



# Calvary Church Holiday Newsletter

## **Coming Events:**

Calvary's next Family Meeting will take place in the café at 6 p.m. on December 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our election of officers and annual budget approvals, we'll talk about what's coming in 2010, and hear some encouraging stories about how what God is doing.

December 3  
*Keenagers to Meijer Gardens*

December 4-6  
*Student Winter Retreat*

December 10  
*Keenagers to Rothbury*

December 18  
*Keenagers Christmas Dinner*

December 24  
*Christmas Eve Service*

## **Use SCRIP For Christmas**

Using SCRIP gift cards for Christmas gifts or using SCRIP to do your shopping will put up to 13% of your total into our building fund. It doesn't cost you a penny you were not already spending. You just need to stop at the desk in the lobby on Sunday morning or in the school office during the week to get your SCRIP before you shop. 40 area retail stores and 36 area restaurants are among those for whom SCRIP is available. On line shopping at Amazon.com is also available. You can even buy your gas and groceries with SCRIP.

## Great Expectations

Christmas is a season of expectations. As children, our expectations for the holiday grew with each day that drew us closer to December 25th. We had expectations about those who might visit, or those we would visit. We expected great presents and a great meal with family.

This year, as we explore the Christmas story, we're going to discover that the expectations we have today are central in the 2000 year old story of a baby in a manger. We'd love to have you join us this Christmas season!

Christmas is an exciting time of year for many of your friends, neighbors, and family. This is a great time to introduce them to Jesus through the Christmas story. We want to make it easy for you to invite others to join you at Calvary this December. Learn more about the series, or invite your friends to check us out at:

[www.CalvarysGreatExpectations.com](http://www.CalvarysGreatExpectations.com)

## Christmas Eve

Calvary's Christmas Eve service is a night for everyone. Together, we'll celebrate Jesus' birth by retelling the story, enjoying classic Christmas music, and talking about the expectations we all have at Christmas-time.

Our program will begin at **6 pm**, last approximately an hour, and will include a special story time for children. This is a night for families, friends, and neighbors to come together and enjoy the best of the holiday season.

## About Our Holiday Offering

Calvary's annual Holiday Offering focuses on helping construct a Hispanic mission church and on reducing the mortgage on our building.

Grace Hispanic Baptist Church in Grant, under the leadership of our missionary, Pepe Morales, has purchased property and is gathering funds to began construction of their building in 2010. They hope volunteer labor will help finish the inside of the building. 20% of our Holiday Offering will go toward this Hispanic Church project.

We have cut our own building debt in half but are eager to pay it off as quickly as possible in order to save on interest and redirect our giving to the global spread of the Gospel and to relieving suffering in the Name of Jesus. A \$1,000 gift today could save as much as \$1,685 in interest over the life of the loan. What a wonderful way to more than double your gift.

Use the enclosed envelop or mark your church offering envelop or check " *Holiday Offering*" or "*Christmas Offering*."



# Ministry Updates

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

## Children's Ministry

In January Sontines (K-5th) will focus on the virtue "DISCIPLINE" which is "doing what you need to do even when you don't feel like it." They will also offer practical experiences in the "5 Faith Skills" we believe every kid should master: 1. Navigate the Bible (survey & locate) 2. Personalize Scripture (memorize & apply) 3. Dialogue with God (public & private) 4. Articulate Faith (share & defend) 5. Worship with your life (praise & give) So join in with Sontines kids and get your shoes on, lace up, and let's "Step It Up".

Frist Look (3-Pk) will seek to tuck an essential truth into these little hearts: "Love God with all your heart." Who better to show us how to do that than Jesus? By sharing how Jesus loved God while here on earth, we show preschoolers how we too can love God with all our hearts. Lessons will focus on how Jesus taught us to love God and love others. They will learn how Jesus prayed to God and how He prayed for others. Jesus is our greatest teacher, and we can love God like Jesus did. Throughout the year we will help children believe: 1. God made me 2. God loves me 3. Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Remember pickup your Small Talk card that shares information on what the children learned that day, as well as an activity or discussion topic to continue that learning at home.

## Student Ministry

This year, the Calvary's Student Ministries are living out what we are finding in the Gospel of Mark: The Suffering Servant and the Call to Follow. We will be half-way through chapter 8 by Christmas. Several of the kids are really wrestling through what it means to follow Jesus, as revealed in this Gospel. Our middle school and high school small groups are also steadily growing in their relationships with their adult leaders and with one another. On a final note, the Justice Team, a cadre of high schoolers who want us to think outside of our own little group, is continuously working to mobilize their peers to right wrongs and love people in Jesus' name. Earlier this fall, we were able to rake some yards that belong to some of our "older" brothers and sisters. This Christmas, the Justice Team is encouraging and equipping our small groups to serve around town in various places like nursing homes, the Rescue Mission, and Supper House. Please be sure to pray for our youth leaders as they continue to invest in and make sacrifices for the kids they love and serve: Dave and Sandy Mitchell, Tim and Rebecca Horne, Lou and Kim Simonelli, JJ and Tammy Arbogast, Kristin Price, Sarah VanTine, Andrew Asdell, Michelle Thompson, Micah Smith, Seth Maine, Rene Rodriguez, Jeremy and Jacquie Sandison, and Emily Sandison.

## Senior's Ministry

Every Sunday Morning 10:30 AM in the Calvary Cafe' = Hymn Sing and Bible Study

Jan. 14 - 10:30 AM - Rothbury "Forever Young" Luncheon

Jan. 28 - 6:00 PM- Soup Supper & Games

Feb. 1-5 - Moody Founder's Week [we will go a day or two]

Feb. 11 - 10:30 AM - Rothbury "Forever Young" Luncheon

Feb. 25 - Grand Rapids IMAX theater.

April 25 - 20 - Shepherd's Home, Union Grove, Wisconsin

Call Jacquie Sandison in the church office @ 231.865.1259 xt. 101 for information and/or reservations.

## Weekend Teaching

Beginning in January, our church will begin a year-long journey through the Bible. Each week we'll focus the sermon on different key chapters of God's Word. From Genesis to Revelation, you'll have the opportunity to see how the entire Bible fits together. We hope this focus on the whole of God's Word will be a year of life-change for every one of us!

### Contact Us:

Phone: 231.865.1259

Web: [www.calvarymuskegon.com](http://www.calvarymuskegon.com) (click on "feedback")

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