often the first group to arrive and the last to leave following a natural disaster. UMCOR provides relief in other ways, as well. When we join with other United Methodists around the globe, we can accomplish more together. Come prepared to give an offering to the great work of UMCOR. March 30 is UMCOR Sunday.

Current
Disaster Response



CHURCH LOCK UP
Brenda Johnson

Collecting Quarters for Lenten Folder



Lenten folders are just one way Calvary shows God's love through words and actions. The Lenten folder and a return envelope will be available for pick up in the Narthex or you may contact the church office and one can be sent to you, starting Ash Wednesday. The collected money is used towards giving to different organizations that share our vision of sharing God's love through words and actions.

Let's start saving our quarters.



As a child we were taught to eat what was set before us, what our mother fixed was our food.

John 6:32-33, Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

The scriptures are set before us, we shall not just eat from the word of God, but we shall feast on it daily, letting it nourish our very souls.

Scripture Reader Schedule:

March Schedule:

03/02/2025	TBD
03/09/2025	Kristen Bujtas
03/16/2025	Brenda Davis
03/23/2025	Steve Basse
03/30/2025	Janet Dennison

DEADLINE

Do not forget to mark your calendars. The April Focus deadline is Thursday, March 20!!!

Brenda Davis and Brenda Johnson will be retiring from their preschool positions after serving our preschool school for over 30 years.

The Preschool Board is looking to hire our next Preschool Director. If you know someone that would be interested in heading up our preschool program, have them check-out the Preschool Director job description here:

<https://docs.google.com/.../2PACX-1vRkqQKieo4yNMm.../pub>

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to the church office, 574-293-0783 or email, office@elkhartcalvaryumc.org

WE ARE HIRING A PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Creating a World of Learning and Fun!

Accepting applications until April 1

Questions: 574-293-0783

Calvary UMC Preschool



Easter Lilly
Orders due :
April 6

*Would you like to order an
Easter Lily in memory of or in
honor of a loved one?*

*Please print the information on the
form below. The cost is \$9.50 per
lily. Place your order in the offer-
ing boxes, leave it in the church
office drop box, or mail it to
Calvary before April 6th.*

.....

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

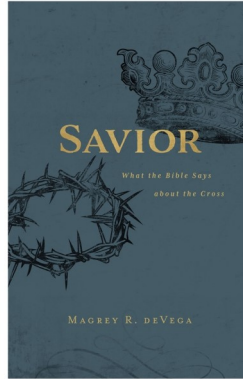
In Honor of: _____

No. of lilies: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Calvary United Methodist Church
2222 West Indiana Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46516

Lenten & Easter Events



**Don't Miss the
Lenten Bible Study
with Pastor Amanda**

What The Bible Says about the Cross

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

March 5 March 12

March 19 March 26

April 2 April 16

Contact Pastor Amanda to join the Lenten Study



**Palm Sunday
April 13**





Haystack/ Burrito Bowl Community Dinner

**Thursday,
March 6
6:00 pm**



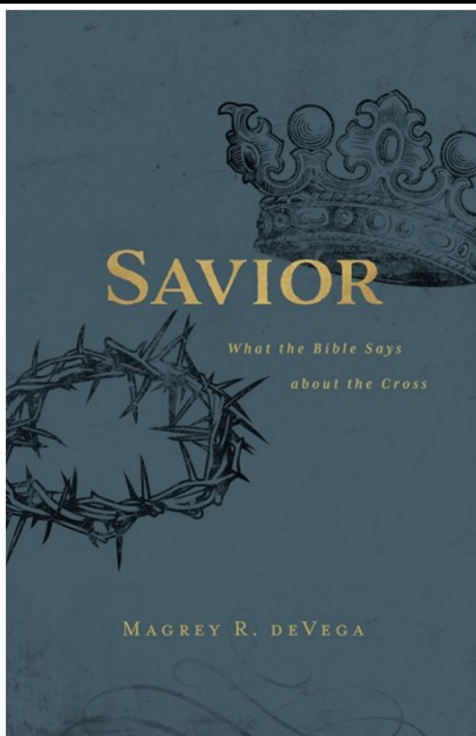
**Come join us for a
time of fellowship.
This is a free meal for
everyone, but
donations are
accepted.**

Please join us
Community Dinner
Thursday, March 6
6:00 pm

Join us for a free community dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 6th, at 6:00 p.m.! This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a delicious meal and great company.

For dinner, you will get to build your own haystack or burrito bowl with a variety of toppings to choose from! Whether you prefer a classic combination or want to get creative with your meal, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Come as you are—everyone is welcome! No RSVP is needed, and the meal is completely free. We look forward to sharing this evening of food, fellowship, and community with you.



All are invited to a 6-week Lenten study on Wednesdays at 10:00am, starting on March 5th in the Gathering Room. Our study will be *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross*, written by Magrey DeVega.

The cross is the central symbol of the Christian faith. But what exactly did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Why was the cross necessary, and what does it mean for us today? *Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross* explores the need for reconciliation between humankind and a holy God through Jesus' death on the cross. The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection, and this study will guide us through these images to achieve a richer understanding of the Christian faith. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus.

A study book is available for purchase but is not required for participation in the study. Contact Pastor Amanda to sign up or ask any questions.



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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>